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Merry Christmas!



Wilton Winter Festival Celebrates with Parade, Craft Fair, and Santa



Rangeview 4-H Club members with their goats and chickens take part in the Wilton Winter Festival Parade on Dec. 2. Reserve deputies and volunteers closed access to Dillard Road between the Wilton Fire Station and Dillard Elementary for the event. Photos by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

WILTON, CA (MPG) - The 15th iteration of the Wilton Winter Festival unfolded on Dec. 2 with a parade and activities inside the Wilton Community Center that drew several hundred attendees.

The Sacramento County Area 4 B Council (Parks & Rec) sponsored the event. The organizer was Randy Upham who spearheads the nonprofit that raises funds for the community center.

"Overall the festival went well, and it didn't rain," Upham said. "Last year it was raining buckets."

The parade is always the major attraction at the festival. The route begins at the Wilton Fire Department station at Wilton Road, travels north on Dillard Road past the viewing stand in front of the Wilton Bible Church, and ends at the community center off Colony Road.

Lynn Holliday, who is the lead parade organizer said this year's was the "smoothest one ever because we were able to recruit more volunteers for the day," she said. "That made it a lot easier," she said.

Many of them helped with the road closures including some reserve sheriff's deputies "We had



Garrett Aarseth peaks around the corner at Santa, who catches him doing it. Santa listened to Christmas wishes from the stage behind the Wilton Community Center when craft vendors sold their wares inside and outside of the building.

people manning every barricade, and sheriff's cars staged in specific spots," she said. "In past years we have had people sneak around the blockades even

though we mail a post card to everyone will be affected."

Unlike last year when heavy rains drenched the

Continued on Page 2

Physical Altercation Leads to Homicide on Sunnyslope Drive

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Just after 12:30 AM on Friday, December 8, 2023, deputies responded to a shooting at an apartment on the 6600 block of Sunnyslope Drive. Upon their arrival, they discovered a 35-year-old male, later identified as Christopher Saunders, suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest. He was lying just outside of an apartment. Deputies administered first-aid until Sacramento Metro Fire personnel arrived, but Saunders was ultimately pronounced deceased at the scene.

Homicide detectives and Crime Scene Investigators responded, interviewed witnesses, and gathered evidence. Detectives contacted the residents inside the apartment and learned Saunders drove there in an attempt to locate his estranged wife. When Saunders arrived, he left his car running in the parking lot and banged on the front door multiple times. The apartment was occupied by Saunders' estranged wife and her friends who lived there: an adult male, an adult female, and minor children. When they answered the door, Saunders rushed into the apartment, grabbed his estranged wife, and commanded her to leave with him. When she refused, the adults inside the apartment directed Saunders to leave. Saunders then became involved in a physical altercation with several of the family members, including a 15-year-old. The adult male resident then produced a firearm, which was legally possessed, and shot Saunders.

The Sacramento County District Attorney's Office was advised and made the preliminary decision to release the adult male under the presumption of a justifiable homicide. The District Attorney's Office will make a final determination at a later date. There is no further information available at this time. ★

A Big Change at EDD

EDD changes unemployment contractor after scams

BY LYNN LA,
calmatters.org

SACRAMENTO COUNTY CA (MPG) - California has a new unemployment and disability payment contractor after the state's multi-billion-dollar pandemic fraud panic. The Employment Development Department hopes it will be the end of an era of brazen scams, which wreaked havoc for laid-off workers and fueled police busts involving stacks of ill-gotten debit cards issued at the department's direction by then-contractor Bank of America.

EDD tells CalMatters that on Monday it plans to begin notifying 850,000 benefit recipients of the new payment provider: Money Network, an electronic payment company owned by finance tech company Fiserv. Money Network may sound familiar; it was also tapped by the federal government and Gov. Gavin Newsom to pay out COVID-era stimulus funds, which attracted its own waves of debit card scams.

Money Network won the EDD contract after a competitive bidding process. It comes as the agency embarks on a five-year, \$1.2 billion tech overhaul known as EDDNext.

The contract will primarily be paid for through a debit card revenue-sharing agreement, similar to the EDD's previous deal with Bank of America. The agency will also pay \$32 million over five years for Money Network to offer a long-discussed direct deposit option to workers' bank accounts, which the



The offices of the Employment Development Department in Sacramento where it all went wrong. Photo by Miguel Gutierrez Jr., CalMatters

EDD says will launch in spring 2024.

In mid-January, people receiving unemployment, disability and paid leave benefits from the EDD will be mailed new Money Network debit cards. Payments will officially begin on these cards on Feb. 15. Anyone who still has a Bank of America EDD debit card will have until April 15, 2024, to spend the money.

In the meantime, fraud analysts tracking an uptick in attacks on government benefit debit cards — not just California's unemployment program, but also food assistance and others — will be watching to see what lessons have (or haven't) been learned from the pandemic. The new EDD cards will include both security chips and tap-to-pay options common in consumer credit cards.

Still, the EDD is advising cardholders to be vigilant: "Beware of scammers. We will never request your personal information by text message, e-mail or on social media."

Tens of thousands of Californians are still

awaiting aid from the COVID-19 rent relief program. But as CalMatters housing reporter Ben Christopher explains, the program may run out of money before it can help the remaining eligible applicants.

The \$5.2 billion program launched in 2021 to help Californians pay down rental debt they accumulated during the pandemic. Though it stopped taking new applications in 2022, more than 70,000 households still have applications pending. The program has enough funding to cover a little more than 14,000 people — meaning the remaining 80% of the total applicant pool is out of luck.

That's devastating news for tenants and landlords alike who may ultimately wait in vain for relief to come. As one graphic designer and single mother told Ben: "I'm trying to find a way to freelance or do whatever I can do to get the money to just pay it myself... I can't sit and depend on it and wait because it's been two years." ★

Wilton Winter Festival Celebrates with Parade, Craft Fair, and Santa

Continued from Page 1 parade, the weather cooperated this year. "Although it rained during the night, it held off through the entire parade, which is a rain-or-shine event," she said.

This year's parade drew a dozen entries that began with a sheriff's patrol vehicle and ended with several Wilton firetrucks with red lights flashing. As is the tradition, one of the firefighters chauffeured a waving Santa Claus.

Holliday was happy that the Wilton-based California Cowgirls Rodeo Drill Team participated again this year. "The team has won so many freaking awards and will be riding in the Rose Bowl parade this year," she explained.

Another notable attendee was Sacramento Supervisor Pat Hume. He dressed as an elf and brought along his assistant dressed as a Christmas tree.

Other parade entries included a flatbed trailer from the Wilton Animal Rescue bearing some of the beautiful dogs that have been rehabilitated, the Grinch with his family in the bed of his pickup truck, Rangeview 4-H club members who clutched chickens and goats, Cub Scout Pack 16 wielding a banner, a float for veterans, and the Living Water Church float with the "Little Drummer Boy" wailing on his professional-grade drums.

This year's grand marshal was Heather Miller. She recently retired from Dillard Elementary after teaching close to 1,000 students at every grade level except 4th grade over a 37-year



Santa foregoes his sleigh to ride in a Wilton Fire truck to end the parade in style.



Parade Marshal Heather Miller, waves to the crowd, as Mary Upham chauffeurs the car. Miller taught at Dillard Elementary for 37 years before she retired.

career, according to parade announcer Jim Ring.

"Every year she was excited to meet her new class of students," Ring said. "She treasures the relationships she made with families over the years."

Upham said many children came up to her car in the parade to say "hi" and to get a hug.

Lorraine Robinson organized the craft fair that attracted 28 vendors who set up their tables inside the community center and on the patio behind it. Their wares were mostly handcrafted. The offerings included jewelry,

goat soaps, birdhouses, sewn and knitted textiles, Christmas wreathes, glass cutting boards, and succulent plants.

Robinson said the turnout was better than last year. "Everyone made good money and the Wilton History Group was able to get rid of a lot of old tee-shirts," she said.

Many attendees also enjoyed breakfast and lunch at the event, thanks to volunteers with Girl Scout Troop 2060 and the PACE program at Dillard Elementary. Maryanne Evans, a Dillard Elementary teacher, supervises both programs. ★

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Sacramento Grocery Indicted for Conspiracy, Immigration Fraud, Obstruction of Justice, and Pandemic Relief Fraud

U.S. Attorney's Office News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A federal grand jury returned a 25-count indictment Thursday against Shahrir "Sean" Loloee, 53, of Granite Bay, and Karla Montoya, 42, of Sacramento, charging them both with conspiracy, obstruction of agency proceedings, and possession and use of false immigration documents, U.S. Attorney Phillip A. Talbert announced on Friday, December 15, 2023. Loloee is additionally charged with falsification of records and a pandemic relief fraud scheme.

According to court documents, Loloee is the owner of the Viva Supermarkets chain of grocery stores, and Montoya is the general manager. Since 2008, Loloee and Montoya engaged in a conspiracy to employ a labor force at the stores that consisted of a significant number of workers who lacked employment authorization in the United States. Loloee and Montoya did so for the purpose of reducing Loloee's labor force costs through unlawful means, including by failing to pay required overtime wages.

The indictment alleges that, in 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor began two investigations at Viva Supermarkets. Loloee and Montoya obstructed these investigations in a variety of ways, including by making false statements to agency investigators, listening in on an employee interview with an investigator for the purpose of influencing the employee to make false statements, instructing an employee to lie to an investigator about her hire date, and directing certain workers to hide to prevent them from being questioned by agency investigators. Loloee is also charged with three instances of providing false documents to obstruct the Department of Labor's investigations.

The indictment further alleges that Loloee committed wire fraud when he applied to receive COVID-19 relief from the Restaurant Revitalization Fund program (RRF). Established as part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, the RRF was designed to support the restaurant industry by providing funding to those that had suffered significant pandemic-related revenue loss. To be eligible for an RRF award,

a restaurant must have had a loss in gross receipts in 2020, as compared to 2019. In May 2021, Loloee submitted applications to the Small Business Administration (SBA) requesting RRF funds for two of his grocery stores. In the applications, Loloee substantially underreported each of his store's 2020 gross receipts to make them appear entitled to an award, when they were not. Loloee requested over \$2.2 million, and based on his fraudulent representations, the SBA awarded Loloee approximately \$1.2 million.

This case is the product of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation and Homeland Security Investigations. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Audrey B. Hemesath, Matthew Thuesen, and Kevin Khasigian are prosecuting the case.

This case was investigated with the assistance of the Tax Recovery in the Underground Economy (TRUE) Task Force includes the California Department of Justice, the California Employment Development Department, the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration, the Franchise Tax Board, the IRS-CI and HSI. The TRUE Task Force was created to ensure multi-agency collaboration and to combat wage theft, tax evasion, and other crimes in the underground economy.

