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By Dave Ramsey



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Remembering the Fallen



Rancho Cordova Mayor David M. Sander, Ph. D stands alongside Metro Fire officers at the Sept. 11 opening ceremony of the Remembering Our Fallen memorial. Photo courtesy Ayden Gregory Photography

By Omella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - As the nation came together to remember the tragic events of 23 years ago, residents and businesspeople of Rancho Cordova also reflected on the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001. That's when terrorists hijacked four planes, crashing them into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and a field in Pennsylvania killing nearly 3,000 people.

In honor of this somber anniversary, the city of Rancho Cordova hosted the "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit. The



Remembering Our Fallen is a photographic war memorial that honors those who served and made the ultimate sacrifice. Photo courtesy Ayden Gregory Photography

exhibit, which opened on Sept. 11, was on display at Rancho Cordova City Hall until Sept. 15.

The memorial featured a collection of military and personal photographs, each a testament to the lives and

sacrifices of those who served following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. This tribute aims to ensure that these brave individuals are remembered and their legacy preserved.

The opening ceremony included a heartfelt performance by the Rancho Cordova River City Concert Band, a presentation of colors by the U.S. Army Color Guard and featured speeches from various community and military leaders.

Mayor David M. Sander, Ph. D delivered a heartfelt speech emphasizing the

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City Council Updates Camping Ordinance

By Omella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Cordova City Council unanimously approved a new camping ordinance on Sept. 16, aimed at updating the city's approach to managing illegal camping in public spaces.

The proposed ordinance updates Rancho Cordova's Municipal Code to align with the recent Supreme Court decision in *Johnson v. City of Grants Pass*. This decision clarified that cities can enforce camping restrictions as long as they target the act of camping and not penalize individuals for their homelessness.

The new ordinance will focus on regulating the act of camping and the storage of personal property in public spaces, aiming to improve safety and cleanliness while avoiding unconstitutional penalties. This approach supports the city's ongoing efforts to manage public spaces effectively and addresses health hazards, unsanitary conditions, and fire risks associated with illegal camping.

The council's decision comes as Rancho Cordova grapples with homelessness. While the city has seen a decrease in its homeless population and has successfully managed several large encampments, illegal camping remains a persistent issue within Sacramento, according to Neighborhood Services manager Russell Ducharme.

Rancho Cordova prides itself on integrating services, education, and enforcement to address homelessness effectively, according to Police Chief Matt Tamayo. Under the new ordinance, enforcement officers will first inform homeless individuals about camping restrictions and give them a chance to comply before taking any enforcement action, ensuring a compassionate and fair approach.

City attorney Adam Lindgren emphasized the importance of the new ordinance.

"I think that it will give a valuable tool to allow code and police to keep the right of way and paths and other public places that our residents use and enjoy, clean and free of unsheltered people," Lindgren said.

Public comments during the meeting reflected concerns about the potential impacts of the new ordinance.

"My concern is that I see people camping out on the sidewalks that the city has

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Inside the Lines with Your Leaders

Getting to Know Rancho Cordova Mayor David M. Sander, Ph.D.

By Omella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - From working in Washington D.C., to Rancho Cordova, David M. Sander, Ph.D.'s journey to becoming mayor was shaped by both personal and professional experiences.

Elected to the first City Council when the city was incorporated, Sander was re-elected in subsequent years and has since served multiple terms as both mayor and vice-mayor. Now in his fifth term as mayor, a position that rotates, Sander's commitment to the city is portrayed through local involvement and ongoing efforts to drive progress.

Sander's path to public service in Rancho Cordova began when he moved to the city, motivated by a desire to leave what he called a "bubble" in Washington D.C. His wife's

ties to the area were a significant factor in the move and as they settled down in Rancho Cordova Sanders became more involved in local affairs through roles in the community council, the chamber of commerce, the church and the Planning Commission.

The turning point in Sander's political career came when his name began

being discussed by residents as a potential candidate for city leadership.

"I was 30 at the time and I had been involved in leadership roles for four years," Sander recalled. "I had been doing a lot of the planning for the Fourth of July events in the city and people started urging me to run."

In 2002, Sander began his career with the Rancho

Cordova City Council and has been involved ever since. Sander takes particular pride in the platform that the mayoral position provides.

"It's fun to be out there, talking to people and hearing their thoughts directly," he said. This engagement, Sander said, offers valuable insights that inform the

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Mayor David M. Sander, Ph.D. Photo courtesy of the City of Rancho Cordova



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2024 Class Honored at Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony

By James Darnell

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame's ninth annual induction ceremony on Sept. 14 at Rancho Cordova City Hall featured 13 separate honorees, including two teams, in what was a first for the organization.

The list includes the 1965 RCLL All Stars Little League baseball team, the undefeated 1977 Cordova Lancers football team, rugby coach Jerry Ahlin, football/basketball coach Ron Belka Sr., basketball standout Nikkia "Kia" Davis, baseball pitcher Mike Dolan, administrative assistant Catherine Fidel, Paul and Mary L. "Dayo" Hagan, baseball player/coach Harvey Hargrove, football playmaker Pat Lashinsky, hard-hitting football safety Arnold Laws, basketball stand-out Samantha Uding-O'Boyle, and multi-sport athlete Mike Willeford.

Rancho Cordova Mayor David M. Sander, Ph.D. opened the event with a speech to the hundreds in attendance, followed by a surprise appearance by the Cordova Lancers varsity football team and cheerleaders, who brought an influx of energy. Rancho Cordova's very own Ken Rudulph, a news reporter who now resides in the Los Angeles area, hosted the event as the Master of Ceremonies.

Each inductee received individual recognition with video



Members of the Cordova Lancer's 1977 varsity football team and family members of teammates who died pose for a photo. Photo by Rick Sloan

highlights put together and narrated by Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame committee chairman Michael Marando. Each member of the 2024 Hall of Fame class received a commemorative medal as well. The event went off without a hitch, with those in attendance enjoying the trip down memory lane as each person/group were honored.

