



Elk Grove Citizen

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Filling Need, Feeding Hope



From left are Elk Grove Food Bank Services Executive Director Marie Jachino, Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen and Councilmember Darren Suen at the Thanksgiving distribution at Creekside Christian Church on Nov. 22.

**Story and photos
by Idaly Valencia**

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - As Elk Grove continues to celebrate its 25th anniversary, the milestone underscores how the city has grown through diversity, inclusion and forward-thinking efforts.

That foundation is reflected in the

work of organizations such as Elk Grove Food Bank Services, which remain vital to the city's progress as it receives and provides essential support to residents.

The food bank's service dates to 1974, when it began operating out of Elk Grove United Methodist Church long before the city incorporated in 2000. It has grown alongside Elk

Grove's expanding population and rising needs, distributing 4.2 million pounds of food between 2023 and 2024.

Its role has become even more critical in recent months, following setbacks tied to the federal government shutdown and its effect on food benefits and income for

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Christopher Cellars Approved for Outdoor Center Events



CITY OF
ELK GROVE

By Idaly Valencia

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The Elk Grove Planning Commission reviewed a request on Nov. 6 for a proposal that would allow an "outdoor event center" at the Bartholomew Vineyards grounds, home to Christopher Cellars winery.

The Bartholomew Winery Amendment Project sought to modify current codes as the site lies within agricultural and residential zoning districts that do not allow outdoor event center use. "Outdoor Event Center" was described in the meeting as an outdoor facility for public assembly and group entertainment, including those for weddings, concerts and similar entertainment.

As part of the request, city staff also recommended a conditional use permit that, if approved, would expand the winery's capabilities beyond existing allowances by adding the event center designation within those districts. The changes would give the winery the ability to host more events with larger guest capacities, use amplified music and extend on-site wine tasting hours as well as events to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

The proposal drew opposition from nearby residents, with a total of 18 public comment letters submitted against the project raising concerns about the increased number of events, the use of amplified music, and potential traffic and safety impacts.

Under current permits, the winery can host up to 24 typical winery events each year on Fridays, Mondays, weekends and holidays. Events are limited to 50 guests and only acoustic music has been allowed. Typical winery events are events for marketing and fundraising for the winery, such as wine tours, winemaking dinners, harvest experiences and dinners in the vineyard.

The amendment would increase the limit to as many as 66 events annually (typical regular winery events and outdoor events) with up to 125 guests, not including staff. Events could be scheduled any day of the

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Holiday Spirit in the Grove

Festive Community Events Roundup



The Dickens Street Faire, one of Elk Grove's most beloved holiday traditions, will be from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29 in Old Town Elk Grove. At 5 p.m., celebrations continue with caroling, live entertainment and tree lighting at 6 p.m. Photo courtesy of Old Town Elk Grove Foundation

By Idaly Valencia

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The winter season is a cherished time for Elk Grovians as it brings opportunities to celebrate with friends, neighbors and family.

The Elk Grove Citizen compiled several festivities and community-wide activities where residents

can give back, gather and enjoy the holiday spirit together.

Police and Fire Department Toy Project

The season of giving kicks off with the Toy Project, a long-running initiative through which the Elk Grove Police

Department and Cosumnes Fire collect and distribute toys to local families in need. Both agencies will deliver the gifts directly to each family's home, helping to create lasting holiday memories.

Donation stations are located throughout the city, including the Elk Grove Police Department Service

Center on Laguna Palms Way and Cosumnes Fire stations 71 through 77.

Families seeking gift assistance must meet certain qualifications, including age of children, household income and residency within the city or fire district. Deliveries for children ages 1 to 11 will

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Chamber Cuts Ribbon for Vinyl and Print Store



The Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting Nov. 19 for SacTown's Finest Vinyl and Print, a new business offering customizable products such as T-shirts, business cards, totes and tumblers, along with its own in-house designs. SacTown's Finest Vinyl and Print is located at 9277 Bendel Place Suite 235, off Waterman Road. More information and online shopping are available at sactownsfine.com. Photo courtesy of Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce

Barnes & Noble Among Tenants Planned for Village Center



The developer of The Village project, Pappas Investments, released plans showing that popular bookstore chain Barnes & Noble will be a tenant in the shopping center, which is expected to open next year. Photo courtesy of Pappas Investments

By MPG Staff

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The real estate company overseeing The Village project at Elk Grove and Big Horn boulevards has released an online brochure that includes a Barnes & Noble bookstore among its future tenants.

Other businesses announced prior includes anchor store Whole Foods, Mendocino Farms, Yard House, Shake Shack, Phliz Coffee and another Chick-fil-A location. The center will also have a Schools First Federal Credit Union.

Pappas Investments, the developer, states on its website that the site includes 127,000 proposed square feet with convenient access to Interstate 5 and Highway 99. It will also be adjacent to the city's proposed Civic Center and proposed Mercy Hospital.

According to a news release of a contractor for the project, the shopping center is expected to open for business in 2026.

Elk Grove currently has one other locally run bookstore, A Seat at The Table Books, located at 9257 Laguna Springs Drive Suite 130. ★

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Elk Grove Citizen

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Christopher Cellars Approved for Outdoor Center Events

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week and amplified performances would be permitted until 10 p.m.

To address noise, staff presented a study that found sound levels would vary, depending on event type, but were expected to meet city standards. Recommended conditions were included to ensure compliance.

Among the opposition, the Sheldon Community Association requested that the Rural Community Plan Area be exempt from the amendment. While a few parcels in that area fall within the project boundaries, city senior planner Sarah Kirchgessner responded, none currently contain wineries or agricultural tourism uses.

Commissioner Suman Singha asked whether other agricultural parcels could pursue outdoor event center use if the amendment passed. Kirchgessner said the change would apply only to agricultural tourism operations such as wineries and would not extend to standard crop production.

Singha continued the discussion by adding, "So if there's a permanent roadside crop stand so if I'm growing vegetable crops, that would qualify as agricultural tourism if I'm selling it from my little stand."

Kirchgessner agreed and noted that any such use would need to be on parcels of 10 acres or more and would require commission approval of a conditional use permit.

Singha also questioned the methodology of the noise study, noting that the simulation did not account for the potential noise of guests singing or dancing "possibly under the influence of alcohol," which he said could elevate overall sound levels.

The audio engineer consultant for the project said those conditions were not simulated but explained that past studies show guest noise typically falls below the dominant amplified source and that the study focused only on amplified sound.

Residents who live near the winery urged commissioners to reject the proposal. Longtime resident Chandler Bender presented a petition signed by 44 neighbors and described daily impacts on

those living closest to the site.

Bender said that he was a proud neighbor to Christopher Cellars, adding that many neighbors share that view and are active wine club members there. However, Bender said, residents have already experienced amplified music disturbing their neighborhood.

"It frustrates me a little bit on the sound study because just walking over to our neighborhood and speaking to us, we could have really communicated well how the sound affects where we live," Bender said.

Bender noted other event centers in the area, such as Adkins Vineyard and McConnell Vineyard, are not located next to residential homes.

"Imagine you living next door to your neighbor and they're asking to host 66 events a year in their backyard with amplified music until 10 p.m. I believe you would not enjoy that," he said.

Another resident, Pam Donnelly, who lives directly behind the winery, shared a similar experience.

"The winery is fine but the music is so loud all of us have to literally close our doors even in the summer to keep the noise out... We hear the music distinctly inside the house; I even hear people's voices inside," Donnelly said.

Applicant representative Darren Wilson responded to the concerns raised and said the number of complaints was surprising given that only one documented noise complaint was filed in 2023.

"I would think with 18 comment letters and various 44 petition (signatures), we would have a code enforcement case opened up on this," Wilson said. He added that the amendment includes additional protections such as the decibel limit and an on-site contact for neighbors.

Commissioner Amanda Poole asked about comments regarding past use of amplified music at the winery, to which Christopher Mora of Christopher Cellars spoke to confirm those claims.

Mora explained that the business opened just before the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused

financial challenges when events were prohibited, and wine to-go sales were insufficient.

He requested the property owner obtain a tasting room permit to help boost revenue but Mora admitted he was unaware of the music condition (acoustic only) and believed amplified music was allowed when the permit was issued.

Mora said the sound study made the business more aware of the effect of amplified music used during previous events.

"This new policy, we already have a meter, we are already talking about training the staff, we're putting in a total protocol," Mora said, adding that sound checks will be completed before musicians perform as a measure to address neighbors' concerns are being considered.

Vice Chair Oscar O'Con stood firm with keeping the events to only 24 a year. O'Con said that residents told him that was one of the main concerns. Chair Juan Fernandez argued for the higher number to help as the winery is "a small business trying to get by and are bringing revenue to the city."

Ultimately, the commission approved the project with several conditions. The winery can hold up to 36 typical winery events each year from Mondays through Thursdays, only non-amplified acoustic music is allowed, with events ending by 8 p.m. Six events with amplified music is permitted on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and on Mondays when they fall on a holiday, with a maximum of 125 guests, for a total of 30 calendar winery events. Only one amplified event is allowed per week, along with six additional acoustic-only events.

For the outdoor event center use, the commission approved one outdoor event per month, permitting events to run until 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and until 8 p.m. on Sundays, totaling 12 events a year. Commissioners also approved excluding all parcels within the Rural Community Plan Area from the amendment.

The project was approved in a 4-1 vote, with vice chair O'Con opposed. ★

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City Celebrates 25 Years with Puzzle Release

City of Elk Grove News Release

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - As part of its 25th anniversary celebration, the City of Elk Grove has unveiled a new piece of commemorative artwork created in partnership with nationally renowned folk artist Eric Dowdle of Dowdle Studios at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 24 at District56 (9701 Big Horn Blvd.)

The collaboration underscores the city's commitment to expanding arts, culture and creative placemaking.

The new custom artwork has been transformed into a limited-edition 500-piece puzzle honoring Elk Grove's vibrant community character.

Availability of the puzzle comes just in time for the holiday season, offering residents and collectors

a meaningful and memorable gift option.

Puzzles were available for purchase for the first time at Monday's event (\$25 each).

Pop up shops at the Old Town Elk Grove Street Faire (Nov. 29) and the Illumination Holiday Festival (Dec. 6) will offer additional chances to purchase this unique local gift.

Dowdle is a celebrated artist whose storytelling



The City of Elk Grove is collaborating with renowned folk artist Eric Dowdle to offer a unique city keepsake honoring Elk Grove's vibrant community character, available for purchase at District56 (9701 Big Horn Blvd.). Image courtesy of City of Elk Grove

style and community-focused pieces have earned awards and partnerships with global brands including Disney and Costco. Since launching his puzzle

line in 1997, more than 10 million puzzles have been sold worldwide.

His creative journey has been featured in multiple television series, including

"Painting the Town with Eric Dowdle," recently relaunched as "The Piece Maker" on Magnolia Network, Discovery+ and HBO Max. ★

Holiday Spirit in the Grove

Continued from page 1

take place from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 20.

For drop-off location details or more information, visit bit.ly/4oRz199 or call 916-478-8122.

Miracles in Elk Grove Toy Drive

Another opportunity to give back this season comes through Miracles in Elk Grove, a community-led project organized by local business owners and leaders in partnership with the Cosumnes Firefighters Community Support Foundation. The initiative aims to brighten Christmas for about 150 families in Elk Grove and Galt by providing toys, newborn essentials and full holiday dinners.

Toy donations must be new and unopened, and a wide variety of toys is encouraged, along with baby supplies such as diapers and blankets. Monetary donations go toward purchasing newborn essentials and dinners.

Old Town Plaza, 9615 Railroad St., will serve as the hub for toy collection and same-day distribution on Sunday, Dec. 21. For more details on additional drop-off locations or to make a monetary donation, visit miraclesinelkgrove.com.

Dickens Street Faire on Nov. 29

One of Elk Grove's most beloved holiday traditions, the Dickens Street Faire has marked the beginning of the Elk Grove Yuletide season for 38 years. Hosted by



Elk Grove's sixth annual Illumination Holiday Festival is a free, family-friendly event from 3 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 at District56 (8230 Civic Center Drive) with winter activities such as ice skating, photos with Santa, a holiday vendor village, bounce houses and more. Photo courtesy of City of Elk Grove

the Old Town Elk Grove Foundation, this celebration is a hooray into the start of winter and Christmas festivities for the community.

This year's faire will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 29 in Old Town Elk Grove. It will feature youth-friendly activities such as a free kids' craft corner from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be more than 145 vendors, local organizations and artisans lining historic Main Street (Elk Grove Boulevard), as well as food trucks and decorated storefronts for attendees to enjoy Small Business Saturday shopping.

