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Hoops Legend Cartwright Pens Bio

By Sean P. Thomas
City Editor

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - In the world of basketball, former NBA star Bill Cartwright has done it all.

As a prep star for the Elk Grove Thundering Herd, Cartwright earned two California Mr. Basketball distinctions and in 1975 led his squad to a Northern California high school boys' basketball title under coach Dan Risley.

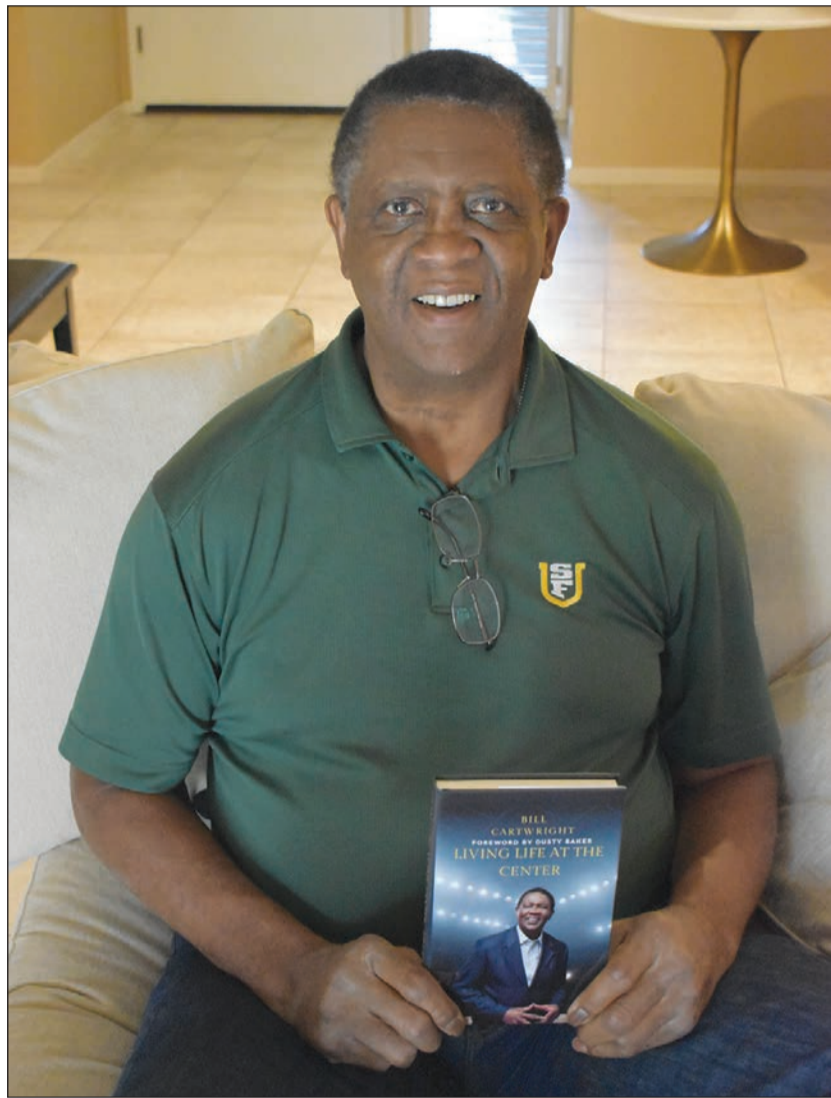
He then went on to play basketball at the University of San Francisco, where he was a three-time All-American and twice named Northern California Player of the Year, ending his career as the Dons' all-time leading in points, field goals and free throws.

In the NBA, Cartwright continued that tradition of excellence, winning three NBA Championships as one of the defensive anchors of the 1991-93 Chicago Bulls three-peat dynasty before earning another two rings as an assistant coach under Phil Jackson in 1996 and 1997.

Now, Cartwright is taking on a different challenge: an autobiography.

In "Living Life at the Center," the 7-foot Cartwright explores his childhood, his transition into sports and his collegiate and professional basketball career, as well as his stint as a coach, both stateside and overseas in Japan and Mexico.

"My story is not one of tragedy, drugs and alcohol," Cartwright said. "It's not like that. It's just a reflection of my family, friends, coaches and what you are able to accomplish. The trophies and all that stuff, that is nice, but it is more about my coaches, my teams and my teammates, because that would not have been possible if



Bill Cartwright earned a state championship in 1975 as a member of the Elk Grove Thundering Herd basketball team. Photo by Sean P. Thomas

not for them."

Cartwright, who is now the director of university initiatives at his alma mater, sat down with the Elk Grove Citizen on Jan. 2 to discuss the book, his life and what he hopes younger athletes might pull from the 5-time NBA Champions life, both on and off the hardwood.

Sean P. Thomas: What drove you to write your autobiography? What was that moment that spoke to you and said, 'Hey, I should sit down and get this on paper?' Was that something that you always wanted to do?

Bill Cartwright: "It was interesting
Continued on Page 13

Racial Profiling Report Released



California Department of Justice News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The California Racial and Identity Profiling Advisory Board on Dec. 31 announced the release of its annual report on police stops across California. The report analyzes 4.7 million vehicle and pedestrian stops conducted in 2023 by 539 law enforcement agencies in California under the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA). Overall, the report shows disparities consistent with those observed in prior years' data with respect to perceived race, age, and disability status. The report finds, for example, that the disparity between the proportion of stops and the proportion of residential population was greatest for individuals perceived to be Black, who were stopped 126% more frequently than expected, followed by individuals perceived to be Latino, who were stopped 44% more frequently than expected. In addition to providing an in-depth look into policing in 2023, the report contains a wide array of best practice recommendations related to policing, with a particular focus this year on the policing of youth and its impacts.

"Like those before it, the 2025 report provides actionable information to address bias in policing. This year's report is particularly important with its focus on young Californians. The racial disparities of policing stops, searches and use of force of youth is alarming," said Andrea Guerrero, Co-Chair of the RIPA Board and Executive Director of Alliance San Diego. "Young Californians who are driving, biking, and walking and perceived to be Black or Brown are regularly stopped, asked to consent to a search, handcuffed, sat on the curb, put in a police car, and questioned for information that is recorded on a field interview card before being released. This is California's version of stop and frisk that causes immeasurable harm to the community and erodes trust in law enforcement

Continued on Page 9

Shop Hosts Community Clothes Swap



Americana Vintage held its first clothing swap on Jan. 3, allowing local shoppers a chance to unload their unused clothing and pick up a few vintage items. Photos courtesy of Elias Rieland

By Ramona Scarborough

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Riffing on a line from the classic movie "Field of Dreams," if you offer free used clothing, they will come.

And they did.

Eighty Elk Grove residents cleaned out their closets and brought bags full of garments they could not wear, didn't care for or no longer needed to Americana Vintage on Saturday, Jan. 3 from, 1-3 p.m. for a large crowd of happy browsing customers to pick

through.

The unique idea was the brainchild of Elias Rieland, the new owner of Americana Vintage. His shop opened just four months ago and features reasonably priced vintage clothing for men and women, home design items, furniture and collectibles.

This event was an opportunity for Rieland, an Elk Grove native and Cosumnes Oaks High School graduate, to meet people in the community and show them what kind of merchandise there is in his store for

purchase. Lindsay Ashton of Adobe Vintage co-hosted the event.

Rieland said his journey into vintage retail wasn't planned.

"During the height of Covid, I graduated from a Washington, D.C., business school," Rieland wrote in an email. "Like most people during that time, I faced a challenge finding work. To make money, I refurbished furniture, staged and sold it."

Upon his return to the Sacramento area, he participated in pop-up
Continued on Page 2

Slow & Low to Revamp as Horn Elk Grove



Michael Hargis plans to revamp the Slow & Low restaurant as Horn Elk Grove via a partnership with Bay Area barbecue champ Matt Horn. Photo by Sean P. Thomas

By Sean P. Thomas
City Editor

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Michael Hargis' Slow & Low Smokehouse is shifting gears.

The owner recently announced a partnership with Bay Area barbecue heavyweight Matt Horn to revamp the eatery as Horn Elk Grove. The newly dubbed restaurant plans to replace Slow & Low at 9699 Railroad St. in late February, according to the restaurant's social media accounts. The restaurant closed on Jan. 1 in preparation for the change.

"This partnership was built on faith in the craft," Horn said through an Instagram post. "Elk Grove deserves more than great barbecue. It deserves a gathering place that fosters connection and belonging."

"Together, Michael and I are creating that destination," he added.

According to Horn Elk Grove's Instagram page, the team promises "an elevated experience with a full bar, live music and appearances from some of the nation's most celebrated pitmasters and chefs."

"Literally a dream come true," Hargis wrote in a comment on the post. "Can't wait."

Slow and Low Smokehouse opened last summer in Old Elk Grove

with the help of the city of Elk Grove. The city guaranteed a \$500,000 loan made to Slow and Low by River City Bank. The guarantee was made via funds the city had deposited at the bank at that time.

Sydney Robertson, communications and marketing specialist for the city of Elk Grove said that "no city funds have been forfeited as the loan continues under the new partnership."

"We're saddened by the closure of Slow & Low, but we're thrilled to see their partnership with Chef Horn to launch a new venture," Robertson wrote in an email.

Hargis recently announced the closure of Beast + Bounty due to issues renegotiating its lease. It is unclear if he plans to reopen the restaurant in another location. The Sacramento Business Journal reported that two of Hargis' other restaurants, LowBrau Bier Garden and Beast + Bounty, both in Sacramento, were in default on two bank loans.