Following the event, Marando spoke about what makes the city's Sports Hall of Fame so unique.

"Every class is special," Marando said. "But this is the first time we've inducted two teams with the 1965 Little League team and the '77 Lancers, in between over 12 well-deserving Hall of Famers. We're never short on Hall of Famers because Rancho Cordova is steeped in history and the tradition of excellence in athletics."

The honorees all spent time after the ceremony taking photos and mingling with friends, family and well-wishers. Many

in attendance hadn't seen each other in decades, which made the proceedings even more meaningful.

"That part has been so cool. There are guys here that I haven't seen in 46 years," said former Lancers All-League linebacker and 1977 team member Mike Valentine. "Some weren't at reunions but seeing them here tonight was so cool."

For some, being honored in front of their longtime friends, family and supporters was the

most important aspect of the entire event. Their journeys were aided by the backing of those around them.

"It means a lot," Hargrove said of being honored in front of his friends and family in attendance. "My brother surprised me yesterday when he snuck into town from Maryland. I also have some people here that I coached with and went to high school with that showed up. I didn't expect them to come and they showed up. It's been a blast." ★



Some of the members of the 1965 Rancho Cordova Little League All Stars pose for a photo. From left are Jerry Wilcox (CHS '71), Hal Brand (CHS '70), Mike Ondina (CHS '72), Wally Armitage (Jesuit '71), Jeff Kaut (CHS '71), Bill Durica (Jesuit '71), Jim Bardwell (CHS '71). Photo by Rick Sloan



Individual inductees included, from left, Harvey Hargrove (CHS '94) Athlete/Baseball, Mike Dolan (CHS '81) Athlete/Baseball, Mike Willeford (CHS '04) Athlete/Multi-Sport, Pat Lashinsky (CHS '85) Athlete/Football, Samantha Uding (CHS '86) Athlete/Basketball, Jerry Ahlin - Rugby Coach, Sherry Burch (former CHS Girls Basketball Coach) accepting on behalf of Kia Davis (CHS '09) Athlete/Basketball, Arnold Laws, Jr. (CHS '88) Athlete/Football. (Not pictured/inducted posthumously: Ron Belka, Sr. (Coach/Football & Basketball), Catherine Fidel (Heart of a Champion), Paul and Dayo Hagan (Heart of a Champion). Photo by Rick Sloan



The Cordova High school cheerleaders start the festivities off with a Hall of Fame cheer. Photo by Rick Sloan



Rancho Cordova Mayor and Rancho Cordova Athletic Association Chairman David Sander welcomes the crowd. Photo by Rick Sloan



Rancho Cordova Mayor and Rancho Cordova Athletic Association Chairman David Sander introduces the past inductee that were in attendance. Photo by Rick Sloan



Master of Ceremonies Ken Rudulph (CHS '85) shares one of his many high school memories. Photo by Rick Sloan

Heartstoppers Haunted House Returns for Annual Scare

By Heather Atherton,
AthertonPR News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Ready for a really good scare?

Not only are there excellent haunts at the Heartstoppers Haunted House in Rancho Cordova but it is also the ideal venue for such an attraction, given that the Mineshaft property itself is rumored to be haunted.

Not only are there two major haunts within the main building, upstairs and in the creepy caves and basement, but there are two immense outdoor haunts in the former mini golf course and property adjacent to Folsom Boulevard to complete the experience with spooks in every corner. Tickets are online only and start at \$35 at www.heartstoppershaunt.com.

Heartstoppers' production team has been running professional quality haunted houses for 17 years. In 2016 and 2017, they joined forces with Callson Manor to create DireWorld in Roseville. Given the redevelopment @ TheGrounds, the haunt needed to find a new home. Heartstoppers, now affiliated with a 501c3 non-profit called Theatre Education 4 Theater Nerds, Inc., was welcomed back to Rancho Cordova with open arms in 2018 and was offered a home at the Mineshaft. They have deepened their relationship with the Cordova Community Council and will receive community and marketing support from the Council. Shared profits will then go to support various community programs in Rancho Cordova run by the two organizations.

"We can't wait to open again this year and scare all of our local friends again this year," said Joel Watson, producer of Heartstoppers Haunt. "Our long-term plan is to not only run the Heartstoppers Haunted House in October but expand to open seasonally for workshops and eventually some other holidays



"We can't wait to open again this year and scare all of our local friends again this year," said Joel Watson, producer of Heartstoppers Haunt. Image by Harry from Pixabay

for specialty themed events at The Mineshaft."

Tickets include all attractions, plus two Scarezones to hang out in and soak up the Halloween vibes. A waiting area indoors (so inclement weather won't be a problem) where themed refreshments and souvenirs will be available to help guests prepare for the winddown from their Heartstoppers experience. Its four attractions all centered around a single storyline, really helping to bring you into their world, including:

Deadlands

Old West meets The Walking Dead outdoors under the moonlight.

The Ward

Project Crossbreed; the abandoned hospital on the hill. In the building, upstairs.

BlightWoods

A possessed forest on the outskirts of Deadlands, controlled



by three witches. In the golf course.

Misery Mine

The now collapsed silver mine underneath the town of Deadlands. In the basement.

Redemption! Stage Show

An included stage show runs every hour that explains the story and history of Deadlands and the surrounding area.

Tickets are \$35. For those who don't have the guts to wait in line

and enjoy the anticipation, Fancy Pants tickets for \$55 enters them into the Fast-Q. Six-packs of tickets for group rate or return visits are \$32 each when six are purchased. Larger group rates are available.

