



Elk Grove Citizen

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NOVEMBER 8, 2024

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INSIDE**

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NATURALIST
COURSE**



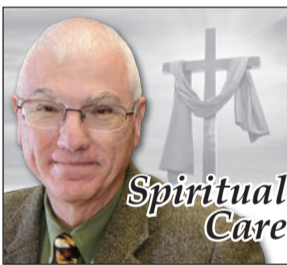
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**THE RETURN OF
THE SWAGGER**



PAGE 3

**SAY MORE THAN
'THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SERVICE'**



*Spiritual
Care*

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Food Bank Gives Back All Year



Two shifts each day at the Elk Grove Food Bank sort and organize food for distribution to thousands of clients.

**Story and Pictures by Ramona
and Chris Scarborough**

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - We all need life essentials: food, clothing and shelter. The Elk Grove Food Bank helps to care for two of those basic needs, food and clothing. They serve low-income families, homeless and disabled people, migrant workers, seniors and children.

"Each month, an average of 8,000 people receive help from the food bank," said Valerie Erwin, community outreach manager for the Elk Grove Food Bank. "In October, the center assisted 8,985 people."

Where does the money come from for funding a large project like this? The nonprofit organization annually applies for a grant from the City of Elk Grove. Generous private donors in the community help fund the operation. Sponsorship from individuals, businesses, corporate and private foundations, civic and religious groups help as well.

Grocery stores Safeway, Trader Joe's, Nugget, Sprouts, Walmart, Sam's Club and Save Mart donate fresh produce, foodstuffs, paper towels and toilet paper.

"We look at the 'sell by' date. We make sure all of the food we dispense

is the same quality we would put on our own table," Erwin said.

Of the increased need for help during COVID-19, Erwin said, "It was like the floodgates opened. People lost their jobs and were struggling to survive. We thought once the epidemic was over we would slow down, but now many people were behind and became the working poor. Receiving free food and clothing helps to relieve some of their financial burden."

At the Elk Grove Food Bank Warehouse, volunteers inspect and sort out the incoming products. A

Continued on Page 3

Certifying Election Can Take 28 Days

**County Issues
Twice-Weekly
Ballot Reports**



MPG Staff

CALIFORNIA (MPG) - Due to the requirements outlined in Assembly Bill 3184, the Nov. 5 General Election results cannot be certified in California until Dec. 3, at the earliest. AB 3184 establishes specific time-lines and procedures for certifying election results in California.

Certification for the Nov. 5 general election is expected to be completed Dec. 3.

While the first release of results happened just after 8 p.m. Nov. 5 (Election Day), those results are in no way final.

The county Elections Office has been tabulating ballots since two weeks ago and the first release of results will only be inclusive of Vote by Mail and Vote Center ballots that are returned and processed through Nov. 4.

The second report includes results from the Vote Centers on Election Day and is issued shortly after 10 p.m. Nov. 5, after press time, with subsequent updates approximately every two hours, if needed, until all Vote Centers have reported.

California allows for 28 days after elections to certify the election, in addition to seven days after Election Day to receive a mail ballot postmarked by Nov. 5.

The second report on Nov. 5 will include results from the Vote Centers on Election Day and will be issued by 10 p.m., with subsequent updates approximately every two hours, if needed, until all Vote Centers have reported (Elections Code 15151(b)).

The first interim report will be posted by 4:15 p.m. on Nov. 8 and will contain results from Vote by Mail ballots and provisional ballots received timely.

Subsequent reports will be updated every Tuesday and Friday until certification is complete, which is expected to be Dec. 3.

The Election Results Schedule is provided pursuant to Elections Code 15306(a)((3)).

For more information, visit online elections. saccounty.gov or call 916-875-6451. ★

SacRT Receives More Than \$105 Million in Grants



The S700 low-floor light rail trains are designed to enhance accessibility, comfort and efficiency for all. Photo courtesy of SacRT

**Compiled by Daniel
Canfield from
Sacramento Regional
Transit News Releases**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY,
CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Regional Transit (SacRT) recently announced several grant awards, totaling more than \$105 million, that will benefit Sacramento commuters, public transit riders and the environment.

First, on Oct. 23, SacRT announced that the California State

Transportation Agency has awarded SacRT \$29 million in grant funding through the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program. The grant funding will be used for several high priority light rail projects. Funding for the program comes from the federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund which was created and funded through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

According to SacRT, the projects, once complete,

will offer significant benefits, including a reduction of 78,032 metric tons of CO2 equivalent in greenhouse gases, a decrease of 250 million vehicle miles traveled, \$160,722,974 in passenger travel cost savings and the support of 984 full-time equivalent jobs.

"This funding will allow us to continue advancing our vision of a more connected, accessible, and sustainable transit system for all Sacramento residents," said Henry Li,

SacRT General Manager/CEO. "We are excited to work with our partners to bring these projects to life, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact on our community."

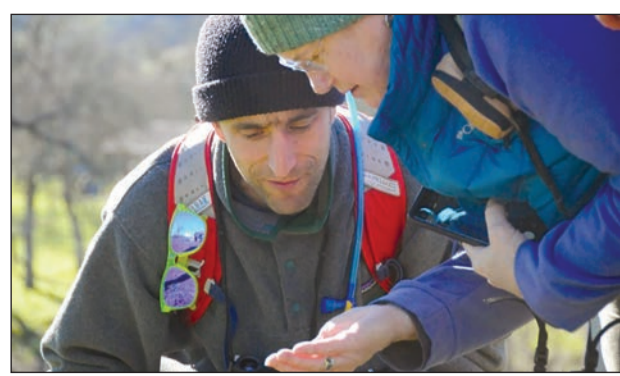
Light rail projects supported through this grant funding include:

New Low-Floor Light Rail Vehicles

SacRT will replace aging high-floor light rail vehicles with new

Continued on Page 2

Tuleyome Offers Naturalist Course



Students get up close to nature during Tuleyome's Certified California Naturalist Course. Photo by Nate Lillge

Tuleyome News Release

WOODLAND, CA (MPG) - Tuleyome, the expert organization on the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument, is offering a Certified California Naturalist course in early 2025. Instruction focuses on the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument region while providing participants with skills and

resources that are applicable anywhere to increase their knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of the natural world.

The Certified California Naturalist course is presented by Tuleyome in partnership with the University of California extension program.

This 10-week course is offered from January to March 2025, with classes occurring on 10 consecutive Fridays plus at least

three field trips. Friday classes will be held at the UC Davis campus.

No advanced degrees or previous naturalist experience is required.

The UC California Naturalist Program introduces Californians to the wonders of our unique ecology and engages the public in study and stewardship of California's natural communities. The program uses a science curriculum, hands-on

learning, problem-solving, citizen science and community service to instill a deep appreciation for the natural communities of the state and to inspire individuals to become stewards of their local resources.

In addition to in-person instruction, students are required to attend field trips in the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument region.

Field trips consist of low-impact walking trips

and auto-tours, so they are suitable for all fitness levels. Impromptu walks are also often provided by the instructors as time permits to give participants even

more experience in the field.

Questions about the course should be directed to Nate Lillge at nlillge@tuleyome.org. ★

SacRT Receives More Than \$105 Million in Grants

Continued from page 1

state-of-the-art S700 low-floor light rail vehicles from Siemens Mobility. SacRT previously ordered 45 of these new light rail cars, with the first 20 already in service on the Gold Line. This new grant funding will assist with the purchase of 10 additional new low-floor light rail vehicles, bringing the total to 55.

