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Straps Down, Basketballs Up

Connecting youth and law enforcement through basketball and gun violence awareness



Nearly 50 children participated in the Straps Over Straps Basketball & Gun Violence Awareness Camp on Sept. 5. Photo by Ornella Rossi

By Ornella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Basketballs bounced across the court as young players practiced shooting, dribbling and passing alongside coaches and law enforcement officers, but the lessons at Rockball extended beyond the game. Nearly 50 children participated in the Straps Over Straps Basketball & Gun Violence Awareness Camp on Sept. 5, a free event combining basketball instruction, mentorship, gun violence awareness and opportunities for youth to build relationships with law enforcement.



Throughout the camp, children participated in drills led by several coaches in attendance. Photo by Ornella Rossi

The camp marked the first partnership between Straps Over Straps and the Rancho Cordova Police Activities League (PAL). Straps Over Straps is in its second year of hosting the program.

Rancho Cordova Police Chief Shaun Hampton said the event fits into PAL's broader goal of reaching young people early and helping them become comfortable interacting with officers. "We want to keep the kids off the street and out of trouble," Hampton said. "We do that by engaging with them and getting them comfortable being around us." Hampton said Rancho Cordova does not have a significant youth gun violence problem, but programs like the camp are intended to help prevent

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SBSK Readies for Holiday Giveaway



Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gives these to the children right before Christmas break. Courtesy photo

By Claire Gliddon, SBSK Chief Blanket Gatherer

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Got beanie babies? Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids (SBSK) is asking for donations of new or "almost new" Beanie Babies all year long. Every September, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids picks as many of the lowest-income elementary schools they can and finds out how many kindergartners they have. Volunteers make double-fleece blankets (about 50 inches by 60 inches) for all of them, and a little fleece pouch with a Beanie Baby in it to go with each blanket. Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gives these to the children right before Christmas break. Some of these kids live in their cars or in places without heat and this is all they get for Christmas. It is wildly popular with the teachers and the kids! Spread the word, too! This is their 13th year for this project, and they hope to continue doing it, as long as they can get Beanie Babies.

In 2025, Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids gave out over 3,300 blankets and Beanie Babies in their Kindergarten Project, reaching 58 schools! SBSK is always looking for new volunteers to make blankets all year round for children in need. Like to knit, crochet, sew, quilt, make no-sew blankets and have run out of people to make things for? We're looking for you! To learn more about Sacramento Blankets for Sacramento Kids, visit www.sacblankets4kids.com and sign up! No pressure, no timelines, no meetings...just people who enjoy crocheting, knitting, quilting, sewing, making no-sew blankets and helping a whole lot of children at the same time. SBSK is a nonprofit organization that serves children in need from infants to 18-year-olds. They do this all year long! But the Kindergarten Project is their "special" project of the year. Email claire@sacblankets4kids.com for a list of drop-off places for your Beanie Babies. ★

Lancers Tame Cougars, Improve to 2-0

By James Darnell and photos by Rick Sloan

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - The Cordova Lancers have seemingly found themselves a good recipe for success through their first two games of the season. Run the ball effectively on offense, play an aggressive style of defense that generates turnovers and make sure senior playmaker Troy Simmons gets his hands on the football. Those three ingredients have put together quite the product for the Lancers thus far, including during a 35-16 victory against visiting Kennedy inside Lancer Stadium on Friday, Sept. 4. Cordova (2-0 overall) pounced on the Cougars (0-2 overall) early, taking a 22-0 lead into halftime after their top two senior playmakers, running back Trey Wallace and cornerback Troy Simmons, came



Senior running back Trey Wallace crosses the goal line for a touchdown against Kennedy.

out and immediately put their stamp on the game. Simmons, who had a 55-yard interception return for a touchdown during the Lancers' first game of the season one week prior, put together quite the encore performance. He scored the Lancers' first points of the contest on yet another interception, which he returned nearly 60 yards for a touchdown early in the second quarter. The play saw Simmons lined up at left cornerback and pick off the pass from Cougars' sophomore quarterback Ismeal Jimenez

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Volunteers Bring Good Deeds Day to Lincoln Village

Story and photos
by Ornella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Rakes scraped across lawns, landscaping materials moved from house to house and volunteers spread throughout Lincoln Village Saturday, Sept. 12 as a neighborhood became the latest stop for an annual day of service.

More than 100 volunteers took part in Dorothy Mae Good Deeds Day, helping beautify and maintain 30 homes during the event's first year in Rancho Cordova. Sacramento Neighborhood Housing Services partnered with the City of Rancho Cordova and community organizations to provide yard cleanup, landscaping and other assistance at no cost to participating residents.

The annual event honors Dorothy Mae Richardson, who helped launch the Neighborhood Housing Services movement. SNHS President and CEO Laurretta Casimir-Mahoney said the organization focuses on communities where residents may face barriers to traditional housing assistance.

"We identified that this area, in particular, was underserved in part because there's a lot of renters, and there's some gaps between some of the services the city provides for homeowners versus renters," Casimir-Mahoney said.

She said the goal was to address some deferred maintenance while bringing residents, businesses and volunteers together.

Partners included The Home Depot, El Dorado Savings Bank, U.S. Bank, SMUD and Unidos. The event also included meals for residents and volunteers, live entertainment, children's activities and information from community organizations.

This year marked the fourth Dorothy Mae Good Deeds Day and the first held in Rancho Cordova. Previous events have



Volunteers ranged from local residents to employees of participating businesses and organizations.

taken place in other Sacramento-area neighborhoods.

Casimir-Mahoney said one challenge in previous years has been convincing residents that the services are actually free.

"What we found in the past is there's a disconnect in believing that someone would show up and do what we're doing for free," she said. "We get people that say no, and then we show up that day, and they go, 'Oh, we didn't think it was real.'"

Organizers also took a more neighborhood-focused approach to outreach this year, recruiting residents to help canvass Lincoln Village and speak directly with their neighbors before the event. Nadia Faraci, a longtime Lincoln Village resident who helped with that outreach, said seeing the turnout was rewarding.

"I just feel gratitude, kindness, just commitment," Faraci said. "Unifying the community, getting everybody together."



More than 100 volunteers took part in Dorothy Mae Good Deeds Day, helping beautify and maintain 30 homes during the event's first year in Rancho Cordova.

For Lincoln Village resident Renee King, whose home was among those receiving work, the activity brought a noticeable

change to the neighborhood.

"It feels pretty good," King said. "Just coming outside early in the morning and seeing the

community more lively, people coming out, volunteering, helping out in the community."

His son, Avion King, said he appreciated seeing younger residents taking part.

"It feels good to see people my age come together in unity, helping the older people and helping with yards and whatever people need in general," he said.

Volunteers ranged from local residents to employees of participating businesses and organizations.

Genesis Perez said she signed up after hearing about the opportunity from a friend.

"I wanted to volunteer because I heard it was about helping out our community," Perez said. "If you want others to help you, you should put in your part as well."

The City of Rancho Cordova helped support the event through its Community Enhancement Fund. Matt Buland, a management analyst and community engagement volunteer coordinator for the city, said the work was about more than landscaping.

"Beautification is really important because it enhances the neighborhood and makes people feel proud to live in the place that they live," Buland said. "What's special about this one is that it's really about the building of community."

The Home Depot also supplied materials and volunteers for the event. Andrew Maluth, an assistant store manager at the Roseville Home Depot, said giving back is one of the company's core values.

"It's very important for the community to show up for others," Maluth said. "From a Home Depot standpoint, with our employees, they do this because they get to see that Home Depot does more than just sell stuff."

Casimir-Mahoney said organizers hope Dorothy Mae Good Deeds Day will return to Rancho Cordova.

"The community need doesn't stop," she said. ★

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Pet Junction Opens Its Doors

Story and photos
by Ornella Rossi

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Dogs joined their owners Saturday morning as Rancho Cordova welcomed a new business built around something owner Jim Dempsey has known nearly his entire life, the pet industry.

Pet Junction Pet Supply & Grooming celebrated its grand opening Sept. 12 at 4044 Sunrise Blvd., Suite 100, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, vendors, raffles, giveaways and representatives from the city and local organizations.

The independent pet store, owned and operated by Jim and Jennie Dempsey, offers pet food, treats, toys and other supplies along with professional grooming and a self-service dog wash.

For Jim Dempsey, opening the store marks a return to the type of business where his career began.