The Parkour and Performing Arts Center is bringing a one-of-a-kind experience, CIRQUE VAU DE VILLAIN to the Ghost Town at Heartstoppers! The PPAC will be selling tickets

to a thrilling 45-minute Circus Variety & Freak Show, that will amaze and entertain the young and old. Included with the ticket is the Spin-to-Win experience. Three spins of the wheel to win prizes, including the grand prize of a Mystery Trip or an overnight stay at a Haunted Motel in Nevada.

There will be vendors with unique horror-themed jewelry to one-of-a-kind artwork, gifts and tchotchkes throughout the property each night. Food trucks will also be on site for tasty treats and meals and specialty mocktails area available inside the haunt, featuring non-alcoholic libations like Cyrus Cider or the Witches Brew.

"Our volunteers are the heart of our organization," explained Joel Watson, producer of Heartstoppers Haunted House. "We are grateful for their hard work and dedication to learn an artistic craft while help us bring our vision to life for a premier haunted house experience that benefits the community."

The Cordova Community Council Foundation is very involved in supporting Heartstoppers Haunted House in many ways. From helping recruit community volunteers to running the parking, helping secure the venue and marketing support, they are a valuable partner. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Rancho Cordova community activities presented by the Cordova Community Council.

Heartstoppers Haunted House will open for the public on Sept. 27, then Fridays and Saturdays each weekend in October. Additional dates around Halloween through Saturday, Nov. 2. Halloween week will include Sunday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Due to the reservation system, all tickets are sold online only. Parking gates will open at 7 p.m. View the full schedule at <https://heartstoppershaunt.com/information/dates-hours-calendar>. ★

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Social Security Matters

About Widow's Benefits vs. Benefits from my Ex-spouse



By Russell Gloor,
AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: In November I will be 60 and eligible for widow's benefits. My late husband's Social Security was approximately \$2,300 when he passed around 7 years ago. FYI, my ex-husband is still working and will probably receive the highest SS when he retires in about 5 years (we were married for more than 10 years). Either of these is more than my own Social Security will be, so how does this work? Will this turn into my Social Security? Can I start on one and switch to the other later? **Signed: Wondering Widow**

Dear Wondering Widow: Provided you have not remarried before age 60, you have a choice which benefit to receive - either your deceased husband's benefit as his surviving spouse, or your ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband while he is still living. Taking your survivor benefit from your deceased husband will likely be best because it is based on 100% of his SS amount when he died, whereas your ex-spouse

benefit from your living ex-husband is based on 50% of his FRA entitlement. To get an ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband (which you can't get until you are 62), your own SS retirement benefit would need to be less than 50% of your ex's FRA entitlement.

As you know, you will be eligible for survivor (widow's) benefits from your deceased husband when you are 60 but be aware that by taking your survivor benefit at 60, it will be reduced for early claiming. Rather than 100% of your husband's SS benefit, at age 60 you will get about 71.5%. Your surviving spouse benefit reaches maximum at your full retirement age (FRA) of 67 and will grow to that point but will be reduced if taken prior to that.

Also, if you are working, Social Security's "earnings test" will apply until you reach your full retirement age, so your plans for working may influence your decision on when to claim your widow's benefit. If you exceed the earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024; it changes annually), Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" by withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied, which means you would go some number of months without benefits. And, if you substantially exceed the earnings limit you may even be temporarily ineligible for any

SS benefits (until you earn less or reach your FRA - the earnings test goes away at your FRA).

If you claim your surviving spouse benefits from your deceased husband first, and your ex-husband later dies, you do have the option to switch to the higher survivor benefit from your ex-husband. In effect, if both husbands are deceased, you have a choice which benefit to take (and, obviously, you'd chose the higher of the two).

None of this, however, happens automatically. To claim your surviving spouse benefit you will need to contact Social Security directly at 1.800.772.1213 (or call your local SS office) to make an appointment to apply for widow's benefits.

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By Bob McGarvey

I apologize for missing the column last week. There were enough things going on that time that I got behind, and the column wasn't done. I know there are enough things going on. Something that most people couldn't forget was 9-11-2001 and the 3000 people who were killed. There were pictures of the 3000 citizens who were killed, and placed in front of our City Hall for our citizens to see. There was wonderful music in City Hall that day, a presentation of the colors of the U.S. Army Color Guard, and special speeches from various community and military leaders.

Something that was done during that time was the 400th football game win since our Lancers began in 1963. Go Lancers!!! They have 3 wins this year, and we will have to wait and see how we do tonight as they play game four.

I received a 2025 Calendar that showed the Pioneers volunteer network. They were founded in 1911, and the Pioneers have been dedicated to serving our communities. They put in thousands of hours to help our kids education, and the Pioneers provide care packages to those serving overseas and helping the families at home. Those are only a couple of the things that those volunteers put in and help their fellow citizens. I worked for the phone company for 33 years and have always supported those wonderful Pioneers.

There will be another date for Volunteers

And Another Thing

Go Lancers!

on November 11, 2024 in the performing arts theater at Cordova High. Quite a few people have asked about having the Veterans Day ceremony in front of the VA Hospital. but with the weather being questionable, or seeing another wild fire hitting again like it did on November 11, 2018, it was decided to have it inside instead. That was when the wild Camp Fire was racing through and putting so much smoke south and through Sacramento county that we had to cancel our ceremonies on Veterans Day. We will place our ceremonies for Veterans Day in the theater again.

I was given a book a few years ago titled "THE GREATEST GENERATION" by Tom Brokaw. He went through our country and told about the men and women and their lives, or you could say he was able to tell their stories. He told stories about their lives in the Great Depression, and then World War II, and then went back to and created our modern country. I haven't been able to read through the book yet, but I feel privileged that I learned quite a lot from my parents because they were part of Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation".

At the back of the book Brokaw said, "They came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and went on to build modern America — men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement, and courage gave us the world we have today." I will definitely finish reading that book.