Light Rail Station Conversions on the Blue Line

SacRT is converting 17 of the 19 light rail stations along the Blue Line to accommodate the height requirement of the new low-floor light rail vehicles, making the system more accessible by eliminating the need to climb stairs to board the vehicles. With this new grant funding, SacRT will be able to complete station conversions at all light rail stations. Learn more about this project at sacrt.com/modernization.

New Dos Rios Light Rail Station

A partnership between SacRT, the City of Sacramento and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), the new Dos Rios Station on the Blue Line will serve as a key part of the Twin Rivers-River District transformation. This project aims to provide connectivity to the historically isolated area, integrating transit access with Mirasol Village, a new development offering 427 low-income units and market-rate housing. The vision for the River District includes increased access to jobs, services and cultural amenities, creating a vibrant gateway

to downtown Sacramento. Learn more about the project at sacrt.com/dosrios.

Horn Road Light Rail Station and Complete Streets Improvements

SacRT is working with the City of Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County on "complete streets" projects along Folsom Boulevard, creating safer and more accessible routes for bicyclists and pedestrians near the future Horn Road Station. Rancho Cordova's streetscape work and the design of a new Class IV Bike Trail will further connect the station to regional bike paths like the American River Bike Trail.

Transition to Digital Fare Technology

SacRT is transitioning to a digital fare system through the Cal-ITP Platform Validator and Smart Fare Vending Machine, in partnership with the CCJPA. This will streamline fare payments and transfers between SacRT services and Capitol Corridor trains, providing a more seamless experience for riders. SacRT plans to extend this template to other regional rail services, such as ACE and San Joaquins trains, making travel throughout Northern California easier and more efficient.

Then on Oct. 30, SacRT announced the Federal Transit Administration's award of approximately \$76 million in Capital Investment funds. The federally funded Capital Investment grant program funds



Elected officials and dignitaries attended the ceremonial ribbon cutting for the new grant-funded SacRT bus maintenance facility. From left are SacRT Board Vice-Chair Rick Jennings, FTA Region 9 Administrator Ray Tellis, SacRT Board Chair Patrick Kennedy, CARB Board Member Eric Guerra, U.S. Representative Kevin Kiley, U.S. Representative Ami Bera, U.S. Representative Doris Matsui, state Assemblyman Josh Hoover, SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li, California State Treasurer Fiona Ma and SacRT Board Director Lisa Kaplan. Photo courtesy of SacRT

transit capital investments, including heavy rail, commuter rail, light rail, streetcars and bus rapid transit.

The grant award will enable SacRT to purchase new hydrogen fuel cell buses, replace aging fleet vehicles, construct a permanent hydrogen fueling station, modernize a key bus maintenance facility and establish a workforce development program to train local workers in maintaining and operating the advanced zero-emission buses.

As part of the grant award announcement, SacRT hosted a ceremonial ribbon-cutting event at the site of the new bus facility to be funded through the grant. Several local elected officials and dignitaries attended the event and shared their thoughts.

"This investment solidifies SacRT's

commitment to a greener, more sustainable future," said SacRT General Manager/CEO Henry Li. "The new hydrogen fuel cell buses and modernized facilities will significantly reduce our carbon footprint while enhancing service for our riders. We are grateful for the federal partnership and the strong support from our congressional representatives."

SacRT acknowledged the bus service improvement projects are made possible through strong partnerships with the California Air Resources Board, Sacramento Area Council of Governments, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, Center for Transportation and the Environment, New Flyer of America, American River College, Clean Cities Coalition and the County and City of Sacramento. ★

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EGCitizen.com**

Elk Grove Food Bank Gives Back All Year

Continued from page 1

limit is set on commodities according to how much is available. Then, as people come in, they can pick out the items they need and can use.

At the facility, there is also a free clothes closet. Again, volunteers sort by size and type of clothing. The Food Bank partners with the schools and provides, for example, a coat when the weather gets colder. The clothes closet also provides interview clothes for adults.

Two shifts work each day, rotating the hundreds of volunteers in the warehouse. This doesn't include the volunteers at The Clothes Closet, offsite programs and special events.

An outreach to low-income seniors housing brings food each month to various facilities in Elk Grove.

On Oct. 24, the loaded van pulled up at Arborview Senior apartments and residents were greeted by Vanessa Brown, Elk Grove Food Bank program coordinator.

Brown reminded residents, "Your Thanksgiving turkey and the trimmings will be delivered on Saturday, Nov. 23rd. Also, there's a cooking class at 11:30, so you know how to use some of these things."

Included in shopping carts that day were edibles such as eggs, cheese, chicken, apple juice, carrots, zucchini, spinach, walnuts, whole wheat bread and more, plus paper towels and toilet paper.

Volunteers such as Joe and Kelly Allen take on two- to three-and-a-half-hour shifts to transport, set up supplies and help dispense items at low-income senior properties. Those



Program coordinator Vanessa Brown, second from left, and volunteers coordinate food distribution at Arbor Creek Senior Apartments.



The Elk Grove Food Bank's clothes closet partners with area schools to provide clothing to children.

who can't make it down to the meeting room have their supplies delivered to their apartments.

"My job at Blue Shield allows me to take off time during the day to help with this service," Kelly said.

If you would like to volunteer, register at <https://www.signupgenius.com> and attend an orientation session to qualify. All you need is a willing spirit, be ambulatory and in good health.

The food bank especially needs volunteers this time of the year to help distribute turkeys and trimmings to households in need.

Another way to help is by donating food. The food

bank has a goal of giving out 1,000 turkeys this year. Other needed items are listed on its website.

Donations are accepted 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays.

Cash, check or credit card donations can be taken to the office on Kent Street from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. Or you can mail a check to P.O. Box 1447 Elk Grove, CA, 95759.

The Elk Grove Food Bank, 9888 Kent St. in Elk Grove, is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



What a difference a week makes. Entering last week, the Sacramento Kings had lost all of their preseason games, and the first two games of the regular season.

Enter the Portland Trailblazers on Oct. 28 and the home crowd was treated to what everyone had envisioned the new and improved Sacramento Kings would look like.

DeMar DeRozan carved up the defensive of the Trailblazers along with point guard DeAaron Fox for 23 and 24 points respectively, but the real key was the way DeRozan got to his spots and made his mid-range game look easy.

Combined with the lightning quickness of Fox, this tandem poses a threat to opposing defenses every night, and other teams had better bring their "A" game when they come to Sac Town.

Finally breaking into the win column and lighting the beam for the first time in the 2024/2025 campaign, lifted a heavy weight off the shoulders of the Kings players and fans alike, but the week was not over. Convincing victories on the road over Utah and the Atlanta Hawks gave the Kings a three-game winning streak and lifted the team over 500.

DeRozan looked like a natural fit as the Kings made victories over the Jazz and Hawks look pedestrian, and had the Kings been able to shoot a little better from the charity stripe, it's entirely possible the overtime loss to the Toronto Raptors could have been the Kings 4th win in a row.

Sacramento will wrap up their road trip Monday night against the formidable Miami Heat (after press time), but it's obvious that some of the swagger has returned to the team.

