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Land Park News

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The Land Park News is published on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the area bounded by Broadway to the north, Interstate 5 on the west, Florin Road on the south and Freeport Boulevard/21st Street on the east.

Publisher ..... David Herburger
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Vol. XXVII • No. 08
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'Full of Love' mural on display at Sutterville Preschool

By SALLY KING

Sutterville Preschool held their dedication for the 'Full of Love' mural Thursday, March 22.

The mural was created to honor 65 years of Sutterville Preschool and the life of Susie Kay Jones, a preschool teacher, who passed away September, 2017.

The families and teachers of the preschool had the opportunity to buy a six-inch by six-inch tile to paint. The only requirement was each tile had to be full color and have at least one heart painted on it, keeping with the mural theme.

The mural was finished a couple of weeks ago. The school board waited to display it on the wall at the entrance of the school until the day of the dedication. The mural had a bright red ribbon on it for the celebration.

"The wall is the epitome of Susie," said Betty Stafford, whose three grandchildren attended the preschool.

Kimberly Tozer, the principal of the preschool said she wants to thank Kate David, the acting vice-principal of the school, who came up with the idea of the mural. Tozer said David did most of the planning and organizing of getting the parents and teachers together to paint the mural.

"This isn't closure. It's remembering Susie as a great daughter, mother, wife, teacher and wonderful friend," beamed Tozer.

Helen Cardenas who taught with Susie for years said, "The mural is such a beautiful piece of art for a beautiful person and a beautiful place."

Mike Costantino, whose two sons attended the preschool commented, "It's impressive to see how many lives Susie has touched over the years and with this mural she's still touching them."

Tozer was happy to see the many families that came to the dedication to celebrate Sutterville preschool's 65 years and to honor and celebrate Susie.

Looking around at the school filled with families who excitedly wanted to see the mural and point out which tile they painted confirms this is truly a mural 'Full of Love.'

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPORTS STORIES?
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Taste of Land Park set for Sunday, May 20

One of the neighborhood's largest social events of the year, A Taste of Land Park will be held on Sunday, May 20 from 4 to 7 p.m. Bringing neighbors, both current and former, out to enjoy a nice evening of conversation, food, wine, beer, music, and art, the annual event is fun and relaxed for Land Park.

The largest fundraiser for the Land Park Community Association, all proceeds from the event help support park enhancements and improvements, the LPCA grants program, other LPCA events during the year, and other fitting needs in our neighborhood.

Every year as spring approaches, people always begin to ask when the date will be for A Taste of Land Park, says LPCA president Stephanie Duncan. "It's something that people look forward to attending every year and I'm so thankful that we can bring neighbors together while financially supporting all the work that we do in the community... We couldn't put on this event without our dedicated volunteers, donors and sponsors."

Hitting the stage this year, "Sacramento's Hottest 80's rock cover band," Rock Candy includes band members: Gina Bright (bass), Brooke Bright (guitar, vocals), Dave Sarver (drums), Bill Glaholt (keyboard, vocals), and Laura Shultz (Vocals).

So, come out and see what area eateries and regional wineries and breweries have to offer. There's also a free bike valet! Note: This is a 21 and older event.

If you live, work, or own a business within the LPCA boundaries, Duncan encourages you to become a member and get involved with the association. LPCA boundaries include Land Park, South Land Park Estates, South Land Park Terrace, and Upper Land Park. Essentially, Hwy 50 to Fruitridge and I-5 to Freeport Blvd (plus the area north of Sac City College on the Land Park site of the railroad tracks). "We have volunteers from area high schools to help set-up for the event and clean-up afterward. We also have a group of great Land Park Community Association (LPCA) members who volunteer to sell tickets at the entrance, pass out wine glasses, distribute wristbands and clear tables during the event. Volunteer opportunities are currently limited to these two groups, but we happily welcome any other LPCA members who would like to donate their time during the event," Duncan added.



Photos by Dinelia Noel/Pine + Able (http://www.pineandable.com/)



Tickets can be purchased on Eventbrite via www.landpark.org or in person at Vic's Ice Cream & Taylor's Market. Prices are $40 in advance (plus any Eventbrite fees if purchased online) and $45 at the entrance. The location is 10th Avenue, with entrance at 13th Street.