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

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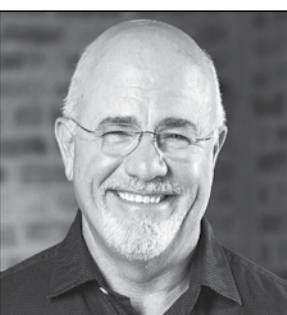
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Dave Ramsey Says A "Heart Problem"



Dave Ramsey

sure how long you two have been seeing each other, but this is someone to keep dating, not marry or let move in.

The hard reality is that bankruptcy's not going to solve anything if she's got a heart problem. By "heart problem," I mean if she buys things thinking stuff will make her happy and living way beyond her means in the process. Lots of folks mistakenly think they are where they live or what they drive. Those are the kinds of heart problems I'm talking about. And it's the way I was years ago before going broke knocked some sense into me. It wasn't until then I realized I had to make some serious changes in my life.

Don't get me wrong. What I've just said doesn't mean this lady's a bad person. It just means she's got some growing up to do. And all the money matters aside, you don't just up and quit your job without a solid plan in place unless there's a serious matter of principle at stake, or you're the victim of abuse or harassment. Leaving one job for another is fine. But the idea of suddenly deciding you

just don't like something, then walking away from it when you've got a bunch of financial obligations, is just plain irresponsible. You don't jump off the dock until the boat arrives!

Again, I don't know all the details behind her finances, but chances are she's not bankrupt. There are some character issues in all this that need to be addressed, though. If it were me, I'd suggest she spend some time seeing a good financial counselor—one with the heart of a teacher. Then, you can act as her support system to help keep her on track, and encourage her to keep moving forward toward getting control of her money.

— Dave

Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★

Dear Dave,

I'm pretty responsible with finances, but my girlfriend is in a bad situation with her money and her career. She has a huge car payment, and lots of credit card debt. On top of this, it takes almost 40% of what she brings home each month just to pay rent, and she quit her job because she decided she didn't like it anymore. She's been floating lots of ideas, like filing bankruptcy or moving in with me. She thinks us living together will help her learn to be more responsible with her finances. I'm concerned that if she can't handle her finances on her own, what will happen if we move in together? Your advice would be appreciated.

— Dan

Dear Dan,

I can't say if she's technically bankrupt at this point. But for starters, she definitely needs to sell the car and find a cheaper place to live. I'm also not

Planning Commission Approves Residential Projects

By Omella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Cordova Planning Commission on Sept. 11 reviewed and approved two residential developments aimed at enhancing the city's housing landscape.

The commission approved a Major Design Review Permit for the Bloom at Sandridge Park III subdivision, proposed by Tri Pointe Homes. The project, located south of Canyonlands Drive, west of Timberland Drive and north of Hetch Hetchy Drive, will include 55 residential lots.

Initially designated for a school, the site's designation was shifted to residential use following the Elk Grove Unified School District's decision not to proceed with the school.

Tri Pointe Homes has proposed three floor plans ranging from 2,430 to 3,375 square feet with three architectural styles: Spanish, Farmhouse and Craftsman. The homes will feature designs that minimize the visual impact of garages, with living spaces oriented forward to enhance street appeal. The project also emphasizes sustainability with drought-tolerant landscaping and has been designed to avoid adjacent lots having identical floor plans to prevent monotony.

Despite some concerns from commissioners about driveway lengths and backyard sizes, the motion passed with a 4-1 vote.

"The length of the driveway at 19 feet is prime for the average car but if you have a larger size truck or car, it doesn't fit," said Commissioner Lee Frechette. "This is a concern for me, I don't think we are building

good neighborhoods when we do that."

Commissioner Dave Huhn, P.E. suggested a slight adjustment in backyard depths to improve usability.

"I saw that the shortest backyard was 22 feet. If you pushed that back two feet, you have a 20-foot backyard," Huhn said. "That makes a difference for the driveway."

Beazer Homes' proposal for the Arista Del Sol development also received approval. Located south of Douglas Road and within the Sunridge Specific Plan area, this project will feature 142 lots. Beazer Homes, currently purchasing the lots from Woodside Homes, sought a new design review to construct their own home models.

The Arista Del Sol project includes five floor plans ranging from 1,655 to 2,804 square feet, with architectural styles including Spanish Colonial, Mediterranean and Farmhouse. Each home will have a two-car garage and emphasize living spaces at the forefront to create a welcoming streetscape. The development will also be all-electric.

Commissioner Tegan Knifton praised the all-electric design, while Huhn expressed concerns over the narrow front setbacks and reduced distances between buildings.

"The front setback is a little concerning," Huhn said. "Twelve-and-a-half feet is a small front yard. The reduction from nine feet to eight feet between buildings struck me. You would be surprised how much that reduction feels."

Both projects are aligned with the city's General Plan designations, with Bloom at Sandridge Park III classified as low density residential and Arista Del Sol having a mix of medium- and low-density residential designations. ★

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



As I begin this column, I'm sobered by the recent happenings in our country. Without question, as I think about the upcoming NBA season, I find a sense of gratitude that within minutes of my home I have the privilege of witnessing 41 professional basketball games, that temporarily remove me from the vagaries of day-to-day life.

Unfortunately, another assassination attempt was made on the life of one of our political candidates running for the highest position in the land. An attempt that should give every American pause, and if anything should unite us all in the contempt for an action that has no place in our country.

As a people and a nation, we can celebrate the sports teams we love with fervor, but let's stop for just a moment, and come together with the overriding thought that our differences should be carried out at the ballot box. Let your voice be heard in the way that our forefathers intended, and on November 5th be that American that proudly helps America decide who should be the next commander in chief of this nation.

By now you know how thrilled I am to have DeMar DeRozan as a part of the Kings family, and I have little doubt that this most capable all-star will help the Kings reach the next level they've been seeking. But more than DeMar's ability on the hardwood, I'm heartened by the many NBA players that have commented on his leadership abilities and the harmony he brings to the locker room. There is no question, that just as I have celebrated the leadership of De'Aaron Fox, Domantas Sabonis, and Malik Monk, the Kings have added one more valued role model that young players can appreciate.

