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Land Park News

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Panama Art Factory tenants asked to vacate studios, retail yard to stay open for business

See page 7

State Fair Calendar of Events.....10
Faces & Places 12
Farm & Flavor 15
Home Improvement 18
What's Happening 21

Re-Connect with your inner wild child at the Sacramento Zoo

See page 5





Sacramentans came together for InterDependence Day on July 4 at Southside Park

See page 22



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Celebrating the Fourth of July with The Sacramento Youth Band

Story and photo by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

As we celebrate the birth of our nation, The Sacramento Youth Band played the traditional patriotic standards on Saturday, July 1 on the lawn at Parkside Community Church as the nonprofit organization itself hits a milestone -- 60 years in the community providing music education to hundreds of students.

The nonprofit consists of a concert band, a marching band and three jazz bands and a junior band. Since 1957, the Sacramento Youth Band has been educating and inspiring young musicians, providing them with a place to meet new friends, expand their musical abilities, and travel to exciting places like Disneyland, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara and Discovery Kingdom. Recently, the youth band sponsored an elementary school outreach program at Genevieve Didion K-8 School and at Pony Express and Caroline Wenzel elementary schools.

Cooking up about 100 hot dogs at the Saturday evening event, volunteer Kevin Doohan said he and his family have been helping out at the fireworks booth, which has been located there on the corner of South Land Park Drive and 35th Avenue. His soon-to-be step daughter, Olivia Duffek, carries the band's banner around at various events and his daughter Kayleigh Doohan, 9, hopes to join the

See Band, page 3

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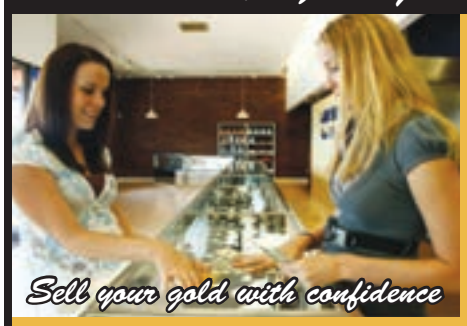
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Band:

Continued from page 2

band playing drums when she's a little older.

On and off for the last 25 years as the nonprofit's president, Mike Duffek said he started in the youth band when he was 13 years old, 44 years ago. As cuts to the arts continue in the traditional school setting, he said the outreach program has become an important niche for the nonprofit. "We have an outlet," Mike Duffek said. And especially in the summer when many music students put down their instruments, the youth band provides extra re-enforcement. "We're busy in the summer," he said, adding that students come back to school in the fall three months ahead of everyone else.

Attendee Nicole Welch played baritone and tenor saxophone with the band in the 1980s, and on Saturday, brought her 8-year-old daughter Natalie for some musical inspiration. "She really likes music a lot. For her second grade career day, she said she wanted to be a college music teacher without even knowing how to play music. So, I think that means she has a love for music." Welch played music through high school and beyond. Raised in a private school setting where the music program was smaller than other schools, Nicole said the Sacramento Youth Band filled that void for her. "For me, I went to a private school; we didn't have a real big music program, so this was a really great way in getting involved with music and this was a real big part of my life. I was in the jazz band, concert band, and then I went to John F. Kennedy, so I made a lot of friends in this band that I wound up going to high school with." Daughter Natalie just may be a member of the next generation of musicians that make up the widely successful Sacramento Youth Band. Nicole to her daughter: "You might have to learn how to read music before we start teaching it."

For those who are interested in learning more about the Sacramento Youth Band, check out http://syb.my-event.com

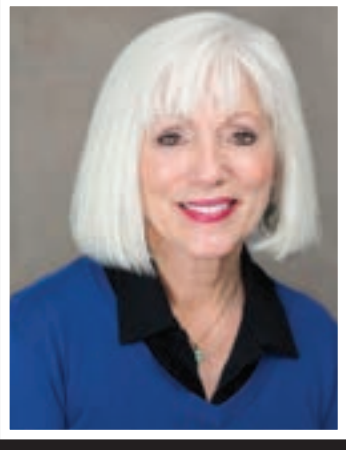












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landparkhomes.com



SO. LAND PARK TERRACE

Great curb appeal on this four bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home. It features vaulted ceilings in the entry and living room, formal dining area, updated kitchen w/ granite counter tops, tiled back splash and stainless steel appliances, three bedrooms down with 1 1/2 baths, upstairs master suite plus two bonus rooms that serve as an office and media area, backyard patio and office behind the 2 car detached garage.

5201 Del Rio Road $725,000



RIVERWIND PLACE

This beautiful 4 bedroom 3 bath home features a contemporary floor plan. Formal living room, formal dining area, spacious kitchen w/ stainless steel appliances, family room with fireplace, bonus office or den, plantation shutters, dual heat pumps and a three car garage.

664 Castle River Way $529,000



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Photo by Stephen Crowley
Valley Community Newspapers ad representatives Melissa Andrews and Linda Pohl enjoy the sunshine outside of the new office, located at 1109 Markham Way.

Valley Community Newspapers moves down the street to Markham Way

Earlier this spring, Valley Community Newspapers publisher David Herburger decided to close the Riverside Boulevard office but before the doors were shut and after just a couple of months, commercial real estate mogul Dave Macko (son of George Macko, former publisher) provided a quaint office at 1109 Markham Way for longtime VCN ad representatives Linda Pohl and Melissa Andrews. We always knew Linda had a creative side. She proudly painted the business sign that hangs from the eaves and brought a patio set for chats with clients and friends.

While is the office is considerably smaller, the staff remains tiny but mighty. To reach Linda or Melissa, the phone number remains the same, 429-9901, as do business hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For questions on story submissions, call the editorial desk at 267-8992 or email editor@valcomnews.com.

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Re-Connect with your inner wild child at the Sacramento Zoo

By BIA RIAZ
bia@valcomnews.com

A day at the zoo is a time tested and true way to spend a fun day with the kids in Land Park. From the roaming majestic lions, the cool curiosities of the reptile house, to the quick fennec fox, and the pretty pink flamingos at the pond by Kampala Cafe,´ the zoo is a land of wonder and amazement perfect for all ages.

Closing time is always a challenge as you fend off sad eyes and tear filled-pleas of "one more visit to the giraffe!" or, "I didn't see the sloth!," and reassure them with a promise of "next time." As you make your way past the gates and head home, you can't help but wonder what it would be like to frolic the fourteen acre park after-hours without having to chaperone the kids. You could visit with all those magical wild things, ride the carousel, enjoy something other than a shared kids meal at the cafe, and really explore to your heart's content.

After all, you are sure the snow leopard still had some secrets to share and the lemurs had party plans for the evening. Admit it, sometimes you feel the tiniest bit envious of all the fun kids have at the zoo, while you as the responsible adult, makes sure they stay with the group, eat something healthy, don't lose their favorite souvenir, and get to visit with the critters they love best. Luckily, the folks at Sacramento Zoo, for the first time ever, have created a very special and unique event designed for you to play like a kid, and party like an adult.

Reimagining the "Little Zoo in the Park"

On Saturday, July 29, the Sacramento Zoo will close at 1:30 p.m. to set up for the 21and over Wild Games event. It's an evening dedicated to celebrating everything we loved as kids in an all new grown up way. At 5 p.m., the gates will reopen and guests will have access to the grounds. You can visit all the animals and explore a variety of activities and games designed to tempt and entertain your inner child. You can dive into an adult size bounce house, get your face painted, enjoy a giant game of beer pong, race your friends on the classic carousel, try on inflatable sumo wrestler costumes, and challenge your foes to a battle. Your inner dancer can let loose as the deejay spins some tunes, or grab a hula hoop and enjoy the performance art moves of the Resolute Circles hoop dance troupe. All that dancing and bouncing and wrestling is sure to make you hungry and thirsty.

Have no fear, The Kampala Cafe´ will be open and the chef will be serving delicious food to appease your wild appetite. Admission to the event will include one adult beverage. Food, beer and wine will also be available for purchase.

From its humble early beginnings in 1927 as a small neighborhood zoo in Land Park with 40 animals, the Sacramento Zoo has transformed into a remarkable organization inspiring appreciation, respect and a connection with wildlife and nature through education, recreation and conservation. According to Tonja Candelaria, public relations coordinator, "It's an exciting year for the Sacramento Zoo as we celebrate our 90th birthday in 2017. The Wild Games event, along with the strategic plan for rebranding, highlights the efforts to reinvent the space and habitat for visitors of all ages to explore and enjoy." Tonja also noted that guests of the Wild Games event will notice many of the crepuscular animals will be more active and visible during the dusk hours and reasonable temperatures.

As part of the new plan, unveiled at the 90th birthday celebration in June and detailed on their website, the feline and great apes habitats will be upgraded, a new shade structure will be created for the aardvarks and the fennec fox, and two new aviaries will be constructed. Additionally, "The first major Master Plan project will be a Biodiversity Center, where the zoo plans to completely transform the current Reptile House into a unique Center where the secret worlds of reptiles and amphibians will be revealed alongside other animal groups, including fish, invertebrates and perhaps even the tiniest of mammals and birds. Other equally innovative projects will follow in phases over the next 20 years."

