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Land Park News

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STRIKE AVERTED

Many left confused by the labor settlement

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Yee family has long history of community service

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Mid Century Modern with Pizaaz!

Sheila Van Noy

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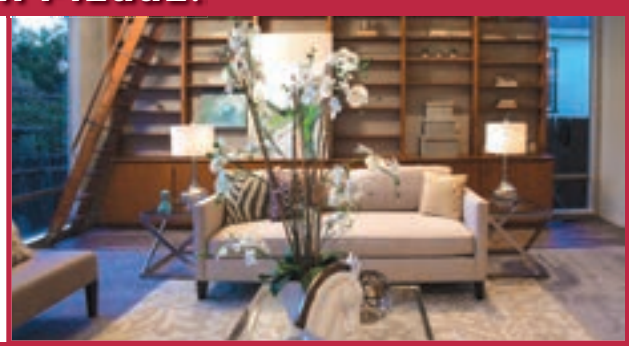
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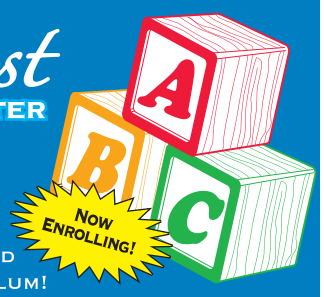
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LdV, Sutterville and St. Robert among Land Park area schools to get garden grants from Raley's

Raley's will be distributing nearly $300,000 to local schools this fall. Raley's received a diverse set of proposals from local accredited K-12 schools and school districts– requests spanned from supporting the delivery of a complete food literacy curriculum to the purchase and installation of water filtration and bottle filling stations.

Additional key areas of program focus for these grantees include: Gardening projects, healthy cooking classes, wellness/nutrition education, food literacy programs, healthy meals and snacking, as well as workforce development and career technical training.

Over at Leonardo da Vinci where each class room has a specific section of the garden for growing their own foods, kids learn about growing, harvesting, and finally cooking their own food. As the crops grow and become fertile, each classroom works with the PTC garden/cooking program volunteers to harvest the crops and cook the food they've grown.

A volunteer Farm Director has stepped up to help St. Robert manage an urban farm. Through this farm, they will focus on sustainability in agriculture, a volunteer program and community work days for helping take care of the farm, and harvesting health (a commodity will be highlighted each month).

At Sutterville, they plan to incorporate their "Leader in Me" program with the garden by focusing on enhancing and installing garden "grow and learn" areas and developing curriculum and learning materials and teaching.

At the Camellia Waldorf School, funds allow this school to purchase supplies for irrigation, gardening tools, soil, seeds and materials to create a shaded area for the students. Grades 1st through 8th will participate; each grade has specific curriculum associated with the garden (i.e. the 6th grade biology block and 7th grade chemistry block will use the garden to learn about Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium). The 3rd graders will cook as part of their curriculum and every Friday, the preschool and kindergarten classes make vegetable soup which will come from the garden.

Raley's Extra Credit Grants Program will be accepting applications again for the spring 2018 cycle Jan. 1, 2018. Accredited K-12 schools and school districts are encouraged to apply for grant funding to support programs that will help students in the areas of food literacy, healthy living, nutrition, agriculture, and food supply and origination. Schools and school districts that want to help Raley's impact the health and wellness of our communities are encouraged to apply during the Spring 2018 funding cycle in January 2018.

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Full of Love:

Sutterville Preschool celebrates 65 years and remembers teacher who passed away

By SALLY KING



Sutterville Preschool is celebrating 65 years of teaching "Children Through Play."

Principal Kimberley Kiley Tuzer, a bubbly, energetic woman, who has been at Sutterville Preschool for the last 17 years, said the philosophy of their preschool and why it is so popular is they believe play is children's work. The rules, said Tuzer are simple, "safe, kind and clean."

Tuzer said they recently lost a wonderful teacher and friend, Susie Kay Jones, to cancer. To honor their friend, the school is creating a wall mural with the theme, 'Full of Love,' in celebration of the school's 65th year. For a $100 donation, a family may purchase a 6-inch by 6-inch tile to paint as part of the mural. The only requirement is each tile must be full color and have at least one heart painted on it, keeping with the mural theme. There are a total of 308 tiles and the school has scheduled two painting party days to complete the mural. The mural will be installed sometime after winter break in December.

Jones taught at the school for 14 years and was loved by everyone. Jones served as co-director for a time.

Ana VanEngelen, who is currently the president of the preschool board said, "Susie had a wonderful sense of humor and she appreciated the kids who had a quirky sense of humor."

VanEngelen has one son who attended Sutterville Preschool and is now in elementary school and a younger son who is still there. VanEngelen attended Sutterville Preschool as a child and loved it, so she absolutely had to enroll her children once they reached preschool age. VanEngelen said she has met some of her best friends at this school as a volunteer and her children have also made lasting friends.

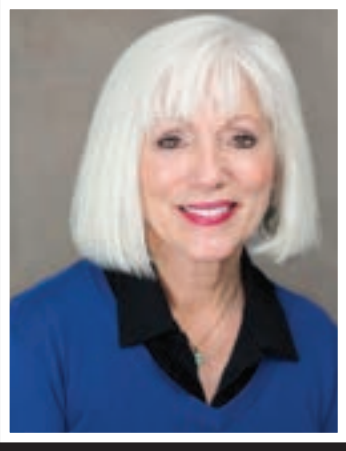
"Susie was such a joy to be around," said Kate David, acting vice president of the board.

David explained the teachers all came up with the idea of the mural and when Susie passed away. "It was a no-brainer for the teachers to honor and dedicate the mural to Susie." David revealed that Jones' husband, who owns a construction company, built the porch for the preschool. He is going to mount the mural on the porch wall facing the front of the street in honor of Susie and her love for the children.

David has three children. The youngest one attends the preschool and the other two attended the preschool when they were younger. David was told by friends that she had to get her children into this school, so she did. David has been at this school for six years.

Sutterville Preschool was started by a group of mothers in 1952. The preschool currently has 72 children enrolled, not all are full-time. The school has morning classes and afternoon classes, splitting the attendance in half for each session. Tuzer explained the school is a non-profit organization owned by the parents with 12 board members and there is a waiting list into the year 2020. Most of the parents volunteer and those who do volunteer, receive a discounted tuition. There are usually 50 volunteers helping the teachers throughout the week.

Listening to the teachers, parents and the many children running around the school, one thing is obvious, this is a school Full of Love.



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Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association to propose change in boundary in bylaws at annual membership meeting

The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association is proposing a change in boundary in its bylaws at the Nov. 14 annual membership meeting, which will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. inside Curtis Hall at Sierra 2, 2791 24th St.