"I've been in the pet industry for 25, 30 years," Dempsey said. "Growing up my parents had pet stores."

Dempsey said much of his career was spent on the other side of the retail business, traveling throughout California and other states while selling products to pet store owners. After years on the road, he began looking for a change.

"The local community stuff, the local city stuff, the mom-and-pop stores have been who I am," Dempsey said. "I saw the opportunity here in Rancho Cordova, in the community, and seeing the growth of the families that were out here."

The store places a particular emphasis on services and pet nutrition, Dempsey said.

Pet Junction employs full-time groomers and offers self-service washing stations where customers can use the store's tubs, shampoos, towels and dryers.

"Come here, make the mess here. Don't make the mess at



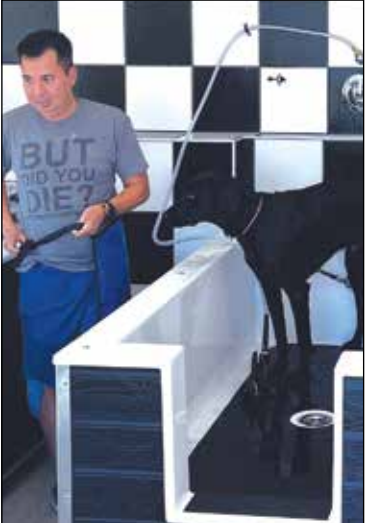
Pet Junction Pet Supply & Grooming celebrated its grand opening Sept. 12 at 4044 Sunrise Blvd., Suite 100.



Pet Junction celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony, raffles and giveaways for attendees.



Rancho Cordova Mayor Garrett Gatewood welcomed the business and highlighted Dempsey's background in the industry during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Pet Junction employs full-time groomers and offers self-service washing stations where customers can use the store's tubs, shampoos, towels and dryers.

home," Dempsey said. "We clean it up; you can go home."

Beyond grooming, Dempsey said he wants employees to be able to help customers understand pet food ingredients, supplements and differences among products.

"We're going to be able to answer the questions that your box

stores can't," he said. "If somebody wants to better understand what to feed their pets, the difference between frozen dog food and refrigerated dog food, we have that understanding and can relay that information to the consumer."

The grand opening drew community members and their dogs throughout the morning with vendors offering pet products and promotions.

Rancho Cordova Mayor Garrett Gatewood welcomed the business and highlighted Dempsey's background in the industry during the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"Pet Junction is a culmination of Jim's lifelong passion with animals, beginning with his parents' pet store, where he developed a love for animals and customer service," Gatewood said.

Gatewood said the business's focus on pet supplies, grooming and customer service would make it an addition to the Rancho Cordova business community.

Mika Klinsmann, representing state Sen. Roger Niello's office, presented the owners with a certificate of recognition.

"We're so happy to have you here," Klinsmann said. "As a pet owner myself, thank you for being here, and if you need anything at the state level, we're happy to assist you."

Pam Garcia, business development manager for the City of Rancho Cordova, also welcomed the Dempseys.

"We are very excited to have you here in Rancho Cordova," Garcia said. "As you can tell, we brought you a lot of love today."

For Dempsey, the new store brings together the different parts of a career spent working with pet products, retailers and customers.

Now, instead of traveling from store to store, he is building one of his own.

"The dogs and cats are more like family members," Dempsey said, "and that's what this is set up for." ★

CIRCUS VARGAS

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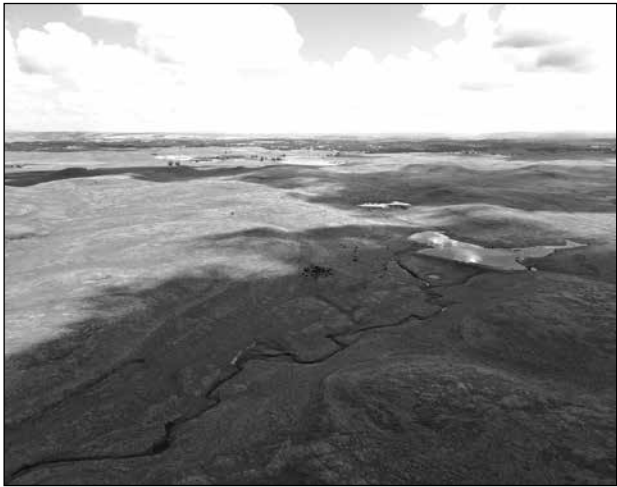
New Preserves Held by Land Trust Protect Open Space

Sacramento Valley Conservancy News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) added two new open space preserves to the system of protected lands in Sacramento County this summer, one protecting blue oak woodlands and the other open grasslands for Swainson’s Hawk foraging.

Hardwood forests and grasslands are among the least-protected landscapes in California, and these new preserves are a small step toward addressing this gap as the state seeks to reach 30X30 biodiversity goals. Westervelt Ecological Services established the preserves as habitat mitigation for a development project in the City of Folsom.

The Crevis Creek Oak Woodland Preserve connects to the 4,600-acre Deer Creek Hills Preserve and adds 125 acres of protected oak woodland in Eastern Sacramento County, where SVC has a goal of



The Golden Hills Preserve provides foraging land for Swainson’s Hawk, which is a California threatened species losing habitat to outward urban expansion. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Valley Conservancy

protecting 10,000 acres of blue oak woodlands south of Folsom.

Found only in California, blue oak woodlands are iconic landscapes inhabiting the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges. Blue oak woodland habitat supports exceptional biodiversity, providing food, nesting sites, shelter, and movement corridors for more than 300 vertebrate species and thousands of invertebrates, including

birds, mammals, reptiles, pollinators, and amphibians. The preserve remains privately owned and will be grazed for vegetation management and agricultural values.

The Golden Hills Preserve provides foraging land for Swainson’s Hawk, which is a California threatened species losing habitat to outward urban expansion. The 118 acres of open grasslands will help connect other large



The Crevis Creek Oak Woodland Preserve connects to the 4,600-acre Deer Creek Hills Preserve and adds 125 acres of protected oak woodland in Eastern Sacramento County, where SVC has a goal of protecting 10,000 acres of blue oak woodlands south of Folsom. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Valley Conservancy

preserves with Van Vleck Ranch to the northeast and the CDFW Cosumnes and Gill Ranch preserves to the southwest.

Connected protected areas are critical for wildlife corridors to function and wildlife to successfully migrate between different habitat zones. Westervelt will own and manage the property, continuing to manage the grasslands with grazing to manage fire risk and vegetation growth.

Sacramento Valley Conservancy holds permanent conservation easements on the properties, ensuring they remain protected for habitat conservation. Together, Sacramento Valley Conservancy and Westervelt have permanently protected more than 1,500 acres within Sacramento County. The partners remain committed to acquiring additional priority properties to

expand protected lands and strengthen the ecological integrity and connectivity of the preserves.

Executive Director of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy Kelly Hopkins said, “These two preserves help expand open space and protect important oak woodland in the Cosumnes River Watershed, and near Deer Creek Hills Preserve. These acquisitions represent another important step in our effort to connect and protect contiguous preserves in Sacramento County, and we’re excited to continue working with Westervelt.”

President of Westervelt Ecological Services Travis Hemmen said, “We value our partnership with the Sacramento Valley Conservancy and share their commitment to connecting important natural landscapes throughout Sacramento County. These preserves help preserve some of the character and natural habitat of the region for future generations to enjoy.” ★

Sacramento’s Biggest Outdoor Oktoberfest is Coming!

Cal Expo News Release



Enjoy traditional German beers alongside regional beers, ciders, and wine, paired with Oktoberfest favorites like pretzels, sausages, and schnitzel. Photo courtesy of Cal Expo

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Get ready for a brand-new fall tradition coming to Cal Expo! On Oct. 9–10, Saktoberfest is

coming for two days of live music, traditional food, games, family-friendly fun and Oktoberfest celebrations.

Get ready to dance, sing along and celebrate! From the lively sounds of a traditional Oompa band to high-energy DJs, enjoy a mix of music and entertainment throughout the Saktoberfest celebration.

Come hungry and ready to raise a stein! Enjoy traditional German beers alongside regional beers, ciders and wine, paired with Oktoberfest favorites like pretzels, sausages and schnitzel. Plus, discover

even more delicious options from a variety of food trucks.

Bring your family and friends together for games, activities and friendly competition. Play cornhole, explore the pumpkin patch, cheer on contestants during on-stage competitions like yodeling and enjoy activities for all ages.