Horn has faced his own issues in the Bay Area.

Horn became a Bay Area food superstar in 2020 after the success of his West Oakland-based Horn Barbecue on Mandela Parkway. In 2023, the restaurant was named a Michelin Bib Gourmand restaurant, an accolade that recognizes high culinary

standards and hospitality.

The restaurant was forced to close in 2023 after a fire, and Horn was later provided a \$100,000 grant from Alameda County and raised \$131,262 through a GoFundMe account. Horn said the restaurant was vandalized and stripped of its piping and electric systems the day before the location burned down.

In May, a spokesman for the Oakland Fire Department said the blaze was under investigation as potential arson. No suspects have been identified, according to the Oakland Fire Department.

Horn bounced back last year, opening a new Horn Barbecue location in Oakland, and in December opened another restaurant in Lafayette.

Horn has also faced his own legal challenges. Golden Gate Meat Co. sued Horn for nearly \$88,000 in unpaid invoices, plus interest and attorney fees.

Neither Horn nor Hargis could be reached for comment.

The pair promised additional details, including menu, guest chefs and grand opening festivities in the coming weeks.

"Horn Barbecue Elk Grove will honor the legacy of Slow & Low while introducing world-class West Coast-style barbecue to the area," they said. ★

Shop Hosts Community Clothes Swap



Lindsay Ashton, left, helped co-organize the event with American Vintage owner Elias Rieland, center. J.B. Beasley of Beasley & Sons Bakery provided baked goods for the event. Photo courtesy of Elias Rieland

Continued from page 1

markets. He founded the Americana Vintage Market in Old Town Plaza, which has become an annual event for the last five years.

It will be held again under the new name, Thrift-a-thon on March 22.

"After several years of organizing markets and popping up at various events, I decided to take a leap of faith and pursue my dream full-time," Rieland wrote. "After all, today is the youngest I'll ever be, and as they say, fortune favors the bold."

Rieland said he collects goods and clothing from many sources.

"We take donations, I attend estate sales and garage sales to find quality items," Rieland wrote "We will be setting up a buy-sell-trade program soon."

The store offers clothing in a variety of sizes. Vintage clothing has become a fashion trend among young people, and to reach them, Rieland uses platforms such as Instagram, TikTok and Depop.

Any clothing left over from the clothes swap will be donated to local charities or given to the homeless.

Visitors were greeted at the door by J.B.

Beasley of Beasley & Sons Bakery. Her table was filled with tempting treats for guests like uniquely decorated cupcakes and gourmet cookies chockful of chocolate chips.

"My son, Mitchell, and I started our business two years ago in my own home, but now we have a commercial location and specialize in making a variety of French macarons," Beasley said. "Catering for events large or small is building our business and bringing people together to enjoy beautifully crafted sweets."

In an orderly process, donors were directed to racks for hanging clothes and separate tables to place tops, pants, skirts, shoes and miscellaneous.

The excitement of finding a solid item or two was evident by the wide smiles and buzz of conversation. Many shoppers exited with bags as big as the ones they brought in.

The most common question as shoppers left?

"When will you do this again?" Rieland wrote.

Check out the store location at 9615 E. Stockton Blvd. or go to: americanavintagecalif.com. ★

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New Gym Opens; Pizza Due in March



The team behind Tandoori Pizza plans to open its first restaurant in Elk Grove in March if everything goes to plan. The restaurant blends traditional Indian flavors with Italian cuisine. Photo courtesy of Tandoori Pizza

By Sean P. Thomas
City Editor

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Welcome to the latest edition of the Elk Grove Business Roundup, a column that highlights some of the retail, restaurant and nonprofit news around Elk Grove.

If you have any questions or business news to report, please contact City Editor Sean P. Thomas at 916-410-5389 or email sean.thomas@mpg8.com.

Club Studio Opens in Elk Grove

Elk Grove welcomed the opening of its latest fitness facility last week just in time for those “new year, new me” New Year’s resolutions.

Club Studio opened at 7440 Elk Grove Blvd. in The Ridge on Dec. 31, according to the gym’s Instagram page. It’s the second club studio to open in the area after another location opened in Citrus Heights in September. It’s the seventh Club Studio to open, with six others currently in the process of opening across the country.

The 35,000-square-foot gym features all the standard gym amenities, free weights, cardio equipment, weight machines, a spa center and a sauna. The gym also features group fitness classes, including box classes, biking, Pilates, Yoga, and CS4 instruction, in addition to cryotherapy and recovery labs.

The gym advertises a “cutting-edge fitness

experience” and “boutique fitness classes” on its website and the membership cost shows it. A standard monthly membership at the Elk Grove location runs \$139 and the premier tier costs \$249. Membership for the gym’s pickleball league will also add to the cost. The facility is currently offering free passes.

“We’re excited to welcome you into our vibrant community and support your fitness journey every step of the way,” the operators wrote on a Dec. 31 Instagram Post. “Elk Grove, see you in the club.”

Standard operating hours are Monday to Thursday, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m.; 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and weekends, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Tandoori Pizza Moving to Elk Grove

The Dublin-based pizza chain Tandoori Pizza is inching toward its official opening in March.

Elk Grove resident Brandon Singh is partnering with Amrit Singh, a relative of chain founder Tejinder Singh to bring the restaurant to Elk Grove’s Laguna Gateway shopping center near Laguna Boulevard and West Stockton Boulevard.

The locations mix traditional Indian cuisine with classic Italian pizza offerings.

The menu includes dishes like curry chicken pizza, chicken tikka pizza, tandoori barbecue pizza and desi garlic chicken pizza. It also serves

traditional Italian pizzas, and a list of sides including tandoori and achari wings.

Elk Grove follows eight other locations opened in 2024, including storefronts in Concord, Sunnyvale, Clovis, Foster City, Fresno and Rancho Cucamonga. Singh also opened two restaurants outside of California in New York and Philadelphia.

“We couldn’t be more thrilled to bring our Indian fusion-style pizzas to more people around the nation,” Singh said in a news release.

Elk Grove Volunteer Recognition Gala

The Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce is hosting its 73rd annual gala on Jan. 24, where it will announce its four 2024 businesses of the year and recognize the volunteers that make the organization’s work possible.

The event will also include the installation of the chamber’s 2025 Board of Directors and recognition of the 2025 Board Chair, Amy Labowitch, as well as a moment to celebrate the outgoing chamber board members.

The event runs from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will take place in District 56 at 8230 Civic Center Drive. Tickets are required and cost \$85 per person.

Anyone who hopes to attend can register online at business.elkgroveca.com.

Attire for the event is business formal or cocktail wear. ★

‘Worlds Apart’ Exhibit Opens EG Fine Arts Center Season



Susan Taira’s exhibit “Worlds Apart” kicks off the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center’s 2025 slate of “First Saturday” free art exhibits. The artist’s work includes a blend of different artist works, including paintings, assemblage and sculptures. Photo by Sean P. Thomas

By Sean P. Thomas
City Editor

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The Elk Grove Fine Arts Center in Old Town Elk Grove opened its latest new exhibit, “Worlds Apart,” featuring paintings and other mixed media pieces by artist Susan Taira.

The new exhibit, which opened on Jan. 4, is the first of the fine arts center’s 2025 slate of free “First Saturday” exhibits and features work inspired by the artist’s bicultural background and her love of nature.

“I love nature,” Taira said. “I am a Buddhist, so I meditate, and it is so calming. There is nothing like being out in nature and getting away from your daily routine and getting out into nature. It’s something that I am passionate about.”

The exhibit showcases Taira’s diverse artistic background and includes watercolors and other paintings that draw from Japanese motifs like Mt. Fuji, koi fish and Noh masks. The exhibit also includes several assemblage pieces that reflect on Taira’s American heritage. Her pieces often include found natural elements such as twigs, stones, shells, Japanese fabrics and

leaves.

Darrci Robertson, gallery manager and curator for the Fine Arts Center, said she appreciates Taira’s willingness to try different mediums as an artist.

“I think Susan is a great artist,” Robertson said. “She is very talented, and I like that she has a variety of different mediums that she works with.”

While some artists like to gravitate to a specific medium, Taira said she doesn’t like to be confined to any style and takes any opportunity to try out new styles or techniques.

“We are creatives after all,” she said. “I just do whatever I want because I am learning. I do it because I enjoy it.”

The show will continue through to Jan. 23 before the gallery makes way for “A Celebration of Art with Students from the Elk Grove Unified School District.” The latter exhibit will run from Feb. 1 through Feb. 20 and promotes artwork from young artists from art programs in local Elk Grove high schools.

Awards and ribbons will be given during the First Saturday reception.

The gallery also includes several works by represented artists and

Elk Grove Fine Arts Center Exhibitions

February: A Celebration of Art with Elk Grove Unified School District; Valentine Boutique

March: Women in Art, Elk Grove Space 4 Art student show, Dale Chilcoat Lecture Series

April: Short Center Artists

May: Stop Stigma Sacramento, Dale Chilcoat Lecture Series

June: Wide Open Spaces Competition, Anna Gorda

July: Open Fine Art Competition, Dale Chilcoat Lecture Series

August: Jim Marxen, Dwight Head

September: The Valley Sun Catchers Group Show, Susan Silvester, Sac Open Studios

October: All Creatures Great and Small Competition, Helen Plenert

November/December: Small Treasures and Holiday Gift Boutique

selections for its community art display as well as refreshments, live music and an opportunity to meet the featured artists.