If convicted, Loloee and Montoya face a maximum statutory penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count of conspiracy to defraud the Department of Labor, to commit immigration document fraud, and to obstruct justice; up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count of possession of false immigration documents or use of a false immigration document; and up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count of obstruction of agency proceedings. If convicted of the counts of falsification of records or wire fraud, Loloee faces a maximum statutory penalty of up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each count. Any sentence, however, would be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of any applicable statutory factors and the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables. The charges are only allegations; the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. ★

Rep. Ami Bera Announces \$225K Federal Award



Rep. Ami Bera with graduates at the Improve Your Tomorrow graduation ceremony, June 2023. Photo courtesy of Office of Rep. Ami Bera

Office of Rep. Ami Bera News Release

WASHINGTON, DC (MPG) - U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D. (CA-06) announced on December 5, 2023, that Improve Your Tomorrow, a Sacramento-based nonprofit, has been selected to receive a federal award of \$225,900 per year. The funding, made available through AmeriCorps VISTA, will bolster college readiness for Sacramento area youth and will support 10 year-round service positions locally.

"I am thrilled to share that Improve Your Tomorrow has been chosen to receive over \$225,000 in federal funding, furthering their vital mission of empowering Sacramento young men of color to pursue and graduate from college," said Representative Ami Bera. "AmeriCorps volunteers are among the most dedicated and selfless contributors to our society, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact these 10 volunteers make on the Sacramento community."

Improve Your Tomorrow

is a Sacramento-based nonprofit that is working to empower and uplift young men of color throughout California by enabling them to pursue and complete their college education.

"Improve Your Tomorrow is profoundly honored to stand among the four distinguished AmeriCorps VISTA Awardees in California. This kind of unwavering support from Congressman Ami Bera and AmeriCorps California showcases a commitment to expanding service opportunities that address critical achievement gaps within our education system. Thanks to the advocacy of youth champions like Congressman Bera, Improve Your Tomorrow will harness the transformative power of the VISTA program — a pinnacle of professional service opportunities in our state. This investment in at-promise youth will undoubtedly propel improved outcomes for the thousands of young men of color we are dedicated to serving," said Michael Lynch, CEO & Co-Founder, Improve Your Tomorrow.

In addition to the award announced today, AmeriCorps will also provide more than \$68,950 each year in education scholarships for the AmeriCorps VISTA members supported by this award to help pay for college, vocational training, or pay back student loans.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for service and volunteering, brings people together to tackle the country's most pressing challenges through national service and volunteering. Every year, tens of thousands AmeriCorps members serve through 21,000+ schools, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations and state, tribal and local governments across the country. Since the program's inception in 1994, more than 1 million Americans have served in AmeriCorps, providing more than 1.6 billion hours of service and earned more than \$4 billion in education scholarships. For those interested in joining AmeriCorps, you can learn more at AmeriCorps.gov/Join. ★

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New Low-Floor Light Rail Trains Enter Final Testing Phase

SacRT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is pleased to announce a significant milestone in the Light Rail Modernization Project as its new low-floor trains enter the final testing phase, bringing the region one step closer to an enhanced and more accessible public transit system. SacRT began the “burn-in” testing phase on December 7, 2023. Testing is being conducted systemwide on the Blue, Green, and Gold Lines from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m., Monday through Friday. This schedule is designed to minimize any impact on regular light rail service.

During this phase of testing, the new low-floor trains will simulate real-world scenarios, actively pulling into stations, deploying ramps, opening and closing doors and proceeding to the next station. To distinguish these trains from regular service trains, prominent “Test Train” decals are on doors and windows to prevent customers from accidentally boarding.

The burn-in testing is expected to take approximately two weeks per train. This thorough process allows SacRT staff to identify and address any issues before the trains are approved

for passenger service. The testing process is projected to continue through spring 2024 for the first 20 low-floor trains in anticipation of starting passenger service with the new trains on the Gold Line in summer 2024. Learn more about the testing process at sacrt.com/newtrains.

About the New Low-Floor Light Rail Trains:

The new low-floor vehicles will provide easier access at every doorway, a spacious seating design, and large windows for better light and views. They feature improved accessibility with wider aisles. The new low-floor vehicles will increase overall operational flexibility by providing more access to passengers with disabilities. SacRT is modernizing the light rail system to make future travel easier, safer, and more convenient for riders. The project includes the purchasing of new low-floor trains, reconfiguring station platforms to accommodate the new trains and adding a passing track to allow for 15-minute light rail service at all Folsom area stations. Learn more about the project at sacrt.com/modernization. ★



A low-floor test train at 16th Street on December 7, 2023. Photo courtesy of SacRT

Retail Theft BLITZ Operation and Arrests Made



CHPD image of merchandise seized during Retail Theft BLITZ Operation. Photo courtesy of Citrus Heights Police Department

Citrus Heights PD News Release

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - On December 1, 2023, detectives with the Citrus Heights Police Department’s IMPACT Unit and the California Highway Patrol’s Organized Retail Crime Task Force, conducted an undercover retail store theft operation at two locations in Citrus Heights, resulting in the arrest of multiple theft offenders.

The objective of these operations is to reduce retail thefts and hold those committing these crimes accountable for their actions. This operation was conducted in the 6100 block of San Juan Avenue and was chosen due to the high number of shoplifting incidents at these stores.

This operation utilized both undercover and uniformed detectives and was successful with the arrest of six individuals and the return of nearly \$2,000 in stolen merchandise seized during their arrests over several hours. Most of these offenders have prior felony criminal convictions and, or, probation terms.

The Citrus Heights Police Department’s IMPACT Unit, in conjunction with allied agencies, will continue to conduct these operations

throughout the City with the goal of preventing and deterring thefts from our businesses. The following individuals were arrested during the operation:

Hanna Hall Mortensen, 29-year-old female from Citrus Heights, CA arrested for 459.5 PC (shoplifting); Nailah Ebony Perkins, 38-year-old female from Citrus Heights, CA arrested for 459.5 PC (shoplifting); Christian Paul Pinedo, 36-year-old male from Mather, CA arrested for 459.5 PC (shoplifting) and 148 PC (resisting arrest); April Marie Romo, 30-year-old female from San Jose, CA arrested for 459.5 PC (shoplifting); Jennifer Patricia Sainz, 34-year-old female from Fair Oaks, CA arrested for 459.5 PC (shoplifting); Sylvia Sainz, 37-year-old female from San Jose, CA arrested for 459.5 PC (shoplifting).

These arrests are part of ongoing investigations into these incidents and related incidents. Anyone with information related to these crimes, or others in Citrus Heights, is encouraged to contact the Sacramento Valley Crime Stoppers tip hotline at (916) 443-HELP. Tips leading to an arrest may earn a cash reward. ★

MEETING MINDERS

Community members can watch these meetings online and submit public comments for the officials to review.

The Elk Grove City Council has their regular meetings at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. To view the meeting, visit the city of Elk Grove’s website, www.ElkGroveCity.org.

The Elk Grove Planning Commission has their online meetings at 6 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month. A live video stream of this meeting can be viewed at the city of Elk Grove’s website, www.ElkGroveCity.org.

The Cosumnes Community Services District Board of Directors has in-person meeting at 5 p.m. the first and third

Wednesday of the month. They govern the Cosumnes Fire Department as well as Elk Grove’s parks and recreation system. The CSD board meetings can be watched live at www.CosumnesCSD.gov and they are held at 8820 Elk Grove Blvd.

The Elk Grove Unified School District Board of Trustees will have their regular meeting Tuesday, Jan. 9 starting at 6 p.m.. This meeting will be held in-person at the Trigg Education Center, 9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road. Members of the public can also view it online by using the Zoom application and visiting the school district’s website, www.EGUSD.net. Past board meetings can be watched on the district’s YouTube channel, “ElkGroveUnified.”

The Florin Resource Conservation District Board, which governs the Elk Grove Water District, holds online meetings every third Tuesday at 6: 30 p.m. These meetings are held via the Zoom application. To access them, visit the district’s website, www.egwd.org.

The Elk Grove-Cosumnes Cemetery District Board will have in-person meetings every second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. They will meet at their district office at 8540 Elk Grove Blvd. Attendees are required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing. For meeting agendas, visit www.EGCCD.com. ★



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ABOUT TOWN

Old Fashioned Christmas in December

The Elk Grove Historical Society invites the community to its annual Old Fashioned Christmas on weekends in December. The society's grounds and three museums have been lavishly decorated for the holidays, and they will open to the public, 3-7 p.m., on Dec. 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23. Activities will include cookie decorating and opportunities to take photos with Santa Claus. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The Elk Grove Historical Society is located at 9941 Stockton Blvd.

American Legion Post 55 Hosting a County Veterans Service Officer

American Legion Post 55 with the help of Sacramento County Office of Veterans will have a County Veterans.

Service Officer at District 56 8230 Civic Center Dr. EG in the Veterans Hall Offices on the 2nd Friday of the month.

The Officer will be there from 9-3pm. For an appointment call Larry Sahota 916-847-3184.

Widowed Persons Social Club Activities for December

The Widowed Persons Social Club (WPSC) will host the following activities in November. Attendees can join up to three gatherings before joining the club. For information on membership, contact Bonnie Dale at (916) 422-1522.

Dec 22 - 10:00 AM Hand and Foot card game at Mountain Mike's, 9320 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact is Linda at 916-686-6781.

Dec 27 - 1:00 PM - Book Club at Carol Stetskal's Home, contact Carole at 916-685-3981

Dec 28 - 12:00 Noon - Bunco at Mountain Mikes 9320 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Bonnie at 916-685-3402

A widowed person may attend up to three events before joining WPSC.

Contact Bonnie Dale at 916-422-1522 if you are interested in membership

Caregivers Support Group's Weekly Meetings

The Caregivers Support Group meets every Tuesday at The Park, 9670 Laguna Springs Drive, from 10-11:30 a.m. They offer support for people who take care of friends or loved ones who have dementia or Alzheimer's

disease.

The Alzheimer's Aid Society sponsors this 25-year-old support group. Their meetings are anonymous and free.

EG Lions Club's Monthly Community Breakfasts

Community members are invited to enjoy breakfast every month at the Gil Albani Recreation Center, courtesy of the Elk Grove Lions Club.

This feast is held 8-10 a.m. on the second Saturday of each month. On the menu: pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, and fruit. The Lions also serve biscuits and gravy on special occasions.

Breakfast is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children. The Albani Recreation Center is at 8830 Sharkey Ave., Elk Grove.

American Legion Post 233's Meetings

The American Legion Post 233, which was established 29 years ago, will have no meeting in December. Our January 2024 meeting is scheduled for Jan. 25 at the Elks Lodge in Elk Grove.

