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A Patriotic Fourth



A child gets a boost to enjoy the music of Agents of Rock during the Salute to the Red, White and Blue. Photo by Matthew Malone

**By Matthew Malone
Staff Writer**

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The Fourth of July brought a burst of fun to Elk Grove with the annual Salute to the Red, White and Blue.

The festival once again filled Elk Grove Regional Park with families playing games, sharing good food and celebrating independence.

Despite high temperatures, attendees and organizers persevered to keep the event enjoyable and safe.

Kelly Le said the Salute is a family tradition because it brings Fourth of July fun, fireworks and activities close to home. She was relaxing with her husband, children, mother and mother-in-law, and they were setting up a grill to barbecue chicken and fruit.

“Our kids really love it. We love coming out here every year, just to enjoy the food and everybody’s company, and our kids especially love the fireworks every year,” Le said.

The shade from trees and beautiful scenery were a major plus for Ruben Rojas, who attended the Salute for the first time.

Early in the evening, when the

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A ribbon from the competitions is a huge honor for the hundreds of competitors.

State Fair Here for 17 Days

By Carol Feineman

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The 170th California State Fair offers 17 days of old-fashioned fun for the whole family, from July 12 to July 28.

Lucky for us that we don’t have to drive too far; the first state fair sponsored by the California State Agricultural Society, was held in San Francisco on Oct. 4, 1854, and rotated to different cities for the next six years. In 1861, however, Sacramento became the permanent location for the extravaganza.

While today’s California State Fair still honors the state’s agricultural industry, there is much more to see and enjoy at the annual event.

There are plenty of activities for all ages. That includes eating funnel cakes, waffles to sliders; listening to top musicians; riding Butler Amusements’ thrilling Zipper to the classic and calmer Crown Merry Go Round; and checking out competitions and exhibits that feature our neighbors’ talents and skills.

Besides the nightly concerts, entertainment is ongoing each day. For starters, there’s the Tanzanite African Acrobats, the Stilt Circus and the Salsa Steel Band.

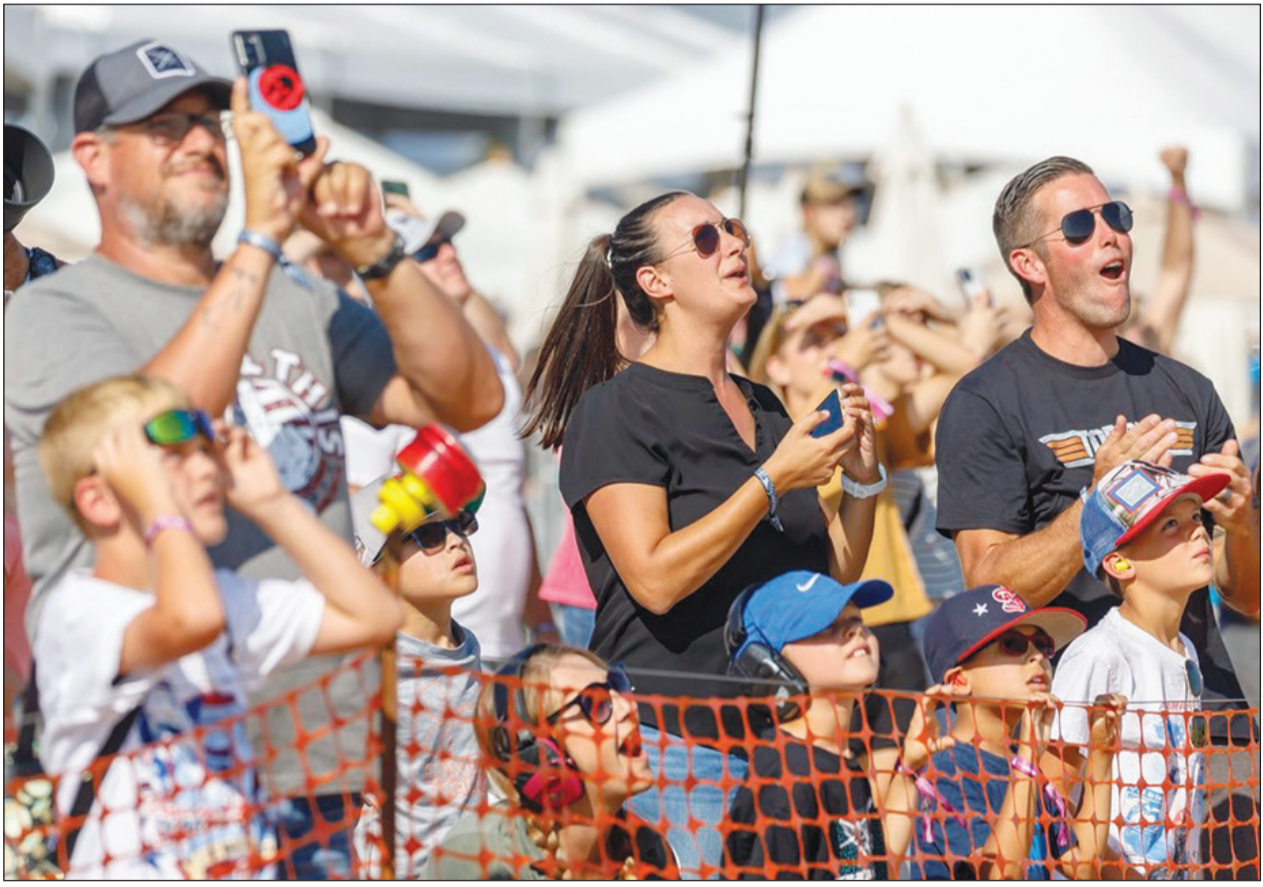
The many competitions include the Open Livestock Show with beef cattle, sheep, Boer goats, dairy cattle, dairy goats, Nigerian dwarf goats, pygmy goats, angora and fiber goats, longhorn cattle, llamas and alpaca.

And the always popular Junior Livestock competition spotlights the dedicated youth FFA members with their beef cattle, sheep, swine, goats, dairy cattle and dairy goats.

Exhibits range from a Candy Maze Selfie Exhibit, a Student Showcase & CA Crafts Exhibit, Animation

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Capital Airshow Has Dazzling Night Show



California Capital Airshow will offer four hours of non-stop aerial performances on July 13 and 14 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. each day. Photo courtesy of the California Capital Airshow

**California Capital Airshow
News Release**

MATHER, CA (MPG) - The 18th annual California Capital Airshow, presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, returns July 13 and 14 from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m. daily, at Mather Airport in Sacramento. The two-day event will feature an extraordinary lineup of performers, including the

Italian jet team, Frece Tricolori, and the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, plus miles of ground attractions and the return of nighttime aerial performances concluding with a massive pyro-musical fireworks and 500-drone show.

The Airshow is part of Frece Tricolori’s first North American tour in more than 30 years and is the only location in the Western United States where spectators can witness their

full performance. Frece Tricolori consists of 10 high-flying Aermacchi MB-339 aircraft, making it the Guinness World Record holder of the most jet aircraft in a military aerobatic display team.

Aerial performances will run 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. each day and will begin with the United States Air Force Thunderbirds, followed by Frece Tricolori, U.S. Navy F-18 Super

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Grand Jury Addresses Missile Site Contamination

By Carol Feineman

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, CA (MPG) - One of the 2023-2024 Placer County Grand Jury Final Consolidated Report's 13 individual reports addressed the trichloroethylene (TCE) contamination spreading today from a Lincoln Titan 1-A Missile Site that closed in 1965.

The 58 county grand juries, made up of interested community members, investigate operations of the various officers, departments and agencies of local government, according to California Courts, Judicial Council of California.

The grand jury is part of the county judicial system authorized by the California State Constitution.

What's striking about this year's report is that the grand jury took on the missile site's contamination that falls under the responsibility of a federal agency, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the state's Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Water Board oversees what corrective actions the Army Corps will finally take to eliminate the TCE.