Wild Games is a 21 and over only event. Discounted tickets are available through July 23rd. A portion of the proceeds from Wild Games will go directly to the SAFE - Saving Animals From Extinction's Western Pond Turtle Conservation program.

For more details & ticket purchase see https://www.saczoo.org/visit/event-calendar/wild-games/



If you go:

What: Wild Games, a 21 and older event geared to bring out the wild child in you
When: Saturday, July 29 at 5 p.m.
Cost: Early Bird Ticket Prices, through July 23, $25. Sacramento Zoo members receive $2 off per ticket. General prices from July 24 until the event, $30
Address: 3930 West Land Park Drive, Sacramento
Info: 808-5888; saczoo.org





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Citizens on the March: the Resistance

By LEIGH STEPHENS

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

-The First Amendment to The Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution

Since President Trump's inauguration in January, millions of Americans across the nation's cities have taken to the streets to voice their opinions on government programs and regulations that the Trump Administration is attempting to change or eliminate. Resistance groups say *silence is consent*!

Those who voted for Trump are finding that most of his campaign promises are now reversed and benefit only the most wealthy who are getting the proposed tax cut benefits. The majority of those he appointed to his cabinet are billionaires and millionaires, mostly older white men who appear to care less for the middle-class or the poor.

Since the Trump Administration has come to power, a razor-edged nationalist movement has swept America, pushing white supremacist views and hate crimes. Many immigrants, the LBGT Community, Blacks, and Muslims now live in fear.

Activism, advocacy and understanding governmental systems-civics are the topics of the day. Sacramento and surrounding communities' Indivisible and Resistance groups are discussing immigrant issues, civil rights, continued health care, women's rights, environmental protection, and economic parity.

Whichever side of an issue you support or whatever political party or organization you belong to, these changes are going to or already have affected your life.

Since the beginning of 2017, Sacramento and national events have included the Women's March, the March for Science and others. An Impeachment March is planned for Sunday, July 2, 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at the California State Capitol.

Several Sacramento/Elk Grove resistance group leaders speak out:

Patri Lawson, Lead, Indivisible Don't Go Gently:

"I feel our very democracy is in jeopardy. First, the Indivisibles should do all that is possible to gain a majority in the house and/or senate in their states and in Washington. I think the Indivisible Movement can and should nurture a constant, relentless, powerful voice for progressive values.

"I was devastated when Trump was elected and then throughout the transition as he elevated incompetence and continues to spread hatred and fear. I believe this man neither understands nor cares about our nation.

"When I started to hear about the Indivisible Movement, I had to take action. I could not sit by and watch our nation lose its ways so dramatically. There are so many daily wrongs that Indivisibles must keep their focus on the most important issues.

"I think the constant phone calls, letters, posts, protest marches, Facebook posts, and town hall events have made us realize that we cannot take anything for granted. We must maintain a constant focus on those things that are most likely to cause the nation to stop supporting him or impeach him sooner rather than later.

"I believe the Trump administration's Russian connection, his personal investment conflicts-of-interest, and his uninformed views of foreign policy are major concerns. His distain for the judicial system, and freedom of the press erode the very cornerstones of our democracy."

Jaclyn Moreno, lead, The Resistance, Sacramento/Elk Grove:

"After Trump won the election on November 8, I woke up on November 9 with my worldview and my expectations for this country completely shattered. Trump did not and does not embody what I believe this country was previously moving toward – a more inclusive place to live where kindness matters.

"I began searching for something I could do to affect change. I wrote my daughters a letter saying, 'Just because we have a president that is a bigot and a bully, doesn't mean we have to subscribe to that type of behavior. In fact it's more important than ever for us to take a stand. We will not go backwards.'

"With these words in my mind, I bought plane tickets to the Woman's March in Washington, DC for my two daughters and my mom. We are three generations of women who were determined to take a stand on January 21, joining the millions of other women worldwide.

"After that day I was energized and wanted to do more. The *Indivisible Guide* made its was to my Twitter account. From there I texted two friends to see if they'd be interested in meeting to talk about what else we could do. I started a Facebook page and created an event. At our first meeting in early February we had more than 100 people attend!

"Our goals for the Elk Grove Resistance are to keep our members of Congress accountable at the local, state, and national level, and to engage in community outreach events to lend support to the most vulnerable members of our communities.

"Recent activities include: organized rallies at the office of our member of Congress (Bera); monthly group meetings like Kimberley Ellis speaking on Healthcare SB562, and California Dreamers speaking on DACA; and ICE OUT OF CALIFORNIA protest June 9.

Laurie Blanchard, Lead, Sacramento Indivisible916:

"Before the election, I thought doing a little campaigning, reading up a bit and voting was somehow enough. But as it turns out, it's not even close. The Sacramento Women's March activated me. I wanted more of that feeling that if men and women banded together and showed up in mass, it could make a difference, and it did!

"Some Indivisible/Resistance groups are just online and never meet in public. Other groups meet every week. Some are seven friends who meet for coffee and write letters to members of Congress. One group of women in the foothills has as many as 350 people showing up for their meetings.

"Our group encourages a visit to your Congressional member's office to register how you feel on certain positions. Go to town hall meetings, write letters and make phone calls. We are acting as our own lobbyists. One person can't have much influence, but when a million of us make our voices hears, if they want to re-elected, they have to listen.

"We are working together because we believe Donald Trump and his advisers are a physical threat to our democracy and to the ideals of our country.

"In the last month alone, we phone-banked for Rob Quist; participated in 'How to Get Involved' community event hosted by Assemblyman Kevin McCarty; marched in Anti-Fracking March; volunteered at the California Democratic Convention; protested in front of the FBI building when Comey was fired; and we are going to San Francisco to hear Elizabeth Warren speak.

"In this last month alone, we phone-banked for Rob Quist; participated in 'How to Get Involved' community event hosted by Assemblyman Kevin McCarty; marched in the Anti-Fracking March; volunteered at the California Democratic Convention; protested in front of the FBI building when Comey was fired; and we are going to San Francisco to hear Elizabeth Warren speak.

"Indivisible916 welcomes you to join. We are non-partisan. We invite Republicans, Independents, Green, Democrats or Progressives to join. If you are unhappy with the direction this administration is taking the country, you're welcome in our chapter. We are not paid protesters, we are your neighbors; we are your friends."

Leigh Stephens is a member of Indivisibles Don't Go Gently.



Panama Art Factory tenants asked to vacate studios, retail yard to stay open for business

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com



Photo by Monica Stark

Ten days to vacate. Met with that message upon arrival to their artist studios at the Panama Art Factory on the afternoon of Friday, July 7, tenants spread shock waves across social media asking their legions of friends and supporters where might they house their art supplies.

The City of Sacramento Community Development Department posted a laundry list of building violations from shoddy electrical and building artist studios within the old factory without a permit.

Artist Sandy Whetstone said she received a call from her studio mate that tenants were being asked to vacate. Shortly thereafter, she arrived to her studio and witnessed city staff posting the notices.

Meanwhile, building owner Dave DeCamilla told the Land Park News artists would be smart if they do not vacate. DeCamilla put a call into Council Member Jay Schenirer's office asking him to stop the evictions and to take a closer look at the safety of the building. "No one is vacating, first of all. If they're smart. No one is five feet away from the door. If they're that timid, fine. They don't belong there. People can get spooked for a lot of reasons. That's not me. I would not have taken this project on."

But to artists like Whetstone who chose to vacate it's not really a choice. "Basically, we're getting evicted because there's no way (DeCamilla) can get those things done in 10 days." She spoke with the inspector who said that was unlikely to happen based on interactions with the owner. A tenant at Panama for many years, Whetstone said her space previously was the office for the past owner and had been renovated to an art gallery. "I've been here for a long, long time," she said.

Two separate entities, Panama Pottery and the Panama Art Factory, fill the space now at 4421 24th St. The retail yard, Panama Pottery, did not get an eviction notice, while artists inside the factory are being asked to leave. A haven for artists, the Panama Art Factory houses 30 studios that DeCamilla had built. Varying in size and rent prices, artists can pay anywhere between $150 to $350 a month for space. Previous tenants have included notable clay artists like Marsha Schindler. Fewer clay artists have filled the space since the branding of the Panama Art Factory, while more and varied artists work out of the space.

One of the requirements the city has asked DeCamilla is to change the usage of the building from factory to business mixed use. Such violations provided by the city, in part, include the following: that the "pottery factory has been converted and being used as an artist studio, retail art gallery and according to the complaint, has living quarters on site"; that it has "faulty equipment or wiring presenting a hazard to person or property"; that there are "inadequate exists -- minimum exiting as required in building codes for second floor loft spaces"; that the landlord provide required ventilation fan.