Please join us for the first Saturday of the month Elk Grove American Legion Post 233 Social Breakfast.

The next Saturday breakfast will be Dec. 2 at 9:00 am at Mimi's Cafe on the corner of Laguna Blvd and W. Stockton Blvd (just off Hwy 99). We hope to see you there. The January 2024 breakfast is scheduled for Jan. 6, also at Mimi's Cafe.

The Elks Lodge is at 9240 Survey Road.

For more information, contact Henry at (916) 205-9296 or Sue at (916) 683-6128, or visit them at www.ElkGrovePost233.com

Kiwanis Club of Laguna-Elk Grove's Monthly Meetings

The Kiwanis Club of Laguna-Elk Grove invites you to attend their monthly meeting currently held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Wackford Community Center (9014 Bruceville Road) in Poppy Room B. Join in for social time at 6:30pm by bringing your own meal and dining with the club members or come at 7:00pm for the meeting. Learn how you can help out the kids of our community and be a part of this fun and engaging club. Visit them on Facebook for updates on fundraisers and changes to meetings at www.facebook.com/LagunaElkGroveKiwanis2015.

American Legion Post 55's Monthly Meetings

Elk Grove's new American Legion Post 55 will meet at 6 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Elk Grove Veterans Memorial Hall. This hall is at the District56 center, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

For more information, call (916) 585-3807, email p55eg2022@gmail.com, or visit www.Post55.AmericanLegionElkGrove.com.

Marine Corps League Monthly Meetings

The Marine Corps League, Detachment #1238 of Elk Grove resumed their monthly meetings at the Veterans Hall inside the District56 center. They meet every first Thursday of the month.

Their next gathering will be held on Nov. 2 - the dinner and social hour starts at 6 p.m., followed by the meeting at 7 p.m.

District56 is at 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove. The Veterans Hall is next to the Senior Center of Elk Grove.

Toastmaster Club's Meetings

Local community members are invited to improve their public speaking and leadership skills with Elk Grove's Speaking Machine Toastmasters Club.

They meet every Tuesday from 7-8:30 p.m. at The Park at Laguna Springs, 9670 Laguna Springs Drive.

For more information, visit www.SpeakingMachine.org or call (916) 202-5563.

Local Girl Scout Group Seeks New Members, Leaders

A group called, Discover Girl Scouts in Elk Grove invites girls from across the Elk Grove region to check out the Girl Scouts and attend their "virtual" or online meetings.

They are seeking members as well as new leaders to help form new Girl Scout troops.

Those interested can visit their Facebook group, Discover Girl Scouts in Elk Grove. Parents whose children attend schools east of Highway 99 can email Kara@ElkGroveGirlScouts.com, and those who have children who attend schools west of Highway 99 in the Laguna and

Franklin areas can contact Regina@LagunaGirlScouts.com.

Volunteers wanted at EG Community Garden

The Elk Grove Community Garden's staff seeks volunteers to help them maintain their garden and to also serve on their board.

They have monthly workdays at their location at 10025 Hampton Oak Drive, near McConnell Park. Those who are interested in helping the garden are advised to check on their Facebook page for work dates.

For more information on volunteering, visit www.ElkGroveCommunityGarden.org or call (916) 893-8863.

EG Food Bank Seeks Volunteers

The Elk Grove Food Bank needs volunteers to help clients and sort donations at their warehouse. The facility is open on weekdays from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until noon.

Those interested in helping the food bank can obtain applications on their website, www.elkgrovefoodbank.org or by visiting their office at 9888 Kent St.

For more information, call (916) 685-8453.

Project R.I.D.E. needs volunteers

Project R.I.D.E., a local therapeutic horseback-riding program for students with special needs, is seeking volunteers who are ages 14 or over.

Volunteers are needed for tasks such as assisting in lessons, handling horses, and performing stable duties. Shifts are available on weekdays, year-round. No experience is needed.

To register for the next monthly training, call (916) 685-7433 or visit www.projectride.org. Their facility is at 8840 Southside Ave., behind Jessie Baker School.

Discovery Shop Seeks Volunteers with Trucks

The American Cancer Society seeks volunteers who own trucks and can pick up donated furniture for their Discovery Shop in Elk Grove. They have a "Pick Up" program for donors who can't deliver their furniture to the store.

Community members who are interested in volunteering can contact Phyllis or Diana at the Discovery Shop at (916) 685-7449. Their shop is at 8470 Elk Grove Blvd., near the Elk Grove Auto Mall.

Volunteers Wanted at EG Discovery Shop

The American Cancer Society's Discovery Shop in Elk Grove seeks volunteers for several positions. Shifts are four hours to four-and-half hours per week, but the staff is flexible.

For more information, visit 8470 Elk Grove Blvd., near Auto Center Drive, or contact Jenee, Phyllis, or Diana at (916) 685-7449.

NeighborGood Market: Elk Grove

Drop by the NeighborGood Market: Elk Grove and celebrate what's good in your hood!

This fresh open-air Market features local farmers, artisans, and vendors all in compliance with the latest CDC guidelines to keep the community safe. Join your neighbors in supporting the small and micro-businesses that make Elk Grove so unique — whether it's picking out organic produce for family dinner or finding that one-of-a-kind gift for a special someone, you'll discover it all at the NeighborGood Market every Thursday, 4pm-8pm!

The location our market is 9701 Big Horn Blvd, Elk Grove.


For more information, please check out www.neighborgood-markets.com

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Buy directly from California Growers at our markets and support your local community!

Every Saturday, from 8:00am - 12:00pm in the Laguna Gateway Center, which is located on the corner of Laguna Blvd. and Big Horn Blvd.

For more info, visit our website for shopping tips and more: https://marketlocations.com/ or call 916-688-0100



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TRUSTEE SALE

\$434,591.15
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
THE TRUSTEE WILL SELL
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HIGHEST BIDDER FOR CASH,
CASHIER'S CHECK DRAWN
ON A STATE OR NATIONAL
BANK, A CHECK DRAWN BY A
STATE OR FEDERAL CREDIT
UNION, OR A CHECK DRAWN
BY A STATE OR FEDERAL
SAVINGS AND LOAN
ASSOCIATION, A SAVINGS
ASSOCIATION OR SAVINGS
BANK SPECIFIED IN SECTION
5102 OF THE FINANCIAL
CODE AND AUTHORIZED
TO DO BUSINESS IN THIS
STATE: All right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described as: More fully described in said Deed of Trust. Street Address or other common designation of real property: 9449 LOCKFORD WAY, ELK GROVE, CA 95624
A.P.N.: 127-0560-078-0000
The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.
The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust with interest thereon, as provided in said note(s), advances, under the terms of said Deed of Trust, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee and of the trusts created by said Deed of Trust. The total amount of the unpaid balance of the obligation secured by the property to be sold and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale is: \$ 434,591.15.
Note: Because the Beneficiary reserves the right to bid less than the total debt owed, it is possible that at the time of the sale the opening bid may be less than the total debt.
If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse.
The beneficiary of the Deed of Trust has executed and delivered to the undersigned a written request to commence foreclosure, and the undersigned

caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located.
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on this property.
NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (866)-960-8299 or visit this Internet Web site <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx> using the file number assigned to this case 2023-00371-CA. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale.
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction, if conducted after January 1, 2021, pursuant to Section 2924m

of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (866)-960-8299, or visit this internet website <https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx>, using the file number assigned to this case 2023-00371-CA to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid, by remitting the funds and affidavit described in Section 2924m(c) of the Civil Code, so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase.
Date: November 23, 2023
Western Progressive, LLC, as Trustee for beneficiary
C/o 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 238
Ventura, CA 93003
Sale Information Line: (866) 960-8299
<https://www.altisource.com/loginpage.aspx>
Trustee Sale Assistant
WESTERN PROGRESSIVE, LLC MAY BE ACTING AS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Publish: 12/8/2023, 12/15/2023, 12/22/2023
ELK GROVE CITIZEN 12-22-23

cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. **BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE.** Trustor(s): VIRGINIA SEGUISABAL, AN UNMARRIED WOMAN
Recorded: 11/21/2012 as Instrument No. XXX in Book 20121121 Page 1469 of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of SACRAMENTO County, California; Date of Sale: 1/23/2024 at 9:00 AM Place of Sale: At the East Main Entrance of the Gordon D. Schaber Sacramento County Courthouse, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$221,453.80 The purported property address is: 6701 RAYCROFT WAY, ELK GROVE, CA 95757-4015 Assessor's Parcel No.: 132-1320-012-0000
NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by

contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. **NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER:** The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call 800-280-2832 for information regarding the trustee's sale or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-23-961451-AB. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. **NOTICE TO TENANT:** You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call 800-280-2832, or visit this internet website <http://www.qualityloan.com>, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-23-961451-AB to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than

45 days after the trustee's sale. If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. **NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE OWNER-OCCUPANT:** Any prospective owner-occupant as defined in Section 2924m of the California Civil Code who is the last and highest bidder at the trustee's sale shall provide the required affidavit or declaration of eligibility to the auctioneer at the trustee's sale or shall have it delivered to QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION by 5 p.m. on the next business day following the trustee's sale at the address set forth in the below signature block. The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the Trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. Date: QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION 2763 Camino Del Rio S San Diego, CA 92108 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 800-280-2832 Or Login to: <http://www.qualityloan.com> Reinstatement Line: (866) 645-7711 Ext 5318 QUALITY LOAN SERVICE CORPORATION . TS No.: CA-23-961451-AB IDS Pub #0189938 ELK GROVE CITIZEN Publish: 12/22/2023, 12/29/2023, 1/5/2024
ELK GROVE CITIZEN 1-5-24



**CITY OF ELK GROVE
ORDINANCE NO. 22-2023**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE AMENDING ELK GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 10.48.020 SPEED LIMITS, TO ESTABLISH SPEED LIMITS ON VARIOUS ROADS IN THE CITY. The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend Elk Grove Municipal Code Section 10.48.020 Speed Limits to establish speed limits on Bilby Road, Bradshaw Road, Grant Line Road, Sheldon Road, and W. Stockton Boulevard pursuant to the findings of the respective Engineering and Traffic Surveys (on file in the Office of the City Clerk) and recommendations of the City's Traffic Engineer. Introduced November 8, 2023; Adopted December 13, 2023; Effective January 12, 2024. **AYES: SINGH-ALLEN, BREWER, ROBLES, SPEASE, SUEN; NOES: NONE; ABSENT: NONE.**