At 5 p.m., visitors are encouraged to stick around for Christmas carols, continuous live entertainment and story time with Santa. The Christmas tree lighting will be at 6 p.m., when the town's Christmas tree on Walnut Street will be illuminated. More information is available at



Camden Neighborhood Association will host its Holiday Faire from 1 to 3 p.m. Dec. 7, offering free seasonal festivities such as photos with Santa, hot cocoa, cookie decorating and trackless train rides along Green Belt to Cooperston Way. Photo courtesy of Camden Neighborhood Association

oldtownelkgrove.com/dickensstreetfaire.

Illumination Festival on Dec. 6

Holiday festivities continue Saturday, Dec. 6 with the sixth annual Elk Grove Illumination Holiday Festival at District56, 8230 Civic Center Drive. Presented by Sutter Health, the event runs from 3 to 8 p.m. and includes ice skating, photos with Santa, a holiday vendor village, bounce houses, games and live entertainment.

The Holiday Parade of Lights, presented by the Elk Grove Lions Club and Sutter Health, begins at 6 p.m. and leads into a tree lighting and snowfall finale. All activities are free, although schedules can change depending on weather conditions.

Holiday Faire Dec. 7

Community members can also enjoy the Holiday Faire on Sunday, Dec. 7, which

stretches from Green Belt to Cooperston Way in the Camden area. The free neighborhood gathering runs from 1 to 3 p.m. and offers photos with Santa and his elves, hot cocoa, local vendors, cookie decorating, kids' crafts and trackless train rides.

Camden Neighborhood Association members receive priority access when checking in. Organizers remind attendees that official vendor communication will only come from the association and to watch for potential scammers. More information is available by contacting info@cnaelkgrove.com.

Santa & Sirens Dec. 12

Cosumnes Fire and Elk Grove Police are teaming up to offer Santa & Sirens, parading Santa throughout the city's three ZIP codes from Friday, Dec. 12 to Sunday, Dec. 14.

A fleet of emergency vehicles, firefighters, police officers and volunteers will lead Santa through neighborhoods from 7 to 9 p.m. each night, weather permitting. Residents can view parade route maps at bit.ly/44aHrQA (case sensitive).

Christmas Classics Holiday Concert Dec. 15

Enjoy classic holiday melodies that signal the arrival of Christmas magic in Elk Grove. Conducted by Christopher J. Tootle, the Elk Grove Community Concert Band features professional, semi-professional and amateur adult musicians, along with talented Elk Grove Unified School District performers.

The free public concert will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15 at Joseph Kerr Middle School, 8865 Elk Grove Blvd. For more information, visit elkgrovecommunityband.org. ★

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RELIGION NEWS

Hanukkah Celebration Dec. 14

Rabbi Chaim Groner and Chabad of Elk Grove invite the entire Elk Grove community to its fourth annual Hanukkah celebration "Light Up Elk Grove" from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 at Old Town Plaza.

Hanukkah, one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays, is an eight-day festival often referred to as the "Festival of Lights" and celebrated with candles, food, family and friends. Each night's added candle brings both literal and symbolic light.

Meaning "dedication" in Hebrew, Hanukkah commemorates the victory of the Maccabees over the Syrian army in 165 B.C.E. and the subsequent liberation and "rededication" of the Temple in Jerusalem. There was only enough oil to light the Temple menorah for one night, but the flame miraculously lasted for eight days until a rider could bring fresh oil.

Traditional food including latkes (potato pancakes) and doughnuts will be served. Activities

include a bounce house, balloon twisting, a caricature artist and strolling magician. The event is free.

For more information, contact Rabbi Chaim Groner (917) 724-4443.

Events at Elk Grove Presbyterian Church

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

The church has open Communion the first Sunday of the month.

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

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, visit www.

FieldOfHopeUCC.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 or visit SMGCC.net.

Grace Church Hosts Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered ministry offering help in finding freedom from the issues (hurts, hang-ups and habits) controlling your life.

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. Fridays at 9766 Waterman Road, next to Mel Dogs.

Sunday Worship begins at 10 a.m. For more information call (916) 714 3444 or email office@gracechurcheg.org. Visit GraceChurchEG.org. ★

Places of Worship



St. Peter's Lutheran Church

8701 Elk Grove-Florin Rd.
Pastor Joe Dapelo
916-689-7300

Service Hours:

Traditional – 8:30 a.m.
Contemporary – 11 a.m.
Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.
5th Sunday – 9:30 a.m.

Website: <https://stpeterseg.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com>

St.PetersLutheranChurchElkGrove

St. Luke's Lutheran Church (ELCA)

7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823
Pastor Rob Williamson
916-421-5039

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Website: slelca.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StLukesac>

Stream Online via YouTube: @st.lukeslutheranchurch7590

All are welcome in this place!




To be included
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contact Lezet Vidauri
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lezet.vidauri@mpg8.com

MEMORIAL

JUDITH WAY 08/13/1939 – 10/30/2025

Judy passed away peacefully at home. She was born in Sacramento and was raised on a dairy farm in the town of Florin. She is survived by her husband Joseph and children Kevin, Kristan, and Kip. Preceded in death by her parents Richard and Winifred Glacken and siblings Carol, Richard, and Daniel. Those who knew Judy will remember not only her enduring dedication to family but also the quiet grace with which she moved through life. Graveside service: Nov. 22, 1pm East Lawn Elk Grove



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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



There are over 19,000 incorporated cities in the United States, but only 30 of those cities can make claim to having an NBA franchise. One of those cities is California's capital, Sacramento.

Troubled times have suddenly unfolded in the city of trees, as our beloved basketball team recently went on an extended losing streak that reached 8 games.

Vitriol abounded and it seemed like Chicken Little had taken up residence in river city.

Radio stations that typically would posture with the glass half full were going the other way, with endless ideas of how quickly this franchise can blow up the current team.

When a steady hand at the wheel was needed, not much was coming from the owner, GM, or the new coach of the team.

Not a recipe for success, so imagine after 8 disappointing defeats in a row that the Sactown boys would fly into Denver and stand off the mighty Nuggets. No imagining needed because that's exactly what the Kings did. While no one had an answer for the daunting center of the Nuggets, Nikola Jovic, who put up 44 points and 13 rebounds, the Kings controlled the rest of the lineup while playing perhaps their best 4th quarter of the young season.

No win could have come at a better time for a team that was getting zero respect from NBA pundits and hometown fans alike.

Much has been said about the pure talent on this team, with future hall of famers like Russell Westbrook, DeMar DeRozan, and Zach Lavine likely candidates for the Naismith Hall in Springfield Massachusetts, but the real conundrum is finding a way to get these accomplished ballers to play seamlessly together. That's exactly what happened last Saturday night and I think it took the Nuggets by surprise.

No 4th quarter collapse on this night, as Russell Westbrook put up 21 big points, while Dennis Schroder matched Westbrooks total with 21 points of his own, while coming off the bench once again.

In this matchup Denver couldn't focus on any one player, as Sacramento had some of the most even scoring, they have enjoyed all season. While Westbrook

dropped 15 of his 21 points in the 4th quarter, it was the ageless stalwart DeMar DeRozan that Sacramento turned to in the last minute of the game. Making 6 straight points DeMar made a crucial 3-point play the old-fashioned way, banking in a shot and converting the foul on the free throw line with only seconds remaining.

The Kings actually won a game from the free throw line, converting 22 of 23 attempts and demonstrated it is possible to be a good free throw shooting team!

Welcome back Keegan Murray as Keegan added 19 crucial points to the fray in only his second game back from injury, and if this performance is a glimpse of things to come, perhaps some of the hyperbole will subside and cooler heads will prevail.

Sacramento fans had to endure the debacle that was trading away the face of the franchise in DeAaron Fox less than a year ago and going through something similar would not be easy for a team still searching for their identity.

A word of reassurance coming from ownership would be nice at a time like this.

Suspect moves within the game such as sitting defensive specialist Keon Ellis for the first 3 quarters in back-to-back blowout losses simply have to stop. Sitting court-side in Golden One Arena while the crowd chants, "we want Keon, we want Keon," is a bad look at the very least, and Doug Christie must be better than this.

Having Keegan Murray back in the lineup is a shot in the arm, but let's not forget that the Kings accomplished this remarkable win with Domantas Sabonis sidelined with a knee injury.

Fans want to see a return to basics, like making free throws, and getting back on defense. Exerting energy and playing with passion is what Kings fans have become accustomed to, and I believe this team will not let their fan base down.

Coaches, put your players in places where they can succeed and find a rotation that every player can count on. We need good coaching and coaching that makes sense.

All the best!

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

California Sees Revenue Uptick

Not Enough to Erase Its Chronic Budget Deficit



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

In the four months since the Legislature and Gov. Gavin Newsom enacted a new state budget, revenues — primarily from personal income taxes — have outstripped expectations by several billion dollars.

The uptick has buoyed hopes within the Capitol that California's chronic budget deficits might disappear if the revenue surge continues. That would spare Newsom and legislators from having to dream up more accounting gimmicks, deferrals and loans to cover the gap between income and outgo.

However, the Legislature's fiscal advisor, Legislative Analyst Gabe Petek, threw cold water on those rosy scenarios Wednesday. He sees recent revenue gains as a spike driven by an artificial intelligence boomlet in Silicon Valley that's likely to implode, as have previous tech-related bubbles.

"With so much exuberance surrounding AI, it now appears time to take seriously the notion that the stock market has become overheated," Petek says in his annual fiscal overview, which predates the governor's introduction of a new budget. "History suggests that the stock market is prone to overreact to major

technological advances, even if the technology itself turns out to be revolutionary."

Instead of savoring a surge in revenues that would erase what officials are calling a "structural deficit" that is somewhere in the \$10-20 billion range, officials should anticipate a larger gap, Petek says.

"Under our revenue and spending estimates, the Legislature faces an almost \$18 billion budget problem in 2026-27," Petek says. "This is about \$5 billion larger than the budget problem anticipated by the administration in June, despite improvements in revenue."

The analyst notes that California's constitution requires the state put money toward public schools and reserves, which will "almost entirely offset revenue gains," and toward other spending that's running about \$6 billion over the current budget's estimates.

"Starting in 2027-28, we estimate structural deficits to grow to about \$35 billion annually due to spending growth continuing to outstrip revenue growth," Petek says.

It should be noted, not for the first time, that California's chronic deficit is not caused by an economic downturn, which has occurred in the past, but rather by an enormous error by Newsom and his budget advisors three years ago.

In 2022, they projected a permanent increase in revenues, based on a one-time spike, leading Newsom to declare a \$97.5 billion budget surplus, boasting "No other state in

American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this."

Confident that the money would be there, Newsom and lawmakers fattened up the spending side of the budget, only to learn that the supposed surplus was based on what was later acknowledged to be a \$165 billion overstatement of revenues over four years.

Ever since, revenues have failed to cover the elevated spending, and Newsom and lawmakers have covered the gaps with the aforementioned gimmicks. They have incurred more than \$20 billion in internal loans from special funds that must be repaid. They also have drawn down reserves that were supposed to cover genuine emergencies, not political shortsightedness.

Newsom and his staff are now in the final throes of drafting an initial 2026-27 budget that will be his last as governor and will be unveiled in January. The question is whether he will face the fiscal music and finally write a truly balanced budget or employ more short-term fixes and dump the problem on his successor.

That would mean either making real cuts in spending or raising taxes, both of which would take some courage. The past has not been encouraging.

Dan Walters is one of the 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. ★

Social Security Matters

If We Both Collect Social Security, will our Benefits be Affected?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I reached full retirement age back in June, but I have not yet filed to collect Social Security. My husband currently collects SS funds, and he waited until he had reached full retirement age a few years ago. I am considering signing up now to receive my funds, but I am a little confused about whether I will receive my full benefit or is there some kind of adjustment made based on both of us collecting?

We are a simple case. We have been married for 46 years, so there are no other exes involved in this equation. He did everything online when he was ready to start receiving his funds, but we didn't consult with any advisor when my husband claimed. Now I think that adding me as a spouse might trigger some other things I should consider. Thank you for your advice. **Signed: Concerned Wife**

Dear Concerned: Since you and your husband have both reached your respective SS full retirement age (FRA), you are

both entitled to receive your full benefits without any reduction. And since you haven't yet filed, you are now accumulating Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) at the rate of .667% additional benefit for each month you continue to delay. You will get your full SS retirement benefit (plus any earned DRCs) when you claim. The only question you need to consider is whether either you or your husband will be entitled to a "spousal boost" (an increase) when you claim.

If the SS retirement benefit you were entitled to at your FRA is less than 50% the amount your husband was entitled to at his FRA, then you will get a "spousal boost" on top of your own SS retirement amount (the "boost" amount would be the difference between your FRA amount and half of his FRA amount). But if your SS amount at your FRA is more than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement, then you will only get your own SS retirement benefit based on your own lifetime earnings record. Spouse benefits are always determined from each partner's FRA entitlement, and if one partner's FRA amount is less than 50% of the other partner's FRA amount, then a spousal boost will be given. And that also works if your FRA entitlement is higher than your husband's — if your FRA amount is more than twice your husband's FRA amount, then he will get a spousal boost from you. Otherwise, each of you

will get only your personally earned SS retirement amount, and both of you collecting SS will not negatively affect each other's individual SS benefit.