To DeCamilla, the requirement of changing the property's usage is unfounded. "The city is alleging that I change the use. I haven't changed the use. It was a factory then; it's a factory now. We went from making hot dogs to hamburgers. Does the city want the building to stay, or doesn't it?" Regarding rumors that Panama Art Factory manager Dave Davis (aka "Dave Dave") was the "resident manager," DeCamilla responded: "No one lives there. No one ever lived there. No one will ever live there. Period."

A building permit to repair the violations is required and work completed prior to reoccupying the building. In order to do the work that was done, DeCamilla said permits wouldn't have been approved in the first place.

No newbie to rehabilitating historic buildings, DeCamilla said when he bought the Brickhouse, drug dealers surrounded the space and in went the artists. Former home of Soracco Sheet Metal Works, the Brickhouse has nine artist studios, and home to artists of various art media. "It seems strange that once you get successful, they start coming at you. When it was a dump, no one said a word. That's the story: What kind of city do we want? Do we want a city that's kind of interested? Or, do we want a city that's just a bunch of more franchises?"

While the city has its list of complaints of noncompliance, DeCamilla listed four issues he's had with the city, as follows: One, speeding up and down 24th Street. "The city has never addressed that," he said. Two, "the refusal of artists to police the right-of-way of light rail. There's vagrants. Vagrants are a big problem." Three, no weed control. "That's the fire hazard." Four, the break-in at the art factory hasn't been resolved.

Using the same licensed contractors as he has used on his 1924 home as well as those who helped with ArtStreet and ArtHotel, DeCamilla said the list goes "on and on."

"It's a shakedown. Everything's been done. We solved it. That place is 10,000 times safer than it's ever been, ever. It's nice, safe and clean. The rents are reasonable. It works. There are no complaints from anybody ever, except one anonymous tenant and they sent the city building department down."

"This is a matter of public policy. One that's based on fact, not emotion. What happened in Oakland (Ghost Ship fire) or some other place has nothing to do with us. You have code enforcement officers making public policy. It's not a good thing to do. I understand the building code and if you're starting from ground zero, but the fact is, we couldn't."

"Did I ask for permission to rescue a 100-year-old building 11 years ago? No, I didn't. In the meantime, I would have never gotten permission. I wouldn't have gotten the permits... As far as telling people it's a risk, they are categorically wrong. They're (code enforcement) nice people. They're doing their job, but this is a public policy thing. Yes, I did not apply for permits. But, we didn't do anything wrong. We didn't do anything below standards. I have my own studio there. I'm not going to compromise people I know... Our town is about rules and regulations. Fine: I'm all about that. I live in this town. I've been in business for 40 years. I'm chairman for the city pension funds. I have my own business. I have my own reputation to uphold and I'm not going to do anything that's unsafe," DeCamilla said.

"I'm not an absentee landlord down in Galt, no. I've been involved step for step. That's why I know what's been done there."

The cost to fire up one of the beehive kilns isn't cheap

See Art Factory, page 17

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Author, historian Andrew Carroll coming to Elks lodge today

Event to include new book, war-related letters presentation

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
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Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 will host author and historian Andrew Carroll on July 13.

During the hourlong event, which will begin at 1 p.m., Carroll will present his recent publication, "My Fellow Soldiers: General John Pershing and the Americans Who Helped Win the Great War." He will also be autographing copies of that book, which will be available for purchase at the event.

Among his many other accomplishments, Carroll is the editor of several New York Times best-selling books, including "Letters of a Nation," "Behind the Lines" and "War Letters." The latter inspired the Public Broadcasting Service documentary of the same name.

Carroll also authored the play, "If All the Sky Were Paper," which is based on his "worldwide search for the most extraordinary war letters ever written."

An accomplished public speaker, Carroll has spoken at such places as the Library of Congress, the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Columbia and Princeton universities.

And his articles and op-eds have been published in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, USA Today, National Geographic, Details, and the AARP Bulletin.

Carroll has also served as a contributing editor to notable national publications, including Time and The New Yorker.

Along with the late Nobel Laureate Joseph Brodsky, Carroll co-founded the nonprofit American Poetry & Literacy Project, which distributed more than a million free books to schools, hospitals, airports and other public places throughout the nation.

Carroll, who is the founding director of the Center for American War Letters (formerly The Legacy Project) at Chapman University in Orange, Calif., will further his Million Letters Campaign at the lodge.

Linda Van Gundy, veterans chairperson of Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, said that Carroll is extensively traveling, with the goal of preserving at least 1 million war-related letters from every conflict in American history.

In addition to handwritten letters, the project includes email communication from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The author recently completed his East Coast tour and is currently involved in the West Coast tour for his new book and the Million Letters Campaign, which began last April.



Photos courtesy

At the Pentagon, Andrew Carroll is shown with Col Zoltan Krompecher, a soldier who donated a letter to the Million Letter project. He wrote the letter before heading off to Iraq. Handcuffed to Carroll's wrist is what he affectionately refers to as "the football," as it cannot be dropped or lost because it contains some of the most extraordinary letters from archives and Carroll travels the country with these to show people the kinds of incredible letters the project has acquired from over the years, starting with the American Revolution and going up to the present day.

Carroll commented on the purpose of that campaign.

"These letters and emails help us to honor and remember the troops, veterans and military family members who have served this nation," he said. "These are their words, their stories, their voices and no one can tell their stories better than they can.

"I also hope this project will encourage service members and veterans to write letters to their loved ones about their experiences, even if they relate to events that happened years or even decades ago."

The Million Letters Campaign also aligns with the Center for American War Letters' efforts toward meeting its goal of becoming the largest archive of personal wartime correspondences in the United States.

Van Gundy mentioned that the upcoming event at the Sacramento Elks lodge will present opportunities to both contribute and view war-related letters.

"(Carroll) will be bringing to our presentation some of the letters that he does have from like the Civil War, World War II," she said. "And we're acting as a collection site, and (since April), I actually have now collected almost 500 letters, (including) one Civil War and some World War I letters and a number of World War II letters."

Van Gundy noted that those letters also include some correspondence with concise histories.

"It's like a complex story of a person's military service on two individuals that I have," she said. "One was in the China-India-Burma theater from the time he enlisted to the time he discharged."

Van Gundy added that although original letters are preferred, photocopies are also accepted.

Thus far, most of the letters acquired by the Sacramento Elks lodge are copies, since many families opt to maintain ownership of the originals as sentimental keepsakes.

Those donating letters are required to sign a release form in order to make those donations to Chapman University.

Van Gundy mentioned that the Sacramento Elks lodge is honored to be hosting Carroll's July 13 presentation.

"We are thrilled," she said. "We feel like it's a real honor to have him come to our facility and share his stories that he has, both about the book that he has written and his Million Letters Campaign. And we feel honored to be able to participate as a collection site."

Reservations for the July 13 event at the Sacramento Elks Lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd., can be made at 422-6666.

Following Carroll's upcoming visit to the local Elks lodge, the lodge will continue to serve as a Million Letters Campaign collection point.

Additional details regarding Carroll's letter collection project are available at the website, warletters.us.

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South Sacramento Rotary Club Charitable Giving 2017

"Service Above Self" -- That's the Rotary model and club members make a positive impact on their community and the world. Club members believe that they have a purpose beyond fellowship; and, that purpose is to make the world a better place through our collective action. Besides holding fundraising activities to generate money to contribute to worthy charities, they also engage in hands-on activities in support of community efforts to enhance low income neighborhoods.

Each year the Rotary Club of South Sacramento posts an announcement on the club website informing the community of the opportunity to submit a request for funding. Members contact representatives of various organizations and solicit a request for funding. The primary focus is providing funds for services to help women and children in our community. Once the requests are received, the Board of Directors reviews the applications and decide which organizations will receive funding.

The RCSS scheduled representatives from the various organizations the club would fund to attend a meeting and update the rotary on their activities. Following their presentation, a check was presented.

A total of $19,966 over several weeks in May and June were distributed with the following organizations receiving funding this year:

- Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento ($8,066) in support of the "Sprouts Program" to provide services for severely physically and emotionally traumatized pre-school children. The CRHS was a partner in helping put on our annual crab feed so was the designated as our major funding recipient
- YMCA ($2,500) to support swimming lessons for underprivileged youth
- Moral Values Program ($1,500) to provide funding for their summer school program
- NorCal Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing ($1,275) to provide summer camper scholarships for underprivileged children
- Rotary District 5180 ($1,000) to support educational outreach in our region to prevent human trafficking
- Golden Empire Council Boy Scouts ($1,000) to support their camping programs
- South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet ($1,000)
- St. John's Program for Real Change ($1,000) for the purchase of beds to increase their housing capacity
- Turning Point ($750) to provide homeless clients funds for bus passes and underwear
- Robin Hooding for the Homeless ($500) to provide toiletries to the homeless
- Girl Scouts of America ($400) to support program activities

In addition, we designated $1,000 to be sent to an organization selected by our recently established Satellite Club.