According to the meeting announcement, the bylaws of SCNA define the neighborhood boundaries as: The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood is bounded on the east by Highway 99, on the north by Interstate 80, on the west by Freeport Boulevard south of its intersection with Union Pacific Railroad and by the Union Pacific Railroad north of that intersection, and on the south by Sutterville Road.

SCNA Board proposes the following change: The Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association is bounded on the east by Highway 99, on the north by X Street, on the west by the Union Pacific Railroad, and on the south by Sutterville Road.

The meeting announcement further explains that "the homes and businesses north of Sutterville, east of Freeport and west of the UP rail line would no longer be considered inside the boundary of SCNA. This area is already included in the boundary of the Land Park Community Association. These homes and businesses are in City Council District 4, while Curtis Park is in City Council District 5. It has never been the practice of SCNA to engage with the Council member of District 4 when issues arise that concern Curtis Park."

Source: *sierra2.org/event/annual-membership-meeting/*

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Sacramento Zoo veterinary profile: Dr. Louden Wright

Brushing a tiger's teeth, cleaning a giraffe's ear and trimming tortoise toes are all in a hard day's work for Sacramento Zoo veterinarians and those training to become zoo veterinarians. The Sacramento Zoo plays a key role in the training of future zoo veterinarians. The very first zoological medicine residency program in the world, and longest continually running program can be found right here in your neighborhood. It was started at UC Davis in 1974 by Dr. Murray E. Fowler. As part of the training, this program includes providing veterinary care to the animals at the Sacramento Zoo.

Dr. Louden Wright is the Sacramento Zoo's current veterinary resident. He is spending the first year of his residency at UC Davis/Sacramento Zoo, the second year will be at the San Diego Zoo, and the third year is the San Diego Zoo Safari Park and SeaWorld San Diego.

We wanted to get to know Dr. Wright a little better so we asked him a few questions and have shared his responses below:

1.Tell us a bit about yourself.

I am originally from Ashland City, Tennessee. It's a very small town west of Nashville. Small to the tune of two stoplights and one gas station when I was growing up. I attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville for both my Bachelors of Science in Animal Science and my Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degrees. After graduating, I completed a yearlong internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at the University of Wisconsin's College of Veterinary Medicine, and then a year-long specialty internship in Zoological and Exotic Animal Medicine at Kansas State University's Veterinary Health Center.

2. Why do you want to be a zoo veterinarian and what do you hope to accomplish in your future career?

It's a job that I will never get bored with or have to worry about falling into a rhythm while doing. The variety of animals and situations which one encounters in such a position offers constant variety. My morning alone might include x-rays of an armadillo, examining a giraffe leg, wound repair on an Egyptian bat, and trying to figure out how to apply a splint to a flamingo leg. With all of this variety, there is always a new experience to be had and new information to be learned.

In terms of what I hope to accomplish, it relates back to how much there is still to learn about the species with which I get to work. With so much unknown about so many of the species, there is a bevy of information still to be discovered. What I hope to accomplish (during the residency and after) is, through research and experience, to help determine how we can better take care of such animals in human care, and use that knowledge to help take care of them in the wild.

3. Why UC Davis?

The zoo medicine residency through UC Davis provides the opportunity to obtain a breadth and depth of experience in the field of zoological medicine that isn't available through any other program. At times throughout the residency, I get the chance to learn under mentors at top-tier institutions such as the Sacramento Zoo, the Marine Mammal Center, the San Diego Zoo, and the San Diego Safari Park. The volume and variety of experiences that the residents going through this program get to see prepares them very well for just about any job in the realm of zoological medicine.

4. What do you like to do outside of work/school?

Apart from studying? When I do have spare time, I prefer anything I can do outdoors. Hiking, camping, kayaking,

See Zoo, page 17



Courtesy Sacramento Zoo

Dr. Wright and veterinary staff performing exploratory surgery

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Teachers strike averted, many left confused by the negotiations

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Stepping in at a critical moment to stop 2,800 Sacramento teachers from striking, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg helped the Sacramento City Unified School District mediate a comprehensive agreement on a 3-year contract with the Sacramento City Teachers Association. With the announcement on Monday to offer up to an 11 percent raise for teachers over three years, classes resumed as normally planned this week.

"Forty-three thousand students, parents, teachers, and our entire community can breathe easy this afternoon," Steinberg said at a press conference outside City Hall on Monday – just two days before the Nov. 8 strike deadline, which was called at a union rally before the Nov. 2 school board meeting.

Reducing class size, hiring credentialed educators, and improving special education services were among the key bargaining table issues uniting parents and educators. Some have pointed out that the 11 percent pay increase isn't actually comprehensive; it takes into consideration adjustments to the pay scale for mid-career teachers.



Photo by George Young

Alice Birney teachers joined about 1,000 others at the Nov. 2 rally outside the district office.

A ratification vote is pending by both teams but is expected in the days ahead.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we believe this contract and the work we've done to arrive at this tentative agreement will clear that path," said SCTA President David Fisher in a written statement. "We appreciate the support and quick involvement of Mayor Darrell Steinberg to resolve this impasse and avoid the long-lasting impact of a strike, as well as the leadership of Superintendent Jorge Aguilar. We look forward to working together to transform Sac City Unified into the Destination District for generations to come."

Fighting to the 11th hour, tensions mounted on both sides as parents began organizing babysitting services as many of them wholeheartedly sided with teachers and refused to allow their children to cross the picket line and be taught by out-of-district substitutes who were offered $500 a day. While they planned keeping their students home during the potential work stoppage, those absences per the California Education Code were considered unexcused.

Others, preparing to help teachers at their neighborhood schools who were set to stage picket lines, offered various services from bringing food to opening up their homes for bathroom use.

While "extremely grateful to not miss class," Pony Express Elementary sixth grade teacher Erin Duarte said she's worried she has an "unpopular opinion" in that teachers and the district owe students and families more. As the SCTA argued the labor dispute wasn't about salaries alone, Duarte worries history might repeat itself and future promises may not materialize. "I am understanding that there are some possibilities for things later on down the line as far as class size reduction. (Remember how well that worked last time? We paid for it out of our check and it never happened.) Art, music, etc. but that's not enough. These parents rallied behind us because we were speaking up for kids. They were counting on us. As a parent, I have children who will never have had an art class or an art prep – nothing. An entire generation has gone without art and music in SCUSD schools unless they were fortunate enough to be at a rare site with one of those classes. Too early to celebrate; our kids deserve to be in on the celebration."

Duarte said former Pony Express parents offered to bring teachers lunch, cookies and coffee as well as open their homes for use of the restroom in case of a strike. "It was so so generous. The unity among the teachers was encouraging as well. But now, we just don't want to claim victory."