The Elk Grove Fine Arts Center is in Suite 101 at 9020 Elk Grove Blvd. and is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. ★



AMBASSADOR OF THE MONTH

Sandhya Sami





Sandhya always knew she wanted to work closely with the community, which has led her to Cosumnes CSD. She started working with CSD in 2016. She is currently a Management Analyst in the Office of the General Manager, managing multiple projects for business engagement, sponsorships, Cosumnes Legacy Foundation, grant coordination, and supporting the General Manager and District Counsel with increased levels of responsibility. What truly sets Sandhya apart is her unwavering commitment to community values. Her interpersonal skills and positive attitude towards work have earned her recognition, including the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award in 2020 and the Administrative Services Award of Excellence in 2022. Sandhya has a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from UC Davis, where she emphasized social work. In her leisure time, Sandhya enjoys spending time with her Rottweilers, Bullet and Ammo, and traveling with her husband. As a new Ambassador, she is excited to contribute to the community and looks forward to building new relationships.





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WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS



Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



What a difference a week makes! Yes, a lot can happen in a week, and the Sacramento Kings are living proof.

Gone is former coach of the year, Mike Brown, and interim head coach Doug Christie not only is riding a season high 4-game winning streak, he's riding a basketball juggernaut as well.

Wins over injury depleted Dallas Mavericks and Philadelphia 76ers were welcome wins, but to handily defeat the Memphis Grizzlies and archrival Golden State Warriors back-to-back was a sign that the Kings were truly on the road to recovery.

A horrid 6-game losing streak was the undoing of Mike Brown, and every pundit, newscaster and fan had a different opinion. The general consensus was that coach Brown had lost the locker room, and after a meltdown loss to the Detroit Pistons in which collectively the Kings and in particular DeAaron Fox guarded no one, the Pistons came away with an improbable 1-point win. 4-point plays to win a game are a rarity, and it's no fun to be on the losing end, but that's precisely where the Kings found themselves.

Whether coach Brown had truly lost his voice with the team is still open to conjecture, but from this writer's perspective, his lack of any consistency as it relates to playing time for players off the bench, led to overall sub-par productivity. Players from Keon Ellis, Alex Len, to Trey Lyles never knew from one game to the next if they would see significant minutes or no minutes at all.

Doug Christie was tapped on the shoulder and asked to take over the head coaching reigns, and so far, he's been a welcome addition to the head seat.

Some players have commented that Christie brings the mindset of a former player to the table, and thus far his voice is being heard. In particular the defensive end of the court has seen significant improvement, and the past four games have featured some of the best defensive basketball that fans have seen in memory.

A wire-to-wire victory over the Golden State Warriors in which Sacramento never allowed the Warriors any breathing room, was a glimpse of what the

Sactown boys are capable of, and Malik Monk had perhaps his finest game of the season. Malik matched Steph Curry with 26 points and added a season high 12 assists, but his defense was equally impressive. Domantas Sabonis had his usual stellar performance, adding 22 points and 13 rebounds while playing only three quarters.

Does coaching make a difference? You bet it does. Does that mean that winning four of five games since Mike Brown's departure, the Kings are headed to the playoffs.

Too early to tell Kings fans but take solace in seeing what your hometown boys are capable of doing. Not just playing tough teams and winning, but actually accomplishing blow-out wins.

Keon Ellis has returned to form and did a yeoman's job in filling in for an injured DeAaron Fox in the win over the Warriors. Keon has a big upside, as does Trey Lyles who is also showing signs of looking like his former self, playing solid basketball on both ends of the court.

Say hello to Devin Carter Kings fans, and this young rookie has game! Playing in just his 2nd NBA game, Devin broke into the scoring column with 13 points while adding an impressive seven rebounds. This youngster has been on the sidelines all season recovering from off-season shoulder surgery, and he looks eager to impress his fans and teammates alike. I like what I see in Devin, and his defense in particular on Stephon Curry was impressive to see. His debut has been a long time coming, and it could not have come at a more auspicious time. I look for coach Christie to give him all the playing time he can handle, and with the unfortunate departure of Davion Mitchell, another guard that can play ferocious defense is a welcome sight.

Stay tuned Kings fans and stay away from ugly trade rumors. Trades will invariably come, but let's just hope it doesn't involve the core members we've come to love!

All be best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

POLICE LOGS

Dec. 30

8:44 a.m., Laguna Boulevard/Harbour Point Drive, Elk Grove Police arrested Latanya McGee, 28, on warrant charges.

3:01 p.m., 8400 block of Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Mike Zamora, 47, on repeat theft, burglary, possession of burglary tools and resisting arrest charges.

Dec. 31

2:36 a.m., Grant Line Road/Highway 99, Elk Grove Police arrested Stephan Rickman, 33, on DUI/drug charges.

1:33 p.m., Bradshaw Road/Calvine Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Mario Abragoperez, 45, on receiving a stolen vehicle and warrant charges.

2:07 p.m., 9100 block of West Stockton Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Lorenzo Pitts, 57; and Timothy Tyler, 58, on repeat petty theft, organized retail theft, drug possession and warrant charges.

10:31 p.m., 8900 block of Acton Court, Elk Grove Police arrested Nogivenname Tinku, 24, on battery and vandalism charges.

Jan. 1

1:45 a.m., 9900 block of Bruceville Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Ray Ramirez, 37, on public intoxication charges.

3:23 a.m., 5500 block of Adobe Spring Way, Elk Grove Police arrested

Alexander Ramsay, 24, on DUI/drug, hit and run/non-injury and reckless driving charges.

6:51 p.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Selena Wahaab, 20, on corporal injury to an intimate partner charges.

Jan. 2

7:38 a.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested John Callison, 58, on corporal injury to an intimate partner charges.

3:39 p.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Anthony Brussard, 23, on corporal injury to an intimate partner charges.

4:30 p.m., Bruceville Road/Cosumnes River Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Quincy Booker, 19, on warrant charges.

Jan. 3

6:01 a.m., 8600 block of Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Harrison Washington, 38, on warrant charges.

8:48 a.m., 9500 block of Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Aaron Perez, 26, on battery charges.

6:25 p.m., Bruceville Road/Civic Center Drive, Elk Grove Police arrested Jack Kirkman, 28, on reckless evasion, DUI, resisting arrest and warrant charges.

6:28 p.m., 6400 block of Kilconnell Drive, Elk Grove Police arrested Harpaul Singh, 39, on criminal threat, elder abuse and vandalism charges.

11:31 p.m., 8700 block of Clay Glen Way, Elk Grove Police arrested Paul Martinez, 60, on public intoxication and resisting arrest charges.

Jan. 4

2:43 a.m., 9200 block of Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Paula Tikosaya, 32, on resisting arrest and warrant charges.

3:44 a.m., Promenade Parkway/Kammerer Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Marie Hogan, 56, on possession of controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia charges.

3:20 p.m., Laguna Boulevard/Franklin Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Talbert Turner, 57, on possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana for sale and warrant charges.

6:28 p.m., 9100 block of West Stockton Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Timothy Flores, 28, on possession of drug paraphernalia and trespassing charges.

Jan. 5

1:42 a.m., 100 block of Sky River Parkway, Elk Grove Police arrested Christine Gonzales, 50, on battery and public intoxication charges.

1:26 p.m., 8100 block of Sheldon Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Rosanda Miranda, 29, on burglary charges. ★



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We have two delivery driver routes open for newsstand and home delivery within Elk Grove. Delivery would include taking newspapers into local stores, restaurants and newsstands. It would also include a small area of home delivery within the same route. Each route is designed to take about 3 to 4 hours. Delivery is every week on Thursdays between 11 and 3 and must be completed on Thursday. This is an independent contractor position. You must have a current California Drivers License, proof of insurance for the State of California, and a reliable vehicle. Previous newspaper delivery experience a plus. Routes are open now. To apply, email Publisher@MPG8.com.


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We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



Habitat Health Opens PACE Center

Habitat Health with Kaiser Permanente News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Habitat Health has opened its first Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) center in partnership with Kaiser Permanente, expanding access to vital health care services for older adults. At the new center located at 855 Howe Ave. in Sacramento, Habitat Health with Kaiser Permanente offers participants a fully integrated health care model that includes primary and specialty care, prescriptions, social activities, transportation, home care and more, all coordinated under one roof.

Habitat Health provides comprehensive medical and social care to eligible older adults to help them maintain their independence and stay in their homes and communities. Through the partnership, Habitat Health with Kaiser Permanente PACE participants have access to Kaiser Permanente's industry-leading clinical expertise and sophisticated network of health care services. These services are typically provided at no cost to program participants who are eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal coverage. "We are excited to offer a



Habitat Health with Kaiser Permanente Sacramento PACE Center is located at 855 Howe Ave. Photo courtesy of Habitat Health with Kaiser Permanente

truly differentiated care experience to support the diverse needs of older adults who live here in Sacramento," said Brad Oglevee, vice president and general manager of Habitat Health with Kaiser Permanente Sacramento. "We know that bringing together Kaiser Permanente's demonstrated expertise delivering complex care with Habitat Health's dedicated interdisciplinary teams and joyful activities here in our center will provide

older adults and their caregivers peace of mind and a sense of community."

With roots in California since the 1970s, PACE is a community- and home-based care model that has been shown to reduce hospital admissions, improve symptoms of depression, enhance overall well-being for older adults and their caregivers, and reduce health disparities. Habitat Health with Kaiser Permanente Sacramento's PACE center is eager to enroll

participants and support them through a differentiated and effective model.