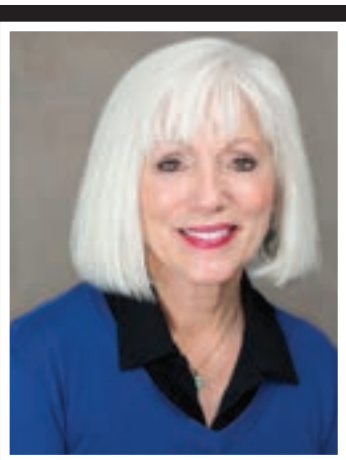
Date: Sunday, May 20th from 4-7pm
LPCA members get in early at 3:30pm

The wine and craft beer list, is as follows:

Alaro Brewing
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Boeger Winery
Carvalho Family Winery
Fountain Head Brewing Co.
Miners Leap
Moniz Family Wines
Perry Creek
Porchlight Brewing Company
Revolution Wines
Sobon Estate
Steiner Family Vineyards
Story Winery
Three Wine Company

The food/drink vendors are:

Casa Garden Restaurant
Chocolate Fish Coffee Roasters
Cowtown Girl Cakes & Catering
Dad's Kitchen
Dali's Kitchen
Ernesto's
Florez Bar and Grill
Masullo's
Nekter Juice Bar
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LOVELY POCKET HOME

This 4 bedroom 3 bath home is located on a cul de sac with access to the Sacramento River levee. It features newer roof, dual pane windows and plantation shutters. Living room with fireplace, formal dining area, family room w/ fireplace and wet bar. The spacious kitchen has granite counters, built-in cabinets and a separate eating area making this floor plan both functional and inviting. Landscaped back yard with pool, spa, and patios.

14 Chicory Bend Court



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Faces and Places:

Loving the classic music and dance revival at the Elks

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY

Neighbors danced away the night to continuous DJ music of the 1950s, 60s and 70s by Darryl Tatum on Friday, Feb. 9. Besides the tunes, the evening included no host cocktails, a nacho bar and popcorn, burgers and hotdogs, potato salad. The night's proceeds benefited the Elks general fund. The Elks is located at 6446 Riverside Blvd.; 916-422-6666.