FYI, the spousal boost amount stops growing at full retirement age, so if you are eligible for a spousal boost from your husband then you should claim your SS benefits now and ask for benefits retroactive to June (your FRA month). However, if you will not get a spousal boost from your husband, you have the option of delaying even further and earning more DRCs (thus a higher monthly benefit). You can earn DRCs up to age 70, at which time you will get the maximum possible Social Security benefit (about 127% of your personal FRA amount if you delay that long).

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. ★



The GOP Can't Punt on Health Care

massive new regulations on the individual insurance market in order to cover the sick and lower costs. The fact is that there are better ways to achieve the former goal, and the latter has been unrealized.

As Avik Roy of the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity points out, Barack Obama ran for president promising that his health-care reform would reduce premiums by as much as \$2,500 per family. That was as misleading as his promise that "if you like your plan, you can keep your plan." Roy notes that premiums for the benchmark "silver" Obamacare plans — the law created metallic tiers for various insurance plans — have nearly tripled since 2013. At the same time, deductibles for those same silver plans have more than doubled, outpacing the rate of increase for employer-sponsored plans.

Democrats no longer pretend that Obamacare is going to reduce costs. Instead, they insist that without expanded credits first passed under President Biden in 2021 and then 2022 — now set to expire — Americans will experience a cost apocalypse. "Cancel the cuts. Lower the cost. Save health care," is how Hakeem Jeffries has put it.

The subsidies, though, only cushion consumers from the worst of a poorly designed system. A basic problem of Obamacare is that it charges young and healthy people higher premiums than they would pay otherwise — making health insurance less attractive to them — to sub-

sidize the premiums of the old and sick.

As Roy observes, it'd make more sense to have so-called reinsurance programs, either at the federal level or in the states, to pay the cost of care of people with pre-existing conditions. This alone should reduce premiums for everyone else. The "age band" imposed by Obamacare — mandating that young people can't pay too much less than old people — should be loosened. Obamacare taxes should be repealed; the law should allow for a genuine bare bones "catastrophic plans" for those who want one; and states should be given as much leeway to innovate as possible.

Republicans would also be smart to build on a Trump administration rule from the first term that allowed employers to fund accounts — Health Reimbursement Accounts, or HRAs — for employees to buy their own individual coverage.

TITLE: None of these ideas will make the case for themselves, though. Republicans have to introduce them to the public and explain them, even if they'd prefer to be talking about something else. Failing to do so represents a serious political risk — of either swallowing Obamacare subsidies that they never supported before, or going to the voters next year empty-handed. If they lose the midterms on the issue of affordability, they can't say that they weren't warned.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

Filling Need, Feeding Hope

Continued from page 1

federal workers. The food bank saw record demand in November with about 200 new unduplicated households seeking assistance. In October alone, about 9,942 unduplicated individuals visited the food bank at least once for services.

"It's counting everyone that's been here at least one time. When we start counting how many people have come at least once but more than once, the number is close to 21,000," said community outreach manager Valerie Erwin.

Along with food assistance, the food bank operates a clothing closet and offers pet food. It also conducts distributions at senior complexes and schools for residents who cannot reach the main distribution site at 9888 Kent St. off Waterman Road.

Executive Director Marie Jachino said the community responded immediately when the food bank announced its need for help to meet the growing demand for services.

"We have so many community-based partners and just honestly, I don't even know how to thank them, they've just been so generous," Jachino said. "It's been overwhelming to see the outpour of donations."

Jachino noted that the level of support has surpassed what the food bank saw during the pandemic, but the growing need has matched that generosity. At times, lines of vehicles waiting for assistance have become long enough to cause traffic and have prompted staff to direct cars.

To help boost support, the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce hosted a joint mixer with the food bank on Nov. 18,



Volunteer Michael Won poses for a photo holding a frozen turkey during the Elk Grove Food Banks Services Thanksgiving food distribution at Creekside Christian Church.

bringing chamber members together for an evening of small bites, music and community service. Several city officials attended, including City Council members, representatives from the fire department and the community service district, all highlighting the importance of ongoing community involvement to keep essential operations such as the food bank strong.

Elk Grove Food Bank board member Candance Lawson said that the event and the chamber's strong support were a "testament to who we are," emphasizing how the organization, as a long-time chamber member, received backing from the local business community with members coming together in numbers and seeing firsthand the impact of their support.

"The need now is just incredible. We've doubled the amount of people that we're feeding and there is no way for us to know that if we don't gather," Lawson said.

Jachino added that the food bank spent about \$100,000 on groceries earlier this year due to a drop in donations,



The Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce and Elk Grove Food Bank Services hosted a joint mixer at the food bank's distribution center Tuesday, Nov. 18 to raise support for families seeking assistance amid recent challenges.

a challenge she said that many nonprofit organizations in the area are also facing. Even so, longtime supporters and residents like Kate and Gil Albiani, along with local businesses such as Republic Services, as well as the city, the mayor and other elected officials, have stepped in to help fill the gaps as demand has surged.

That support was on full display Nov. 22 during the food bank's annual Thanksgiving distribution at Creekside Christian Church, where thousands of turkeys and holiday sides were handed out. Food bank board members, staff, city officials and community volunteers arrived early to help load food into vehicles driving through to pick up food.

"Since the government shutdown, the Elk Grove Food Bank has seen a dramatic increase in clients and as mayor of the city, I sort of put out a call to a lot of my friends and donors to step up and help," said Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen, who joined distribution efforts at Creekside alongside City Councilmember Darren Suen and

Vice Mayor Sergio Robles.

Singh-Allen highlighted a \$50,000 donation from Wilton Rancheria, along with about \$50,000 raised from friends and supporters, emphasizing not only the importance of financial contributions but also the volunteers doing hands-on work to serve the community.

"It takes a community and what I'm proud of is look at the volunteers that are here. It takes all of us to help our neighbors and friends in need," Singh-Allen said.

The Elk Grove Food Bank relies on ongoing support to sustain its operations, both through donations and volunteers. Non-perishable food items such as canned meats, peanut butter, pasta, rice and cereal are always in demand. The food bank is also seeking donations for culturally-diverse foods to better serve Elk Grove's diverse population.

To learn more on how to help the food bank or about its services, visit elkgrovefoodbank.org or call 916-685-8453. ★

POLICE LOGS

Nov. 17

9:57 a.m., 3200 block of Claudine Court, Elk Grove Police arrested Carlton Young, 53, on warrant charges.

11:45 a.m., 10000 block of Promenade Parkway, Elk Grove Police arrested Eric Torres, 43, on warrant charges.

2:16 p.m., 8400 block of Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Michael Voroukoumanh, 31, on arson and resisting arrest charges.

7:37 p.m., Highway 99/Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Maria Tocu, 39, on possession of drug paraphernalia and warrant charges.

10:47 p.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Leo Little, 46, on domestic violence charges.

10:56 p.m., 9400 block of Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Elias Medina, 20; and Joshua Miller, 39, on shoplifting, criminal conspiracy, resisting arrest and possession of drug paraphernalia charges.

Nov. 18

12:23 a.m., 10000 block of Calvine Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Paras Sarwatey, 32, on battery charges.

2 a.m., 8900 block of

Stockton Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested a male juvenile 17; a male juvenile, 16; and a male juvenile, 16, on unlawful possession of marijuana and giving false identification to a peace officer charges.

6:22 a.m., 100 block of Sky River Parkway, Elk Grove Police arrested Rosa Navarrette, 40, on driving without owner's consent and receiving a stolen vehicle charges.

11:38 a.m., Power Inn Road/Orchard Park Drive, Elk Grove Police arrested Ryan Meeker, 34, on possession of drug paraphernalia and warrant charges.

1:49 p.m., 8700 block of Calvine Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Gary Carpenter, 29, on possession of drug paraphernalia and parole violation charges.

3:13 p.m., 9100 block of Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Scott Sampson, 27, on shoplifting and resisting an executive officer charges.

4:45 p.m., 9100 block of East Stockton Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Nicole Barrett, 35, on shoplifting charges.

9:14 p.m., 8800 block of Harvest Hill Way,

Elk Grove Police arrested Anilesh Prasad, 40, on vandalism and parole violation charges.

8:42 p.m., 7500 block of Laguna Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Diondra Rash, 39, on shoplifting charges.

Nov. 19

1:59 a.m., 8700 block of Bray Vista Way, Elk Grove Police arrested Emily Roush, 34, on possession of cocaine or heroin and possession of drug paraphernalia charges.

6:05 a.m., 5300 block of Yvette Way, Elk Grove Police arrested a male juvenile, 15, on driving without a license, driving under the influence of drugs, violation of probation, minor in possession of firearm, possession of machine gun and minor in possession of live ammunition charges.

6:05 a.m., 5300 block of Yvette Way, Elk Grove Police arrested a male juvenile, 17, on minor in possession of firearm, carrying a loaded firearm, receiving stolen property, violation of probation, possession of cocaine or heroin and unlawful possession of marijuana charges.

6:05 a.m., 5300 block

of Yvette Way, Elk Grove Police arrested a male juvenile, 15, on minor in possession of firearm charges.

1:32 p.m., 8400 block of Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Semisi Sina, 41, on warrant charges.

6:40 p.m., 100 block of Sky River Parkway, Elk Grove Police arrested George Rodriguez, 50, on trespassing charges.

9:59 p.m., 8400 block of Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Armon Phanor, 28, on possession of cocaine or

heroin charges.

11:25 p.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested William Taylor, 62, on domestic violence charges.

Nov. 20

8:46 a.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Mary Victoria, 54, on domestic violence charges.

9:59 p.m., 8400 block of Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Armon Phanor, 28, on possession of cocaine or heroin charges.

11:25 p.m., confidential

location, Elk Grove Police arrested William Taylor, 62, on domestic violence charges.

4:58 p.m., State Highway 99/Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Jenaro Castro, 44; and Andrea Essex, 35, on possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and warrant charges.

10:37 p.m., 8300 block of Elk Grove Florin Road, Elk Grove Police arrested David Bodine, 63, on driving an unregistered vehicle and warrant charges. ★

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 ElkGroveCity.org.

The Elk Grove Planning Commission has its 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, www.EGUSD.net.

Past board meetings can be watched on the district's YouTube channel, "ElkGroveUnified." ★

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Students Show Continued Increase in Academic Achievement

Chronic Absenteeism Continues to Fall

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO COUNTY REGION (MPG) - The California Department of Education on Nov. 13 released the 2025 California School Dashboard and new DataQuest files, reporting improved outcomes across all major indicators of student success.

The state's graduation rate reached 87.5 percent, the highest level since the Dashboard launched in 2017 and an increase of 4.5 percentage points over that period. Officials said the gains were stronger among several student groups, including Pacific Islander students, who saw a 4.1 percentage point increase. African American students improved by 3.5 percentage points. Long-term English learners gained 3.3 percentage points, foster youth improved by 2.8 percentage points and students with disabilities improved by 2.7 percentage points.

College and career readiness also improved. The state reported that 51.7 percent of graduates were prepared for college and career, an increase of 3.1 percentage points. The share of students completing the A-G course requirements rose to 53.9 percent. These requirements represent the minimum set of courses needed for admission to California's public universities.

Chronic absenteeism among students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade continued to fall. The statewide rate declined to 17.1 percent,



Chronic absenteeism among students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade continued to fall. Photo by RDNE Stock project

down more than 10 percentage points from its peak of 30 percent in 2022. The drop from 2024 to 2025 was one percentage point. State officials said the slowdown in the improvement rate shows that more targeted efforts will be needed to reengage families and students who remain chronically absent.

Academic performance also showed modest improvement, consistent with results released in October from statewide assessments.

For the first time in the Dashboard's history, all indicators appeared in the yellow or green categories, which signal

improvement across both current performance and year-over-year progress.

State leaders said the positive trends reflect major investments in TK-12 education, including initiatives such as community schools, expanded learning programs, universal school meals and literacy coaches.

"Seeing modest improvement on every dashboard indicator should encourage us to deepen our investments in every child's progress," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond said in a statement. He said he was encouraged by reduced achievement gaps but added that more

work remains.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said the results show progress but emphasized the need to continue expanding support for students and educators.

"The more we can invest time, energy, and resources into our kids, the better their future can be," Newsom said.

State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond said the outcomes demonstrate continued recovery from the pandemic. She cited rising graduation rates, stronger college and career readiness, and improved academic performance. She added that significant work

remains to sustain and accelerate progress.