The club welcomes the community to visit the club and find out in greater detail how they can become part of a great organization that strives to meet the needs of people less fortunate than ourselves. The friendliest club in Sacramento, the Rotary Club of South Sacramento meets every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Casa Garden, 2760 Sutterville Road.



Rotary Club of South Sacramento President Steve Mauch presents a check to Molly Bowen from NorCal Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

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California State Fair calendar of events

The 50th Anniversary of the State Fair at Cal Expo, and the 164th year overall... the 2017 California State Fair is finally here! Showcasing the best of the best in California, there is something for everybody to see. Whether it be family fun, date night, or a night out with friends, the 2017 California State Fair is the place for your summer's best moments ahead. What follows are daily highlights for the fair which starts on Friday, July 14 and ends on Sunday, July 30.



Daily Events

River City Quilters - 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.: River City Quilters are back! In this hands-on demonstration, you can design a nine-patch block. Then watch as volunteers sew your blocks into beautiful quilts right before your eyes! These quilts will be donated to children's hospital wards throughout the Sacramento area. Over 100 quilts are consistently made each year from fair-goers design blocks! Occurring daily.

Hollywood Krazy Kid Korral - 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Learn about how horses launched the Hollywood film industry, participate in fun games for the kids, and get ready for some fantastic photo opportunities! Hosted daily.

Pigeon Display - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.: Fly on over to Fur and Feathers and see the beautiful pigeons on display. Their beauty will surprise you, and you may walk away having found your new favorite species! Occurring daily.

California Crafts Exhibit: See the best of California's crafts on display in Expo Building 8. From intricate quilts, to impressive wood art, there is a large variety of amazing work on display. Be sure to check out the featured craft art from this year's special contests--Upcycle Home Decor and Steampunk Fashion! Hosted daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 14

Homemade Jam and Jelly Show Judging: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.: Witness live judging of the best homemade jams and jellies that California has to offer. As part of the Canning and Baking Competition, this live judging is one delicious event to see!

Japanese Cultural Arts- 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Matsuyama Sacramento Sister City Corporation introduces you to Japanese culture, calligraphy, and origami. Demonstrating artists will teach you how to write in traditional Japanese calligraphy and fold dollar bills into art forms!

ARC Design Hub vs. DieselZilla - 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Bring your family and friends to see American River College's Design Hub battle DieselZilla! Various ARC departments and studentsgivehope.org have banded together in an effort to "lock the active site" that keeps DieselZilla from ending its tirade. Learn how to design a molecule to deactivate the monstrous DieselZilla and save the Golden State! This fun-packed event can be found in Expo Building 3.

Valley Sculpture Artist Creates in 3D! - 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Experience the wonder of 3D art with our featured artist, Chris Thompson. You even will have the opportunity to learn how to throw and mold clay pots on a pottery wheel!

Art Knows No Boundaries: 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.: The Short Center North presents art as the greatest equalizer. Aptly named, this experience of live painting and jewelry making demonstration truly knows no boundaries. Located in Expo Building 7.

The Art of Porcelain Painting: 10 a.m to 10 p.m. Watch the incredibly talented Camellia City Porcelain Artists demonstrate the delicate technique of painting porcelain. The different forms of painting being demonstrated will be classical floral, contemporary form, Chinese, and watercolor-style painting.

Cooking Demo with Official CA State Fair Chef, Keith Breedlove: 1 to 2 p.m.: The brilliant Official California State Fair Chef, Keith Breedlove of the Culinary Cruzer, throws elbows, jokes, and facts, while turn-

See State Fair, page 11

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State Fair:

Continued from page 10

ing the finest Farm-to Fork ingredients into creative and mouth-watering dishes. Join us for some culinary fun at The Grill in Kaiser Permanente Farm, presented by SaveMart.

Rabbit Demonstration at 2 to 3 p.m.: Patrons can listen to rabbit exhibitors explain just what it is like to show a rabbit at the fair. Exhibitors will explain more about the rabbit species, proper care, and showmanship. You might even get to practice your exhibition skills!

LIVE Thoroughbred Horse Racing: 2:15 to 6 p.m.: Have you ever wanted to attend the Kentucky Derby, but never did? Are you a fan of celebrating the best? Do you like to have fun? Then come on over to the Miller Lite Racetrack Grandstand for LIVE thoroughbred horse racing! It's just like the Kentucky Derby, except right here at Cal Expo. Bring some friends, learn how to bet, and enjoy your time at this FREE event with the purchase of a State Fair ticket. Come back every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday for more racing during the State Fair.
Farmyard Follies: 2:30 to 2:50 p.m.: Featuring animals from the Great American Petting Zoo, this is a funny and educational animal entertainment show! Some featured animals include: goats, llamas, sheep, and the infamous trouble-making spotted donkey, Fiona No-No!

Children's Variety Hour: 4:30 to 5 p.m.: Watch as horses and their riders gracefully display flat English ground work as demonstrated by K.I.S.S. Horse Center. Follow the larger horses, or watch the many talents of their miniature horse friends from Storybook Farm Mighty Mini's.

Cal Crush Clydesdales: 5:30 to 6 p.m.: Come witness the magnificently polished giants gracefully prance around the arena pulling the big red Cal Crush wagon.

Sheila E. ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Sheila E. on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

SATURDAY, JULY 15

Walk the Runway with Agee Fashion Institute: 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Journey behind the scenes of a fashion career with fashion students demonstrating pattern-making, draping, and garment construction to fair-goers.

Wienerschnitzel Wiener Dog Races: 1:45 to 4 p.m.: In between each Kentucky Derby-styled horse race, will be exhilarating and side-splitting races between the finest wiener dogs west of Nevada! Located at the Miller Lite Racetrack Grandstand, join us for a hilarious time watching the Wienerschnitzel Wiener Dog Races!

John Michael Montgomery ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by John Michael Montgomery on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

Rock On! Live Karaoke: 8 to 8:45 p.m.: Get ready to become the rock star you always wanted to be! Grab some friends or go solo, and sing some rocking tunes with a LIVE band backing you up! Check the California State Fair app for more dates and times of Rock On! Live Karaoke.

SUNDAY, JULY 16

O.M.Genes! From UC Davis Genetics Grad Students: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Learn more about papaya pythons and develop a better understanding of snake genetics, population structure, environmental conservation, and the interaction of these complicated issues that comprise species evolution and adaption. See and touch different species and witness how small mutations over years and years of evolution have changed these reptiles!

Ozomatli ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Ozomatli on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

MONDAY, JULY 17

Blacksmith Experience: 3 to 4 p.m.: Learn about the history of blacksmiths. Watch blacksmiths transform iron into beautiful works of art. Merchandise and artwork will be available for purchase.

Master Hypnotist Tina Marie: 5 to 5:45p.m.: Participate and watch as master hypnotist, Tina Marie, hypnotizes fair-goers. Enjoy this funny and entertaining experience many times throughout the fair! Check the California State Fair app for all hypnotist performances.

Lita Ford ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series at 8 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Lita Ford on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

TUESDAY, JULY 18

Building Buildings and Laying Foundations at 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Learn about Northern California apprenticeship programs in the trades of Plastering and Cement Masonry. Participate in hands-on demonstration using different types of materials used in these professional trades!

SaveMart Pie Eating Contest at 2 to 3 p.m.: With competitions for each age group--kids, teens, and adults--

See Fair Schedule, page 20

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Faces and Places:

Family camp-out at Fairytale Town

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY

Families had fun spending the night in Fairytale Town's storybook park on Friday, June 16 to Saturday, June 17. The exciting overnight adventure included a theater show, arts and crafts activities, a scavenger hunt, fun games, and bedtime stories. Then, families woke up the next morning under Fairytale Town's canopy of trees to a light continental breakfast.















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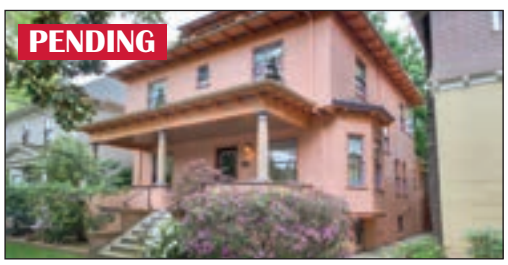
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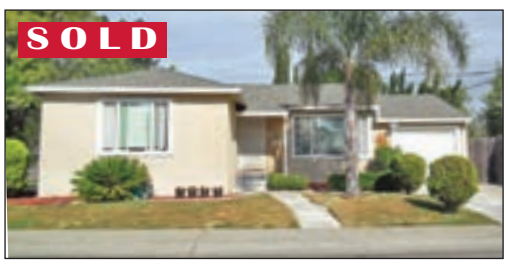
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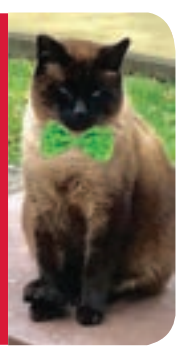
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Farm and Flavor: Cherry-Plum Jam

By KERIN GOULD

I'm in the kitchen today making cherry-plum jam, after realizing that the hot wind knocked most of the fruit off the tree last night. I picked up all the little plums that weren't a roasted, squishy mess, washed them and rolled them into a heavy pot. It may not be the coolest way to avoid the 110-degree heat outside, but it's productive.

