



Homecoming Season Gets Underway

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Briggs' Trip From Sacramento to the NFL

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ENTER ELRED PAYTON JR.



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Historic School Prepped for Celebration



Workers with No Moss Softwash clean the Rhoads School to get it ready for the Oct. 10 celebration.

By Keith Burbank

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - A historic school got a cleaning recently for a coming celebration Oct. 10. The event will mark 50 years since the Rhoads School in Elk Grove Regional Park moved to the park from its original location on Sloughhouse Road.

historic restoration projects," said Roberta Tanner, director of Rhoads School. "And so, a group of people got together and decided to restore the Rhoads Schoolhouse, which had been sitting vacant for about 25 years." The 50-year celebration starts at 10 a.m. and lasts until 4 p.m. at the school and will include free tours, food trucks, history displays, photo opportunities, wagon rides and

special guests. The event is sponsored by the Elk Grove Historical Society. The existing building is the second Rhoads School built in the region. The first was built in the 1850s close to the Cosumnes River and was subject to flooding. Children got sick from mosquito bites. The school closed in 1872. A second school was built that year

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Startup Aims to Cut ID Verification Cost

By Keith Burbank

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - A startup here is looking to transform identity verification by making it fast and cheap. Stile at stile.id is run by brothers Vlad and Alex Marinov. Alex Marinov serves as CEO. He owned a logistics business in Elk Grove before he sold it with about 160 employees to a private equity firm. "We started exploring this idea earlier in the year," Alex Marinov said, "like January, February." He and Vlad Marinov, who has banking experience, want to bring the cost of each verification down to 10 to 50 cents, Alex Marinov said. The company is now beta-testing its products. It has no customers and will need to do many verifications to be profitable. Identity verification is important, Alex Marinov said, recalling a scenario that played out in 2024. A controller for a company joined a Zoom call with whom she thought was her boss and the chief financial officer. Her aim was to approve a \$20 million wire transfer. She approved it only to find out later the image

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CEO Alex Marinov is pictured in his home office working on Stile's identity verification product.

City Creates Home-Buying Program for 'Missing Middle'



By John McCallum

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - The City Council here voted 4-0 Sept. 23 in favor of a resolution addressing a lack of affordable housing for an often-overlooked group when it comes to home buying financial assistance: moderate-income households. Councilmember Darren Suen was absent but expressed support for the program. The resolution addresses homebuying assistance for this group - often called the "missing middle" - through the newly-created Moderate-Income Homebuyer Assistance Program. The program is designed to provide down-payment and other forms of assistance to potential homebuyers in moderate-income brackets. Most affordable housing assistance programs are targeted at low-income households making 80% of the area median income (AMI), which in Sacramento County is \$105,100 for a family of four. Households making 81%-120% of AMI are usually found to be making too much money to qualify for home-buying assistance but not enough to afford market-rated housing, which can lead to fewer home sales. "Ninety percent of housing stock is single-family homes, meaning the barriers to entry is really tough and tied to single family home prices," Elk Grove management analyst Joshua Tovar told the council. The council set aside \$2 million of Measure E funds in its 2026-2027 budget to address the lack of homebuying assistance for moderate-income families through initiatives such as the new program. The Moderate-Income Homebuyer Assistance Program "is intended to effectuate this investment and advance council's established housing priorities," according to the staff report. Qualified moderate-income households - who can have annual incomes of \$104,150 for a single person to \$196,400 for a family of eight - must meet specific criteria for

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Historic School Prepped for Celebration



The Rhoads School is pictured Sept. 24 in Elk Grove Regional Park as workers got ready to clean it for a 50-year celebration Oct. 10. Photo by Keith Burbank



Christopher Lombardo washes the roof of the Rhoads School Sept. 24 to get it ready for a 50-year celebration Oct. 10. Photo courtesy of No Moss Softwash

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on Sloughhouse Road and closed in 1949, Tanner said. The Murphy family, who owned the property on which the schoolhouse was located, later donated the home. “So, they went out and they jacked it up, put it on a big trailer,” Tanner said, “and trailered it to Elk Grove Park, where it is now.” The schoolhouse and grounds were cleaned Sept. 24 by No Moss Softwash to get it ready for the Oct. 10 celebration. Chris Lombardo and his crew applied a special No Moss Soss to clean the roof, for

example. “It’s a shake roof,” Lombardo told the Elk Grove Citizen. “You can’t pressure wash that.” The company uses a process called soft-washing, which involves cleaning with less than 40 pounds of pressure, Lombardo said. “So, it kind of bubbles up and it cleans and disinfects the roof,” he added. “And then we rinse it.” Community members came together in 1976 – long before this latest cleaning – to restore the school.

“The community – mostly teenagers, high school and middle schoolers – spent the next year sanding it down and repainting it,” Tanner said. The man in charge, Tanner said, “wanted everyone to use period-appropriate-only restoration methods, and so they just used a lot of elbow grease and a lot of sandpaper on blocks of wood and sanded it down and then repainted it.” The school is named after John P. Rhoads, who traveled west from Illinois and arrived in California in 1846. Rhoads’ family traveled part of the way with the

Donner Party but was about three weeks ahead of them when the Rhoads family passed through Salt Lake City. The Donner Party that winter got stuck in the Sierra Nevada. Rhoads went on three rescue missions to deliver supplies and “bring survivors to safety,” according to the Elk Grove Historical Society. A living history program now operates at the Rhoads School. The program brings to life what it was like be a student and teacher at the school years ago, Tanner said. ★

Startup Aims to Cut ID Verification Cost

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and voice of her boss was fraudulent. “So that’s kind of the top problem we are trying to solve,” Alex Marinov said, adding that Stile has

checks it can do to deter that type of fraud. One is a “liveness” check, Alex Marinov said. “Are you talking to an actual human (on) a Zoom call?” he said. “We actually have an ability to understand if it’s a human or not.” Stile can scan the face of the person to see whether it’s a 3D image. Stile has four employees,

including the two brothers. The others are involved in marketing and quality assurance. Alex Marinov is confident Stile can achieve its aim. Because of artificial

intelligence, Alex Marinov said, his team of four can compete with others that have raised \$10 to \$20 million to build an identity verification product. “We can do it for hundreds of thousands of dollars ... just because of AI,” he said. Vlad has been surrounded by the problem of identity verification at multiple companies he’s worked for, he said. “This is a problem I’ve been thinking about for so many years in my career life,” he said. And now, he said, he has what it takes to prevent fraud by using his skills and the tactics of those committing fraud. ★

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Glenn Guenard has been selected again as a Super Lawyer for the year of 2026

Tribe Donates Millions for Fire Truck



Jesus Tarango, chairman of Wilton Rancheria, Sacramento County’s only federally-recognized tribe, rides in an aerial ladder truck. Wilton Rancheria donated \$2.4 million to pay for a new aerial ladder truck for the Cosumnes Fire Department. Photo courtesy of Cosumnes Community Services District

Cosumnes CSD News Release

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Wilton Rancheria on Sept. 9 presented a \$2.4 million contribution to the Cosumnes Community Services District to fund a new aerial ladder truck for the Cosumnes Fire Department.

“For Wilton Rancheria, being a good community partner isn’t just about showing up when there’s an opportunity to make a contribution. It’s about building relationships, making commitments, and following through every time,” said Jesus Tarango, chairman of Wilton Rancheria. “Ultimately, this truck isn’t just an investment in Cosumnes CSD, it’s an investment in the safety and protection of everyone who lives, works, and visits here.”

The funding fulfills a commitment Wilton Rancheria made in its memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Cosumnes CSD, signed during the development of Sky River Casino, to invest in the safety and protection of the community.

“Strong communities are built through partnerships, and this is an excellent example of what we can accomplish when we come together to fulfill a shared responsibility to protect our community,” said Cosumnes CSD Board President Peter Sakaris. “We are proud to accept this contribution and look forward to putting this investment to work for our community.”

The aerial ladder truck will strengthen the Cosumnes Fire Department’s ability to respond to fires and emergencies across a rapidly growing service area. The funding is one of several community investments Wilton Rancheria has made under its MOU with Cosumnes CSD, underscoring the tribe’s ongoing partnership with local public safety agencies.

City Creates Home-Buying Program for 'Missing Middle'

Continued from page 1

homebuying assistance. Eligible properties must be in Elk Grove, pass required inspections, be safe and habitable and be the buyer’s primary home.

Rental properties, shared rentals and short-term rentals are ineligible. All loans will be secured by a loan agreement, promissory

note and deed of trust.

Besides Measure E funding, the program will draw from the state’s Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) program. Elk Grove has \$400,000 in PLHA funds, Tovar said.

The city has been assisting low-income households with housing purchases since 2009.

The differences between the two programs are the income range, tying the maximum home purchase price to the city’s median sales price – now \$625,000 – and requiring purchasers to meet and follow PLHA requirements.

