

Happy Valentine's Day



“ IT IS INFINITELY BETTER TO HAVE A FEW GOOD MEN THAN MANY INDIFFERENT ONES. ”

Letter to James Mchenry | Friday, August 10, 1798



HONOR PRESIDENTS DAY

Grapevine Independent

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Teens Triumph in Junior Bike Program



Cordova High School students attended the Feb. 3 City Council meeting. Photos by Gerry McIntyre

By Ornella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - During the Feb 3. City Council meeting, members of the Cordova High School Velo Lancers and the American River Bike Patrol (ARBP) were invited to present and celebrate the success of the patrol's Junior Bike Program.

Funded by the City's Community Enhancement & Investment Fund, which provides grants to individuals, organizations, and community partners focused on enhancing the Rancho Cordova community, the program aimed to teach young cyclists bike safety, maintenance and the



JB, a graduate of the program, shared how the experience impacted his life. Photos by Gerry McIntyre

benefits of healthy outdoor recreation.

Rich Fowler, a member of both the American River Bike Patrol and the Cordova High School

Velo Lancer program, expressed gratitude to the City Council, staff and the Rancho Cordova community for their support in making the

program a success.

“We are here to say thank you to the staff for their support and help, to the mayor and council for your support and funding of the program and thank you to the people of Rancho Cordova who make this fund possible,” Fowler said.

The program culminated on Nov. 9 with 29 Cordova High School students completing a 32-mile bike ride from Folsom Lake to Discovery Park. Over the course of 10 weeks, the students gradually built up their endurance, starting with short rides and progressing to longer distances. In addition

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Superior Court Expands Hours of Operation

Sacramento Superior Court News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - In an effort to better serve the public, the Sacramento Superior Court will extend its hours of operation at the Carol Miller Justice Center, starting April 7.

This change is meant to increase accessibility for individuals needing to address traffic, small claims and unlawful detainer cases before the court.

Data shows that most users tend to access court services at the Carol Miller Justice Center earlier in the week, with a line often forming outside before the doors open to the public in the morning.

As part of an 18-month pilot program, the Carol Miller Justice Center will adjust its operating hours to open one hour earlier at 7 a.m. and close one hour later at 5 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. The courthouse will be closed Fridays.

These expanded hours will provide additional options for those wishing to resolve their cases outside traditional business hours, reducing the need to take time off work, school or other daily obligations.

Key changes include: Court services will be available Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Traffic arraignment calendars will start at 7 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

Court trial calendars will be added at 7:15 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

The courthouse will be closed on Fridays.

The expanded hours are anticipated to streamline court processes, reduce wait times and make it easier for Sacramento County residents to address their legal cases. For example, an individual could attend a traffic arraignment at 7 a.m., appear before a judge, and return to their regular daily schedule by 7:30 a.m.

The new hours will only apply to the Carol Miller Justice Center, which processes Traffic, Small Claims, and Unlawful Detainer cases. Other court buildings and divisions of the Sacramento Superior Court will maintain their standard operating hours.

The Carol Miller Justice Center is at 301 Bicentennial Circle, Sacramento.

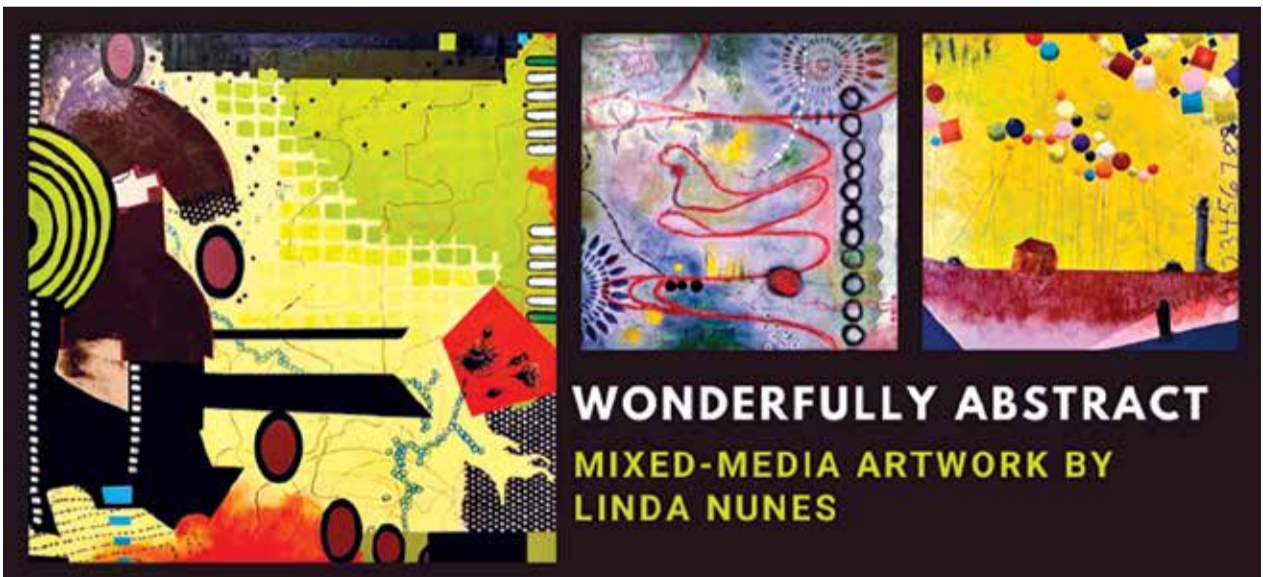
For more information about services available at the Carol Miller Justice Center, visit the following online links:

Traffic: saccourt.ca.gov/traffic/traffic.aspx

Small Claims: saccourt.ca.gov/small-claims/small-claims.aspx

Unlawful Detainers (Landlord/Tenant): saccourt.ca.gov/ud/ud.aspx

Chamber Features Nunes' Artwork



WONDERFULLY ABSTRACT MIXED-MEDIA ARTWORK BY LINDA NUNES

Artwork by Linda Nunes is on display at the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Chambers through July 14. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The next time you attend a meeting in the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors Chambers, be sure to check out the rotating art on display.

“Wonderfully Abstract” mixed-media artwork by Sacramento-area artist Linda Nunes is on display now through July 14. Sacramento County sponsors bi-annual art exhibitions in the Board Chambers, located at 700 “H” St.

Nunes grew up in San Jose and relocated to the Sacramento-area in 1989.

Nunes is an award-winning mixed-media artist who also teaches wax media workshops, curates and occasionally serves as a juror for local exhibitions.

She paints and sculpts, and her permanent and temporary installations have been featured locally and in the Bay Area. Nunes' work is included in numerous private collections across California and throughout the country. Nunes has served on the board of the Sierra Wax Artists organization and is one of the original co-founders of Rancho Cordova Arts.

Nunes' current gallery work is mostly two-dimensional and

primarily non-narrative, characterized by gestural marks, texture and color. Whimsical images occasionally appear in her art. The artwork is produced using encaustic (beeswax and resin), cold wax and either oil or acrylic. Regardless of the medium, each finished piece incorporates a variety of mixed-media and mark-making techniques.

Visitors are welcome to view the art when meetings are in session. To check when the next meeting is scheduled, view the online Board Meeting Calendar at bos.saccounty.gov/Pages/MeetingCalendar.aspx.



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!



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Teens Triumph in Junior Bike Program



Members of the Cordova High School Velo Lancers and the American River Bike Patrol (ARBP) were invited to present and celebrate the success of the patrol's Junior Bike Program. Photos by Gerry McIntyre

Continued from page 1
to cycling skills, participants learned bicycle maintenance, basic first aid and how to ride safely on city streets.

JB, a graduate of the program, shared how the experience impacted his life.

"I would like to say thank you that this program was funded," JB said. "It's more than just going out and riding a bike; you build a lot of relationships with people and I met a lot of people who I care about. It taught me that riding my bike is more than just going out, it's learning so much, and I really enjoyed it. It made me find a love for riding my bike and I really love going out and helping people. It inspired something in me that I don't think I would have ever

had access to."

To mark their achievement, each graduate received a new Trek FX 1 bicycle, generously provided by the American River Bike Patrol and set up with help from Trek and the City of Rancho Cordova.

"When we asked what they wanted and expected from the program, they all mentioned the new bike. But it was so much more than they ever anticipated, the experience, the challenge, and the things they accomplished that they never thought possible," said Vic Massenkoff, American River Bike Patrol Public Information Office. "A bike like this was a huge thing for them. If it weren't for the city and the program, they wouldn't have this bike, which they can

now use to go to school, work and after-school activities"

In other business, City Council addressed the member vacancies for the Planning Commission. With several terms expiring and one regular member removed, the Council reviewed four nominations to fill these vacancies.

The city had opened the application process for five weeks and received 10 applications in total. All applicants met the minimum qualifications, including being at least 18 years of age, residing within Rancho Cordova's boundaries, and not being an elected official of another public entity.

Councilmember Joe Little nominated Rehana S. Rehman, councilmember David Sander nominated Lee Frechette and Mayor Siri Pulipati nominated



Rich Fowler, a member of both the American River Bike Patrol and the Cordova High School Velo Lancer program, expressed gratitude to the City Council and Rancho Cordova residents. Photos by Gerry McIntyre

Surender Devarapalli.

Vice Mayor Garret Gatewood, who was absent

from the session, will reschedule his nomination for a future meeting. ★

MENTAL HEALTH AS WE AGE

A Guest Speaking Panel Discussion

Join us for an enlightening panel discussion on mental health in later life. Gain insights and practical strategies to enhance emotional well-being, manage stress, and navigate the complexities of aging.

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 2025

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

SUMMERSET SENIOR LIVING
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RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670

Meet the Panelists

- Dr. Linda Gillman, Ph.D.**
A psychologist specializing in aging, caregiving, and life transitions, with extensive experience supporting seniors and their families.
- Georgiana Rivera LCSW**
Licensed Clinical Social Worker with expertise in caregiving and mental health support for seniors.
- Melinda Jenkins RN Psych.**
A seasoned nurse with years of experience in behavioral health and wellness for seniors.