I'm impressed with DeMar DeRozan in nearly every facet of his game, and like Malik Monk, DeRozan will be an asset and a role model as it relates to free throw shooting. An 84% career free throw shooter, DeMar has proven his reliability at the charity strip, and with the Kings coming off the 2023/2024 campaign in the cellar of the NBA in free throw shooting, adding a 6-time all-star that can shoot free throws at a consistently high level, is just

what the doctor ordered for the Kings.

Big man and double-double king Domantas Sabonis, like Fox, has struggled in the past from the free throw line, but has looked better so far this season, and has raised his average. It's still early, but if both Fox and Sabonis can get to 80% or better at the line consistently, look for Sacramento to be lighting the beam with increased regularity.

At 3-3 the Kings may not have a gawdy win-loss record, but the last four games have given all the fans a positive look at what the season can look like.

Although DeRozan has already shown he can connect from long range when called upon, he consistently passes up 3-point opportunities for mid-range looks, and he is deadly from the 10 to 15-foot range. DeMar looks so comfortable in mid-range, his stroke is almost effortless, and with that kind of confidence, he poses a serious late game option to go along with Fox and Sabonis.

Shout out to Kevin Huerter who after a subpar start in game one, has returned to what fans have expected to see, and once again, Huerter has shown his acumen both beyond the 3-point line, and driving to the hoop.

Huerter's defense has taken a step forward as well, so we'll give some attaboys to coach Brown for putting Huerter back in the starting lineup and sticking with him. If we can keep Kevin off the injury list, the 2024/2025 season could be a breakout year for a popular player with a big upside.

More than anything, the recent wins, particularly on the road, are spurring a higher volume of optimism, and look for an already loud arena to get even louder.

For any naysayers that felt it would take a long time for newcomer DeMar DeRozan to fit in, he is well ahead of schedule, and the way he and Fox are sharing the ball is a pleasure to watch.

Stay tuned Kings fans. This is what you've been waiting for, and the best is yet to come!

All the best!
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

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MEMORIAL

STEPHEN COLLUP • 8/13/1950 — 10/29/2024



Stephen Douglas Collup, 74, of Elk Grove, passed away Oct. 29, 2024. Born on Aug. 13, 1950, in Morehead City, NC, Stephen was a man whose life was defined by service, skill, and the joy of connection with others.

Education: Coeur d'Alene High School and Electronic School in Phoenix, AZ; Work: Sound and Light Technician for Randy Sparks and the Back Porch Majority; owned and operated Steve's Automotive Repair in Linden, CA; airplane and helicopter mechanic for Executive Air Repair in Sacramento.

Stephen was deeply involved in his community and church activities such as church choir and band, served as a volunteer firefighter with the Linden-Peters Fire Department achieving the rank of Volunteer Captain.

His commitment to helping others was evident in his volunteer work with the United Methodist Committee

on Relief: helping to build orphanages and repair homes damaged by natural disasters.

Stephen's hobbies included flying single-engine airplanes and helicopters, bike riding, travel, and playing cribbage. He was known for his love of telling jokes, magic card tricks, flambeing dinners, and playing the recorder.

Stephen is survived by his wife, Kathy La Point-Collup; sisters, Candy Jordan and Pam Long; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Pat Stephenson and Willard Collup.

A service to celebrate Stephen's life will be held at noon Saturday, Nov. 23 at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd, Elk Grove, CA 95236. Memorial contributions may be made to the Elk Grove United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund for Camp and Service Trips or St. Anne's Village Respite Care, P.O. Box 374, Byron, CA 94514.

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Chair Exercise 9:00	Men's Talk Group 9:30	Chair Exercise 9:00	Open Artist Studio 9:00	Chair Exercise 9:00
Women's Talk Group 10:00	Zumba Gold 10:00	Chair Exercise 10:00	Open Games 9:00	Mahjong 9:30
Chair Exercise 10:00	Guitar Workshop 11:00	Tai Chi 10:00	Zumba Gold 10:00	Chair Exercise 10:00
Standing Pilates 10:00	Zumba Chair No Class 11/19	Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group 1st Wed	Intermediate Spanish 10:30	Parkinson's Caregivers Support Group 3rd Fri
Open Games 10:00	Sign Language 12:30	Parkinson's Support Group 3rd Wed	Improv 11:30	Bingo 12:00
Oil Painting Bob Ross Style 1st & 3rd Mon. See page 8 NEW	Mahjong 1:00	Ukulele 10:30	Light Body Toning 11:30	Women's Talk Group 12:00
Español Conversacional 2nd & 4th Mon. NEW Consulte la página 8	Hula 1:00	Book Group 2nd Wed	Scrabble 12:00	Bridge 1:00
Aerobics No Class 11/25	Line Dance All Levels 2:00	Sambassa World Fitness 11:00	G.I.T. F.I.T. 1:00	
Core & Strength 11:30	Genealogy 2:00	Aerobics No Class 11/27	Bridge Lessons 11/17 thru 12/12 NEW	1:00
Western Line Dance 1:00	Mindfulness & Meditation 2:00	Chair Yoga No Class 11/20	Rock Painting 1st & 3rd Thursday	1:00
Bridge 1:00		Zumba Chair 12:30	Get Artsy w/Renee 2nd Thursday	1:00
Writers Group 1:00		Bunco 12:45	Men's Talk Group 1:00	
Intermediate Hatha Yoga 1:30		Cardmaking 1:00		
		Open Dance/ Ballroom & More 2:00		

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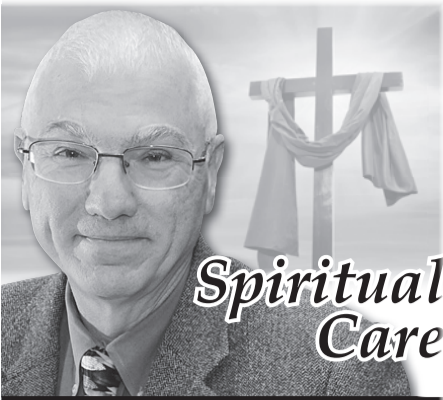
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Say More Than 'Thank You for Your Service'



BY NORRIS BURKES

Spiritual Care

This Veterans Day, I want you to do more than just thank a veteran for his or her service.

As a veteran of 28 years, I want to challenge you to go beyond patriotic rhetoric by asking some specific questions of the veterans you encounter.

First, ask us what we did in military service. Don't worry; our stories aren't just about bombs and bullets and boats.

For instance, most of us would love to tell you about how we deployed on more than a few humanitarian missions.

If you ask, we'll tell about operations like "New Horizon," where we built schools, clinics and playgrounds all over South America.

Some of us can tell you about cleaning up New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, while others will tell you about flying into countries devastated by earthquakes or

tsunamis.

Ask us what we did, and we might recollect building runways in the desert, pitching tents in the jungle, hot-loading a plane, setting up communications links in the Australian outback and launching a satellite that gave you the cable TV you enjoy.

Get us talking and we'll tell you about fixing planes, loading planes, flying planes, jumping from planes, fueling planes in flight.

As a chaplain, I can tell you about the blessings I prayed over planes as well as the blessing I had of walking away from a plane crash.

This generation of service members might lose you in their technical talk, but I assure you they are proud to talk about the satellites they control, the drones they fly and the cyber warfare they engage.

After you ask them about what they did, ask them where they've been.

They'll likely share their version of Johnny Cash's song, "I've Been Everywhere."

They've filled passports doing

temporary duty in places like Antigua, Ukraine and Djibouti on the Horn of Africa.