Not sending one's child to school during a strike,

See Strike, page 7

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Strike:

Continued from page 6

as parent Rose Lazuardi stated (if you have the means) "(was) a powerful message to the district."

"It is with great regret and consideration that they would (have) strike(d), as they haven't had one since the 80s. They have been working hard with no contract since December and the district (was) not responding to mediation," Lazuardi stated.

Caroline Lucas, a parent of a first grader at Matsuyama said she would not send her son to school if there was a strike. "Teachers are heroes- they chose a career they know they won't get rich at but that will make a huge difference. We have to take care of the people that are taking care of our kids. No one votes to go on strike because it is an easy thing to do- it is a really hard choice! But a huge majority of the people we trust to educate our kids made that hard choice. Shouldn't we trust them on this?"

Land Park Schools Foundation board member April Meszaros said if the strike were to go on for awhile, she would have considered applying to be an emergency sub and donating the $500 a day back to the school so programs can have an additional funding for enrichment programs. "I support the teacher strike, and understand that many families who also support the strike must send their kids to school since they don't have other options available, and would likely appreciate knowing some of the individuals who are taking care of their kids during the day. Plus, the school could use the additional funds," Meszaros said.

The Sacramento Bee stated in its Nov. 6 article that district leaders had said the requests "would cost too much money – $87 million more over three years, compared to the $22 million increase the district wanted to spend. The deal ultimately landed near the $22 million figure, according to district spokesman Alex Barrios, though no documentation was available Monday."

The tenor of the press conference remained celebratory with cheers on all sides and as Aguilar summed up, there is more work to do, but it will be done together. "With this agreement today, I believe that we've taken the first steps to prove to the community that we want to be fiscally responsible, while recognizing the very hard work that our teachers do day in and day out. The agreement signals are understanding that we have to deal with this debt and we are going to do it together."



Photos by George Young

More than 1,000 teachers, students and community members rallied outside the district office on Nov. 2 in support of a work stoppage.

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LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

By JAN DALSKE
Land Park News

It was a girl! We had another sister. I could tell that Rodney and Timothy were disappointed by the looks on their faces. But, I told them that it was good that we had another girl in the family. There would be more help around the house with doing the dishes and helping our mother with other chores. Then they both smiled and laughed and told me that I was right! Our dad had just arrived at home. He had been at the hospital all night waiting for the new baby to be born. He must have been very tired. And our mom would not be coming home for about a week. So I guess that he would need to get someone to watch the little ones so Rodney, Timothy and I could go to school. It was Friday, so we would be home all weekend. He just needed to find someone for next week.

I listened as my dad talked to one of his sisters, my aunts, on the telephone. We only had one telephone and it was in the area between the kitchen and the living room. Only my mother and father were allowed to talk on the telephone. We could not even answer it when it rang, which was not very often. Only adults could use the telephone. Rodney and I thought it was a silly rule because, first, we did not know how to use the telephone, and second, none of our friends used their telephones either. If I wanted to talk to any of my friends I could do that in person, either at school or at their houses.

My aunts both lived in Sacramento. They had families of their own. Our cousins were the same ages that we were, so they had them to take care of already. He was asking them if they knew of anyone he could ask to help with his family while he went to work. I watched as he wrote down a name and phone number. I guess one of my aunts knew of someone who was available. As soon as he headed for the back of the house, I tiptoed over to the telephone table and read the name on the pad of paper."Mrs. White". We would all meet Mrs. White on Monday morning before we left for school. I wondered what her first name was, and how old she was and if she was nice.

Dad took good care of us over the weekend. He had his hands full with six children. But, the older kids, Rodney and Timothy and I, helped him as much as we could. Wayne and Rita spent most of their time in the playpen. We could watch them better there. Linda gave Rita a dolly and a blanket to play with and that seemed to make her happy. Wayne just played with his blocks, and when we thought that his diaper needed changing we told our dad. We all missed our mother. We were all excited about meeting our new little sister. We did not know what her name was yet. I guess it was a secret.

The weekend went by too slowly for all of us. We missed our mother. Dad tried to make the meals, and they were okay, but not as good as what mom fixed for us. The three older kids all helped as much as we could just like our dad had asked us to do. We did not go to church on Sunday. I knew my dad could not have handled six kids at church. It was very quiet all weekend. I sat Linda and Rita down on the couch and read them some stories from my school books. They seemed to enjoy that. The boys just played quietly with their toys. There seemed to be a big empty space in the house that only our mom could fill.

When Monday morning arrived, the doorbell rang very early. Dad answered it right away so that the sound would not wake up the little ones. Rodney and Timothy and I were already ready to leave for school. We had eaten breakfast with our dad, who needed to leave for work as soon as Mrs. White arrived. She seemed like a nice lady and dad did not say too much to her as he headed out the door. He just shouted that he would see us later, after work, and after he stopped by the hospital to see our mother and the baby sister who had no name yet. I showed Mrs. White the bedrooms where Rita, Linda and Wayne were still sleeping. We tiptoed in and out very quietly. She would have her hands full when they all woke up. Me, I was off to school with my brothers and rushed out the front door right behind them.

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Music at Noon to celebrate 15 years of free, live concerts for the community

By LAURA I. WINN

For 55 minutes nearly every Wednesday for 15 years, the stained-glass sanctuary at Westminster Presbyterian Church has served as a free concert hall for the community. Each week at noon, several dozen to several hundred people have gathered in the wooden pews to take in the sounds of opera singers, college chamber choirs, youth symphonies, military bands, classical guitarists, string, woodwind and brass players, harmonicists, pianists and more.

On Nov. 15, the Music at Noon program will celebrate its 750th concert with an extended 75-minute concert of 20s, 30s and 40s big band music provided by Sacramento's SwingMasters. To add to the festive feel, the church will provide free balloons, cake, popcorn and coffee. As a challenge, the church aims to fill all of its 900 seats. It's a lofty goal that is more about drawing in as many people as possible to add to the excitement of the event rather than hitting one specific head count, explained Brad Slocum, who has been the Music at Noon Program Director since its debut.

When the program started in November 2002, the expectation for the series was modest. Simply put, Slocum and the church wanted to provide a quality concert each Wednesday to serve as a midday and midweek break from all the things that fill busy lives. Slocum had the idea of making the concerts weekly so the church wouldn't have to work as hard to get the word out and the community wouldn't have to remember to check an events calendar. If it was Wednesday (and as long as it wasn't a holiday), Westminster's doors would be open for free, live music.

In the beginning, about 50 people would attend. Within a few years, the concerts saw steady crowds of 100 to 150 people with the highest-attended concert drawing roughly 600 people. In more recent years, as the oldest and most dedicated attendees have passed on or become otherwise unable to attend, the series has seen fewer people in the seats, but Music at Noon is not about the numbers; it's about the experience for the community.