As the preseason approaches, I at times feel like a young boy waiting for Christmas, but just as you do, I have to rise each morning and brave the storms of the day.

The Sacramento Kings provide a moment in time that I can completely escape from the stresses and responsibilities that life brings, and a time when I can sit next to a fellow Kings fan, and not even care what his or her political leanings may be.

I have been high on Kings GM Monte McNair, and I couldn't begin to tell you whether he's a democrat, a republican, or an independent. What I appreciate is his dedication to hard work, albeit with a stoic disposition, and his ability to a steadiness that brings with it a confidence that I have gradually grown to appreciate. Monte has proven to me, that like so much I've seen in our political arena, he will not fall victim to a knee jerk reaction in the Kings arena.

Most importantly, I recognize leadership. Monte McNair isn't just responsible for framing the team we witness on the floor each night, he's given the charge of managing basketball operations in general, and that includes putting the right coaches in place.

Welcome Riccardo Fois and Jim Moran to the Sacramento Kings coaching family. Both men come with a litany of NBA coaching experience, and with the departure of much acclaimed Jordi Fernandez who is now the head coach of the Brooklyn Nets, these men add capable talent to the coaching ranks.

Yes, the Sacramento Kings do more for our community than just play basketball, and for fans like myself, they will always bring a moment in time that I can spend time with my family, and escape to a place of pure entertainment.

I have commented in this column in the past that one of most compelling reasons I am such a die-hard fan of the Kings rests in the pure pleasure they have in playing together. Their camaraderie as a team is obvious and contagious.

It's entirely possible that the team as you assembled today may very well start the season, but it's just as possible that our GM will find a diamond in the rough. Although I'm not against adding a power forward to the lineup, I'm just as curious to see what we have right now.

The preseason will bring some answers for coach Brown and the Sacramento Kings fans as well.

So, I say to this splendiferous team we call the Sacramento Kings, bring it on!!

If you have comments, please send them to vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. All the best Kings fans!! ★

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Blue Angels Headline California Capital Airshow Next March

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Capital Airshow, presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, on Sept. 6 announced its 19th annual Airshow will return to Mather Airport on March 22 and March 23, 2025.

The two-day traditional event will be headlined by the U.S. Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels.

"We are so excited to have the

Blue Angels back!" said California Capital Airshow Executive Director Darcy Brewer. "Their return to Sacramento has been highly anticipated and we're proud to be one of the team's first stops following their winter training."

The Blue Angels last performance at the California Capital Airshow was in 2019. The team's performance at the 2025 Airshow marks their 79th season, during which they will perform 64 demonstrations at 32 locations across the country.

In addition to the Blue Angels,

fans of all ages will enjoy a dynamic lineup of top military and civilian performers, plus miles of exhibits on the ground.

Become an Airshow Insider to save up to 50% on tickets, receive exclusive updates on performers and more. Sign up for free at CaliforniaCapitalAirshow.com. ★

The Blue Angels return to next year's California Capital Airshow at Mather Airport on March 23 and March 23. The renowned Blue Angels, pictured here, performed at the California Capital Airshow in 2019. Photo courtesy of Mark E. Loper Photography



Remembering the Fallen



The memorial included a presentation of colors by the U.S. Army Color Guard. Photo courtesy Ayden Gregory Photography

Continued from page 1

profound impact of 9/11 on the nation. "I am an ordinary American who will pause today and just like you, remember those who have given so much to our country," Sander said. "Our nation was forever changed. In the span of a few hours, we lost 3,000 lives in an unspeakable act of terror. But from the ashes of that dark day, a new generation of heroes arose, inspired to protect the freedoms under attack. Their sacrifice is now etched in the fabric of our nation's story."

Battalion Chief Kim Fong of Metro Fire honored the fallen first responders from Sept. 11, 2001, including 243 firefighters, 60 police officers, and eight paramedics.

"As firefighters, we carry that legacy of selflessness forward," Fong said. "Metro Fire will continue to train, adapt, and improve our tactics to better serve you. It is our vow to hold the promise of never forgetting."

Rancho Cordova Police Chief Matt Tamayo expressed his deep respect and enduring memory for those who sacrificed their lives.

"I'm honored and humbled to be speaking here today," Tamayo said. "At that time, it was difficult for me to grasp the enormity of the event and forecast the subsequent impact it would have on the community, the law enforcement community, the military community and the nation. I will remember that sacrifice forever."

Matt Ceccato, a decorated combat veteran wounded in combat shared his journey at the memorial. Serving now as Deputy Chief of Staff for Congressman Ami Bera, Ceccato was struck by gunfire in both legs during his second deployment, causing an injury that initially left him unable to walk.

"I am standing here with my two daughters who weren't here on 9/11.

It comes to show how we must teach the younger generations to never forget," Ceccato said. "As my military tenure came to an end at an abrupt halt, I understood what others those years before me must have felt. I understood what our first responders and heroes that came to help must have felt. One common cause united them."

The "Remember the Sky" social media campaign was a highlight of the memorial, designed to connect a new generation with the lessons learned from 9/11. On Sept. 11, individuals across the nation were invited to share images of the sky above them, inspired by the clear blue sky present in New York City on the morning of the attacks. This digital tribute, marked by the hashtag #rememberthesky, fosters a moment of reflection and remembrance, emphasizing a commitment to never forget and honor the sacrifices of those who served.

"We are the generation that came after the events of 9/11. As we have grown, we have come to learn the stories, pain, and resilience that define that moment in Americas history," said Van Merrill a student from the Cordova High School. "As we have grown, we have come to learn the stories, pain, and resilience that define that moment in Americas history. While we cannot change the past, we have the power to shape the future, where love overcomes hatred, where unity and diversity triumph over division, and peace is strived for every single day."