"Our partnership with Habitat Health aligns seamlessly with Kaiser Permanente's commitment to improving the health and well-being of our members and communities by providing access to high-quality, affordable care," said Dr. Jason Gritti, Habitat Health with Kaiser Permanente Sacramento's medical director and Kaiser Permanente primary care

physician leader. "The beauty of the PACE model of care is that it allows us to expand our scope of care to address older adults' medical, emotional, and social needs as a team."

The PACE center in Sacramento is the first of several centers that Habitat Health and Kaiser Permanente plan to open together in California, subject to applicable regulatory approvals.

For those interested in enrolling yourself or your loved one into Habitat Health with Kaiser Permanente, call 1-844-664-2248 (TTY: 711) or visit online www.habitathealth.com/refer.

About Habitat Health

Habitat Health empowers older adults to manage their health and maintain their independence in their homes and communities. Health insurance coverage, and medical and social care, is provided at the centers and in participants' homes. Through partnerships with health leaders such as Kaiser Permanente, scalable, affordable solutions are offered to meet the care needs of aging populations. Habitat Health redefines aging in place to bring more good days and a sense of belonging to participants and their caregivers. To learn more, visit www.habitathealth.com. ★

Beyond the Call: Supporting Foster Care Services



Quality Management worker Rose Vu has dedicated her career to making a difference in the lives of children and families served by the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County's Department of Child, Family and Adult Services (DCFAS) is celebrating its dedicated staff members. Quality Management worker Rose Vu has dedicated her career to making a difference in the lives of children and families served by the Department of Child, Family and Adult Services. Vu's career is a great example of hard work, innovation and a passion for improving lives.

"I started as a temporary employee and then I became a permanent employee as an assistant," Vu said. "I worked my way

up to getting promoted to a clerical supervisor level one and then level two. I was recently promoted to my current position as Human Services Program Specialist."

In her role, Vu acts as a data entry liaison, ensuring critical data is collected and analyzed. This data reflects the care foster children receive and identifies patterns and trends that can drive improvements in outcomes.

"It's important to collect this data because we want to ensure that our foster children are taken care of," Vu explained. "In addition to that, we are always striving to do better." For Vu, improving

processes and supporting transitional-age foster youth are priorities. By overseeing data entry for programs such as supervised independent living, Vu ensures young adults in extended foster care can access the financial resources they need to thrive.

"Extended foster care is a great opportunity for foster children to be out on their own, learn skills and take them out into the real world so they can take care of themselves," Vu said.

Beyond data and processes, Vu takes pride in developing staff and training new social workers to understand the importance of placement information.

Vu is also an advocate for Sacramento County's PRIDE values: Principal, Respect, Innovation, Diversity and Inclusion, and Excellence. She appreciates how these values shape the work environment and provide opportunities for employees to recognize and celebrate each other's contributions.

"Sometimes, we are just so tunnel-visioned in the work that we do that we don't recognize the great work that we do," Vu said. "Sacramento County gives us that opportunity to recognize each other and to have great values."

Through her dedication, Vu makes a meaningful impact that helps families and children in Sacramento County. Vu is an example of one of Sacramento County's many employees who goes beyond the call. ★

Stand Against Hunger Raises Nearly \$630K for Food Banks

Annual Programs supported by generous community members along with Wells Fargo, Ashley Law, Bayside Church and Northwest Exteriors



Yolo Food Bank: Shown are from left, Darla Weaver, a community volunteer, Rebecca Elliott, Don Henry, Corey Rose, Aaron Heinrich, Mark S. Allen, Katie Kim and Gerardo Cabral. Photo courtesy of ABC10.

ABC10 News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A signature initiative proudly led by ABC10, a Tegna-owned media station, the fifth annual Stand Against Hunger holiday fundraising campaign raised \$628,169. The impact of the annual fundraising drive is significant, especially with today's increased grocery prices. Every dollar donated to a food bank helps to address the issue of rising food insecurity taking place throughout the region. In fact, a donation of just \$5 equates to 15 meals for those in need.

Through the 2024 Stand Against Hunger initiative, donated funds from the community went to seven participating food bank partners: Emergency Food Bank of Stockton/San Joaquin; Feeding the Foothills (formally known as Placer Food Bank); Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano; Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services; Second Harvest of the Greater Valley; Yolo County Food Bank; and Yuba-Sutter Food Bank

The 2024 Stand Against Hunger

campaign ran for six weeks from Nov. 6 through Dec. 22, and was supported by Wells Fargo, Ashley Law, Bayside Church and Northwest Exteriors. The TEGNA Foundation also donated \$25,000 to kick off the program. In addition, Telemundo 33 and KAT Country 103.3 in Stockton joined ABC10 by providing on-air support for the cause.

"Throughout the 2024 Stand Against Hunger initiative, it was heartbreaking to see the increased number of individuals and families in line at local food banks as they struggle with food insecurity," said Risa Omega, president and general manager of ABC10. "I am very pleased that ABC10 and our parent company TEGNA teamed up with nonprofits, along with other community-minded businesses and organizations, to take a Stand Against Hunger. Along with an incredible number of viewers who donated, we are proud to do our part to help put food on the table for so many community members in need." For more information, visit www.abc10.com or www.youtube.com/ABC10. ★

Expanding Two Behavioral Health Service Programs

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County is kicking off the new year by expanding two Behavioral Health Service programs, combining Access and Substance Use Prevention Treatment (SUPT) services to streamline care, address critical needs and enhance the health and safety of our community.

Behavioral Health Services-Screening and Coordination (BHS-SAC) Call Center

Services-Screening and Coordination Call Center simplifies access to mental health and substance use treatment services by combining multiple phone numbers into one centralized line at 916-875-1055. This new service integrates the Mental Health Access Team and the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment System of Care under one number. By doing so, Sacramento County ensures that individuals in need can receive timely coordination among providers and improve health outcomes for those struggling with mental health and

substance use challenges.

"The BHS-SAC Call Center is a game-changer for our community," said Dr. Ryan Quist, the Behavioral Health director. "By centralizing these essential services, we're breaking down barriers to care and simplifying how our community can receive mental health and substance use resources."

Implementation of Senate Bill 43 (SB 43)

Sacramento County will implement the state's modernized law for involuntary psychiatric holds, which expands the definition of

"gravely disabled." This new definition includes individuals unable to care for their basic needs for health and safety due to a severe substance use disorder or a co-occurring mental health disorder and severe substance use disorder.

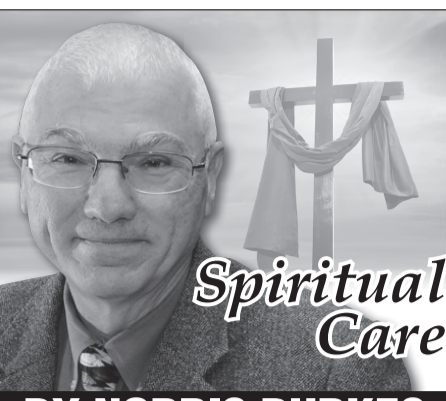
Senate Bill 43 also broadens the definition of "basic needs" to include a person's ability to obtain necessary medical care, personal safety, food, weather-appropriate clothing and/or shelter.

The updated law will expand access to acute and long-term care for our most vulnerable community members who meet the definition

of gravely disabled and are suffering from a severe substance use disorder.

These efforts are part of a broader initiative in California to address homelessness, mental health crises and substance abuse treatment. The efforts implemented reflect the county's dedication to providing comprehensive care and fostering collaboration between health services and community partners. For more information about these programs, visit Sacramento County's Department of Health Services' Behavioral Health website at dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS. ★

Come Fly With Me or Buy With Me



BY NORRIS BURKES

Not long ago, I spoke to a Spanish club, a group of women hoping to hone their Spanish skills and asked the attendees to “Come fly with me.”

Not wanting my invite to be misinterpreted, my wife Becky, chimed in, “And me too.”

A few older woman heard a reference to United Airline’s 1968 campaign, “Come Fly with me.” But the younger ones began humming the Jonas Brothers 2009 hit “Fly with Me.”

“To clarify,” I said, “I’d like you join us on one of the two volunteer trips to Honduras to help Chispa Project.

Of course, I was pushing the Spanish immersion trip on April 6-13. “But no worries, you needn’t speak Spanish or have any particular skill; you just need to be willing to help out as needed!”

One woman seemed interested, but questioned the sparse accommodations, hoping to book her own hotel.

Well, you know me. I had an answer for her.

“Both trips have nice accommodations, but if you want the 5-star trip, then join us in March 5-16. It’ll be an “immersive experience of volun-tourism that will allow you to explore one of the hidden gems of Honduras.

“Arguably the most beautiful colonial town in the country, Copan boasts traditional Mayan chocolate, the best Honduran coffee, and some of the most incredible and well-preserved Mayan Ruins.”

Yup, I was reading from the travel brochure.

If you’ve only recently joined my readership, you’ll need to know that my daughter, Sara, started Chispa Project, pronounced cheez-pah, meaning

“spark” in Spanish. Hondurans use the word to describe people with spark or drive.

Chispa has a simple mission: Sponsor children’s libraries and equip them with quality books in Spanish by working side by side with Honduran community leaders and educators.

In the 80 schools where Chispa works, they build alliances with communities to design, fund and manage their own libraries. Community members also volunteer in the library project and raise a symbolic portion of the funding that ensures sustainability and ownership.

“What will we do during the volunteer week?” asked another.

“We begin the day after arrival by decorating library spaces that will make children proud of their school. We paint the walls with colorful murals, assemble bookshelves, and stock and catalog an entire library.

“Imagine us working together, rolling two coats of white paint on crumbling walls. The paint provides a bright pallet for those murals intended to inspire future readers.