Elk Grove Citizen 12-22-2023

**CITY OF ELK GROVE
ORDINANCE NO. 23-2023**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE FINDING NO FURTHER ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW IS REQUIRED FOR THE TREASURE HOMES REZONE PROJECT (PLNG21-054) UNDER STATE CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15182 AND AMENDING THE ELK GROVE ZONING MAP FOR THE PROJECT (ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER: PORTION OF 132-0050-155). The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the City of Elk Grove Zoning Map for the Treasure Homes Rezone Project as described in Exhibit A (on file in the Office of the City Clerk). Introduced November 8, 2023; Adopted December 13, 2023; Effective January 12, 2024. **AYES: SINGH-ALLEN, BREWER, ROBLES, SPEASE, SUEN; NOES: NONE; ABSENT: NONE.**

Elk Grove Citizen 12-22-2023

**CITY OF ELK GROVE
ORDINANCE NO. 24-2023**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE AMENDING THE ELK GROVE ZONING MAP FOR THE PROJECT (ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS 116-0061-042 AND -010). The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the City of Elk Grove Zoning Map for the Stathos Self Storage Project as described in Exhibit A (on file in the Office of the City Clerk). Introduced November 8, 2023; Adopted December 13, 2023; Effective January 12, 2024. **AYES: SINGH-ALLEN, BREWER, ROBLES, SPEASE, SUEN; NOES: NONE; ABSENT: NONE.**

Elk Grove Citizen 12-22-2023

**CITY OF ELK GROVE
ORDINANCE NO. 25-2023**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE LEVYING AND APPORTIONING THE SPECIAL TAX IN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2003-2 (POLICE SERVICES) (ANNEXATION NO. 72) AND AMENDING ELK GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.18.010. The purpose of this Ordinance is to levy the special tax at the maximum rates and apportioned in the manner specified in Resolution No. 2023-277 (on file in the Office of the City Clerk) on the parcels in Annexation No. 72. Introduced December 13, 2023; to be adopted January 10, 2024. **AYES: SINGH-ALLEN, BREWER, ROBLES, SPEASE, SUEN; NOES: NONE; ABSENT: NONE.**

Elk Grove Citizen 12-22-2023

**CITY OF ELK GROVE
ORDINANCE NO. 26-2023**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE LEVYING AND APPORTIONING THE SPECIAL TAX IN TERRITORY ANNEXED TO COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT NO. 2006-1 (MAINTENANCE SERVICES) (ANNEXATION NO. 94) AND AMENDING ELK GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.19.010. The purpose of this Ordinance is to levy the special tax at the maximum rates and apportioned in the manner specified in Resolution No. 2023-279 (on file in the Office of the City Clerk) on the parcels in Annexation No. 94. Introduced December 13, 2023; to be adopted January 10, 2024. **AYES: SINGH-ALLEN, BREWER, ROBLES, SPEASE, SUEN; NOES: NONE; ABSENT: NONE.**

Jason Lindgren, City Clerk, City of Elk Grove
December 22, 2023

Certified copies of the aforementioned ordinances are available in PDF format upon request by emailing City Clerk Jason Lindgren at jlindgren@elkgrovecity.org.

Elk Grove Citizen 12-22-2023

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSAL TO PERFORM LEASE-LEASEBACK CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE ELOP 2023-2024

The Elk Grove Unified School District ("District") is requesting a Statement of Qualifications/Proposal (SOQ/P) from Contractors holding a **Class B** license, to perform Lease-Leaseback construction services for the **ELOP 2023-2024** project.

If your firm is interested in being considered for this project, the submittal requirements and deadline for SOQ/P responses are as follows:

- Electronic copy in PDF format of a completed SOQ/P, submitted thru Dropbox
- As part of this RFQ, all participants must complete a Pre-qualification Application, if you have not already
- SOQ/P packet, and Pre-qualification Application can be accessed at www.egusdplans.com
- Completed SOQ/P must be received no later than **Friday, January 26, 2024 by 4:00 p.m.**

The District will not review submittals received after the time and date above. Facsimile (FAX) copies of the SOQ/P will not be accepted. The Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any and all SOQ/P, to negotiate with any and all-responsible firms, and to waive any informality in the process. The District is not responsible for any expenses related to the preparation or presentation of the SOQ/P, including travel costs. The SOQ/P may be withdrawn at any time prior to the closing date and time for receipt of SOQ/P.

In order to control information disseminated regarding this SOQ/P, firms interested in submitting SOQ/P are directed **not** to make personal contact with members of the Governing Board or District Administration with the exception of the individual, or department staff listed on the SOQ/P packet. This includes unauthorized visits to District-educating facilities.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 1770 *et seq.*, payment of the appropriate general prevailing rate of wages for all crafts employed on the public works site is required of the Contractor and all subcontractors. This project has a goal of 3% Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (DVBE) participation per the State Allocation Board requirements. Compliance with California Education Code Section 45125.1 mandating fingerprinting requirements applies to this project.

Elk Grove Citizen 12-22 and 12-29-2023

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS/PROPOSAL TO PERFORM LEASE-LEASEBACK CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE ROBERT L. TRIGG EDUCATION CENTER EXPANSION

The Elk Grove Unified School District ("District") is requesting a Statement of Qualifications/Proposal (SOQ/P) from Contractors holding a **Class B** license, to perform Lease-Leaseback construction services for the **Robert L. Trigg Education Center Expansion** project.

If your firm is interested in being considered for this project, the submittal requirements and deadline for SOQ/P responses are as follows:

- Electronic copy in PDF format of a completed SOQ/P, submitted thru Dropbox
- As part of this RFQ, all participants must complete a Pre-qualification Application, if you have not already
- SOQ/P packet, and Pre-qualification Application can be accessed at www.egusdplans.com
- Completed SOQ/P must be received no later than **Friday, January 26, 2024 by 4:00 p.m.**

The District will not review submittals received after the time and date above. Facsimile (FAX) copies of the SOQ/P will not be accepted. The Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any and all SOQ/P, to negotiate with any and all-responsible firms, and to waive any informality in the process. The District is not responsible for any expenses related to the preparation or presentation of the SOQ/P, including travel costs. The SOQ/P may be withdrawn at any time prior to the closing date and time for receipt of SOQ/P.

In order to control information disseminated regarding this SOQ/P, firms interested in submitting SOQ/P are directed **not** to make personal contact with members of the Governing Board or District Administration with the exception of the individual, or department staff listed on the SOQ/P packet. This includes unauthorized visits to District-educating facilities.

In accordance with California Labor Code Section 1770 *et seq.*, payment of the appropriate general prevailing rate of wages for all crafts employed on the public works site is required of the Contractor and all subcontractors. This project has a goal of 3% Disabled Veterans Business Enterprises (DVBE) participation per the State Allocation Board requirements. Compliance with California Education Code Section 45125.1 mandating fingerprinting requirements applies to this project.

Elk Grove Citizen 12-22 and 12-29-2023

**WE SUPPORT
FIRST RESPONDERS**



Sacramento Public Library Puts out Call for Artists



Folsom Lake State Recreation Area, one of the potential sites for a Parks and Tranquility Project art installation. Photo courtesy of California Department of Parks and Recreation

By Tamara Warta

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Public Library (SPL), which has 29 locations spanning from Orangevale to Isleton, recently announced its new Parks and Tranquility project. With the intention of bringing visual and performing arts to a selection of the region's many outdoor spaces, artists are invited to apply for grant awards that range from \$5000 - \$10,000.

"We will engage and collaborate with community members, community-based organizations, and arts and justice collectives," states the official website, "to create site-specific art and educational experiences at multiple California State Park sites around Sacramento County."

A schedule of the public events developed through the Parks and Tranquility program are expected to be announced in early 2024.

The idea to bring the arts into parks and other outdoor spaces was inspired by the California State Library's statewide Parks Pass program. This program allows any California resident with a library card to borrow free passes to approximately 200 state parks. SPL specifically was granted funds to identify and create art installations to complement these passes. While any artist may apply, selected projects should carry one of the specific themes being prioritized by the library.

According to Ricardo M. Ramirez, the system

supervisor of SPL, these themes include a project goal to "generate positive measurable impacts in the areas of health, natural resource stewardship, and historical and cultural connections with an equity lens."

"SPL will engage and collaborate alongside our Sacramento community members, community-based organizations, and arts and culture collectives on arts and recreational equity experiences that include community events and field trips," Ramirez also stated.

Selected artists will work with a special project team that consists of both library staff and community members. The original visual artwork will be featured at pre-selected California state parks, while other artists will prepare and execute community workshops featuring their art discipline.

"All types of art mediums are eligible," said Ramirez. "We encourage a wide range of artists and all levels of experiences to apply for these grants. We are fortunate to be in a dynamic and lively arts community, and are continually inspired by what we see, hear, and experience. We plan to curate a number of public programs that will incorporate the work of the selected artists that reflect our communities and the joy of being in natural spaces."

While any type of artist is welcome to apply, it is with the understanding that their art form may be converted to accommodate a

realistic outdoor art installation. A watercolor or acrylic painter, for example, may complete their piece and see it converted into a more durable digital print. Dancers should expect to accommodate an outdoor learning or performance space in lieu of a traditional indoor studio.

In order to be eligible for the Parks and Tranquility grant, applicants must be a resident of the Sacramento region and aged 16 or older. Applicants cannot be currently employed by SPL, and should be eligible to receive taxable income. The selected artist(s) must also be available for public events and installations related to the finalized artwork at the select location(s).

The grant application and selection process is a quick turnaround — applications are due by December 30th, and artists will be notified by the end of January. Time is of the essence for those artists wishing to be considered. With all levels of experience welcome to apply, SPL understands there will be questions. Applicants may call (916) 264-2920 or email parksandtranquility@saclibrary.org with any inquiries.

Potential artists may visit saclibrary.org/Parks-and-Tranquility for more information and to apply, as well as for the opportunity to view artists' inspirations behind the project for a better view of what SPL is seeking out for this unique new opportunity. ★

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 The Elk Grove Citizen Adjudicated For and By the City of Elk Grove, Case No. CS01032 - August 25, 2000

Legal Advertising 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd #5 Carmichael, CA 95608

City of Elk Grove INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that electronic bids will be received at the City of Elk Grove Vendor Portal through PlanetBids prior to 10:00 a.m. local time (09:59:59 – according to the PlanetBids official Bid clock) on **Thursday, January 18, 2024** for furnishing all labor, materials, tax, transportation, equipment and services necessary for the:

FY2024 THERMOPLASTIC RESTRIPIING PROJECT (MP2403)

Bids submitted after the time specified will not be accepted.

Description of Work:

The proposed work shall be performed in accordance with the plans, specifications and other contract documents and shall consist of the following: restripe various streets throughout the City of Elk Grove with thermoplastic spray material (Work).

The Opinion of Probable Cost (OPC) for the work is \$163,300.