PLHA funding would be available now for assistance for up to six

moderate-income homebuyers, with Measure E funds available to supplement requests as needed.

“Staff not only looks at household income, but we also factor in their assets, any earnings from investments, to ensure that these households have an identifiable need and we adjust the level of city assistance

accordingly,” Tovar said.

A moderate-income homebuyer, for example, whose purchase requires a minimum 3% down payment of \$18,750, could receive \$12,500 from the new program. A homebuyer with a 5% down payment of \$31,250 could receive \$25,000. And a homebuyer with a 10% down payment of \$62,500 could receive \$56,250. One with a 20% down payment of \$125,000 could receive

\$60,000.

The city’s program could also be paired with other forms of homebuyer assistance.

The program not only addresses the “missing middle” for housing assistance, Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen said, but also creates wealth in the community through equity, along with stability.

“It meets a tremendous need in our community,” Singh-Allen said.



Senior Lifestyle

Monthly feature of the Elk Grove Citizen
Health • Entertainment • Shopping • Services

Senior Center of Elk Grove



October Calendar

(\$\$) \$2 Program Fee
(\$\$+) \$2 plus additional program fee/supplies

Your Everything Center

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 \$\$ Light Body Toning	8:30 \$\$ Gentle Yoga	8:30 \$\$ Open Games	8:30 \$\$ Tai Chi Flow No class in October	8:30 No class 10/23 & 10/30
8:30 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video	9:30 Knit & Crochet Intermediate & Expert No class 10/27	8:30 Brain & Body 10/14 & 10/28	8:30 \$\$ Gentle Yoga	8:30 Quilting Intermediate & Expert No class 10/23 & 10/30
8:30 \$\$ Harvest Story	9:30 \$\$ Men's Talk Group	9:30 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video	9:00 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video	9:00 No class 10/16
9:00 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video	10:00 \$\$ Zumba Gold	10:00 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video	9:00 Open Artist Studio	9:00 \$\$ Mahjong
9:00 \$\$ Open Games	11:00 \$\$ Guitar Workshop	10:00 \$\$ Traditional Tai Chi	10:00 \$\$ Zumba 30/30	10:00 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video
10:00 \$\$ Chair Ex. Video	11:30 \$\$ Zumba Chair	11:30 Alzheimer's Caregivers Support 10/7	10:30 \$\$ Chair Ex. Video	10:30 \$\$ Men's Open Dis.
10:00 \$\$ Standing Pilates	11:30 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video	10:30 Parkinson's Caregivers 10/21	11:30 \$\$ Improv	11:30 \$\$\$+ BINGO
10:00 \$\$ Women's Talk	12:30 \$\$ Balance & Posture Ex. Video	10:30 \$\$ Ukulele Practice	11:30 \$\$ Light Body Toning	12:00 \$\$ Walk Strong Fit No class 10/16
11:30 \$\$ Aerobics No Class 10/26	1:00 \$\$ Mahjong	1:00 \$\$ Intermediate Spanish	10:30 \$\$ Chair Yoga Video	1:00 \$\$ Bridge
11:30 \$\$ Core & Strength	1:00 \$\$ Hawaiian Hula	1:00 \$\$ Book Group 10/14	11:00 Scrabble	1:00 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video No class 10/16
12:45 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video	2:00 \$\$ Line Dancing	11:30 \$\$ Chair Pilates	11:00 \$\$ Rhythm & Motion	1:00 No class 10/16
1:00 \$\$ Bridge	2:00 \$\$ Genealogy	11:30 \$\$ Aerobics No class 10/28	11:30 \$\$ Rock Painting 10/1, 10/15 & 10/29	
1:00 \$\$ Writing Group	2:00 \$\$ Mindfulness & Meditation	12:15 \$\$ Chair Yoga	12:15 \$\$ Men's Talk	1:00 No class 10/16
1:30 \$\$ Intermediate Hatha Yoga		12:30 \$\$ Zumba Chair	12:30 \$\$ Beginning Bridge	1:00 No class 10/16
2:00 \$\$ Open Recreation		12:45 \$\$ Bunco	12:45 \$\$ Line Dancing	2:00 No class 10/16
		1:00 \$\$ Cardmaking 10/14 & 10/28	1:00 Grief Support 10/8 & 10/22	2:00 No class 10/16
		1:00 Grief Support 10/7		
		1:00 \$\$ Open Dance No class 10/28		
		1:00 \$\$ Women's Open Discussion		
		3:00 \$\$ Chair Exercise Video		
CLOSED 10/12 for Columbus Day				

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RELIGION NEWS

Chabad Offers Torah Classes

Local community members are invited to attend free weekly Torah Classes offered by Chabad of Elk Grove from 6:45-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays at a private location.

The course, "Flashbacks in Jewish History," will examine how our past informs our future. Rabbi Chaim Groner leads the discussion. For location, call (917) 724-4443.

Elk Grove Presbyterian Events

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

open Communion the first Sunday of the month.

Additionally, on that Sunday we bring non-perishable food for Elk Grove Food Services.

For more information, Rev. Dietz can be reached at (916) 683-1435 or Email: EGPCPastor@gmail.com.

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 7 p.m. Fridays at 9766 Waterman Road. Sunday Worship at 10 a.m. For more information, call (916) 714 3444 or visit GraceChurchEG.org.

Field of Hope United Church of Christ

Community members are invited to Sunday worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 9624 Melrose Ave., Elk Grove. Sunday School and nursery services are available. More at FieldOfHopeUCC.org.

St. Maria Goretti Mass Schedule

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

Masses are at 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and noon on Sundays. Also Masses at 9 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

More at (916) 647-4538 or visitSMGCC.net. ★



DO YOU KNOW THESE GUYS?

The Hidden "Slip and Falls" Danger In Big-Box Retail Chains

We visit big-box retail chains like Walmart, Target, Home Depot, and Costco for convenience. We expect wide aisles, stocked shelves, and a safe environment to shop for our families. However, the sheer size of these giant warehouses creates a breeding ground for premises liability hazards. What might seem like a minor stumble can instantly turn into a life-altering injury.

Slip and fall accidents are frequently treated as punchlines in popular culture, but the reality is far from funny. A sudden fall on a hard concrete or tile floor can result in traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), severe spinal damage, broken hips, and torn ligaments.

Here's why Big-Box stores pose unique risks... The massive footprint of a big-box store makes safety monitoring highly challenging. With fewer staff members patrolling larger areas, hazards can go unnoticed for hours. Some of the most common causes of retail slip and falls include:

- Liquid Spills: Refrigeration units, dropped beverage containers, or tracked-in rainwater near entrances.
- Debris in Aisles: Dropped packaging, plastic wrap or cardboard.
- Unmarked Hazards: Mopped floors left without "Caution" sign.
- Floor Transition Zones: Uneven entry mats, cracked concrete, or loose rugs.

Proving liability is a major hurdle. Simply falling inside a retail store does not mean the store is automatically responsible for your medical bills. To win a premises liability claim, you must prove that the store was negligent. In legal terms, this requires showing that the business had actual or constructive notice of the hazard. This means the hazard existed on the floor for such a long period of time that the store employees *should* have discovered and resolved it during reasonable, routine inspections. Corporate defense teams for retail giants are notoriously aggressive. They will often argue that you weren't looking where you were going, that the spill just happened seconds prior, or that your injuries are pre-existing.

Here are crucial steps to take after a fall. If you are injured in a retail store, the steps you take in the immediate aftermath are vital to protecting your health and your legal rights:

1. Seek Medical Attention: Your health is the priority.
2. Report the Incident: Demand a manager fill out an official incident report and request a copy before leaving the premises.
3. Document the Scene: Take photos and videos of the exact hazard that caused you to fall and the surrounding area. Note if there were any warning signs nearby.
4. Identify Witnesses: If possible, gather the names and phone numbers of any fellow shoppers or employees who witnessed the fall or saw the hazard.

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Elk Grove Citizen

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Enter Elred Payton Jr.

By V.G. Harris

The Sacramento Kings just had a moment to digest the signing of former all-star Ben Simmons and ruminate about the possibilities of what Simmons might bring to the team, when suddenly news arrived that another guard had been signed.

Not a household name, Elfred Payton Jr. is now a proud member of the Sacramento Kings.

Signed by the Philadelphia 76ers with the 10th overall pick in the 2014 draft, Payton brings with him a wealth of experience in what has been an up and down career thus far.

Entriguing is his penchant for triple doubles, something that most NBA players never achieve.

During the 2018-19 season, Payton achieved a feat that only Wilt Chamberlain, Michael Jordan, Russell Westbrook and Oscar Robertson ever achieved in NBA history when he amazingly recorded five triple-doubles in consecutive games.

Add to that the fact that Payton is known more for his defense than his offense, and the Kings just signed a player that potentially could raise some eyebrows in a positive way.