Get ready to prost! Buy now and save! Early bird admissions from Sept. 1-3 are \$5 plus fees, regular admission from Sept. 4 to Oct. 8 are \$8 plus fees and day of the event admission on Oct. 9–10, is \$12 at



From the lively sounds of a traditional Oompa band to high-energy DJs, enjoy a mix of music and entertainment throughout the Saktoberfest celebration. Photo courtesy of Cal Expo

the door, \$12 plus fees online.

There will be on-site parking for \$10. To learn more about Saktoberfest or to purchase tickets, visit www.calexpo.com ★

California Small Businesses One Step Closer to Relief from Abusive CIPA Lawsuits

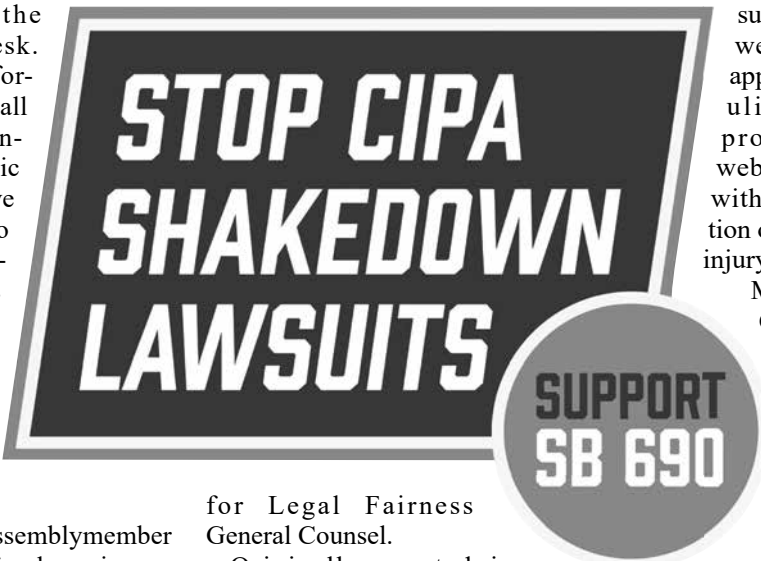
Stop CIPA Shakedown Lawsuits News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Stop CIPA Shakedown Lawsuits coalition has expressed its support for SB 690 following its passage through the California State Legislature and advancement to Governor Gavin Newsom’s desk. Authored by Senator Anna Caballero, SB 690 represents a first step toward addressing the growing wave of abusive lawsuits brought under the California Invasion of Privacy Act (CIPA).

The coalition is encouraged to see lawmakers take action to address CIPA’s pen register and trap and trace provision, providing needed relief to small businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies that have been targeted by lawsuits over common website tools, often without any allegation of actual harm or injury.

“We are pleased to see California lawmakers recognize the urgent need for CIPA reform and advance SB 690 to the Governor’s desk. This is a step forward for the small businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies that have been forced to spend valuable resources defending themselves against abusive lawsuits. We thank Senator Caballero for her leadership and we thank Assemblymember Bauer-Kahan for her sincere engagement in moving this issue through the Legislature. We urge Governor Newsom to sign SB 690 into law and deliver this

needed relief to businesses and organizations across California,” said Andrew Kingman, Alliance



for Legal Fairness General Counsel.

Originally enacted in 1967, CIPA was intended to protect Californians from unlawful wiretapping and eavesdropping. But the

decades-old law, written long before the internet existed, has increasingly been exploited to bring abusive lawsuits over common website tools like appointment scheduling, payment processing, and website chat, often without any allegation of actual harm or injury.

More than 4,000 CIPA lawsuits have been filed in just the last four years, in addition to tens of thousands of demand letters shaking down businesses and organizations across California. Plumbers, solar installers, restaurants, rural healthcare

providers, local news outlets, food banks, public schools, and others have been targeted because it is cheaper to settle these claims than to fight them in court – even when no actual harm has been alleged.

Notably, SB 690 does not address Section 631, CIPA’s wiretapping provision. Throughout the legislative process, the coalition advocated for a comprehensive solution addressing both provisions being used to bring lawsuits and demand letters against businesses and organizations over common website tools. Without changes to Section 631, the coalition is concerned that many California small businesses, nonprofits and public agencies will remain vulnerable to these claims.

For more information about SB 690, visit StopCIPAshakedowns.com. ★

S.A.F.E. Event to Shine Light on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking

MAD LIT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The public is invited to attend a powerful event, S.A.F.E. – Stopping Abuse for Everyone, to help bring awareness, education, intervention, prevention and healing to the issues of domestic violence and human trafficking.

The event will take place on Sunday, Sept. 27 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Step 1 Dance and Fitness, 4710 Natomas Blvd., Suite 150, Sacramento. Through performance, storytelling, movement and community gathering, S.A.F.E. will create a supportive space for the truth to be seen,



Stopping Abuse for Everyone helps bring awareness, education, intervention, prevention and healing to the issues of domestic violence and human trafficking. Photo designed by Magnific

heard, felt and discussed. Our intention is to move people, open hearts, start conversations and inspire action.

S.A.F.E. event includes live performances featuring dance, spoken word and music, a community gathering that connects audiences with awareness resources and artist-driven storytelling that gives voice to survivor-centered experience. Partnerships with local organizations to connect attendees to support networks.

For more information, contact Pepper Von, peppervon01@gmail.com, 916-402-1715 or Randi Robinson-Snaer, randirobinson@mac.com, 916- 715-8481. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

The Simmons Factor

By V.G. Harris

Ben Simmons has stolen the preseason show thus far and understandably so. 2018 rookie of the year in the NBA and a three-time all-star, brings with it a lot of optimism and certainly fan excitement.

After sitting out the entirety of the 2025-26 season recovering from back problems, Simmons says he is 100 percent healthy and ready to prove his naysayers wrong.

Many have questioned his toughness, but two back surgeries are nothing to scoff at, and as many people can attest to, back injuries can be hard to overcome.

At 6-foot-10, Simmons represents a skyscraper of a point guard and is even taller than hall-of-famer Magic Johnson.

The apparent plan is for Simmons to back up Darius Acurr Jr., and if so, it could pay dividends.

Without question a point guard of his size represents problems for opposing teams, so what remains to be seen is how he fits in with Scott Perry’s new look Kings, and does he have the motor to be a game changer.

The good news as it relates to Ben Simmons is that on a team that is hungry for players with defensive qualities, Simmons has a proven history of being a top flight defender, and although not known for being a big scorer, Simmons can certainly make his mark of the defensive end.

If, as has been expressed, the Kings intend to bring Simmons off the bench and have him back up Darius Acuff, giving him 20-25 minutes per game may be a recipe that will work for a player that has proven to be injury prone.

Meanwhile, aside from Acuff, there are two other draft picks that need attention, and that most notably means on court minutes.

Emanuel Sharpe is another player that comes to the Kings with a history of being a tough defender, and Kings fans got to see his defensive skills on display during the NBA summer league.

Sharpe has a natural knack for the ball and was a division one standout in college on the defensive end of the floor. It makes fans wonder how Simmons and Sharpe would look on the court together, as Sharpe is a natural

shooting guard and Simmons plays the point. Just possible that times are changing for the better.

Trade talks continue to swirl as it relates to Domantas Sabonis, and that should not come as welcome news.

I see Sabonis as the anchor of this team, and if anyone comes with a pedigree it is most certainly Domantas.

The Kings need this big man to have a comeback season after being limited to a career low 19 games last year due to injuries. This stalwart has proven himself not just to the Kings organization, but to the league as well, and Sabonis has earned the respect of players throughout.

Alex Karaban, drafted 29th overall, comes to the Kings with four seasons of college ball, and an NCAA title under his belt. Used to winning, Karaban should be a consistent player off the bench, and if coach Christie develops a consistent flow with minutes, Karaban can become a valuable commodity for Sacramento this season.

Much depends on how Christie develops what has now become a young team, and effective use of players like Achiuwa, Cardwell, Karaban and Sharpe will make a big difference in the win/loss record of the Kings this season.

The Kings young players aren’t the only ones that need to earn their stripes. It’s high time the coaching staff steps up and shows what they can do.

It is hard to measure Doug Christie after a season where his team was largely on the disabled list, but make no mistake about it, this year marks the litmus test in his young coaching career.