The areas which are not within Placer County Grand Jury jurisdiction include federal agencies and state agencies.

Yet the Placer County Grand Jury addressed today's contamination spreading into a Lincoln active-adult community from the missile site because "it is important to educate the citizens of Placer County about this issue. Cleanup of former military sites contaminated with toxic chemicals

such as TCE is a lengthy process. The process typically involves assessments, cleanup plans and implementation, with involvement from multiple stakeholders. It is crucial to prioritize safety and effectiveness in these cleanup efforts."

The grand jury's 18-page report, "From Missiles to Meadows: Restoring Nature's Balance," stressed that the former Lincoln missile site "poses environmental health risks due to past activities, including chemical use, chemical spills and unexploded ordnance (military supplies such as weapons, rockets, or armor). The source of contamination is trichloroethylene (TCE), a solvent which was used to clean the liquid oxygen Rocket Propellant-1 piping and was discharged into the ground..."

The grand jury found that "Cleanup efforts will require soil remediation and groundwater monitoring to mitigate environmental impacts.

To date, no remediation efforts have been completed, resulting in health and environmental concerns from the community. Without cleanup efforts, the contamination poses a risk to the surrounding environment and public health.

It is essential for proper authorities to prioritize and initiate cleanup efforts to address these potentially serious hazards. This remediation project underscores the importance of monitoring and managing environmental contamination at former military sites to ensure public safety and environmental preservation."



From left, Lincoln City Councilman Bill Lauritsen, Ray Birge and Anne Constantin Birge, members of the grassroots Titan 1-A Missile Site Environmental Contamination and Remediation Committee, were looking at the number of the monitoring well to see what the trichloroethylene (TCE) levels have been over the years. Photo by Carol Feineman

A little history is in order.

The 54 former inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) silo sites in California, Colorado, Wyoming and Washington built during the Cold War in the early 1960s were designed to destroy enemy targets anywhere around the world within an hour of launch.

The two-stage missiles

were stored in underground trisilos and raised to ground level for launch, according to the Library of Congress. Furthermore, each complex consisted of three missile silos supported by a network of underground fuel storage tanks, equipment terminal, antennas and connecting tunnels.

Beale Air Force Base 851st Strategic Missile Squadron oversaw

Northern California's triangle of Titan I missile silo complexes in Lincoln, Chico and Live Oaks.

Co-founder Anne Constantin Birge of the grassroots Titan 1-A Missile Site Environmental Contamination and Remediation Committee trying to speed up the cleanup process appreciated the grand jury report.

The report accurately

stated that no remediation efforts have been completed, according to Birge.

"Many thanks to the members of the Placer County Grand Jury for succinctly and clearly putting the issues on the table for all to see," Birge said. "And, for the Water Board and United States Army Corps of Engineers to know, there are others watching them." ★

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Make our communities bright with our Shine Awards. Nonprofits can apply for a chance to receive funding for projects that support and revitalize local communities in the Sacramento region.

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- Shine Awards range from \$5,000 to \$100,000.
- Applicants must be incorporated nonprofit organizations within SMUD's service area.
- Awards are competitive and funds are limited.
- Attend an informational webinar.
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Capital Airshow Has Dazzling Night Show

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Hornet, U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning and C-17 Globemaster demo teams, and an impressive roster of highly skilled civilian performers.

Tickets are still available for purchase at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com and will not be sold at the gate.

Adult General Admission tickets start at \$42.50 and each ticket includes free admission for up to six youth (age 15 & under) and free parking. A variety of upgraded tickets and experiences are also available for purchase.

Special thanks to our generous partners Sacramento County, the City of Rancho Cordova,

Modern Aviation, Keurig Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, Visit Rancho Cordova, Folsom Lake Dodge, Donaghy Sales, SMUD, Thunder Valley Casino Resort, Kaiser Permanente, Atlas Disposal, Sunbelt, Teichert, Elite Power, FOX 40, iHeart Media, and UPS.

In addition, the Airshow team is grateful to its 1,000 passionate volunteers, a long list of committed community supporters, as well as the teams of law enforcement and emergency services that give their time and energy to keep everyone safe.

Tickets and more information can be found at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com. ★



California Capital Airshow returns this weekend with miles of ground attractions and the return of nighttime aerial performances. Photo courtesy of the California Capital Airshow

State Fair Here for 17 Days

Continued from page 1

Academy to a fine art and photography exhibit.

The California State Fair is open different hours of the week.

Main Gate and Blue Gate hours are from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Green Gate opens at 2 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Carnival and Skyride hours are from 2 to 11 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Kids Park hours are

1 to 11 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday.

Exhibit Building hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; and from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

The Monorail opens at 11 a.m. Monday through Thursday, and at 10 a.m. Friday through Sunday.

Tickets can be bought online at <https://calexpostatefair.com/tickets> or at the fair's box office. Several ticket prices and packages are offered. Daily tickets to the fair and food festival start at \$16 for adults (\$14 in advance),

\$12 (\$10 in advance) for seniors 62 and older and \$10 (\$8 in advance) for children ages 5 to 12. Fair admission is free for children 4 and under.

In addition, a Family Fun Pack is \$49.99 and includes four single-day general admissions, four ride tickets (each good for one ride in the Carnival or on the Monorail), and a parking pass.

The Toyota Concert Series is free with fair admission ticket in the area behind the General Admission seating area to the first 700 concert-goers. Seats can also be reserved, starting at \$25.

Parking is \$15 a day or three days for \$30.

There are also different



What would a fair be like without going on rides at the carnival? There are rides for the thrill-seekers as well as for those who want a tamer but just as fun experience. Photo courtesy of California State Fair

prices for the carnival rides, starting at \$1 per ticket and carnival fast passes from \$10 to \$15.

An Unlimited Ride Wristband bought at the Carnival is \$39

Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and \$44 Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Cal Expo is at 1600 Exposition Blvd. in Sacramento, northeast of

the American River.

For more about the California State Fair, go online to calexpostatefair.com, call 916-263-3000 or email INFO@CALEXPO.COM. ★



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Fireworks mark the high point of Salute to the Red, White and Blue.



Salute attendees relax in the shade. Photos by Matthew Malone

A Patriotic Fourth

Continued from page 1

temperature was still above 100 degrees, Rojas couldn't wait for it "to get a little cool." He also looked forward to the fireworks and the concert by the Agents of Rock band.

Rujesh Shrestha was also new to the festival and to Elk Grove. He attended with his wife and children, and he invited his friends and their families. Shrestha said he likes spending time outdoors and going to events with his friends.

To keep cool and hydrated, Shrestha's group brought fruits and plenty of water.

Because of the heat, the Let Freedom Ride Bike Parade was canceled and the official start time of the Salute was pushed back two hours.

Dedicated to making sure the event stayed safe, Elk Grove-Galt Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members drove around the

park in a golf cart, checking on the visitors.

Cosumnes Fire Department firefighter-paramedic Samson Griffis said CERT and the fire department had multiple levels of life support to help anyone in distress. Cots were set up in the air-conditioned park pavilion, where they were prepared to bring anyone overwhelmed by the heat.

June Cochran, a CERT volunteer program coordinator, said the best way to stay safe in high heat is to drink plenty of water, even starting the day beforehand, as well as staying in the shade.

Local government officials announced the event's formal start, with Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen noting that Elk Grove recently reached its 24th anniversary of cityhood.

"Thank you all for coming out and braving the heat," Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume said. "That Delta breeze is

already starting to kick in. It's going to get down to a nice temperature tonight. We're going to see some great fireworks, listen to some great music and there's some great food right over here, so thank you all for coming out and supporting our city's birthday, our nation's birthday and this great country that we call home."

Elk Grove Resident Martin Beal sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" and a brief fireworks volley gave a preview of the excitement promised for later that night.

Agents of Rock took the stage, performing covers of classic rock songs. As the shadows stretched and the temperature dropped, more guests arrived, moving closer to the stage, and children ran around the park playing games.