The memorial offered complimentary hot dogs and live music on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Self-guided tours of the exhibit were available daily at Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park. The "Remembering Our Fallen" memorial was a heartfelt reminder of the enduring legacy of those who gave their lives in service to their country. ★

City Council Updates Camping Ordinance

Continued from page 1

spent so much money to put in. It makes it uncomfortable for the residents to use those sidewalks," said resident Helen Bashaw. "I am concerned about what they might be leaving behind."

Lincoln Village resident Jim Garcia questioned whether the ordinance would affect the city's ability to respond to other code enforcement issues.

"After all the hard work that the Economic Development Team, the Chamber of Commerce and others have done to promote jobs and accentuate the benefits of living in Rancho Cordova and all of the efforts that our residents do to assist

in the City's Beautification Program, are you now going to permit camping within our residential areas?" said Garcia. "I'm not convinced that the ordinance will not significantly impact Code Enforcement's ability to respond to other calls."

Mayor David M. Sander, Ph. D. addressed these concerns, stating, "I think there might be a little confusion. In general, this ordinance update allows us to address the concerns raised by the community."

Council member Donald Terry highlighted the enhanced tools available for enforcement, saying, "Now we have more tools than we did before." ★

Over 1,000 Acres of Open Space Protected in Sacramento County

Sacramento Valley Conservancy News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) announces the permanent protection of 1,055 acres of vernal pool and open space between the Mather and Sloughhouse areas.

This is Sacramento Valley Conservancy's largest acquisition since Deer Creek Hills was protected in 2004, and Sacramento Valley Conservancy has plans to connect these preserves to Deer Creek Hills and other open spaces for wildlife corridors and regional trail networks.

The protected area includes vernal pools, wetlands, and swales that supports threatened, protected and species of concern, including vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). The preserves encompass 5 properties located off of Grant Line Road, including sections of Carson Creek, tributaries to Deer Creek and Laguna Creek Watershed and portions connecting to the Kiefer Landfill Preserve.

"Vernal pools are home to unique species found nowhere else on Earth! They provide biodiversity, support local ag and become living classrooms where we inspire the next generation of stewards," said Kelly Hopkins, executive director for the Sacramento Valley Conservancy.

This project succeeded in finally dedicating the preserves after years of collaboration between the South Sacramento Conservation Agency (SSCA), the developer, Sacramento

Valley Conservancy, and many more, fulfilling the required mitigation for the Cordova Hills development project which was approved by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors in 2013.

Symbolizing a decade-long due diligence effort, Hopkins noted, "SVC is pleased that these parcels have finally been protected, and we are excited to gain the Conservation Agency as a partner in the land protection process."

Sacramento Valley Conservancy manages and monitors 7,326 acres of vernal pool and upland habitat, known as the Sacramento Prairie Vernal Pool Preserve, which includes 23 properties in the Mather, Rancho Cordova area, and southeast Sacramento County area. Over the past twenty years, Sacramento Valley Conservancy has worked with mining companies, developers, resource agencies, and organizations such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento County, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and the California State Water Resources Control Board to protect and restore these rare habitats. Grasslands containing vernal pools are some of the most threatened lands in the region and 237,000 acres of working agricultural lands have been lost to development from 1988-2018.

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and an accredited land trust dedicated to preserving agricultural lands, natural habitats, and open spaces in the Sacramento Valley for future generations. Since 1990, Sacramento Valley Conservancy has protected over 17,500 acres, actively contributing to the region's environmental sustainability and resilience through land and conservation easement acquisition. ★

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Office Administration – We are seeking a full-time administrative support person for our newspaper group. This position works in the Carmichael office and works directly with the Office Manager. Work hours are between 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday. Previous office experience is required. Primary duties are working with customers and assisting with weekly legal advertising filings. We also have a part-time position available in West Sacramento available in August.

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California Schools Face Twin Perils: Chronic Absenteeism and Declining Enrollment



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California's public schools have a numbers problem — and it's not just that their students don't score very highly in national tests of mathematics ability.

Their other numbers problem is the financial squeeze posed by declining enrollment, especially in large urban districts, compounded by apparently growing levels of chronic absenteeism, or truancy.

"Thirty percent of California public school students were chronically absent from school in 2021-22 — a near tripling of the percentage in 2018-19," the Public Policy Institute of California declared in a recent report. "Although we do not know if this stark increase in chronic absenteeism, defined as missing at least 10% of the school year or at least 18 days, will continue, the data from last year raises concerns about the pace of students' learning recovery after the educational setbacks of the COVID-19 pandemic."

California is one of just seven states that base state financial support of local school systems on attendance, rather than enrollment, so the declines in enrollment and attendance comprise a double financial whammy, one of the reasons many school districts are facing budget deficits.

Enrollment is an immutable effect of demographic change,

both the out-migration of young families to other states and lower birth rates. Chronic truancy, on the other hand, first became notable during the COVID-19 pandemic, when schools were closed for months and many students were unable to keep up with studies via the internet.

Another report from the Public Policy Institute of California found that "schools with greater increases in chronic absenteeism saw steeper drops in proficiency rates on the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) English and math tests, when comparing pre-pandemic levels (2018-19) to 2021-22."

During the pandemic, the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom temporarily deviated from basing state aid on attendance, given the massive dislocation of school closures. The situation also reinvigorated an old debate over whether using attendance is outmoded and California should shift to an enrollment-based system.

Policy Analysis for California Education, a think tank maintained by the state's major universities, chimed in with its own take on the issue, to wit: "We find that about 90 percent of districts would receive more funding under an enrollment-based formula than they would under the current ADA-based system, with the biggest boost going to high school districts and districts with more low-income, English learner, and foster youth students."

ADA refers to average daily attendance.