Every NBA team knows the value of a solid bench and how important that is, and although not probably a starter for the Kings, Elfred Payton has seen his share of starting roles in the NBA.

As a junior in college playing for Lousiana-Lafayette Payton was awarded defensive player of the year in division one college basketball.

At just 6-foot-3 Payton drew enough interest to be picked up by the Orlando Magic, New York Knicks, Charlotte Hornets and the New Orleans Pelicans, after leaving the Philadelphia 76ers, and with the recent signing by the Sacramento Kings, Payton hopes to do what Ben Simmons is attempting, and resurrect a stuttering career.

A bio with such broad achievements, it's no wonder that Scott Perry decided to take a chance on this much traveled baller.

Already the Kings have three new rookies that the Sacramento fans can't wait to see in legitimate NBA action, and now they have both a healthy Ben Simmons and a 32-year-old Elfred Payton Jr. to see as well.

Can Elfred Payton Jr. remind Kings fans of what a young Davion Mitchell provided with his high energy defense off the bench and once again bring to the floor a player with true shut-down abilities.

Well, if he can, Scott Perry is beginning to give Doug Christie what he's been praying for in players that are defensive minded first.

Any time a player has been traveled as much as Elfred Payton Jr. the natural question is why, and only time will tell if he has holes in his game, or he simply never found the right fit.

I'm hoping Sacramento is just what the doctor ordered, and Mr. Payton is about to get the jump start he's been looking for.

You won't have to wait long Kings fans, because preseason is just one week away, and what remains to be seen is how Doug Christie will use his new faces, and can he build a team chemistry in under a month?

Everyone loves a feel-good story, and nothing feels better than seeing a player come back and soar to the heights.

Ben Simmons certainly knows what that feels like, and the question is whether he's truly healthy and does he have the motor every Sacramento fan is hoping he has.

I look for a full house on Oct. 23, as the Kings kick off the regular season against the Portland Trail Blazers at Golden One Arena.

After a better than solid draft, and now two very interesting acquisitions, Sacramento fans have plenty to root for, so time to get excited Kings fans and buy your tickets.

Now, along with Domantas Sabonis, the Kings have a legitimate triple-double threat in Elfred Payton Jr., and a player that has a nose for defense.

Make no mistake about it, the rebuild is happening right before your eyes, so now it's time to take stock in what you have and be careful not to trade away a player that is integral to the success of the team.

Let this young team play together and come together, and just maybe, something remarkable may show itself.

Time to watch NBA basketball and find your new favorite player. I know I already have, and I can't wait to see the Kings prove the pundits wrong.

All the best Kings fans! ★

Tilting California Voters Toward Raising Local Taxes Often Involves Tricks, Manipulation



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

California's Nov. 3 ballot contains 14 statewide ballot measures and five of them pertain to taxes, including the much-debated Proposition 40, which would tax the wealth of the state's billionaires.

Meanwhile, local ballots are also heavily loaded with measures that would either raise taxes to benefit school districts or local governments or authorize the issuance of bonds that require new taxes to repay.

The California Taxpayers Association has counted 273 such measures that, if all passed, would levy \$3 billion a year in direct taxes on retail sales and property, and sanction \$19.5 billion in bonds, with interest costs of more than \$1 billion a year.

The largest tax measure asks voters in San Francisco and four other counties to hike sales taxes by nearly \$1 billion a year to bolster public transit services.

In the last decade, a flurry of local sales tax measures has raised rates to over 11% in some jurisdictions. The biennial deluge of local tax and bond measures draws heavy campaign spending by proponents and opponents and some questionable gamesmanship by the local agencies that propose them.

Under the guise of "information," it's not unusual for them to spend taxpayer money on brochures and other forms of communication that approach out-and-out advocacy, often hiring professional campaign consultants to prepare the materials and otherwise use techniques that tout the supposed benefits that taxes or bonds will provide.

If it crosses the line, an "information" campaign violates a state law that declares, "An officer, employee, or consultant of a local agency may not expend or authorize the expenditure of any of the funds of the local agency to support or oppose the approval or rejection of a ballot measure, or the election or defeat of a candidate, by the voters."

However, prosecutions for violation are as rare as the proverbial hen's teeth, although the Fair Political Practices Commission does crack down when instances are brought to its attention.

Another technique officialdom uses to tilt tax elections in its favor is to pretend that ballot measures are not, in fact, tax increases.

Last month, the state Court of Appeal upheld a lower court's finding in Riverside County that the Hemet Unified School District misleadingly declared in the language of a \$225 million bond issue that it would not raise taxes. The declaration hinged on the new measure continuing property taxes that had been collected for a previous ballot measure, but both courts rejected that rationale and ordered that the language be altered.

"While the full text of

the measure may accurately explain the true nature of Measure I," the appellate court ruled, "the term 'no-tax-rate-increase,' on its face, connotes such a conclusive meaning, that voters are likely to find it unnecessary to read the full ballot materials, erroneously believing that 'no-tax-rate-increase' has the plain meaning their tax burden will not increase."

"The impact of such terms in ballot titles and questions has previously been addressed and found impermissible where the terms constitute advocacy or partiality ... Replacing 'no-tax-rate-increase' with 'rate-extension' would be accurate, neutral, and does not mislead voters into believing their tax burden will not increase."

It's also noteworthy that Hemet Unified's board of trustees voted on Aug. 12 to place the bond issue on the November ballot but gave the public just five days to submit arguments on the issue. Compressing the time for opponents to respond is another common technique employed to tilt the game.

Tricking voters is election fraud as onerous as stuffing ballot boxes. Unfortunately, while officials may be a bit embarrassed if caught, such behavior does not invalidate a ballot measure that voters pass.

It should.

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

Mom Worries Daughter Making Bad Social Security Decision



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My question is not for me, but for my daughter who 62 years is old. She does not want to take her Social Security now. Her husband was a doctor and passed away recently. She had been married to him for more than 10 years and, in the meantime, he married someone else. I thought the President erased taxes on earned money so that people could collect what was due them no matter what they earned. My daughter keeps telling me she has already earned too much this year and cannot collect her widow's benefits until next year. I don't understand what no tax on Social Security means then. Also, she wants to wait until she is 67 before she collects her own money. She has been a nurse and believes her own benefits may be larger than her widow's benefits. Is she correct to wait for that long? **Signed: Worried Mom**

Dear Worried Mom: Your daughter is likely correct. There are two factors which come into play in your daughter's circumstance – one is the Annual Earnings Test (for those collecting early SS benefits), and the other relates to Federal income tax on SS benefits received. I'll try to clarify both of these for you:

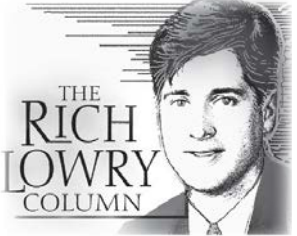
If your daughter claims her widow's benefit at age 62, her benefit will be significantly reduced (by approximately 20+%) from what she would get at her SS full retirement age, and that would be a permanent reduction. And, if she works (which you imply she does) she would also be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET) which limits how much she can earn by working prior to reaching her SS full retirement age (her "FRA," which is age 67). The earnings limit for 2026 is \$24,480 (changes yearly) and, if her annual 2026 earnings exceed that amount, Social Security will take away \$1 of benefits for every \$2 she is over the annual limit. For example, if she is \$25,000 over the limit, SS would take way benefits equal to \$12,500. That would mean she wouldn't get any SS benefits for the remainder of this year and likely some of next year also. And, if her earnings are significantly more than the annual limit, she may even be temporarily ineligible to receive a widow's benefit (until she either reaches her FRA or earns less money). FYI, the Annual Earnings Test will go away when your daughter reaches age 67 but, until then, the AET will likely restrict her ability to receive Social Security benefits if she continues to work full time.

The next factor to be aware of is the so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill" (OBBB) which the President claimed means "no tax on Social Security." This is an entirely different factor than the Annual Earnings Test (AET) described above. The above AET discussion dealt with SS earnings limits while

taking benefits before FRA, whereas the OBBB deals with income tax on Social Security benefits actually received. The OBBB (enacted last year) provides an extra \$6,000 deduction per person (on the tax return filed with the IRS) for those 65 years of age or older. That extra IRS deduction is designed to offset (either totally or partially) any income tax which is levied on Social Security benefits received by those age 65 or older. It's also important to know that the OBBB only provides temporary income tax relief, because the law expires after the 2028 income tax year.

All of which leads me to conclude that your daughter's decision to wait longer to claim her widow's benefit from her deceased ex-husband is a prudent choice. As long as she is working and earning more than the annual earnings limit before age 67, the AET will restrict how much Social Security she is able to receive. If she later stops working or goes to part-time employment, she can revisit her decision at that time. And, depending on her own personally earned Social Security benefit amount at age 67 (vs. her widow's benefit), she can assess whether to claim her personal SS retirement benefit or to, instead, claim her benefit as her ex-husband's widow if that amount is larger than her own SS retirement. And, unless Congress later extends the OBBB prior to 2029, she will, at that time, likely need to pay income tax on the Social Security benefits she receives.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. ★



The Lynching Epidemic that Wasn't

were acts of suicide -- awful in their own right, but not evidence that we are once again living in the Deep South circa 1892. These news stories invariably recount how the local police have concluded a person found hanging on a tree died by suicide -- as well as all the speculation on social media that something more insidious must have been at play.