The California Department of Education noted that many districts across the state showed substantial gains, which officials said highlight how targeted investments can advance student achievement. The 2024 Budget Act included \$133.8 billion for K-12 education, the highest per-pupil state funding level in California's history.

California has also expanded access to transitional kindergarten for thousands of four-year-olds and added \$215 million to the Literacy Coaches and Reading Specialists Grant Program, which supports early literacy programs and interventions for students who need additional help.

The California School Dashboard is a central component of the state's accountability system and includes data on graduation, suspensions, test scores, English learner progress, college and career readiness, chronic absenteeism and local indicators.

Alongside the Dashboard, the California Department of Education released several DataQuest reports for the 2024-25 school year. These include four- and five-year graduation rates, suspension and expulsion rates, chronic absenteeism data, absenteeism by reason, stability rates, and homeless student enrollment.

More information on the Dashboard is available on the California Department of Education's website at cde.ca.gov/ta/ac/cm/dashboardresources.asp. ★

DA Thien Ho Launches 'The People vs. The Golden State Killer'



Following the remarks at the Nov. 12 "The People vs. the Golden State Killer" book launch, attendees participated in a lively Q&A session and book signing, celebrating both the release of the book and the culmination of decades of investigative work. Photo courtesy of D.A. Thien Ho

Books Forward News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho celebrated the launch of his new book, "The People vs. the Golden State Killer," at the Sacramento Central Library's Tsakopoulos Library Galleria on Nov. 12.

Released on Nov. 11, the book achieved #1 New Release status on Amazon.

The memoir offers an extraordinary look at the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of Joseph James DeAngelo, one of the most notorious serial killers in U.S. history. Unlike most accounts, Ho's book centers on the survivors, investigators and prosecutors, highlighting their courage and perseverance while honoring the resilience of victims' families.

"Too often, the spotlight stays on the monster. I wanted to shift the focus to the heroes: the survivors, the investigators and the prosecutors who never gave up. They are the soul of this case," said Ho.

At the Nov. 12 event, Ho shared behind-the-scenes stories from the case, offering insights into both DeAngelo's criminal mind and the process of seeking justice.

Ho also highlighted the critical use of investigative genetic genealogy, which allowed investigators to trace distant relatives through public DNA databases and identify DeAngelo after decades. This breakthrough not only solved one of California's most infamous cold cases but has transformed how law enforcement



"The People vs. the Golden State Killer" is now available nationwide at major retailers and online. Photo courtesy of D.A. Thien Ho

tackles unsolved crimes nationwide.

"Justice, for me, was not just a sentence; it was a sense of peace for the survivors who carried these scars for decades. I came to this country as a refugee fleeing violence. To now serve as the elected district attorney and bring one of the nation's most brutal serial predators to justice was full circle. It is deeply rewarding to know that the work we did, including the breakthrough use of genetic genealogy, will have a lasting impact."

Following the remarks, attendees participated in a lively Q&A session and book signing, celebrating both the release of the book and the culmination of decades of investigative work.

"The People vs. the Golden State Killer" is now available nationwide at major retailers and online.

For more information, visit <https://www.thienho.org/>. ★

Community Foundation Partners with Health Net

Sacramento Region Community Foundation News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Region Community Foundation has activated its Sacramento Region Emergency Relief Fund in response to an urgent and immediate community crisis - severely strained food banks that are struggling to serve an increasing number of local families facing serious food insecurity.

With food banks and pantries throughout the region already stretched alarmingly thin, local nonprofits report sharp increases in food requests due to inflation, lingering effects of the pandemic, and the SNAP interruption that created a tipping point for many families already on the edge of financial instability.

What originally started as a \$100,000 grant grew by an additional \$30,000 boost from Health Net, bringing the total to \$130,000, demonstrating the powerful impact that pooled contributions of all sizes can make.

"At Health Net, we know that strong communities start with access to healthy food," said Amber Kemp, vice president of Medi-Cal Strategy, Execution, and Engagement. "This funding allows us to partner with local organizations to ensure families have the resources they need to thrive. Together, we're building healthier neighborhoods and a brighter future for all."

Grants designed to provide immediate relief will support key local food assistance providers throughout the region. These one-time grants will help food assistance providers serving children, seniors and working families across the Sacramento region. The six organizations receiving immediate emergency funding from this grant include Elk Grove Food Bank



In response to an urgent and immediate community crisis - severely strained food banks that are struggling to serve an increasing number of local families facing serious food insecurity. Courtesy photo

Services, Orangevale-Fair Oaks Food Bank, Rancho Cordova Food Locker, River City Food Bank, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services and Twin Lakes Food Bank.

"This is absolutely the right investment to make at this critical moment in time," said Kerry Wood, CEO of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. "With the foundation's focus on health equity and the dire food situation faced by hundreds of thousands of local families, we are committed to standing with our nonprofit partners on the frontlines of hunger relief. Our region's families cannot wait for long-term solutions when the need is this urgent and immediate."

Established by local donors in 2005, the Sacramento Region Emergency Relief Fund is designed to provide swift and strategic response to local emergencies, such as the food crisis happening now. Over the past two decades, the fund has provided emergency support for COVID-19 response, wildfires and other regional crises. The fund is fueled by community donations, allowing philanthropic people and partners across the region to pool resources and respond collectively when emergencies strike.

This latest grant continues a legacy of responsiveness, addressing an exceptional situation where immediate action is needed but is just the beginning. The foundation encourages community members to join this critically important effort to keep food on the table of local families by donating online to the Sacramento Region Emergency Relief Fund at srfc.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1787.

"While philanthropy alone cannot solve food insecurity, collective generosity can make a world of difference in ensuring that families have food and support during this crisis and beyond," added Wood.

This grant is in alignment with the foundation's continuing efforts to address food insecurity. In fact, the Foundation also recently committed \$1 million over three years to address food insecurity in Yolo County, combining short- and long-term strategies for sustainable food access. Over the past week, foundation fundholders have also increased granting to support food banks and pantries throughout the region.

More information about the Sacramento Region Community Foundation and charitable giving can be found at www.sacregcf.org.

Since 1983, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation has awarded more than \$275 million in grants and scholarships on behalf of local people, families and businesses, and through its flagship program, to grow charitable giving in the capital area Big Day of Giving. The center of philanthropy in the capital area, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation's mission is to lead, serve, and inspire enduring philanthropy for a just and vibrant Sacramento region. Learn more at www.sacregcf.org. ★

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-07642
Blue Oak Ranches LLC, PO Box 74, Ione, CA 95640 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Oak and

Haze Meat Goats/Zanotti Land Management Services" 15572 Topspin Way, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County October 14, 2025
Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
OAK 12-12-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-07828
Lingtong Media Corporation, 9280 W Stockton Boulevard Suite 112, Elk Grove, CA 95758 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Champion Processing & TC Services" 8860 Solo Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County October 21, 2025
Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
CHAMPION 12-12-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-07695
Logan Luna, 6601 Verandah Court, Elk Grove, CA 95758 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Lunar Single Family Homes" 6601 Verandah Court, Elk Grove, CA 95758. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County October 15, 2025
Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
LUNAR 12-12-25

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FBNF2025-08433
J&J Home Inspections LLC, 1401 21st Street Suite R, Sacramento, CA 95811 is doing business under the Fictitious Business Name(s) "Home Team Inspection Service of Stockton" 9255 Survey Road #8, Elk Grove, CA 95624. Filed with the Clerk of Sacramento County November 13, 2025
Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
HOME 12-19-25

ORDER TO SHOW FOR CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV020452

Ean Cassem Renz has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Ean Cassem Renz to Ean Cassem Charles.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on January 28, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 28, 2025
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 2025
RENZ 11-21-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV024792

Gabriel Joe Gomez has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Gabriel Joe Gomez to Gabriel Jose Gomez.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on December 15, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 25, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: October 17, 2025
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 2025
GOMEZ 11-21-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV023507

Pamela Diane Christopherson has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Pamela Diane Christopherson aka Pamela Weathington aka Pamela Brennan to Pamela Diane Duarte.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on December 3, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 25, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: October 6, 2025
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Oct 31, Nov 7, 14, 21, 2025
DUARTE 11-21-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV027139

The Quyen Vong has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Khanh Phong Vong to Leo Vong and Minh Khang Vong to Henry Vong.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on April 14, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: November 10, 2025
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
VONG 12-12-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV016655

Sheldon Warrick Jackson has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Sheldon Warrick Jackson to Sheldon Warrick McAfee.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on March 16, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 25, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: November 10, 2025
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
JACKSON 12-12-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV018069

Jalen Von Nichols has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Jalen Von Nichols to Jalen Nichols Glover.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on December 15, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 25, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: November 10, 2025
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
NICHOLS 12-12-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV026377

Nancy Sandoval has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Leonardo Xavier Sandoval to Leonardo Xavier Reyes Sandoval.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on February 18, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 25, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: November 4, 2025
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
SANDOVAL 12-12-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV027140

Khoan Vinh Luong has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Phi Anh Le to Anh Phi Le.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on March 16, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. in Department 25, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: November 10, 2025
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Nov 21, 28, Dec 5, 12, 2025
LUONG 12-12-25

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#25CV027817

Palo No Given Name has filed a petition with this court for a decree changing the name(s) of Palo No Given Name to Palo Kaur.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons interested in the above-entitled matter appear before this court on May 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 54, located at 813 6th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, and show cause, if any, why the petition for Change of Name should not be granted.
Dated: November 19, 2025
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of the Superior Court
Publish: Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, 2025
PALO 12-19-25

CITATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI FAMILY COURT DIVISION Case No. 2516-FC08592

IN RE THE MATTER OF: MESSIAH X'AVIER REGO
SEX: M DOB: 18-SEP-2024.
Minor and STEPHEN T. MILLER and FELICIA R. MILLER, Petitioners, vs. A'MYIA C. REGO, Natural Mother and KENDRICK L. MILLER, Putative Father, and JOHN DOE, Natural Father, Respondents
NOTICE UPON ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION (NO PROPERTY TO BE AFFECTED) STATE OF MISSOURI TO: A'MYIA C. REGO and JOHN DOE, Respondents. You are notified that an action has been commenced against you in the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Missouri, the object and general nature of which is to secure adoption for your child, Messiah X'avier Rego. The names of all the parties to said action are stated above and the name and address of the attorney for plaintiff(s)/petitioner is: Kelle C. Burmeister Gilmore Burmeister Gilmore, LLP 2525 NW South Outer Rd., Ste. B Blue Springs, Missouri 64015 You are further notified that, unless you file an answer or other pleading or shall otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid petition within 45 days after November 14, 2025, the date of first publication of this notice, judgment by default will be taken against you. It is ordered that a copy hereof be published according to law in the Elk Grove Citizen, a newspaper of general circulation published in Sacramento County, California. COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL RECORDS CIRCUIT COURT OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI (SEAL) by: Nina R. Limmatta, Deputy Date: October 30, 2025
Published 11/14/2025, 11/21/2025, 11/28/2025, 12/5/2025
ELK GROVE CITIZEN 12-5-2025

LIEN SALE

LIEN SALE 12/11/25 9AM
AT 10148 IRON ROCK WAY,
ELK GROVE
21 HONDA LIC# 8YNF456 CA
VIN# 7FARW2H51ME035787
ELK GROVE CITIZEN 11-28-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF BULK SALE
(NOTICE PURSUANT UCC SEC. 6105)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a bulk sale is about to be made.
The name(s) and business address of the seller(s) is/are: MICNAN LLC, A DELAWARE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY DBA TOOLEY OIL COMPANY, A CALIFORNIA CORPORATION, 1111 EXPOSITION BLVD # 600, SACRAMENTO, CA 95815

Doing Business as: TOOLEY OIL #18

All other business name(s) and address(es) used by the seller(s) within the past three years, as stated by the seller(s) is/ are: MIXX MARKET

The location in California of the chief executive office of the seller(s) is: SAME AS ABOVE
The name(s) and address(es) of the buyer(s) is/are: TARON SHELL INC., A CALIFORNIA S-CORPORATION, 9838 NOVARA WAY, ELK GROVE, CA 95757

The assets being sold are generally described as: FURNITURE, FIXTURES, EQUIPMENT, STOCK IN TRADE and are located at: TOOLEY OIL #18, 9616 W TARON DRIVE, ELK GROVE, CA 95757

The bulk sale is intended to be consummated at the office of: STEWART TITLE OF CALIFORNIA, INC., 1200 CALIFORNIA ST, #120, REDLANDS, CA 92374 and the anticipated sale date is DECEMBER 16, 2025

The bulk sale is subject to California Uniform Commercial Code Section 6106.2.