Eventually, the sun set and the fireworks show began in earnest, drawing cheers from the eager crowd. ★



Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen, second from right, welcomes Salute attendees. She is joined by, from left, Cosumnes Community Services District (CSD) Director Pete Sakaris, Elk Grove Vice-Mayor Rod Brewer, Cosumnes Community Services District Board President Angela Spease, Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume, and Cosumnes Fire Chief Felipe Rodriguez.



Agents of Rock performs covers of classic rock songs.

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California Expands Access to Naloxone

**Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On June 21, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced that CalRx-branded over-the-counter naloxone HCL nasal spray, 4 mg, will be available for free to eligible organizations through the Naloxone Distribution Project.

This follows the state's contract with Amneal Pharmaceuticals to purchase an over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray product through CalRx's Naloxone Access Initiative at a significantly lower price.

"The CalRx brand is more than a logo; it's a way to show that the state cares. CalRx is proof positive of California's innovation, business acumen, and most importantly, our heart. California is spending smarter by making life-saving drugs more affordable so that we stretch our

dollars further – and make that same low price accessible to more people," Newsom said.

Eligible entities can obtain CalRx over-the-counter naloxone HCL nasal spray, for free through the California Department of Health Care Services Naloxone Distribution Project. CalRx is also working on an option for individuals to buy CalRx over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray directly.

Additional details will be shared on the Naloxone Distribution Project website as they become available.

Qualifying California business entities and organizations seeking to purchase CalRx over-the-counter naloxone HCL nasal spray, for \$24 per twin-pack can do so by visiting CalRx's Get Naloxone website at <https://calrx.ca.gov/get-naloxone>.

In May alone, the state purchased

approximately 24,000 units, leading to \$415,000 in savings. Since the Naloxone Distribution Project was created, more than 4,433,700 units have been distributed, and more than 277,000 lives have been saved.

"By making naloxone widely available and affordable, we are empowering communities and saving lives," said California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly. "This is a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to tackle the opioid crisis head-on."

The overdose epidemic claims thousands of lives each year throughout the nation – and California is combatting this through an all-hands-on-deck approach. A critical component of that is through harm reduction services and methods like naloxone, which can reverse opioid overdoses swiftly and effectively.

By making CalRx-branded over-the-counter naloxone nasal spray readily accessible, and maximizing the state dollars used to purchase it, California is taking a significant step toward reducing the number of opioid-related deaths and ensuring that over-the-counter naloxone is available when and where it is needed most.

Recently, Gov. Newsom launched Opioids.CA.GOV, a one-stop-shop for Californians seeking resources around prevention and treatment.

Following meetings with the US FDA, CalRx's partner Civica has a clear path forward. California is using its market power as the fifth largest economy in the world to save lives and make health care affordable.

More about CalRx can be found at calrx.ca.gov. ★

Youths Can Get RydeFreeRT Cards

**Sacramento Regional Transit
News Release**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Area youth can enjoy more freedom this summer to get to jobs, shopping centers, restaurants and more via Sacramento Regional Transit District's RydeFreeRT, the fare-free transit program for students/youth.

The cards are valid for transitional kindergarten through 12th-graders.

New RydeFreeRT cards with a valid date of June 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, are now available for students to ride for free the entire SacRT transit network, including Sacramento Regional Transit District fixed-route buses, light rail and Smart Ride on-demand micro transit service.

RydeFreeRT is available daily during regular SacRT service hours.

To ride free, students/youth need a valid RydeFreeRT card. Youth who are

experiencing homelessness or taking part in foster programs can participate in the program, regardless of their current residence or school address.

Students and youth who do not have a RydeFreeRT card can visit Sacramento Regional Transit District's Customer Service and Sales Center at 1225 R St. (adjacent to the 13th Street Station) or a participating Sacramento library.

For more information, visit rydefreert.com or call 916-321-BUSS (2877).

Launched in 2019, RydeFreeRT was the first unrestricted youth fare-free ride program in the country, according to Sacramento Regional Transit District.

The 265,000 youth living in Sacramento Regional Transit District's service area, from transitional kindergarten to 12th grade, including home-schooled students, foster and unhoused youth, can ride all buses and light rail trains for free, all day, any day of the year.



Youth from transitional kindergarten through 12th-grade can ride free for the summer with the RydeFreeRT card. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Regional Transit District

The RydeFreeRT program has helped boost student ridership, which now accounts for nearly 25% of all Sacramento Regional Transit District bus and light rail rides over the last year.

In fact, student ridership is on pace

to carry 4.2 million youth in Fiscal Year 2024, double what it was in 2019 pre-pandemic.

Note: The RydeFreeRT program does not apply to those over 18 years old that are pursuing their GED. ★

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**Publisher,
Paul V. Scholl**

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Serving Elk Grove and Sacramento County since 1909

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POLICE LOGS

Friday, June 28

12:52 a.m., Laguna Boulevard/Laguna Park Drive: Elk Grove Police arrested Michael Calkins, 35, on charges of felony reckless evading, evading a peace officer by driving against traffic, ignition interlock device violation, vehicle lighting violation and meth possession.

7:07 p.m., Big Horn Boulevard/Bruceville Road: Elk Grove Police arrested Gomez Ricardo, 39, on DUI charges.

9:30 p.m., Elk Grove-Florin Road/Sheldon Road: Elk Grove Police arrested Deic Alexander, 19, and Tyler Lema, 19, on charges of participating in a speed contest.

11 p.m., Sheldon Road/Power Inn Road: Elk Grove Police arrested Andy Sayyaphom, 33, on warrant charges.

Saturday, June 29

2:09 p.m., 9600 block of Auto Center Drive: Elk Grove Police arrested Terence Rollins, 32, on warrant charges.

10:07 p.m., 8900 block of Grant Line Road: Elk Grove Police arrested Judith Pond, 76, on DUI charges.

Sunday, June 30

No arrests logged.

Monday, July 1

4:46 p.m., confidential location: Elk Grove Police arrested Elijah Gipson, 21, on domestic battery and restraining order violation charges.

5:49 p.m., 9100 block of East Stockton Boulevard: Elk Grove Police arrested Alex Perocho, 44, on vandalism and warrant charges.

Tuesday, July 2

12 a.m., 2200 block of Longport Court: Elk Grove Police arrested Crystal Slattery, 33, on public intoxication charges.

3:26 a.m., 10600 block of Promenade Parkway: Elk Grove Police arrested John Sida, 43, on warrant charges.

5:49 a.m., Sky River Parkway/Promenade Parkway: Elk Grove Police arrested Thang Bui, 52, on trespassing charges.

6:30 a.m., confidential location: Elk Grove Police arrested Kiajah Hawkins, 24, on charges of corporal injury to an intimate partner.

10:38 a.m., undisclosed location: Elk Grove Police arrested Adam Hibsich, 45, on warrant charges.

2:35 p.m., confidential location: Elk Grove Police arrested Shauniece

Thompson, 34, on charges of corporal injury to an intimate partner.

Thursday, July 4

12 a.m., 10200 block of East Taron Drive: Elk Grove Police arrested Nicholas Lauria, 36, on resisting arrest charges.

1:45 p.m., 8100 block of Sheldon Road: Elk Grove Police arrested Manpreet Singh, 33, on warrant charges and drug paraphernalia and meth possession charges.

7:33 p.m., 8700 block of Gladiola Way: Elk Grove Police arrested Alexander Gonzalez, 25, on charges of resisting a peace officer, battery on a peace officer and resisting arrest.

11:56 p.m., confidential location: Elk Grove Police arrested David Franco, 41, on charges of corporal injury to an intimate partner. ★

MEETING MINDERS

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

The Elk Grove City Council has its 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 its 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 meetings at 5 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of the month. It governs 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 meet Tuesday, May 7 at 6 p.m. This meeting is in-person

at the Cosumnes Community Services District headquarters, 8820 Elk Grove Blvd.