"It gives them something to look forward to in the middle of the day, to be lifted out of their cares and concerns" explained Slocum. "It's something that puts their mind in a happy place, that makes them think about the duty of music and the gifts and talents of our young people, as well as our seasoned players."

Although the series doesn't regularly draw as many into the pews as it once did, the demand to play the Westminster stage has stayed steady. Once an act – whether a popular Bay Area pianist or a local school group – is booked to play, they can expect a two-year wait until their concert date.

As the series continues in the years to come, Slocum said he hopes the younger generations will come to appreciate the high level of live musical talent it offers. Slocum, who is retired from the De Anza College Music Department, ascribes the current generational gap to a difference in culture and technology. "Musical culture today is different than it was 30 years ago because you have so many ways of getting music other than live concerts. Live concerts are not needed as much in today's culture because of CDs, radio, TV and phones."

Still, those devices can't replace the special way Westminster's Wednesday concerts affect individuals sitting in the pews or dancing in the aisles. For many, Slocum said, those 55 minutes are a "spiritual medication or a spiritual meditation."

Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 1300 N St. in Sacramento. Limited free parking is available behind the church and light rail stops one block away. Bagged lunches are welcome.

Upcoming Wednesday Music at Noon events

Nov 15: SWINGMASTERS! M.A.N.'s 15th Anniversary 75-minute Extravaganza Concert ENDS AT 1:20 p.m. Free popcorn; free cake, free coffee,; free CD or DVD with donation.
Nov. 22 Vocal Art Ensemble
Nov. 29: Violinist Dagenais Smiley and Friends
Dec. 6: Camellia City Flute Choir
Dec. 13: Chanteuses Vocal Ensemble
Dec. 20: Bel Tempo Handbells; Let's celebrate Mary Balkow's last concert as Director
Dec. 27: Happy Holly-Days! No M.A.N. this week
Jan. 3: Violinist Sandro Ladu; Pianist Ina Jun
Jan. 10 Pianist-Composer Chris Goslow and Friends
Jan. 17: Harpsichordist Faythe Vollrath
Jan. 24: David Granger's Trois Bois
Jan. 31: Sacramento Guitar Society Orchestra; Sean O'Connor, director

All concerts are one hour long except for the Nov. 15 show. All are held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1300 N St., Sacramento. For more information, call 442-8939.

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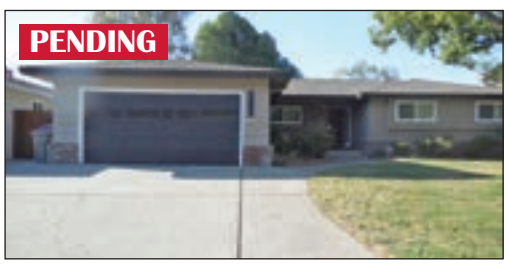
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Yee family has long history of community service

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
lance@valcomnews.com

While sitting in his South Land Park home last weekend, retired Sacramento dentist Dr. Herbert Yee said that he is proud of his family's longtime dedication to community service.

"Chinese tradition is that children and grandchildren follow in our footsteps," he said. "Not only in our professions, but to help out people in the community who are less fortunate, financially and health-wise."

Herbert, who has dedicated decades to community service, began what has become a three generational family tradition of assisting others.

Herbert, who was one of the seven children of Henry and Hum Yee, was born in Taishan, China.

At the age of 6, on May 1, 1931, Herbert came to the United States through Angel Island, and made his way to Sacramento a week later.

During World War II, Henry, who operated a chiropractic and herbal medicine practice at 707 J St., dreamed of having a school built in his hometown of Kee Shui.

The town did not have a school and the children had to walk on dirt roads to a school about five miles away.

With a desire to carry forth his father's dream, which he was unfortunately unable to fulfill, Herbert led a drive to fund the construction of a school in Kee Shui. The school, which is located on about five acres on the side of a mountain, serves about 400 first through ninth grade students.

The magnitude of that contribution was very much appreciated.

For instance, Herbert and members of his family visited the school in 2007 and were treated like royalty, and people lined the streets to greet Herbert as he walked through that town.



Three generations of Yee family members sit inside the South Land Park home of Dr. Herbert Yee. Shown left to right are Melissa, Michael, Herbert and Alan Yee.

A cultural center and library named after himself and his father also opened in China during the same year.

Herbert said that with the construction of the school, he became the first overseas Chinese person to have a school built in China.

The school, which opened in 1981, did not mark Herbert's first efforts to assist the less fortunate.

In about 1962, Herbert raised $107,000 for the Sacramento chapter of the American Cancer Society in two months.

The initial meeting to plan for the fundraising was held at Frank Fat's Chinese restaurant at 806 L St.

A significant portion of that fundraising was accomplished through a banquet at the Hotel El Dorado (eventually the Red Lion Hotel) at 500 Leisure Lane, near the then-future site of Cal Expo.

Herbert later worked for the city of Sacramento's Ann Land Commission, which was created to support destitute people of the city.

Through that commission, Herbert delivered groceries to the "old men's home" downtown, and presented them with vouchers to assist with their rent or to buy food.

Herbert, who in addition to his former work as a dentist is a real estate investor, has also philanthropically contributed to the Sacramento Zoo, the California Museum, the California State Railroad Museum, the Sutter Medical Foundation, ACC Community Services, the University of the Pacific dental school, Stanford University and Loma Linda University.

A member of the second generation of Herbert's family, Herbert's son, Alan, said that he was inspired by his father to go into the medical profession and become involved in community service.

Alan, who graduated from Loma Linda University, said that he has enjoyed being on the board of the Sacramento Zoo for about the last eight years.

"I enjoy that community outreach," he said. "I think it's very important for Sacramento to preserve the function of the zoo. Not only just the animals, the entertainment, but I think conservation of the animals and protecting them."

Alan mentioned that he has also spent the past five years donating his time to a hospital in Haiti.

"Working in an (intensive care unit) is a natural for me, because that's what I do here at Sutter Medical Center," he said. "(Haiti) was a place that I could go and work and be useful at. Then we took a couple of critical care nurses and they worked there, too."

Alan, who fondly recalled growing up in the Land Park area, has also donated funds to the Sacramento Public Library Foundation to help local libraries, including the Belle Cooledge Library.

His wife, Helen, is also a supporter local libraries, as she formerly served as chair of Libraries for Our Future, a committee of citizens who

See Yee, page 13





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Yee:

Continued from page 12

work toward having branch library hours extended, increasing the number of books available and ensuring that libraries keep pace with technological advances in providing information.