The first time I made plum jam, it was from windfall fruit from a huge tree behind my workplace that, unnoticed, was groaning with the weight of its crop. I took plums home and then realized I had no recipe.

I only had the memory of watching my grandfather, my mother's father, Nicky make blackberry jelly in the cabin's rustic kitchen up at the lake. Nicky was a gentleman of vast and varied skills, including watercolor painting, engineering, mapping the depths of the lake, and organizing Victory Gardens during WWII. Nicky could fix anything with a clothespin and/or a wire coat hanger. Just yesterday, I was using a little tool he had whittled: a hand-carved, simple sight-line tool that serves me now for digging straight furrows to shape new rows of crops.

I often suspect our 21st century life makes us hesitate to believe in our ability to rig our own gizmos or devise recipes and solutions. One of the things I admire about the folks who come to my classes, is that they are seeking self-management options to be the bosses of their own health, to try new approaches, to look beyond standard diabetes or cancer treatment.

I recall a gentleman who came to a prostate cancer support group after getting news that his vanquished cancer had returned. He was shaken to the core. The other men in the group gathered around him, told him he didn't have to jump into chemo on Monday, and recommended resources that worked for them. That knowledge of hands-on alternatives was keeping them in charge of their own wellness. This man's whole body went from crumpled to recharged, just from this push to think and do for himself.

I recently had a health test result with surprisingly scary numbers. Wow, news of cancer, diabetes, cholesterol, blood pressure and other terrifying stuff just knocks you on your butt, doesn't it? You were going along with some minor complaints, and now there's this. Suddenly you feel helpless, jump to worst-case conclusions, then dismiss them, then think you shouldn't dismiss stuff… You want to grill the doctor for every detail and option, but you've only had a few minutes' conversation and gotten a prescription. Once I pull myself together, I start researching. What are the alternatives to the nasty medications and their side-effects? How much can diet help? I've got choices. I am capable of handling this. I've got this.

So, while scary-looking test numbers and treatments intimidate at first, our inner do-it-yourselfer can tap into the part of us that makes jam without a recipe, fixes things with a clothespin, and takes charge of our own wellness, including growing our own food or cooking from scratch and eating more fresh produce.

In season in Sacramento: peaches, nectarines, plums, pluots, some berries, tomatoes, okra, summer squashes, peppers, cucumbers, green beans and melons.

Recipe:

Do-it-yourself, made from scratch doesn't have to be complicated or time-consuming. When my grandfather made jellies, he used clean pantyhose to strain the fruit, no fancy gear needed. If you can find a wild, cherry-plum tree you can get the fruit for free too. These have real tangy flavor, and you don't peel or pit them. You can use regular plums, but reduce the amount of raw fruit a little bit and sweeten less, and add the juice of a lemon.

Windfall Cherry-plum Jam (no sugar added!)

Why it's healthy: No white sugar! Lots of anthocyanins and anti-oxidants.

Why it tastes great: sweet-tart, summer fruitiness you can save for later

Why it's easy: No peeling or de-seeding.

Ingredients

- 4 cups cooked and strained liquid from cherry plums, wild or regular plums (start with about 8 - 10 cups of cherry plums)
- 4 tbsp low sugar pectin, preferably Pomona Pectin
- 1/2 cup maple syrup (If it's not sweet enough, you can add a little stevia.)

Directions

Wash the plums and put them in a large, thick-bottomed pot. (If using larger plums, cut them in half first.) Cover and cook on low heat/simmer until fruit separates from the skin and pits. Keep an eye on it so it doesn't get too hot and boil over. Stir occasionally.

Strain juice through a food mill, cheesecloth or colander. Return 4 cups to the pot. Add maple syrup and adjust the taste. Add pectin according to package instructions.



Bring to a rolling boil, let boil for a couple of minutes, stirring constantly. When a few drops dripped onto a cold plate gel or "set", it's ready.

Storage option 1: Let cool. Using a canning funnel, pour into freezer-safe containers and store in your freezer. You can also simply store this in the fridge, where this will last about a week.

Storage option 2: Boil canning jars in a large pot of water, and wash lids carefully. Remove jars from the water. Ladle hot jam into the jars using a canning funnel if you have one, leaving a ¼" space at the top. Top with the lids and tighten the rings firmly. Place filled jars into a pot of boiling water for 10 minutes. If your pot doesn't have a heavy bottom, use a wire basket or even a clean tile just to keep the glass jar from cracking on the too-direct heat. After 10 minutes, remove the jars, and let them cool. You'll hear a pop as the vacuum seal locks tight. If the top still has a bump you can press/click with your finger, it's not sealed, so try again or eat that one first.

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3709 Galiano Island Street • $385,000

From every porch USA to the Geery, local playwright brings topics of gentrification to the intimate midtown stage

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

A comedy about gentrification, The Porch, written by local playwright and journalist Karen Devaney examines diversity, self-acceptance, and various ethnicities while the neighborhood undergoes dramatic change -- all of which are topics for gossip as characters in the play tell their stories to a New York Times reporter. The main backdrop -- Chela's porch.

It's a Friday evening in the summer. Women gather with their cocktails. It's warm, there are the sounds of cars, fans, and a sense of chaos in the air. A modern "Comedy of Errors", The Porch combines hilarious characters that could represent any urban area in the country. The oldest of the group announces she sold her house and is moving to Italy with her sweetheart. The neighbors are dumbfounded. As they spin their imaginations, the speculations morph and the women convince themselves that Chela must be dying. Moving to Italy with her phantom lover must be on her bucket list. Meanwhile, the New York Times is doing a piece on neighborhoods throughout the country that are undergoing urban renovations. When the reporter comes to interview the group, bizarre events happen and truths are revealed.

The Porch will have a formal reading July 14, at 7 p.m. at the Geery Theater in Midtown. Hoping that the audience comes away from the theater entertained and thinking about communities, choices in life, neighborliness, life and diversity, Devaney said The Porch is intended to spark a conversation about women's roles, gentrification, change and how they happen whether we want them to or not. "I love when women get together and converse about everything from sex to jobs, to memories," Devaney said. "I love the human interaction and the storytelling that goes on in everyday conversation, those little recollections that shape us and then let go of those stories that don't serve us any longer. Chela is brave and it has taken a lot to get her to the place where she is ready to spread her wings. I also like to write about culture and breaking stereotypes, which is where Cindy comes in. Then of course, there are plenty of stereotypical behavior, but the play explores the context or the reason behind these behaviors. Lastly, I write that women have more voice."

From The Porch to her other writings -- fiction, nonfiction, or children's books, inclusiveness is the main theme because diversity has always been the playwright's reality. Born outside of Philly, Devaney then moved to the greater Washington D.C. area, where she had friends from China, Japan, Africa, and Peru. "Our little posse was a miniature United Nations," she said. "I had babysitters from India and they would bring me food I had never tasted before. This play is inspired also by ageism—women of all ages can and do dream of love, adventure, and living life on their terms. Chela, the main character, does just that."

Living in Oak Park now, Karen undoubtedly was inspired by her street to write this play. "The street is as sweet and innocent as they come. All of my neighbors are like family at this point. I have been in Sac for three years now and met people that are sincere, rough around the edges but marshmallows inside, lesbians, ex-thugs, mixed couples, and people that are loving, caring, and fun to be around."

When she was a child, porch hangers were huge, she recalls. "The old and the young gathering to soak in the cool evening breezes, drink and solve the world's problems or gossip. Kids run up and down the street etc. The music man is definitely Oak Park inspired, but then George, the can collector comes from any place in the USA nowadays."

Purposefully written without a specific locale -- there's no city named, no neighborhood -- Devaney invites actors and directors from anywhere to put the play on and make it their own.

While some of the characters, like Cindy a young single Vietnamese lesbian, are based on people she has known in her life, others are based loosely on people there on 10th Street, or at least a piece of them, she explains. Each character has bits and parts of her family, acquaintances, colleagues, life.

One of the topics of the day -- the demolition of JJs, a family bar and restaurant, for the development of a 5-star restaurant. About JJ's, Devaney said the establishment represents the warm fuzzy memories of the past that grow the older they get.