If the 20-25 wins that the pundits have expressed are what the Kings have to look forward to is in any way correct, look for a complete shake-up of the coaching staff.

There is way too much talent for this team to be on the south side of 30 wins, and even one more tweak could represent an acceleration of Scott Perry’s rebuilding program.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because I believe you’re going to see a much healthier team than just a season ago!

All the best!

California’s Future Water Supplies Depend on the Outcomes of Four Intertwined Battles



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Since the earliest years of its history, California has been a political battlefield over divvying up the state’s water. The intensity of the multisided conflict, like water itself, ebbs and flows.

By happenstance this is one of the more intense and climactic periods in the eternal competition over water. It’s driven by uncertainty over the effects of climate change on precipitation and by looming decisions on how to cope with those effects.

What happens on four intertwined fronts in the near future will determine how water will be managed and allocated in the coming decades. In no particular order:

Colorado River

Decades of conflict over allocating Colorado River water, involving not only California but other Western states, are coming to a head. Runoff from snow in the Rocky Mountains has been declining, and the two major reservoirs on the Colorado, Lakes Mead and Powell, have been shrinking and rapidly approaching operational failure. Federal authorities have been pressing the states involved to agree on how the shortages should be managed, but it’s been a stalemate.

California is less dependent than Nevada and Arizona, which rely on

the Colorado to serve their fast-growing urban centers. When the Bureau of Reclamation imposed some temporary operational rules recently, Nevada sued and Arizona is threatening to follow.

Sites Reservoir Project

An off-stream reservoir on the west side of the Sacramento Valley to capture and store water during years of high precipitation has been proposed for decades. But with projections of decreased snowpacks due to climate change, the project, called Sites, has gained momentum in recent years.

Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to nail down the project before leaving office in four months. Last week, the administration’s Water Resources Control Board issued a draft water rights decision for Sites. The project needs permission to draw water from the Sacramento River before it can secure financing for the 1.5-million-acre-foot reservoir.

Delta Tunnel Project

Newsom also wants to pin down another major project — a tunnel that would carry Sacramento River water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to improve deliveries to Southern California via the California Aqueduct. A conveyance of some kind has been proposed for more than 60 years but has never been able to clear political, legal and financial hurdles.

Advocates say the project would take pressure off the Delta, but it faces stiff opposition from environmental groups who contend it would worsen the Delta’s environmental problems. Putting together a package of regulatory permission and financing from water

agencies that would benefit has been a daunting, and so far elusive, goal.

San Joaquin River Diversions

While proposing the 45-mile-long tunnel to divert some Sacramento River water from flowing through the Delta, state water officials are simultaneously pressuring San Joaquin Valley farmers to reduce San Joaquin River diversions to increase flows into the Delta.

Supposedly reductions would be voluntary, but the state is also working on mandatory cutbacks if not enough water is voluntarily offered. Last week, Westlands, the largest water district in the valley, pulled out of the voluntary negotiations, saying the state was moving toward coercion. If the state issues mandatory cutbacks, it would probably become a legal battle over whether the state can interfere with long-standing water rights.

The conflict is exacerbated by reductions in water farmers can draw from underground aquifers with wells. There are projections that reductions in water supply, could take as many as 900,000 acres of farmland out of production.

That possibility drove major agricultural interests to successfully press the Legislature last week to make it easier to remove farmland from open space preserves, to replace crops with solar power arrays.

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

Must I Enroll in Medicare at Age 65?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I will be turning 65 next month, I am currently retired and I am not on Social Security. My question is; Is there anything I have to do, if I don’t want Medicare? I am on my wife’s employer plan, and she works for the Postal Service as a Rural Carrier. She doesn’t plan on retiring for another 8 yrs. Also, I would like to wait till my full retirement age (FRA) before I draw Social Security at 67. Do I have to draw Medicare at that point? Signed: *Retired but Curious*

Dear Retired but Curious: As long as you are covered by a “creditable” healthcare plan (such as that from your wife’s US Postal Service employer), you can defer enrolling in Medicare

until your Postal Service Health Benefit (PSHB) coverage from your wife’s employer ends. When that happens, you (and your wife) will enter a Medicare “Special Enrollment Period” (SEP) during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty. Thus, in your specific circumstances, you don’t need to do anything about enrolling in Medicare when you turn 65.

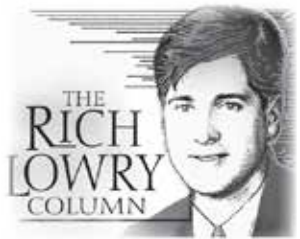
That is still true, regardless of when you claim your Social Security benefits. If you claim Social Security at age 67 and before your wife retires from the USPS, you will be required to take Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization services), but Medicare Part A is premium-free for those also eligible for Social Security.

However, enrollment in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) is always optional because there is a premium associated with it, and you can continue to defer enrollment in Medicare Part B as long as you

have “creditable” healthcare coverage from your wife’s employer (even while you are collecting Social Security).

When you apply for Social Security, you can inform SS that you are declining Medicare Part B because you are still covered by your wife’s USPS employer healthcare plan. Then, when your wife retires and you lose your USPS healthcare coverage, you can enroll in Medicare Part B at that time without a late enrollment penalty.

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A decade later, Colin Kaepernick is as tiresome as ever. To mark the 10-year anniversary of his kneeling during the National Anthem, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback is out with a new memoir, “The Perilous Fight.” (Get it?)

In an interview with NBC News in advance of the book’s release, which he clearly imagines as part of a vindication tour, he proved himself as committed to woke racial politics as ever.

He told NBC that his protests were about fighting “police killing black folks” and “systemic oppression.” He added that he was thinking -- not very modestly -- about the Montgomery bus boycotts, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King while he took a knee.

It’s certainly true that Kaepernick sacrificed his career to his protests, although he was a marginal player by the end. In his prime, Kaepernick was a top-notch athlete and electric performer. No one can take his exemplary 2012 and 2013 seasons away from him. In one playoff game in 2012, he ran for 263 yards and passed for 181, a single-game record for rushing by an NFL quarterback.

He couldn’t maintain this level of performance, though. In 2015, he lost his starting job to journeyman Blaine Gabbert. He won it back for a time in 2016, although he got benched during one game

Ten years later, Kaepernick Remains Unpersuasive

after throwing for all of 4 yards. The 49ers went 1-10 when he started, and by one metric, he ranked 23rd out of 30 qualifying quarterbacks. So he was hardly the GOAT, instead once-very-good, now-mediocre.

Then there was the issue that his style of play didn’t necessarily fit in most offensive schemes.

Layer on top of this the circus he’d bring to town with his kneeling and it’s understandable that teams didn’t find him an alluring proposition in 2017 when he was a free agent. There were myriad options available as backup quarterbacks who weren’t notorious for disrespecting the national anthem immediately prior to games.

TITLE: None of this would have mattered if Kaepernick had maintained his 2012 level of play; in that hypothetical, teams would have signed him even if he started to do the black power salute during huddles.

Kaepernick has now worked himself into a position where he’s compared NFL players to enslaved people (in an absurd Netflix documentary), and he’s bitter that he isn’t numbered among them as a 38-year-old who hasn’t played in 10 years.

Then there’s the substance of his advocacy. The high-water mark for Kaepernick’s anti-police worldview came in the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd, when the NFL basically apologized for not listening to his supposed wisdom and the police were put on their back foot in many cities

around the country.

The result was an increase in violent crime that, of course, disproportionately victimized black people. The country has now recovered from this idiocy -- based on the lie that the police indiscriminately kill black people -- and the country is much safer for the people who Kaepernick purports to care most about. If we ever go anywhere near his preferred policy of abolishing the police and prisons, we’d instantly create the worst crime wave in the country’s history.

Kaepernick is sometimes compared to Muhammad Ali. The legendary boxer sacrificed part of his career by claiming conscientious objector status during the Vietnam War. Ali was hated for a time, but his true greatness as a boxer, his incandescent charisma and his outsized place in the culture allowed him to transcend that political controversy and become a beloved American figure.