Helen also spearheaded a year-long campaign to pass a ballot measure, which provided millions of dollars in annual funding for city libraries. It was recently renewed again by city voters.

Wesley Yee, another one of Herbert's sons, said that he also contributed to the family's community service efforts.

"We created the Dr. Herbert and Inez Yee Scholarship to assist (California State University, Sacramento) students who are accepted into dental school," he said. "We give a $2,500 scholarship each year to lower income, deserving students."

Wesley also contributed to a Rotary Club of Sacramento project to donate wheelchairs and medical equipment to a nursing home in Taishan, in 2007.

For the past four years, Wesley has participated in a medical mission in Jamaica, where he has donated free dental services.

A third generation of the family, Alan's son, Michael Yee, currently contributes to the capital campaign of Fairytale Town.

Michael, a Land Park area attorney who graduated from the McGeorge School of Law in 2008, said that he is desirous that Fairytale Town continues for future generations to enjoy.

"It's great," he said. "I see all this opportunity (at Fairytale Town). I want to see that grow and help this community out here in Land Park. I know they want to expand and they have a lot of great ideas there.

"Anyway I can help, either by donating my time or donating funds or connecting them with people, I'm glad to do. And they want to keep (the place) getting better and better every year and I think that's great for the Land Park community."

Michael's sister, Melissa Littau, graduated from McGeorge in 2006 and works in the Land Park area as an elder law attorney.

In addition to her legal work, she has volunteered and worked for ACC Community Services.

Melissa said that she has experienced a lot of satisfaction in helping others.

"I like to serve the elder law community and serve the community here in Land Park," she said. "When I graduated from law school, I worked with an attorney (Catherine Hughes), who had been an attorney for 30 years. She was passionate about working with the underserved community, the elderly. She also helped influenced my decision. So, she retired and that helped open the door to working with my brother (Michael), which has been great, because of how we've been here in Land Park."

Alan said that his grandchildren are currently learning about assisting others who are less fortunate.

"My grandkids, 2 to 4 years old, are learning about the joy of giving in a way they can understand at this young age," he said. "Starting at age 2, they have been putting together gift-filled shoe boxes filled with toys, hygiene products and school supplies for kids less fortunate, which are shipped to more than 150 countries through a program called Samaritan Purse."

With a satisfied expression on his face for a job well done in serving people in Land Park and beyond, Herbert said he continues to enjoy the life that he built in his beloved community of Land Park. And he added that is not bad for one who recently turned 93.

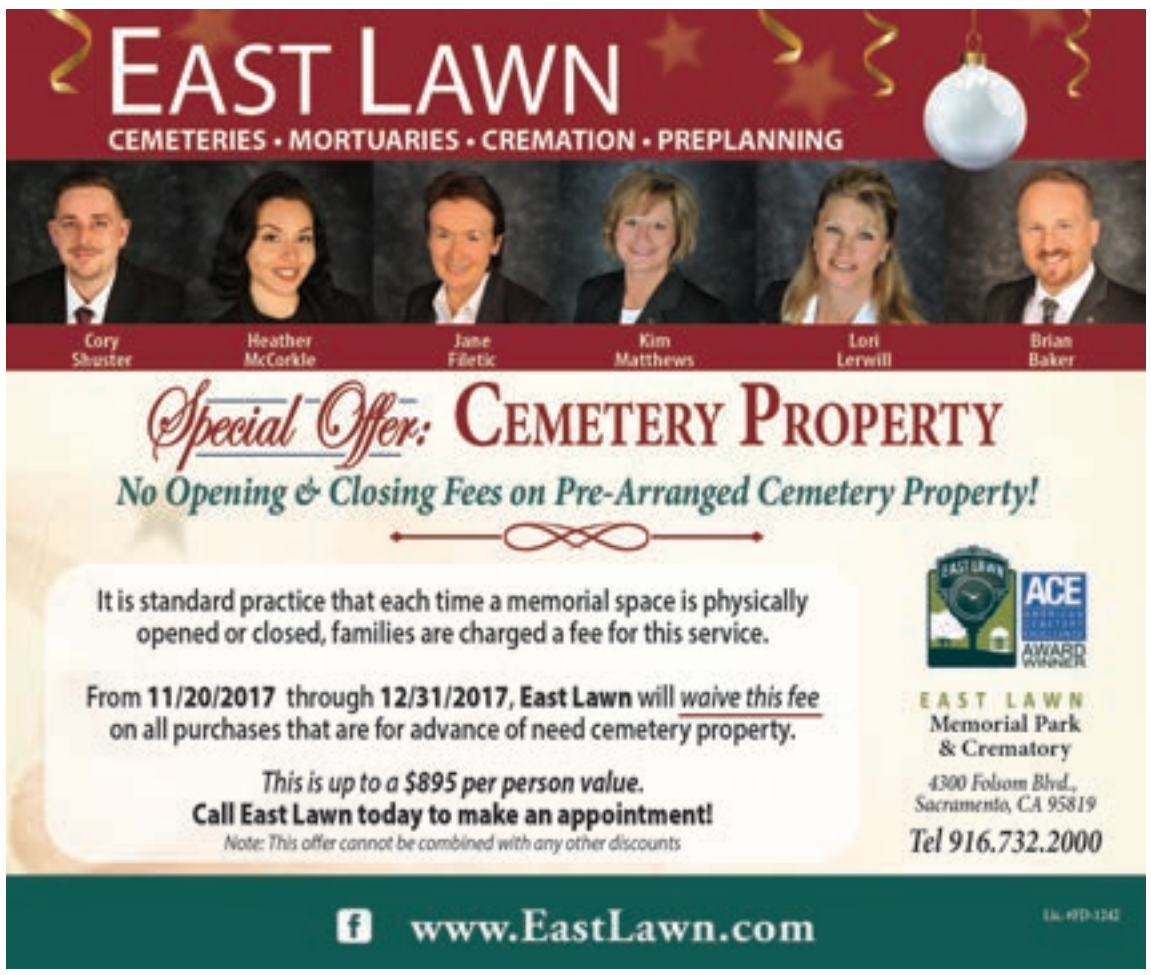
"I can't live forever, but I'm doing pretty good," he said with a smile.



Michael Yee and his sister, Melissa Littau, stand outside their Land Park area law offices.







Vendors fill Elks Lodge at annual arts and crafts festival

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
lance@valcomnews.com

Shoppers seeking holiday gifts on Oct. 28 found plenty of items to choose from at the Treasures of Talent Arts & Crafts Festival at the Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 building on Riverside Boulevard.

The event featured vendors from a variety of places, but mostly from the Pocket, Land Park and other areas around the county.

Jim Von Bergen, a Sacramento Elks Club member who is one of the organizers of this crafts show, described the ongoing success of this event.