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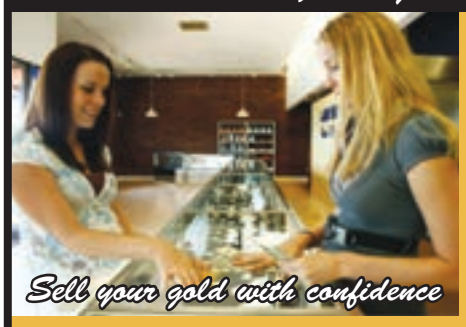
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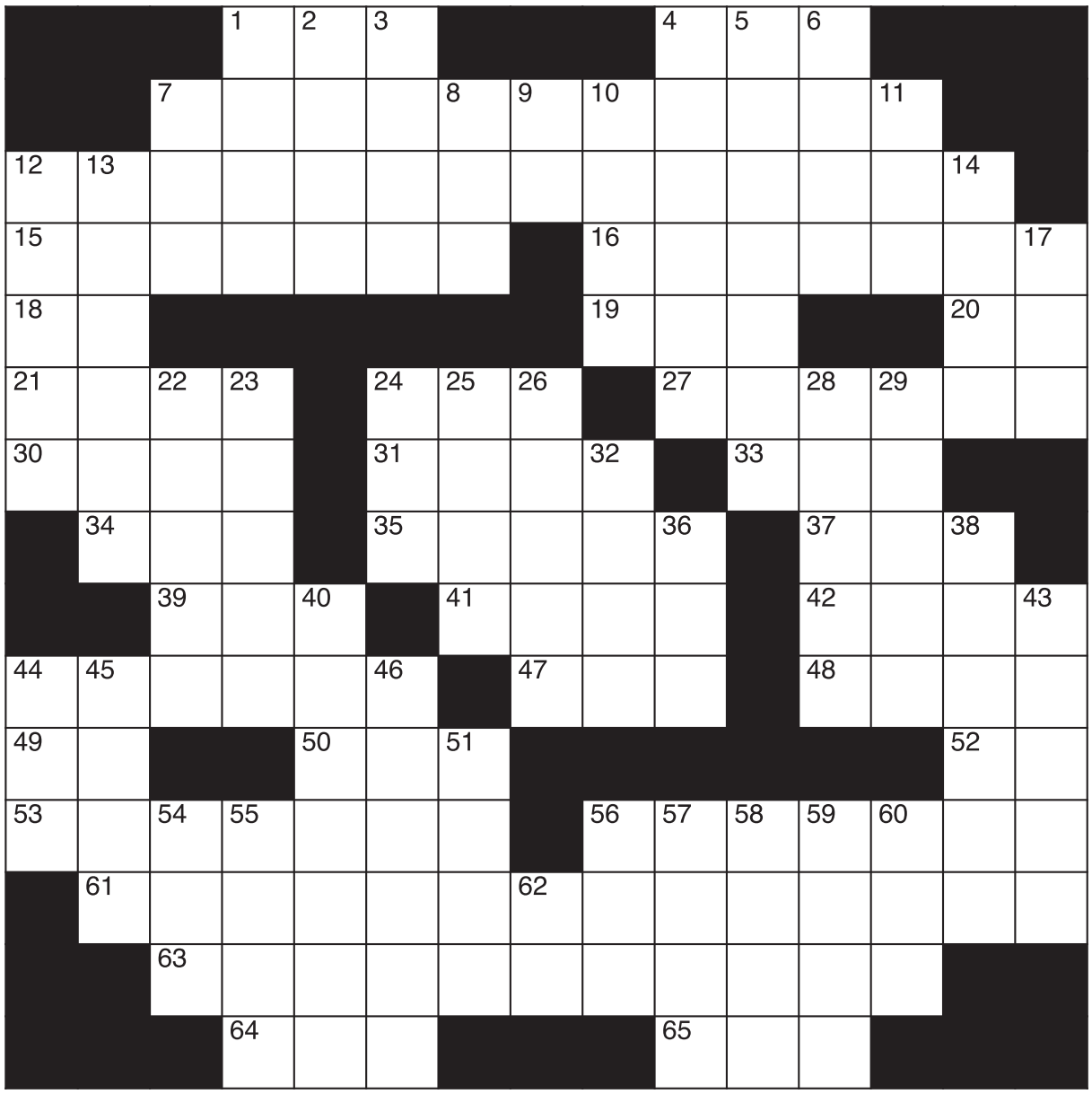
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Small lump
4. Helps little firms
7. A way of performing
12. Lawyers
15. Stirred up
16. Believed in
18. The Bay State (abbr.)
19. Makes computers
20. Sodium
21. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
24. Institute legal proceedings against
27. More compact
30. Ethiopian river
31. Quantitative fact
33. No (Scottish)
34. A concession of no great value
35. Tony-winning actress Daisy
37. More (Spanish)
39. Russian space station
41. Helicopter
42. At the peak
44. Makes ecstatically happy
47. Excellent
48. Material body
49. The Golden State (abbr.)
50. A unit of plane angle
52. Argon
53. Fancy
56. Fried mixture of meat and spices
61. How green plants use sunlight
63. Without wills
64. Unhappy
65. Meat from a pig's leg

CLUES DOWN

1. Mentor
2. Lyric poems
3. A dry cold north wind in Switzerland
4. Trapped
5. Used for road surfacing
6. Cuckoos
7. Prefix "away from"
8. Seth McFarlane comedy
9. Not out
10. "The Simpsons" bus driver
11. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
12. Acclaimed Indian physicist
13. Removes
14. One-name NBA player
17. Revolutionary women
22. Smell
23. Ground-dwelling songbird
24. Midway between south and southeast
25. American state
26. Keen
28. Khoikhoin peoples
29. Int'l defense organization
32. Samoan money
36. A sign of assent
38. One from Somalia
40. Boat race
43. Trims
44. French coins
45. Indigenous Scandinavian
46. Flew alone
51. Loch where a "monster" lives
54. Japanese title
55. Pros and __
56. Present in all living cells
57. Something to scratch
58. Branch of Islam
59. Appear
60. Former CIA
62. Yukon Territory



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Awesome Video customers arrive for store's final sale

Customers seek deals, share memories

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

With the recent announcement that Awesome Video, Sacramento's last video rental store, is calling it quits, deal seekers and collectors continue to enter this business for its final sale.

Mai Thu Bui, the store's owner, said that she is offering her entire inventory for sale through Memorial Day, but would close the business's doors earlier if she sells all of her videos before that day.