In one horrifying case, a young African-American woman was found hanging from a tree outside an abandoned house in Jackson, Mississippi, and her death was indeed ruled a murder. A CNN report several days ago related the heightened scrutiny around the crime given "Mississippi's long history of racial violence involving hangings." The police have now arrested a 51-year-old suspect and charged him with murder, although he doesn't advance the narrative of the Pressley letter -- since he, too, is African American.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention figures, more than 11,000 people in the United States died by suicide by hanging or a related means in 2024 -- or, on average, more than 30 a day. Hundreds of these people were African Americans. In this context, a handful of black suicides by hanging occurring outdoors over the course of half a year or more wouldn't necessarily be shocking.

The will to believe the worst, though, is very strong among the people who signed the Pressley letter. They are perpetually convinced that the KKK

is on the verge of riding again and making the U.S. the equivalent of the Reconstruction-era South.

One line in the Pressley letter says that black people have been found hanging from trees in places as dispersed as "Mississippi, Michigan and New York." The geographic randomness suggests a widely dispersed social phenomenon; the signatories conclude instead that there are racist murderers seeded throughout the country, all carrying out brutal, symbolically resonant killings.

This is a terrible thing to believe of one's own country -- not just of its people, but of all the law-enforcement authorities who must be suppressing evidence of systematic racial violence. No matter. The Squad and its ilk have a dim view of the United States and -- as racial obsessives who consider themselves fearless crusaders for justice -- must find great emotional satisfaction in the notion that they are fighting the same battle as, say, the legendary scourge of lynching Ida B. Wells.

Wells, though, didn't have to make up outrages, whereas the current crowd tends to give credence to every story based on a fake noose or a hate-crime hoax. Pressley and Co. clearly hoped to stir up a social panic, but the weakness and irrationality of their argument serve only to underline their own profound and disturbing racial paranoia.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

SMF Parking Rate Changes Support New Garage and Customer Improvements

Sacramento International Airport News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Sacramento International Airport (SMF) will adjust public parking rates when the new Parking Garage 2 opens later this year, supporting a major expansion and modernization of the airport’s parking system.

Daily rates will increase from \$12 to \$14 for Economy, \$14 to \$19 for the Daily Lot and \$21 to \$28 for garage parking. There will be no additional increase in 2027. Beginning Jan. 1, 2028, rates will increase by \$1 per year through 2031.

The changes come as SMF adds several new parking amenities, including the six-story, 5,537-space Parking Garage 2 adjacent to Terminal B, parking guidance technology to help drivers find open spaces, new entry and exit equipment with



SMF will adjust public parking rates when the new Parking Garage 2 opens later this year. Photo courtesy of Sacramento International Airport/Otto Construction

expanded payment options and parking reservations beginning in 2027.

“We know paying more for parking isn’t the part travelers are excited about, but these investments are delivering the improvements our passengers have asked for; more spaces, more covered parking, easier ways to pay and a faster, more predictable parking experience,” said Sheri Thompson Duarte, Deputy Director of Operations and Public Safety. “Our goal is

to give travelers more choices and make the start and end of their journey through SMF easier.”

The Department of Airports issued \$390 million in new debt for construction of Parking Garage 2. Since FY2021, construction costs have increased 37.6% and airport operating costs have increased by \$65.7 million.

Parking is SMF’s largest source of non-airline revenue, generating \$77.08 million in FY2024-25. Parking revenue is reinvested in the airport to support operations, infrastructure, debt service and improvements that benefit SMF travelers.

Economy parking will remain the airport’s lowest-cost parking option at \$14 per day. Travelers can also use rideshare, passenger drop-off or public transit.

For more information visit <https://flysmf.gov/>. ★

Celebrating Early Literacy, Family Support and Dolly Parton’s Legacy

Sacramento County Office of Education News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Just one year after launching in August 2025, the Sacramento County Imagination Library has reached a remarkable milestone: Nearly 10,000 children from birth to age five are now enrolled and receiving free, high-quality books each month.

The achievement reflects a commitment to ensuring young children have access to books during the most important years of brain development and language growth. Through the program, children in targeted Sacramento County communities receive an age-appropriate book delivered directly

to their home each month at no cost to families, helping build home libraries and foster a lifelong love of reading.

“This milestone represents our collective commitment as a community to giving our youngest learners the right start from the beginning,” said Sacramento County Superintendent of Schools Jacqueline White. “Nearly 10,000 young children are building language skills, strengthening family connections through shared reading and developing a foundation for future success in school and life.”

The Sacramento County Imagination Library is part of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the internationally recognized book-gifting program founded in 1995. Locally, the program is supported through a partnership with United Way California Capital Region.

The milestone also provides an opportunity to celebrate Dolly Parton's vision that every child deserves access to books, regardless of income or



ZIP code. Today, her program reaches millions of children worldwide and has distributed hundreds of millions of books.

The Parton family has shared that one meaningful way to honor Dolly’s legacy is by supporting the mission she championed: putting books into the hands of young children. Community members who would like to help expand access to local families may offer a donation by visiting <https://bit.ly/SacramentoImagination>.

As the program enters its second year, Sacramento County leaders remain committed to expanding enrollment to the entire county and ensuring even more children experience the joy of reading from birth. ★

Ed Winkler Appointed to SSWD Board of Directors



Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) Board of Directors approved the appointment of Ed Winkler to the SSWD Board. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Suburban Water District

Sacramento Suburban Water District News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On Monday, Sept. 21, the Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) Board of Directors approved the appointment of Ed Winkler to the SSWD Board by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors. Winkler will represent Division 4, which includes portions of Carmichael, Del Paso Manor and Arden Arcade.

Winkler is a civil engineer with over 40 years of experience. He previously served as the Executive Director of the Regional Water Authority and the Sacramento Groundwater Authority. During his stewardship of those organizations, he helped secure millions of dollars in State and Federal grants, which improved SSWD’s infrastructure and its conjunctive use program.

“I’m honored to join the SSWD Board and continue my efforts to improve water supply reliability and give back to the local Sacramento community where I have lived my entire life,” said Winkler.

SSWD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. Directors are elected to four-year terms, with elections held in even-numbered years. Winkler will be up for election on Nov. 3, along with Divisions 1, 3 and 5. ★

Expanding Recovery Housing for Women



Koala House 2 unites Sacramento County’s Department of Health Services mission while expanding Sacramento Recovery House’s continuum of recovery-centered services. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Sacramento County is celebrating the opening of Koala House 2, a new sober living and transitional residence designed to provide women with a safe, supportive environment as they continue their recovery journeys.

Koala House 2 unites Sacramento County’s Department of Health Services mission while expanding Sacramento Recovery House’s continuum of recovery-centered services and provides an important next step for women transitioning from Gateway House and other Sacramento County treatment programs.

Sacramento Recovery House is partnering with the County on this residence to provide gender responsive, trauma-informed residential services to adults seeking recovery from substance use and co-occurring disorders and their related issues.

“Recovery does not happen in isolation,” said Lori Miller, Division Manager, a representative of Sacramento County

Behavioral Health Services. “It happens when we work together, when there is support, when people have safe places to live, healthy relationships, meaningful opportunities and a community that believes in their ability to build a different future.”

The new residence is a needed substance use resource for Sacramento County to assist people in stepping down care with the goal of finding permanent supportive housing. Koala House 2 will help women build stability and independence while developing the skills, relationships and connections needed to sustain long-term recovery.

“We hope this space becomes a safe place where the women are celebrated, challenges are met together, dreams begin to feel possible again and lives are changed,” said Executive Director of Sacramento Recovery House, Dr. Davis.