That is not going to happen to Colin Kaepernick, whose claim to fame is kneeling on the sidelines during some NFL games. He’s very dismissive of the enduring change wrought in the NFL by his protests and the tumult after 2020. The league has painted the words “End Racism” in end zones. Kaepernick rightly considers these pointless messages performative, but so was his scorn for the anthem of his own country a decade ago.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Mediterranean island country

6. Not Miss or Ms

9. Contributions to the poor

13. *Physicist of apple-related revelation fame

14. Bottle top

15. Be of use

16. Wilt "The ____" Chamberlain

17. Sailor's assent

18. Nincompoop

19. "Electric current path

21. "Like magnifying glass lens

23. Unhappy

24. Southern stew staple

25. ____ Beta Kappa

28. Harper and Bruce, e.g.

30. Type of jacket

35. Nevada city

37. "The Road Runner" corporation

39. Solemnly promised

40. One twelfth of a foot

41. What blacksmith did to a horse

43. Ice dancer's jump

44. Phishing and such

46. Nobel Peace Prize home

47. Either right or left

48. Good guy

50. Same as island

52. Tierra ____ Fuego

53. Third-person possessive pronoun

55. Yoko's last name

57. "Electric current unit

60. "It pulls things down

64. Doom's companion

65. Thomas Paine's "The ____ of Reason"

67. 10 percent to charity, e.g.

68. Prevention measure

69. Sir George Ivan Morrison's stage name

70. Wife's dad, e.g.

71. In a frenzy

72. Three ahead of PST

73. Picts and Gauls

DOWN

1. Catchall abbr.

2. ____ spumante

3. Bear's den, e.g.

4. Same as talcums

5. Opposite of potential

6. Med. sch. requirement

7. *Path of light

8. Heard by Horton

9. Tel ____, city

10. Bowling ball path

11. Seductive one

12. Like a fox

15. Historical records

20. Some are bright

22. Ball-shaped object

24. *Reverse one, in the kitchen

25. *Rainbow-producing device

26. From this time on

27. Relating to Quechuan people

29. *Sound reverberation

31. Hole-punching tools

32. Coral polyp, e.g.

33. Eat away

34. *What similar magnetic poles do

36. *Electrical resistance

units

38. Mature elvers

42. Sorrow

45. "In the grand ____ of things"

49. Having Everything Revealed singer-songwriter

51. Related on mother's side

54. Plunder

56. Sheep-like

57. Grad

58. a.k.a. kissing disease

59. Pox mark

60. Gentleman, informally

61. It will

62. Not this

63. Certain coniferous trees

64. India's smallest state

66. *Not liquid or solid

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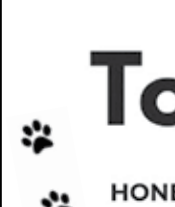
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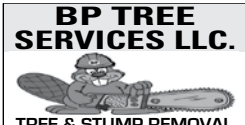
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SWEETS 10-9-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-07031
Kalleo Investments LLC, 2631
Latham Drive, Sacramento,
CA 95864 is doing business
under the Fictitious Business
Name(s) "Kuenta/Bookkeeping
Solutions" 2631 Latham Drive,
Sacramento, CA 95864. Filed
with the Clerk of Sacramento
County September 10, 2026
Publish: Sept 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 2026
KUENTA 10-9-26

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
STATEMENT FBNF2026-06788
Garcias Family Cafe, 7659
Denio Way, Citrus Heights, CA
95610 is doing business under
the Fictitious Business Name(s)
"Ericas Cafe" 7451 Greenback
Lane, Citrus Heights, CA
95610. Filed with the Clerk of
Sacramento County August 31,
2026
Publish: Sept 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 2026
ERICAS 10-9-26

STATEMENT OF
ABANDONMENT OF
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO. FBNF2024-03009
The following person(s) has/
have abandoned the use of the
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
of: Well Accounted Bookkeeping,
5801 Topp Court, Carmichael,
CA 95608.
Jynny Babcock, 6330 Sunrise
Boulevard #1031, Citrus Heights,
CA 95610.

The Fictitious Business Name
Statement was filed on April
19, 2024 in the County of
Sacramento.
Filed with the clerk of
Sacramento County: August 18,
2026.
Publish: September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026
WELL 9-25-26

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV019525

Sandra Adams has filed a peti-
tion with this court for a decree
changing the name(s) of Jordan
Alexander Nesbit to Jordan
Alexander Richardson.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this

court on April 7, 2027, at 1:30
p.m. in Department 8C, located
at 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 17, 2026
Richard C. Miadich, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: August 28, Sept 4, 11, 18, 2026
ADAMS 9-18-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV019672
Natalie Alexandra Lazo has
filed a petition with this court for
a decree changing the name(s)
of Natalie Alexandra Lazo to
Natalie Alexandra Lazo Spicer.
IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on April 14, 2027, at 1:30
p.m. in Department 8C, located
at 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 19, 2026
Richard C. Miadich, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: August 28, Sept 4, 11, 18, 2026
LAZO 9-18-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV019125

Dad Mohammad Akrami has
filed a petition with this court for
a decree changing the name(s)
of Dad Mohammad Akrami to
Mohammad Akrami.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on April 5, 2027, at 1:30
p.m. in Department 8C, located
at 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 5, 2026
Richard C. Miadich, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: August 28, Sept 4, 11, 18, 2026
AKRAMI 9-18-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV019142

Dawood Khan Akrami has filed
a petition with this court for a
decree changing the name(s)
of Dawood Khan Akrami to
Dawood Akrami.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on March 24, 2027, at 1:30
p.m. in Department 8D, located
at 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 5, 2026
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: August 28, Sept 4, 11, 18, 2026
AKRAMI 9-18-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV019525

Sandra Adams has filed a peti-
tion with this court for a decree
changing the name(s) of Jordan
Alexander Nesbit to Jordan
Alexander Richardson.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-entitled
matter appear before this court

on April 7, 2027, at 1:30 p.m. in
Department 8C, located at 500 G
Street, Sacramento, CA 95814,
and show cause, if any, why
the petition for Change of Name
should not be granted.
Dated: August 17, 2026
Richard C. Miadich, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: August 28, Sept 4, 11, 18, 2026
ADAMS 9-18-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV019993

Louis Cervantes Jr has filed a pe-
tition with this court for a decree
changing the name(s) of Louis
Cervantes Jr to Luis Guillermo
Cervantez.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on May 6, 2027, at 9:00
a.m. in Department 16C, located
at 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 24, 2026
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of
the Superior Court
Publish: September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026
CERVANTES 9-25-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV018789

Christopher Garrett Niemeyer
has filed a petition with this
court for a decree changing the
name(s) of Christopher Garrett
Niemeyer to Christopher Garrett
Glasgow.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on April 14, 2027, at 1:30
p.m. in Department 8D, located
at 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 6, 2026
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026
NIEMEYER 9-25-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV018752

Jaswant Singh, Sandeep Kaur
has filed a petition with this
court for a decree changing the
name(s) of Rasleen Kajla to
Rasleen Kaur.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on March 25, 2027, at 1:30
p.m. in Department 16D, located
at 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 5, 2026
Richard Sueyoshi, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: September 4, 11, 18, 25, 2026
KAUR 9-25-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV020380

Leilani Kalona Casarez has
filed a petition with this court for
a decree changing the name(s)
of Makoa Kualoa Mithras Sol
Invictus Qadagnolo to Makoa
Kanalao Casarez.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on May 6, 2027, at 9:00
a.m. in Department 16C, located
at 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 26, 2026
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of
the Superior Court
Publish: Sept 11, 18, 25, Oct 2, 2026
CASAREZ 10-2-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV021858

Nilufar Pulatova has filed a
petition with this court for a de-
cree changing the name(s) of
Sumayya Shakhzod to Sumayya
Pulatova and Musfira Shakhzod
to Musfira Pulatova.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on June 3, 2027, at 9:00
a.m. in Department 16C, located
at 500 G Street, Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: September 9, 2026
Christopher E. Krueger, Judge of
the Superior Court
Publish: Sept 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 2026
PULATOVA 10-9-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV019188

Huiyu Wen has filed a peti-
tion with this court for a decree
changing the name(s) of Huiyu
Wen to Jade Wen Huiyu Eiri.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on March 24, 2027, at 1:30
p.m. in Department 8D, located
at 500 G Street. Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 11, 2026
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: Sept 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 2026
WEN 10-9-26

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
CHANGE OF NAME
#26CV018968

Johnisha Wallace has filed a
petition with this court for a de-
cree changing the name(s) of
Johnisha Jorivia Wallace to
Journee Andrea Henry.