As of last week many DVDs were being offered for $10 each and many Blu-ray Discs were available for $15 each.

Other videos, designated with green dots, were available at collector's prices such as $50, $100 and $150 each.

During a visit to the store on April 17, the Land Park News encountered various customers who shared their feelings about the closure of the store, which is located at 4524 Freeport Blvd.

While standing in front of this business, which was founded about a quarter-century ago at 5000 Freeport Blvd., local resident Jesse Makemson said that he understands why the store is closing.

"Everyone's going digital now, everybody's online," he said. "They don't want to go spend the time to go get a movie and look around."

Makemson said that he still likes the idea of having a video rental store in Sacramento.

"It's kind of cool to actually have the hardcopy instead of having to buy it online," he said.

Makemson then recognized the existence of Redbox, which offers hardcopy DVD, Blu-ray and video game rentals through retail kiosks at various businesses.

"Redbox is a pretty big thing," he said. "It kind of killed all these (video rental stores) off," he said.

In recalling the days when Blockbuster and Hollywood Video shared the video rental market with brick and mortar stores in Sacramento, Makemson said that he used to visit such businesses during his childhood.

And after taking a glance at the Awesome Video building, with its "store closing" sign, Makemson said, "It's an end of an era."

Nas Solomon recalled discovering Awesome Video several years ago.

"When I came back from college, I just started to explore the area," he said. "I started going on walks and everything, and I walked past this place.

"I'm a real cinephile, I guess you could say, and when I came in here, they had all the classics. I just started coming back and forth here."

Solomon said that some of his favorite movies are "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Do the Right Thing" and "Leon: the Professional."



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Previously viewed rental videos are currently offered for sale at Awesome Video's closing sale.

Solomon said that he became a little emotional on the day he found out that Awesome Video will be closing.

"One day I saw the 'store closing' signs, and it just tugged on my heartstrings a little bit," he said.

Sacramento native Ila Zapanta also expressed sadness for the closing of this business.

"I think it's sad that the store's closing, because it's definitely a staple in the neighborhood," she said. "I find myself wanting to watch movies that are kind of in between that phase of not quite at Redbox or online or out of the movie theaters. So, this is the place that I would go to."

Zapanta added that with changes in technologies, she was surprised that the store remained in business as long as it did.

"With Blockbuster no longer being around and the Redbox industry and online streaming for movies, it's just the wave of the future," she said. "It's something we all have to accept, but it would be nice to find a way to support local businesses and have them stay around, and for them to have that nostalgia for people who love to rent DVDs."

A few feet away from where Zapanta stood was a stack of advertisement fliers for real estate broker Andre Carrier.

In addition to advertising Carrier's business services, the flier pays tribute to Awesome Video as follows: "It's the kind of place Lady Bird herself would have loved to frequent. Awesome Video has been a venerable Sacramento treasure for decades."

Pocket resident Tom Fong, who was visiting the store with his wife, Lisa, said that he first rented a video from Awesome Video many years.

As a fan of martial arts films, Fong commented on such films while observing a variety of titles in that category.

"I'm looking to see what they have here," he said. "I like the Jet Li classics here, like 'Once Upon a Time in China.' Those are good."

In concluding his brief interview with this paper, Fong wished Bui good luck in her future endeavors.

"Best of luck to the owners," he said. "It's been a long run, good run."

While speaking about her last days of operating Awesome Video, Bui said that she is eagerly attempting to sell her remaining inventory.

"We just have to go by days," she said. "We'll see how it goes. We want to sell everything. That would be great."

Asked what she will do if she still has inventory remaining on Memorial Day, Bui said, "I don't know. Maybe someone will be interested in buying those in a large volume. So, we will find out."

Bui was then asked if she could ultimately resort to turning to the internet to sell any remaining videos.

"Me? No, I'm done," she responded.

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Young Actors Stage presents Into the Woods May 18-27

By KEILAH WOODARD

Teens with a passion for musical theatre tackle Sondheim's most popular musical with gusto, bringing fairy tale characters to life on the 24th Street Theatre stage. Into the Woods, presented by Young Actors Stage, opens May 18.

Directed and choreographed by Elly Award winner, Liorah Singerman, the cast consists of local middle school, high school and college students with extensive musical theatre experience, who are no strangers to Sondheim's work and bring an energy to the show that is sure to be memorable.