To learn more about the sober living options with Sacramento County visit dhs.saccounty.gov/us/en/behavioral-health/behavioral-health-services/entry-point/bhs-sac.html or call 916-875-1055. ★

ABOUT TOWN

Continuing through Nov. 1
Pumpkin Patch at Fog Willow Farms Opens for the Season – Fog Willow is a friendly, safe, exciting “Edu-Tainment” farm where you can celebrate all that is agriculture, all that is family and all that is fun. Open daily through Sunday, Nov. 1. See itswebsite at fogwillow-farms.com for information and schedule of activities. *11011 Cecatra Drive, Wilton.*

Saturday, Oct. 3 and Sunday, Oct. 4
Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin Festival – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at Elk Grove Park. Every October, Elk Grove Park is transformed into the ultimate autumn celebration, attracting pumpkin enthusiasts from far and wide. Feel the excitement of carnival rides and captivating entertainment, the joy of unleashing your creativity with delightful crafts, the tantalizing flavors of food trucks, and the thrill of finding the perfect pumpkin to take home. *9950 Elk Grove Florin Road.*

Saturday, Oct. 3
Wilton Community Yard Sale – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Wilton Community Center. We’re getting ready to pack the Dillard School parking lot with sellers, shoppers, bargains and treasures. It’s the perfect excuse to finally clean out the garage, closets and storage shed. This sale happens along with the final Dillard Farmers Market of the season so you can enjoy one last chance to shop your favorite local farmers, makers and vendors before we

wrap up another great market season. *9717 Colony Road, Wilton.*

Intro to Competition Jiu Jitsu Tournament – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Warrior Martial Arts Academy. This event is designed for adult white- and blue-belt competitors from all academies who want to gain tournament experience in a fun, welcoming environment. Whether you’re preparing for your first competition or looking for more experience on the mats, we’d love to have you participate. Not competing? Come enjoy the event. Admission for spectators is free. *2521 W. Taron Ct., Suite 100.*

First Saturday Public Reception – 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Elk Grove Fine Arts Center. Join us for this free First Saturday reception, celebrating our new group exhibition by the Center’s members, continuing for the month of October. Reception is open to the public. Enjoy refreshments, an opportunity to meet featured artists and enjoy live music. *9020 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 101.*

Sunday, Oct. 4
Jazz & Blues Time – 4 p.m. on Sundays at United Methodist Church. Nannosecond Productions hosts monthly jazz and blues performances. \$10 requested donation and all are welcome. This month, enjoy Capitol City Reflections, playing jazz. *8986 Elk Grove Blvd.*

Wednesday, Oct. 7
Breaking Barriers: Mental Health in an Unequal World – 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at District56. People connect through stories, and who better to

hear from than members of our own community? Join us for a panel discussion exploring the cultural barriers and stigmas that can shape how people view mental health, seek support, receive a diagnosis and recognize when they may need help. Panelists will share their personal perspectives and experiences, offering an honest look at the ways culture can influence our understanding of mental health and care. *8230 Civic Center Drive, #100.*

Saturday, Oct. 10
Franklin High School Band Invitational – 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Join us for this exciting all-day event held on Franklin’s campus. Throughout the day, they host a variety of competitions including jazz and concert band performances in their gym and theater. The bands compete and march down Franklin High Boulevard, ending at Coop Drive. Following the marching band performances, there is a percussion competition. In the evening, they move to the community stadium, shared with Cosumnes Oaks High School, for the field show competition. *6400 Whitelock Parkway.*

Elk Grove Lions’ 2nd Saturday Pancake Breakfast – 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Gil Albiani Recreation Center. The Lions will serve all-you-can-eat pancakes along with a side of scrambled eggs, bacon or sausage and fruit. \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 12 and under. *8830 Sharkey Ave.*

Visions in Motion Walk-A-Thon – 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the District56 Preserve Area.

This community event will feature a group walk, inspiring guest speakers, raffle prizes, local vendors, and lunch generously provided by the Elk Grove Police Department. All proceeds support Visions in Motion, Aktion Club and NoLimitz Recreation, helping us create meaningful activities, personal growth opportunities, and community connection for adults with developmental disabilities. \$15 per person includes lunch. Registration and more information at vision-sinmotion.org. *9701 Big Horn Blvd.*

50th Anniversary of Rhoads School – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Elk Grove Park. Enjoy a nostalgic look back through the decades and celebrate the legacy of a school that has been a historical cornerstone of the Elk Grove community for generations. Choose from tours, historical displays, photo ops and children’s activities. *9951 Elk Grove Florin Road.*

Matcha Vs. Ube – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Old Town Plaza. Two flavors;one epic showdown. Who will win? Matcha’s earthy green goodness or Ube’s sweet purple magic? Join us for a deliciously fun event where food, drinks, and desserts go head-to-head in a flavorful celebration of these two iconic ingredients. *9615 Railroad St.*

Friday, Oct. 16
F&M Bank’s Annual Shred Day – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Come support the United Way. Shredding, provided by Viking Shred, is accepted with a cash or check donation to United Way, which receives all

donations. For more information, call 916-394-3251. *8799 Elk Grove Blvd.*

Ongoing Events
Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group – 10 a.m. every Tuesday at the Park at Laguna Springs. This is open to all Alzheimer’s caregivers to learn more about the disease, helpful tips and shared experiences. For more information, contact Tracey at 916-826-9325. *9670 Laguna Springs Drive in the President’s Room upstairs.*

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, Oct. 17. *8986 Elk Grove Blvd.*

Dillard Farmers Market – 8 a.m. to noon at the Wilton Community Center. Join us at our vibrant, small community farmers market, where the essence of local agriculture comes alive. Every Saturday through Oct. 3. *9717 Colony Road, Wilton.*

Elk Grove Certified Farmers Market – every Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon at 8245 Laguna Blvd.

Widowed Persons Social Club – Oct. 2, 10 a.m.: Pinochle at Elk Grove United Methodist Church, 8986 Elk Grove Blvd. A small donation to the church is expected. Contact is Jim at 916-768-1923.

Oct. 5, 10:30 a.m.: WPSC Board Meeting at the Oaks Mobile Home Park Clubhouse, 116 Calle

Entrada, Elk Grove. Open to all members.

Oct. 5, Noon: Lunch at Black Bear Diner, 8531 Bond Road, Elk Grove. Contact is Merrylyn, 916-549-4264

Oct. 8, Noon: No-host Lunch & Bunco at Patty’s Pizza, 8591 Elk Grove Blvd. Contact Lois at 916-212-4196 or Susie at 916-798-0007

Wilton Bingo – Saturday, Oct. 3, 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, Wilton.*

Veterans Meetings
American Legion Post 55, Veterans and Auxiliary Units – fourth Wednesdays:dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m. Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive. Breakfast: second Saturday, 8-10 a.m., 8830 Sharkey Ave.

American Legion Post 233 and Auxiliary Unit 233 – fourth Thursdays: dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m. Elks Lodge, 9240 Survey Road. Family Breakfast – 9 a.m. first Saturdays., Mimi’s Café.

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

Marine Corps League Detachment #1238 – first Thursdays: dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

VFW Post 2073 – second Thursdays: dinner 6 p.m., meeting 7 p.m., District56 Veterans Hall, 8230 Civic Center Drive.

★

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MEETING MINDERS

Tuesday, Oct. 6
Elk Grove Unified School District Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., 9510 Elk Grove Florin Road. View live video stream at egusd.net.

Wednesday, Oct. 7
Rotary Club of Elk Grove, 12:10 p.m., The Park at Laguna Springs, 9670 Laguna Springs Drive. elkgroverotary.org
Cosumnes Community Services District Board of Directors, 5 p.m., 8820 Elk Grove Blvd. View live video stream at CosumnesCSD.gov.
Moose Lodge 2731, 6 p.m., Hay Tones Hangout, 10413 Franklin Blvd.
Elks Lodge 2577, 7 p.m., 9240 Survey Road.

Wednesday, Oct. 14
Rotary Club of Elk Grove, 12:10 p.m., The Park at Laguna Springs, 9670 Laguna Springs Drive. elkgroverotary.org
Elk Grove City Council, 6 p.m., 8400 Laguna Palms Way. View live video stream at ElkGroveCity.org.

Thursday, Oct. 15
Elk Grove Planning Commission, 6 p.m. View live video stream at ElkGroveCity.org.

Tuesday, Oct. 20
Elk Grove Unified School District Board of Trustees, 6 p.m., 9510 Elk Grove Florin Road.

Wednesday, Oct. 21
Rotary Club of Elk Grove, 12:10 p.m., The Park at Laguna Springs, 9670 Laguna Springs Drive. elkgroverotary.org
Cosumnes Community Services District Board of Directors, 5 p.m., 8820 Elk Grove Blvd. View live video stream at CosumnesCSD.gov.
Elks Lodge 2577, 7 p.m., 9240 Survey Road. elks.org/lodges/home.

View live video stream at EGUSD.net.

Kiwanis Club of Laguna/Elk Grove, 7 p.m., Wackford Community Center, 9014 Bruceville Road. k18948.site.kiwanis.org

Monday, Oct. 26
Elk Grove Lions Foundation, 6 p.m., 8830 Sharkey Ave. elkgrove-lionsfoundation.org.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Wednesday, Oct. 28
Rotary Club of Elk Grove, 12:10 p.m., The Park at Laguna Springs, 9670 Laguna Springs Drive. elkgroverotary.org
Elk Grove City Council, 6 p.m., 8400 Laguna Palms Way. View live video stream at ElkGroveCity.org. ★

ARTS CALENDAR

Omid Izadi Works Featured
“All Creatures Great & Small” competition, through Oct. 31.First Saturday Public Reception, 4 to 7 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3
Details at elkgrovefineartscenter.org.