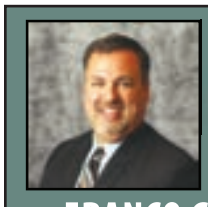
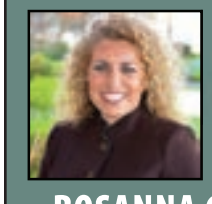
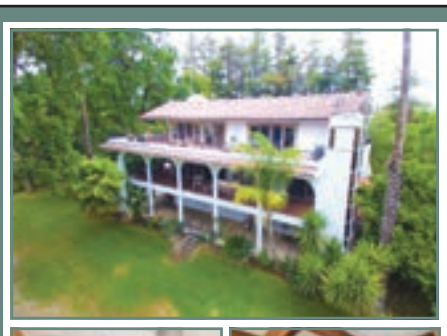
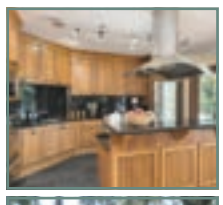
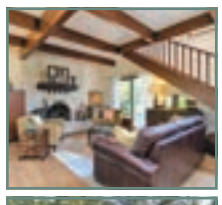
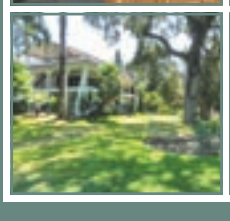
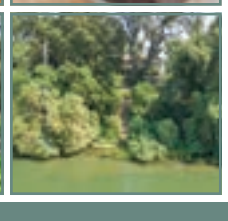
"People tend to forget what something used to be. For example, there was a park near where I was born, we always called it 'Grammie's Park' because it was near where my grandmother lived. It held lovely recollections of a more innocent time in my life. Now, there are condos there and nowhere for children to play. I feel strongly about old and new working together, rather than trampling on historic value, incorporate it. I wish they would wake up the old bakery on the corner of 33rd and bring it back to life. It would keep the OP (Oak Park) character of yesteryear and provide quality to the neighborhood. It is sad though, there is much potential here in OP, but still too much violence that is tolerated. Sprucing up a neighborhood should be beneficial to everyone, crime needs to go away and if that means clamping down on drug houses and prostitution—do it! Children should be able to walk home from school without fear. JJ's is also in part, a representation of when people cared about others, less corporation, less rich snooty folks, more sincerity. Let's bring that back."

"In the play, JJs is based off of a fun place in Philly, Stogey Joes, where on Sunday afternoons the place is packed out with people of all ages drinking, eating and singing along with the deejay who plays all old crooner music like Sinatra and Dean Martin. "In the winter they crank up the fire, and in the summer the doors are open. It is a family run place with hip hop on Friday and Saturday night, but by day, it's kids and families. If you knew the bartenders, like we did, you could run a tab and pay later. JJ's is a staple of the neighborhood and like Stogey's it needs work, but the food and the folks are authentic and characters in their own unique way. It represents all that is not corporate or standard."

Devaney began her writing journey as a young child as she listened to family stories of her Irish and Italian relatives. "My father was a master storyteller and most nights he would tell us bedtime tales. I fell in love with Skippy the dog, Ralph the pig, Chief the horse. He had been in an orphanage until he was 7 and my grandmother remarried and brought him home. To me, it is so interesting how a person's experiences that are generational… shape their psyche. I grew up outside of Philly and then D.C. had a large loving family that was far from perfect and usually broke. But we were rich in other ways, story, tradition, food, gatherings."

Devaney wants to go to a full production in the fall and to get this play out into the world with performances in San Francisco and New York City, but for now, she will continue to explore options here in Sacramento. "One of the actresses has an LA director boyfriend who is going to assist me in directing," she added.

The Geery Theater is located at 2130 L St. Tickets are $10.


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Art Factory:

Continued from page 7

so pottery production slowed and by the early 2000s, 70 percent of the pots that were sold were made in the factory. The rest were imported from countries like Mexico and Italy.

In 2006, DeCamilla, the co-founder and president and chief investment officer of DeCamilla Capital Management, bought Panama Pottery with plans to continue traditional pottery making and to make artisan pottery, sculpture, and art.

Over time, the competition for cheaper products grew and Panama Pottery halted the sales of its pottery that they produced and eventually even the use of the small electric kilns in the factory has lessened. On the property sits a well and an anonymous artist said that there may be lead in the water. Water from Alhambra Water Delivery is brought for drinking water. DeCamilla said he disconnected the gas and stopped the electric presses and "made the building way more functional." The city's request that he hook up to city water seems too drastic, he said. "I'd have to bring in a plumber. What for? I bring in Alhambra water and we have some toilets to flush. That's it."

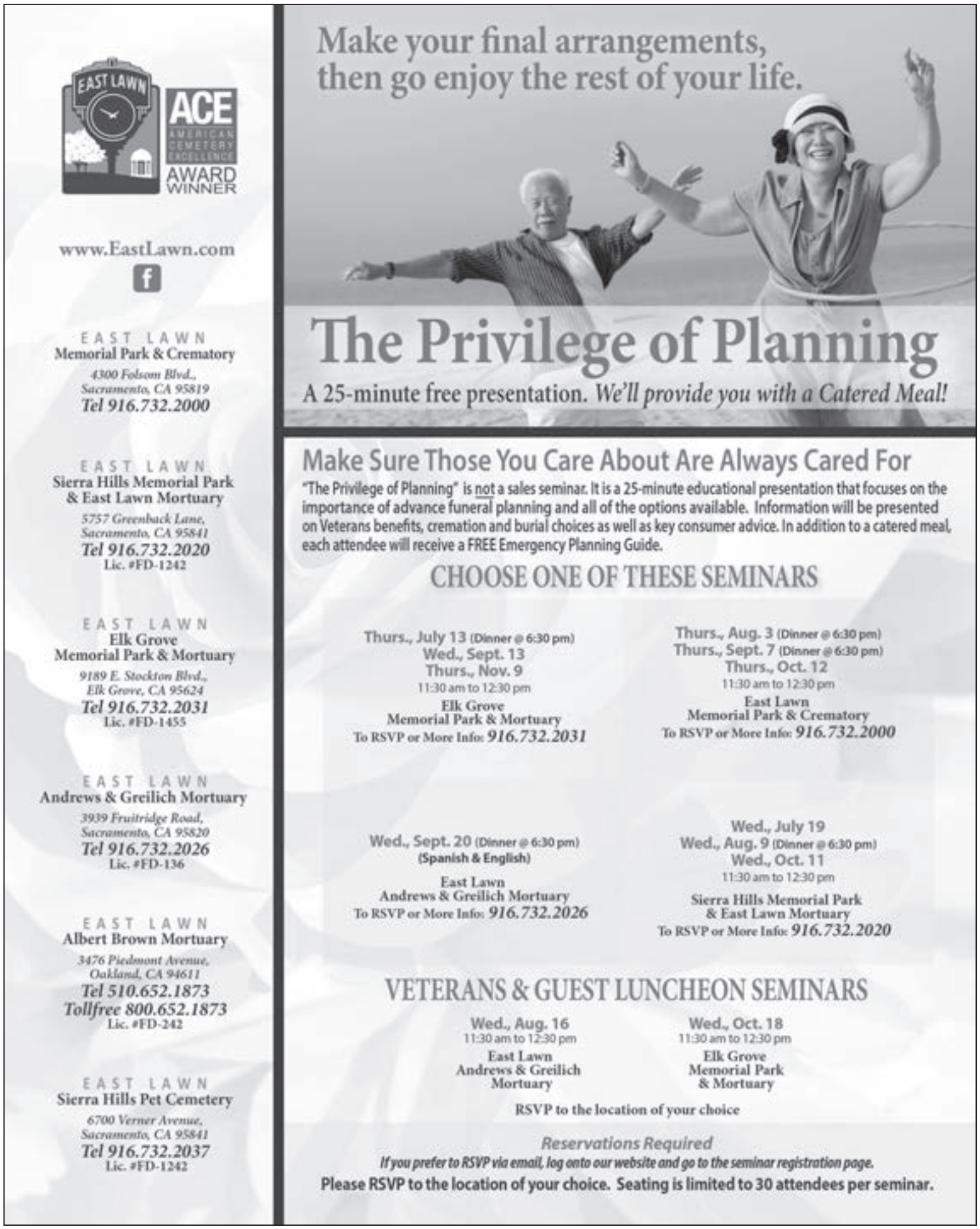
As for the other violations, he's willing to put in a push door and put up more emergency exit signs.

Notifying the building owner and "all other persons having an interest in said property", the city also posted a memo informing that an appeal hearing before the Housing Code Advisory and Appeals Board will be held in the Historic City Hall Commission Hearing Room at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 9.

According to further postings provided to tenants, the city notes that "any tenant who is displaced from a rental unit as a result of an order issued by an authorized city official due to unsafe or hazardous living conditions as specified in Chapter 8.96 or 8.100 of the city code shall by entitled to receive relocation benefits from the owner of the property. The relocation benefits paid by the property owner shall be a sum equal to twice the established monthly rental rate for the unit being vacated by the displaced tenant."

Maria Vargas, owner Panama Pottery, the retail arm of the property said she did a lower purchase of inventory than ever preparing for the worst. "The word fire sale is not an uncommon word for me. If I have to have the biggest fire sale, I'll do it."

Despite what happens at the Panama Art Factory, Vargas remains optimistic for her business. "Right now I am clear of that with the city... Financially, oh yeah, I can have that sale, but I don't want to. I don't want that to be the reason why I am no longer involved with the business. I don't want somebody ignorant and thievery to take me down. When I close, I want it to be my choice. I'm not going to leave there in the middle of this act."