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 has in-person meetings every second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. They meet at their district office, 8540 Elk Grove Blvd.

Attendees are required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing. Find agendas at www.EGCCD.com. ★

ABOUT TOWN

Elk Grove Lions Club Breakfast July 13

The Elk Grove Lions Club will host their next Community Breakfast on Saturday, July 13th at the Albani Recreation Center.

As usual, on the menu will be all the buttermilk pancakes you can eat with scrambled eggs, bacon, link sausage, fruit bowl, orange juice and coffee but in addition this month biscuits and Southern style gravy will also be included all for the same price of \$10 for adults and \$3 for children 10 and under.

The breakfast will be served from 8-10 a.m. at 8833 Sharkey Ave.

The Albani Recreation Center was formerly the Senior Center of Elk Grove.

Chamber of Commerce Activities in July

The Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce will host the following activities in July:

July 16 - 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. - After Hours Business Mixer hosted by Cosumnes Community Services District at Rotary Grove.

July 19 - 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. - State of the County with Supervisor Pat Hume

American Legion Post 233 Meetings

The Elk Grove American Legion Post 233, established in 1994, invites veterans to our monthly meetings every 4th Thursday of the month at the Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

Our July meeting is scheduled for July 25th.

Post 233 invites veterans and their spouses to a dinner/social hour from 6-7 pm. The veteran's general meeting starts at 7 pm.

Veteran's spouses are welcome to join the Elk Grove American Legion Auxiliary Unit 233 that meets in another room from 7-8 pm in the same location.

For questions, please contact Henry at 916-205-9296 C or Sue at 916-683-6128.

We also invite veterans and spouses to join us each month on the first Saturday for our Elk Grove American Legion Post 233 Family Social Breakfast.

Our next Saturday breakfast will be held August 3rd at 9:00 am at Bert's Diner at 8972 Grant Line Road, Elk Grove 95624. NOTE the new location will be for the summer months of June-August.

We hope to see you there.

Academic Program for Teens

Light of the Valley Church (LoV) of Elk Grove has partnered with Youth for Christ (YFC) to provide fun, fellowship, competition, tutoring and spiritual direction to teens, raising up well-rounded young men and women.

An Academic Summer Program will be held from June 25 to July 25 at Light of the Valley on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., including basketball, activities, games, math tutoring and more.

Contact Omar Turner (Youth for Christ) at 916-628-0935 for more information.

Girls Basketball Camp Scheduled Aug. 3

Bill McClintock's

Frontline Basketball Camp will offer girls ages 12 to 18 the opportunity to build their basketball skills. The camp will be held Aug. 3, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at Cosumnes River College, and it is designed for players in the forward and post positions.

Registration costs \$100, and the registration deadline is July 15. To register, visit frontlinebasketball.com.

For questions, contact Bill McClintock by phone at 831-233-8760 or by email at bmcc42@gmail.com.

Jazz and Blues Hour Held Monthly

The monthly Jazz and Blues Hour concert series will bring various bands and musicians to Elk Grove Presbyterian Church (8153 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 50) on first Sundays through November.

Performances start at 4 p.m., and attendees are asked to make a \$10 donation at the door. For more information, email jbvspers@gmail.com or call Nan Mahon at 916-806-9476.

Upcoming acts are: Aug. 4, Julie and the Jukes (blues); Sept. 1, Gary Mendoza Trio (jazz); Oct. 6, Papa Day Blues Band (blues); and Nov. 3, Beth Duncan (jazz).

Widowed Persons Social Club Activities for July

The Widowed Persons Social Club (WPSC) will host the following activities:

July 5 - 10 a.m. Pinochle at La Bou, 8694 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact is Jim at 916-768-1923.

July 6 - 10:30 a.m. - Coffee Gathering at Peet's Coffee, 7127 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact is Evelyn at 916-685-9669.

July 12 - 10 a.m. - Hand and Foot card game at La Bou, 8694 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact is Gerri at 916-698-1940.

July 15 - 11:30 a.m. - Mahjongg at the Oaks Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, 116 Calle Entrada.

July 18 - noon - General Meeting at Valley Hi Country Club, 9595 Franklin Blvd., \$35 includes lunch. Reservations must be made at least a week in advance by

calling Pat at 916-802-4524.

July 19 - 10 a.m. Pinochle at La Bou, 8694 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact is Jim at 916-768-1923.

July 25 - noon - no-host Lunch & Bunco at Round Table, 8795 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Evelyn at 916-685-9669.

July 26 - 10 a.m. - Hand and Foot card game at La Bou, 8694 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact is Gerri at 916-698-1940.

July 30- 5 p.m. - Dinner at Cattleman's Steakhouse, 12409 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Codova. Contact is Delberta at 916-769-8869.

July 31 - 1 p.m. - Book Club at Elk Grove UMC, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact is Merrylynn at 916-549-4264.

July 18 - noon - General Meeting at Valley Hi Country Club, 9595 Franklin Blvd., \$35 includes lunch. Make reservations at least a week in advance with Pat at 916-802-4524.

A widowed person can attend up to three events before joining Widowed Persons Social Club. Contact Bonnie Dale at 916-422-1522 if interested in membership. ★

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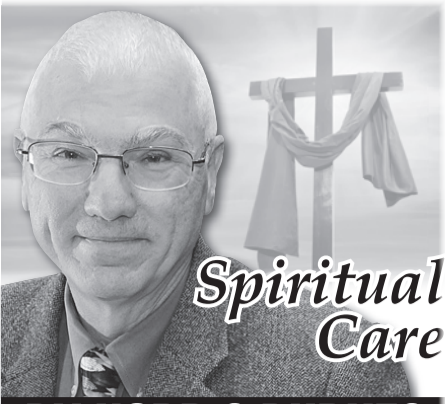
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Back to the Grind

If I say “1492,” chances are it’ll bring to mind that old school rhyme, “In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue.”

But now I suspect I’ll remember 1492 in a different light. That’s because last month I flew to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to sharpen 1,492 pencils.

You say, “That’s an expensive trip for such a menial chore.”

Yes, I get your point, but if you’re a regular reader of this column, you know that Chispa Project needed those pencils for the inauguration of their 88th Honduran library at Pedro Nufio Elementary School.

I know I’m not the sharpest stick in the pencil box, but still I expected the project director to match me to something more in line with my talents.

After all, the director is my daughter, Sara Brakhane. She knows that I’ve spoken to dozens of U.S. audiences. I thought she might arrange a speaking gig in a Honduran soccer stadium.

At the very least, she should have arranged for me to mentor the school’s principal and share the B.F. Skinner

Psychology of Education I learned in seminary.

I mean, what’s the harm in a little nepotism?

A lot, apparently.

She assigned me to count pencils, sharpen them, and drop said writing instruments into 421 of the new school backpacks.

Of course, I wasn’t the only volunteer that arrived on the Dallas connection. The less jet-lagged and talented ones were slotted for important jobs.

Under the direction of Lester Reconco, an artistic Chispa employee, volunteers helped paint a large mural onto the library wall. It was no Banksy or Wyland Whale, but in quick time, our fledgling artists brought the room to life with bright primary colors.

Designed to inspire, the drawing features a Honduran boy in an oceanside scene. He’s reclined on a wave of books while reading. On a field of blue, volunteers added a sailboat, a swan, and multiple fish.

Other artists meticulously painted a line of books that encompassed the room.

Meanwhile my pencil sharpener overheated and forced Sara to assign me to the painting team. However, it was still not the fame I sought.

My job was to pour various paints into red Solo cups, lug them to the talent, and

wash their brushes. My nickname was Pour-Pour-Norris.

Suddenly, I became a truly irreplaceable member of the team.

I know this because I begged others to replace me.

They would not.

But finally, after two days of painting, the moment came to shelve the books in the new library.