They've flown planes over the North Pole, landed them on the South Pole and navigated submarines under both.

And yes, they've even spent some time in "dark sites" that don't exist.

They shivered with their families on assignment in Minot, N.D., and spent a few sweltering years in Fort Huachuca, AZ.

My family loved the two years they spent in Izmir, Turkey, while other military families enjoyed the island seclusion of Guam or the Azores.

A few lucky ducks will regale you with stories of embassy duty in Paris, London or Madrid.

But if you want to go deep, ask them what it means to have served.

If you listen well and they think you're interested, they just might tell you.

But it's just as likely they won't be able to tell you. It's just as likely that there will be a hitch in their voice, a mist will form in their eyes and they'll turn away from

that question.

Don't get me wrong. They're proud of the things they've done and they want to share them with you.

But I caution you: There are some things they won't share.

Taking an oath to obey the legal orders of those appointed over them meant that they also did the unimaginable and for some the unspeakable.

I know because they told their chaplain.

They told me about the lives they couldn't save and the lives they had to take. They've shown me their physical wounds and they've bared their moral wounds.

Thankfully, the stories of most service-members run the course of everyday life; albeit a life of transfers every two or three years, endless inspections and exercises, family separations and making ends meet on military pay.

It was a life of long ago, but it was life from only yesterday.

Ask us and we'll tell you.

Email comments to comment@thechaplain.net. ★

RELIGION NEWS

Chabad of Elk Grove's Weekly Torah Classes

Local community members are invited to attend free 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 leads the discussion. For location, call (917) 724-4443.

Grace Church Hosts Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered ministry

offering help in finding freedom from the issues (hurts, hang-ups, and habits) controlling your life.

Meetings are held weekly on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. at Grace Church, located at 9766 Waterman Road, next to Mel Dogs Restaurant.

Sunday Morning Worship begins at 10 a.m.

For more information call (916) 714 3444) or email: office@gracechurch.org. Visit GraceChurchEG.org.

Field of Hope United Church of Christ's Services

Community members are invited to the Field of Hope United Church of Christ's Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. at 9624 Melrose

Ave., Elk Grove.

Sunday School and nursery services are available.

For more information, visit www.FieldOfHopeUCC.org.

Music and Sermon Topics at Elk Grove Presbyterian

MUSIC EVENTS: OUR JAZZ & BLUES HOUR continues on the first Sunday of the month at 4 pm. Papa Day Blues Band performed to an energetic audience on Oct. 6.

There will be no Jazz and Blues Hour in November as Scotty Inman will perform for the community. He will be in Elk Grove on Nov. 15 for an evening concert of worship

and fellowship.

Joining Scotty will be the Herb Henry Family, California's First Family of Gospel Music, and Faith Valley.

Tickets are \$25 with assigned seating. A portion of the ticket proceeds will benefit several charities – One Thousand Schools (formerly Students Helping Honduras), Chicks in Crisis, Elk Grove Food Bank Services and Sacramento Stand Down. For tickets go online to www.itickets.com/events/479656.

The concert will be held at The Center at District 56, 8230 Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95757.

Come early before the

concert starts and listen to the musical talents of Chan Louie and enjoy some refreshments. Doors open at 6:00 pm and the concert starts at 7:00 pm.

UPCOMING SERMON TOPICS: Rev. Dexter McNamara has announced upcoming sermon topics:

Nov. 10 – "Recognition or Righteousness?"; Nov. 17 – "Suffering: Curse and/or Blessings?"; Nov. 24, (Christ the King Sunday). Topic – "A Tough Question."

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 elkgrovepres@gmail.com.

St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church's Mass Schedule

Elk Grove's St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church invites everyone to celebrations of Holy Mass at 8700 Bradshaw Road..

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.

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

Places of Worship

Full Gospel Church
9286 E. Stockton Blvd.,
Elk Grove, CA 95624
Pastor Daniels
916-531-8429
Tuesday Prayer Healing 6pm
Sunday School 10am
Sunday Worship 11am

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
8701 Elk Grove-Florin Rd.
Pastor Joe Dapelo
916-689-7300
Service Hours:
One in Worship service 8:30 am
Sunday School 11 am
Website: <https://stpeterseg.org>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.PetersLutheranChurchElkGrove/>

Light of the Valley
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Find Peace and Joy this Holiday Season:
Advent Worship Services Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22
8:45 am & 10:30 am
Children's Christmas Program Dec. 22, 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Service Dec. 24, 6 pm & 8 pm
Christmas Day Service Dec. 25, 10 am

We look forward to seeing you:
Traditional service at 8:45 a.m.
Contemporary service at 10:30 a.m.
Children's Ministry during Contemporary Service
Nursery available at 10:30 a.m. service
9270 Bruceville Road in Elk Grove
Stream our service at lightofthevalley.net
916-691-3568

Family Praise and Worship Ministries
4099 Emerson Road, Acampo, CA 95220
Pastors Claude & Jan Moore
209-224-8145
Sunday School 9:30 a.m., | Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.
Worship Service 4th Friday 7:00 p.m.

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Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

Elk Grove Citizen

Serving Elk Grove and Sacramento County since 1909




It is the intent of the *Elk Grove Citizen* to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

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

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENTS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-07485
NoLimitz Recreation, P.O. Box 935, Elk Grove, CA 95759 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "NoLimitz Recreation/No Limitz Recreation" 8929 Emerald Park Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-07511
Keith Lewis, P.O. Box 935, Elk Grove, CA 95759 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Coack K Fitness Training/Coach Keith Fitness Training" 8929 Emerald Park Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-07393
Taqueria La Valentina, Inc., 9304 Elk Grove Boulevard, Suite 150, Elk Grove, CA 95624 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Taqueria La Valentina" 9304 Elk Grove Boulevard, Suite 150, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-07655
James J Nguyen, 9820 Wyland Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95624 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Lee's Landscape" 9820 Wyland Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-07561
Skye Homes, Inc., 7800 Nassa Circle, Elk Grove, CA 95757 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Lenndo" 7800 Nassa Circle, Elk Grove, CA 95757.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08070
Olga Johnson, 9610 Two Harbors Court, Elk Grove, CA 95624 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Zova" 9610 Two Harbors Court, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08112
Jeremy R. Clabough, 10069 Oglethorpe Way, Elk Grove, CA 95624 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Happy Dog Plumbers" 10069 Oglethorpe Way, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-07639
Budget King, LLC, 1750 Iris Avenue, Suite 106, Sacramento, CA 95815 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "EAZE" 1750 Iris Avenue, Suite 106, Sacramento, CA 95815.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08175
Capital Solar Cleaning LLC, 8246 Caribou Peak Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Capital Solar Cleaning" 8246 Caribou Peak Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08210
Maureen Tanai and Thomas Tanai, 7312 Danberg Way, Elk Grove, CA 95757 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Kindergarten Prep and Beyond" 7312 Danberg Way, Elk Grove, CA 95757.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-08192
DPSK Corp, 6431 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95831 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Elke Boulevard" 8901 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2024-07905
Chaos to Calm LLC, 7106 Sutherland Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Chaos to Calm" 7106 Sutherland Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758.

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV020360

Douglas Lee Chatfield has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Douglas Lee Chatfield to Douglass Lee Chatfield.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on February 19, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV020471

Joesphina Rodriguez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Josephina Rodriguez AKA Josie Rodriguez to Josie Perea.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on February 25, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 53, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV015954

Ovidia Patricia Gonzalez Navarro has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Lorraine Robles to Lorraine Alessandra Robles Gonzalez.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on November 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE CHANGE OF NAME #24CV021897

Hardeep Kaur Kandola has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Hardeep Kaur Kandola to Hardeep Kaur Bajwa.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on February 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.