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Fair Schedule:

Continued from page 11

everyone can participate in this exciting and hilarious competition!

Poppy's Birthday Party: 2 to 2:30 p.m.: Come wish the California State Fair's Mascot a Happy Birthday!! There will be an entertaining show for the young at heart, some fellow mascots and plenty of birthday cake for all!

Queen Nation: A Tribute to the Music of Queen ~ Toyota Concerts: 8 p.m. Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Queen Nation: A Tribute to the Music of Queen on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

Brian McKnight ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Brian McKnight on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

THURSDAY, JULY 20

Military and Veterans Appreciation Day: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.: Bloodsource presents a day dedicated to honoring the sacrifice and bravery of our active duty, reserve and veteran members of all branches of the armed forces. We invite all aforementioned individuals to enjoy FREE fair admission. (Dependents not included). Thank you for your bravery and sacrifice!

Good Charlotte ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Good Charlotte on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

FRIDAY, JULY 21

Corn Dog Eating Contest: 6 to 7: See if you have what it takes to be named the California State Fair Corn dog Eating Champion! A classic competition, happening right here at the California State Fair.

California State Fair Guinea Pig Squeal Contest: 7 to 10 p.m.: Have you discovered that you are especially good at making guinea pig squealing noises? Have you ever wanted to be creative and fun in an unconventional way? Head on down to Expo Building 6 to participate in the Guinea Pig Squeal Contest and enter for a chance to be crowned as Champion Guinea Pig Squealer!

Sister Sledge ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Sister Sledge on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Motion Picture Audition: On-Camera Technique w/ It Factor Studio: 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Let your It Factor shine under lights, camera, and action! Join It Factor Studios to learn what it takes to audition and act in entertainment industry. Show what you're made of by acting out a scene for a chance to win ONE FREE MONTH of acting classes!

Best of California Brewfest: 3 to 7 p.m.: Sometimes the best moments include the best drinks! Grab a friend and come out to the Best of California Brewfest to enjoy the award-winning brews of the Golden State.

Smash Mouth ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Smash Mouth on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

SUNDAY, JULY 23-MONDAY, JULY 24

FIRST Robotics with St. Francis High School: 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Learn about robots--and even operate one--with St. Francis High School's all-female STEM Robotics team!

SUNDAY, JULY 23

Fun With Wood By "SAW": 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.: Watch amazing woodworking techniques with "SAW"--Sacramento Ara Woodworkers. Stick around to watch the demonstrations and the woodworkers might make a small object to hand out to the kids!

Eddie Money ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Eddie Money on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

Sac Republic vs. Seattle Sounders: 8 to 10 p.m.: Sacramento Republic FC takes on the Seattle Sounders in this exciting United Soccer League (USL) match-up!

MONDAY, JULY 24

Blues Traveler ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Blues Traveler on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

TUESDAY, JULY 25

4-H Cooking Throwdown: 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m: All 4-H members are invited to participate in the 4-H Cooking Throwdown where teams of three youth members will cook a three course meal. A panel of judges will taste all courses prepared and the winners of each round will then compete to determine the daily Throwdown Champion.

Anthem Lights ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Anthem Lights on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26 TO THURSDAY, JULY 27:

$2 Taste Of The Fair: On Wednesdays and Thursdays between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., every food vendor in the fair will have either a $2 food or beverage item for patrons to buy. Typically a snack sized version, this allows fair-goers to eat a larger variety of the fair food.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

Paperback Writer: The Beatles Experience ~ Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Paperback Writer: The Beatles Experience on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

THURSDAY, JULY 27

First Responders Appreciation Day: 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.: As a special thank you for their hard work and bravery, active members of law enforcement, firefighters and first responder units can enjoy free Fair admission on July 21, courtesy of BloodSource. All fair-goers can enjoy a day of fun celebrating first responders complete with special exhibits, interactive activities, one-day-only entertainment and much more. For free admission, active first responders must present ID showing first responder status at the California State Fair's Box Office. Offer does not include admission for family members or dependents of first responders.

Trace Adkins ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Trace Adkins on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

FRIDAY, JULY 28

Professional Chef Challenge: 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.: Compete in a live cooking challenge at the California State Fair. Individual professional chefs will use a mystery ingredient to prepare a 3-course meal in front of a live fair audience and a panel of qualified Judges, in the Kitchen Theatre. Represent your restaurant or business.

Belinda Carlisle: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Belinda Carlisle on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

SATURDAY, JULY 29

Corn-hole Championships: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Just a bag and a plank of wood? Not quite! Grab some friends and join us for a fun-filled afternoon of corn-hole. Come to observe or compete in the State Fair corn-hole tournament and watch as the best of the best take the title of California State Fair Corn-hole Champion!

The Marshall Tucker Band ~ CA State Fair Toyota Concert Series: 8 to 10 p.m.: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by The Marshall Tucker Band on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

Melissa Etheridge: Enjoy a FREE concert (with Fair admission ticket) by Melissa Etheridge on the Golden 1 Stage! For reserved seating closest to the stage, Gold Circle seats are available for purchase. This concert takes place at the California State Fair.

What's happening, Land Park?

THURSDAY, JULY 13

MANDALA- THE ART OF MEDITATION (BEGINNING 1): For centuries, people have created mandalas to focus attention, quiet the mind and state of meditation and prayer. Learn how to create original designs for quilts, artwork, stained glass and more. Based on simple geometric shapes, no art experience is required. Beginning 1 is based on the 45/90 degree mandala. Various tools are required. Bring your own or purchase a kit for $10. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $40.required. Class will be held Thursdays beginning July 6- 27, 2017 from 10 to 11:30a.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information and list of tools, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

FREE PHONE AND PG&E BILL REVIEW CLINIC: Are you paying too much for phone service? Is your PG&E bill unusually high? Bring your questions and a recent phone (landline or wireless) or PG&E bill for a free review. We will explain your charges, identify fraud, or save you money. Pre-registration required and free of charge. Class will be held Thursday July 13, 2017 from 2:00-4:00pm at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

FRIDAY, JULY 14

SENIOR SCAMS - JUST SAY NO!: Older adults are prime targets for financial scams by people they know and trust and also by strangers. According to a study by Medlife, Seniors lost at least $2.9 billion to financial exploitation in 2010. This workshop will provide information on how to protect your assets and recognize scams, especially telephone scams. Learn how to fight back and what you can do if you are a victim. Pre-registration required and free of charge. Class will be held Friday July 14, 2017 from 2:30-3:30pm at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

SATURDAY, JULY 15

CEMETERY TOUR: BEER AND BASEBALL: The Old City Cemetery Committee presents an evening tour looking at Sacramento's All-American pastimes, starting at 7 p.m. at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. Brewers and ballplayers have always gone together, especially in Sacramento. With a team sponsored by a major brewery, the bases may not have been the only thing loaded. Take a walk-off and discover the hidden history of the town's baseball teams – the colorful players, dreaded umpires, and the brewers that kept the system lubricated. No beer will be served at this event, but we will feature a special guest appearance by Dinger, the Sacramento River Cats mascot! The tour convenes at the 10th Street gate. There is ample free street parking on surrounding streets. The tour costs $10 per person. Tickets are only available for purchase at the link below (no tickets will be sold at the gate). Attendance is limited to 50 people. For more information, call 916-448-0811. The mission of the OCCC is to join hands with the community to restore, beautify, preserve, and protect the Historic City Cemetery, while maintaining access by descendants of the deceased, and to provide educational services to all visitors to the Historic City Cemetery of Sacramento. Tickets are available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3015165

SATURDAY, JULY 15 AND SUNDAY, JULY 16

THE FAIRYTALE TOWN TROUPERS PRESENT: "DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST"

The Fairytale Town Troupers invite you to "be their guest" for this special adaptation of the classic Disney animated film--live on stage! "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" features the unforgettable songs and characters of the animated classic brought to life-plus the beautiful and timeless love story we all know and love. Performances will be held in the Children's Theater. Tickets are $2 for nonmembers in addition to paid park admission and $1 for members. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462. Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). Show times at 12 and 1:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 16

WILD WEST BARBECUE AT CASA GARDEN: Don't miss the Casa Garden's Wild West Barbeque! Put on your dancin' shoes and do-si-do to a live western band, bring on your appetite for finger-lickin' good barbecue, and enjoy delicious ice cold Track 7 beer. Your $35 includes a Western buffet and two drinks—beer, wine or non-alcoholic beverages; 4 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 452-2809. Casa Garden is located at 2760 Sutterville Road.

JOSH MOORE IN CONCERT: The Sacramento Guitar Society presents Josh Moore, a young classical guitarist. Joshua Moore is an amazing emerging guitarist. He has the uncanny ability to seek out rarely heard repertoire and also bring old guitar favorites to the audience. See him at 3 p.m. in the Clara Auditorium, 24th and O streets, Sacramento. A $10 donation is requested.