From the school parking lot, our volunteers worked an assembly line offloading 850 new books from our bus. We carried the books through a bustling playground of kids playing soccer and girl-chase-boy games.

Still, several stopped to hug us, sharing broad and cheeky smiles that stretched for miles and miles. Suddenly we were surrounded by a gaggle of schoolgirls and boys, all grinning with unrehearsed wonder. They weren’t subtle. They wanted to see the new books we were shelving.

If you know the excitement U.S. children express over a new video game, you can conceive the enthusiasm building in these students as they saw their first children’s picture book.

On the final two days, Chispa volunteers hosted the library inauguration, a sort of all-day birthday party. Students rotated among classrooms for hands-on-fun that included puppets, science experiments and storytelling.

I never did get to deliver my Skinner lecture. But I can share with you that, like Skinner, Chispa believes that changing the environment can make education enjoyable and effective for all students.

Books are used to affect that change.

And the school where we were is definitely an environment that needed changing.

This rural school sits near the city’s landfill where many parents work to collect trash, operate the landfill’s incinerator, or commute by bus to a day laborer job.

When we left Honduras, the new library we had painted and filled with rows of new books had changed their environment for the better.

Chispa’s challenging slogan suggests we all “Help change the story.” I like to think that sometimes their stories can be changed, and a sharpened pencil can write that new story.

So, with more libraries coming soon, shall I “pencil you in” for the next volunteer trip? In the meantime, I guess you can say, it’s back to the grind for me.

You can be a part of the change by sending a check made to “Chispa Project.” Or give online at Chispaproject.org/chaplain Send to 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. Email comment@thechaplain.net or message at (843) 608-9715. www.thechaplain.net. ★

RELIGION NEWS

Music and Sermon Topics at Elk Grove Presbyterian Church

Our Men’s Bible study meets every two weeks and we are currently studying the Book of Ecclesiastes.

MUSIC EVENTS

There was no traditional JAZZ & BLUES HOUR in May. However, the Triumphant Quartet performed in Elk Grove for the 5th year. It was a wonderful performance at District 56, with well over 100 people attending.

The four charities we help support – Chicks in Crisis, Elk Grove Food Bank, One Thousand Schools and Sacramento Stand Down – each received a portion of the proceeds.

JAZZ & BLUES HOUR continues in August with Julie and the Jukes (blues) at 4pm Sunday, Aug. 4 at our church.

SERMON TOPICS

Rev. Dexter McNamara has announced upcoming sermon topics:

July 14th – “The Power of Fear”; July 21st – “Teaching and Touching.”

Rev. McNamara recently addended a Pastors’ Conference at Zephyr Point focusing on Care for Creation and Relationships with Native Americans.

Rev. 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 elk-grovepres@gmail.com.

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 Mel Dogs restaurant).

For more information, call (916) 714-3444 or email: office@gracechurcheg.org.

Check out our website at GraceChurchEG.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 Mon, Thurs, Fri, 9:30-2:30, Wed, 9:30-6:00. For more information, call (916) 647-4538, visit www.SMGCC.net, or download the MyParish app and enter the code, 55321.

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

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. 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. F

or more information, visit www.FieldOfHopeUCC.org. ★

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Pastors Claude & Jan Moore

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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

Summer Service Hours (June 2-Aug. 25):

One in Worship service 9:30 am

Sunday School 10:45 am (beginning June 2)