Art Workshops for Adults
Enhance your visual arts skills or learn a new technique in an art class or workshop at the Elk Grove Fine Arts Center.
If you’re looking for basic to advanced instruction in Batiking, Ceramics, Clay,

Encaustics, Fabric Art, Mixed-Media, Mosaics, Plein Air, or Watercolor (and more!), you will find it here.
To learn more, visit elkgrovefineartscenter.org/workshop.

View Artwork from Elk Grove
Visit the Elk Grove Arts and Creative Economy Commission’s Citywide Art Guide to art pieces and art events in Elk Grove: webmaps.elkgrovecity.org/publicartelkgrove. ★

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The Elk Grove Citizen Adjudicated For and By the City of Elk Grove, Case No. CS01032 - August 25, 2000

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TRUSTEE SALE

CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE SECTION 2924m. Association heretofore executed and delivered to the undersigned a written Declaration of Default. The undersigned caused a Notice of Default and Election to Sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located, and more than three months have elapsed since such recordation. 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 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. 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. NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNER: The sale date shown on this notice of sale may be postponed one or more times by the Association, 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 (844) 477-7869, or visit

it this Internet Web site WWW.STOXPOSTING.COM for information, using the file number assigned to this case: 25-11057. Information about postponements that are very short in duration or that occur close in time to the scheduled sale may not immediately be reflected in the telephone information or on the Internet Web site. The best way to verify postponement information is to attend the scheduled sale. NOTICE TO TENANT: You may have a right to purchase this property after the trustee auction pursuant to Section 2924m of the California Civil Code. If you are an 'eligible tenant buyer,' you can purchase the property if you match the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. If you are an 'eligible bidder,' you

may be able to purchase the property if you exceed the last and highest bid placed at the trustee auction. There are three steps to exercising this right of purchase. First, 48 hours after the date of the trustee sale, you can call (844) 477-7869, or visit this Internet Web site WWW.STOXPOSTING.COM for information, using the file number assigned to this case: 25-11057 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 an 'eligible tenant buyer' or 'eligible bidder,' you should consider contacting an attorney or appropriate real estate professional immediately for advice regarding this potential right to purchase. DATE: September 04, 2026 ALLIED TRUSTEE SERVICES, Trustee TANYA HALL, Authorized Signature Published 9/25/2026, 10/2/2026, 10/9/2026
ELK GROVE CITIZEN 10-9-26



CITY OF ELK GROVE - ORDINANCE NO. 09-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELK GROVE AMENDING ELK GROVE MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 16.88 (AFFORDABLE HOUSING FEE FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT) AND CHAPTER 16.89 (AFFORDABLE HOUSING FEE FOR NEW NONRESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT). The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend Elk Grove Municipal Code Chapter 16.88 (Affordable Housing Fee for New Residential Development) and Chapter 16.89 (Affordable Housing Fee for New Nonresidential Development) to update fee structures to align with requirements of new state legislation including AB 602 and provide a more consistent basis for calculating fees across different residential and nonresidential development types. The changes also reflect the City Council's desire to extend the Affordable Housing Fee Program to include household incomes ranging from very low-income (less than 30% of Area Median Income) to moderate-income (less than 120% of the Area Median Income) households in order to address an expanded need for affordable housing caused by both new residential and nonresidential development in the City. Introduced September 23, 2026; to be adopted October 14, 2026. **AYES: SINGH-ALLEN, BREWER, ROBLES, SPEASE; NOES: NONE; ABSENT: SUEN.**

Jason Lindgren, City Clerk, City of Elk Grove, October 2, 2026
A certified copy of this ordinance is available by request; email cityclerk@elkgrove.gov

Elk Grove Citizen 10-2-2026

**NOTICE OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 3, 2026 in the CITY OF ELK GROVE**

NOMINEES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to California Elections Code §12110 that the following persons have been nominated for the offices mentioned below to be filled at the General Municipal Election to be held in the City of Elk Grove on the 3rd day of November, 2026:

COUNCIL MEMBER - DISTRICT 4

Peggy Parks
Sergio D. Robles

(All Vote Center locations will be open on November 3, 2026 between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., and regional Vote Centers will available from October 24 - November 3, 2026)

The City of Elk Grove held a special meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. and Resolution No. 2026-173 was adopted appointing the lone nominees to the offices of Mayor and Council Member - District 2.

Dated/Published: October 2, 2026
JASON LINDGREN
CITY CLERK, CITY OF ELK GROVE

Elk Grove Citizen 10-2-2026

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Board of Education of the Elk Grove Unified School District, County of Sacramento, State of California, will receive sealed Requests for Qualification/Proposals (RFPs) up to but no later than **November 13, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. PST.**

RFP# 837-26/27 – SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, RECYCLING, AND ORGANICS SERVICES

The RFP must be obtained, submitted, and received online through the EGUSD Online Bonfire Procurement Portal: <https://egusd.bonfirehub.com>.

RFPs will not be opened or read publicly and will be opened in accordance with the procedures set forth in Public Contract Code Section 1601.

The District reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs received in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities in the RFPs or bidding, and to be the sole judge of the suitability of products and services being offered.

For assistance, please contact Kevin McCormick at kmmccorm@egusd.net or by phone at (916) 686-7773.

Kevin McCormick
Buyer II
Elk Grove Unified School District

Elk Grove Citizen 10-2, 10-9-2026

ELK GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE TO PROPOSERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Board of Education of the Elk Grove Unified School District, County of Sacramento, State of California, will receive sealed Requests for Qualification/Proposals (RFPs) up to but no later than October 30, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. PST.

RFP# 838-26/27 – LARGE KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

The RFP must be obtained, submitted, and received online through the EGUSD Online Bonfire Procurement Portal: <https://egusd.bonfirehub.com>.

RFPs will not be opened or read publicly and will be opened in accordance with the procedures set forth in Public Contract Code Sections 20112 and 1601.

The District reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs received in whole or in part, to waive any irregularities in the RFPs or bidding, and to be the sole judge of the suitability of products and services being offered.

For assistance, please contact Kevin McCormick at kmmccorm@egusd.net or by phone at (916) 686-7773.

Kevin McCormick
Buyer II
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Elk Grove Citizen 10-2, 10-9-2026

**City of Elk Grove – City Council
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**ENGINEER’S REPORT AND SUPPLEMENT NO. 11
CONCERNING STREET MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS IN
DISTRICT 1, ZONE 2-K (LAGUNA AREA)
FOR THE DUNISCH SUBDIVISION PROJECT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, **November 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the City Hall, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, California, the City Council of the City of Elk Grove shall hold a public hearing on the Engineer’s Report and a supplement thereto prepared and filed in connection with proposed street maintenance assessments on property identified in the report as supplemented. The City has mailed a notice to each affected property owner specifying the amount of the proposed assessment on the owner’s property. At the public hearing, the City Council shall hear and consider all protests.

Dated / Published: October 2, 2026 and October 9, 2026

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 10-2, 10-9-2026

**City of Elk Grove – City Council
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**CONCERNING STORM WATER DRAINAGE FEE ZONE 2 ASSESSMENTS
ANNEXATION NO. 79 INTO STORM WATER DRAINAGE FEE ZONE 2
FOR THE DUNISCH SUBDIVISION PROJECT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, **November 18, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the City Hall, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, California, the City Council of the City of Elk Grove shall hold a public hearing prepared and filed in connection with proposed Storm Water Drainage Fee Zone 2 assessments on properties identified in the resolution of intent adopted on September 23, 2026. The City has mailed a notice to each affected property owner specifying the amount of the proposed assessment on the owner’s property. At the public hearing, the City Council shall hear and consider all protests.

Dated / Published: October 2, 2026 and October 9, 2026

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 10-2, 10-9-2026

POLICE LOGS

Sept. 21
1:01 p.m., 9100 block of Franklin Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Lilly Stepanian, 62, on trespassing charges.

4:39 p.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Dominique Kemp, 40, on domestic violence, assault with force likely to cause great bodily injury and child endangerment charges.

Sept. 22
6:23 a.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Tianna Giselle Diaz, 26, on domestic violence and warrant charges.

7:46 p.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Tony Ferris, 32, on domestic violence charges.

Sept. 23
12:17 a.m., East Stockton Boulevard/Calle Entrada, Elk Grove Police arrested Christopher Gordillo, 36, on warrant charges.

6:58 a.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Krista Bauer, 33, on domestic violence charges.
8:57 a.m., 8100 block of Sheldon Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Dale Johnson, 44, on trespassing

charges.
9:52 a.m., 9300 block of Pascal Way, Elk Grove Police arrested Anthony Rodriguez, 18, on warrant charges.
4 p.m., 10000 block of Franklin Road, Elk Grove Police arrested a male juvenile, 16; and a male juvenile, 14, on robbery and warrant charges.
4:39 p.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Emily Rodriguez, 29, on domestic violence and warrant charges.