The analysis estimated that switching to enrollment would cost about \$3.4 billion a year, since truant students would still qualify their schools for aid. It cautioned, however, that while "switching

from attendance to enrollment may help districts gain greater fiscal stability and may shift more resources to school districts with greater student needs," on the other hand, "the current system includes a fiscal incentive that, most agree, encourages higher attendance, even if that attendance definition is relatively weak."

In other words, switching to enrollment would take schools off the hook in battling truancy.

Last year, Anthony Portantino, a Democratic state senator from Glendale, introduced legislation, backed by the public education establishment, including state schools Supt. Tony Thurmond, to make the change.

"Enrollment-based funding ensures that California schools are funded more equitably and have greater financial stability and predictability," Portantino said.

However, with the state facing chronic budget deficits of its own and barely able to supply schools with their constitutionally mandated levels of money, Senate Bill 98 faltered. It eventually morphed into merely an instruction to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the Legislature's budget advisor, to study the effects of changing to an enrollment-based system and report on it by Jan. 1, 2026.

That's known in political circles as kicking the can down the road, a time-dishonored way for officials to avoid making decisions.

Dan Walters is one of most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

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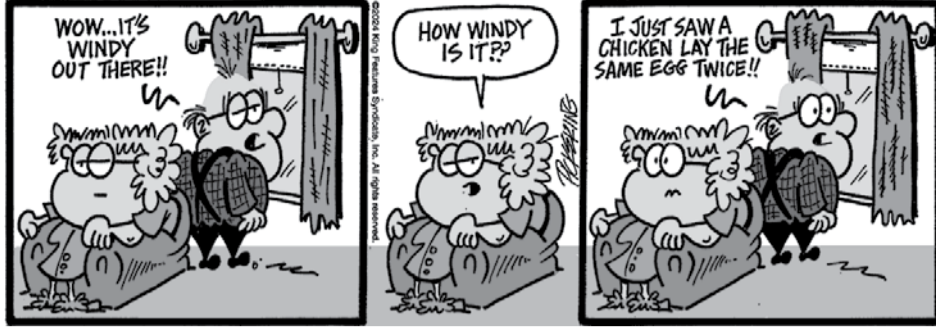
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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD • GREEKS AND ROMANS

- CLUES**
- ACROSS**
- Fountain order
 - Christian minister, abbr.
 - Betelgeuse or Deneb
 - Isaac's firstborn
 - Senegal's neighbor
 - Nobody (2 words)
 - Bangladeshi currency
 - Chopin's creation, e.g.
 - Like thick smoke
 - *Greek goddess in 1995 Woody Allen movie title
 - *Mars, to the Greeks
 - Doze out
 - Edible tuber
 - *Poet of "Aeneid" fame
 - *Pair of writing tablets
 - Outrage
 - A small part
 - European currency
 - Jousting pole
 - B & B
 - Sunni religion
 - Et alibi, abbr.
 - Newspaper VIP
 - First woman, Biblically-speaking
 - Return of disease
 - Washer, during a certain cycle
 - Last month
 - Belittle
 - Taro plant
 - *Athenian Acropolis tourist attraction
 - Anticipate
 - Black-and-white cookie
 - Small European freshwater fish
 - #18 Across, to Romans
 - Big cat sound
 - Future atty.'s exam
 - Work units
 - Tight one, in football
 - Sunrise direction
- DOWN**
- Facebook owner
 - Quickly, acr.
 - Hundred thousand, in India
 - Sahara's Berber people
 - R in R.E.M.
 - Wash out with solvent
 - Workbench holding device
 - *Plato's famous teacher
 - Ripped
 - Black tropical cuckoo
 - *Not black-figure, but -figure
 - Spacecraft's detachable unit
 - W.E.B Du Bois's org.
 - Oxygen-containing compound
 - *Olive derivative
 - More reprehensible
 - About to explode
 - Kidney-related
 - Exertion
 - Christmastides
 - Have a hankering
 - *Poet of "Iliad" fame
 - Ocean motion
 - "Wheel of Fortune" request (2 words)
 - *"I, _____"
 - Like Bushmills whiskey
 - Boston time

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CRPD General Manager Recognized Statewide



Cordova Recreation and Park District General Manager Patrick Larkin poses with Chairperson Brian Danzl and Vice-Chairperson Rick Sloan, on the left, after accepting his certificate at the California Special Districts Association's Annual Conference in Indian Wells on Sept. 10. Photo courtesy of Cordova Recreation and Park District

By Elena Burgé, Cordova Recreation and Park District

INDIAN WELLS, CA (MPG) - Cordova Recreation and Park District (CRPD) General Manager Patrick Larkin was recognized Sept. 10 at the California Special Districts Association's Annual Conference in Indian Wells for his commitment to the community following Larkin's completion of the Special District Leadership Academy.

In recognition of his work toward improving the leadership capabilities of Cordova Recreation and Park District, Larkin was awarded the Special District Governance Certificate.

Obtaining this certificate highlights Larkin's commitment to Cordova Recreation and Park District, the community and special districts across the state, according to the Cordova Recreation and Park District. By seeking out this professional development opportunity,

certificate recipients demonstrate a strong dedication to delivering the highest quality service to the community they represent.

This Special District Leadership Academy program aims to equip members of special district leadership teams with key skills in areas such as community leadership, strategic planning, human resources management and financial accountability, along with other essential leadership competencies.

In addition to completing the Special District Leadership Academy, Larkin fulfilled 10 hours of continuing education to complete the program.

The Special District Leadership Academy is supported by the California Special Districts Association and the Special District Leadership Foundation, reflecting their ongoing commitment to offering valuable development opportunities for California special district leadership. ★

Inside the Lines with Your Leaders



Rancho Cordova Mayor David M. Sander, Ph.D., was part of a delegation representing the greater Sacramento region in South Korea. Photo courtesy of the City of Rancho Cordova

Continued from page 1

City Council's decisions. He actively participates in public meetings, social media interactions and community events.

"Local government is all about these personal interactions," Sander said.