In order to bid on or to be listed on the bid proposal for this Public Works Project all Contractors and subcontractors shall be registered with the Department of Industrial Relations and be qualified to perform Public Work pursuant to Section 1725.5 of the California Labor Code. Unregistered Contractors may still submit bids provided the bid is authorized by Section 7029.1 of the Business and Professions Code or by either Section 10164 and 20103.5 of the Public Contract Code and all Contractors including subcontractors are registered with the Department of Industrial Relations to perform Public Work pursuant to California Labor Code Section 1725.5 at the time the bid is submitted. DIR registration is not required on Projects that do not exceed \$25,000, which are for construction, alteration, demolition, installation, or repair work or for public works projects for maintenance when \$15,000 or less.

Construction License:
 Bidder must possess a current valid Class A "General Engineering" and/or Class C-32 "Parking and Highway Improvement" Contractor's Licenses issued by the State of California.

For Pre-Bid Information and Information Pertaining to the Construction Plans and Specifications, Contact:

Robert French, Project Manager, City of Elk Grove, Public Works Department
 Telephone: (916) 478-3648 or electronically at the City of Elk Grove Vendor Portal through PlanetBids

For Obtaining Bid Documents, Contact:

Whitney Yann, Administrative Analyst I, City of Elk Grove, Public Works Department
 Telephone: (916) 627-3062 or electronically at the City of Elk Grove Vendor Portal through PlanetBids

Plans, specifications and other bid documents may be examined and/or obtained at the City of Elk Grove City Hall, Public Works Department, located on the second floor of 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758. A copy of the bid documents may be obtained at the City Hall upon request and payment of \$15.00 or may be mailed upon request and payment of \$20.00. The amount of the payment is non-refundable. Bidders may also view and download the plans, specifications, and other bid documents at the City of Elk Grove Vendor Portal through PlanetBids. Any Addendum shall only be issued electronically at the City of Elk Grove Vendor Portal through PlanetBids. In person requests for Addendum shall not be accepted by the City during the pandemic.

By: _____ Date: December 13, 2023
 Jeffrey R. Werner, PE
 Public Works Director
 Elk Grove Citizen 12-22 and 12-29-2023

ARTS CALENDAR

Elk Grove Dust Bowl Upcoming Events

Here are some of the upcoming local artists playing at our taproom:

Thursday, Dec. 28
 James Drip
 5pm-8pm, *Rock, Blues*
 Elk Grove's Dust Bowl Brewing Taphouse is located at 9679 Railroad St. in Old Town Elk Grove.
 For more information, please visit dustbowlbrewing.com

12th Annual Small Treasures Show and Sale exhibiting through December 30, 2023

Join us for the annual celebration of Small Treasures! This popular tradition opens on First Saturday, November 4 and runs through December 30.

The Elk Grove Fine Arts Center

Check out the local website for featured rotating local artist. The Elk Grove Fine Arts Center is at their new location, 9020 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 101. The Center entrance is on Walnut Avenue, with parking available out front or in

public lots in Old Town Elk Grove. They are open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays through Saturdays, and Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit us every First Saturday from 4-7PM at the Center for refreshments, an opportunity to meet featured artists, and enjoy live music. For more information, visit www.ElkGroveFineArtsCenter.org or call (916) 685-5992.

A Seat at the Table Books

This bookstore is hosting these ongoing events at their bookstore: every Wednesday, 4:30-5 p.m., Reading Circle Storytime with Samantha Tucey; every Saturday, 11-11:30 a.m., Family Storytime; every Saturday, 10:45-11:15 a.m., Mindfulness Drop-in Group with the store's co-owner Ryan; every first Friday, 5:30-6 p.m., Aloha Friday Storytime with Sergio; every first Friday, 6:15-8:45 p.m., Poetry Night, admission is \$15, which includes a \$10 voucher for anything in the store, suitable for ages 16 or older. A Seat at the Table Books is at 9257 Laguna Springs Drive. For more

information, visit www.ASeatAtTheTableBooks.org or call (916) 538-3482.

Elk Grove Artists Inc. (EGA)

Each month, Elk Grove Artists Inc. engages established and recognized guest artists who conduct workshops, presentations, demos, critiques and more, often sharing stories and experiences that inspire their creativity. To sign up for future workshop notices, call (916) 715-3749 or (916) 591-7446, or visit elkgroveartists@att.net.

View artwork from Elk Grove

At: <http://webmaps.elkgrovecity.org/publicart-telkgrove/>. The Elk Grove Arts Commission has created a virtual Citywide Art Guide for the benefit of the residents and visitors that includes a comprehensive inventory of art pieces and art events in Elk Grove. If you know of a piece or event missing from the guide that should be included, contact the city of Elk Grove's community event center manager, Lana Yoshimura at lyoshimura@elkgrovecity.org ★

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A Veteran Thank Today

Mobile Vet Clinic for Unhoused Pets Launches

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - PAWS, or Pet Aid and Wellness Services, rolled into action at the Safe Stay community on Florin Rd on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, and began seeing its first four-legged patients, marking a pivotal moment for accessible pet healthcare in Sacramento County. PAWS is the first mobile spay/neuter outreach clinic for pets of unhoused pet owners in the area and was approved by the Board of Supervisors in July 2022.

Spaying and Neutering at the Forefront:

The primary mission of PAWS is to address pet overpopulation and reduce unwanted litters. The mobile clinic is fully equipped to provide spay and neuter services, ensuring that pets of unhoused owners have access to this vital and preventive care. By focusing on these procedures, PAWS aims to contribute significantly to controlling the pet population.

Comprehensive Veterinary Care on Wheels:

PAWS goes beyond spay/neuter services; it will also offer vaccinations, medical care, and diagnostic services for ill and injured pets. PAWS offers comparable services to care provided by a traditional veterinary office. This comprehensive approach aims to promote the overall health and well-being of all pets in the community and reduce preventable diseases.

Removing Barriers to Care:

By removing barriers such as transportation and cost, PAWS bridges the gap in access to veterinary services and represents a significant stride towards a more inclusive approach to pet healthcare. All services are provided by the County at no cost to pet owners.

Strategic Operation Schedule:

The mobile clinic will operate four days per week, with two days dedicated to providing services at shelters for individuals experiencing homelessness. One day per week will be spent at encampments throughout the County, reaching pets in need where they are. An additional day each week will be devoted to providing spay/neuter services for shelter pets at Bradshaw Animal Shelter.

Dr. Cynthia Metcalf, who joined Sacramento County Animal Care Services earlier this year as the full-time veterinarian for PAWS, emphasized the clinic's commitment to making a tangible difference in the lives of both pets and their owners. "PAWS is not just a pet clinic; it's a lifeline for those who do not currently have access to veterinary care. We're breaking down the barriers to that care and ensuring that every pet, regardless of their circumstances, receives the love and attention they deserve, and that every pet owner's concerns are heard," Dr. Metcalf said.

The public can learn more about PAWS and view a calendar of upcoming service areas at the Sacramento County Animal Care Services website.



Dr. Metcalf assesses a new patient. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County



The Pet Aid and Wellness Services rolls into service in Sac County. Left to right: Jessica Gresham; Rich Desmond, District 3 Supervisor and Board Chair; Freedom Witten; Patrick Kennedy, District 2 Supervisor and Board Vice-Chair; Annette Bedsworth; Dr. Cynthia Metcalf; and Kazmiera Grundy. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Local Classifieds Advertise in your local community newspaper Call 916-773-1111