Sept. 24
6:48 p.m., 8800 block of Heathermist Way, Elk Grove Police arrested

Edward Henderson, 56, on assault with a deadly weapon charges.
8:30 p.m., 9100 block of East Stockton Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Marvin Roe, 54, on petty theft with priors charges.
10:24 p.m., 9100 block of East Stockton Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Bharat Bharat, 27, on indecent exposure and public intoxication charges.

Sept. 25
11:53 a.m., 8600 block of Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Jeffrey Thomas, 40, on shoplifting charges.

11:09 p.m., Grant Line Road/Bradshaw Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Yusuof Ghafari, 20, on reckless evasion charges.

Sept. 26
1:50 a.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Emily Rodriguez, 29; and Rakshit Kumar, 28, on violation of restraining order, domestic violence, assault with force likely

to cause great bodily injury and parole violation charges.
9:20 a.m., 8100 block of Pond Brook Way, Elk Grove Police arrested Angelo Mayo, 23, on possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession with priors charges.
4:20 p.m., 7500 block of Laguna Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Alexis Larrouy, 31, on grand theft charges.
6:21 p.m., confidential location, Elk Grove Police arrested Daniel McKay, 27, on domestic violence, child endangerment and violation of restraining order charges.
7:03 p.m., 7400 block of Laguna Boulevard, Elk Grove Police arrested Antwanisha Johnson, 32; Kimberly Johnson, 45; and Veronica Gonzalez, 43; on shoplifting and warrant charges.
8:25 p.m., Sheldon Road/Sheldon Creek Drive, Elk Grove Police arrested Kimberly Johnson,

45, on hit and run/non-injury charges.
8:44 p.m., 8700 block of Cling Court, Elk Grove Police arrested Eric Walker, 35, on burglary, possession of controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia charges.

Sept. 27
3:58 a.m., Highway 99/Grant Line Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Ruth Corona, 46, on possession of controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and unlawful use of tear gas charges.

5:10 a.m., Promenade Parkway/Kammerer Road, Elk Grove Police arrested Natalia Hernandez, 48, on possession of methamphetamine for sale and possession of drug paraphernalia charges.
6:55 p.m., 5100 block of Surreyglen Way, Elk Grove Police arrested Breianna Gray, 32, on warrant charges.

10:52 p.m., Lotz Parkway/Laguna Springs Drive, Elk Grove Police arrested Christopher Wilson, 39, on possession of controlled substance and warrant charges. ★

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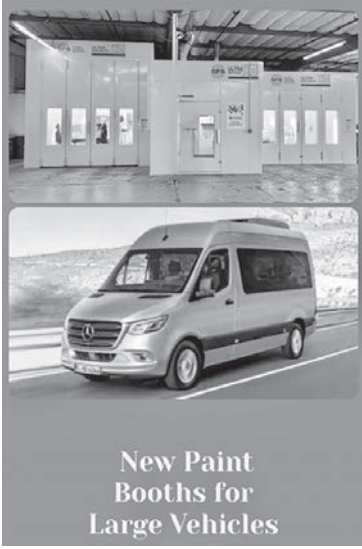
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CLUES

ACROSS

1. Trampled

5. Dashboard unit, acr.

8. "Be quiet," onomatopoeically speaking

11. Clean the whiteboard, e.g.

12. Morally wicked

13. Former anesthetic

15. Bad luck precursor

16. Banned apple spray

17. "Ringo Starr's instrument, pl.

18. "Home of the bagpipes

20. Big one, at 7-Eleven

21. Contemplate

22. Jewelry stone

23. Hindu queens

26. Something earned

30. Tokyo, formerly

31. "Riddim pair music genre

34. Spock's famous body parts

35. "Animal, source of violin bow strings

37. Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf ____

38. Away from port (2 words)

39. Not much (2 words)

40. Post-graduate journey?

42. Always, to a poet

43. Baby bear (2 words)

45. Beach-comber's collection

47. Cholera

48. Popular pie nut

50. Glazier's unit

52. "Flute player

55. Pointy teeth

56. 36 inches

57. Sticky stuff

59. Hot ____ buns

60. Code word for K

61. Mauritania's Eastern neighbor

62. Soda pop container

63. Ems follower

64. Highest point

DOWN

1. *Piano has at least ____ pedals

2. Part of a glass, pl.

3. Leading oil-producers' grp.

4. Indicate

5. Home to Teatro alla Scala

6. Popular core exercise

7. Deer social group

8. Synagogue

9. Cannabiss plant

10. Store posting, abbr.

12. Old-fashioned carry-on bag

13. Straight ones in drafter's toolbox

14. *Louis Armstrong's instrument

19. "And Then ____ Were None"

22. "Wow!"

23. User's "getaway"

24. Sun-dried brick

25. Water wheel

26. Intense anger

27. Painter's prop

28. Angler's basket

29. Former Russian leaders

32. Snatch

33. Toothy fish

36. *Lute family instruments

38. "Perfect" Buddhist

40. Theatrical prompt

41. Former Portuguese money

44. Edible herb

46. Brain teaser

48. Like average Jane

49. British peers

50. Prefix for "beyond"

51. Any minute, arch.

52. Type of fish net

53. Daytime TV program

54. Enameled metalware

55. Federal Communications Commission

58. *Standard number of strings on guitar

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Rowing to Join the Mid-American Conference for the Upcoming 2027 Season

Sacramento State Athletics News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Mid-American Conference (MAC) announced on Sept. 23 that Sacramento State will join the league as an affiliate member in women's rowing beginning with the upcoming 2027 season.

Sacramento State becomes the MAC's seventh women's rowing program, joining Delaware, Eastern Michigan, High Point, Massachusetts, Temple and Toledo.

"I am pleased to welcome Sacramento State to the Mid-American Conference as an affiliate member in women's rowing," said MAC Commissioner Dr. Jon A. Steinbrecher. "The Hornets bring an established program, a strong competitive tradition and a commitment to excellence that will strengthen our championship field. We look forward to having Sacramento State compete for a MAC championship beginning in 2027."

Previously, Sacramento State Rowing had been affiliate members of the WCC (2025-26) - the only conference on the West Coast that currently sponsors rowing. The affiliate membership concluded, creating an opportunity for the Hornets to find a new conference home. The MAC is a



The Hornets compete at the Sacramento State Aquatic Center, considered one of the finest rowing venues in the country. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

nationally respected conference that will provide Hornet student-athletes with a memorable championship experience. Prior to the WCC, the Hornets were also members of the American Athletic Conference (2015-24), and Conference USA (2014).

"Joining the MAC as an affiliate member is an exciting next step for Sacramento State Rowing, and a tremendous opportunity for our student-athletes," Director of Athletics Mark Orr said. "The MAC provides a competitive conference setting and will give our

student-athletes the opportunity to compete for a championship alongside respected programs from across the country. We are grateful to the MAC for welcoming the Hornets, and look forward to competing in the conference and continuing to build Sacramento State Rowing on a national level."

The MAC held its inaugural Women's Rowing Championship this past May at Ford Lake in Ypsilanti, Mich. Massachusetts swept all five races to become the league's first champion and earn the MAC's first automatic berth

to the NCAA Women's Rowing Championship. The 2027 MAC Women's Rowing Championship will take place May 15 at Ford Lake.

"I could not be happier to join such a strong and respected conference as the MAC," Sacramento State head coach Sarah Puddicombe said. "This is an exciting opportunity for our rowing program, and our student-athletes who will have the chance to compete for a conference championship against crews from across the country. We look forward to building

new rivalries, representing Sacramento State on a national stage, and being part of the MAC rowing community."

The Hornets' rowing program gained intercollegiate status in 1995, and had not been affiliated with an NCAA-sanctioned conference until joining Conference USA in 2014. Prior to 2014, Sacramento State had been a member of the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association (WIRA) from 1995-2013.

The Hornets compete at the Sacramento State Aquatic Center, considered one of the finest rowing venues in the country. The site has hosted many regional and national events, including the NCAA Women's Rowing Championship nine times.

Puddicombe is currently in her first season as the Hornets' head coach, taking over for long-time coach Mike Connors who recently retired. Puddicombe spent the previous three seasons as the Hornets' assistant coach. She was a two-time All-American coxswain at UC Davis, a three-time team captain, and won an NCAA national championship as both an athlete and coach.

The Hornets' fall schedule begins Oct. 24 at the Head of the American which will be held at the Sacramento State Aquatic Center. ★

Gbatu, Jr., Connors and Jones Named Big Sky Players of the Week

UC Davis Athletics News Release

FARMINGTON, UT (MPG) - Three Aggies were named Big Sky Players of the Week after UC Davis dominated Stetson 45-7 in its 2026 home opener on Sept. 19 at UC Davis Health Stadium. Samuel Gbatu, Jr. was named Big Sky Offensive Player of the Week, Porter Connors was named Big Sky Defensive Player of the Week and Zach Jones was named Big Sky Special Teams Player of the Week.