Reserve Your Spot- Please RSVP by Feb 20th
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Gorman Leading Lancers by His Strong Example



Malachi Gorman pulls up for a short jumper against Kennedy. Photos by Rick Sloan

By James Darnell

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - This past August, Cordova Lancers' senior forward Malachi Gorman was kicked out of an open gym session for aspiring basketball players held by new head coach Kevin Bridgeforth. The first-year coach wanted to see how the 6-foot-3 youngster would respond to adversity as well as questions about his maturity. Gorman didn't know it at the time but that difficult lesson would prove to be exactly what was needed for the talented athlete to take his game to the next level.

Gorman would soon return to campus to find his coach, desperate to get back in his good graces. He asked Bridgeforth if there was anything he could do to get back on the court. It was at that moment that Bridgeforth knew the type of player he had on his hands.

"I knew right then," Bridgeforth said. "From that moment, he's done a complete 180 in terms of trying to be the leader of this team. His maturity has expedited in such a short amount of time and his ability to make his teammates better has really impressed me."

From the summer until now, Gorman's work ethic on the court, in the weight room and in the



Malachi Gorman goes up for a layup after a steal against Kennedy.

classroom has caught the eye of his coaches and teammates, who now view him as the team's true leader. But it has been his mental toughness and willingness to be coached that has impressed Bridgeforth the most.

"Malachi is one of those kids that loves basketball," he said. "He loves every aspect of it. He shows up to practice every single day dressed and ready to go. You can

just see the fire in his eyes."

Gorman, who currently leads the Lancers in scoring at 11 points per game, has only been playing basketball since his freshman year at Cordova. But his pure athleticism and ability to receive coaching have helped Gorman improve by leaps and bounds year over year. Gorman was quick to credit those who have aided him along the way when asked about the reasons for his ascent.

"I've had a lot of great coaches in my life, including Coach Bridgeforth," Gorman said of how he has been able to improve his game so quickly.

"They've all pushed me and said I could be great," Gorman said. "I've worked hard, I picked up the things I needed to pick up and I've just kept it going."

Gorman intends on playing basketball in college, with his sights set on attending a local community college after graduation. Bridgeforth said that the dynamic senior can definitely play at the next level if he finds the right situation.

"I believe if he falls into the right hands and gets the right kind of coaching like he has here, he can be one hell of a player," Bridgeforth said. ★

California Capital International Documentary Film Festival Dates Announced

California Capital Film Office News Release

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The 3rd Annual California Capital International Documentary Film Festival will be held on March 7, 8 and 9 in Rancho Cordova.

Tickets including all access passes are available on calcapdocfest.org and can also be purchased in person at Fat Elephant Records, Books and Music 2707 Cordova Lane, Rancho Cordova.

The festival will take place at three screening locations: Rancho Cordova City Hall Council Chambers and The American River Room, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, and the Rancho Cordova Youth Center 10455 Investment Circle, Rancho Cordova.

This year's program will screen 44 films which includes, 23 Shorts (a short is a film under 45 minutes) and 21 long-form docs (anywhere from 55 mins to 1.40). Of these, we will screen films from 12 different countries around the world.

For the first time, this year's festival will offer a virtual aspect to the festival where filmgoers can purchase a "virtual pass" that will allow them to view as many films as they like from the comfort of their own home. The virtual pass is valid from March 10 through March 24. A virtual pass is \$30 or included when purchasing an all-access pass (\$45). Documentary subjects will include

world and U.S. premiers. Additionally, two locally made documentaries will have world premier screenings at the festival. *Food for Thought: The Story of the Rancho Cordova Food Locker*. Food for Thought takes viewers on a heartfelt journey into the operations of the Rancho Cordova Food Locker, an essential resource for battling food insecurity. Receiving its first audience screening, *Symphony Serenade*. Symphony Serenade explores the origin and growth of Symphony D'Oro, Rancho Cordova. The film follows the symphony as they prepare and perform an original movement about the city, composed by Carlos McMillan-Fuentes.

The festival aims to provide an international program to local audiences and will feature screenings in cinematic 6k with surround sound

Sponsored by the City of Rancho Cordova, SMUD, Comstock's Magazine, Atlas Disposal, KP Market, Visit Rancho Cordova, Sacramento Film & Media, Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce, and Cordova Community Council and is supported in part by the Measure H Community Enhancement & Investment Fund from the City of Rancho Cordova.

For more information about the festival, including the lineup and ticket availability, visit calcapdocfest.org or call 916-706-2000. ★

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT & INVESTMENT FUND GRANTS AVAILABLE



The City of Rancho Cordova is now accepting applications for grant funding from individuals, organizations, and community partners who are interested in enhancing the Rancho Cordova community.

APPLY THROUGH March 14, 2025 at 12 PM!

If your project or program will take place at a school or park, your application is due by Monday, March 3, 2025 at 12 PM.



Community Grant Types

- Arts, Culture, History, & Entertainment
- Community Assistance Programs
- Youth Programs & Services

The city anticipates awarding approximately \$2.5 million in community grants in Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

★ **APPLY NOW** ★



CityofRanchoCordova.org/CommunityEnhancementInvestmentFund



The Community Enhancement & Investment Fund is funded by Measures H and R, ½ cent local sales tax measures approved by Rancho Cordova voters respectively in November 2014 and 2020.

Sunrise Tomorrow Amendment Proposed

By Thomas J. Sullivan

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - "When Macy's closes the two stores... (Sunrise Mall will) for all intents and purposes die," said Sacramento-based commercial real estate developer Ethan Conrad.

He was telling some 75 people gathered at the monthly neighborhood meeting of Citrus Heights Area Seven, Eight, Nine (CHASEN) on Jan. 21 that the city's vision for its Sunrise Tomorrow redevelopment plan is not "economically viable."

The amendment proposal, submitted by his firm Ethan Conrad Properties Inc. details adjustments to the plan approved by the Citrus Heights City Council in 2021 that would affect the redevelopment of the Sunrise Mall area.

Conrad controls 71 acres of the southern portion of the mall and confirmed that he is in escrow to purchase 50 more acres, including the northern section of the mall where the two Macy's stores are located. The JCPenney parcel that faces Arcadia Drive and includes a closed auto repair facility is also part of the same deal.

He purchased 21 acres of the almost 100-acre Sunrise Mall property in 2022 where the former Sears retail store and its automotive service center were located.

"Unfortunately, there has been no current interest from any developer to move forward with the (Sunrise Tomorrow) plan as written," Conrad said.

Specific modifications to the city's Sunrise Tomorrow plan must allow all "logical use" tenants which would have been allowed before the city's specific plan for the mall was approved, Conrad said.

Specific changes recommended by Conrad include the allowance of eight quick-service restaurant and drive-thru businesses, building and landscape materials sales, light industrial and storage uses, and automotive uses, as well as the removal of requirements for open space. His plan also calls for the elimination of proposed commercial office space on the mall property.

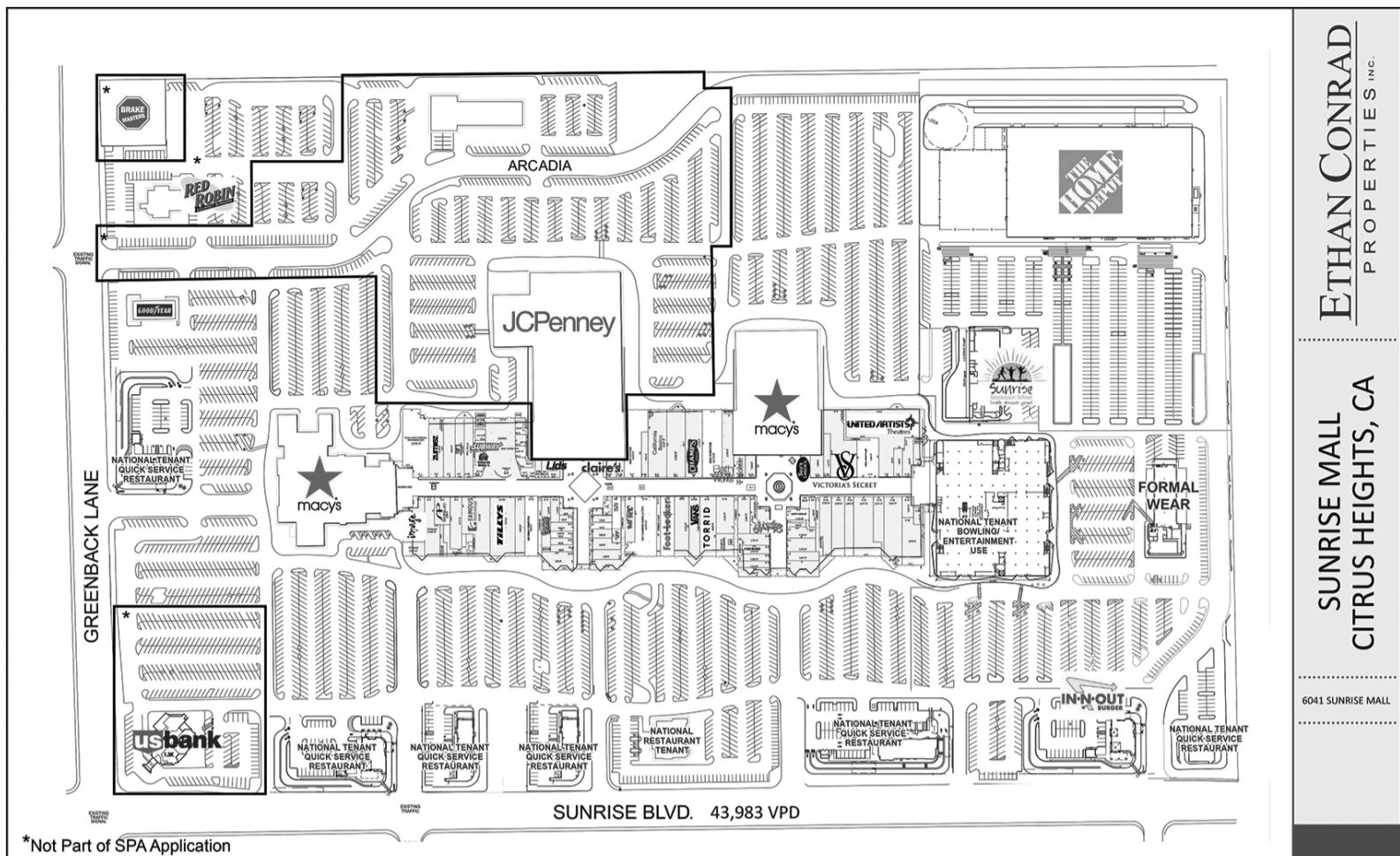
Conrad proposes to submit a commercial parcel map application, which will merge some of the existing parcels and to re-parcel them to allow indoor commercial recreation facilities that are not allowed within sub areas of the adopted Specific Plan and its zoning. A quick-serve national restaurant is also shown being added along Greenback Lane. Conrad suggested BJ's Brewhouse, potentially occupying the former Elephant Bar site, and IKEA to fill one of Macy's vacant retail store locations.