The children will surround us, chattering the few English words they know. Their smiles go for miles as they read the picture books we bring.”

Some in my group gave an empathetic sigh.

Finally, one woman asked the most common question about our trips “Is it dangerous?”

“That’s a risk you will have to assess on your own. We safely welcomed volunteers from ages 3 to 83. I can also tell you that that my daughter, Sara, her husband and her two children spent several years in Honduras.

Unsure how many takers I’d persuaded, I added, “While the days are sometimes hot and long, I reward my volunteers with ice-cream cones.”

I suggested additional questions might be answered on our website at ChispaProject.org/volunteertrip. “Read the details and fill out the forms,” I said. “Watch the five-minute video and e-mail Sara or me with your questions.”

And, finally, you know I made one more pitch –

“If you can’t fly with me, then “Buy with Me!” ★

RELIGION NEWS

Elk Grove Presbyterian

Our JAZZ & BLUES HOUR has concluded for the year but will resume in the spring. Scotty Inman performed for the community on Nov. 15 at District 56. It was a wonderful evening concert of worship and fellowship.

Joining Scotty was the Herb Henry Family, California’s First Family of Gospel Music, along with Faith Valley.

A portion of the ticket proceeds went to benefit several charities: One Thousand Schools (formerly Students Helping Honduras), Chicks in Crisis, Elk Grove Food Bank Services and Sacramento Stand Down.

Rev. McNamara welcomes members and visitors every Sunday at 10 a.m. Our church is located at 8153 Elk Grove Blvd, Suite 50, facing Big Horn Blvd.

For more information Rev. McNamara can be reached at (916) 683-1435 or elk-grovepres@gmail.com.

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@gracechurcheg.org. Visit GraceChurchEG.org.

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.

Chabad of Elk Grove 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. ★

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.

Grace Church Now Hosts Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered ministry offering help in finding freedom

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Places of Worship

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 Pastor Joe Dapelo
 916-689-7300

Service Hours:
 Traditional - 8:30 am
 Contemporary - 11:00 am
 Sunday School - 9:45 am
 5th Sunday - 9:30 am

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

Light of the Valley

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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 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.

Tuesday Prayer Healing 6pm
 Sunday School 10am
 Sunday Worship 11am

Full Gospel Church
 9286 E. Stockton Blvd.,
 Elk Grove, CA 95624
 Pastor Daniels
 916-531-8429

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS

Racial Profiling Report Released

Continued from page 1

from a young age. In this report, the Board makes a number of recommendations that we encourage policy makers, law enforcement agencies, and community advocates to consider to eliminate bias in policing and enhance public safety.

"The annual collection of RIPA stop data is one part of our broader effort to

increase public safety for all Californians. Through the analysis of stop data and recommendations for thoughtful reforms, we're continuing to strengthen trust between local law enforcement and the communities they serve," said Attorney General Rob Bonta. "This year's report takes a close look at the policing of youth and the lasting impact interactions with police can have

at a young age. I'm grateful to the board and staff at the California Department of Justice for continuing to shine a light on disparities in police stops at every age and provide recommendations for targeted data-driven reforms."

The information collected under the act includes data on peace officers' perceptions of the demographics of stopped individuals, such as race or

ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, and disability. The board uses several well-established methodologies to analyze the data and determine whether disparities can be found across demographic groups and whether bias exists.

The board's report also contains a wide array of policy recommendations related to policing, with a particular focus

on the impact of police interactions with youth, civilian complaint processes, accountability, officer decertification, and training, on racial and identity profiling.

Through this data analysis and these recommendations, the board reaffirms its commitment to improving public safety and achieving the legal mandate to eliminate the racial and identity profiling

of all Californians.

For more information on the Racial and Identity Profiling Act, members of the public are encouraged to visit <https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/>, a data-driven initiative that works to increase access to data and support the development of public policy.

A copy of the report is available at, <https://oag.ca.gov/ab953/board/reports>. ★

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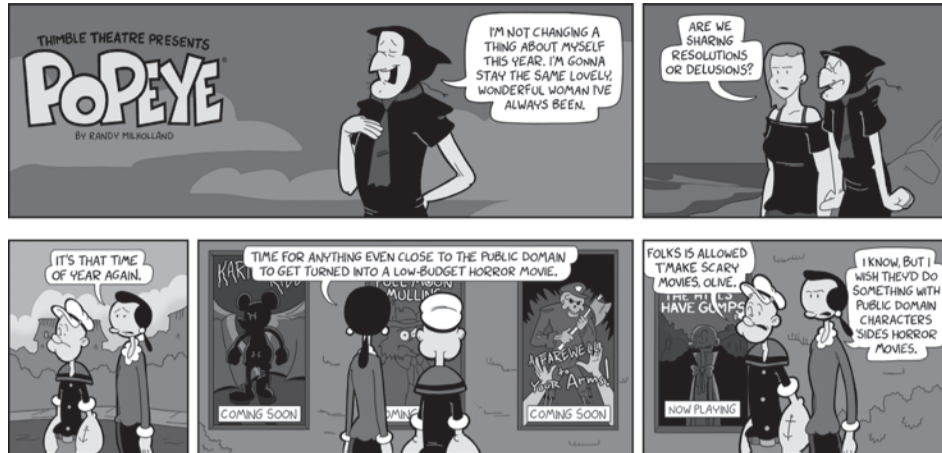
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Llama ahora: 1-855-408-7368 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)</p> <p>Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today! (Cal-SCAN)</p> <hr/> <p>Cellular Plans</p> <p>Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/month. For more information, call 1-844-908-0605. (Cal-SCAN)</p> <hr/> <p>Classic Cars</p> <p>AUTOMOTIVE SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW Saturday, Jan 18, Galt Market Grounds. Turn those parts into CASH. 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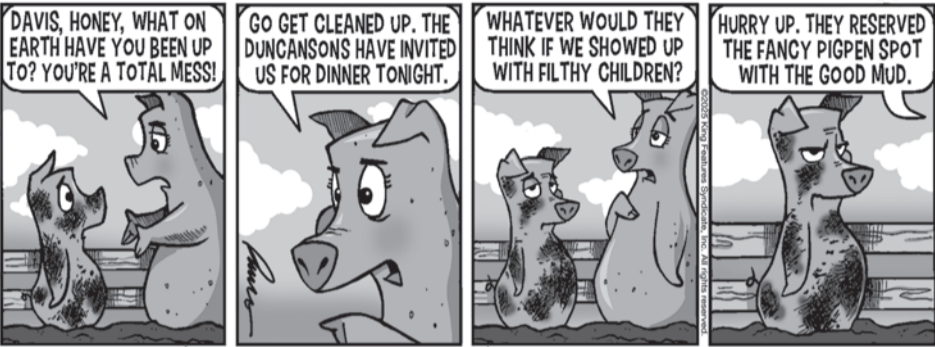
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by Jeff Pickering



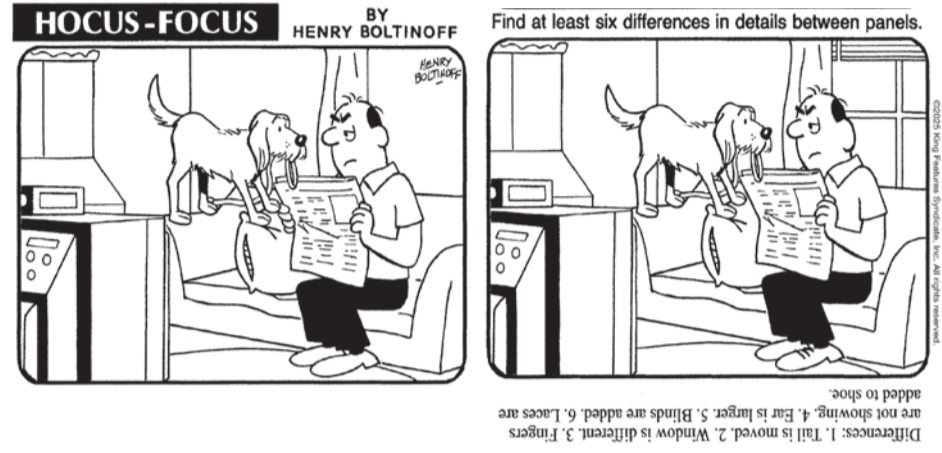
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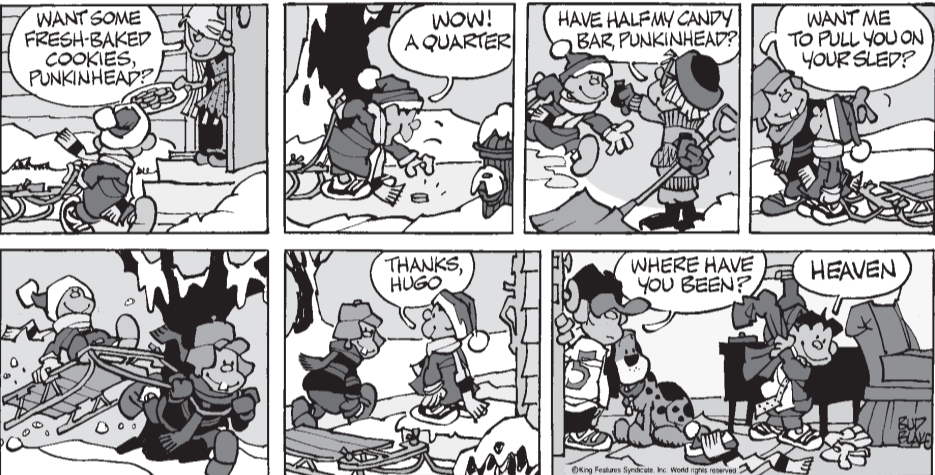
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CLUES