The name and address of the person with whom claims may be filed is: STEWART TITLE OF CALIFORNIA, INC., 1200 CALIFORNIA ST, #120, REDLANDS, CA 92374, ATTN: MARISOL VELASQUEZ, Order No.: 2760388 and the last day to file claims by any creditor shall be DECEMBER 15, 2025 which is the business day prior to the anticipated sale date specified above.

Dated: NOVEMBER 5, 2025
Buyer(s): TARON SHELL INC., A CALIFORNIA S-CORPORATION
ELK GROVE CITIZEN 11-28-25

TRUSTEE SALE

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
T.S. No. 25-20112-SP-CA Title No. 250281116-CA-VOI APN. 119-0570-057-0000 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 01/17/2007. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check(s) drawn on a state or national bank must be made payable to National Default Servicing Corporation, a check drawn by a state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state; will be held by the duly appointed trustee as shown below, of all right, title, and interest conveyed to and now held by the trustee in the herein-after described property under and pursuant to a Deed of Trust described below. The sale will be made in an "as is" condition, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. Trustor: Sharon T. Young, an unmarried woman Duly Appointed Trustee: National Default Servicing Corporation Recorded 02/06/2007 as Instrument No. Book 20070206 Page 0296 (or Book, Page) of the Official Records of Sacramento County, California. Date of Sale: 01/08/2026 at 1:30 PM Place of Sale: At the cast main entrance to the county courthouse, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 Estimated amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$284,413.03 Street Address or other common designation of real property: 6512 Laguna Park Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95758 A.P.N.: 119-0570-057-0000 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the street address or other common designation, if any, shown above. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. The requirements of California Civil Code Section 2923.5(b)/2923.55(c) were fulfilled when the Notice of Default was recorded. NOTICE TO POTENTIAL BIDDERS: If you are considering bidding on this property lien, you should understand that there are risks involved in bidding at a trustee auction. You will be bidding on a lien, not on the property itself. Placing the highest bid at a trustee auction does not automatically entitle you to free and clear ownership of the property. You should also be aware that the lien being auctioned off may be a junior lien. If you are the highest bidder at the auction, you

NOTICE OF SELF STORAGE SALE

Please take notice Laguna Self Storage located at 3000 Dwight Rd., Elk Grove CA 95758 intends to hold a public sale to the highest bidder of the property stored by the following tenants at the storage facility. The sale will occur as an online auction via www.bid13.com on 12/18/2025 at 10:00 AM. Darci Ochoa. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions apply.

Elk Grove Citizen 11-28-2025

City of Elk Grove – City Council NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on **Wednesday, December 10, 2025**, at the hour of **6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Elk Grove City Council will conduct a public hearing at City Hall in the Council Chambers, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, California, to consider the following matter:

GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENTS TO OPEN SPACE ELEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION WORK PROGRAM:

- The proposed Project involves a series of amendments to the City's General Plan, including:
- Amendments to the General Plan Open Space Element in response to California Government Code Section 65565.5(a) which requires every jurisdiction to review and update the open space element by January 1, 2026 to address access to open space for all residents in correlation with environmental justice, climate resilience, and rewilding opportunities.
 - Amendments to the General Plan Implementation Work Program to reflect terminology changes and clarification of programs across city departments.

The Planning Commission reviewed this item at a public hearing and voted 5-0 on November 6, 2025 to recommend approval of the Project.

LOCATION/APN:	Citywide
ZONING:	Various
ENVIRONMENTAL:	Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (Commonsense exemption) and 15183 (Projects Consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan, or Zoning).

Information or questions regarding this item should be referred to Carrie Whitlock, AICP, (916) 478-2238, cwhitlock@elkgrove.gov or to the Community Development Department, 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA, 95758. All interested persons are invited to present their views and comments on this matter. Written statements may be filed with the City Clerk at any time prior to the close of the hearing scheduled herein, and oral statements may be made at said hearing.

If you challenge the subject matter in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk, 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA, 95758, at or prior to the close of the public hearing.

This meeting notice is provided pursuant to Section 23.14.040 of Title 23 of the Elk Grove Municipal Code.

JASON LINDGREN
CITY CLERK, CITY OF ELK GROVE

ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at (916) 478-3635. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.
Elk Grove Citizen 11-28-2025

COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION AMENDING COSUMNES COMMUNITY SERVICES RELATED FEES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, the Board of Directors for the Cosumnes Community Services District will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at the Board Chambers located at 8820 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, California 95624. At the public hearing, the Board of Directors will consider the adoption of resolution 2025-39, without limitation, to update the 2026 Cosumnes CSD Book of Fees with amended fees related to general fees, Parks and Recreation, Fire, and updates to staffing fees.

At the public hearing, the Board of Directors will receive oral and written testimony regarding the proposed modification to fees. Written comments may be filed at any time prior to the conclusion of the public hearing. Written comments should be addressed to the attention of the Clerk to the Board at the following address: Cosumnes Community Services District, 8820 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, California 95624.

To improve access to public information, residents may access meetings remotely. Visit the District's website at <https://www.cosumnescd.gov/896/Live-Board-Meeting> or call the Board Clerk at (916) 405-7169 for instructions regarding how to access the meeting and how to submit a speaker card for any item on the agenda.

If you challenge any of the fees adopted or increased pursuant to the resolution in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Cosumnes Community Services District at, or prior to, the public hearing.

The proposed resolution and any related documentation, including the data required by Government Code Section 66016, are available for public review at 8820 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, California 95624.

The proposed 2026 Cosumnes CSD Book of Fees will be available on the District's website at <https://www.cosumnescd.gov/992/Financial-Documents> by November 21st, 2025.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Nou Vang, Finance Director at nouvang@cosumnescd.gov at (916) 405-7161.

A public notice from:
Cosumnes Community Services District
www.cosumnescd.gov
Elk Grove Citizen 11-21, 11-28-2025

Water District Dedicates Garden to Former Board Chair Scherman



From left are former Elk Grove Water District Board Chair Sophia Scherman and General Manager Bruce Kamilos. Photos courtesy of Elk Grove Water District Board

Elk Grove Water District News Release

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - In a heartfelt ceremony held on Nov. 14, the Elk Grove Water District formally dedicated its new water-wise demonstration garden in honor of former board member Sophia Scherman.

The newly named "Sophia Scherman Garden" surrounds the water district's Administration Building and features a diverse array of drought-tolerant, climate-appropriate plants.

Designed to showcase landscaping that thrives with minimal water, the garden serves as a living example for residents seeking practical ways to conserve water at home.

The project fulfills one of Scherman's long-held goals: giving Elk Grove a hands-on demonstration space where the public can see how beautiful, efficient landscaping can benefit the environment and reduce water use.

Scherman, who served on the Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District Board from 2016 to 2024, including two years as chair, was a driving force behind many important district initiatives.

According to General Manager Bruce Kamilos, the creation of the water-wise garden was Scherman's vision to complement the district's new Administration Building.

"Sophia championed this garden from day one," Kamilos said. "Her vision,

leadership and resolve made this possible, and it is only fitting that we dedicate this beautiful space in her name."

The dedication ceremony on Nov. 14 not only highlighted Scherman's legacy, but also underscored the district's continued commitment to water efficiency and environmental stewardship.

As attendees gathered around the blooming, water-wise landscape, Kamilos proclaimed the official dedication.

"Today, I am proud to formally proclaim and dedicate this beautiful garden as The Sophia Scherman Garden," he said.

The district encourages residents to visit the garden, explore the plant varieties, and learn firsthand how water-wise landscaping can enhance both private gardens and the community as a whole. ★

School District Names Reilly as Superintendent

Elk Grove Unified School District News Release



David Reilly will replace Christopher Hoffman starting Jan. 1, 2026, as the new superintendent for Elk Grove Unified School District. Photo courtesy of Elk Grove Unified School District

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - At its Nov. 18 meeting, the Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) Board of Trustees approved the superintendent contract for David Reilly. Reilly's first day as superintendent of Elk Grove Unified School District will be Jan. 1, 2026.

Reilly brings more than 25 years of experience in public education, starting as an English teacher, vice principal, principal and then assistant superintendent of Human Resources and Student Services in the Sequoia Union High School District.

Following his tenure in the Bay Area, Reilly has been an associate superintendent in Elk Grove Unified for the past 10 years, where he has been instrumental in advancing educational programs

both in regular and special education, fostering collaboration and promoting equity and innovation throughout the district. His deep knowledge of Elk Grove Unified School District, combined with his leadership experience and commitment to student success, positions him well to lead the district into its next chapter.

Reilly's appointment follows an extensive search

that brought an excellent field of 17 highly qualified candidates. The board's decision is a reflection of input gathered from key partners in education around the district and community regarding the qualities desired in the next Elk Grove Unified School District leader.

"At any other time, David's decades of experience as an educator, his passion for learning and his dedication to our district would make him an outstanding leader for our district," said Elk Grove Unified School District Board of Trustees President Michael Vargas. "But in this unique moment, when budgets are tight, economic uncertainty is high and social change is constant, David is uniquely qualified to take the helm. Not only has he delivered real results for our students in his time at Elk Grove Unified School District, but he has earned the trust

and support of our teachers, staff and education partners. We are thrilled that David will be leading us into this next chapter for the district."

In response to the Board of Trustees approving the new superintendent contract, Reilly shared, "I am honored to serve as the next superintendent of the Elk Grove Unified School District and to lead a team of dedicated professionals who care deeply about the students we serve. I look forward to partnering with the school board, staff, families, students and our community to strengthen support for our most vulnerable learners and expand opportunities for all students to explore their passions. Together, we will continue to modernize operations, sustain responsible budgeting and maintain transparent and proactive communication to ensure the best possible outcomes for every

student." Many people around the district supported the hiring of Reilly, emphasizing his qualifications, leadership skills and his commitment to student excellence.

"Mr. Reilly's decade with the district has shown his commitment to Elk Grove Unified School District," stated Elk Grove Education Association (EGEA) President James Sutter. "He has been tasked with many difficult situations over the years and has always stepped up to the plate. EGEA looks forward to maintaining and building upon the positive relationship we have developed with Mr. Reilly for the benefit of all students, staff and families in the district."

The California School Employees Association (CSEA) said, "On behalf of CSEA, we are pleased to continue our partnership with Mr. Reilly. We

are confident that our collaboration will help foster a positive and supportive environment for students and staff alike."

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 258 (AFSCME L258) shared a similar statement, "We wish to congratulate Mr. David Reilly as Superintendent of Elk Grove Unified School District. AFSCME looks forward to continued collaboration with Mr. Reilly in cultivating the district's goals and priorities for students and employees."

Among Reilly's short-term goals is to conduct a listening and learning tour.

"In my first six months, I look forward to visiting schools and meeting with students, staff and community members to listen, learn and gain a clear understanding of what is working well and where we can grow together," Reilly said. ★

LEGAL ADVERTISING

The Elk Grove Citizen Adjudicated For and By the County of Sacramento, Case No. 14303 - October 14, 1910
The Elk Grove Citizen Adjudicated For and By the City of Elk Grove, Case No. CS01032 - August 25, 2000

Legal Advertising
916-483-0946
2508 Garfield Ave. • Ste. A
Carmichael, CA 95608

TRUSTEE SALE

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 714-730-2727 or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com/sales, using the file number assigned to this case 25-20112-SP-CA. Information

about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the internet website. 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 a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" you may be able to 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 888-264-4010, or visit this internet website www.ndscorp.com, using the file number assigned to this case 25-20112-SP-CA 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. If you think you may qualify as a "representative of all eligible tenant buyers" or "eligible bidder," you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. "Pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code, the potential rights described herein shall apply only to public auctions taking place on or after January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2025, unless later extended. Date: 11/17/2025 National Default Servicing Corporation c/o Tiffany

and Bosco, P.A., its agent, 1455 Frazee Road, Suite 820 San Diego, CA 92108 Toll Free Phone: 888-264-4010 Sales Line 714-730-2727; Sales Website: www.ndscorp.com Connie Hernandez, Trustee Sales Representative A-4858527 11/28/2025, 12/05/2025, 12/12/2025
ELK GROVE CITIZEN 12-12-25



NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEASE-LEASEBACK CONTRACT

Notice is hereby given that the Elk Grove Unified School District (hereinafter referred to as "Owner") will receive sealed proposals prior to the date and time stated below for the

Old Franklin Elementary School Conversion – Phase 1 Lease-leaseback Contract (the "Contract"),

as per the Request for Sealed Proposals ("RFP"), drawings, specifications, and other Contract Documents which may now be obtained at www.egusdplans.com.

Proposals will be sealed and filed through Dropbox to Michael Bean (mbean@egusd.net), Hannah Dayton (hdayton@egusd.net), and Jennifer Jedlicka (jjedlick@egusd.net) on **December 16, 2025, before 2:00 p.m.** on the clock designated by the Owner or its representative as the bid clock. No proposal will be accepted by the Owner after this time. Facsimile (FAX) copies of the proposal will not be accepted. Proposals may be opened immediately after the above deadline for submittal, or at a later time, within the Owner's discretion.