IT IS ORDERED that all persons
interested in the above-en-
titled matter appear before this
court on April 14, 2027, at 1:30
p.m. in Department 8D, located
at 500 G Street. Sacramento, CA
95814, and show cause, if any,
why the petition for Change of
Name should not be granted.
Dated: August 7, 2026
Julie G. Yap, Judge of the
Superior Court
Publish: Sept 18, 25, Oct 2, 9, 2026
WALLACE 10-9-26



City of Rancho Cordova Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE is hereby given that on **Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the Planning Commission of the City of Rancho Cordova will hold a Public Hearing during a Special Meeting of the Planning Commission at the **Rancho Cordova City Hall, located at 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova**, to consider the following:

CORDOVA ARENA & DOWNTOWN DOVA—MAJOR DESIGN REVIEW, DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, & DETERMINATION OF GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY FOR THE DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY — PROJECT No. PLND-1225-0145:

REQUEST: The Applicant is requesting approval of a Major Design Review for the construction of an indoor arena. The Cordova Arena would feature an approximately 194,100 square-foot indoor arena space with approximately 7,500 fixed seats and flexible floor configurations. The Applicant is also requesting approval of a Development Agreement for the Downtown DOVA development. In addition to the arena structure and surrounding outdoor event area and gathering spaces, the future phases of the development will include a maximum of 800 hotel rooms, up to 1,000 multi-family residential units, approximately 220,000 square feet of retail, restaurant, and professional office uses, as well as structured parking with up to 2,500 spaces. The project also includes the determination of General Plan consistency for the disposition of city-owned property for the Cordova Arena and future phases as required by Government Code Section 65402.

OWNER(S):
Alpha One Sports & Entertainment Group LLLC
3195 Zinfandel Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

JB Company Mgmt. Limited Partnership (Gary Benvenuti)
1825 Bell Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95825

City of Rancho Cordova
2729 Prospect Park Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

APPLICANT: KozPure Development LLC, 3195 Zinfandel Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
LOCATION/APN: 2807, 2735, 2875, and 2925 Kilgore Road (and three additional parcels with no addresses between the intersections of Trade Center Drive and Kilgore Road and Trade Center Drive and Sunrise Boulevard);
APNs: 072-0223-001-0000, 072-0223-002-0000, 072-0223-003-0000, 072-0223-004-0000, 072-0490-024-0000, 072-0480-022-0000, & 072-0480-002-0000
ZONING: OPMU (Office Professional Mixed-Use) within the Convention (CO) Overlay
ENVIRONMENTAL: Exempt per Section 15183 "Projects Consistent with a Community Plan, General Plan, or Zoning" and Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA)
PROJECT PLANNER: Arlene Granadosin-Jones, AICP, Planning Manager

The City of Rancho Cordova encourages interested parties to attend public meetings and comment on the issues being discussed. If you wish to provide testimony and are unable to attend the meeting, written comments that are delivered to the Planning Commission Clerk prior to the time of the hearing will be made a part of the public record.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to the City of Rancho Cordova Planning Division at (916) 851-8750.

NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

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

ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Planning Division at (916) 851-8750. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Printed in the Grapevine Independent on September 18, 2026.

LEGAL NOTICE

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)
NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD
FOR THE 2027 DRAFT ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a 30-day public review and comment period for the 2027 Draft Annual Action Plan (AAP) will commence on **October 2, 2026** and will continue until November 2, 2026. The City is estimating that it will receive approximately \$600,000 in CDBG funds for the 2027 program year. Official CDBG allocations will be announced in the Spring of 2028.

The CDBG program provides funding for activities that benefit low-income persons, eliminate slum or blight, or serve an urgent need. Eligible activities include property acquisition, public improvements, housing rehabilitation, economic development, and public services.

As a recipient of CDBG funding, the City has developed a draft 2027 AAP, which describes how the City will utilize program funds for eligible activities during the 2027 CDBG program year. The 2027 CDBG program year will run from January 1, 2027 to December 31, 2027. The AAP can be amended as needed to reallocate funds to housing and community development activities.

*The draft 2027 AAP will be made available to the public for at least 30 days before adoption by the City Council. The documents will be released on **October 2, 2026** for public review and comment, and will be available at City Hall and the City's Community Development website at <https://www.cityofranchocordova.org/departments/community-development/housing/community-development-block-grant>*

The purpose of this public review will be to give citizens an opportunity to make their comments known regarding community needs and potential activities to be funded under the CDBG Program. If you would like to contact the City for more information, please call (916) 851-8757. In addition, information is available for review at Rancho Cordova City Hall (2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on weekdays.

Thank you for your interest in the CDBG program.

NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

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

ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

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

Printed in the Grapevine Independent on **September 18, 2026.**

Jump Into a Fun Fall with the District’s Upcoming Events



District staff and Community Members enjoy Barktoberfest. Photo courtesy of Cordova Recreation & Park District

By Haley O'Neill, Cordova Recreation & Park District

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Join the Cordova Recreation & Park District’s (District) this September at one of its upcoming events! Hosted in District parks and facilities, these events invite the community to enjoy some quality fun outside with family and friends!

MEET THE MACHINES
Join the District for a day full of exploration and fun! The annual Meet the Machines at Hagan Community Park returns on Sept. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon, bringing a day full of entertainment and activities for the whole family. At this free event, kids of all ages have the opportunity to touch, climb on and explore exciting machines and unique vehicles. From firetrucks to hot air balloons,

garbage trucks and more, there will be horns to honk, wheels to turn and machines to climb. Families will also have the opportunity to learn from the professionals who use these machines every day. The event will also feature child-friendly activities, music and more!

BARKTOBERFEST
Get ready for a tail-wagging good time! Join the District at the annual Barktoberfest on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lincoln Village Community Park/Pool. This family-friendly event is open for all ages! Join us for a fun-filled day of doggie swimming, food, a beer garden, music and more! This exciting event will feature dog-related vendors, offering items like pet accessories, photo opportunities and information from local organizations.

Dogs can make a splash in the pool, show off their style

in contests like the pet costume contest and socialize with fellow pups. Meanwhile, their humans can enjoy tasty food and beverages, browse local vendors and cheer on all the poolside fun.

Rabies vaccines are required for all dogs entering the pool area. Pre-registration is recommended and can be completed at cordovarpd.gov.

Join us before Barktoberfest for the Cordova Recreation & Parks Foundation (CRPF) doggie parade & walkathon! From 9 to 11 a.m., enjoy a morning of lawn games, tail wags and community at the First Doggie Costume Parade and Walkathon, a celebration of our beloved doggos and benefiting CRPF’s scholarship fund.

To learn more about the District’s upcoming events, visit cordovarpd.gov or call 916-842-3300.



Family poses on hot air balloon at previous Meet the Machines event. Photo courtesy of Cordova Recreation & Park District



Roger’s Review

By State Senator Roger Niello

Permanent Daylight Saving Time Is Not the Bright Idea Congress Thinks It Is

By Senator Roger Niello

As the saying goes, “Those who do not learn the lessons of history are doomed to relive them.” One lesson we may soon be reliving: the adoption of permanent daylight saving time.

Let’s fall back more than just an hour and revisit the early 1970s. The United States was in the middle of an energy crisis. Keeping the country on permanent daylight saving time was pitched to help conserve energy. Congress passed legislation to try it from January 1974 to April 1975. The experiment did not go well. In fact, it was so disliked by the American people that the change only lasted until October 1974...not even a full year.

People quickly learned that the lack of morning sun was fundamentally at odds with their circadian rhythm. It negatively impacted their mood, cognition, and overall wellbeing. Also, children’s safety was compromised when there were reports of children being struck by vehicles as they went to school in the dark.

Advocates for the federal Sunshine Protection Act seem to be more focused on having extra daylight in the evenings, but the fact is the summer months would still have plenty of daylight under permanent standard time. For instance, in July, it would still be light until almost 7:40 p.m., versus 8:40pm on Pacific Daylight Time.

Then there’s this: Permanent daylight saving time in the winter means the sun wouldn’t rise until about 8:30 a.m. Does putting your kids to bed while the sun’s still out and having them go to school in the dark make sense?

In California, we pushed back school start times because of the scientific benefits of sleep on students’ performance, physical, and mental health. And just this year, my resolution to acknowledge the health benefits of permanent standard time was approved by our state legislature.

Good sleep is already hard to come by, with one-third of Californians struggling to get enough. If we adopt Congress’ route, those without flexibility in their work schedules will be disproportionately affected. Shift workers and essential workers will have to wake up in the dark many more months each year. This goes against our biological needs and light-sensitive brains.