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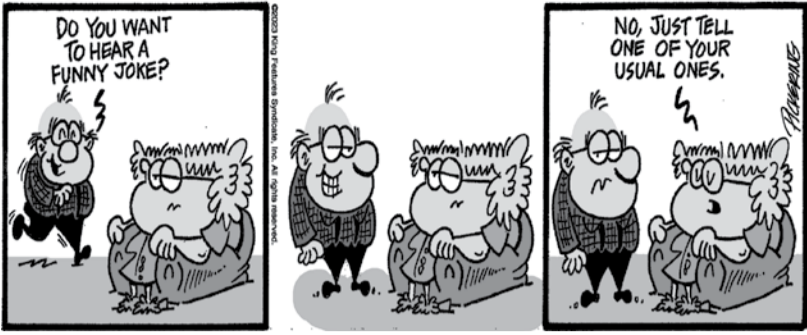
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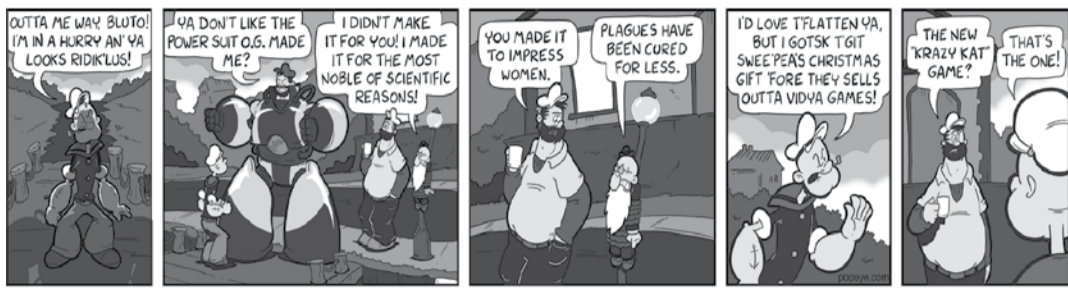
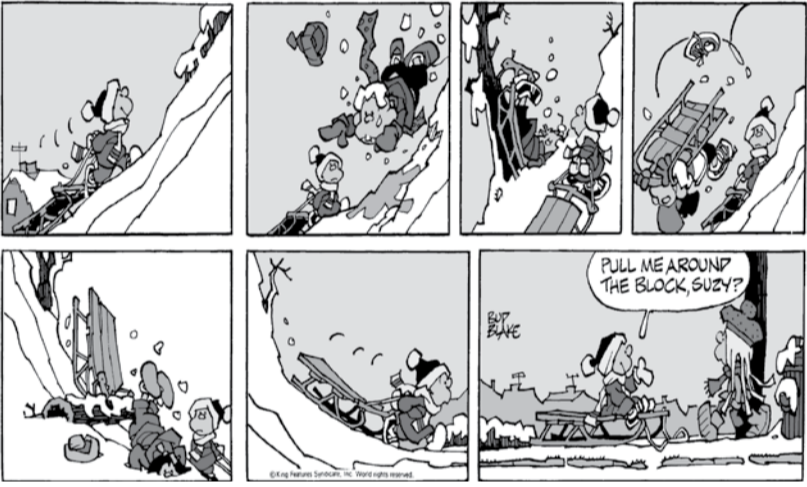
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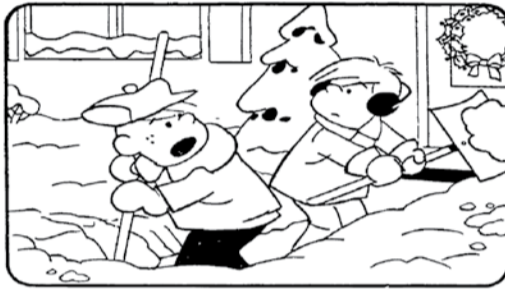
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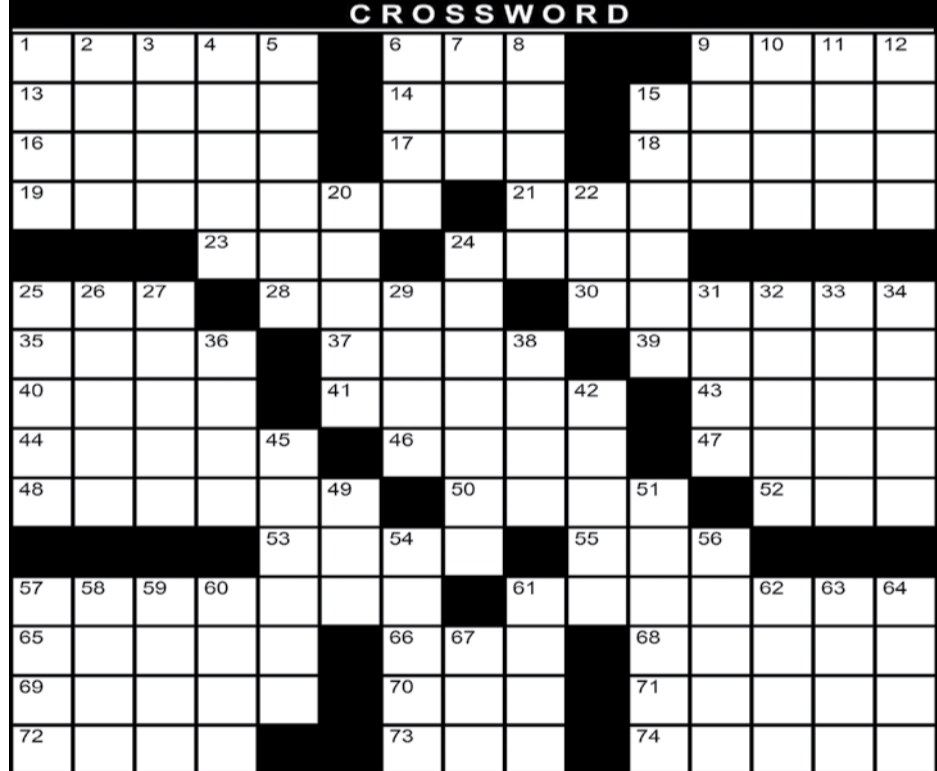
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 - 10 decibels
 - *Appletini's schnapps
 - Rose oil
 - Maui garland
 - Birth-related
 - *Old Fashioned liquor option
 - *Gin+vermouth rosso+Campari
 - Not him
 - Bye, in Palermo
 - VA.gov beneficiary
 - Puerto follower
 - Like Ferris Bueller
 - Exclude
 - "___ Your Enthusiasm"
 - Green-light
 - Tiny coffee cup, or ___-tasse
 - Cut mission short
 - Not final or absolute
 - Makes a sweater
 - Wing-shaped
 - Bird, in Latin
 - One with drug dependency
 - Do like a frog
 - A U.S. time zone
 - Dance with #17
 - Across
 - Anatomical duct
 - *It usually comes in a conical glass
 - *Popular cocktail mixer
 - Spy's other name
 - Knicks' org.
 - Give a speech
 - Clan emblem
 - Party barrel
 - Clean a spill (2 words)
 - Part of pump
 - Sargasso or Barents
 - Same as apse
- DOWN**
- Sticking point, in alimentary tract
 - Possesses, archaic
 - *Bellini with ___ Spumante
 - Squirrel away
 - a.k.a. felt-pen
 - Completely
 - M tley Cr e's Tommy
 - Russian pancakes
 - Practice in the ring
 - As far as (2 words)
 - Distinctive flair
 - Place for a hero
 - Fluffy sweater material
 - "All My Children" vixen Kane
 - 2010 Movie "___ Pray Love"
 - Toyota model
 - *Moscow Mule spirit
 - Make corrections
 - Shy
 - * ___ Libre
 - Forearm bone
 - Not dead
 - Honkers
 - *Lemon or orange piece
 - South American monkey
 - Highlands hillside
 - Crossbeam



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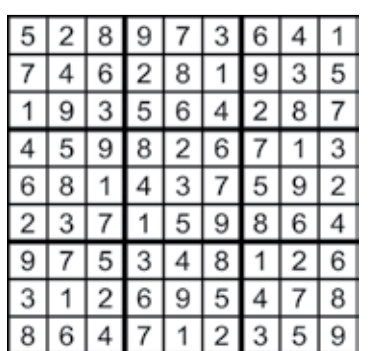
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Signs Point to God's Love for Us All

Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

Honestly, it seems a bit odd that Advent sermons often begin with a lesson from John the Baptist. I mean, I'm uncomfortable that I share the Baptist name with my predecessor.

While J-the-B was Jesus' second cousin, they shared no resemblance in their preaching style. The "Babble-ist" was one wild-eyed, deranged preacher dude. If he were alive today, his caustic style might recommend him for presidential candidacy.

The man didn't make any friends when he referred to the local clergy as "a group of vipers" and dead wood fit to be burned. Of course, he really lost his head when he called King Herod an adulterer – literally head on a platter.

But today in the US, we're a little more tolerant of these crazy preacher types. I often see them during visits to San Francisco where scathing prophets wave signs announcing the end of the world.

But during one particular Christmas-shopping visit to Union Square in San Francisco, I saw a man holding a sign with a much kinder, gentler Baptist message. "Jesus Christ Loves You."

He must have noticed me curiously inching toward him, and he motioned

for me to approach. Jose Rodriguez kept a neat beard and held his sign above his short stature on most weekends and holidays:

Jose's sign was to the point. Simple. Not preachy.

I expected Jose to hand me an advert promoting the time and location of his services.

"No," he said, "I'm not a preacher. I don't really know much about the Bible."

Nevertheless, Jose found the Bible's most important message, so I asked him what kind of reaction the sign was generating.

"Most people show their agreement in some way," he said. "They smile or nod and say, 'That's right.'" But no matter what their response, Jose held his sign in the same unflinching way he had begun in 2000.

I admire Jose's courage, but I also appreciated what his sign did not say.

In a time when fundamentalist fanatics picket the funerals of war veterans and thrust placards of dead babies in the faces of confused mothers, I could fill several columns with what Jose's sign DID NOT say.

It didn't name conditions such as, "Jesus loves you if . . ."

It didn't say "Jesus only loves you when . . ." It didn't say, "My god hates your god."

The cynic might have scolded Jose saying that it's easier to hold a placard about Jesus' love than to actually put love into practice. It's the warning

James, (Jesus' half-brother) gave against simply telling the hungry, "Be warm and filled," without offering them a cup of soup.

While I doubt Jose would argue that point, I do think he was on track to offer love.

After all, I don't think it's possible to remind each other too often about God's love for us. For instance, can you tell a child you love him too much? Can you tell your spouse too many times that you cherish her above all?

Maybe Jose's message, however many times you see it at football games or on the streets of a major city, is that God's love will always be too big to define or imagine. This was the love that John the Baptist saw in Jesus when he said in Mark 1:7 that he wasn't "worthy to stoop down and untie his (Jesus') sandals."

Maybe it comes down to a variation of what our mothers taught us: If you can't say something nice about God, don't say anything at all.

After I got my fill of sourdough and cable cars that day, I entered the subway to take the last train home when I spied a woman holding a hymnal and singing "Silent Night, Holy Night."

I paused, recalling my experience with Jose. His example inspired me to put down my train schedule and join in song. And for a moment our voices managed to flood the station with an echoing chorus that told a busy world of God's never-ending love.

Sign up to get my weekly newsletter on my website at www.thechaplain.net/newsletter/

Send comments to comment@thechaplain.net. Leave recorded comments at (843) 608-9715 or write 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, Calif., 95602.

You can get any of my books for free when you start a monthly donation to Chispa or give a onetime donation of more than \$100. Make checks to Chispa Project and send to 10556 Combie Rd Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. Comments received at same address or by email comment@thechaplain.net or at (843) 608-9715. ★

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RELIGION NEWS

Sermon topics at EG Presbyterian Church in Dec.

JAZZ AND BLUES HOUR

One of the monthly events we host at our church is the "Jazz and Blues Hour". The Papa Day Blues Band performed on Nov 5 th .This was the last performance for this year, but this concert series will resume in the spring.

SCOTTY INMAN CONCERT

Another musical event, recently sponsored by our church and Diane Sakakihara, was the Scotty Inman concert at District 56. This was a fundraiser primarily for Sacramento Stand Down, Chicks in Crisis and Elk Grove Food Bank. About 140 people enjoyed the concert and Scotty was joined by the Herb Henry Family of Modesto and local singer Bill Miller. It was a great evening of gospel music with a country flair. During the concert, our veterans were honored with a special salute to those who have served.

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Under our sanctuary "Giving" Tree we are now

collecting items (or checks) for Chicks in Crisis and Elk Grove Food Bank. Special events coming up include an Advent potluck at church, a Women's Christmas Tea and our Annual Christmas Party. The December 24th Christmas Eve service will be held at 10 am.

SERMON TOPICS FOR DECEMBER

Rev. Dexter McNamara has announced upcoming sermon topics for the remainder of the year: Dec 17 th – What Do We Anticipate; Dec 24 th (Morning of Christmas Eve) – Beware of Angels' Greetings; Dec 31 st – Rick Hall guest minister. Rev. Deter McNamara welcomes members and visitors every Sunday at 10 am. Our church is located at 8153 Elk Grove Blvd, Suite 50, facing Big Horn Blvd. For more information Rev. McNamara can be reached at (916) 683-1435 or elkgrovepres@gmail.com.

Light of the Valley's Service Times

The Light of the Valley Lutheran Church updated their service times. Traditional services will be

held at 8:45 a.m., and contemporary services will start at 10:30 a.m.

Light of the Valley is at 9270 Bruceville Road, Elk Grove. For more information, call (916) 691-3568 or visit www.LightOfTheValley.net.

Field of Hope United Church of Christ's Services

Community members are invited to the Field of Hope United Church of Christ's Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. at 9624 Melrose Ave., Elk Grove. Sunday School and nursery services are available.

For more information, visit www.FieldOfHopeUCC.org

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church's Mass schedule

Elk Grove's St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church invites everyone to their celebrations of Holy Mass. Mass will be held there at 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and noon on Sundays. They also have weekday Masses at 9 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

The church's office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on

Mondays, Thursday, and Fridays.