The lowest proposed fee shall be determined from the proposed base fee.

Mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on **December 2, 2025, at 11:00 am** at the Robert L. Trigg Center, **Room 209**, 9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove, California. Contractors not attending this conference will be disqualified from submitting proposals.

This Contract is subject to prequalification. Prequalification deadline is **December 3, 2025, by 3:00 pm**. See the Request for Sealed Proposals and Qualifications for details.

Public works projects shall be subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. For all projects over Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), a contractor or subcontractor shall not be qualified to submit a proposal or to be listed in a proposal subject to the requirements of Public Contract Code section 4104, or to enter into, or engage in the performance of, any contract of such public work, unless the contractor or subcontractor is currently registered and qualified under Labor Code section 1725.5 to perform public work (as defined by Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 (§§1720 et seq.) of the Labor Code).

As detailed in the Contract Documents, the successful proposing entity will be required to furnish a Payment (Labor and Material) Bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Total Sublease Amount, and a Faithful Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Total Sublease Amount.

The successful proposing entity will be allowed to substitute securities or establish an escrow in lieu of retainage, pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 22300, and as described in the Contract Documents.

The Owner will not consider or accept any proposals from contractors who are not licensed to do business in the State of California, in accordance with the California Public Contract Code, providing for the licensing of contractors. In accordance with Section 3300 of said Code, the proposing entity shall have a Class "B" license at the time of award and shall maintain that license in good standing through Contract Completion and all applicable warranty periods.

The Director of Industrial Relations of the State of California, in the manner provided by law, has ascertained the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and rate for legal holidays and overtime work. The Contractor must pay for any labor therein described or classified in an amount not less than the rates specified. Copies of the required rates are on file at the Owner's business office and are available to any interested party on request.

The successful contractor will have to comply with skilled and trained workforce requirements pursuant to Public Contract Code sections 2600 et seq. and Education Code section 17407.5.

Elk Grove Citizen 11-21, 11-28-2025

NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEASE-LEASEBACK CONTRACT

Notice is hereby given that the Elk Grove Unified School District (hereinafter referred to as "Owner") will receive sealed proposals prior to the date and time stated below for the

Cosumnes Oaks and Sheldon High Schools Performing Arts Center (PAC) Improvements Lease-leaseback Contract (the "Contract"),

as per the Request for Sealed Proposals ("RFP"), drawings, specifications, and other Contract Documents which may now be obtained at www.egusdplans.com.

Proposals will be sealed and filed through Dropbox to Michael Bean (mbean@egusd.net), Hannah Dayton (hdayton@egusd.net), and Jennifer Jedlicka (jjedlick@egusd.net) on **December 16, 2025, before 2:00 p.m.** on the clock designated by the Owner or its representative as the bid clock. No proposal will be accepted by the Owner after this time. Facsimile (FAX) copies of the proposal will not be accepted. Proposals may be opened immediately after the above deadline for submittal, or at a later time, within the Owner's discretion.

The lowest proposed fee shall be determined from the proposed base fee.

Mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on **December 2, 2025, at 12:30 pm** at the Robert L. Trigg Center, **Room 209**, 9510 Elk Grove-Florin Road, Elk Grove, California. Contractors not attending this conference will be disqualified from submitting proposals.

This Contract is subject to prequalification. Prequalification deadline is **December 3, 2025, by 3:00 pm**. See the Request for Sealed Proposals and Qualifications for details.

Public works projects shall be subject to compliance monitoring and enforcement by the Department of Industrial Relations. For all projects over Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), a contractor or subcontractor shall not be qualified to submit a proposal or to be listed in a proposal subject to the requirements of Public Contract Code section 4104, or to enter into, or engage in the performance of, any contract of such public work, unless the contractor or subcontractor is currently registered and qualified under Labor Code section 1725.5 to perform public work (as defined by Division 2, Part 7, Chapter 1 (§§1720 et seq.) of the Labor Code).

As detailed in the Contract Documents, the successful proposing entity will be required to furnish a Payment (Labor and Material) Bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Total Sublease Amount, and a Faithful Performance Bond in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Total Sublease Amount.

The successful proposing entity will be allowed to substitute securities or establish an escrow in lieu of retainage, pursuant to Public Contract Code Section 22300, and as described in the Contract Documents.

The Owner will not consider or accept any proposals from contractors who are not licensed to do business in the State of California, in accordance with the California Public Contract Code, providing for the licensing of contractors. In accordance with Section 3300 of said Code, the proposing entity shall have a Class "B" license at the time of award and shall maintain that license in good standing through Contract Completion and all applicable warranty periods.

The Director of Industrial Relations of the State of California, in the manner provided by law, has ascertained the general prevailing rate of per diem wages and rate for legal holidays and overtime work. The Contractor must pay for any labor therein described or classified in an amount not less than the rates specified. Copies of the required rates are on file at the Owner's business office and are available to any interested party on request.

The successful contractor will have to comply with skilled and trained workforce requirements pursuant to Public Contract Code sections 2600 et seq. and Education Code section 17407.5.

Elk Grove Citizen 11-21, 11-28-2025

A Push of a Button, A Gift of Hope

By Omella Rossi

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - With holiday shoppers looking on, community leaders and non-profit representatives gathered Nov. 21 at the Westfield Galleria at Roseville to cut the ribbon on the annual Light the World Giving Machines, vending-style kiosks that allow visitors to purchase symbolic gifts for people in need.

Installed Nov. 17 and available through Dec. 8, the machines offer items such as hygiene kits, meals, school supplies and even baby goats, with 100% of every purchase going to designated charities. Each nonprofit participates for one year only, rotating annually.

"It's my pleasure to host this again," said Jeff Richardson, senior general manager of the Galleria. "Our community keeps growing, our center keeps growing and we are significantly up in traffic this year, and I think the Giving Machine has something to do with that."

Shoppers choose gifts by tapping a touchscreen and paying by card or mobile wallet. A card representing the selected item drops into the display box, symbolizing the purchase.

Santa J. Claus made a festive entrance, handing out baby-goat plush toys to children who gathered near the machines.

"Isn't it just wonderful when we can listen to our heart and that little voice that says we should think of others in need?" Claus said. "The secret to being on the nice list is kindness. Choosing kindness toward others and toward ourselves."

Five local nonprofits are featured in this year's Roseville machines, along with two global organizations.

Jake's Journey Home focuses on veterans and community members facing homelessness. Founder Jeanne Shuman said the organization was established in



Santa J. Claus made a festive entrance, handing out baby-goat plush toys to children who gathered near the machines. Photo by Omella Rossi

2019 after the death of her son, Jake, a Seabee veteran.

"We're finding a way to honor and remember his legacy," Shuman said. "This initiative collaborates with a lot of nonprofits, which is amazing, but it also allows us to keep doing our mission. We are small, we are mighty and we are all volunteers."

Stand Up Placer, which supports survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, is offering donors the chance to fund therapy sessions, children's crisis support and emergency food.

"Our partnership with the church and their community is a blessing," said executive director Gary McDonnell.

Sunrise Christian Food Ministry, serving families throughout Sacramento County, gives shoppers the option to purchase meals, hygiene kits and student food packs.

"We are so blessed to be a part of this amazing experience," said President April Jacek.

Volunteer Allia Adams made the season's first purchase, a pantry pack, hygiene kit and pajamas. "It's exciting," Adams said.



Attendees at the ribbon-cutting browse the donation cards, each representing a gift they can give through the Giving Machines. Photo by Omella Rossi

"It doesn't take a lot of effort to shine a light on what people can do."

The Salvation Army's offerings include summer camp, Christmas dinner and job training.

Major Osei Stewart said the partnership is "an opportunity to bring light into the darkness" and "serve those who need it the most."

Sacramento Children's Home, serving children and families for nearly 160 years, offers donors the chance to purchase baby food,

pajamas or parenting classes. CEO David Becker said their mission aligns with the event's spirit.

"A community of people coming together and saying, 'we are going to make a difference,'" Becker said. "We are going to be a light in the world."

Global nonprofits United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Mentors International provide international gift options such as school kits, malnutrition treatment

and supplies for small family businesses.

"These gifts remind us that generosity here can ripple outwards across the globe," said "Thank you for helping lift lives not only in our local communities and neighborhoods but also in communities far beyond our own."

Retired Sacramento County Sheriff John McGinness, who served as emcee, highlighted the program's impact and efficiency.

"Everything that is given to the Giving Machine goes to the intended recipient," McGinness said Nancy Pinney, a Giving Machine committee member. "Some of the things that are requested, most of us view as the most basic essentials."

Local officials echoed the spirit of unity.

"We are very proud of our mall," said Roseville Vice Mayor Karen Alvord. "It gives us an opportunity to focus on the true meaning of the season, to give hope, care and comfort."

Karen Wilkes, a Giving Machine committee member, noted that the program has grown from 26 locations to 126 worldwide in four years.

"It's such a blessing to us and to the people who will receive donations," Wilkes said.

Wilkes also noted one "secret feature" of the giving machines.

"If you punch in 777, it will purchase every single gift. Thirty cards will drop, and it comes to about \$1,800. So come out, bring your friends, coworkers and families," Wilkes said.

The Light the World initiative, sponsored globally by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, encourages giving during the holiday season. This is the fourth year the Roseville Galleria has hosted the machines.

"They connect our community," McGinness said, "not only to our neighbors here in the Sacramento area but also to families around the world." ★

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ABOUT TOWN

Saturday, Nov. 29
Pancake Breakfast with Santa – at Brickhouse Restaurant & Lounge. \$14 per person; choose from 8:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m. or 10 a.m. Brought to you by the Old Town Elk Grove Foundation. Register online at oldtownelkgrove.com/dickensstreetfaire.

Old Town Elk Grove Dickens Street Fair – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This event promises your entire family a delightfully festive experience. Wander through Old Town, discover local shops, see live entertainment and explore crafts, vendor booths and food trucks. At 5 p.m., the sun sets and vendors will close shop. Stick around for Christmas carols and Mr. and Mrs. Claus. Please join us for the tree lighting at 6 p.m. 9615 Railroad St.

Sunday, Nov. 30
Black Tie & Santa Gala – 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Elk Grove House and Stage Shop Museum, located in Elk Grove Park. Spend an elegant evening with wine, caviar, chocolate and good friends.

Enjoy a silent auction, raffle and wine grab. Please bring an unwrapped toy for Santa to give to a needy Elk Grove child. Tickets are \$60 for members of the Elk Grove Historical Society, \$75 for non-members, and can be purchased at elkgrovehistoricalsociety.com. 9941 E. Stockton Blvd.

Friday, Dec. 5 through Sunday, Dec. 21
An Old-Fashioned Christmas – 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. each Friday, Saturday and Sunday at Elk Grove House and Stage Stop, Elk Grove Park. Presented by the Elk Grove Historical Society, enjoy decorations, activities, and Santa. \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 16 & under. 9941 E. Stockton Blvd.

Saturday, Dec. 6
Bufferlands Wetlands and Waterfowl – 9 a.m. to noon. Come join our biologists for a 1½-mile walk around some of our seasonal wetlands. Some areas will be wet and muddy, so dress accordingly. To register for the walk, please contact Chris Conard at conardc@sacsewer.com

Your confirmation will include the location details.
Frosty Winter Market – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Big Oak Nursery. Explore local vendors, discover distinct winter treasures and enjoy comforting seasonal refreshments. Don't miss out on a special visit from Santa Claus, complete with holiday photo opportunities. We'll also have a wide selection of fresh-cut Christmas trees to choose from. 10071 Grantline Road.

5th Annual Krampus Christmas – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Mystical Celtic Heart. Enjoy this free outdoor holiday market for the naughty kids. Get photos with Krampus and his dark elves and find dark and unusual gifts. Rain or shine. 9031 Elk Grove Blvd.

Holiday Open House – 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Secret Garden. Step into our cozy garden wonderland filled with holiday cheer and festive vibes. Enjoy an afternoon of shopping as you explore our beautifully decorated gift shop and garden stocked with unique gifts, seasonal treasures and holiday décor. We'll have yummy drinks and treats to enjoy as you shop. 8450 W. Stockton Blvd.

Elk Grove Illumination Holiday Festival – 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at District56. Enjoy shopping in the American Vintage Vendor Village, seasonal eats, photos with Santa, and fun for the kids including holiday inflatables, games and synthetic ice skating. Don't miss the beloved

Holiday Parade of Lights at 6 p.m., presented by the Elk Grove Lions Club and Sutter Health, followed by a magical tree lighting and snowfall finale. 9701 Big Horn Blvd.

First Saturday at the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Join us for the 14th annual "Small Treasures" show and sale, and holiday gift boutique. Guests may also enjoy our Holiday Fundraising Raffle with an opportunity to win a holiday-themed piece of original artwork. 9020 Elk Grove Blvd. Suite 101.