TRUSTEE SALE

File No. 48068718 Notice of Trustee's Sale
You Are In Default Under A Deed Of Trust Dated November 4, 2015. Unless You Take Action To Protect Your Property, It May Be Sold At A Public Sale.

in the office of the Recorder of Sacramento County, California. Street Address or other common designation of real property: 9046 Richborough Way Elk Grove, CA 95624 A.P.N.: 134-0700-047-0000 Date of Sale: November 21, 2024 at 01:30 PM Place of Sale: East Main Entrance To County Courthouse; 720 9th Street, Sacramento

national bank, check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the hereinafter described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 9729 HAWKINS COURT ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA 95624 Described as follows: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust A.P.N.#.: 134-0470-022-0000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

Street Address or other common designation of real property: 9729 HAWKINS COURT ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA 95624 Described as follows: As more fully described in said Deed of Trust A.P.N.#.: 134-0470-022-0000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above.

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trustee's sale or visit this internet website http://www.qualityloan.com, using the file number assigned to this foreclosure by the Trustee: CA-20-886823-AB. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website.

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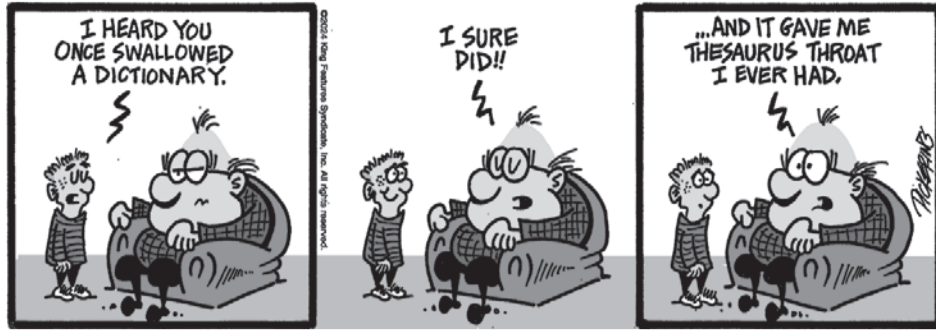
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COMICS & PUZZLES

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF Find at least six differences in details between panels.



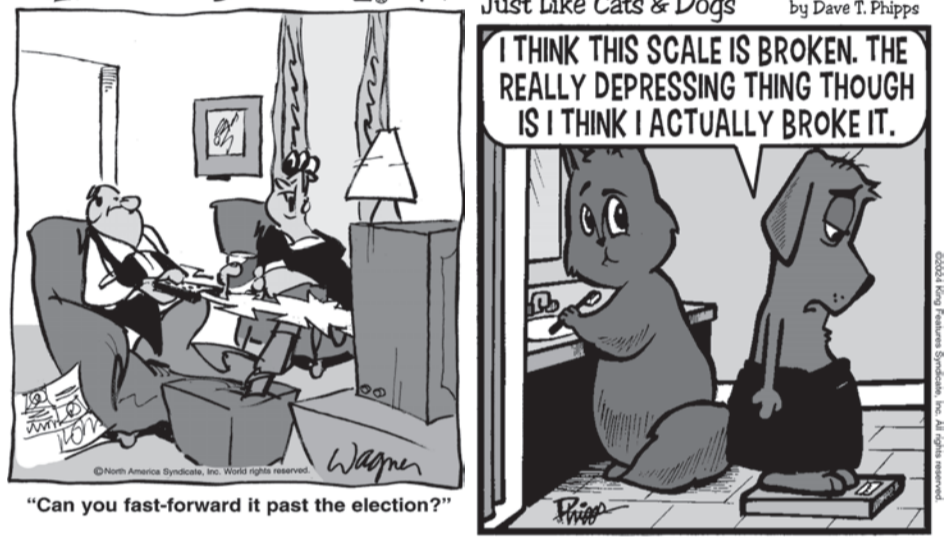
Differences: 1. Exam table is not as long. 2. Pocket is reversed. 3. Teardrop is higher. 4. Lollipop is larger. 5. Curtain is not as high. 6. Purse is added.

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GRIN & BEAR IT by Dave T. Phipps



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 - Long stories
 - Final, abbr.
 - Opposite of neo-
 - Synagogue scroll
 - Poseidon's domain
 - One-eighty
 - *Mary Poppins and Maria von Trapp
 - *Vivian Ward and Erin Brockovich
 - Kum Ba follower
 - Cry out loud
 - Stolen, slangily
 - Greek salad cheese
 - Popular clubs of the 1970s
 - Chimpanzees, e.g.
 - Porcine fat
 - Great divide
 - Cat o'how many tails?
 - Podium, pl.
 - Dead against
 - Work the dough
 - Urban haze
 - Manner of walk
 - Parlor piece
 - Riyadh native, e.g.
 - Sixth note
 - Common fairway club
 - Brewed beverage
 - **"Red" Redding and Nelson Mandela
 - *Ricky Bobby and Buddy
 - Beat the Joneses
 - Outrage
 - Adjust, as laces
 - Tears violently
 - Anointment liquid
 - Talks and talks and talks
 - a.k.a. Operation Neptune
 - "Just kidding!"
 - Billy Joel's _____ Always a Woman"
- DOWN**
- Between Phi and Kappa
 - Second word in a fairytale
 - Encircle
 - Like Freddy Krueger, e.g.
 - Boot-wearing feline
 - Draft pick
 - Impolite look
 - Miles per hour, e.g.
 - Insult
 - Between bleu and jaune
 - Connection between brain and spinal cord
 - Bundle of wheat
 - Like certain libraries
 - Pup
 - Hemingway's "The _____ Man and the Sea"
 - Railyard worker
 - *Forrest Gump and Jimmy Dugan
 - Offer two cents
 - Doctrine
 - New Mexico town
 - Deep pile carpet
 - Atlantic Ocean/Pacific Ocean waterway, e.g.
 - Ostium, pl.
 - *Violet Crowley and Minerva McGonagall
 - Center of authority
 - "The New Look" main character

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Laguna Creek Clinches No. 11 Seed

Story and photo
by Alejandro Barron

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - With their win over the Pleasant Grove Eagles in a wet and slippery game at Sheldon-Pleasant Grove Stadium, on Friday, Nov. 1, the Laguna Creek Cardinals came out victorious by a score of 34-19.

Both teams came into this ballgame with a 3-3 Delta League record and looking for a win to place higher in the seeding for the playoffs.

"We've talked about it all year, about how we believe we are a very good football team, and our kids believe it, our coaching staff believes it and I'm proud of everybody in this group right now because we showed up and showed out," head coach of the Cardinals Ryan Nill said.

The Cardinals did not start on the right foot as the Eagles scored quickly on their first drive to go up 8-0 after a touchdown catch for senior Jacob Beals, who also rushed into the endzone for the two-point conversion.

"I've coached this team for a couple of years now and just when you think things are going to go one way, they're going to go another," head coach of the Eagles Josh Crabtree said. "It was a great start, but I know that team too, that team's got character, they got tough kids and they had a lot on the line tonight."

As for the Cardinals, Nill said that the motto for his team is to persevere despite going down early.