For more information, call (916) 647-4538, visit www.SMGCC.net, or download the MyParish app and center the code, 55321.

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church is at 8700 Bradshaw Road.

Grace Church Welcomes You to Join Us as We Worship the One True God

Begin your week with a congregation who seeks to glorify Jesus Christ through singing and God's Word, the Bible. Sunday worship service begins at 10 a.m. All are welcome. Our gatherings are at 9766 Waterman Road, Suite F (next to the Mel Dogs restaurant). For more information, call (916) 714-3444 or email: office@gracechurcheg.org. Check out our website at www.GraceChurchEG.org.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church Offers Food Pantry

All Nations Seventh-Day Adventist Church is offering a food pantry

for community members in need. This pantry is open every second and third Wednesday from 10 a.m. to noon. Organizers request identification such as a driver's license, Social Security card, or a food stamp card before they offer supplies to recipients.

For more information, contact Rudy at (916) 271-9315. The church is located at 8280 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Sacramento.

Good Shepherd Parish Group Helps Needy in Area

St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in the Laguna Creek area of Elk Grove maintains a small storage locker for items for the needy in the church's immediate area, ZIP codes 95757 and 95758.

Members help those in need with utility bills when funds are available, and have clothing and miscellaneous items available on Monday mornings. They do home visits to assess the needs

of the family and discuss furniture needs on a one-on-one basis. The organization also offers assistance with utility bills.

St. Vincent de Paul's hours of operation are 10-11 a.m. from Oct. 1 through April 30, and 9-10 a.m. from May 1 through Sept. 30.

It is located on the south side of the church parking lot, 9539 Racquet Court, near the tennis courts of the Racquet Club. For more information, call (916) 647-1243.

Chabad of Elk Grove's weekly Torah classes

Local community members are invited to attend weekly Torah classes that will be offered by Chabad of Elk Grove. Each class will be held from 6:45-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at a private location.

The course, "Flashbacks in Jewish History" will examine how our past informs our future. Rabbi Chaim Groner is leading the discussion. Classes are free.

For location, call (917) 724-4443. ★

Places of Worship

Light of the Valley Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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Join us for a warm and really friendly service at our church this Sunday. We always have a special message and **would love for you to join us.**

This is a great opportunity to meet new people, join in some warm activities and learn more about our faith.

In addition to our regular church services, we have the following additional services:
Christmas Eve Services: 6 pm and 8 pm.
Christmas Day Service: 10am

We look forward to seeing you this Sunday at either our traditional service at 8:45 am or our contemporary service at 10:30 am. Find us at 9270 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove or watch us at lightofthevalley.net

Family Praise and Worship Ministries

4099 Emerson Road, Acampo, CA 95220
Pastors Claude & Jan Moore
209-224-8145

Sunday School 9:30 a.m., | Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.

Bible Study Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Worship Service 4th Friday 7:00 p.m.

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

8701 Elk Grove-Florin Rd.

Pastor Joe Dapelo

916-689-7300

Holiday Service Schedule:

12/24 - 9 am Morning Worship

Christmas Eve Services:

4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm

Christmas Morning Service - 9 am

12/31 - 9 am Morning Worship

Website: <https://stpeterseg.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PetersLutheranChurchElkGrove/>

Full Gospel Church

9286 E. Stockton Blvd.,

Elk Grove, CA 95624

Pastor Daniels

916-685-6607

Tuesday Prayer Healing 6pm

Sunday School 10am

Sunday Worship 11am

SPW Wrestlers Put on Toy Drive in Elk Grove

By John Hull
Citizen Sports Editor

ELK GROVE (MPG) - The show is called, "Hostile Holidays." When Supreme Pro Wrestling (SPW) comes to town there's always the hint of violence, but with tongue in cheek because, well, it's professional wrestling.

The SPW opened the doors of Soccer World Dec. 17 at 4:30 p.m. and a good stock of "wrasslin" fans were in line, ready for another entertaining show of arm bars, flying drop kicks, elbow smashes and figure-four leg locks. The grapplers (and, yes, the fans) never disappoint because, well, it's pro wrestling in the flesh.

Sunday's show featured SPW's annual toy drive. According to the organization's director and co-owner, Sir Samarai (his ring name), it was the largest donation they've ever had for their December show.

"This is the first time where I think we're going to have to take two cars to donate them tomorrow," he said. He and his associates donated the toys to the Sacramento area Boys and Girls clubs.

That's something to say because SPW has been a local fixture in the independent professional wrestling world for more than 20 years. Samarai has been involved for 21 of those years. Samarai has for much of that time been SPW's top trainer of prospective talent. Many, he says, want to become a pro wrestler, but few make it.

"Most wrestlers quit early," he said. "The biggest number of students we've had that never had their first match or made it their first year, but about half the wrestlers you watched tonight are ours, SPW's students.

Everybody watches it on TV and thinks, "Oh, I can do that." It's hard. It's like a martial art. Your body hurts until it gets used to it and toughens up. And, the cardio is ridiculous so it is not something you can just get up and do it the first day."

Like its past shows SPW stable of talented wrasslers put on an evening of entertainment as only pro wrestlers can, and with the same excellence of the big boys on television. Take for example, a "Fans Bring the Weapons Christmas Chaos" match. Four wrestlers, Eliza Hammer, Just Zack, Truex and Hellraiser Blaze, battled in and out of the ring for 15 action-packed minutes. Zack, bleeding from being thrown on a pile of thumbtacks, pinned Hammer, who was laying on a broken door with wire. That came after about 15 minutes of chairs, wiffleball bats, staplers and baking pans were being swung around the Soccer World arena-turned into a wrestling chaos.

That was the so-called extreme match of the night. The rest of the matches featured more traditional pro wrestling moves, holds, kicks and punches. Samarai says he trains many of his performers based on the traditions and techniques of "old-school wrestling."

"That's because of SPW's background," Samarai explained. "SPW's original trainer was the 'Big Ugly' J.D. Bishop. His trainer was Brian Ward, who trained with Chris Jericho, Lance Storm and the 'Hart Dungeon.' Our style is essentially the same, I've changed a few small things, but basically our style is the same as the



Drake Frost during one of Supreme Pro Wrestling's recent shows, held monthly at Soccer World in Elk Grove. Its Dec. 17 show was tabbed, "Hostile Holidays." Attendees were asked to bring a new toy as part of the SPW's annual toy drive. Proceeds went to the Sacramento-Area Boys and Girls clubs. Photos by John Hull

Harts were trained."

The Hart Dungeon was the gym started by Stu Hart in Canada from that came well-known wrestlers such as Billy "Superstar" Graham, Greg "The Hammer" Valentine, Davey Boy Smith, Chris Benoit and others. Hart's sons, Bret and Owen, became top notch pro wrestlers, primarily in the World Wrestling Entertainment, then known as the WWF.

Other matches Sunday included Midas Creed facing Jack Cartwheel with the SPW Extreme Championship on the line, and in the headline bout, it was Olumide defending the SPW Championship belt against the big man from Spain, Alex Ace. Both were matches that featured back-and-forth moments for each competitor with unusual twists at the end. The fans loved it all. (Just



Supreme Pro Wrestling's version of Santa and an Elf. They were collecting donated toys from event attendees which were given to the Sacramento-Area Boys and Girls clubs.

watching the fans is worth the price of admission)

Cartwheel (yes, he does cartwheels as his feature move) and Olumide both retained their belts. And, both ended with a storyline that will continue into SPW's January card

in Elk Grove.

If you're interested in watching those December 17 matches, they'll be featured on SPW's Facebook page.

"It's every Thursday and they call it, "War Path" with clips of matches,

some back scene segments and basically fills the gaps from one show to the next," Samarai said.

More with Samarai and an interview with Drake Frost can be heard on the "Citizen Sports Podcast" on EGCitizen.com. ★

SCOREBOARD

Local Sports Results

Monday, Dec. 11

Boys Basketball

Gregori 64, Bradshaw Chr. 61
Casa Roble 84, Valley 33
Franklin 66, Kennedy 46

Girls Basketball

Christian Bros 68, Franklin 51

Boys Soccer

Pleasant Grove 3, Lincoln 2

Girls Soccer

Cosumnes Oaks 3, Lincoln 1

Tuesday, Dec. 12

Boys Basketball

Monterey Trail 93, Christian Bros. 67
Laguna Creek 70, Elk Grove 51
Franklin 71, Oak Ridge 58

Girls Basketball

Fortune School 67, Golden Sierra 27
Cordova 45, Elk Grove 37
Rio Linda 55, Valley 10

Inderkum 55, Pleasant Grove 46

Boys Soccer

River City 1, Laguna Creek 0

Cosumnes Oaks 2, Monterey Trail 1

Girls Soccer

Kennedy 1, Monterey Trail 1
Laguna Creek 1, River City 1
Bradshaw Chr. 2, Nevada Union 1

Wednesday, Dec. 13

Boys Basketball

Cosumnes Oaks 62, Laguna Creek 52
Burbank 67, Fortune EC 45
Rosemont 61, Florin 46

Boys Soccer

Davis 5, Sheldon 0

Elk Grove 1, Franklin 1

Jesuit 2, Pleasant Grove 1

Valley 5, West Campus 1

Foothill 4, Florin 1

Bradshaw Chr. 3, Amador 1

Girls Soccer

Franklin 2, Elk Grove 0

Davis 2, Sheldon 0

St. Francis 3, Pleasant Grove 0

Foothill 5, Florin 0

Thursday, Dec. 14

Boys Basketball

Cosumnes Oaks 64, El Camino 55
Bradshaw Chr. 65, Ben Holt 56

Girls Basketball

Colfax 58, Pleasant Grove 55
Center 54, Fortune EC 39
Granite Bay 52, Sheldon 39

Monterey Trail 74, Arcata 71

Amador 62, Valley 17

Boys Soccer

Pleasant Grove 3, Laguna Creek 0

Valley 3, Sierra 1

Grant 2, Monterey Trail 0

Girls Soccer

Laguna Creek 2, Bradshaw Chr. 0

Monterey Trail 2, Grant 1

Men's College Basketball

Solano College 82, Cosumnes River 74

Friday, Dec. 15

Boys Basketball

Vista del Lago 72, Valley 19

Bradshaw Chr. 65, Argonaut 63

Kennedy 64, Cosumnes Oaks 57

Girls Basketball

Fortune EC 60, Florin 14
Armijo 40, Bradshaw Chr. 33
Cosumnes Oaks 90, Nevada Union 43

Grant 57, Sheldon 49
Valley 45, Golden Sierra 44

Boys Soccer

Franklin 3, Jesuit 1

Davis 1, Cosumnes Oaks 1

Monterey Trail 2, Edison 1

Girls Soccer

Elk Grove 3, Sheldon 0

Franklin 3, St. Francis 1

Davis 0, Cosumnes Oaks 0

Saturday, Dec. 16

Boys Basketball

Cosumnes Oaks 65, Delta 36
Sheldon 82, Hillcrest 71
Union Mine 61, Bradshaw Chr. 40

Girls Basketball

Rocklin 68, Laguna Creek 28
Antelope 45, Monterey Trail 42
Lincoln 48, Pleasant Grove 43

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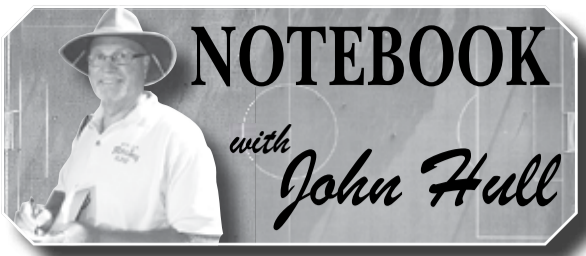
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Maxpreps is a Handy App, But as Good as Those Inputting Data

ELK GROVE (MPG) - In this world of Internet access, cellphone apps and information at the tips of your fingers on devices on stick in your pocket, Maxpreps has emerged as the go-to source for high school sports information. They've now been around about 20 years and for us journalists a terrific resource for background information on any team sport.