Key priorities and goals during Sander's tenure include enhancing the city's image, boosting economic development, housing growth and improving public safety.

"When we first pushed for incorporation of the city, no one paid much attention to us. Being part of a city that was just starting out gave me a unique perspective," Sander said. "We made a lot of progress in our image, brought crime down and economic development up."

One of Sander's proudest achievements is the expansion of opportunities for local youth. Through partnerships with schools and community organizations, the city has facilitated programs ranging from sports leagues to educational initiatives.

"We have increased significantly the number of kids that have access to sports and we are building better facilities. It's something that has really flourished," the mayor said. Notable initiatives



Mayor David M. Sander, Ph.D., participated in the 2023 Fourth of July parade while serving as vice-mayor of Rancho Cordova. Photo courtesy of the City of Rancho Cordova

include the Rancho Cordova Athletic Association, the annual Hall of Fame event and the Youth Center.

Looking ahead, Sander envisions continued growth and investments in Rancho Cordova.

"We are seeing a lot of renewed interest from companies and more job opportunities. We have a great location and an excellent local job base," Sander said.

His vision also includes continued efforts to create opportunities for youth, better support for senior citizens and expansion of cultural events and cultural interactions.

"I want to bring people together and use the community council as a mechanism to create more opportunities," he said.

Balancing his duties as mayor with personal interests is a challenge.

"Coaching has become my number one hobby," Sander said. "I also love woodworking, biking along the American River Parkway and reading. My favorite place in Rancho Cordova is my backyard. After 27 years living here, my wife has achieved nirvana in the backyard; it is just a beautiful space."

Reflecting on his career and his legacy as mayor, Sander remains driven by a desire for continuous improvement.

"I'm never fully satisfied. Good enough isn't," Sander said, quoting a mantra that has guided his tenure. "We must always push the boundaries and look for continuous improvement." ★

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Purchase presale tickets at www.effieyeawnature.org/events-calendar or scan the QR code

(\$10/adult, \$5/child (age 4-11), 3 and under FREE) or at the door (\$12/adult, \$6/child (age 4-11), 3 and under FREE).

**Animals • Crafts • Vendors • Food Trucks
Entertainment • Guided Hikes**





Presidential General Election Update

Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center Locations Posted

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) has posted the list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations for the Nov. 5 Presidential General Election on the VRE website at elections.saccounty.gov.

Vote by Mail ballots will be mailed to voters beginning Monday, Oct. 7. Ballot Drop Boxes will begin opening Monday, Oct. 7, and Vote Centers will begin opening Saturday, Oct. 26. A complete list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations, and days and hours of operation can be found at: <https://elections.saccounty.gov/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>

For more information, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.gov, or by using the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone).

Key Election Dates

Monday, Oct. 7: Mailing of ballots to all registered voters begins

Monday, Oct. 7: Voted ballots may be returned in any of the Ballot Drop Boxes located throughout the County

Monday, Oct. 21: Close of voter registration for this election. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5 p.m. Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at www.registertovote.ca.gov

Tuesday, Oct. 22: Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) begins

Saturday, Oct. 26: 11 Day Vote Centers open

Tuesday, Oct. 29: Last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE Office or a Vote Center.

Saturday, Nov. 2: All Vote Centers open throughout the County

Tuesday, Nov. 5: Election Day ★



Saturday, Oct. 12th
5:00- 8:00 PM

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

**9000 Jackson Rd.
Sacramento, CA
95826**

**Tickets \$45 pre-sale
\$50 at the door**

Includes 6 tasting pours and hors d'oeuvres

OCTOBER 12th WINE STROLL 2024

Wine Tasting Fundraiser Event

The Wine Stroll is back! Come join us for an evening of wine tasting featuring local wineries all in one location under our beautiful outdoor pavilion. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres as you sample wines from several local regions.

Tickets are \$45.00 pre-sale and \$50.00 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Elevation of the Holy Cross Building Fund to help build our future house of worship.

Email holycross.oca@gmail.com or contact Claudia at 916-704-0264 to purchase tickets.

A VARIETY OF RAFFLE PRIZES WILL BE AVAILABLE!



OCTOBER 11
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Senior Health Fair

Resources for The Golden Years

INFORMATION & ENTERTAINMENT
FOR SENIORS, THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

Saturday, September 21, 2024
10 am to 3 pm

FREE Parking

FREE Admission

Wyndham Sacramento Hotel
Northeast 5321 Date Avenue
Off of Highway 80 at Madison,
Sacramento, CA 95841

- FREE EXHIBITS!
- FREE ENTERTAINMENT!
- HEALTH SCREENINGS!
- SAMPLES & PRIZES!

Rock-n-Roll Concert and Classic Car Displays!



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- Anti-aging Programs
- Mental Health
- Veterans Information
- Chiropractors and Massage
- Natural Healing
- Health & Other Insurance
- Investment and Retirement
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Great Entertainment & Live Music

Hear old time rock n' roll, cruising songs, surfer songs. It's the music you grew up with!

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www.SeniorHealthFair.org To Exhibit: 916.910.9499 or info@recoveryforall.net



SEASON 29
FALL 2024

Donald Kendrick Music Director

STAINED GLASS CONCERT

The French School

Sat, October 19 7:30 pm

AREA PREMIERE

Te Deum Jean-Baptiste Lully
Requiem Gabriel Fauré
Romance Camille Saint-Saëns

SOLOISTS

Sarah Sy, Soprano Julie Miller, Mezzo
Salvatore Atti, Tenor Joshua Simka, Tenor
Chris Mackey, Bass

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Ryan Enright, Organ
Beverley Wesner Hoehn, Harp
SCSO Chamber Ensemble



Fremont Presbyterian Church
5770 Carlson Dr. Sacramento

FREE PARKING – Scottish Rite Temple

Buy tickets online SACRAMENTOCHORAL.ORG