Sunday, Dec. 7
Camden Neighborhood Association Holiday Faire – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Cooperston Green Belt. Enjoy pictures with Santa, a kids' cookie decorating station, hot cocoa bar and craft vendors. We offer train rides on the trackless train, too. Contact info@cnaelkgrove.com for more information. 8728 Cooperston Way.

Thursday, Dec. 11
Elk Grove Garden Club – 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Gil Albiani Recreation Center. We will serve a Winter Soup Luncheon and make holiday centerpieces to take home. Bring a container that holds water to build your centerpiece. Greenery will be provided. Visitors are welcome; please RSVP to Loren at 916-969-3784. 8830 Sharkey Ave.

Ongoing Events
Caregiver Coffee – 10:30 a.m. the third Saturday each month at Elk Grove United Methodist Church. This is open to all as a way to share experiences in caregiving as well as resources. For more information, contact Ruth at 916-509-1414. Next meeting will be Saturday, Dec. 20. 8986 Elk Grove Blvd.

Elk Grove Certified Farmers Market – every

Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon at 8245 Laguna Blvd.

Rotary Club of Elk Grove – every Wednesday for lunch at noon. The Park at Laguna Springs, 9670 Laguna Springs Drive. More information at elk-groverotary.org

Sunday Pop-Up Market at HomeGrown Inc. – every Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the HomeGrown Inc. Farmers' Market "store." Enjoy music, delicious food, fresh baked goods, local shopping, and health and wellness vendors – there's something for everyone. 9120 Elk Grove Blvd.

Widowed Persons Social Club – Nov. 28, 10 a.m.: Variety game day at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact Gerri at 916-698-1940.

A widowed person may attend up to three events while deciding if they wish to join WPSC. Contact Bonnie at 916-422-1522 if you are interested in membership.

Wilton Bingo – First Saturday each month. The next bingo will be on Saturday, Dec. 6 in the Wilton Community Center. Doors open at 5 p.m. with food available for sale and bingo starts at 6 p.m. All proceeds go to two nonprofits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History Group. 9717 Colony Road at Dillard Road., Wilton.

Library Events
 Sacramento County Libraries have the following upcoming events: (EG) Elk Grove Library, 8900 Elk Grove Blvd.; (F) Franklin, 10055 Franklin High Road; (NW) Nonie Wetzel Library, 170 Primasing Ave., Courtland; (VH) Valley Hi/North Laguna, 7400 Imagination Parkway, Sacramento:
 Friday, Nov. 28: No events.

Saturday, Nov. 29: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (F) STEAM for kids, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (VH)

Tuesday, Dec. 2: Elk Grove Navigator office hours, 10 a.m. to noon. Participants can connect with trained navigators who provide guidance, answer questions, and connect clients to resources such as shelters, food assistance and more. (EG) Homework zone, 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. Kids in kindergarten through 8th grade can get help with their homework from volunteer teen coaches. Drop-ins welcome. (F)

Wednesday, Dec. 3: 1-on-1 financial coaching, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The City of Sacramento's Financial Empowerment Center (FEC) offers free professional coaching and student loan counseling for residents of Sacramento who are 18 and older. An appointment is required; book on the FEC website. (VH) Explore and learn, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (VH) Teen space, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (EG) Homework zone, 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. Kids in kindergarten through 8th grade can get help with their homework from volunteer teen coaches. Drop-ins welcome. (F) Teen advisory board, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. (F)

Thursday, Dec. 4: Family story time, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (EG) Adult space, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (VH) Homework zone, 3:45 p.m. to 5 p.m. Kids in kindergarten through 8th grade can get help with their homework from volunteer teen coaches. Drop-ins welcome. (F)

Friday, Dec. 5: Explore and learn, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (F) Adult space, 10:30 a.m. to noon. (EG)

Saturday, Dec. 6: Family story time, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (F) Adult space, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. (NW) Teen advisory board, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (VH) STEAM for

kids, 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EG)

Call 916-264-2920 or 800-561-4636 for more information on any of these events.

Veterans Meetings American Legion Post 55, Veterans and Auxiliary Units – fourth Wednesday each month. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m. Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. Next meeting will be Nov. 26. Breakfast: second Saturday, 8-10 a.m., 8830 Sharkey Ave.

American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233 – general meetings the fourth Thursday each month at 7 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road. Dinner at 6 p.m. Due to the holidays, the next meeting will be in January 2026; no meeting in December.

Post 233 Family Breakfast – first Saturday each month at 9 a.m., Mimi's Café, corner of Laguna Boulevard and West Stockton Boulevard (just off Highway 99). For more information, call Henry at 916-205-9296 C or Sue at 916-683-6128 H.

Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 233 – first Monday each month at 5:45 p.m. at the Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 233 – first Monday each month at 5:45 p.m. at the Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

Marine Corps League Detachment #1238 – first Thursday each month. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

VFW Post 2073 – second Thursdays of the month. Dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. For more information, call 916-684-3849. ★

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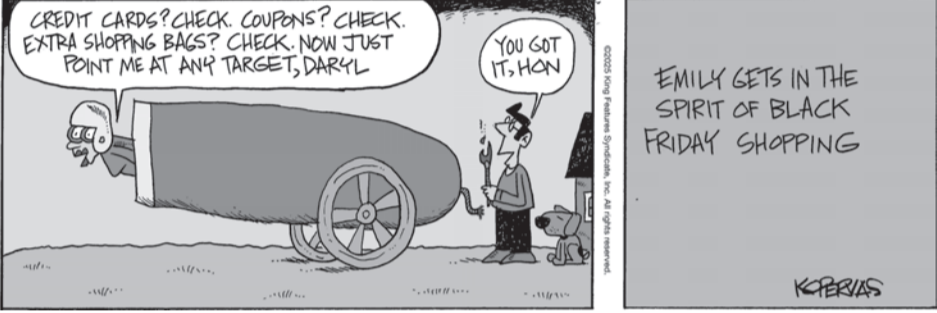


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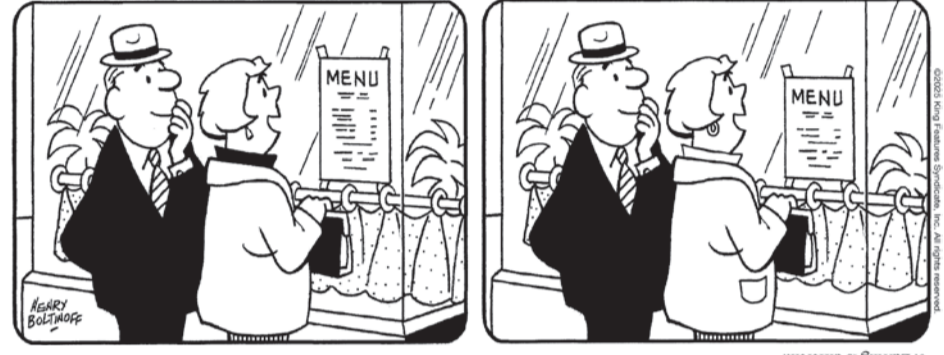
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Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

HOCUS-FOCUS



BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

GRIN & BEAR IT



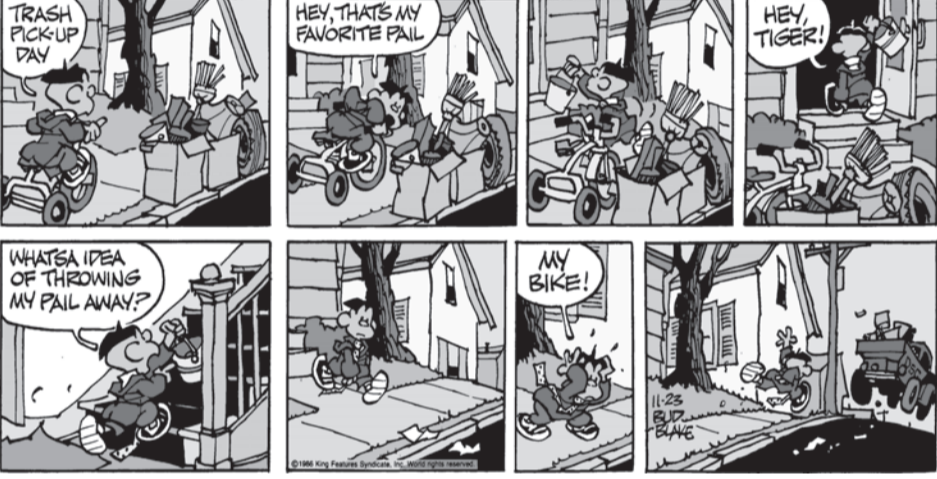
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Just Like Cats & Dogs



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TIGER



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 - Relating to ear
 - Rome's Colosseum, e.g.
 - I ____ you so!
 - *The opposite of a store the day before Christmas?
 - **"Auld Lang Syne" poet
 - *"Partridge's perch (2 words)
 - Vegas numbers
 - New Zealand's indigenous people
 - Fuss
 - Tabby's favorite herb
 - More so than swell
 - Big-headedness
 - Resembling an ape
 - John Wayne Gacy's ____ the Clown
 - Photographer Dorothea of "Migrant Mother" fame
 - Type or kind
 - Like a sheep after a haircut
 - D'Artagnan's weapon of choice
 - Superlative of #33
- Down**
- U.S. central bank
 - Wilma and Fred's hometown
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 - Word of possibility
 - Turning token taker
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 - Raspberry drupelets
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CROSSWORD

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- 33. Not well**
- 36. *Original home of Christmas tannenbaum**
- 38. Fur shawl**
- 40. Extremely unfriendly**
- 41. Plane trick**
- 44. Reprieve in a desert**
- 46. Muscle to bone connector**
- 48. Skidded**
- 49. Weighed**
- 50. 4,840 square yards**
- 51. Told an untruth**
- 52. Head of family**
- 53. Wrap in waxy cloth**
- 54. Comfort**
- 55. Financing acronym**
- 58. Stewart of "Maggie May" fame**

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Monterey Trail Football Season Comes to a Close at Folsom



Defensive back Robert Hamel, No. 10; confers with linebacker Loni Kafovalu, No. 25.

Story and photos by Nathan Felix Valencia

FOLSOM, CA (MPG) - The Monterey Trail Mustangs traveled Friday, Nov. 21 to play the Folsom High Bulldogs in the semifinals of the San-Joaquin Section Playoffs, with Folsom the No. 1 seed and the Mustangs No. 4.

Before going into this game, both teams had won their quarter-final game in dominant fashion. Folsom beat Downey High 62-34, while Monterey Trail topped Inderkum High School 45-3.

The Mustangs were looking to knock off the No. 1 seed like they have done in the past.

However, the Bulldogs came out strong. Their defense was able to force a turnover on the second play of the game. Their offense was able to score a touchdown in one play, giving the Bulldogs a 7-0 lead in less than a minute. Monterey Trail was able to get the ball back and score a touchdown on its following drive, tying the game and looking to swing the momentum back in its favor.

But Folsom's special teams were able to return the ensuing kickoff for a touchdown, regaining the lead.

The Mustangs were able to possess the ball for the remainder of the first quarter, yet they were unable to turn anything into points, giving the ball back to the Bulldogs.

In the second quarter, Folsom was able to find another gear that Monterey Trail could not.

The Bulldogs scored two touchdowns on offense, while their defense was able to force a second turnover that they were able to return for a touchdown.

That ended the first half 33-7.

Coming into the second half, the Mustangs were looking to climb out of a hole to keep their season alive. But Folsom was able to continue where it had left off.



Monterey Trail Quarterback Kaden Love, No. 18, prepares to execute the next play.



The Monterey Trail Mustangs offense breaks huddle.

Both the Bulldogs' offense and defense were firing on all cylinders, making them able to score and stop the Mustangs at will.

The Mustangs continued to fight the entire rest of the game, even scoring one

touchdown in the fourth quarter. However, the damage was already done.

The game ended with Folsom winning 54-14.

The Bulldogs have a chance to play for yet another section championship against

Oak Ridge High School on Nov. 28.

Although the Mustangs' season did not end on a high note, they have nothing to be ashamed of, ending the season with an outstanding record of 9-3 and finishing first in the Delta League. ★

Twin Brothers Win at Mixed Martial Arts Tournament

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - When 15-year-old twin brothers Riley and Jaxson Clanton walked into the U.S. Open BJJ Tour Championship the night of Nov. 16, they not only had to face bigger and older opponents but they also had to face each other.

Despite weighing 137 and 141 pounds respectively, they competed in the 147-weight bracket against 17-year-olds and both won matches. Jaxson Clanton advanced to the championship final and won the silver medal.