The former Sears building is listed as "national tenant bowling/entertainment use" and a Home Depot is shown in the southeastern corner of the property.

Conrad's presentation was pulled from the Jan. 22 City Council meeting agenda, according to a Jan. 16 announcement by the city. Instead, Conrad decided to make a presentation to the monthly neighborhood meeting of CHASEN with other scheduled community meetings to follow.

Conrad outlined his specific modifications to the Sunrise Tomorrow plan, calling his proposal "Sunrise Tomorrow Evolution."

On Nov. 10, 2021, Citrus Heights City Council



Here is an overview of the Conrad proposal. Courtesy photo

unanimously voted in favor of adopting the Sunrise Tomorrow Specific Plan and its associated environmental impact report (EIR), rezoning and a General Plan amendment for the future redevelopment of the nearly 100-acre mall property.

"Sunrise Tomorrow Evolution simply provides more flexibility for logical retail uses to ensure we can attract the tenants needed to establish an economically viable, long-term solution for the property," Conrad said.

"We (Conrad) are simply proposing more flexibility to allow logical retail uses to allow the new retailers that will help drive the economic vitality of the new property, provide jobs, and increase sales tax revenue," he said.

Modifications proposed by Conrad would have to come before the Citrus Heights City Council in a formal hearing, according to city communications officer Marisa Brown. Such a hearing has not been yet scheduled, she said.

Conrad said he had an opportunity five years ago to purchase Sunrise Mall from the Namdar Realty Group, a privately-held commercial real estate investment and management firm based in Great Neck, N.Y.

Namdar Realty Group did not respond to a request for comment.

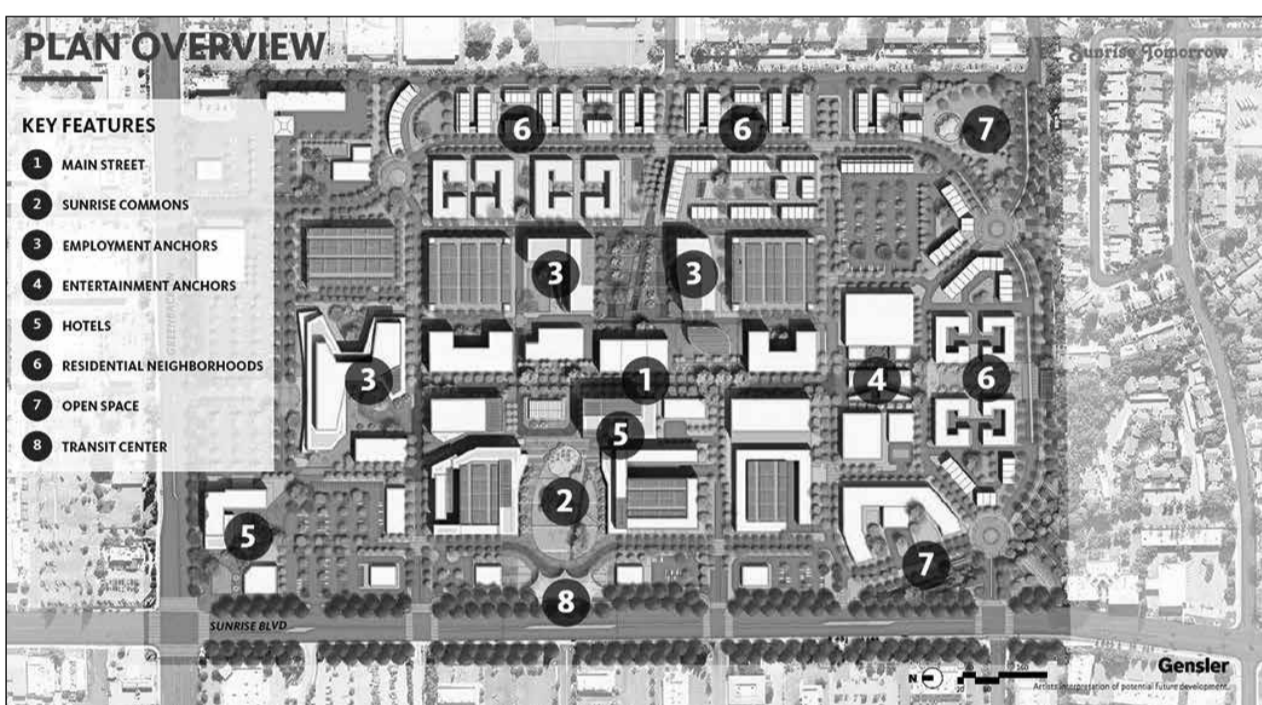
In his slide presentation, Conrad said that the status of Sunrise Mall is "unacceptable" for Citrus Heights "and will only continue to worsen" with the recently announced closure of Macy's.

"Namdar has not demonstrated any increased urgency in response to Macy's closure announcement," Brown said. "The city continues to engage with all property owners and potential investors to support the redevelopment of the site."

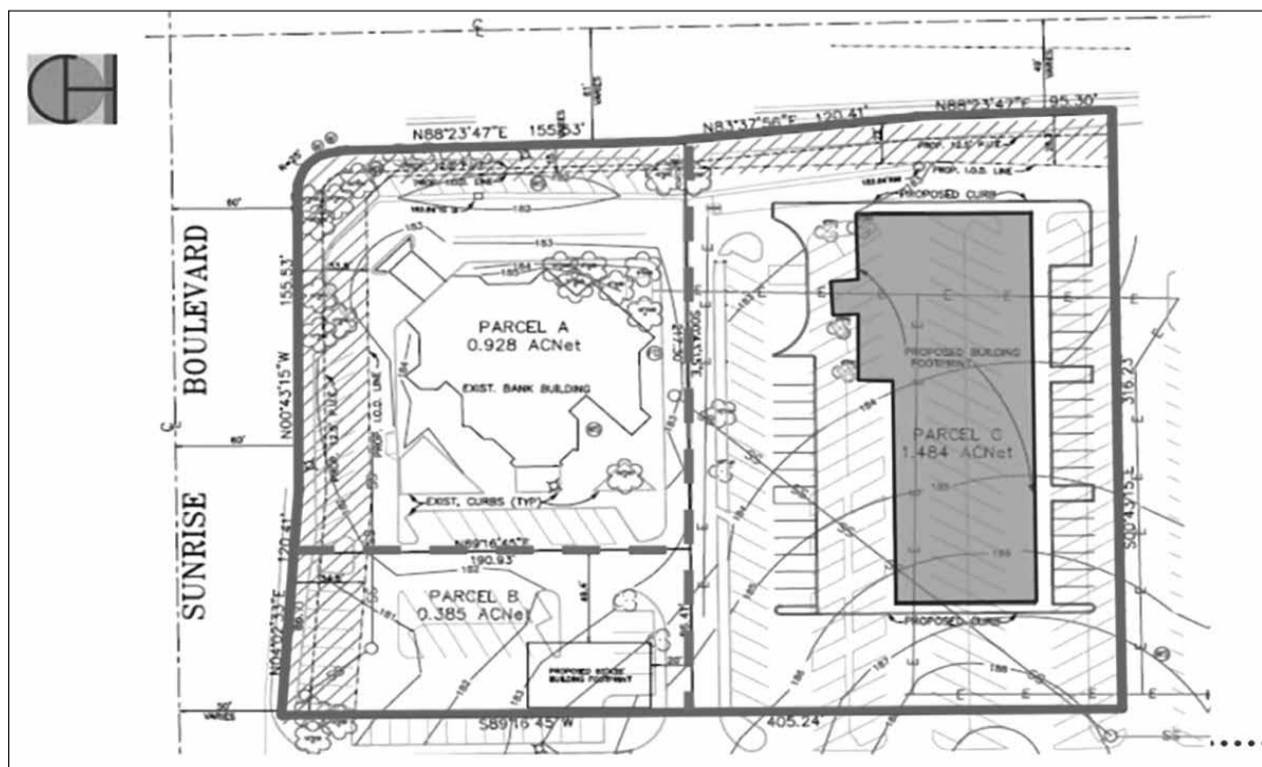
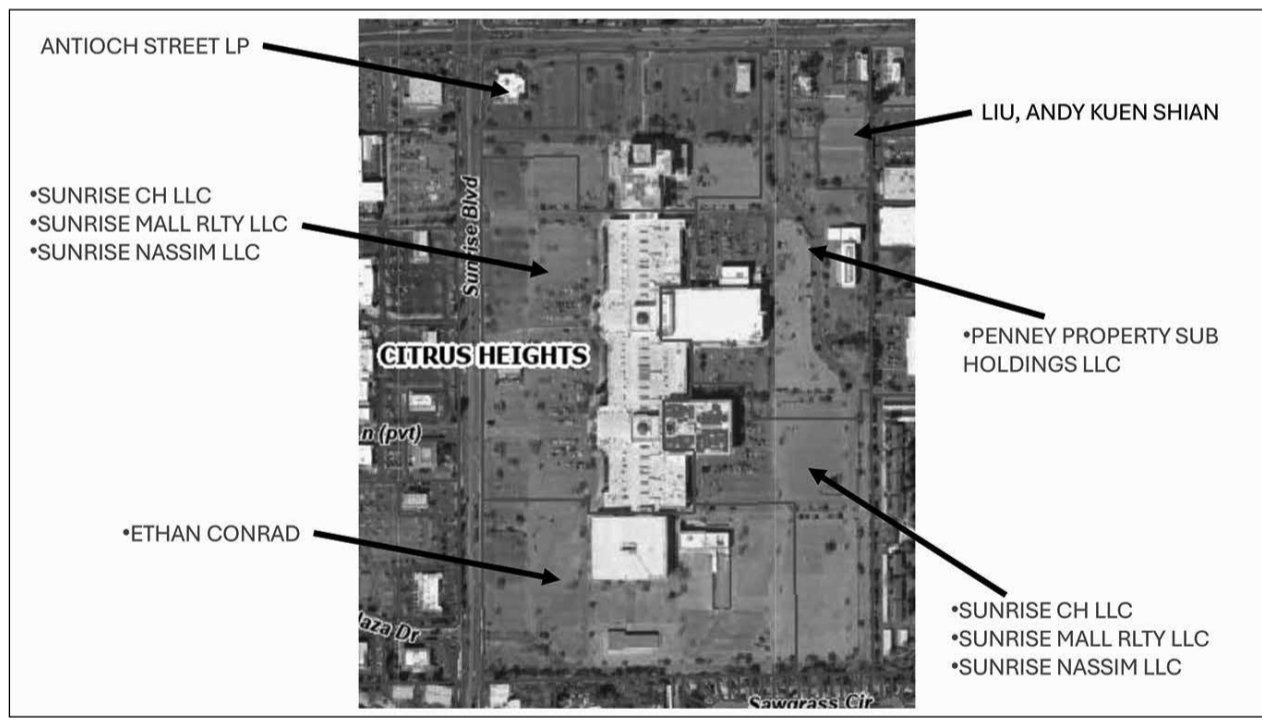
Conrad described the revitalization of the mall would take place in two main phases. Phase 1 would include construction of Home Depot, In-N-Out, two other fast-food restaurants, Judi's Cleaners and Lucky Stripe's Entertainment.