TUESDAY, JULY 18

STEPPING ON: Stepping On is a community program proven to reduce falls in older adults. It consist of a workshop that meets two hours a week for seven weeks led by a health professional and a wellness instructor. Guest expert will provide information on exercises, vision, safety and medications. Pre-registration and a suggested $25 donation for materials. Class will be held Tuesdays beginning July 11- August 22, 2017 from 10 a.m. to noon at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330. www.accsv.org

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT: Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP) is a self-management educational program for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, or caregiver of a loved one that has diabetes. It consist of a workshop that meets two hours a week for six weeks. The workshop consists of demonstration, role play, games and other engaging activities for group learning, health management and life style choice. Pre-registration required and free of charge. Class will be held Tuesday beginning July 11- August 15, 2017 from 1:00-3:00pm at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

LAND PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEETING: The next Land Park Community Association meeting will be on Wednesday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m. Location is Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Blvd. www.landpark.org

THURSDAY, JULY 20

MANDALA- THE ART OF MEDITATION (BEGINNING 1): For centuries, people have created mandalas to focus attention, quiet the mind and state of meditation and prayer. Learn how to create original designs for quits, artwork, stained glass and more. Based on simple geometric shapes, no art experience is required. Beginning 1 is based on the 45/90 degree mandala. Various tools are required. Bring your own or purchase a kit for $10. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $40.required. Class will be held Thursdays beginning July 6- 27, 2017 from 10 to 11:30a.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information and list of tools, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

FRIDAY, JULY 21

DEBT PRESENTATION: Having debt is a stressful and expensive fact of life but with the right knowledge you can manage your debt without having to file for bankruptcy or paying for debt relief services. This seminar will outline seniors' rights and obligations when they owe money and what options are available to manage debt. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

SATURDAY JULY 22

MODEL RAILROAD PARTY: The American River Model Railroad Society to learn about where trains travel. Experience the history of America through the magic of model trains. You may even meet Thomas and Friends! This is a Read by Design Summer Reading Program that will be held at the Belle Cooledge Library from 1 to 2 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive.

WHISKEY, WINE & SPIRITS FESTIVAL: CBS Radio presents the 3rd Annual Sacramento Whiskey, Wine & Spirits Festival from 6 to 10 p.m. at William Land Park's Village Green. This year's theme is WHITE so get your white outfit ready for the sexiest party of the summer where you will enjoy samples of the finest whiskeys, wines, spirits and craft beers from around the region. In addition, enjoy live entertainment on two stages featuring crooners, DJs and more, plus sample bites from some of Sacramento's premier restaurants. There will also be a variety of Sacramento's hottest gourmet food trucks all in the beautiful setting of the Village Green at William Land Park, located on the corner of Freeport Boulevard and Sutterville Road. You can upgrade your night to a VIP experience which includes one hour early admission, at 5 p.m., into the festival plus access into the VIP lounge with a champagne welcome, exclusive tastings of top shelf whiskeys, spirits and tastings from select Napa Valley wineries! Gourmet hors d'oeuvres and desserts from Rayna's Gourmet Catering plus VIP entertainment and a commemorative event glass. General Admission doors open at 6 p.m.
VIP Doors open at 5 p.m. Miscellaneous Information: Rain or Shine; No Refunds; 21+ Event; No Ins and Outs; No Outside Food or Beverages; No Pets; Ticket prices range from $40 - $100.
http://now100fm.cbslocal.com/sacramento-whiskey-wine-spirits-festival-2017/





Sacramentans came together for InterDependence Day on July 4 at Southside Park



Photos and story by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Billed a California-inspired upgrade to Independence Day, organizers of InterDependence Day at Southside Park brought the community together for a celebration of diversity, inclusion, innovation and civic participation.

An event that featured hands-on activities such as sand mandala-making, a labyrinth walk, a Red Tent, children's art and cultural dancing, InterDependence Day encouraged attendees to learn something new and enjoy the beauty and uniqueness of different cultures. Compassionate California brought up Poles for Peace and Justice from Southern California and a pole was brought up for the event to be painted on by everyone. It will be planted somewhere in Sacramento when finished.

Vendors and event participants included Electric Cars, Solar Innovations, SacIONS which sponsored Sue Ann Foster to design a labyrinth for people to walk the contemplative path; Ellen Springwind painted a sand mandala; Compassionate Women and Girls with Mercey Springs sponsored a Red Tent for women. Performers included the Punjabi Bhangra, the Duende Dancers, and the Midnight Players who got the crowd dancing.

Asked about how the idea for an InterDependence Day came to be, event spokesperson Joan Marie explained the concept of Interdependence has been around for quite some time. However, Stephen Dinan from The Shift Network wrote the book Sacred America Sacred World and felt compelled at this specific time to support California in lifting itself up as a leader for effective thought and change with this four year creative campaign towards the year 2020 as a way to do so. While Independence Day celebrates freedom and those who left religious persecution, Joan Marie thinks it's time "we get more 'real' about what telling the truth means. Independence Day is a celebration of people that were leaving persecution and wanted freedom to be who they are. Isn't that what we all want?"

But, she asks, "Was it really for everyone at that time? How are women treated? How are children treated? How are people of color treated? Let's ask more revealing questions and have them answered more honestly as well. We have an opportunity to light a path to a new and brighter future for everyone from all walks of life."

So, InterDependence Day provided the platform for people to celebrate differences instead of being divided by them. "We all belong to the human family and we all share the same home. Why not learn from each other?" Joan Marie said.

This event helped launch a four-year plan of action with 2020 as an important year. The next big event, California Vision 2020 will be held on Sept. 21, 22 and 23 at the Sacramento Convention Center, as people come from all over to talk, listen, collaborate and celebrate. Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg has agreed to have Sacramento become a Compassionate City and both he and Louisville, Kentucky Mayor Greg Fischer have agreed to be part of a panel discussion of mayors.

Prior to the InterDependence Day celebration, a global meditation of "Illuminating a Path for a Better Future", was held at the State Capitol's International World Peace Rose Garden. Children lit the way, carrying Quality of Peace Flowers and inflatable solar powered lanterns from Rebuilding Alliance's - Brighten the Future of Gaza's Children Program.

Explaining that particular part of the day, Joan Marie stated the following: "Sacramento is so honored to be the only State Capitol in the United States with an International World Peace Rose Garden! We are so honored to have the creator, Sylvia Villalobos and her partner, TJ living right here in (East) Sacramento. We had children of many walks of life acknowledge our 11 Sister Cities around the world with signs and also bringing in solar lanterns that are being sent to families in Gaza, by Rebuilding Alli-

See InterDependence, page 23

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InterDependence:

Continued from page 22

ance, since families only have electricity two to three hours a day. We had local leaders lifting people up to this calling of inspired change for our whole state into this wonderful city of Sacramento, the capitol of our state. Seven InterFaith leaders joined together in peace and each sharing a personal blessing. We held an opening and closing meditation as well. This event was live-streamed and since Laura Hansen and myself are the cofounders of Compassionate Capitol Region, which is part of the Charter for Compassion, a global network for inclusive and respectful change, we had people from all over the world joining in with us for a collective lifting of hearts and minds, ending with a beautiful rose petal toss."



Providing thanks to those involved putting on InderDependence Day, Joan Marie recognizes Stephen Dinan for coming into Sacramento; Laura Hansen, co founder of Compassionate Capitol Region and who was the Executive Producer of this event as well as the conference in September; Brenda Kress, Judy Guadalupe, Beth DeLashmutt-Poore, Brenda Gustin, Sherrice Costa, and everyone who made this happen.





Joan Marie came on board because of her own personal calling towards the year 2020, which will mark the centennial of the 19th Amendment, allowing women the right to vote. That year also marks the 150-year anniversary of Julia Ward Howe's 1870 Mother's Day Peace Proclamation, calling for people to come together in peace instead of dividing through war. "I believe she wrote a beautiful template to guide us, 150 years later," Joan Marie said. "This is a time for women to gather, to no longer allow 'irrelevant agencies' to lead us, to come together and talk of the greater needs of peace and asking men to join us. I started with the International Day of Peace back in 2011, working towards making every day a day of peace. This is my life's work. This doesn't mean I do it well every time! I make lots of mistakes, but I am doing the very best I can, learning as I go and I simply want people to know I care and as a grandmother, all children become your children. I want to be a part in honoring our global family and the home we all share, this beautiful planet we call Earth."

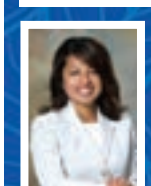
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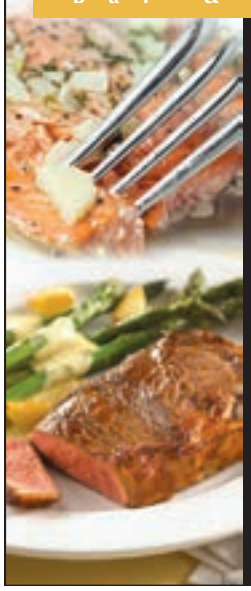
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