ACROSS

- Larger-than-life
- Capone's family
- Wild swine
- "You're not allowed," to a baby
- Deal with it
- Cunningly
- Shower with affection
- Allege
- City in Belgium
- *Snow Day exercise?
- Poet Pound
- Ovine sign of the zodiac
- Tasseled hat
- All together (2 words)
- Military College of South Carolina, with The
- For every
- a.k.a. association football
- *All-day Snow Day garb?
- Delete
- Crude fuel
- Read-only disc
- Good's counterpart
- Popular flowering shrub
- Female ancestor
- Two heads are better than one, e.g.
- Bering Strait state
- Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.
- Like thick smoke
- Fountain option
- *No two are alike, sing.
- Surround (2 words)
- Tangerine plus grapefruit
- *Like a river, with over
- #51 Down, pl.
- Heidi's "Magic Wooden Shoe"
- Olufsen's partner
- Sound of a bell
- Not him
- Surfer's stop

DOWN

- Odds' partners
- Tubby little cubby
- "He's Just Not That ___ You"
- Of the same period
- *Popular Snow Day pastime
- Some tournaments
- Zugspitze, e.g.
- *Severe weather
- Deed hearing
- Algae, sing.
- Marble bread
- ___ Jack, English pirate
- *As opposed to rain
- Irregular
- Type of conifer
- Musketeers' swords
- High-strung
- Cerebellum location
- Unit of life
- Students' dwellings
- *Snow Day reading choice
- Helping theorem
- *Like soft pj's
- Intelligence org.
- *Slope fun
- *Shorter than California
- Number of years

CROSSWORD

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Monterey Trail Showcase Blends Basketball and Community Service

By Sean P. Thomas
City Editor

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The Monterey Trail basketball program is hosting the “For the Love of the City” basketball showcase on Saturday and Sunday, an event that will blend community service providers with matchups of some of the top basketball programs in the Northern California region.

Monterey Trail Basketball Coach Robert Fields said the school has hosted basketball tournaments in the past, but the longtime coach “wanted to put his own stamp on it” this year.

With the help of the local community and close

to 20 sponsors, the event has evolved into a two-day event that aims to connect attendees to a variety of services, from mental and physical health services to financial literacy resources.

“I wanted to merge the communities of those who enjoy basketball and those people who want to get information on health and wellness and other community services,” Fields said. “They can enjoy some great basketball and see what these providers have to offer. I figured it was the best of both worlds.”

Some of the service providers and businesses tabling at the event include Wayfinder Family Services, Tetteh Pediatric Health, Neighborhood

Wellness, the Sacramento Children’s Home and Warrior Martial Arts.

The event will kick off on Saturday with the inaugural Battle of the Trail basketball showcase, featuring 12 teams from the Northern California region in six games. Pleasant Grove High School is the only other Delta League team to participate in the showcase and will play St. Patrick-St. Vincent High School at 11:30 a.m. Monterey Trail will take the court at 7 p.m. to play Modesto Christian High School to close out the showcase.

Venture Academy, The King’s Academy, Archie Williams High School, Rio Americano High

School, Sacramento High School, Amador Valley High School, Lincoln High School and Vanden High School will also participate.

On Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon, students between fifth and 12th grade can participate in a free basketball skills clinic with coaching from Monterey Trail Assistant Coach Barry Roseborough. Spotlight Hair Studio will provide free haircuts to the participants. The participants will also receive free T-shirts.

Fields said he took inspiration from similar events that he has participated in while on the road with the team.

“We’re trying to mimic

what we experienced on the road,” Fields said, “if not better.”

Fields gave a lot of the credit for the growth of the event to Elk Grove resident and Sacramento County Department of Child Family and Adult Services program manager Tiffany Glass, who was able to use her work connections to help assemble a list of service providers for the event.

“I gave her a vision and she kind of ran with it,” Fields said.

Glass, whose son Messiah Glass plays for Monterey Trail’s junior varsity basketball team, said after she was approached by Fields, she knew almost immediately

what kind of businesses and organizations to contact.

“Sacramento County has a lot of providers in every one of those facets that do a lot of community tabling and information for the communities,” Glass said. “I pulled on those resources and reached out to make the ask and everyone was more than willing to support.”

Monterey Trail is off to a hot start, having recently toppled Division 1 powerhouse Folsom High School 71-67. Monterey Trail held its first Delta League match-up at home against Sheldon and play Elk Grove on Friday before the showcase the following day. ★

Home Heating Expenses Projected to Increase 8.7%

National Energy Assistance Directors Association News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Home heating costs this winter will remain unaffordable for millions of lower income families, according to the National Energy Assistance Directors Association.

The National Energy Assistance Directors Association, representing the state directors of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, released its end-of-the-year projections of home heating costs for the winter heating season. Prices for home heating this winter on average are estimated to increase by about 8.7% to \$941 from last year’s winter heating season average of \$866, due to expected colder winter weather in the Northeast and Midwest states.

The largest change is for families using electricity to heat their homes increasing

by 14.2% from \$1,040 to \$1,189. Electric prices are increasing due to continued high cost of maintaining and upgrading the grid and colder weather leading to increased consumption. In fact, electricity as reported by the November 2024 Consumer Price Index is rising faster than the overall rate of inflation.

In addition, the National Energy Assistance Directors Association predicts higher prices for natural gas, one of the main fuels used in electricity production, primarily due to increased exports of liquefied natural gas with the average cost increasing from \$615 to \$634.

For those using heating oil, expenditures are estimated to decrease by 2.7% from \$1,560 to \$1,518. Households heating with propane can expect a 4.4 % increase in expenditures, from \$1,179 last winter to \$1,231 this year due to colder temperatures forecasted in the Midwest and Northeast. ★



ABOUT TOWN

Lions Community Breakfast Jan. 11

The Elk Grove Lions Club will host its next community breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 11 at the Albani Recreation Center, 8830 Sharkey Ave., Elk Grove.

On the menu will be all the buttermilk pancakes you can eat, with scrambled eggs, bacon and link sausage, fruit bowl, orange juice and coffee all for \$10 for adults and \$5 for children aged 10 and under.

Cosumnes DAR Accepting New Members

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is accepting new members into its Rio Cosumnes Chapter in the Elk Grove/Galt community.

The nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women’s service organization is dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving

American history and securing America’s future through better education for children.

Members are all lineal descendants of those who supported the cause of independence in the Revolutionary War.

For more information on the Rio Cosumnes Chapter’s monthly meetings or membership, contact Registrar Paula Schroeder at egdarregistrar@gmail.com.

Widowed Persons Activities

Jan. 10, 10 a.m., Hand and Foot card game at Elk Grove UMC, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact is Gerri at 916-698-1940.

Jan. 16, 11:30 a.m., General Meeting at Golden Corral, 7700 W. Stockton Blvd., \$24 includes lunch. Reservations should be made by calling Pat at 916-802-4524.

Jan. 17 – 10:00 AM Pinochle at Elk Grove UMC, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact is Jim at 916-768-1923.

Jan. 22 – 1:00 PM – Book Club at Elk

Grove UMC, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact is Merrylynn at 916-549-4264.

Jan. 23 – 12:00 Noon no-host Lunch & Bunco at Round Table, 8795 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Evelyn at 916-685-9669.

January 24 – 10:00 AM Hand and Foot card game at Elk Grove UMC, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact is Gerri at 916-698-1940.

January 28 – 5:00 PM – Dinner at Chevy’s, 7401 Laguna Blvd. Contact is Addie at 916-682-3609.

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

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

American Legion Post 233

The Elk Grove American Legion Post 233, established in 1994, invites veterans to our monthly meetings every fourth Thursday of the month at the Elks Lodge,

9240 Survey Road, Elk Grove.

We invite veterans and spouses to join us the first Saturday of each month for our Elk Grove American Legion Post 233 Family Social Breakfast at 9 am at Mimi’s Cafe on the corner of Laguna Boulevard and West Stockton Boulevard (just off Highway 99).

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

Other Veterans Meetings Listed

American Legion Post 55, Veterans and Auxiliary Units: 4th Wednesday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. Breakfast: 2nd Saturday, 8-10 am., 8830 Sharkey Ave.

Marine Corps League: 1st Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting, 7p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

VFW Post 2073: 2nd Thursday. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. ★

ARTS CALENDAR

Art Workshops for Adults

Enhance your visual arts skills or learn a new technique in an art class or workshop at the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center.

We periodically offer workshops for younger people, dependent upon the instructor and type of class. If you’re looking for basic to advanced instruction in Batiking, Ceramics, Clay, Encaustics, Fabric Art, Mixed-Media, Mosaics, Plein Air, or Watercolor (and more!), you will

find it here. To learn more, visit elkgrovefineartscenter.org/workshop.

The Elk Grove Fine Arts Center

The Elk Grove Fine Arts Center is at 9020 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 101. They are open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays through Saturdays, and Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visit us every First Saturday from 4-7PM at the Center for refreshments, an opportunity to meet featured artists, and enjoy live music. For more information,

please visit ElkGroveFineArtsCenter.org or call (916) 685-5992.

View Artwork from Elk Grove

At webmaps.elkgrovecity.org/publicartelkgrove/. The Elk Grove Arts Commission has created a virtual Citywide Art Guide to art pieces and art events in Elk Grove.

If you know of a piece or event that should be included, contact the city of Elk Grove’s community event center manager, Lana Yoshimura at

lyoshimura@elkgrovecity.org.