According to Conrad's Sunrise Tomorrow Evolution website, Phase 2 would involve placing tenants in the northern section of the mall. Tenants would be dictated by market demand and be subject to city approval, according to the website.

"The current occupancy of Sunrise Mall is approximately 50 percent but it is estimated to decline to



Above and Below is the city proposal for the Sunrise Tomorrow plan. Courtesy photo



Outlined in red is where the proposed hotel adjacent to the US Bank will go, according to the plan. Courtesy photo

approximately 20 percent once Macy's vacates its two stores.

Brown also provided a map outlining the multiple parcel owners of Sunrise Mall.

Antioch Street LP owns the parcel at the corner of Sunrise Boulevard and Greenback Lane where a proposed hotel is under consideration. The US Bank

will remain on an existing 0.93-acre parcel while allocating 1.48 acres for a future hotel development, as well as a 0.38-acre parcel anticipated for retail or restaurant use.

"While the city is in contact with each owner independently, there has not been a formal three-way conversation," Brown said.

"There has been no current interest from any developer to move forward with the plan as it is written and there is widespread acknowledgement that there needs to be more flexibility to ensure plans for the space are economically viable," Conrad said in his concluding remarks.

Conrad lists more possible tenants, including

Peet's Coffee, a Nordstrom Rack, Dick's Sporting Goods and Dunkin' Donuts on its Sunrise Tomorrow Evolution webpage developed by the property company,

For further information on the Sunrise Tomorrow Specific Plan and related updates and to provide feedback, visit www.sunrisetomorrow.net. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Close your eyes for just a moment and imagine it's opening night of the 2024/2025 basketball season. The public address announcer introduces the following players for the Kings, Malik Monk, DeMar DeRozan, Keegan Murray, Zach Lavine, and Domantas Sabonis.

Noticeably absent is of course DeAaron Fox, but even so, how did that lineup sound? Oh, did I mention that Jonas Valanciunas is backing up Sabonis, and we added 2nd year man Jake LaRada, recently acquired from the Memphis Grizzlies.

The starting lineup features three players that have multiple all-star appearances, and the potential scoring power from these five players should wet your lips.

On Saturday night against the only team in the NBA that beat the Kings six times in the 2023/2024 campaign, all three of the recent acquisitions were available and playing for the Sactown ballers.

The first quarter was a basketball nightmare as the hometown team went down by 20 points early, and Kings killer Zion Williamson took the Kings to the woodshed. It was not a pretty sight as Williamson and the Pelicans did pretty much whatever they wanted to do.

The Kings drew within 11 points at halftime, but the best was yet to come. As if deciding it was time to show the faithful hometown crowd what this new assembly was capable of, Sacramento rung up 45 points in the third quarter, and astoundingly held the Pelicans to only 22 points.

Fans were treated to show rarely seen, but it couldn't have come at a more prodigious time. The Sactown boys wowed the home crowd with a collection of 3's, fast break scores, frenetic defense, and in general treated the fans to a glimpse of what this new iteration of players are capable of.

In the end the Pelicans made a game of it, but even after briefly taking the lead in the 4th quarter, the Kings bore down and played solid down the stretch, putting this contest in the win column by the score of 123-118.

What a relief to break the Pelicans winning streak over the Kings, but more importantly, it was eye opener to see

what these players are capable of doing together.

Keep your eyes on Zach Lavine, as he is getting better every game. He is known for being a high percentage 3-point shooter, and although that has yet to be seen in his new uniform, I am looking for him to break out soon.

The real question that every fan is asking themselves, is can this team make the playoffs this year?

Players need to play, and coaches need to coach, but the short answer is yes.

I will say again, coach Christie needs to pay close attention to who is on the bench, and I'm particularly talking about Isaac Jones. Isaac makes his presence felt every time he's on the court, and with his length is constantly getting his hands on the ball.

The Kings have a real NBA defender in Keon Ellis, and I believe Isaac Jones can compliment that defensive effort. He has a nice touch around the rim, can rebound, and in general looks like he belongs when given the chance.

6'9" rookies with game are a hard commodity to find, and he's already signed to a contract, and showing up for every game.

Just as Mike Brown brought Keon Ellis along last year, and he's paying dividends now, so can Isaac Jones find ways to make the Kings a better team.

True, the Pelicans did not have a good win-loss record, but the win on Saturday night was more than that. If you want to get excited, go back and watch the 3rd quarter again and then sit back and imagine what might be.

The Sactown boys hit the road for three games, starting with the Dallas Mavericks Monday, and then on to New Orleans for back-to-back games on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

These three games will give fans a better glimpse into the new team chemistry, and in the tightly packed western conference, just one four- or five-game winning streak can catapult a team into playoff contention.

Hold onto your seats Kings fans, because the best is yet to come!

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

Social Security Matters

Why was Social Security Money Moved to the General Treasury?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: Why were the Social Security funds moved from the Social Security account to the General Fund with the government? Is it not then called a tax making it an entitlement? That then gives the government control of our retirement. Most of us feel that someone should be in charge and use the Social Security fund with investments that grow our savings.

I invested my 401K and savings, and the original amount made me money during the Trump years, and I'm now trying to catch up. I make this statement because I draw more from my investments than I receive from Social Security. **Signed: Questioning Senior Citizen**

Dear Questioning Senior: I'm afraid I must inform you that no Social Security funds have ever been moved from the Social Security account to the government's General Fund – this is a pervasive myth which we have refuted many

times over the years. For information, here is one of many articles I have published on this topic, which I hope you find interesting: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-about-repaying-social-security-money-taken-by-politicians/>.

Someone actually is charged with monitoring our Social Security funds – a board of Social Security Trustees consisting of the Secretaries of Treasury, Labor, and Health & Human Services, as well as the Commissioner of Social Security plus two Public Trustees. Each year the Social Security Trustees do a complete analysis of the Social Security program, especially its financial status and outlook for the future. If you have interest in the Trustee's latest annual report, here is a link to the 2024 analysis: <https://socialsecurityreport.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/tr24summary.pdf>.

What you will find in the Trustees' report is that Social Security will run out of reserved funds in about 2033, necessitating an across the board cut of about 21% for everyone, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program and restore it to fiscal solvency. The Trustees have warned Congress about this problem for many years, but Congress has yet to find the bipartisan cooperation needed to fix the problem.

AMAC (the Association of Mature American Citizens) has steadfastly offered proposals to Congress which would restore Social Security to solvency and will continue to do so with the new 119th Congress, which convened on January 3, 2025.

Please know that we appreciate your feedback and commend you for the wise use of your 401k investments, something that many of our members find necessary to supplement their Social Security. Remember, Social Security was never intended to provide all your retirement income, so earlier saving to supplement your retirement financial needs was a very wise move on your part.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. ★

California Schools Continue to Struggle with Test Scores in Reading and Math



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

When Gov. Gavin Newsom issues one of his periodic boasts about California's superiority vis-a-vis other states — particularly those with conservative politics such as Texas and Florida — he conveniently omits aspects that are less than admirable. The exclusions include California's levels of poverty, homelessness, unemployment, utility bills and housing costs that are the nation's highest, or close to it.