"We've had a lot of ups and downs this year with our starting quarterback goes down, starting running back going down, we fall behind against this team but they don't quit," Nill said.



Armon Thorntona rushes into the end zone for a touchdown in Laguna Creek's game against Pleasant Grove at Sheldon-Pleasant Grove Stadium on Nov. 1. Thorntona rushed for a total of 286 yards and four touchdowns.

The Cardinals responded by moving downfield resulting in senior quarterback Mitchell Labrado connecting with junior Ryan Eddy for a touchdown catch to put the game within reach at 8-7 after the extra point.

Labrado went on to complete six of his seven attempted passes for 86 yards and a touchdown. Of those six passes, four went to Eddy which combined for 58 yards and that touchdown.

At this point, the conditions were dry and did not affect the running game which allowed one of the Cardinals biggest offensive threats to run loose.

Senior Armon Thorntona rushed for 286 yards

on 36 carries for four touchdowns.

He missed a few games at the beginning of the season due to injury yet finished the regular season second in rushing yards in the Delta League with 1,065, led the league in touchdowns with 21 and fifth in total yards with 1,178.

"I think he's (Thorntona) learned from the people before him," Nill said. "He's watched these guys over the years, and he learned from those guys and then it's his job to pay it forward and be a leader for our guys now."

Thorntona gets a lot of credit for his success, but Nill made sure to credit his offensive line as the reason

they won the game.

The only offense that the Eagles were able to generate was a field goal in the dying seconds of the first half to put the game at 27-11.

The third quarter was a mess for both teams, as the pouring rain caused the ball to slip and fall out everywhere. The Cardinals and Eagles were not able to sustain offensive drives.

"It's really hard to replicate playing in these conditions," Crabtree said. "It's a factor but here's my thing, it wasn't raining on our side and not on theirs. They adjusted to it better."

The fourth quarter brought some adjustments and momentum for the Eagles as a rushing

touchdown from senior Bobby Mitchell put the game at 27-19 which brought the crowd alive with many believing that this could create a comeback.

"We went into halftime today and we were down 16 points, and I told them I want to see fight," Crabtree said. "They competed in the second half and I'm proud of them and I'm the character that this team has demonstrated for ten weeks."

With two minutes left in the game, this comeback was put to bed after another Thorntona

touchdown put the game out of reach as well as an interception by senior Elias Cooley, his second of the

game, ended it with 47 seconds left.

The Cardinals clutched up and won four of their last five games to clinch their spot in the playoffs and for Nill it doesn't matter who they play in the postseason.

"We just want to play, we want an opportunity to compete in the postseason and we secured that opportunity tonight," Nill said.

The No. 11 seed means they will travel to take on the No. 6 seed Turlock Bulldogs on Nov. 8 (after press time), a team who finished their season 7-3 overall and 5-0 in their league.

Last season, the Cardinals played postseason football in the Division II bracket of the CIF San Joaquin Section where they were bounced in the first round by Del Oro.

This season they have a chance at redemption in the Division I bracket.

"I think this was a big game not just for this year but the future of our program," Nill said. "We want to continue a winning culture, and we want to continue to push."

As for the Eagles, this loss dropped them to a 6-4 overall record and a 3-3 league record which led to the No. 12 seed for them.

They will travel to take on the No. 5 seed Granite Bay Grizzlies in the Division I bracket on Nov. 8 (after press time), a team who finished with a 7-3 overall record and a 4-3 league record.

Last season the Eagles also had a first-round exit in the playoffs and will look to improve on this.

"I'm glad we get an eleventh week of football because I love them to death," Crabtree said. ★

Football Playoff Preview: Battle Continues for Playoff Teams

By Alejandro Barron

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - We have reached the end of the regular football season, and while some teams have limped into the playoffs, others have thrived.

Others have reached the conclusion of their season, yet local athletes compete under the bright lights on Friday nights, and some will be able to keep competing in hopes of bringing a section title home.

often, Ethan Rickert completed five passes of his six attempts for 132 yards which resulted in two touchdowns.

Those touchdown passes were completed to senior Brandon Burden and to sophomore Evan Rickert for each of their lone receptions of the game.

Mojica also had two receptions for 30 yards while on defense he had an interception and nine total tackles.

The leader in total tackles for the game was junior Samuel Danilyuk with 11, while junior Myles Damallie had nine.

Damallie also had a sack and so did Evan Rickert and Gavin Bloomstine which led to the Pride's defense to shut out the Wolverines.

This 10-0 perfect record led to the Pride clinching the No. 1 seed in the 2024 CIF Sac-Joaquin Section playoffs which means they will have a bye week and await the winner between Ripon Christian and Bear River.

The Pride will start their playoff run in the quarterfinals and will find out their opponent by the end of the night on Nov. 8 (after press time) and will play the winner on Nov. 15 at home.

After last season's loss in the section title game at the hands of the Hughson Huskies by a score of 40-39, they will look to reach the mountaintop again for their sixth section title in their history.



Franklin 33 - Cosumnes Oaks 7

The Wildcats were victorious over the Wolfpack by a score of 33-7 which puts Franklin at a 6-4 overall record and a 2-4 record in the Delta League.

This allowed the Wildcats to finish in fifth place in league while for the Wolfpack this puts to bed a 1-9 overall record and an 0-6 league record for a seventh-place finish with both squads missing out on playoffs.

Neither team has entered stats into MaxPreps for this game as they both enter the offseason with time to work toward a playoff berth next season.

The Wildcats have not played playoff football since the 2017 season while for the Wolfpack they miss the playoffs after a quarterfinal exit last season.



Monterey Trail 21 - Elk Grove 20

Two teams which were

neck and neck with each other all season got to finally lock up against each other on the Mustangs' home turf.

A game which had plenty of drama was decided in the fourth quarter which went the Mustangs way.

The scoring was opened by Elk Grove when senior quarterback David Hale hit sophomore Lance Lewis for his only reception of the night for a 78-yard touchdown to go up 7-0 in the first quarter, according to MaxPreps.

Hale would complete three of his 11 attempted passes for a total of 87 passing yards, as he was the leading rusher for the Thundering Herd with 72 yards on 16 carries.

In the second quarter, a yard-rushing touchdown from Austin Maze put the Mustangs down 14 points with three minutes before the half.

In the dying minute of the first half, the Mustangs were able to get on the board thanks to a four-yard rushing touchdown from senior D'Adrien Sanders to go to halftime at 14-7.

Sanders would go on to rush for 164 yards on 15 carries and solidify himself as the rushing leader of the Delta League with a total of 1,159 rushing yards during the regular season with 16 touchdowns.

The Mustangs were down to a veteran Delta League team with their winning streak in league on the line and they came out in the second half protecting this streak.

Despite this, turnovers would slow them down as Alphonso Moore Jr., Makhai Barret, Daniel Tejada and Brayden Ford each had a fumble recovery for the Herd along with two interceptions for Polo Cooper.

Among the top performers on defense for the Herd were senior Lucan Amituanai with 11 tackles and junior Dominic Vazquez with 10 tackles.

The Mustangs were able to limit the damage of these turnovers and in the fourth quarter, Sanders rushed for a 39-yard touchdown with nine minutes left in the game to tie the game at 14.

With the clock at three minutes, the Mustangs were able to take their first lead of the night thanks to a 32-yard rushing touchdown from Gabe Coronado to go up 21-14.