"We do this every year," he said. "My wife, Joyce, and I organize all of this, and she does all the paperwork and I do all of the logistics. This is our fifth year and we have sold out 30 days early almost every year."

Jim said that it is important to maintain the event as an authentic crafts show.

"The main thing is that we had people when we first started (the event) selling (mass-produced) Chinese things. We slowly weeded them out, because they set back somebody who is a true crafter. So, all these people here that you see are true crafters. They actually make the things that they sell here. That makes it more exciting, especially for the buyers."

One of the buyers who appreciates the works of these crafters is Mamie Jean Calvert, who said that she traveled from her home in Elk Grove to specifically shop at this festival.

"I think the (event) is wonderful," she said. "I know how hard people work to make crafts, so I love to come over here and try to support them and buy a few things that I can possibly use for Christmas presents."

Photographer Richard Turner, who grew up in Bakersfield and has lived in the Sacramento area since 1964, was among the many vendors offering their works at the event.

Turner, who uses his photographs on greeting cards, has traveled the world capturing images of wildlife, flowers and other scenes in nature.

A former attorney, Turner has experienced much success, as he has sold more than 54,000 greeting cards and has a self-published book of some of his best images.

Turner described why he enjoys selling his greeting cards.

"The reason why (he sells them) is that they're pretty and it makes people feel happy," he said. "So, when I produce a card, it makes the person that buys it happy and it makes the person that receives it happy and it makes me happy. When I was a lawyer, everybody was pissed off."

Pocket resident Teresa Peterson also had a selection of greeting cards, as well as gift tags and other paper crafts, at the event.

Peterson's gift cards are different than Turner's cards, as they do not include photographs and are multi-dimensional art pieces.

Peterson noted that most of her cards take one to two hours to create and can have four to five layers.

"It is very time consuming, but I love it," she said. "It took me about four years to really develop my craft, and I'm art and I love it."

Another vendor, Pocket resident Barbara Jacobsen, sat behind a table filled with teddy bears.

Jacobsen, who is an Elks member, said that she washes used teddy bears that she buys at a Goodwill Industries store, and then gives them new, crafty outfits that she personally designs and knits.

As for the teddy bears that she does not sell, Jacobsen, 84, makes sure that they still find new owners, she explained.

"The teddy bears that are sold go to individuals, and the teddy bears that are left all go to the children's hospital."

Sitting alongside Jacobsen at the event was another vendor, Pocket resident Shirley Leonard, who was selling terrariums that she created.

Leonard, who was accompanied at her booth by Jasmine Fortes, said that she makes terrariums that are works of art.

"I try to make them look artistic or tell a little story like a beach scene or sometimes a desert or sometimes just a forest or sometimes just the plants that I like," she said. "I spend a lot of time on it and it's the most expensive hobby I've ever had."

Sitting at another booth were business associates Maria Calvert and Lenor Gonzales, who make a variety of items, including miniature polymer clay snowmen and people faces.

Maria, who is not related to Mamie, described the satisfaction she finds in creating these items.

"Why we enjoy really doing this is it allows people to create memories and make special ornaments, and it's a forever keepsake," she said.

Calvert described the challenge of creating such small items as "trial and tribulation."

"They were really challenging in the beginning – a lot of smoke coming out of the oven sometimes," she said. "You have to be precise with the time in the oven. But we each have our specialties. (Gonzales) does part of it and I do the other part. Like these, I started creating superheroes like Batman, the Incredible Hulk and Wonder Woman."

Gonzales mentioned that it was her idea to begin making miniature items.

"I like to do arts and crafts and I had seen something similar, but not exactly, and I thought if I enjoy (these items), some other people might enjoy having these keepsakes, too."

Another vendor, 90-year-old Al Machado, who formerly worked for Sears, Roebuck & Co. (now Sears Holdings Corp.), spends his retirement years making such artistic crafts as religious crosses, decorative wood and acrylic pens and key chains, letter openers and candlestick holders.

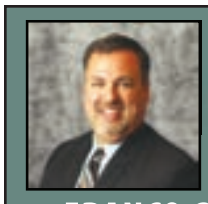
Machado, who lives in Elk Grove, mentioned that he does not make much money selling his items, but he continues to create his artworks as a hobby that brings joy to others.

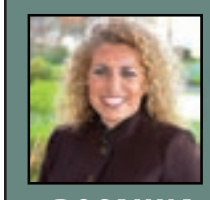
Also vending her crafts was South Land Park resident Holly Lefebvre, who makes various items, including artistic magnets for clothing, decorative bottles and wine glasses, and jewelry.

"I make it all," Holly said with a smile on her face.

Another popular part of the event was the offerings of food vendors, who sold handmade sweets.

One of those vendors, Elk Grove resident Janet Carver, offered about 15 different types of candy, including chocolates.


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Words matter: 'grief' applies to the life altering events of the fire storms in Santa Rosa. It also applies to 'feeling blue' and the anxieties of the coming holidays. Regarding this feeling and others, call G. Epstein, M.D. 916 454-3668 at Mercy Plaza, Ste 270, 3939 J Street. Appointments Wednesday afternoon.



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COUNSELING SERVICE

Words Matter. I'm amazed Dr. Boucher didn't shoot Senator Paul. Holidays are anxious times, before you lose it, lash out without thinking, talk to me. I'll listen. G Epstein, MD 916-454-3668

Please RECYCLE this paper. Thank You

Check out the Home Improvement Guide
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Zoo:

Continued from page 5

fishing (though I'm quite bad at it)- really anything that gets me outside when the weather is decent. I also enjoy cooking. Really, I enjoy eating things that taste good and the cooking is more of a means to an end.

5. Do you have a favorite animal at the Sacramento Zoo?

Sukari, the eastern bongo, probably takes the cake as my favorite animal at the zoo. Bongo are large (500 pounds or more) antelope species that tend to be skittish and for the most part, avoid contact with humans. Sukari, who was receiving treatment for a hoof infection earlier this year, is the opposite of that. He doesn't seem to pay attention when people are around unless you have one of his favorite food items in hand, in which case he is happy to greet you.



Courtesy Sacramento Zoo

Dr. Louden Wright

6. Any other interesting tidbits we should know about you?

I used to perform in Broadway-style musicals. The Music Man, Give My Regards To Broadway, Guys and Dolls, etc… I don't do much of that anymore but can still carry the tune '76 Trombones (Music Man) quite well.

Source: SacZoo.org



Let us know

Send information about your event—including date, time, location, a brief description, cost (if any), and contact information.

E-mail us at editor@valcomnews.com



—EVENT CALENDAR—



Got News?

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What's happening, Land Park?