Maxpreps now is nationwide and state high school sports associations, to varying degrees, prompt their member schools to keep schedules, rosters, scores and statistics on the app. Locally, the Sacramento Joaquin Section uses the Maxpreps ratings to determine basketball playoff participants. That's how confident they are in MaxPreps statistics and Information.

"The top three teams in every league go (into the playoffs), no matter what," Section assistant commissioner Will DeBoard explained. "Then if you're ranked in the top 15 in your division, Division I through IV, in Maxpreps you also go. And, if you're in the top 10 in Divisions V and VI, you also go."

The smallest schools by enrollment will fall into either Division V or VI. Any school with an enrollment of 600 or more will be in Divisions I through IV. The exception will be those schools who qualified as "continued success" because repeatedly they play for or win Section basketball championships, such as Central Catholic or Modesto Christian.

"We then determine who will make the playoffs," DeBoard added. "It could be 64 (schools) or 84, but it is generally somewhere in between. We then divide them into four even brackets. It



Rowdy Tellez, a 2013 graduate of Elk Grove High School, signed a free agent contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates last week. According to media sources, Tellez is assured of \$3.2 million with incentives from this one year contract. Photo courtesy - MLB/Brewers

could be two brackets of 16 or two of 18 or 17."

In recent years more boys teams have made it to the playoffs than girls under this Maxpreps ratings system.

"There's been a handful of fourth or fifth-placed teams of boys teams that have made it, not so much on the girls' side," DeBoard said.

So, in order to be rated accurately by Maxpreps, the teams have to upload their material to the app. This is where that can get interesting. There are coaches who think putting too much material on Maxpreps is like giving their opponents a scouting report. Plus, for us journalists (and there are fewer and fewer of us nowadays who cover prep sports) we can write more indepth stories because we have access to team's rosters, results and stats.

Still we have teams, especially ones locally, who do the bare minimum that is required by the Section.

"We require schedules and rosters only," DeBoard said. "Anything beyond that is up to (the team/coach). Some people don't put stats. We care about the schedules. We care about the rosters."

At the time of this writing, the second, third and fourth highest

rated boys basketball teams in the Section are Elk Grove Unified schools; Monterey Trail (8-0 record, 25.20 rating), Franklin (10-1, 24.18) and Cosumnes Oaks (7-0, 21.95). The Mustangs and Wolfpack have full stats, results and roster on their Maxpreps page. Franklin has a roster with uniform numbers and height of each player, but no statistics.

Sheldon boys, who played in a three-day tournament in Idaho and then flew to Las Vegas to play in the Tarkanian Classic for four games, has a schedule, a roster with uniform numbers and player names only (no height/weight), and no statistics at all.

"That's silly," DeBoard commented. "People seem to do that because they think the less information out there about them, people can get a scout on them and that sort of thing."

He noted that each season more and more teams are making use of live streaming, particularly the NFHS Network. That allows opposing coaches an opportunity to watch them in advance.

Wrong scores, stats

A big issue that I've learned sort of the hard way is that Maxpreps' scores and stats can

be only as good as the person inputting the numbers. At least three times during football season we posted a final score online only to be corrected by a coach who saw the post on EGCitizen.com. I, of course, replied we got their score from Maxpreps and that whoever was posting scores had better I. Stay until the end of the game to report the true final score or 2. Admit defeat and use their access to the Maxpreps app with honor.

Same thing with individual stats. I was recently made aware of some inflated rushing statistics for a talented running back in this area. The young man was keyed on and successfully stopped by his school's opponent that night. He had 11 carries and 17 yards. I noted that stat in that week's Local Football Roundup in the Citizen. However, I noted on Maxpreps he now is credited for 11 carries and 124 yards. That didn't happen.

As a journalist, I rely on the help that Maxpreps offers. It is my request that each coach and athletic director assigns someone who is reliable to be responsible with posting scores, full rosters and actual statistics for their athletic department.

Rowdy now a Pirate

This past week former Elk Grove High School baseball player Rowdy Tellez signed a free agent contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Tellez had two decent seasons with the Milwaukee Brewers where he stroked 35 home runs in 2022. Spotrac.com says Tellez signed for one year and a base salary of \$3.2 million with incentives that could earn him as much as \$8 million. ★

BOYS BASKETBALL RATINGS

(courtesy MaxPreps)

Division I		
Rocklin	13-0	26.12
Monterey Trail	8-0	25.20
Franklin	10-1	24.18
Inderkum	5-2	19.60
Weston Ranch	3-1	18.14
Oak Ridge	7-3	17.57
Laguna Creek	6-2	16.36
Sheldon	4-4	12.82
Pitman	8-3	11.69
Kennedy	6-4	11.62
Division II		
Cosumnes Oaks	7-0	21.95
Del Oro	6-2	20.45
St. Mary's	6-2	19.42
Patterson	8-0	17.95
Woodcreek	7-3	17.06
Manteca	7-2	14.84
Mountain House	5-3	13.31
Jesuit	4-3	13.28
Lodi	5-2	13.17
Burbank	7-3	11.94

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL STANDINGS

(as of 12/27/23)

Boys Basketball			Girls Basketball		
Delta League			Delta League		
	League	Overall		League	Overall
Franklin	0-0	10-1	Franklin	0-0	7-4
Cos. Oaks	0-0	9-1	Cos. Oaks	0-0	6-4
Jesuit	0-0	4-3	St. Francis	0-0	4-6
Sheldon	0-0	4-4	Sheldon	0-0	4-6
Plea. Grove	0-0	3-6	Plea. Grove	0-0	4-8
Elk Grove	0-0	3-6	Davis	0-0	3-6
Davis	0-0	3-6	Elk Grove	0-0	3-6
Greater Sacramento			Greater Sacramento		
	League	Overall		League	Overall
W. Campus	0-0	7-3	W. Campus	0-0	8-2
Foothill	0-0	7-3	Foothill	0-0	5-2
Johnson	0-0	6-6	Johnson	0-0	6-4
Natomas	0-0	4-4	Natomas	0-0	3-4
Cordova	0-0	4-5	Valley	0-0	3-8
Florin	0-0	3-6	Cordova	0-0	5-7
Valley	0-0	0-8	Florin	0-0	0-10
Metro League			Metro League		
	League	Overall		League	Overall
Mont. Trail	0-0	8-0	Grant	0-0	8-1
Lag. Creek	0-0	6-2	Mont. Trail	0-0	5-2
Burbank	0-0	7-3	Kennedy	0-0	6-2
River City	0-0	6-3	McClatchy	0-0	6-3
Kennedy	0-0	9-4	River City	0-0	6-4
Grant	0-0	3-4	Lag. Creek	0-0	1-7
McClatchy	0-0	4-5	Burbank	0-0	2-7
Sierra Valley			Sierra Valley		
	League	Overall		League	Overall
Union Mine	0-0	11-1	Lib. Ranch	0-0	9-3
El Dorado	0-0	8-4	El Dorado	0-0	7-4
Brad. Chris.	0-0	6-4	Union Mine	0-0	5-6
Lib. Ranch	0-0	5-8	Rosemont	0-0	5-8
Rosemont	0-0	3-5	Galt	0-0	1-11
Galt	0-0	2-7	Brad. Chris.	0-0	1-10

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Elk Grove Community Businesses Unite to Grant Holiday Wishes for 25 Children in Need

Special to the Citizen

ELK GROVE (MPG) - In a remarkable display of unity and generosity, three local businesses in the Elk Grove community, C & T Vending, EG Wrestling Academy, and Warriorz Health & Fitness Gym, have joined forces with The Family Giving Tree to fulfill the holiday wishes of 25 underprivileged children. This heartwarming initiative was executed in an astounding record time of six days, providing not only the primary wishes for all, but also alternative wishes for some of the children, ensuring their joy this holiday season.

Recognizing the significance of spreading cheer and hope during the festive season, these businesses rallied together to make a meaningful impact on the lives of children facing economic hardship. Through their collaboration with The Family Giving Tree, an esteemed charitable organization dedicated to mitigating the effects of poverty in the California Bay Area, they identified 25 children in need and swiftly worked to fulfill their holiday wishes.

"The spirit of community and the power of collaboration are at the heart of this initiative," Ericka Pretari, spokesperson for the joint effort, said. "Our businesses understand the importance of giving back, especially during the holiday season, and we are immensely proud to have partnered with The Family Giving



Philip Torres and Ericka Castillo were two of several Elk Grove business people that collected toys and games for 25 children in need. Courtesy Photo

Tree to brighten the holidays for these children."

The significance of this collective effort goes beyond the material gifts provided. For many of these children, this act of kindness signifies hope, joy, and a sense of belonging during a time that can

be challenging for families facing financial difficulties.

The logistics behind this impactful endeavor involved meticulous coordination and dedication from all parties involved. From identifying the children's wishes to

procuring and delivering the gifts, the collaboration between C & T Vending, EG Wrestling Academy, Warriorz Health & Fitness Gym, and The Family Giving Tree showcased the extraordinary power of community spirit and generosity.

"This initiative exemplifies the compassion and commitment of our local businesses," expressed Phillip Torres, a representative from C & T Vending.

This heartening gesture serves as a testament to the unwavering commitment of Elk Grove's local

businesses to make a positive difference in the lives of those in need. As the holiday season approaches, this partnership stands as a reminder of the profound impact that collective goodwill and collaboration can have on a community. ★



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