The benefits of quality sleep cannot be understated. It improves focus and concentration. It lowers the risk of heart attacks, strokes, abnormal heart rhythms, and obesity. Better sleep means better drivers on our roads, decreasing the risk of crashes.

Most Americans agree it’s time to ditch the switch, but standard time is not the switch to ditch. Instead, Congress should be ditching daylight saving time.

Standard time is the safer, simpler, and healthier choice to keep. That is why the California Medical Association, the California Sleep Society and the National Safety Council endorse permanent standard time. In addition, it’s worked out well for Arizona, Hawaii, and Mexico where residents sing its praises.

While the U.S. House recently rushed forward the Sunshine Protection Act, it remains to be seen if it will be approved in the U.S. Senate. Regardless, I will continue to help my colleagues see the light and convince them that adopting permanent standard time is the right choice to make. Otherwise, they should prepare to face the ire of their constituents just as was done in the 1970’s.

Americans are both physically and mentally tired from the twice a year time change, which is why I’ve carried legislation to “ditch the switch” the healthy way in the state legislature multiple times. Backed by science, I’ve advocated keeping California on permanent standard time.

Permanent “summer time” may sound promising, but permanent standard time is a much brighter idea.

Circulation Manager (Sacramento Region)

Messenger Publishing Group

We are seeking a detail oriented team leader to oversee our delivery for our local newspaper group. Our market area includes Carmichael, Citrus Heights, Rancho Cordova, Fair Oaks, Orangevale, Gold River, Rio Linda, Arden Arcade, Elk Grove, Galt, East Sacramento, Land Park, Pocket and Rancho Murieta in Sacramento County, as well as our publications in Yolo, Solano, Yuba, Butte and Colusa counties.

We are a growing company and Messenger Publishing Group is now the largest newspaper publisher in the Sacramento region with 18 publications.

This position includes overseeing all aspects of our circulation department, including the delivery by our independent delivery driver team. It includes completing weekly reports for our audit records, managing subscriber lists and distribution records, setting up new delivery location accounts, distributing promotional materials to locations, verifying delivery of drivers, replacing newsstands on location, and overall maintenance of our newsstands.

Distribution days are Thursday and Friday. Other work days are flexible due to workloads. You must be able to perform the physical requirements of this position without assistance. You must be mechanically inclined and able to repair and replace parts on the newsstand units without assistance. All tools, parts and training provided. Company vehicles are provided for this position.

This is considered a management position within the company.

Research our company at www.MPG8.com.

Please send your resume and five references along with your cover letter explaining why you are the right person for this management position.

MPG is an EOE.

Email: Publisher@mpg8.com



Grapevine Independent

Serving Rancho Cordova and Sacramento County Since 1968

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

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Subscriptions should be mailed to *Grapevine Independent*, 2508 Garfield Ave., Suite A, Carmichael, CA 95608. Subscription rate is \$52 per year within Rancho Cordova. \$72 within Sacramento County.

The *Grapevine Independent* is published weekly. Call 916-773-1111 for more information.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.





By Bob McGarvey

Many members of my family over the years have served in different branches of the military. My father was in the SEABEES during WWII. His brother was an officer in the Army in the Pacific during WWII. They, like many other people in WWII, were part of that great generation. As I said in the past, it was only 5 years from WWII for the Korean War to begin. Then the Vietnam War began on November 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975. I went to High School from 1957 to 1961, and boys in our school only talked about which branch you would join. I joined the USAF in August of 1961 for six years. I began in the USAF; my three brothers were in the NAVY, and my younger sister joined the USAF. Our youngest son and daughter all joined the USAF, our son in law

And Another Thing

A Family of Service

was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army and one of our grandsons is in the NAVY. As I said before, different members of our family served in the military to serve our country. Going to many stores today will give you many types of Halloween costumes to wear. Our grandkids look great and have lots of fun when they get all decorated. We will be watching for different cute kids. I noticed that different types are really cute, and they could have a wonderful time in Disneyland which is all set today for Halloween. I think that after Halloween, Disneyland will be all ready for Merry Christmas. My wife and I have been to Disneyland at Christmas time. There were quite a few kids there who apparently had some time away from school. I wonder who enjoyed themselves the most during Disneyland at Halloween.

It should be very interesting this coming November 3 to see who will be elected. It will be even more interesting when we hit the Presidential election on November 7, 2028. In addition to the Presidential election, that should be the last time the city of Rancho Cordova will pay the \$11 million to the County of Sacramento for the Revenue Neutrality payments it had to pay for twenty five years because of legislation that was passed and affected the City of Rancho Cordova in 2003. The cities of Citrus Heights and Elk Grove have already paid that revenue neutrality. That means that Rancho Cordova will no longer have to pay the revenue neutrality, and that revenue will stay in the city's budget. A celebration will be in order. *From Bob McGarvey, God bless, and see you next time.* ★



the weekly whistle

Everybody Can Be Great

By Jason Harper, Director, Rancho Cordova Athletic Association

Nearly 50 Cordova High School athletes showed up for the Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame. But they weren't there to be honored. They were there to serve. Student-athletes representing football, baseball, boys basketball and girls flag football became the evening's VIP hosts and greeters. As Hall of Fame inductees, sports alumni, and their guests arrived, they were met by a wall of red, current Lancers in Cordova gear and business attire, standing ready to welcome those who had worn the colors before them. Their lanyards offered a glimpse into both generations: **CORDOVA LANCER 2026 / HALL OF FAME 2047** Before the doors opened, staff from the Rancho Cordova Athletic Association and Rancho Cordova Student Athlete Coalition gathered the athletes for what they called "Pre-Game." The message was simple: **Tonight, you are not the star. You are a fan.** The athletes paired up and practiced the little things: look someone in the eye. Extend a firm handshake. Introduce yourself. And most importantly, say thank you. Thank you for building this. Thank you for representing Cordova. Thank you for giving us something to inherit. It was part of a lesson we call "How to Fill Your Stands." Young athletes sometimes think fans just show up. They don't. People support those who make them feel connected to something. So before asking a community to come watch you play, learn to be part of that community. The lesson was incredibly simple: **SHAKE AND THANK. Be of service. Shake their hand. Thank them for going before you.** Then, if the interaction felt natural, the athletes were given one more assignment. Ask the question almost every alumnus loves to answer: **"Tell me your favorite Lancer memory."** And then listen. That last part mattered. Because suddenly a teenager wasn't talking to a name on a plaque. They were hearing about a touchdown, a championship, a teammate they still remembered, a coach who changed their life, or simply what it felt like to wear CORDOVA across their chest decades ago. A handshake became a conversation. A conversation became a connection. And a connection might just become another person sitting in the stands someday, cheering for the kid who took the time to ask. Cordova quarterback Terryn "TK" King, CHS Class of 2027, led the way, much like he does on Friday nights. "We're used to people coming out and supporting us. Tonight was our turn to support them. They wore Cordova before we did. Hearing their stories made you realize we're playing for something that's been here a lot longer than us." At the event, Cordova High School Culinary students served guests. Some of the young people working throughout the evening knew the names and stories of the people in the room. Others had little idea that they were serving former professional athletes, championship coaches, record holders, and men and women whose accomplishments helped write Rancho Cordova's sports history. And maybe that made it even better. Because service shouldn't depend on knowing someone's resumé. Hall of Fame Chairman Mike Marando, CHS Class of 1974, stood off to the side, watching the generations interact and smiling ear to ear. "We started this in 2023 with just a handful of football players, and we immediately knew there was something special about it. Tonight, nearly 50 athletes represented four major Cordova sports. The Hall of Fame is about preserving our history, but this gave our history a chance to shake hands with our future." That might have been the most important moment of the entire evening. Not the plaques. Not the statistics. Not the championship stories. **The handshake.** Sports have always been obsessed with numbers. Points. Touchdowns. Home runs. Championships. Records. Those things matter. They should be celebrated. But eventually the scoreboard turns off. The uniform gets hung up. And the question changes from "How good were you?" to "What did you do with what the game gave you?" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said: "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." For one evening, some of Cordova's current athletes learned that lesson without a classroom, a worksheet, or a lecture. They learned it by standing at a door. By extending a hand. By looking someone in the eye. By asking someone else to tell their story. And then actually listening. Madelaine Sanderson, CHS Class of 2004 and chair of the Rancho Cordova Student Athlete Coalition, saw something larger in that exchange. "We're trying to build great athletes, but that's not the finish line. We're trying to build young men and women who understand that wearing CORDOVA across your chest comes with a responsibility. Someone carried it before you. Someone will carry it after you. Greatness is what you do for the people on both sides of that journey." That is how tradition survives. One generation doesn't simply admire the generation before it. It serves it, learns from it, and then accepts responsibility for what comes next. And maybe that's how you fill your stands, too. Not by demanding support. Not with another social media post asking people to come watch. **You don't build a fan base by asking people to care about you. You build one by showing them that you care about them.** One handshake. One story. One relationship at a time. Nearly 50 young athletes walked into the Hall of Fame as football players, baseball players, basketball players, and flag football players. For one night, nobody needed their stats. Nobody needed their highlights. Nobody asked for their record. They were simply asked to serve. And they did. Someday, perhaps, one of those young athletes will walk through those same doors again. Only next time, someone younger will be standing there waiting for them. A Lancer will extend a hand. Look them in the eye. And say: **"Thank you for what you did for Cordova."** And the line will continue. ★

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Straps Down, Basketballs Up

Continued from page 1
one by providing education and building trust before problems arise.