One of California's starkest — and most important — let-downs is the consistent failure to help elementary and middle school students achieve higher national test scores in basic educational skills, such as reading and math.

Simply put, California's education system is not only behind most other states, but even trails those that Newsom and other Californians consider to be culturally backward. Moreover, California schools have not yet recovered from the educational losses suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This harsh reality is revealed in the latest round of academic testing by the federal National Assessment of Educational Progress. The data are voluminous and difficult to parse, but EdSource, a nonprofit news outlet devoted to charting California education trends, has thankfully

done it for the rest of us.

"The latest scores show mostly no progress," EdSource reported last week. "Scores in fourth and eighth grade reading fell again, leaving California 9 points and the nation 8 points below 2017. Math was mixed — up in fourth grade, but not enough to catch 2019, with eighth grade taking another dip."

EdSource further found that average scores "mask widening disparities between the highest and lowest-performing students. On fourth grade reading, student scores at the 90th achievement percentile fell 1 point between 2019 and 2024, and scores at the 75th percentile fell 3 points. However, scores for students in the 10th percentile fell 10 points, and for students in the 25th percentile, they fell 8 points."

Stubbornly low levels of reading and mathematics skills among elementary and middle school students are particularly worrisome because they are tools that must be mastered to successfully navigate high school and post-graduation college classes or job training. The lapses not only affect the students' chances to become successful adults but the state's needs for an educated workforce and voting public.

Current data underscore that negative effect. While California has a huge homeless population and more than a million members of its labor force are jobless, employers are also finding it very difficult to fill job vacancies with workers who are either skilled or can be trained.

This isn't a new issue. California has been lagging behind other states for decades and has a chronic "achievement gap" between

poor or English-learner students and those from more privileged circumstances.

More than a decade ago, then-Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature overhauled school finance to provide additional funds to schools with large numbers of students at risk of failure. While countless billions of dollars have been rerouted, the outcomes have improved only fractionally at best.

Money is certainly a factor in the quality of instruction. The state has sharply boosted spending on schools in recent years and they would have nearly \$25,000 per student in Newsom's proposed 2025-26 budget. Newsom has fostered additional state aid for kindergarten and pre-kindergarten, the state is now providing universally free lunches, and has implemented early screening to detect reading deficiencies.

Those are potentially positive steps to close achievement gaps, but money is not the only factor. EdSource notes that "some states whose scores exceeded California's on fourth-grade reading, including Mississippi, Connecticut and Colorado, adopted comprehensive reading plans grounded in the science of reading."

That's the current term for phonics, which California's education establishment has often resisted despite ample evidence that it improves kids' ability to read.

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

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Elizabeth Sutphen, Soprano
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Atti
Salvatore Atti, Tenor

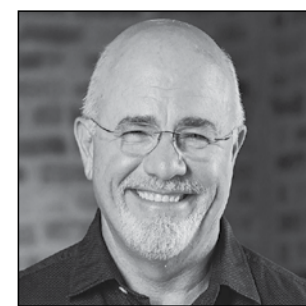

Soar
David Soar, Bass





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TICKETS | SAFE CU PAC Box Office | 916.808.5181
or Ticketmaster.com



Dave Ramsey

Dave Ramsey Says Safe and Easily Accessible and The Tortoise and the Hare

Dear Dave,

I stopped contributing to my 401(k) temporarily to help us build an emergency fund a little faster. Things are going slowly, though, and I'm getting worried. My wife and I are both 46, have no debt except our home and we have a combined household income of \$100,000 a year. We have \$20,000 in a single stock, and I was wondering if we should cash out that stock and use the money for our emergency fund.

– Doug

Dear Doug,

That's exactly what I'd do. I'd cash out that stock as soon as possible, and put the cash in a simple money market account with check writing privileges and no penalties for early withdrawals.

Basically, your emergency fund is in stock right now, and that's a bad place to keep it. You never know when life will throw unexpected expenses your way, or when the stock market will go down. You always want your emergency fund to be safe and easily accessible. Remember, your emergency fund is insurance—not an investment.

After that, make sure you keep pushing forward and jump back into Baby Step 4. That means start pour-

ing money into your 401(k) again.

Great question, Doug!

– Dave

The Tortoise and the Hare

Dear Dave,

I'm trying to get out of debt and start handling my money better. Should lower the amount I'm contributing to my 401(k) so I can pay off my car and house faster?

– Austin

Dear Austin,

I can tell you're excited about the idea of getting out of debt. And that's a good thing! But I don't want you to get ahead of yourself when it comes to gaining control of your finances.

Here's my Baby Steps plan. The first thing you should do is set aside a beginner emergency fund of \$1,000. That's Baby Step 1. Next comes Baby Step 2, which means paying off all your debt, except for your house. This would include your car. During this time, you should temporarily stop any kind of investing and retirement contributions, so you can attack your debt with a vengeance.

Once your mortgage is the only debt you have, it's on to Baby Step 3. This means you start saving money to grow your begin-

ner emergency fund into a fully-funded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses. After that, it's on to Baby Step 4, which is investing 15 percent of your pre-tax income for retirement. In your case, that would mean re-starting contributions to your 401(k).

The rest of the plan goes like this. Baby Step 5 is putting money into your kids' college funds, if you have kids. Baby Step 6 is focusing on paying off the house early, and then comes the real fun. Baby Step 7 is where you build wealth and give like crazy.

It may take a little time in some cases, but there are millions of people out there who will tell you this—following the Baby Steps works!

– Dave

Dave Ramsey is a national best-selling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 20 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for the company, Ramsey Solutions. ★



By Bob McGarvey

There is a wonderful list of events that are happening in the City of Rancho Cordova this year, and that list can be found in the Cordova Community Council office and in different places.

On March 14, many will be at the Community Volunteer Awards. The California Capital Airshow will happen on Saturday, March 22 to Sunday, March 23. I hope that the rain will not be coming down that weekend.

There are quite a few more things such as Movies in the Park, the Rancho Cordova Fourth of July Celebration and Friday Night Concerts again.

There are more wonderful things going on in Rancho every year, so I hope you will be able to see all of these events.

Also going on is the Mills Station Arts & Culture Center (MACC) where everyone can see the visual arts events. We saw many of the events there last year and there are

And Another Thing We Have Great Events

really talented artists showing their work and music is presented there, too.

I had a conversation about our city's budget and compared it with a few other cities. This year, Sacramento is operating its budget with \$77 million in the red and Folsom City is \$20 million in the red. We have been very fortunate to have our city's budget operating in the black every year.

I am looking forward to no longer having to pay the county the revenue neutrality payments. We had to pay that before we were allowed to vote on becoming a city. The year 2028 will be the end of having to pay the revenue neutrality payments. The county said we had to pay every year for 31.5 years. We went to court and we are now paying for 25 years. The money increased every year and the last year was over \$11 million.

I began looking at some of the great things that have happened to our community after we became a city. I know that many other things were done before

we were able to vote. As I said earlier, we had to go through the LAFCO or the Local Agency Formation Commission.

Some of our history includes the Cordova Community Council, which was founded in 1959 as a nonprofit organization to foster civic engagement and community celebration in Rancho Cordova. I know the council would begin the year meeting in September at the Officers Club at Mather Air Force Base. The Mather Air Force Base was one of the two organizations (Aerojet General was the other) which forced Rancho Cordova to grow and expand in the 1950s and until we became a city in 2003.

I am glad that the rain has begun again. Something we don't need again is a drought. The fires around L.A. made me very worried about the people in L.A. I am very pleased that the fires are now controlled.

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

Library Helps Teens Shine Bright on Prom Night



Teens ages 13 to 19 can browse the library's free formalwear collection and take home an outfit to keep for their special night. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library

Sacramento Public Library News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Starting Feb. 15, Sacramento Public Library is hosting 17 free prom giveaway events across the region.

Teens ages 13 to 19 can browse the library's free formalwear collection and take home an outfit to keep for their special night.

More than 900 teens benefited from the library's prom giveaway events last year.

Formalwear, including

gently-worn jackets, ties, dresses, shoes and accessories in a variety of styles and sizes, were donated by community members.

Upcoming prom giveaway events include March 6 at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library and March 8 at Arden-Dimick Library, Fair Oaks Library and Belle Cooleedge Library.

On March 13, the event will be at North Natomas Library, followed by March 14 at Walnut Grove Library. The event will also be at Walnut Grove Library

and Rio Linda Library on March 15.

On March 22, the prom giveaway event will be at Rancho Cordova Library, Valley Hi-North Laguna Library, South Natomas Library and Orangevale Library.

March 29 will feature prom giveaway events at Carmichael Library and Franklin Library.

The final giveaways will be on April 5 at Sylvan Oaks Library and on April 19 at Arcade Library.

Visit saclibrary.org/prom for times and full details. ★



The Sacramento Public Library is hosting 17 free prom giveaway events across the region. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library

CHURCH DIRECTORY

SUN RIVER CHURCH

11223 Trinity River Drive
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9:00 am Sundays: Youth and Adult classes
10:30 am: Worship Gathering
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at both 9:00 and 10:30 am

NEW LIFE CENTER A-G

2451 Zinfandel Drive
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Lead Pastor Lance Feliciano
Sunday Service is 10:30 am
Wednesday Night Bible 6:30 pm
www.newliferc.net

ST. CLEMENT'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

www.saint-clements.com
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Kids' Sunday School During Service
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SUNRISE COMMUNITY CHURCH RANCHO CORDOVA

Meets Sundays, 12:30 pm at New Life Center
2451 Zinfandel Drive, Rancho
Cordova • (916) 710-0142
Senior Pastor Roy Leos
Sunday: 12:30 pm in person
and Facebook Live
Wednesday: 7 pm via Zoom
www.rcsunrise.org

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& Encouragement 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Wednesday with Pastor Tom Jones

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10400 Coloma Road – (916) 363-5687
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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.