The Herd were not going to go down quietly, as they wanted to prevent taking the loss against the newcomer to the Delta League.

The Herd marched downfield with the clock winding down and Hale connected with junior V'Anthony Gonzalez for a nine-yard touchdown to put the score at 21-20 when they decided to go for a two-point conversion which was unsuccessful.

This left the Herd with 13.9 seconds in the game and their chances looking bleak.

Suddenly, they got the ball right back after recovering the on-side kick which set up a 50-yard

field goal attempt by senior Noah Jang which was no good.

The Mustangs continued their undefeated league streak which goes back to 2018, with their last league loss coming on Oct. 27, 2017.

What makes this streak more impressive is that it now spans across two leagues in the Metro and Delta.

In their last stint in the Delta, the Mustangs' fourth-place finish was the highest they placed and in their first year back they crowned themselves as champions.

This puts the Herd at a 4-2 league record for a second-place finish and the No. 8 seed in the Division II 2024 CIF Sac-Joaquin Section playoffs and they will take on the No. 9 seed Kimball Jaguars of Tracy.

The Jaguars finished with an overall 7-3 record and will travel to Elk Grove on Nov. 8 for their first-round matchup.

The winner of this game will take on the No. 1 seed Rocklin (after press time).

The Herd will try to improve on their first-round exit from last season. As for the Mustangs, they enter the Division I CIF Sac-Joaquin Section as the No. 7 seed and will take on the No. 10 seed Lincoln Trojans, who finished their season with an overall 4-6 record, on Nov. 8 (after press time).

The winner of this matchup will go on to face the No. 2 seed Oak Ridge on Nov. 15. ★

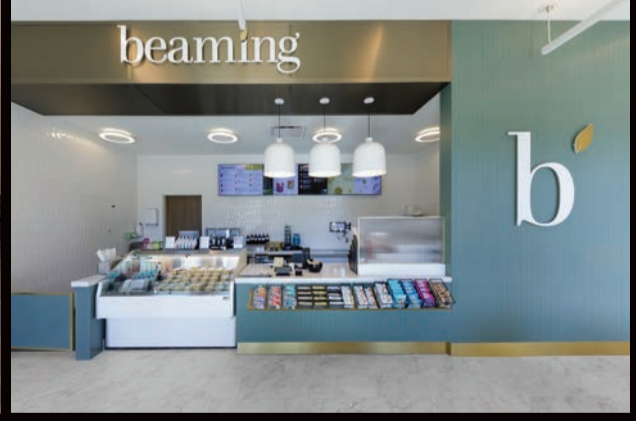
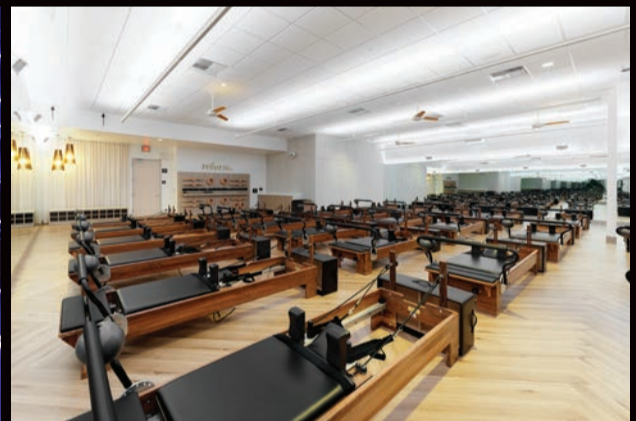
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The Capital SouthEast Connector: A Lifeline for Public Safety and Emergency Response

By Derek Minnema, Executive Director Capital Southeast Connector JPA



Imagine driving on a partially flooded roadway, where last year, drivers in southern Sacramento County experienced this life-threatening situation firsthand as floodwaters engulfed their cars. Or fleeing a fast-moving wildfire, as hundreds of others did, bottlenecked on narrow two-lane roads with little to no shoulders, while emergency responders struggled to reach them.

These scenarios are not hypothetical. They continue to occur in southern Sacramento County, where existing roads—designed decades ago for far fewer residents—now represent a clear danger. Last year,

Sacramento Metro Fire reported performing over 30 flood rescues along area roads due to poorly designed drainage systems.

When fully built,

the Capital SouthEast Connector will solve those problems in southern Sacramento County. This modern roadway will connect I-5 and Hwy 99 near Elk Grove to Hwy 50 in Folsom and the El Dorado Hills, providing a safer and more reliable transportation network.

As our region faces the dual dangers of summer wildfires and winter storm flooding, the importance of this project becomes even more evident. Roadways play a huge role in the safety and well-being of our community. The Connector is designed to ease traffic congestion while forming part of a resilient transportation network that

protects lives, enables swift emergency responses, and ensures safe evacuations during disasters.

Sheriff Jim Cooper emphasized the critical need for quicker response times in emergencies: “It’s a safety issue for our motoring public and also for your first responders. We’ve got to get there to service those people, and those minutes are critical. Time is of the essence.”

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Assistant Chief John Rudnicki echoed this concern, noting the importance of the Connector’s Grant Line Road improvements: “When we look at the number of fatalities and incidents that have affected this roadway, we can clearly see why it is so crucial to make this improvement an engineered solution to prevent future problems.”

Every second counts in an emergency. Whether it is a medical crisis, a fire, or a flood, first responders need reliable, safe,

and efficient routes to reach people in need. The Capital SouthEast Connector will be a crucial thoroughfare for emergency vehicles, reducing response times and ensuring that help arrives as quickly as possible.

“When we look at the number of fatalities and incidents that have affected this roadway, we can clearly see why it is so crucial to make this improvement an engineered solution to prevent future problems.”

Beyond day-to-day emergencies, the Connector will play a pivotal role in regional emergency preparedness. During disasters like wildfires, its wide lanes and better access will allow

for smoother evacuations and faster movement of emergency personnel and heavy equipment. Rudnicki recalled the devastating Camp Fire in Paradise, where poor road access severely hindered evacuation efforts. “On a roadway, we’re worried about the smoke, we’re worried about the shoulder. How do you turn your vehicle around if the road is narrowing from four lanes down to two and there’s nowhere to go?” he asked.

Winter brings its own set of challenges, with flooding posing a significant danger to residents and first responders in southern Sacramento County. As Cooper noted, drivers often misjudge the depth of floodwaters or fail to see warning signs, trapping themselves in dangerous situations. The Connector’s design will address these issues with improved drainage systems and clearer signage, ensuring that emergency vehicles can navigate the region safely, regardless

of weather conditions. This project has been a long time coming, but it is now gaining real momentum thanks to recent federal support. “It’s been going on for a long time... trickle here, trickle there, and never a lot of money.”

Cooper reflected, adding, “Finally, we get a lot of money.” This much-needed funding will allow us to address the most dangerous stretches of road and create a safer, more resilient network for all.

The Capital SouthEast Connector is not just a transportation project; it is a lifeline for our community. By building a roadway that can withstand the challenges of flooding and wildfires, we are ensuring that our residents remain safe and connected—no matter what challenges lie ahead.

Derek Minnema is a civil engineer, and the chief executive leading the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority. ★

What Everybody Ought to Know...

About Transportation and Traffic in Sacramento County

Why Are We Publishing This Information

The Capital SouthEast Connector is the largest and most significant road project in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties, but its value to the region is often unknown to residents. We hope to change that through a series of ads. The ads explore the Connector’s history and future, its financing, its challenges, and its successes.