Website: <https://stpeterseg.org>

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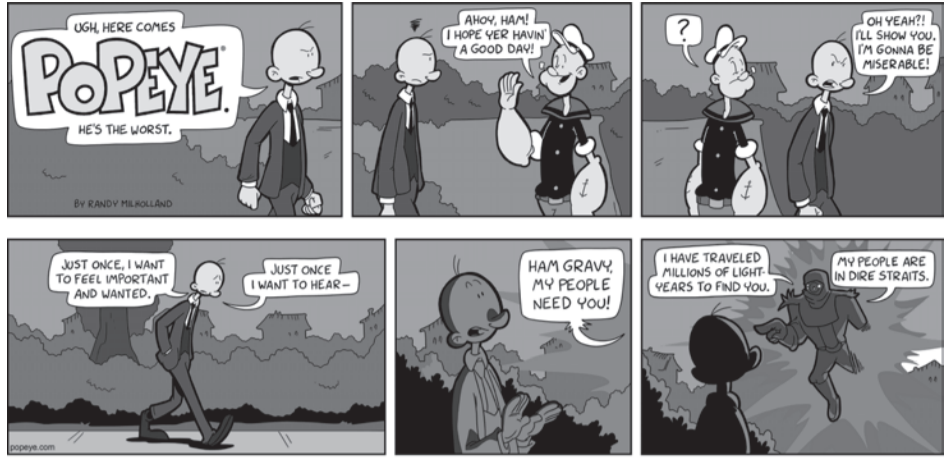
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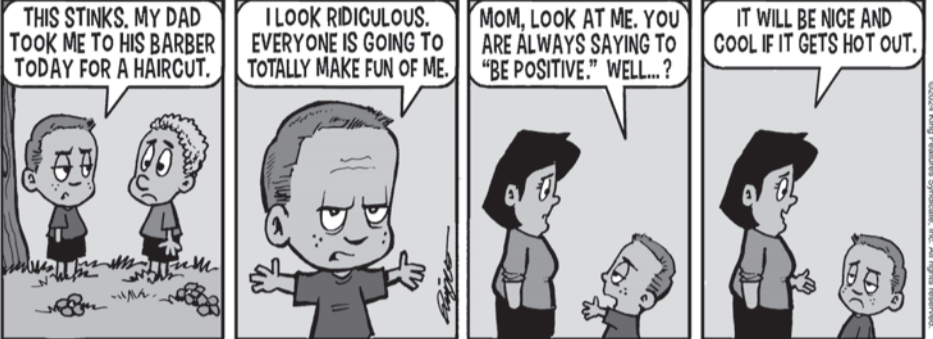
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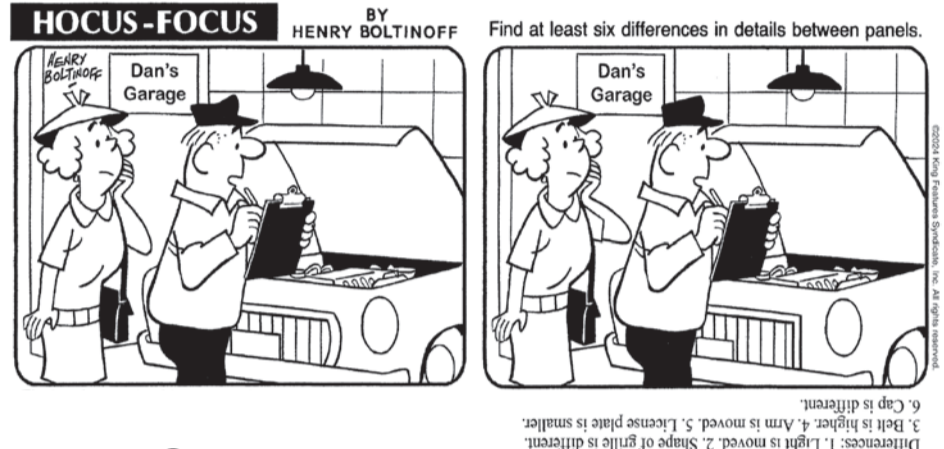
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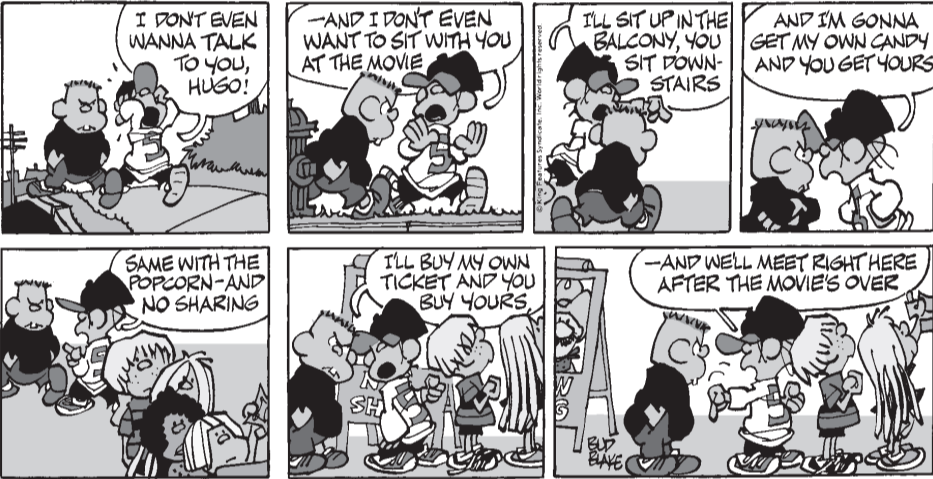
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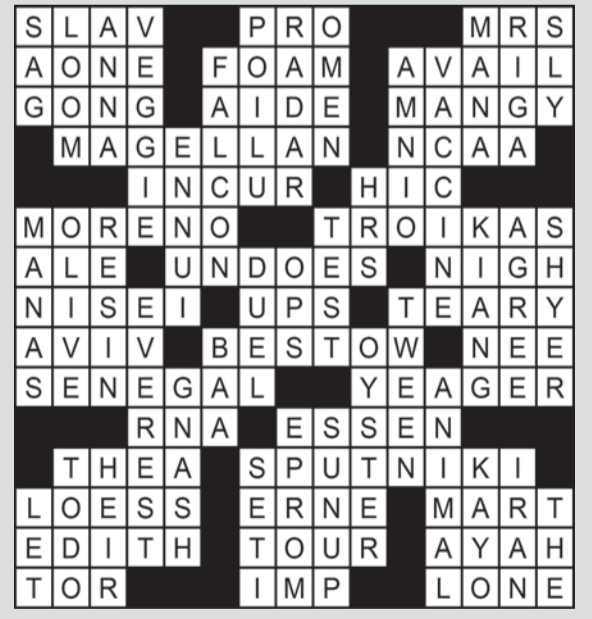
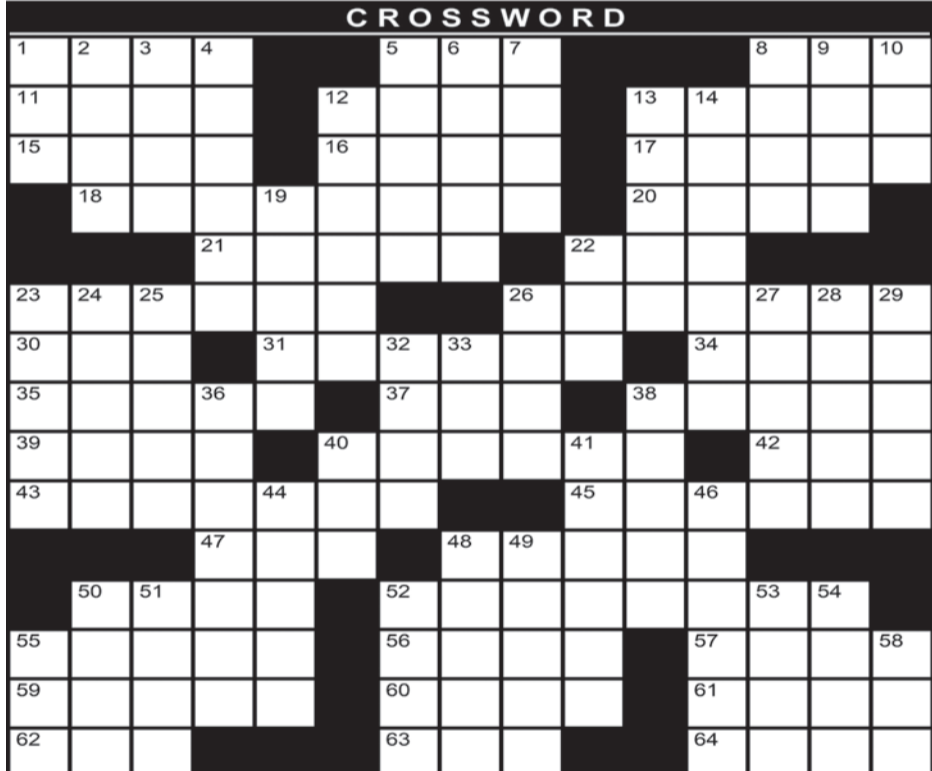
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 - "It's time!" signal
 - ___-de-camp
 - Like an unhealthy dog
 - *First one to circumnavigate globe, almost
 - March Madness org.
 - Bring upon
 - Orange Lavaburst drink
 - *Rita ____, first Latina to win Academy Award
 - Winter rides, in Russia
 - Brewery order
 - Unties or unbuttons
 - Nearly
 - One born to Japanese immigrants
 - Good times
 - Rheumy
 - Tel ____, Israel
 - Bequeath
 - Once known as
 - West African country
 - *Chuck ____, first to break speed of sound
 - Genetic info carrier, acr.
 - City near Düsseldorf
 - Short for Dorothea
 - *First artificial satellite (2 words)
 - Clay and silt deposit
 - Marine eagle
 - Mercantile establishment
 - Singer Piaf
 - Concert series
 - Indian nursemaid
 - Craggy peak
 - Little troublemaker
 - Solitary
- DOWN**
- Give in to gravity
 - Weaver's apparatus
 - The "I" in "The King and I"
 - Carrots or peas, slangily
 - French soldier in WWI
 - Speed gun
 - *First horror film about Damien Thorn, with The
 - Supernatural life force
 - Capital of Latvia
 - Canny
 - Han Solo's "Millennium"
 - Prenatal test, for short
 - *The first one helped combat smallpox
 - Tedium
 - 120 mins.
 - #8 Down, pl.
 - Martini garnish
 - Pine product
 - Midterm, e.g.
 - a.k.a. Tibetan wild ass
 - Feel the same
 - Timider
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 - Military moves
 - *Mount first conquered by Hillary and Norgay
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 - Ewe's cry



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Skunk Tests Positive for Rabies in Sac County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A juvenile striped skunk showing neurologic signs (e.g., staggering) was found on June 19 near the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) facilities on Nimbus Road in Rancho Cordova, adjacent to the American River Parkway.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff humanely euthanized the animal and submitted it to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory for necropsy. On June 25, confirmation was received that the skunk tested positive for rabies.

Rabies is a severe infection of the nervous

system caused by a virus that is most often transmitted through the bite from an infected animal. Rabies can infect all mammals, including humans. Preventative treatment is available for humans after exposure but must be started promptly. Once clinical signs of rabies are seen, the disease is almost always fatal.

If you are bitten by an animal believed to have rabies, contact Sacramento County at 3-1-1 or 916-875-4311.

In California, rabies is identified in about 200 animals every year, most often in wildlife like bats and skunks.

Domestic animals such as dogs, cats and horses can also get rabies, but this is not as common due

to legal requirements for rabies vaccination. For more information, see the California Department of Public Health's website.

With the American River Parkway being a popular destination for outdoor recreation, including hiking, kayaking and cycling, visitors should take these steps to minimize exposure to rabies:

Avoid contact with wild animals; call animal control if you see sick or injured wildlife.

Report unusual behavior of wildlife or domestic animals (e.g., stumbling, seizures, aggressiveness) to local animal control or wildlife officials.

Immediately wash all animal bites with soap and water and seek medical attention. ★

Nonprofit Receives \$15,000 to Help Unhoused Sacramento Women

Kristin Thébaud Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Women's Empowerment has received a grant of \$15,000 from Union Pacific's Community Ties Giving Program to help women experiencing homelessness in Sacramento find jobs and safe homes during the housing crisis.