Grapevine Independent

Serving Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County Since 1968

It is the intent of the Grapevine Independent 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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Assemblyman Hoover Introduces Bill to Increase Penalties on Looting



Josh Hoover

Office of Assemblyman Josh Hoover News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 23, Assemblyman Josh Hoover (R-Folsom) announced the introduction of Assembly Bill 271 to help protect fire victims from additional hardship by increasing penalties on looters during declared states of emergency.

“Criminals continue to prey on victims of the wildfires in Los Angeles and across

the state, callously stealing valuables from people who have been driven from their homes and are experiencing unimaginable heartache. Clearly, our penalties are not sufficient to deter those willing to exploit vulnerable individuals during this disaster.” Assemblyman Hoover said. “We must do more to protect victims during these tragic events and send a message that these crimes will not be tolerated.”

AB 271 allows a felony to be charged for offenders who commit burglary or grand theft in an area where a state of emergency, local emergency, or an evacuation has been called. It also imposes a two-year sentence enhancement for those who impersonate a government employee, such as a firefighter or peace officer, a tactic being used by some criminals to gain access to homes.

Josh Hoover represents Assembly District 7, which includes the cities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, and Rancho Cordova and the unincorporated communities of Carmichael, Fair Oaks, Foothill Farms, Gold River, Mather, McClellan Park, North Highlands, Orangevale and Rosemont. ★

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Carmichael Times Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 317294 – February 7, 1984
Rancho Cordova Independent Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 195380 – September 18, 1969
Citrus Heights Messenger Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 34-2020-00273535 – March 12, 2020
The Rio Linda News Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Adjudication No. 358073 – March 21, 1988

Legal Advertising Hotline 916-483-2299
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Legal Advertising 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd #5 Carmichael, CA 95608

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE

technology, then you can attend the hearing using a telephone and calling the designated toll free telephone conference line. You must appear by Zoom Application or Telephone using the designated department account referenced below at least 5 minutes before your scheduled hearing date and time; and wait for a court representative to take roll. Department 129 zoom link: <https://saccourt-cagov.zoomgov.com/join/9164832299> or Toll Free Telephone Conference Line @ (833) 568-8864, with meeting ID #16133529231

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any

petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. The name, address and telephone number of the Attorney for Petitioner is: David R. Morris, Esq., 5137 Golden Foothill Parkway, Suite 110, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762; 916-789-9810
 Publish: February 14, 21, 28, 2025
 EDWARDS 2-28-25

SUMMONS

SUMMONS (FAMILY LAW)
 CASE NUMBER (NUMERO DEL CASO): 24FL04485

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT (Name): AVISO AL DEMANDADO (Nombre): Pema Dolkar Bhutia

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. Read the information below and on the next page. PETITIONER'S NAME IS: (NOMBRE DEL DEMANDANTE): Samuel Rozell.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons and Petition are served on you to file a response (form FL-120) at the court and have a copy served on the petitioner. A letter, phone call or court appearance will not protect you. If you do not file your response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage or domestic partnership, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. For legal advice contact a lawyer immediately. Get help finding a lawyer at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), at the California Legal Services website (www.lawhelpca.org) or by contacting your local county bar association.

Usted tiene 30 DÍAS CALENDARIO después de que

se le presente esta Citación y Petición para presentar una respuesta (formulario FL-120) en el tribunal y tener una copia notificada al peticionario. Una carta, llamada telefónica o comparecencia ante el tribunal no lo protegerá. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, el tribunal puede hacer órdenes que afecten su matrimonio o pareja de hecho, sus bienes y la custodia de sus hijos. Es posible que se le ordene pagar la manutención y los honorarios y costos de los abogados. Para obtener asesoramiento legal, póngase en contacto con un abogado de inmediato. Obtenga ayuda para encontrar un abogado en el Centro de Autoayuda en Línea de los Tribunales de California (www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp), en el sitio web de Servicios Legales de California (www.lawhelpca.org) o comunicándose con el colegio de abogados de su condado local.

NOTICE: RESTRAINING ORDERS ARE ON PAGE 2: These restraining orders are effective against both spouse or domestic partners until the petition is dismissed, a judgment is entered or the court makes further orders. They are enforceable anywhere in California by any law enforcement officer who has received or seen a copy of them.

AVISO: LAS ÓRDENES DE RESTRICCIÓN ESTÁN EN LA PÁGINA 2: Estas órdenes de restricción son efectivas contra ambos cónyuges o parejas domésticas hasta que se desestime la petición, se dicte una sentencia o el tribunal dicte más órdenes. Son exigibles en cualquier lugar de California por cualquier oficial de la ley que haya recibido o visto una copia de ellos.

FEE WAIVER: If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk

for a fee waiver form. The court may order you to pay back all or part of the fees and costs that the court waived for you or the other party.

EXENCIÓN DE TARIFAS: Si no puede pagar la tarifa de presentación, pídale al secretario un formulario de exención de tarifas. El tribunal puede ordenarle que devuelva la totalidad o parte de los honorarios y costos que el tribunal renunció para usted o la otra parte.

The name and address of the court are: (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Sacramento Superior Court, 3341 Power Inn Road, Sacramento, CA 95826.

The name, address and telephone number of the petitioner's attorney, or the petitioner without an attorney are: (El nombre, dirección y número de teléfono del abogado del peticionario, o del peticionario sin abogado es): Samuel Rozell, 3812 Jo Ann Drive, Sacramento, CA 95821
 Date: (Fecha) 10-7-2024
 Phone: 971-284-2407
 By: Christy Andrade, Clerk of Court

O. Ibarra, Deputy STANDARD FAMILY LAW RESTRAINING ORDERS

Starting immediately, you and your spouse or domestic partner are restrained from:

- removing the minor children of the parties from the state or applying for a new or replacement passport for those minor children without the prior written consent of the other party or an order of the court;
- cashing, borrowing against, canceling, transferring, disposing of, or changing the beneficiaries of any insurance or other coverage, including life, health automobile, and disability, held for the benefit of the parties and their minor children;
- transferring, encumbering, hypothecating, concealing, or in any way disposing of any property, real or personal, whether community, quasi-community, or separate, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life; and
- creating a nonprobate transfer or modifying a nonprobate transfer in a manner that affects the disposition of property subject to the transfer, without the written consent of the other party or an order of the court. Before revocation of a nonprobate transfer can take effect or a right of survivorship to property can be eliminated, notice of the change must be filed and served on the other party.

You must notify each other of any proposed extraordinary expenditures at least five business days prior to incurring these extraordinary expenditures and account to the court for all extraordinary expenditures made after these restraining orders are effective. However, you may use community property, quasi-community property, or your own separate property to pay an attorney to help you or pay court costs.

NOTICE: ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE:

Do you or someone in your household need affordable health insurance? If so, you should apply for Covered California. Covered California can help reduce the cost you pay towards high quality affordable health care. For more information, visit www.coveredca.com. Or call Covered California at 1-800-300-1506

WARNING: IMPORANT INFORMATION

California law provides that, for purposes of division of property upon dissolution of a marriage or domestic partnership or upon legal separation, property acquired by the parties during marriage or domestic partnership in joint form is presumed to be community property. If either party to this ac-

tion should die before the jointly held community property is divided, the language in the deed that characterizes how title is held (i.e., joint tenancy, tenants in common, or community property) will be controlling, and not the community property presumption. You should consult your attorney if you want the community property presumption to be written into the recorded title to the property.

Publish: February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2025
 BHUTIA 2-28-25

are or may be responsible for paying off all liens senior to the lien being auctioned off, before you can receive clear title to the property. You are encouraged to investigate the existence, priority, and size of outstanding liens that may exist on this property by contacting the county recorder's office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge you a fee for this information. If you consult either of these resources, you should be aware that the same lender may hold more than one mortgage or deed of trust on the property. Notice To Property Owner: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the mortgagee, beneficiary, trustee, or a court, pursuant to Section 2924g of the California Civil Code. The law requires that information about trustee sale postponements be made available to you and to the public, as a courtesy to those not present at the sale. If you wish to learn whether your sale date has been postponed, and, if applicable, the rescheduled time and date for the sale of this property, you may call (877) 440-4460 or visit this Internet Web site www.mksconsultantsinc.com, using the file number assigned to this case 240916570. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. Notice To Tenant: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an "eligible tenant buyer," you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an "eligible bidder," you may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (877) 440-4460, or visit this internet website www.tlssales.info, using the file number assigned to this case 240916570 to find the date on which the trustee's sale was held, the amount of the last and highest bid, and the address of the trustee. Second, you must send a written notice of intent to place a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 15 days after the trustee's sale. Third, you must submit a bid so that the trustee receives it no more than 45 days after the trustee's sale. When submitting funds for a bid subject to Section 2924m, please make the funds payable to "Total Lender Solutions, Inc. Holding Account". If you think you may qualify as an "eligible tenant buyer" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. Date: 2/4/2025 Total Lender Solutions, Inc. 10505 Sorrento Valley Road, Suite 125 San Diego, CA 92121 Phone: 866-535-3736 Sale Line: (877) 440-4460 By: Rachel Seropian, Trustee Sale Officer Published 2/14/25, 2/21/2025, 2/28/2025 Grapevine Independent 2-28-25

City of Rancho Cordova Notice of Public Hearing to Adopt the 2024 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) and 15-Day Public Review Period of the CAPER for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

NOTICE is hereby given that on **Monday, March 17, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova will hold a Public Hearing at the **Rancho Cordova City Hall, located at 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova**, to consider the following:

ADOPTION OF THE 2024 CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER) FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM

The 2024 CAPER is available for public review and comment starting **February 28, 2025 and will continue until March 17, 2025**. The community is invited to review and comment on the 2023 CAPER which reports on the expenditures and accomplishments of the CDBG program over the last fiscal year. Comments may be submitted in person or via mail to Ka Vang in the Community Development Department at 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670; by phone at (916) 851-8902; by e-mail at kvang@cityofranchocordova.org; or at the designated public hearing.