For UC Davis, it marked the second time ever the Aggies have swept the weekly Big Sky Player of the Week Awards. The first time came when Hunter Rodrigues (Offensive), Cole Hansen (Defensive) and Isaiah Thomas (Special Teams) swept the awards in Week 4 of the 2020-21 COVID-shortened season.

Gbatu, Jr. showed why he is one of the best players in the country yet again, setting new career-highs in receptions (10) and receiving yards (172) on Saturday night. The wide receiver broke free from the



Three Aggies were named Big Sky Players of the Week after UC Davis dominated Stetson 45-7 in its 2026 home opener on Sept. 19 at UC Davis Health Stadium. Photo courtesy of UC Davis Athletics

Stetson defense throughout the evening, including a 46-yard touchdown from Treyvor Cleeland in the first quarter. This score was also his 25th career receiving touchdown, which ties him with Charley Enos for fourth in school history. It also marked his third 100+ yard receiving game this year, and his 12th career game with 100+ receiving yards.

Connors had his way defensively for the Aggies on Saturday night as the linebacker finished with a game-high 10 tackles, four of which were solo, one tackle for loss (-2 yards) and one forced fumble. The performance marked the sixth time in his career and second time this season he has finished with ten total tackles or more. The forced fumble was his first of his

career. The tackle for loss was his second this season.

Jones electrified the UC Davis crowd during its home opener on Saturday night as the senior became the first Aggie in the modern era to return two punts for a touchdown in a single game. First, the Daly City native returned a punt 79 yards for a touchdown at 8:59 in the opening quarter, putting UC Davis up 21-0.

The touchdown marked the Aggies' first punt return for a touchdown since Trent Tompkins returned a punt 85 yards at San Diego on Sept. 11, 2021. It was also the fifth-longest (79 yards) punt return touchdown in school history. Jones also showed out in the second half, returning a second punt for a touchdown at 3:07 in the third quarter to make it 38-0 in favor of

the Aggies. In total, Jones finished with 140 punt return yards against Stetson, a new school record for a single game. It also marked a new career-high for Jones.

For updates and more information on UC Davis football, follow the Aggies on X @UCDFootball, on Instagram @ucdavisfootball and on Facebook @ucdavisfootball. ★

Meet the Inaugural Next Gen STEM Scholarship Winner

Sacramento Republic FC News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - During the Sept. 12 Back to School Night match, Republic FC teamed up with The PG&E Corporation Foundation to recognize the first-ever Next Gen STEM Scholarship recipient.

For Miguel Camacho Zamorano, engineering is more than a career goal. It's a way to make a difference.

A recent graduate of Cordova High School, Miguel has already spent years putting his passion for engineering into action. From designing sensory and educational tools for neurodivergent students, to developing an innovative solution for flooding and pollution in the American River, he has used STEM to address real world challenges in his school and community.



During the Sept. 12 Back to School Night match, Republic FC teamed up with The PG&E Corporation Foundation to recognize Miguel Camacho Zamorano as the first-ever Next Gen STEM Scholarship recipient. Photo courtesy of Republic FC

"This experience helped me connect more with my community by using what I love, engineering, to give back. It made me feel accomplished and as if my hard work from all my years had paid off," said Miguel. "Besides that, it taught me

the process of community outreach and the importance of the design process in engineering projects. All-in-all, it helped me solidify and realize why I want to do engineering as I want to help the world, whether directly or indirectly."

Miguel now attends Folsom Lake College and has big goals that go beyond his local involvement.

"I want to graduate from community college and then transfer to a four-year college to major in aerospace engineering," he said. "After college, my goals are to work in an aerospace company and work on rocket propulsion systems. With aerospace engineering, I want to work on projects that will help humans advance in life and show that no matter what your situation is or what hardships you've faced, you can achieve your biggest dreams. I say this because not just aerospace engineering, but it is a difficult field to get into and achieve success in."

Republic FC is now accepting applications for the annual El Futuro Scholarship. To apply or learn more visit SacRepublicFC.com/Scholarship. ★

Briggs' Trip From Sacramento to the NFL



Lance Briggs lines up for play. Photos courtesy of the Chicago Bears

By Nathan Felix Valencia

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - Before the University of Arizona Wildcats played the Brigham Young University Cougars on Sept. 12, BYUtv aired an episode Sept. 8 about Arizona alumnus Lance Briggs' childhood and upbringing.

He is a Sacramento native who played football at Elk Grove High School. The start of his football career began with the South Sacramento Vikings youth football team. But a three-year suspension for the Vikings led Briggs' mother Brenda to put him in the Elk Grove Thundering Herd youth program.

His mother kept him there even when the Vikings were no longer on suspension. That led him to Elk Grove High School where he faced adversity as a freshman: He was unable to play because of poor grades. He had to retake classes just to be able to play football again.

"I was surrounded by a strong community in high school," Briggs said, with support to right wrongs and "have a chance to leave Elk Grove and possibly go onto the next level."

He had 100 tackles and five sacks on defense his senior year, while rushing for 1,574 yards on 139 carries as a running back. He rushed 26 times for 315 yards and six touchdowns in a Section Championship game. The Sacramento Bee named him Player of the Year and a Super Prep Far West Top 12 prospect



No. 55 Lance Briggs, right, with teammate Brian Urlacher.

before his illustrious career at the University of Arizona.

He was named First Team All-Pac-10 player there three straight years (2000-2002).

The NFL's Chicago Bears drafted Briggs in the third round, and he would team up with Hall-of-Fame linebacker Brian Urlacher to create one of the best linebacker duos in NFL history.

Briggs played for 12 seasons. He was a Pro Bowler seven times, First Team All-Pro twice (2005, 2006) and played in the 2007 Super Bowl.

The Chicago Bears rank him as a top 10 linebacker in organization history behind all-time greats like Dick Butkus, Urlacher, Bill George and Mike

Singletary.

Once his career was over, he came back to Sacramento and started the Briggs4Kids Foundation where he hosted football camps to give back to the kids in the greater Sacramento area.

"So many kids have gone on to play at high levels," Briggs said. "It's awesome. I get these messages, 'Hey, I was at your camp and now this is where I am at.'"

He is still giving back to the younger generation by coaching high school and youth football in Arizona.

He credits his mother for this new chapter of his life, manifesting what she said in the BYUtv episode: "Who you are is God's gift to you ... what you do with it is your gift to God." ★

Homecoming Season Gets Underway



Pleasant Grove's D.J. Oropeza, No. 22, and Mason Tamburo, No. 72, chase Laguna Creek quarterback Jayden Debbs, No. 5.

Story and photos by Nathan Felix Valencia

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - It was not just the start of league play for Delta League high school football, but the start of homecoming season, too. Pleasant Grove High School and Franklin High School played their homecoming games Sept. 25. A little more was on the line as both schools were looking to start league competition strong while winning their homecoming games. Both teams succeeded.

Pleasant Grove's Eagles took on Laguna Creek High School, where the Eagles were 1-3 coming into this game and the Cardinals were 1-2. The Cardinals came out strong and led at halftime 21-7. Although Pleasant Grove was behind, they did their best to avoid losing.

The Eagles fought back, scoring on offense while stopping Laguna Creek, and slowly clawed their way back to tie the game in the fourth quarter. In the final minutes of the game, the Eagles scored to take the lead 28-21. Laguna Creek made one last push to score but failed. Pleasant Grove improved to 2-3 on the season while Laguna Creek fell to 1-3.

Cosumnes Oaks vs. Franklin

The Cosumnes Oaks High School Wolfpack traveled to Franklin High School, and just like Pleasant Grove, the Franklin Wildcats were looking to start

league competition strong and win their homecoming game. Franklin was looking to get above .500, while the Cosumnes Oaks Wolfpack was looking to improve, too. The Wildcats came into the game ready. Coming out strong and taking the lead early, they never looked back. They finished the first quarter with a 22-0 lead and led 43-0 at halftime. The Wolfpack continued to fight but lost 50-7. Franklin improved to 3-2 on the season. Cosumnes Oaks dropped to 1-4.

Monterey Trail vs. Elk Grove

Monterey Trail High School was on the road against Elk Grove High School. Although this was not a homecoming game, both teams wanted a win to start league competition. Elk Grove's Thundering Herd was looking for their first win on the season, while Monterey Trail was 2-1, hoping to extend a two-game winning streak. The Mustangs scored 14 points to start the game, but Elk Grove cut the lead before halftime. Monterey Trail then broke the game open in the third quarter. Scoring three touchdowns to Elk Grove's one, the Thundering Herd was unable to overcome the deficit, losing 55-32. Elk Grove dropped to 0-5, while Monterey Trail improved to 3-1.

Sheldon High School's Huskies did not play. They were getting ready for their homecoming game Oct. 2 against Pleasant Grove. ★

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