"We are proud to once again partner with Union Pacific's Community Ties Giving Program to ensure unhoused women can find and retain employment so they can afford a safe home for themselves and their children," said Lisa Culp, executive director, Women's Empowerment.

Women's Empowerment provides a two-month

employment-readiness and empowerment program, paid job training, childcare and support services so women and their children can break the generational cycle of homelessness. Women's Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically for women experiencing homelessness and their children. In 2023, 165 jobs were secured by graduates, and 189 women either secured or maintained housing.

Since 2001, 1,870 women have graduated from the program with their 4,002 children. Women's Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community and grants. To make a donation:

Womens-Empowerment.org.

"Union Pacific proudly supports organizations that improve the quality of life where our employees live and work," said Liisa Stark, vice president of public affairs, Union Pacific. "Investing in high-quality, non-profit programs puts our communities in a position for future growth and prosperity."

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NOTICE OF ELECTION GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION in the CITY OF ELK GROVE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Elk Grove, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for the following three (3) Offices:

- For Mayor (Full term of two years)
- For Council Member – District 1 (Full term of four years)
- For Council Member – District 3 (Full term of four years)

Candidate Qualifications: At the time nomination papers are issued to each candidate, each candidate must meet the following minimum qualifications for office as specified by the principal act or applicable code:

1. Must be a citizen of the United States;
2. Elective Office residency and registration requirement:
 - a. For the Office of Mayor – Must be a resident and registered voter of the City of Elk Grove.
 - b. For office as a Council Member – Must be a resident and registered voter of the council district from which he/she will be elected at the time the nomination papers are issued and throughout the term of office. (Offices to be filled are in Council Residency Districts 1 and 3, City of Elk Grove Resolution No. 2022-077 displays the district map and provides the legal descriptions of each district's boundaries).

Code References: Elections Code §§ 201, 10220, 10227, 12101; Government Code §§ 34882 and 34904; City of Elk Grove Resolution No. 2022-077. Official nominating petitions for eligible candidates desiring to file for any of the elective offices may be obtained from and filed with the City of Elk Grove, Office of the City Clerk at: 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758, for appointments call (916) 478-2286.

Nomination documents will be available on and after July 15, 2024 and must be filed not later than **5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2024**. However, if nomination documents for an incumbent are not filed by 5:00 p.m. on August 9, 2024, any qualified person other than the incumbent shall have until 5:00 p.m. on August 14, 2024 to file nomination documents for the office. This extension is not applicable where there is no incumbent eligible to be elected.

(All Vote Center locations will be open on November 5, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and regional Vote Centers will be available starting on October 26 through the date of the General Election – November 5, 2024. Check your Voter Guide for hours and locations.)

Dated / Published: July 5, 2024 and July 12, 2024

JASON LINDGREN, CITY CLERK, CITY OF ELK GROVE

Elk Grove Citizen 7-5 - 7-12-2024

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Notice is hereby given that the Elk Grove Unified School District, hereinafter referred to as the District, will receive sealed proposals for the **Mary Tsukamoto Elementary School, Sidewalk Repairs** project at Facilities and Planning Department, 9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Room 206, Elk Grove, California 95624 until **3:00 p.m., local time, on Thursday, August 8, 2024**, at which time bids will be opened.

Each bid must conform to the requirements of the Drawings and Project Manual and other documents comprising the Contract Documents, which are available from Signature Reprographics, 620 Sunbeam Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95811, (916) 454-0800. Prime Contractors may obtain copies for a non-refundable cost of **\$50 per set**. Signature Reprographics maintains the project plan holders' list so it is a requirement that prospective bidders purchase their plans from Signature Reprographics to ensure that all potential bidders possess a complete set of documents including any addenda for the project. Plans may be previewed online at www.egusdplans.com

A **MANDATORY** pre-bid conference will be held on **Tuesday, July 23, 2024, 11:00 a.m.** at **Mary Tsukamoto Elementary School, 8737 Brittany Park Drive, Sacramento, CA 95828**. The District's Representative and Engineer will be present to discuss the project. Bids received from parties not attending this mandatory pre-bid conference will be rejected as non-responsive. All bidders are **required** to attend the pre-bid conference in its entirety.

This project involves sidewalk repair as shown in the documents and as required for a complete and operational project. This project requires a **Class B or C-8** license.

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.

NOTE: The complete Notice to Contractors is included in the bid documents.

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,
Sacramento County, California

BY: Michael Bean
Senior Construction Manager
Elk Grove Unified School District

Elk Grove Citizen 7-12, 7-19-2024

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE SECURCARE SELF STORAGE

Notice is hereby given pursuant to California Business and Professional Codes # 21700-21716, Section 2328 of the UCC of the Penal Code Section 535 the Under-Signed, SecurCare Self Storage, will sell at public sale on or after **Tuesday the 23rd day of July, 2024 at 10:30am** with bidding to take place on Lockerfox.com the following misc. goods: **SecurCare Self Storage 2328 Maritime Dr, Elk Grove, CA 95758**.

Valerie Mcevilly
Festus Samah
Toya Gary

Goods must be paid in CASH and removed within 48 hours of sale. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between owner and obligated party.

Elk Grove Citizen 7-12, 7-19-2024

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, August 8, 2024** for furnishing all labor, materials, tax, transportation, equipment and services necessary for the:

2024 PAVEMENT MAINTENANCE PROJECT - OVERLAY (WPR024)

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: repair pavement along Grant Line Road and Laguna Boulevard, replace detector loops, and re-stripe traffic striping (Work).

The Opinion of Probable Cost (OPC) for the work is \$2,251,865.

Bidder shall have current standing as a City approved pre-qualified Bidder prior to submitting a bid for this Project. Bidders that submit a Bid without being pre-qualified shall have their Bid deemed non-responsive.

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 or Class C-12 Earthwork and Paving Contractor's Licenses issued by the State of California.

Local Hire and Community Workforce Training Agreement Requirements:

This Project is subject to the requirements of the City's Local Hire and Community Workforce Training Program and the City's Community Workforce Training Agreement (CWTA). A copy of the CWTA and a summary of its requirements (CWTA Summary) is attached to this solicitation. By submitting a bid, the Contractor acknowledges that they have read and understand all the requirements, terms, and conditions of the CWTA, and have included all costs associated with compliance with the CWTA in its bid.

In accordance with the CWTA, the Contractor and all listed subcontractors must execute Addendum A to the CWTA ("Agreement to be Bound") and provide a copy of the executed document to the City before the contract can be awarded. Each subcontractor for Work covered by the CWTA listed on the bid, hired in anticipation of the bid, after the time of bid or after contract award must also execute Addendum A to the CWTA. No subcontractor shall perform Work prior to executing Addendum A and providing a copy of the executed document to the City.

Contractor must include the provisions of this section, as well as a copy of the CWTA, in every subcontract for Work covered by the CWTA.

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) 687-3062 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.

By: _____

Date: July 1, 2024

Christina Castro, PE
Capital Program Division Manager

Elk Grove Citizen 7-12, 7-19-2024

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Elk Grove's Tellez Makes Home-Run History



Rowdy Tellez as a pitcher for the Elk Grove High Thundering Herd in 2012. Citizen file photo

By Alejandro Barron

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - In Major League Baseball, stats have been kept for the National League since 1903 and for the American League since 1905.

With the recent integration of Negro League stats counting in MLB, it's hard to be the first in anything in baseball.

Elk Grove High School's Rowdy Tellez made MLB history on July 5 alongside his Pittsburgh Pirates teammate and all-star, Bryan Reynolds.

Despite a slow start, the month of June has been his best so far, as he slashed .333/.380/.546 in 21 games with three home runs and 14 RBIs.

He's slowly getting the fans back on his side in Pittsburgh and he's showing why in the month of July he's red hot while setting an MLB record.