The Community Development Block Grant is a federal grant program run by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides communities with funds for infrastructure, neighborhood improvements, and other community planning and development programs.

The release of this notice is part of the City's obligation to fulfill citizen participation requirements. Federal regulations require localities to provide the public with reasonable access to all CDBG documents.

The 2023 CAPER will be available for public review on the City website at www.cityofranchocordova.org and at Rancho Cordova City Hall at 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Copies will be made available upon request and are free of charge.

The City of Rancho Cordova encourages interested parties to attend public meetings and comment on the issues being discussed. If you wish to provide testimony and are unable to attend the meeting, written comments that are delivered to the City Clerk's office prior to the time of the hearing will be made a part of the public record. Questions regarding this matter should be directed to the **City of Rancho Cordova Housing Division at (916) 851-8902**.

NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

Pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations, including without limitation, California Government Code Section 65009 and/or California Public Resources Code Section 21177, if you wish to challenge in court any of the above decisions (regarding planning, zoning and/or environmental decisions), you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing(s) described in this notice/agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the city at, or prior to, this public hearing.

ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Department at (916) 851-8720. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Printed in the Grapevine Independent on **February 14, 2025**.

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MPG

COMICS & PUZZLES

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POPEYE
BY KENNY HILGOLAND

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Spatula is wider. 2. Tie is different. 3. Sleeve is longer. 4. Bar is larger. 5. Pancake is added. 6. Cap is larger.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

GRIN AND BEAR IT

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

"It isn't a scenic drive unless you're in the right lane!"

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

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- CLUES**
- CROSSWORD**
- ACROSS
- Unit of electrical capacity F
 - Knicks' org.
 - Herring's cousin
 - City in Belgium
 - *The Beatles hit "Drive My ___"
 - Monument to Buddha
 - Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
 - Affirmative to captain
 - Like a beaver?
 - *Che's last name
 - *Stonewall riots location
 - Division of time
 - West African country
 - Refuse to comply
 - *The Jackson 5 co-founder
 - *Don ___ of Barney Fife fame
 - Soon, to a bard
 - Hyperbolic tangent
 - Sunlight's interference
 - *Apollo Moon Landing org.
 - Operatic solos
 - Alexander Hamilton/Aaron Burr incident
 - Deposit the ashes
 - Related to ear
 - Meat in a can
 - Transport onward, as in letter (2 words)
 - Not written
 - Pilot's estimate, acr.
 - Ill-mannered one
 - Hawaiian welcome wreath
 - *Ford's pony car
 - *Assassinated president
 - *___ death do us part"
 - Down Under runner
 - Hindu caste
 69. Moonshine maker
 - *Spock's was pointy
 - Comforter stuffing
 - Ruptured
 - Ground cover
 - Coach-and-four
- DOWN**
- Use a cat o' nine tails
 - Hokkaido language
 - Network of nerves
 - Mojave plant
 - Go away
 - March Madness org.
 - *___ of Pigs, failed military operation
 - Madison Square Garden, e.g.
 - Command to Fido
 - Designer Boss
 - Copycat
 - Sinister side in "Star Wars"
 - Garment-making
 - Yogurt-based dip
 - Benevolent one
 - Hall order keeper
 - *Joplin of "Summer-time" fame
 - Foolish
 - Same as boatswain
 - Tropical tuber
 - Auto pioneer
 - Brownish gray
 - Something yummy
 - *Certain march starting

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Office of Traffic Safety Swears in New Director

California Office of Traffic Safety News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Stephanie Dougherty was officially sworn in Jan. 13 as the new director for the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). Appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom in December, Dougherty will also serve as the governor's representative for highway safety at the federal level.

"I am honored to lead the Office of Traffic Safety and work alongside a team of dedicated professionals and with our partners to advance our urgent mission of saving lives," Dougherty said. "Together, we will focus on innovative solutions, community engagement and education to promote a strong safety culture and make our roadways safer for all Californians."

Dougherty most recently served as deputy secretary of Transportation Safety and Enforcement at the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) since 2016. She held multiple roles at the Department of Motor Vehicles from 2008 to 2016, including chief of enterprise planning and performance. Dougherty has also worked in a research and policy capacity for several state



Stephanie Dougherty was officially sworn in as the director for the California Office of Traffic Safety on Jan. 13. Photo courtesy of the California Office of Traffic Safety

commissions and previously held project management positions with Blue Shield of California and Deloitte Consulting.

Dougherty earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Arts

degree in history from Stanford University.

"I am excited to have Stephanie take the lead at OTS during this important time for traffic safety," said Transportation Secretary Toks Omishakin. "Her experience in the safety arena and her

expertise on legislative and policy issues will help guide OTS in the right direction as we continue the critical work toward our goal of zero traffic deaths."

Through grant funding made available to California by the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration (NHTSA), the Office of Traffic Safety funds more than \$140 million annually in innovative, evidence-based education and enforcement programs and technologies designed to improve road safety. The hundreds of projects funded throughout the state address alcohol and drug-impaired driving, distracted driving, seat belts and child safety seats, bicycle and pedestrian safety, emergency medical services, police traffic services and traffic records.

As the Office of Traffic Safety Director, Dougherty will set annual goals and priority areas for safety programs in the Highway Safety Plan and Strategic Highway Safety Plan aimed at reducing the number of victims killed and injured on California roads. She is also responsible for preparing an Annual Performance Report that highlights accomplishments in traffic safety efforts, as well as working with other agencies and partner organizations on new and innovative safety measures.

To learn more about the department's "Go Safely, California" campaign and to join the movement for safer roads as a "traffic safety champion," visit online gosafelyca.org. ★

Snowpack Dips Well Below Average in Second Snow Survey

California Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) Jan. 31 conducted the second snow survey of the season at Phillips Station. The manual survey recorded 22.5 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 8 inches, which is 46 percent of average for this location. The snow water equivalent measures the amount of water contained in the snowpack and is a key component of Department of Water Resources' water supply forecast. Statewide, the snowpack is 65 percent of average for this date.

On Jan. 1, the statewide snowpack was 108 percent of average after a series of large storms in November and December boosted snow totals in the Northern Sierra, but significant regional differences kept the Central Sierra just below average and the Southern Sierra well below average. An excessively dry January has pushed the Northern Sierra back to near average, the Central Sierra to 58 percent of average, and has led the Southern Sierra Nevada to fall to under 50 percent of average.

"Despite a good start to the snowpack in the Northern Sierra in November and December, we can look back as recently as 2013 and 2021 to show how quickly conditions can change for the drier," said Department of Water Resources Director Karla Nemeth. "California missed out on critical snow-building storms in January which has pushed the state down below average for this time of year. While we are excited to see some storm activity in the coming days, sustained periods of no precipitation can dry the state out very quickly. For each day it's not snowing or



DWR Staff conducts the second snow survey at Phillips Station on Jan. 31. Photo courtesy California Department of Water Resources

raining, we are not keeping up with what we need."

DWR's electronic readings from 130 stations placed throughout the Sierra Nevada indicate that the statewide snowpack's snow water equivalent is 10.5 inches, or 65 percent of average for this date. While forecasts show storm activity may pick up in February, California has seen several years in recent history with large early season snow totals, only for predominantly dry conditions to dominate the rest of the season.

California has effectively managed its reservoirs to keep storage above average for this time of year. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, is currently at 126 percent of average for this time of year. San Luis Reservoir,

which is jointly operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is at 101 percent of average for this time of year. Reservoirs in Southern California are also near or above their historical averages.

Measuring California's snowpack is a key component that guides how California's water supplies are managed. The data and measurements collected help inform water supply and snowmelt runoff forecasts, known as Bulletin 120, that help water managers plan for how much water will eventually reach state reservoirs in the spring and summer. This information is also a key piece in calculating State Water Project allocation forecasts each month.

Despite some recent rain, Southern California is still well

below average for yearly precipitation. To prepare for any weather the region may see the rest of the season, Department of Water Resources has deployed over 30 Watershed Protection Specialists to assist with the Watershed and Debris Flow Task Force organized by the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). Members of this task force, including Department of Water Resources, CalOES, CAL FIRE and over 400 members of the California Conservation Corps, have been working around the clock to protect watersheds around burn scars, place materials to mitigate the risk of debris flows and ensure regional infrastructure including debris flow basins are prepared for incoming storm activity.

On average, California's snowpack supplies about 30 percent of California's water needs. Its natural ability to store water is why California's snowpack is often referred to as California's "frozen reservoir." Data from these snow surveys and forecasts produced by Department of Water Resources' Snow Surveys and Water Supply Forecasting Unit are important factors in determining how Department of Water Resources manages the state's water resources.

Department of Water Resources conducts four or five media-oriented snow surveys at Phillips Station each winter near the first of each month, January through April and, if necessary, May. The next survey is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 28. ★

Delta Stewardship Council Dismisses Appeals

California Department of Water Resources News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- On Jan. 23, the Delta Stewardship Council affirmed that the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) planned geotechnical investigations are not a "Covered Action" under the Delta Reform Act. Therefore, the Delta Stewardship Council dismissed all appeals on the grounds that it does not have jurisdiction over these planned geotechnical activities.

To come to that conclusion, the Delta

Stewardship Council considered whether project proponents can consider portions of a project in the Delta Plan consistency process. In consideration of the scope of the 2024-2026 Proposed Geotechnical Activities, the Delta Stewardship Council found that Department of Water Resources was able to consider geotechnical activities independently from the Delta Conveyance Project.

Although the 2024-2026 Proposed Geotechnical Activities are not a Covered Action, the activities are important. They are expected to yield important data about

soil properties and water quality. This data, in turn, will inform the planning and design of the Delta Conveyance Project as well as the extensive list of future funding and permitting decisions that are required before Department of Water Resources could implement the Delta Conveyance Project.