THURSDAY, NOV. 9

NEIGHBORHOOD KNITTERS – Do you have knitting projects you need to finish? Do you enjoy a little conversation with your knitting? Join our knitting group, learn some new tricks, and share your knowledge with others. We welcome all ages and skill levels. Thursday, November 9 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

ANDROID PHONE TRAINING: Have difficulty hearing or seeing on your Android? Attend a FREE Android training class and make the Android work for you. Learn basic functions, such as sending text messages, making it easier to hear and see, connecting to Bluetooth and much more on your Android. Class is limited to six people. Free of charge and pre-registration required for one of two classes to be held Monday November 6, 2017 from 2:30-4:30pm or Thursday November 9, 2017 from 3:30-5:30pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

FRIDAY, NOV. 10

AN EVENING WITH SCOTT PRUETT AT THE AUTO MUSEUM: Dinner with storied race car driver, Roseville native (and 1989 Indy 500 Rookie of the Year) Scott Pruett from 6 to 9 p.m. at the California Automobile Museum, 2200 Front St. All tickets come with a complimentary drink and plenty of time to check out our collection (including plenty of race cars) The prices for this dinner are as follows: Dinner ticket only: $100 for Gearhead Members, $120 for general public; Dinner ticket + VIP meet-and-greet experience with Scott Pruett: $125 for Gearhead Members, $145 for general public; Buy a table of 8: $1,000 (includes VIP meet-and greet, reserved premium seating, and acknowledgement from emcee). For ticket information, visit www.flipcause.com.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 15

LPCA COMMUNITY MEETING: Sacramento City Council Member Steve Hansen will be at the Wednesday, Nov. 15 Land Park Community Association community meeting at Eskaton Monroe Lodge (3225 Freeport Blvd.), starting at 6:30 p.m. You are welcome to bring your questions.

THURSDAY, NOV. 16

INTERNET SAFETY: A COMPUTER USER'S GUIDE TO PRIVACY AND SECURITY: Computer and the Internet have change our world. We can now work, learn, play, socialize, shop and manage our daily lives online. But not everyone we interact online is trustworthy. Some people use the Internet to anonymously harass or annoy others, to damage computer systems or data and even commit crimes. Learn some simple steps to help you avoid becoming a victim. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Thursday November 16, 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.orgs.

FRIDAY, NOV. 17

JFK BENEFIT DINNER AT PANDA EXPRESS: The JFK High School Band is joining with Panda Express in the new Delta Shores shopping complex for their "launch day" on Friday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.. On this day, Panda Express at this site will donate 20% of all sales to the JFK band. 8166 Delta Shores Circle.

SATURDAY, NOV. 18

CHARITY SHRED EVENT: Cook Realty is here to help you clean house. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., protect yourself from identity theft by bringing out all your unneeded confidential paper to be shredded by RID – Rapid Information Destruction. You can see the documents shredding in front of you; there will be a camera on site at Cook Realty, 4305 Freeport Blvd. $5 per box; $3 per grocery bag. Checks can be made to Cook Realty Charitable Foundation, Inc., Tax ID #26-1074718. Call ahead to let them know you are coming. Once the truck is full, it's gone. For more information, call Meena Chan Lee (dre #01082594) at 837-9104 or email meenachanlee@gmail.com.

LIBRARY ANNIVERSARY AND OPEN HOUSE – Adult. Saturday, November 18 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

LIVE REPTILES WITH PYTHON RON – Do you love snake, turtles, and all other kinds of reptiles? Then come see Python Ron and he shows us some of the most amazing reptiles from around the world and will even let us pet some of these amazing creatures! School Age. Saturday, November 18 from 3-4 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

LIGHT TO THE WORLD EVENT AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY: The public is welcome to discover who Bahá'u'lláh is and what he represents to the world in light of today's challenges! In 2017, people around the world are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Birth of Bahá'u'lláh, the Divine Educator for this age and Founder of the Bahá'í Faith. Belle Cooledge Library Community Room, 5600 South Land Park, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 21

TEEN BOOK CLUB – Monthly teen book club meeting where you can enjoy snacks and participate in a lively discussion of the book of the month. Copies of this month's book will be available to pick up at the front desk. This month's book: The Carnival at Bray by Jessie Ann Foley. Ages 13-18. Tuesday, November 21 from 4-5 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

FRIDAY, NOV. 24

FREE ADMISSION DAY & CANNED FOOD DRIVE AT FAIRYTALE TOWN: Fairytale Town offers FREE admission to visitors who bring in a canned good to donate the day after Thanksgiving from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All goods collected will be donated to the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, Spirit of Giving Holiday Drive. Enjoy free play inside of Fairytale Town, plus free arts and crafts activities. Puppet Art Theater Company will also be on hand to present a puppet show! Watch a holiday version of Jack and the Beanstalk at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 PM in the Children's Theater. Puppet show tickets are $1 for members and $2 for nonmembers. Tickets are available 15 minutes prior to each show time at the Children's Theater doors or at the box office. Not sure what food items to bring for donation on the day after Thanksgiving? The following items are on the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services wish list: Canned fruits, vegetables and beans; Canned meat, tuna and chicken; soup; peanut butter. Please note: Fairytale Town is open weather permitting. If skies are gray, please call us at (916) 808-7462 or check our website to confirm our hours for the day. Adults must be accompanied by children and children must be accompanied by adults in order to gain admittance to the park. 3901 Land Park Drive.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

FIFTH ANNUAL DANDELION ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW: The Sacramento Senator Lions Club presents this free admission and free parking event at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All sales profits go to support various community projects. Visit sacramentosenatorlions.org to see how the Sacramento Senator Lions Club serves the community. For event information, email senatorlionsevents@gmail.com

TUESDAY, DEC. 5

VICTIMS RIGHTS AND SERVICES: Did you know that victims of crime have rights in the California Constitution? Join the Victims of Crime Resource Center to learn about these rights and how to enforce them. Attendees will also get information about the host of free services available to victims of crime in California. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 11 a.m. to noon at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

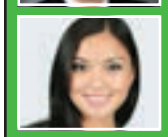
THE UPSIDE OF DOWNSIZING: Anyone who has downsized to a smaller living space will tell you "It is Work!" Choosing what to keep and what to leave behind is only part of the equation in this transition. Whether 36 or 86 years old, there are things to do to make the transition easier. Join me and my special guest who will share a personal look into the Upside of Downsizing. Pre-payment of $3 and pre-registration required. $5 drop-in at the door. Class will be held Thursday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. to noon at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

See more What's Happening, page 19

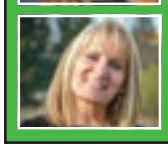

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What's happening, Land Park?