“Kids are not naive to what’s occurring around them,” Hampton said. “They’ve already been educated and talked to about it and talked to a deputy or an officer that they trust.”

Throughout the camp, children participated in drills led by Robert Fields of Monterey Trail High School, Dante Miller of Hoop Skills Factory, Kiel Myers of Buckets on Wheels and Kenneth Duncan of Ball Out Academy.

The event concluded with youth and law enforcement officers sharing the court for a basketball game.

Chad Briscoe, the creator of Straps Over Straps, said the idea developed after he heard a television report about gun violence in Oakland and began thinking about how basketball could bring youth and law enforcement together.

“Put down the gunstrap to pick up a ball,” Briscoe said of the idea behind the program.

Briscoe said he wanted children to meet officers through something they enjoy instead of first encountering them during an emergency or tragedy.

“If we can get them in that age group, 6 to 13, and steer them in a way that police officers are here to support you and help you, then we do that,” Briscoe said. “You get them early, build that relationship.”

Basketball provides common ground, he said, allowing children and officers to interact naturally and begin recognizing each other as people.

Catherine Swanson, a youth services officer with the Rancho Cordova Police Department, said building



The event concluded with youth and law enforcement officers sharing the court for a basketball game. Photo courtesy of Rancho Cordova Police Activities League



Rancho Cordova Police Department officers alongside Councilmember Joe Little joined the Rancho Cordova Police Activities League for the Straps Over Straps Basketball & Gun Violence Awareness Camp on Sept. 5. Photo courtesy of Rancho Cordova Police Activities League

those relationships is a major part of PAL’s work.

PAL offers after-school programming and weekend activities for Rancho Cordova youth, including outings and other opportunities offered at no cost to families. According

to officers PAL serves children as young as 6 and continues working with youth through age 17.

Swanson said some children may primarily see police officers responding to incidents in their neighborhoods. PAL gives

them a chance to interact in a different environment.

“Here, they can get to know them by their first name and see that they also like the same things,” Swanson said. “We just want to give them those opportunities to make new

friends, try something out, free of cost to families.”

Rancho Cordova City Councilmember Joe Little said programs like the camp contribute to stronger neighborhoods by giving children opportunities to stay active, meet mentors and form positive relationships.

“We’re a family city, and all kinds of families in all shapes and sizes, and we want to provide opportunities for all kids to play and stay active,” Little said.

Children at the camp also heard from Sacramento County sheriff’s deputies about lessons that extend beyond basketball.

“Everyone has something you’re good at,” Deputy Randy Adams told the children. “Whatever it is, work for it.”

Deputy Clancy Bird left participants with three points to remember: “Hard work, self-control and being your best when your best is required.”

Rockball owner Jennifer Mello and basketball director Wayne Smith said hosting the event gave Rockball another opportunity to serve local youth through basketball.

“A lot of what the kids see is social media,” Smith said. “So to be able to be hands-on with these police officers, see them in person and be able to change a little bit their perspective ... I think this is a great opportunity.”

For Samuel, one of the young participants, the reason for attending was simple.

“I’ve been trying to make some hoops,” he said. “Sometimes I’ve been making it, sometimes I’ve not.”

For more information on the Rancho Cordova Police Activities League and its programs visit <https://www.rcpdpal.org/>. ★

District Recognized for Commitment to Operational Excellence



Cordova Recreation & Park District Staff and Board Members pose at CSDA Conference. Photo courtesy of Cordova Recreation & Park District



Cordova Recreation & Park District General Manager Patrick Larkin Poses with Plaque at CSDA Conference. Photo by Rick Sloan

**By Haley O’Neill,
Cordova Recreation
& Park District**

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)
- The Cordova Recreation & Park District (District) was recently recognized at the California Special Districts Association Annual Conference in Palm Desert for its commitment to responsible governance and

operational excellence. The District was presented with the District of Distinction Platinum Accreditation by the Special District Leadership Foundation. This accreditation recognizes the District at the highest level for its commitment to responsible governance and operational excellence and reinforces its dedication to leading the region through

excellence and transparency in serving the needs of our diverse and growing community. The District is one of only 15 districts that have earned this level and the only recreation & park district to receive it. In addition, District General Manager Patrick Larkin received the Certified Special District Manager (CSDM) designation. The CSDM

recognizes the knowledge, skills and capabilities of special district managers who strive to demonstrate the highest level of professional excellence. The District congratulates Patrick on this achievement and for demonstrating how the District is continuing to lead the region in excellence and his commitment to strong leadership, effective governance and

continued professional growth. The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is a 501c(6), not-for-profit association that was formed in 1969 to promote good governance and improved core local services through professional development, advocacy and other services for all types of independent special districts. ★

Hall of Fame Honors Newest Class of Inductees



Members of the 1978-79 varsity basketball team pose for a photo before the ceremony starts.



Media personality Ken Rudulph, served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.



"If I had to sum up the event in one word, it would be 'gratitude,'" Hall of Fame Chairman Michael Marando said.

By James Darnell and
photos by Rick Sloan

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)

The Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame honored its newest class of inductees during the 11th annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony this past Saturday, Sept. 12 in front of a capacity crowd inside Rancho Cordova City Hall.

Seven new members received well-deserved recognition during the event including swimmers Scott Mefford and Elizabeth Cocker Escobar,

football standouts Mike Brannon, Lamon Muldrow and Ken Bowles, as well as two posthumous inductions - Negro League baseball star Elmer Carter as well as well-respected local youth baseball coach Bill Meehan.

Upon entering City Hall for the event, the honorees were greeted by members of the Cordova Lancers football, basketball and baseball teams, all in full uniform as a way to bridge the gap between the past and present. The ceremony was kicked off by



2026 Individual inductees include from left, Lamon Muldrow, Mike Brannon, Ken Bowles, Scott Mefford, Bill Meehan's son Joe and Elizabeth Cocker Escobar.

a montage video of various famous clips from sports movies throughout the years, including such memorable films as "The Sandlot." This was by design, to help attendees remember what it felt like the first time they ever played a sport or put on a uniform as a child, showing that every Hall of Famer once began their journey as a child who discovered their sport for the first time.

From there, Hall of Fame Chairman Michael Marando gave an eight-minute speech illustrating the importance of youth sports. Marando would then hand over the microphone to Rancho Cordova native and media personality Ken Rudulph, who served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event. Each inductee was then honored with a slide show displaying their accomplishments, and the



Hall of Fame Chairman Michael Marando gave an eight-minute speech illustrating the importance of youth sports.

event was well received by all in attendance.

When asked to sum up his feelings on the event, Marando gave an insightful answer.

"If I had to sum up the event in one word, it would be 'gratitude'," Marando said. "To watch Rancho Cordova's finest athletes, stand shoulder to shoulder

in the way that they did, completely humbled by the honor, I think is a powerful reminder why sports matters. It binds us together like nothing else can."

Perhaps the loudest ovation of the night came during the recognition of Meehan, who was a well-regarded presence within the youth baseball

community for more than three decades prior to his passing in 2022 at the age of 78. Overall, the event went off without a hitch and has clearly become quite a tradition within the city.

Congratulations to the newest members of the Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame! ★

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