Call for Artists at the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center

All art competitions require online submission through Smarter Entry. Fees may be paid directly online through this system.

Visit the individual exhibition pages to explore deadlines, fees, awards, and to download the prospectus.

For more, please visit <https://elkgrovefineartscenter.org/> ★

MEETING MINDERS

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

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

The Elk Grove Planning Commission has its online meetings at 6 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month.

A live video stream of this meeting can be viewed at the city of Elk Grove’s website, www.ElkGroveCity.org.

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

It governs the Cosumnes Fire Department as well as Elk Grove’s parks and recreation system.

The CSD board meetings can be

watched live at www.CosumnesCSD.gov and they are held at 8820 Elk Grove Blvd.

The Elk Grove Unified School District Board of Trustees meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. This meeting is in-person at the Robert L. Trigg Education Center Board Room, 9510 Elk Grove Florin Road.

Members of the public can also view it by using the Zoom application and visiting the school district’s website, [\[EGUSD.net\]\(http://EGUSD.net\).](http://www.</p>
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Past board meetings can be watched on the district’s YouTube channel, “ElkGroveUnified.”

The Florin Resource Conservation District Board, which governs the Elk Grove Water District, holds online meetings every third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. These meetings are held via the Zoom application.

To access them, visit www.egwd.org. ★

When Losing is Still Winning

By Daniel Canfield

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Rio Linda High School alumnus and former Sacramento State Hornet Cam Skattebo gave 110% in the Sun Devils' 39-31 College Football Playoff loss to the Texas Longhorns in the Peach Bowl on New Year's Eve. Skattebo transferred from Sacramento State University to Arizona State University following the 2022 season and just completed his senior year, culminating with the thrilling overtime loss to the Longhorns.

Skattebo's frenetic "never say quit" playing style, he was famous for from his time as a Hornet, carried over to his time as an Arizona State Wildcat and was exemplified by his Peach Bowl performance.

Over four quarters and overtime of the 2024-25 Peach Bowl, the 22-year-old racked up 284 total yards, 143 rushing, 99 receiving, and 42 passing. Skattebo's Peach Bowl

performance included two rushing touchdowns, a passing touchdown, and a two-point conversion. A herculean effort from the 5-foot, 11-inch, 215-pound senior running back.

Skattebo's performance was so great that despite being on the losing end of the game, he was named the Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Peach Bowl. It's the first time in 26 years that a member of the losing team has won the game's Offensive Most Valuable Player award.

Prior to the Peach Bowl, Skattebo had foreshadowed his game performance in his media day comments on Dec. 30.

"There's nobody out there that can stop me," Skattebo said. "If they're studying hard, there's a reason. I have full respect for them, because they understand what they're playing against, and that's why I love playing in games like this, because they constantly look at me as a



Rio Linda High School alumnus Cam Skattebo won Offensive Most Valuable Player Award for the 2024-25 Peach Bowl played in Atlanta on Jan. 1. Photo by Arizona State University Athletics

threat, and that's something I've always wanted to be. And if I'm a threat on the football field against an SEC team that was the runner-up to win their conference, then I think I'm in a pretty good position." In 2024, Skattebo had a

breakthrough senior season, rushing for 1,568 yards and 19 touchdowns while catching 37 passes for 506 yards and three touchdowns. Making him the first Big 12 player ever to have at least 1500 rushing yards and 500 receiving

yards in the same season and the first FBS player to do it since Christian McCaffrey in 2015. The star running back finished fifth in Heisman Trophy voting. While Skattebo and the Arizona State University Wildcats would have

preferred to beat the Longhorns in the Peach Bowl and advance in the College Football Playoff, the Offensive MVP award is an admirable accomplishment for one of the nation's top running backs. ★

Hornet Sophomore Picked in MLS Draft



Sacramento State Hornet sophomore Donovan Sessoms (No. 21) was selected by San Diego FC in the 2025 Major League Soccer SuperDraft on Dec. 20. Courtesy photo

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A spectacular sophomore season has translated into a ticket to the next level for Sacramento State sophomore forward Donovan Sessoms, who was selected with the first pick of the third round (No. 61 overall) by expansion side San Diego FC in the 2025 Major League Soccer (MLS) SuperDraft on Dec. 20.

Sessoms is the first Hornet to be taken in the MLS SuperDraft since Chimdum Mez was taken in the fourth round (66th overall) by the San Jose Earthquakes, and the fifth Sacramento State student-athlete to be drafted by an MLS club in school history along with Brandon Cavitt (1996 College Draft, Dallas Burn), Ernesto Carranza (2011 Supplemental Draft, Chivas USA), and Fernando Cabadas (2011 Supplemental Draft, New England Revolution).

San Diego FC had five selections in the draft, building a roster as the newest of Major League Soccer's 30 clubs that will compete in 2025. The city was awarded a franchise in May of 2023 and will play its first match on Feb. 23 against defending MLS Cup champion LA Galaxy.

An All-Big West first-team selection in 2024, Sessoms put together one of the finest offensive seasons in school history, finishing with a team-high 10 goals and 20 points for the year, both ranking among the top 10 in single-season history. Half of those 10 scored went for game-winning goals, ranking tied for fifth in the nation.

Among his Big West Conference brethren, Sessoms ranked third in the Big West in shot attempts (48) and led the league with 2.67 shots per match. He also finished fifth in the league in points, fourth in points per match (1.11), fourth in goals, and third in goals per match (0.56). ★

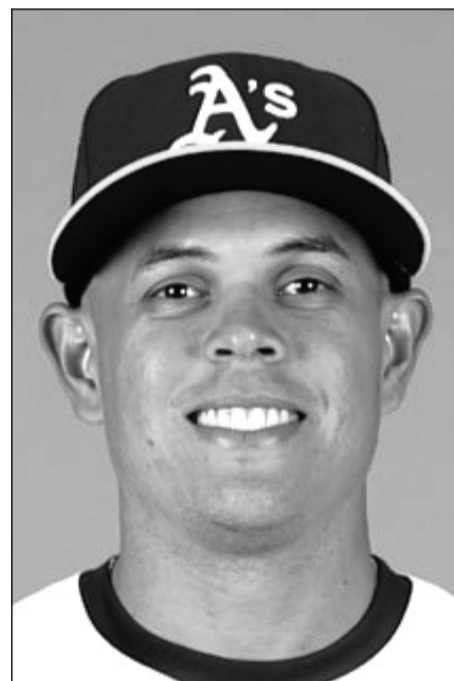
Athletics Add Infielder Gio Urshela

Major League Baseball News Release

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Athletics agreed to terms with infielder Gio Urshela on a one-year contract for the 2025 season, the club announced on Dec. 22.

Urshela began the 2024 season at Detroit and was hitting .243 with five home runs and 37 RBI in 92 games when he was released in mid-August. He signed with Atlanta and batted .265 with four home runs and 15 RBI in 36 games with the Braves. The 33-year-old right-handed hitter combined for a .250 batting average in 128 games overall, making 102 starts at third base and 15 at first base. Urshela also went 0-for-6 in two postseason games for Atlanta, his fifth season with postseason experience.

Urshela is a .273 career hitter with 73 home runs, 332 RBI and a .729 OPS in 792 games over nine seasons in the majors with Cleveland (2015, 17), Toronto (2018), New York-AL (2019-21), Minnesota (2022), Los Angeles-AL (2023), Detroit (2024) and Atlanta (2024). He batted .299 in 62 games with the Angels in 2023 before a fractured pelvis ended his season in mid-June. The native of Colombia had



On Dec. 22, the Athletics announced infielder Gio Urshela will join the team for the 2025 campaign. Courtesy photo

his best season with the Yankees in 2019 when he hit .314 with 21 home runs and 74 RBI in 132 games. Urshela led Major League third basemen with a .992 fielding percentage in 2020 and has made 614 of his 700 career starts at third base. ★

River Cats Announce 2025 Promotions

River Cats News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Fans will be sure to find plenty of fun and new surprises at Sutter Health Park next season as the Sacramento River Cats, proud affiliate of the San Francisco Giants, are excited to share the first half of their 2025 promotions schedule while also announcing single game tickets on sale for games through July 3.

Highlighting the beginning of the 2025 baseball season is the return of 2024 MLB All-Star Heliot Ramos, in miniature form that is, as Opening Night on Friday, March 28 will see the first 2,500 fans receive their own Heliot Ramos bobblehead presented by Jackson Rancheria Casino Resort.

The first half of the season includes three additional giveaway games on Saturday, May 3, Friday, May 30, and Friday, June 27. Fans can stay tuned to River Cats social media for the future reveal of these items or sign up for the River Cats email list by visiting rivercats.com/newsletter for first access to this information and other release.

Theme nights will be aplenty as Sacramento hosts nine during the first half of the season including returning favorites Green Awareness Night presented by SMUD (April 17), First Responder's Night (April 18), Dingler's

Birthday/Take Meow't to the Ballgame (May 4), Salute to Armed Forces Night (May 17), and Dino Night (May 31). Joining those for the first time in 2025 are AAPI Night (May 3), Bark in the Park (May 18), and Videogame Night (June 28).

SMUD Orange Fridays and Sutter Health Fireworks Saturdays return for the entirety of the 2025 season. Fans can watch the River Cats light up the sky with their bats and fireworks shows a total of 15 nights during the first half of the season concluding with a special Independence Eve Fireworks Spectacular following the game against the Reno Aces on July 3.