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

TEENAGE WASTELAND AT FLUID ESPRESSO BAR: Come to Barrio on December 9th for "Teenage Wasteland"! Arrive 6-9 p.m. for local teen art, entertainment, food, and beverages!

THURSDAY, DEC. 12

IDENTITY THEFT: December is National Identity Theft Prevention and Awareness month. Identity theft, a serious crime that can harm your finances, credit history and reputation, takes time to resolve. Join us for a free workshop to learn how to protect your personal information and avoid being a victim of crime. You will learn how to identify ID theft and take timely action to clear up the problems and minimize the damage. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

ONGOING

AESOP'S FUN FABLES PERFORMANCE AT SCC: Written & Directed by Doug Lawson City Theatre presents Aesop's Fun Fables at noon on Saturdays and Sundays from Nov. 11 - Dec. 3 at the Sacramento City College Performing Arts Center, Little Theatre (PAC 106). General admission is $5 all performances (children two years and under are free). Opening Day Special: $2.50 (children two years and under are free).

ROBIN HOOD IN THE FOREST OF FROGWARTS: A BRITISH PANTO: City Theatre presents Christine Nicholson's Robin Hood in the Forest of Frogwarts, as directed by Luther Hanson. Show dates are Nov. 17 - Dec. 10. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays; 2 p.m. on Sundays and 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 25 and Saturday, Dec. 9. All performances will be held inside the main auditorium inside the Performing Arts Center at Sacramento City College. Ticket prices are $18 general admission, $15 seniors/SARTA/ADA/Mil, $10 students, and children over 6.

LADIES GOLF CLUB IN LAND PARK: Did you know there is a women's golf club that regularly plays at William Land Park? Women can discover the joys of golf, build new social relationships and get fit the fun way by joining the William Land Women's Golf Club. This 9-hole group meets Thursday mornings. It's open to women of all ages and golf abilities. Questions....or want more information....please call 916-422-0831 or email gretjen@comcast.net

BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY VIDEO GAMES AND VIDEO GAME SYSTEMS DRIVE: The Belle Cooledge Library is looking for video games and working game systems for our afterschool teen space program for next year. If you have any video games or working game systems that you would like to donate please bring them to the Belle Cooledge Library and we will provide a tax receipt. What is Teen Space? Join other area teens in our community room for our afterschool Teen Space! Hang out, geek out and mess around with friends and snacks! Seriously, what could be better? Teen Space occurs weekdays from 3 - 5 PM (except Thursdays 1:30 - 5 p.m.), is free, and open to teens between the ages of 12 - 18. (During the school year) All Library programs are free and open to the public a library card is not required! Belle Cooledge Library is located at 5600 South Land Park Dive. Library hours are Tuesdays noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

JANE AUSTEN READING GROUP AT ELLA K. MCCLATCHY LIBRARY: This monthly group reads the works of Jane Austen and meets the third Saturday of each month in the Ella K. McClatchy library from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. All Austen fans are welcome. 2112 22nd St.

LAND PARK VOLUNTEER CORPS WORK DAYS: Help the corps with various work projects in William Land Park after a very wet winter.. First Saturdays of the month from 9 a.m. to noon. Meet at the Base Camp located in the picnic grounds directly behind Fairytale Town.

FAMILY FRIDAYS AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY: Spend some family time together this summer at the library with Family Fridays! Each Friday, in the Community Room there will be board games, cards, Wii gaming, arts and crafts, toddler toys, and a reading nook! This is a Summer Reading Challenge: Read by Design event each Friday from 3 to 5 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive.

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH SACRAMENTO: 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.

SAC TRANSIT RIDERS UNION WEEKLY MEETING: Interested in democratizing transit and putting the "public" back into "public transit"? Sac TRU's weekly meetings, held every Saturday from 1-3 p.m. addresses these issues. Organize Sacramento, 1714 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818

POP-UP BOOK SALE AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY: Every first Tuesday of the month from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., the book sale features books for all ages. Support your local library and pick up some great reads! All proceeds from the sale benefit library programs. The Friends Bookstore will be open regular hours. The sale is held at the entrance to the library. 5600 South Land Park Drive

SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET AT THE ELKS LODGE, NO. 6: From 8:30 to 11 a.m., enjoy eggs, omelets, corn beef hash, bacon or sausage. 6446 Riverside Blvd.

BABY STORYTIME AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY –Nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. For children up to about 18 months old. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive.

TODDLER STORYTIME BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY – Toddlers ages one to three and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. After the storytime, there will be a stay and play group. Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY – Preschoolers ages three and older and their caregivers are invited for fun songs, stories, fingerplays and a play activity. Thursdays at 11 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY PRESENTS SING ALONG WITH MISTER COOPER – Join neighborhood favorite Mister Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for families. Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive.

FAMILY STORYTIME AT ELLA K. MCCLATCHY LIBRARY – Every Tuesday at 10 a.m. for books, songs, stories and fun. Miss Lindsey and her guitar always make this storytime a fun event. Everyone is welcome to stay for our STEAM stay and play activity of the day. Recommended for ages 0-5. Every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

YOGA CLASSES AT PARKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH: **Svaroopa ©/Restorative Yoga** classes are a journey into yourself. Beginning by walking through the door, settling in a relaxation pose, guided through self awareness, breathing and poses. The poses are propped to meet your deepest muscular tension. As the support of props, specific alignments and the weight of your body gently reach into these deep tender areas, your spinal muscles release and let go. Side effects of this deep release are Bliss, resolving stress and fear, and a deep appreciation of yourself. Physical effects that have been reported are pain relief, improved respiratory, circulatory, immune, neurological systems and more. Walking out of the class you feel a greater sense of wellbeing. This is a body, mind and spirit filled experience. Thursdays 7:15-9:00pm advanced. Questions 916-833-9444. **Hatha Yoga** – breath, meditation, and postures with various forms of movement to help release tension throughout the entire mind and body. You'll sweat a little, relax a lot, and leave feeling strong, calm and connected. *Hatha Flow is Level 1-2 class and is suitable for active beginner and intermediate students. Wear comfortable, form-fitting clothes. Questions, Call (718) 578-5258 or email: eva@evacollins.com
Hatha Flow Classes Thursdays 5:45-7:00pm. All Classes held at Parkside Community Church Fellowship Hall
5700 South Land Park Drive; 916-428-7927.

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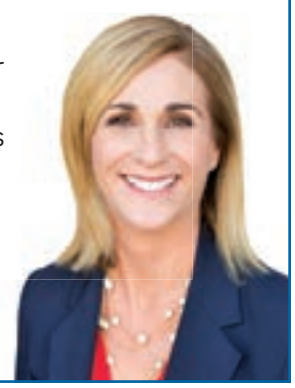
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