On July 5, the Pirates began a four-game series with the New York Mets

at home with the Pirates being down 2-0 heading into the bottom of the fourth inning.

Tellez was able to get the Pirates on the board with a home run into right-center field, good for 425 ft. and 107.8 MPH exit velocity, according to Statcast.

Later in the bottom of the fifth inning, Reynolds would homer to put the Pirates up 4-2, but didn't stop there as he homered again in the bottom of the seventh with a grand slam.

More Pirates were able to connect; they tied a franchise record with seven homers in one game.

The image on social media went viral as the Jumbotron at PNC Park read, "We have seven home runs tonight, which is the fifth time in Pirates history that we have done this. So many homers that we ran out of fireworks."

The seventh home run to tie the record, and the final nail in the coffin for the Mets on the night, was

another Tellez home run for a grand slam to make the score 14-2.

The home run was deposited in the Pirates' bullpen and was met by the relief pitchers celebrating even with the score being so disproportionate, as the ball went 403 ft. with an exit velocity of 105.3 MPH, according to Statcast.

With this grand slam from Tellez, he and Reynolds became the first teammates in MLB history to each have a multi-home run game including a grand slam in the same game.

Tellez would go 2-4 on this night with two home runs and five RBI's to continue his hot streak from June. At the time of publication he is slashing .412/.444/.941 for a whopping 1.386 OPS.

Tellez already has three home runs through six games played, tying his high for this season in a month along with six RBIs. ★

Barajas Makes Debut for Chivas

By Alejandro Barron

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - With the start of Liga MX, Mexico's top-flight soccer league, this past weekend came the debut of Elk Grove Charter Alumnus Fidel Barajas.

The transfer to Chivas was rumored but confirmed by both Real Salt Lake, Chivas and Barajas through social media on July 2.

In a social media post, the Mexican club said, "When you work hard, dreams do come true. Fidel Barajas is now part of Guadalajara."

As for Real Salt Lake, Barajas' now former club, they said goodbye to him in a video on social media that shows highlights of his short time there and interviews of him and his family.

In the post, Real Salt Lake said, "We're honored to be part of your journey. We'll always be rooting for you."

As for Barajas, he said goodbye to the club, saying he will never forget about the memories despite his short time in Salt Lake City.

"Even though my time in Salt Lake was short, it helped mold me to the player I am today and I have created memories I will never forget," Barajas said on social media.

He went on to say that he's thankful for his teammates and fans that pushed him no matter what the score was and that he will always be rooting for Real Salt Lake.

As for his new challenge in his young career, the 18-year-old Mexico international said he's excited to start with his new club.

"I am very excited to get started with

Chivas. Being from Mexico I have grown up dreaming of playing for such an incredible club and promise to work hard every day to make the fans proud," Barajas said on social media.

In the first glimpses of Barajas with a Chivas jersey on, he captioned the picture on social media with, "A dream come true."

Then the day came with the first league matchup of the season with Chivas facing Toluca on July 6 at the Estadio Akron in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

With 80 minutes on the clock, Barajas made his debut with Chivas as a substitution for the USA international Cade Cowell.

As Barajas' father explained previously, Barajas grew up a Chivas fan, and with his debut he was able to fulfill that boyhood dream of playing for the team he grew up supporting.

With a few touches on the ball and trying to provide an offensive spark for Chivas, as they were tied 0-0 when Barajas came onto the pitch, he wasn't able to show his full potential, just flashes of his talent.

Barajas was on the left wing connecting on short passes with his teammates and was even able to make a run down the wing, as well as take a shot on goal but was denied by Toluca's goalkeeper.

With another substitution coming late in the game for Chivas, Barajas was able to switch to the right wing where he 1v1 against a defender and was able to send a cross into the box.

Despite the efforts, Barajas couldn't spark anything for Chivas, and his debut



Fidel Barajas. Photo courtesy of Real Salt Lake

was a 0-0 draw to Toluca in front of the Chivas faithful at home.

With coaching by the experienced Fernando Gago, the Argentine international who played for some of the biggest clubs in the world like Real Madrid and played in the 2014 World Cup for his country, Chivas can tap into the potential Barajas has.

Barajas will have the chance to compete

for more minutes with Chivas on Friday when they travel to take on the Xolos of Tijuana, bordering California.

Barajas will play Liga MX, as well as the League's Cup, which is a tournament that pins Liga MX teams against MLS teams, when he returns to California with Chivas to play against the San Jose Earthquakes and Los Angeles Galaxy on July 27 and Aug. 4. ★



Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Celebration time, come on! Yes, it really is celebration time in Sac Town, and for the naysayers in the group that were waiting that the free agents were flying by and Monte McNair wasn't pulling the switch, it's time for some credit and accolades.

The most recent acquisition, albeit not yet complete, of free agent DeMar DeRozan, has a 50-plus win season written all over it for our hometown team.

DeRozan, without question one of the most coveted free agents in this year's mix, has apparently chosen the Sacramento

Kings over other contenders such as the L.A. Clippers and L.A. Lakers. What makes this exceptional is that DeRozan is from Southern California, and he chose Sacramento over his hometown.

Sacramento has received criticism over the years that the Kings can't attract big free agent names, and the signing of DeRozan may spell an end to that rhetoric.

One of the shortcomings of last year's team was their inability to close out close games, and that they were somewhat too one-dimensional with their late-game methodology.

No question De'Aaron Fox can't be called upon to provide all of the late game heroics, and that was primarily the end-game

strategy the past couple of seasons.

The signing of DeRozan will enhance opportunities for not only Fox, but Keegan Murray, Domantas Sabonis and Malik Monk, as well.

Opposing teams cannot plan their defense around stopping De'Aaron Fox with a weapon like DeRozan on the floor, and his scoring ability will undoubtedly enhance the scoring capabilities of everyone around him.

DeRozan doesn't come cheap, and part of the process in procuring a six-time NBA all-star is making room under the salary cap. To make that happen, the Kings had to shed the \$18 million per year they were paying to veteran Harrison Barnes, and Harrison was

dealt to the San Antonio Spurs, who are apparently looking for veteran leadership amid their current youth movement.

For many Kings fans that have enjoyed watching Harrison bring his slashing style of offense and the mid-range shooting he has become known for, it's bittersweet. Harrison was a fixture in the Kings starting lineup since February of 2019, and his durability was one of the unquestionable qualities the Kings will miss.

For a team that led the NBA in scoring just two seasons ago, Sacramento dropped 13 spots last year, and even a stronger defensive presence wasn't enough to make up the difference. Missing the playoffs after making the playoffs just one year ago was a gut punch, and it put a bull's eye on the backs of players that were too inconsistent with their scoring. Harrison, as

a starter, was at the top of the list.

So, we wish Harrison well, and usher in a different looking starting lineup that will hopefully include fan favorite Malik Monk, as well.

Without question, DeRozan brings a veteran strength that will show itself in additional wins this season, but the Kings still need help for their all-world center and NBA leader in rebounds, Domantas Sabonis.

While Monte McNair could run for mayor of Sacramento and probably win right now, other potential moves are still in the offing. Drew Timme, 6' 10" center from Gonzaga, was just signed to the Kings' summer league team, and although not drafted, there is something about this 23-year-old that will make you look twice. Could he be a diamond in the rough? It's possible, but for much needed up

front help, let's not forget that already secured on the Kings roster are little-heralded Alex Len and veteran Trey Lyles.

At times, coaches have a tendency to overlook what they already have, and I for one do not believe that we've seen the best basketball that these two Kings have to offer.

For the Chris Duarte fans out there, sadly Chris was sent to Chicago along with two second-round draft picks and money to conclude the DeRozan acquisition. We will miss Chris and his spark off the bench, but like Harrison, the Sacramento fans wish Chris all the best in Chi Town.

Stay tuned, Kings fans for more magic from your intrepid GM, and thank you Monte McNair for having the patience to wait for the right player to surface for the Kings.

Welcome, DeMar DeRozan! ★

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