Department of Water Resources staff appreciate the time and effort that the Delta Stewardship Council put into the hearing process and agrees with its conclusion. Based on the Delta Stewardship Council decision, the Department of

Water Resources hopes to proceed with this important data collection work in the near future.

As noted by the Delta Stewardship Council, the determination only applies to the 2024-2026 Proposed Geotechnical Activities. Department of Water Resources acknowledges that it will need to continue working toward the development and submission of a future certification of consistency for the Delta Conveyance Project.

The Delta Stewardship Council's documents can be found at deltacouncil.ca.gov/council-meetings. ★

Big Sky Women's Golfer of the Week



Sacramento State University Athletics New Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento State senior Sneha Sharan was named the Big Sky Women's Golfer of the Week, it was announced on Feb. 5. The honor is the first for Sharan this year and the fourth of her career.

Competing at the PDI Intercollegiate in Orlando, Fla., Sharan shot 71-71-71-213 to record the best score for the Hornets. Her 54-hole total is tied for the second lowest of her career and marked the first time this season that she has been below par in each round of a

tournament. The senior completed the tournament with nine birdies, 39 pars and only six bogeys in the three days.

The Bengaluru, India native, leads the team with a scoring average of 72.27 strokes per round this season in 15 rounds. Dating back to the fall, Sharan has now been even par or better in five consecutive rounds.

This Big Sky Golfer of the Week award will be added to Sharan's plethora of conference accolades including being chosen as Big Sky Player of the Year for 2023-24.

Sacramento State golf returns to action at the Causeway Invitational on Feb. 24-25 at Del Paso Country Club. ★

Left: On Feb. 5, Sacramento State senior Sneha Sharan was named the Big Sky Women's Golfer of the Week. Photo by Sacramento State University Athletics

Beavers Swim to a Pair of Records

American River College News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The American River College Men's Swim and Dive team opened the season on Jan. 31, by setting two new NorCal Relay Records at a swim meet at Los Positas College in Livermore.

First, the Beavers set a record in the 200 Medley Relay (Branson, Pitzer, Long, Tyspan 1:36.41) and then in the 200 Free Relay (Pitzer, Long, Tyspan, Branson in 1:26.57).

In addition to these wins, the men's pair of divers, Juda Ortega and Caden Rutan won both 1-meter and 3-meter diving.

The men's team swam a double dual to open the season vs. Las Positas and Mt. Sac. The men's team was 1-1 with a win over Las Positas and narrow loss to Mt. Sac. The men's team returns sophomore All Americans Cayden Pitzer, Gar Long, John Branson and is supported by a strong freshman class including Davyd Tyspan, Josh Sayo, Shane Carter and Caden Rutan.

On Friday Feb. 7, the Los Rios Invite meet was held, with swimming hosted at Sac City College and dive at American River College. Results were not available by press time. ★



American River College swim and dive team members celebrate record breaking performances at Los Positas College on Jan. 31. Photo by American River College Athletics

Ranking Amongst Top 125 Singles Players



UC Davis junior Lucas Bollinger earned the 93rd spot in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's top 125 Division I Men's Singles players. Photo by UC Davis Athletics

UC Davis Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - UC Davis junior Lucas Bollinger earned the 93rd spot in the top 125 Division I Men's Singles players, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association announced on Feb. 5.

The Intercollegiate Tennis Association released the ITA Division I Men's National Singles and Doubles Computerized Rankings, on Feb. 5. The rankings feature the Top 125 singles players and the Top 90 doubles teams nationwide.

Bollinger holds down the 93rd spot on the rankings for the Aggies. The junior from Napa has some notable achievements as an Ag on the courts. This spring Bollinger is on a roll and is currently the only Aggie that is undefeated in singles play.

After three canceled matches Bollinger and the Aggies are looking to bounce right back into rhythm. With a renewed focus and determination, they're scheduled to take the court and show what they're truly capable of against Saint Mary's on Feb. 9, after press time. ★

Kings Celebrate Black History Month

Sacramento Kings News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Feb. 3, the Sacramento Kings announced their 25th Annual Black History Month celebration, dedicated to uplifting and honoring the local Black community. Through impactful events, mentorship opportunities and meaningful collaborations, the team continues its tradition of amplifying voices, recognizing leaders, and providing opportunities for diverse youth.

"We are proud to celebrate the profound legacy and enduring influence of the Black community, whose contributions have shaped our shared history and culture," said Sacramento Kings Chief Operating Officer Matina Kolokotronis. "As an organization, we remain steadfast in our commitment to creating pathways for Black and diverse youth to succeed, empowering them to thrive and prioritize their personal and professional growth."

On Feb. 5, the Kings hosted their annual Black History Month and Historically Black Colleges and Universities game as the team takes on the Orlando Magic. Before the game, Lift Every Voice, the Black National Anthem, was performed by Tayondee Kelly followed by the National Anthem performed by Jeff Cook. Miss

Spelman College, Mallory Butts, served as the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Captain of the Game and co-host for the in-game entertainment. At halftime, sororities and fraternities from the Divine Nine took to the court with a special performance. As part of the Kings 916 Amplified initiative, a program that leverages the organization's platform to shine a light on diverse local creatives, artists and small businesses in the Sacramento area, art from the Sojourner Truth African Heritage Museum was on display on the arena concourse. In addition, nearly 100 youth from National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) attended the game and shared resources on the concourse.

On Feb. 8, during the game against the New Orleans Pelicans, the Kings honored the 26th Annual MLK Celebration Sacramento youth essay winner, who shared their vision for a better future

and actions to achieve it. Members of the Green Ambitions cohort, a group of 25 Black and Brown youth funded by the NBA Foundation, attended the game and participated in a career panel later in the week. The cohort, which includes

youth affiliated with GreenTech, My Brother's Keeper and United Way California Capital Region, learned about careers in sports and entertainment, with a focus on sustainability.

The celebration will continue Feb. 24, during College Night presented by UC Davis Graduate School of Management, as the Kings face the Charlotte Hornets. During the game, the Kings will announce the recipient of the Future is Yours Scholarship, awarded in partnership with the Trajectory Foundation and Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson's G-Unity Foundation. The scholarship will provide \$20,000 over four years to assist in higher education costs. Students from Burbank

High School, ranging from freshmen to seniors who serve on an advisory board dedicated to promoting equity and equality within the Sacramento City Unified School District will also attend the game and participate in a behind the scenes experience with Kings team members.

The NBA Foundation, created in August 2020, is the league's first-ever charitable foundation dedicated to advancing economic opportunity for Black youth. All NBA teams contribute \$1 million annually to support national and local organizations that drive equity and opportunity.

Throughout the month, fans will enjoy food from Kings Pop Up Kitchen featuring the unique flavors of local minority-owned restaurants located at the Market Kitchen stand near Section 201, including Bear West BBQ (2/5), Forgotten Bakery (2/8), Saucy Oysters (2/21) and Dubplate Kitchen and Jamaican Cuisine (2/24).

Peoples Beer Lager and Pride Hazy IPA by Oak Park Brewery will be available at the Power Market Grab and Go near Section 117 and PATH Grab and Go near Section 206.

During the month fans can also purchase merchandise made in collaboration black-owned businesses including Advisry, Brand Seen, and Cross Colours in Label K, the Kings Team Store in DOCO. ★



Women's Empowerment Receives Grant to Help Many More Unhoused Women

Kristin Thebaud Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Women's Empowerment has received a grant of \$50,000 from Anthem Blue Cross Foundation to provide substance use recovery and mental health support to unhoused women in Sacramento so they can find safe homes and employment.

"We have a deep understanding of the complex issues that lead to homelessness, including substance use and mental health, and how they work together to impact employment and housing," said Lisa Culp, executive director, Women's Empowerment. "We are grateful to Anthem Blue Cross Foundation for prioritizing recovery and mental health so more resources will be available to women in our community who are working to break the cycle of homelessness."

Women's Empowerment provides women in the program with trauma-informed counseling, mental health support, access to mental health resources and referrals for substance use treatment so they can gain a home and employment. The local nonprofit offers onsite therapeutic substance use treatment and community support through its weekly Wellness and Recovery Support Group for women in the program. Women also work with staff housing and employment specialists to find homes and employment.

"Substance use disorders continue to be a public health challenge that's taking too big of a toll in



Women's Empowerment held a graduation ceremony in December 2024. Photo courtesy of Kristin Thebaud Communications

our communities across the state and right here in Sacramento County," said Beth Andersen, president, Anthem Blue Cross Commercial Plan. "Along with partners like Women's Empowerment, we continue to take a holistic approach and invest in the mental health and well-being in our communities, particularly with a focus on helping those who are struggling with a substance use disorder."

Women's Empowerment provides a two-month employment-readiness and empowerment program, paid job training, childcare and support services so women and their children can break the generational cycle of homelessness. The nonprofit offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically for women experiencing homelessness and their children. In 2023, 165 jobs were secured by graduates, and 189 women either secured or maintained housing. Since 2001, 1,903 women have graduated from the program with more than 4,000 children. Women's Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community and

grants. To make a donation: Womens-Empowerment.org.

The Anthem Blue Cross Foundation, an independent licensee of the Blue Cross Association, is a philanthropic arm of the Elevance Health Foundation. The foundation works to address health equity by focusing on improving the health of the socially vulnerable through strategic partnerships and programs in communities with an emphasis on maternal child health, mental health, and food as medicine. Additionally, the foundation responds to disasters when communities need it most. The foundation coordinates the company's year-round Dollars for Dollars program, which provides a 100% match of associates' donations, as well as its Volunteer Time Off and Dollars for Doers community service programs. @ANTHEM is a registered trademark of Elevance Health. The Blue Cross names and symbol are registered marks of the Blue Cross Association. To learn more about the Anthem Blue Cross Foundation and the Elevance Health Foundation, visit www.elevancehealth.foundation and www.medium.com/elevancehealthfoundation.★

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