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Q What is the Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway?

A The planned Connector is an expressway that will link Interstate 5 and Highway 99 near Elk Grove to Highway 50 in El Dorado County. The new expressway will relieve congestion by directing commuter and commercial traffic around the city on a safe expressway. Travelers to and from areas south of Sacramento will no longer need to go through the city to get to their destinations. The Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway also features a parallel bike and pedestrian trail.

Q Who will benefit from the SouthEast Connector Expressway when completed?

A The entire region will benefit from reduced congestion on area highways, particularly Hwy 50, and from fewer toxic fumes spewing from thousands of vehicles stuck in traffic. Southeastern Sacramento County residents will have a safe new route to avoid Hwy 50 congestion and bypass downtown traffic. Businesses, companies, farmers, and ranchers will also be able to receive supplies and send products to market

more safely and quickly. Most importantly, the modernized roadway will be safe to travel, unlike current conditions that endanger lives.

Q Who approved building the SouthEast Connector Expressway?

A In 2004, by a 3-1 margin, voters agreed to tax themselves for 30 years for transportation maintenance, road improvements, mass transit, mobility for seniors and people with disabilities, and specifically to construct a new expressway connecting I-5 and Hwy 99 in the Elk Grove area to Hwy 50 in El Dorado County, now known as the Capital SouthEast Connector. Since the vote, the tax has generated about \$2 billion. To date, the Capital SouthEast Connector has received about \$58 million of those funds, which were paired with federal and state funds to complete 11 miles of the 34-mile project.

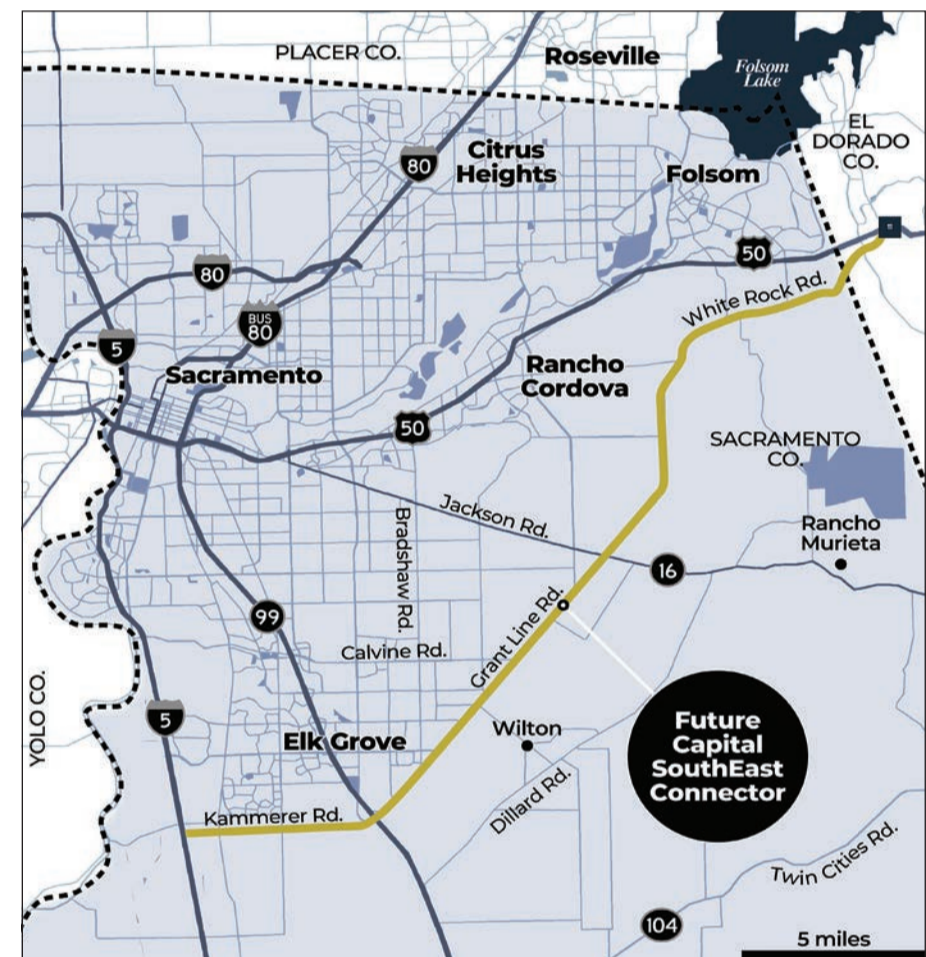
Q Where have the transportation tax funds not allocated to the Capital SouthEast Connector been used?

A The transportation sales tax funds are allocated according to a formula voters approved when they approved the tax. The largest single

recipient of the funds since the tax began is the Regional Transit Authority (38%, amounting to \$709 million) for operating and maintaining light rail and bus services; and providing transportation options to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Street and road maintenance projects have received 29.4%, amounting to \$545.5 million. Overall, capital improvement projects have received 20.4%, amounting to \$377.4 million. The rest of the funds went to smaller projects, and less than ¼ of one percent is spent on program administration.

Q What has the Sacramento Area Council of Governments’ role been in the Capital SouthEast Connector’s construction.

A The Capital SouthEast Connector is part of the “Sacramento Blueprint,” adopted over 20 years ago by SACOG’s board of directors and still consulted today. The Blueprint’s goal is to integrate land use and transportation planning to improve the region’s quality of life. It was SACOG’s idea to create the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority to manage the design and construction of the expressway. Over the years, SACOG



Map showing the location of the future Capital SouthEast Connector

has been mostly supportive of efforts to advance the project, but in 2016 the organization decided to remove a portion of the Connector in its MTP update, introducing notable funding challenges for the project. More recently, SACOG determined that constructing a segment of the project was the region’s number one transportation priority, greatly enhancing a successful project application for federal funding.

Q What environmental impacts will the SouthEast Connector Expressway create, and how will they be mitigated?

A Like any road project, the Capital SouthEast Connector will affect the environment during and after construction, but all federal, state, and local regulations to protect the environment are being followed. After construction, the environment will be greatly enhanced due to a design that controls and channels damaging groundwater that currently floods the roadway and adjacent lands. The Connector Joint Powers Authority is a member of the South Sacramento Conservation Agency (SCCA) that oversees compliance with the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan and its rules for road construction. The Connector project has obtained environmental permits and has also agreed

to purchase lands to replace impacted agricultural land or vernal pools in accordance with the conservation plan’s vision.

Q How will the Capital SouthEast Connector affect bike and pedestrian traffic in the area?

A Bicyclists and pedestrians who currently face grave danger will be able to avoid traffic entirely by using a paved, Class 1 bike trail that will be built separate from the expressway along its entire length. The bike trail is designed to enable residents to walk or ride their bikes to visit friends in neighboring communities; or peddle to work, local restaurants, stores, parks, and entertainment venues; or simply to exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

Q How can residents support construction of the Capital SouthEast Connector?

A Your support is vital to our successfully applying for funds to complete the project. Telling your local, state, and federal elected representatives that you support the project is very helpful. You can also learn more about the project or sign up for our newsletter on our website at www.connectorjpa.com. Alternatively, you can use the QR code on this page, visit our Instagram page at www.instagram.com/connectorjpa or our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@SouthEastconnectorexpressway Please send questions or comments to ConnectorSupport@sacounty.gov.

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