The River Cats will play four games as the Dorados de Sacramento this season as part of Minor league Baseball's 2025 Copa de la Diversión, celebrating baseball's Hispanic/Latino fan base. During the first half of the year, Sacramento will take the field as the Dorados on Thursday, May 1 and Thursday, May 29.

The Sacramento River Cats kick off their season at home with Opening Night on Friday, March 28 against the Albuquerque Isotopes at 6:45 p.m. (PT). The full schedule is currently available online at rivercats.com. Game dates, times, and promotional dates may be subject to change. Memberships, select ticket packs, hospitality rentals, and now single-game tickets are currently available by visiting rivercats.com or by calling the River Cats ticket hotline at (916) 371-HITS (4487). ★



Athletics' President Resigns

Major League Baseball News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Dave Kaval, President of the Athletics for the past eight years, announced today that he is resigning to pursue new business opportunities in California. His last day with the team, which is in the process of building a new ballpark in Las Vegas, was Dec. 31, 2024.

"We are grateful for Dave's contributions and leadership over the past eight years. He guided our organization through a period of significant transition, and we sincerely thank him for his unwavering commitment to the team," said A's Owner John Fisher. "As we look ahead to the next chapter of our franchise, the team will continue to grow under new leadership, driving the organization toward success during our interim years in West Sacramento and at our new home in Las Vegas."

Sandy Dean, a longtime business partner with the Fisher family, will serve as Interim President. Dean has worked with the A's since John and his family became

owners in 2005. The club will begin a search for a new leader in the new year.

Kaval said that, given the substantial progress toward the team's move to a new, state-of-the-art ballpark in Las Vegas, "I will be staying in California to explore new opportunities at the crossroads of business and government. I am grateful to A's ownership for the opportunities they have given me."

Kaval, 49, served as the seventh president of the Athletics in the franchise's 123-year history. The franchise was founded in Philadelphia in 1901.

Prior to his role with the A's, Kaval served as president of the San Jose Earthquakes, where he played a pivotal role in the development of PayPal Park, home of the Earthquakes and Bay FC.

Kaval has also served as vice chairman of the San Jose Sports Commission, board member of the San Jose Chamber of Commerce, member of the San Mateo County Workforce Investment Board, and Executive Committee member of the Bay Area Council. He has also taught Sports Management at the Stanford Graduate School of Business for the past decade. ★

SMUD Board Elects Fishman, Tamayo

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - SMUD's Board of Directors elected Director Gregg Fishman as president and Dave Tamayo as vice president of the board. Their terms will run from January through December 2025.

Fishman first began serving the SMUD Board of Directors in January 2015 and represents Ward 3, which includes East Sacramento, much of the Arden-Arcade area, and the Campus Commons, College Glen, and Rosemont neighborhoods, as well as parts of Carmichael, Florin, Fruitridge and Vintage Park.

Fishman has been a clean energy advocate for much of his career. As a former SMUD employee, he promoted wind and solar energy when they were in their infancy. At the California Independent System Operator, he led public engagement efforts supporting new wind energy farms in California. As President of the SMUD Board in 2018, he led the utility in passing its Integrated Resource Plan, hailed by the California Energy Commission as "... an ambitious road map for lowering greenhouse gas emissions in the Sacramento region."

In his varied career, Fishman was a news reporter and anchor at KFBK and KGO Radio, a public information officer at SMUD and the California Independent System Operator (California ISO), and



Gregg Fishman is president of the SMUD Board of Directors. Photos courtesy of SMUD



Dave Tamayo is vice president of the SMUD Board of Directors.

communications coordinator for the California State Association of Counties. He currently works at Sacramento Regional Transit as the senior Community Relations officer.

Fishman is an active volunteer with the Sacramento Tree Foundation and has led a neighborhood effort that has planted more than 2,000 new trees since 2001. He received an award from the MLK 365 organization for helping to make it easier to remove racially restrictive clauses from local property records.

Tamayo was elected to the SMUD Board in 2014. He represents Ward 6, which includes the Meadowview, Oak Park, Parkway, Airport and Valley Hi neighborhoods.

Tamayo has led efforts to establish science programs and gardens in local schools, co-founded his neighborhood association and successfully advocated for public parks, affordable housing and urban infill.

Tamayo has served on several public boards and commissions,

including the South Sacramento Planning Advisory Committee, the Sacramento Parks and Recreation Commission, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District and the California Structural Pest Control Board. He also has served on the boards of the nonprofit Sacramento Mutual Housing Association, California Stormwater Quality Association, Sacramento County Alliance of Neighborhoods and the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council.

Tamayo worked as an environmental scientist for Sacramento County for 30 years. He is recognized as a public policy leader in protecting natural resources by effectively influencing state and federal environmental regulations.

He wrote the county storm water pollution ordinance, co-founded the region's River Friendly Landscaping Program and helped create local, statewide and national integrated pest management programs. ★

Matsui Sworn In to 119th Congress

Office of Congresswoman Doris Matsui News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Friday, Jan. 3, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (D-CA), issued the following statement after she was sworn in to serve California's 7th District in the 119th Congress.

"Serving my community in the seventh district continues to be the honor of my life," said Congresswoman Matsui. "This is a critical time for the future of our country. My mission is as clear as ever - to advance the interests of our region and make sure Sacramentans continue to thrive despite the challenges we face. My House Democratic colleagues and I will continue to push for progress to improve the economy, lower the cost of living, revitalize our infrastructure, and keep our communities safe."

"As a leader on the Energy and Commerce Committee, I'm privileged to work on issues that have a transformational impact on our country," Matsui continued. "I'll continue to fight for expanded access to health care, a future with a livable planet, and broadband access for everyone. I'll continue to defend our democratic institutions and stand up for communities of color, the unhoused, and the most vulnerable among us. I'm ready to get back to work to tackle the pressing issues facing our neighbors



Doris Matsui represents California's 7th District in the 119th U.S. Congress. Photo courtesy of Doris Matsui

and fellow Americans."

California's 7th Congressional District encompasses the heart of the Sacramento region, including the communities of Sacramento, Elk Grove, West Sacramento, Galt, Rancho Murieta, Wilton, and the Delta communities. Congresswoman Doris Matsui has represented the Sacramento region in Congress since 2005. Congresswoman Matsui has been a champion of our regional community, securing billions of dollars of federal funding for infrastructure and flood protection projects across

the region. As a leader on the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee, she spearheads crucial policy to expand health care access, combat the climate crisis, and tackle the technological challenges of the 21st century economy.

Congresswoman Doris Matsui represents California's 7th Congressional District, centered in Sacramento, and includes the communities of Elk Grove, Galt, West Sacramento, Wilton, Rancho Murieta, Vineyard, Isleton, Walnut Grove, Herald, Clay, and the California Delta. ★

Sutter Health Expanding Multispecialty Care Center

Sutter Health News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Renovation is underway at the Sutter Health Arden Care Center located at 1651 Exposition Blvd. in Sacramento as part of the health system's robust, strategic plan to increase access to more care services.

The location will support greater access to services for those in Sacramento, Arden-Arcade, Del Paso and Carmichael.

The existing three-story, 70,000-square-foot office building will be transformed into a multispecialty care center. It will feature primary care and outpatient support services, including diagnostic imaging, urgent care and a clinical laboratory. The location will also feature specialty care, including dermatology, endocrinology and rheumatology.

About 40 Sutter-affiliated physicians and other providers will have offices and clinics in the Sutter Health Arden Care Center.

"Patients want the convenience of having multiple services available in one location," said Dr. Karun Grossman, chief medical officer of Sutter Medical Group. "The Sutter Health Arden Care Center features a host of options and is centrally located to better serve those living and working in nearby communities."

Internal demolition is now underway. Renovation construction is scheduled to begin in January and the first patients are expected to be seen next December. The estimated cost of



The existing three-story, 70,000-square-foot office building will be transformed into a multispecialty care center. Photo courtesy of Sutter Health

the project is about \$76 million.

The Sutter Health Arden Care Center is the latest example of Sutter Health's broader expansion plans in action.

With new facilities and services strategically located, the aim is to increase access to primary and specialty care doctors, reduce travel times for patients, and provide timely access to essential healthcare services.

Other expansion plans in the greater Sacramento area

include the Sutter Health Folsom Care Complex, a 106,500-square-foot, \$145-million project featuring primary and specialty care, as well as an ambulatory surgery center. Sutter Health is also expanding its Elk Grove Care Complex with the planned construction of a new 56,000-square-foot, \$67.8-million specialty care center.

In addition, Sutter Health acquired seven acres of land in south Placer County on Highland Pointe Drive for a proposed

care center that could feature primary, urgent and specialty care.

"Adding more care locations for patients and families is just one part of how Sutter plans to expand patient access now and in the future," said Rachael McKinney, Sutter Health's Greater Sacramento president. "

We have recruited more than 250 physicians to the area alone, expanded pathways for the next generation of caregivers, and added digital health support that will help meet the

growing demand for our services and enhance the overall patient experience."

Sutter Health is a not-for-profit healthcare system dedicated to providing comprehensive care throughout California.

Committed to health equity, community partnerships, and innovative, high-quality patient care, Sutter Health is pursuing a bold new plan to reach more residents and make excellent healthcare more connected and accessible.

It currently serves nearly

3.5-million patients, thanks to a team of more than 57,000 employees and clinicians, and 12,000-plus affiliated physicians, with a unified focus on expanding care to our patients.

Sutter Health delivers affordable care through its hospitals, medical groups, ambulatory surgery centers, urgent care clinics, telehealth, home health and hospice services.

Learn more about how Sutter Health is transforming healthcare at sutterhealth.org and vitals.sutterhealth.org. ★