The pair also competed in the 141-weight class against one another with Jaxson Clanton taking the gold medal and Riley Clanton taking the silver. At only 15 years old, the two brothers' future appears bright as they both plan to go pro in MMA (Mixed Martial Arts) upon turning 18 years old.

"These young men have come a long way since signing up with me a little over a year ago. There's sibling rivalry but there's also a healthy respect and they push each other," said Apex Predator MMA owner and head coach Rudy Vidaurri. "Riley beat



From left are Riley Clanton, owner/head coach Rudy Vidaurri and Jaxson Clanton. Photo courtesy of Apex Predator MMA

Jaxson in the last tournament but today was Jaxson's day and that's how it goes in this sport. For them, the sky is the limit. They feed off one another and I couldn't be more proud of them."

The twin brothers continue a longstanding tradition of Apex Predator MMA competitors who have found the podium and

had success in BJJ Tour competition.

The win comes not long after the fight club won the award for the Best Martial Arts Club in Rancho Cordova for the fourth consecutive year since opening in 2021.

For more information on upcoming events or classes, visit apexpredatormma.com. ★

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball Nearing Playoffs



A player makes a big block on a spike attempt during a Thursday night league match.

Story and photos by Nathan Felix Valencia

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The Cosumnes CSD's Adult League volleyball played three games Thursday, Nov. 20 at the Wackford Community Center. Unlike the other CSD sports, there is only one adult volleyball league, which is co-ed. And the league has five teams that play 6-on-6 on Thursday evenings.

The first games were played on Oct. 16 to start a seven- or eight-game season. There are three games each Thursday, and one team plays twice in each night.

After each team plays all of its games during the season, the top four teams will compete in their playoffs.

These playoffs are going to take place the week after Thanksgiving, Dec. 4. The two winners of each game are going to play each other in the championship.

Although the players are still looking to win each game, they make sure to have

fun every time. Bringing a speaker to listen to music during a game can lighten the tension of competitiveness but raise the level of enjoyment.

Players also are able to name their own teams. The five teams currently playing are: Casual ts, Woo!, Bet we ball, Yay and How I Set Your Mother.

Teams have a chance to get creative and have a little fun, which builds a relationship throughout the entire team.

It also provides a great opportunity to play recreational volleyball. Even though the games are during the week, they are played later in the evening.

This allows anyone who be busy during the day to still have an opportunity to play, no matter who they are playing with. It could be with friends, family or even co-workers.

Players build connections whether they are on the same team or not. Depending on how big the league is, each player is going to see one another every week. ★

UC Davis Athletics Unveils 'Aggie Ascent'

A Visionary Facilities Master Plan for the Next Era

By MPG Staff

DAVIS, CA (MPG) - The University of California, Davis announced Aggie Ascent, a bold new facilities master plan that defines the next chapter for UC Davis Athletics.

Developed in partnership with ELS Architecture and Urban Design, Aggie Ascent represents the university's first unified vision for athletics infrastructure: one rooted in innovation, connection and long-term impact. The plan envisions dynamic athletics districts designed to enrich the student-athlete experience, enhance the fan journey and strengthen the department's long-term sustainability.

"As we transition into the Mountain West Conference, Aggie Ascent is about more than facilities; it's about aligning with the future of Division I athletics," said Rocko DeLuca, athletics director. "This plan captures the climb ahead of us and the belief that our student-athletes and fans deserve an experience that matches the excellence of UC Davis. Every project, from the stadium district to the golf center, represents a step forward and building something uniquely ours."

Aggie Ascent outlines a \$265-million phased, gift-driven approach that allows UC Davis to advance projects as leadership gifts and partnerships are secured. Early priorities include revenue-generating and high-impact facilities that expand community engagement and elevate game-day atmosphere.

The UC Davis Health Stadium lays out a reimagined fan experience anchored by new premium seating, suites and a hospitality concourse. The \$50-million expansion will include a special



This graphic depicts highlighted areas for the recently-announced "Aggie Ascent," a \$265-million project for the student-athlete experience. Graphic provided by UC Davis Athletics

event space to be used year-round by the university community.

The Woody Wilson Track and Field Complex will see a new NCAA-compliant, eight-lane facility with west-facing spectator seating, integrating all events, including throws, into a single venue with an option to add team spaces and restrooms with a total cost of \$14.5 million.

Also expected is a 350-yard driving range featured at the Golf Training Center, with short game and putting greens that will have dual roles serving the university's golf programs as well as the surrounding communities. The anticipated project cost is \$18.7 million.

Future phases will expand and elevate baseball, soccer and the University Credit Union Center venues. A new softball stadium with locker rooms, team spaces and fan amenities will join the golf training center to transform south campus as LaRue Field has been designated for redevelopment after 2035.

"Our campus has always been defined by progress," said Chancellor Gary S. May. "Aggie Ascent captures that forward momentum by combining thoughtful design, sustainable growth and a commitment to student success. It reflects the same excellence that defines UC Davis across academics, research and innovation."

Head football coach Tim Plough emphasized the importance of facilities in shaping a competitive and holistic student-athlete experience.

"Aggie Ascent is a statement about where this program is headed," said Plough. "We talk all the time about controlling what we can control, preparation, attitude, effort; and this plan is the facilities version of that mindset. It's a commitment to giving our student-athletes every resource they need to be at their best and to providing our fans with a game-day experience that matches the pride they bring to our sporting events."

Said Clarence Mamuyac, chairman of ELS Architecture and Urban Design, "From the outset, our team worked collaboratively with a shared vision: to bring UC Davis Athletics together by organizing its teams, sports and venues across 5,300 acres into two distinct Aggie Districts, East and West. This approach creates a more connected and integrated athletics experience for the entire UC Davis campus community. Aggie Ascent is about uniting athletics and campus life through design that honors place, celebrates sustainability and fosters pride, while positioning UC Davis for success for generations to come."

Aggie Ascent will move forward as private support and strategic partnerships are secured. Each project represents an opportunity for leadership donors to make a lasting impact, from naming opportunities at UC Davis Health Stadium to foundational investments in the Golf Center and South Campus Gateway.

"As we climb together, Aggie Ascent is both a plan and a promise," DeLuca said. "A promise that UC Davis Athletics will continue to rise with facilities that inspire, programs that compete and a community that believes the best is still ahead."

UC Davis, the No. 2 ranked public university by the Wall Street Journal, is home to 40,000 undergraduate students and 12,000 employees. Ranked Number One in agriculture and forestry as well as Number One in veterinary medicine, UC Davis is located in a California college town nestled between world-class destinations such as the San Francisco Bay Area, Napa Valley and Lake Tahoe. More than 650 Aggie student-athletes compete in 25 Division I varsity sports, with 16 sports transitioning to the Mountain West Conference beginning in 2026.

ELS Architecture and Urban Design is a nationally-recognized design firm headquartered in Berkeley, with additional offices in Los Angeles, Sacramento and San Diego. The firm specializes in campus planning and design for campus life, athletics, sports and recreation, as well as performing arts and large assembly spaces. ELS has delivered award-winning projects for leading institutions, including Stanford University, USC, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, along with numerous municipalities across California. Recent honors include an AIA California Design Award for the Canada College project and recognition at Climate Week NYC - 2025 for pioneering all-electric design strategies that advance zero greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information, visit AggieAscent.com. ★

Sacramento State Softball Signs Six Players

2026-27 Recruiting Class

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento State softball head coach Lori Perez announced on Nov. 20 that six high school seniors have signed National Letters of Intent and will join the program as freshmen next fall.

The incoming players are left-handed pitcher Jordan Bey, outfielders Choyce Chambers and Taylor Mendoza, catcher Madie Harrison, second baseman/outfielder Deja Montgomery and catcher/utility player Victoria Roman.

Bey, a Houston native, is entering her fourth varsity season at Episcopal High School in Bellaire, Texas. A three-time all-conference selection and finalist for VYPE Private School Player of the Year, Bey posted a 1.52 ERA with 113 strikeouts in 93 1/3 innings as a junior and helped lead Episcopal to three straight Southwest Preparatory Conference state titles.

Bey "will bring an immediate impact to our pitching staff," Perez said, praising Bey's competitiveness and pitch variety.

Chambers arrives from Valley Christian High School in Cerritos, where she has earned three all-Olympic League selections. She hit .425 as a junior with 41 runs, 31



Six high school seniors have signed with Sacramento State softball, bolstering the Hornets' 2025 roster with pitching, power and speed. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

stolen bases and 11 extra-base hits, earning first-team all-CIF and Press Telegram Dream Team honors.

Chambers is a career .396 hitter with 96 runs and 58 stolen bases. Her defense "blew us away," Perez said, noting her ability to track down extra-base hits and impact the game with her speed.

Harrison, a catcher from Central Catholic High School in Modesto, was named

Valley Oak League offensive MVP and second-team all-state as a junior after hitting .461 with eight home runs and 47 RBIs. A three-time all-league selection, Harrison owns career marks of .405 with 94 RBIs in 95 games. Harrison "has the ability to hit the ball out of the park in every at-bat," Perez said, and praised her leadership behind the plate.

Mendoza, from Honolulu, will join the

Hornets after playing at James Campbell High School. A two-time all-state selection, Mendoza hit .553 as a sophomore at Roosevelt High School and served as team captain that season. She batted .300 last year for a Campbell squad that finished third in the state. Perez called Mendoza "strong, athletic and a hard worker," and noted she is the program's first recruit from Hawaii.

Montgomery, a Vallejo native, has starred at American Canyon High School, earning first-team all-Vine Valley Athletic League honors each of her first three seasons. She has hit at least .435 every year and owns a career .469 average with 61 stolen bases, averaging nearly one steal per game. Perez praised her athleticism and versatility, saying that Montgomery "can get to balls most players cannot run down."

Roman, a catcher and utility player from South Hills High School in West Covina, hit .407 as a junior and was an all-league selection as a freshman at Northview High School, where she batted .420. Perez described Roman as "the ultimate competitor" with a strong arm and the defensive versatility to play multiple positions.

All six signees will enroll at Sacramento State ahead of the 2025-26 academic year. ★

Vitiello Earns Third Consecutive Nomination for Goalkeeper of the Year

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - USL (United Soccer League) Championship announced the finalists for the 2025 individual league awards on Nov. 14. On the heels of an All-League Second Team selection, Republic FC's Danny Vitiello has been nominated for Goalkeeper of the Year for the third consecutive year.

Already Sacramento's all-time clean sheets leader heading into the 2025 campaign, Vitiello continued to add to his decorated career and cement himself as one of the top goalkeepers in league history.

For the second consecutive year, Vitiello led the league in clean sheets (12) and was tied for the league lead with just 18 goals conceded. Vitiello's 0.9 goals-against average mark extended a perfect record of never conceding an average of one goal per game in his seven-season career.

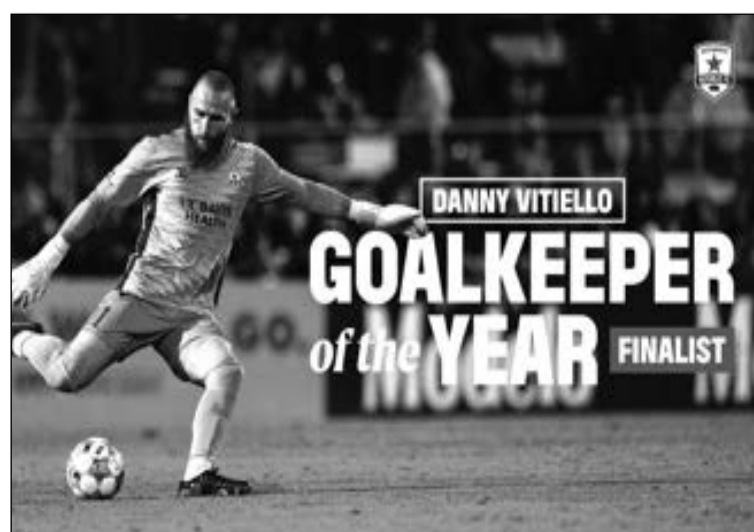
The 2023 Goalkeeper of the Year and two-time Golden Glove winner was Sacramento's ironman, featuring for all 2,700 regular season minutes. Vitiello was the only goalkeeper to reach the milestone and the first Republic FC player to do so since 2017.

Vitiello's performance gained recognition throughout the year.

Vitiello earned two Team of the Week selections and was a two-time Player of the Month finalist, claiming the honor for the first time in his career in July. Vitiello wrapped up the season tied for the USL Championship's all-time record in regular season clean sheets (58).

The United Soccer League will announce the winners of its annual end of season awards leading up to the 2025 USL Championship Final after press time.

Season ticket memberships are now on sale for the 2026 season. For more information or to buy a membership, visit SacRepublicFC.com/Memberships. ★



Danny Vitiello was nominated for the United Soccer League's Goalkeeper of the Year for the third consecutive year. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Republic FC