"We have exceptional talent from all over the Sacramento region coming together for this production. Into the Woods has always been a favorite of mine.," Singerman said.

"The music and the story are absolutely beautiful. It's a fairytale for adults that children can enjoy. It's funny, and thought provoking, and magical."

The story involves a Baker and his wife who wish to have a child but learn they have been cursed by a witch. They set off on a magical journey to reverse the curse that intertwines with several fairy tale characters who have wishes of their own. Little Red Riding Hood, who is trying to visit her grandmother, Cinderella, who wishes to attend the King's Festival and Jack, who wishes his cow would give milk. In the woods we also meet the Witch's daughter Rapunzel and the Princes chasing after their loves. Everyone's wishes are granted, but the consequences of their actions return to haunt them later with disastrous results.

In a creative approach to answer, "What happens after 'Happily Ever After'?" Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine collaborated to write *Into the Woods*. The musical debuted in 1986 and premiered on Broadway in 1987, where it won several Tony Awards, including Best Score and Best Book. The musical has since been produced many times and a Disney film adaptation was released in 2014, going on to receive three Academy Award nominations.

Young Actors Stage's production of Les Misérables High School Edition was the winner of seven Elly Awards including Overall Production, Direction, Leading Male, Musical Direction, Set Design, Lighting Design, and Sound Design.

Into the Woods opens Friday, May 18 and runs through Sunday, May 27 at the 24th Street Theatre, 2791 24th St., in Sacramento. Performances are at 7pm on Fridays, 11am, 3pm and 7pm on Saturdays, and 11am, 3pm on Sundays. All ages are welcome.

Ticket prices are $15 for all seats. Schedule and tickets for Into the Woods are available at youngactorsstage.com.

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Hop Gardens Taproom now open in Curtis Park

By JOE PERFECTO

Years into an unprecedented period of sector growth that not only shows no sign of slowing but even exhibits an arguably exponential increase in momentum of late, microbreweries and free-house taprooms continue to pop up apace everywhere, both in long-parched areas and in districts some analysts would consider well past the saturation point. At ground zero in the central city, in under a decade alehouse density has multiplied several times over; unevenly clustered, in a few hotspots beer halls can be found a half-dozen to a city block.

The latest example of such cozy quasi-colocation is found on a small segment of Franklin Blvd. in Curtis Park, where a new suds station had its Apr. 7 soft opening just three blocks from the venerable *Pangaea Bier Café*. The new upstart, Hop Gardens Taproom, put out the welcome mat after almost two years of major work transforming the site long known as the Coffee Garden, a popular local hangout, into a venue Monty Python would describe as "Something Completely Different."

The transformation is such that patrons of the old java joint will scarcely recognize the place. Gone is the classic funky décor and the Berkeley-hipster-hangout-frat-house-living-room vibe; in its place are a much more open floorplan and modern styling with cleaner lines and roomier earth-toned seating areas. Also gone are the charming, esoteric trappings of the rear patio—and the less-charming piles of assorted what-have-you that may or may not have been covered by blue tarps—with the area now occupied by a number of picnic tables and a cornhole court.

The space, which comprises two contiguous units (2904/06 Franklin), feels roomier due to the removal of much of the wall dividing them. It was against this wall that the order counter and barista station stood; the register, taps and bar counter now face the street. "In order to fully utilize both units we had to knock that wall down, and it was probably one of the biggest jobs," said Jeannine Hawkins, one of the pub's three owners, the others being husband Matt and father-in-law Pete. "In order to be able to move the bar around to where it is, we had to do some serious construction work."



Photos by Joe Perfecto

The much-anticipated taproom was doing land-office business right out of the gate.

For Matt Hawkins, Hop Gardens is the realization of a lifelong dream. The process was born in 2016, when Jeannine, Matt and Pete were talking taproom turkey—appropriately enough—over a beer. "[Pete] said, if we're going to do this, there's only one place. And it was *this* place," Jeannine said. "We fell in love with not only the inside but the outside. We loved the landlord; it didn't take long before we were renting from him."

They also became enamored of Curtis Park, and vice versa. "Everybody I've met has been so warm and welcoming—it's been tremendous," Jeannine said. "We absolutely couldn't have picked a better neighborhood." In like fashion the taproom hopes to become a hub for the entire community; children and dogs are welcome, and a stash of games is available for those who still remember how to play something not on a smart phone.

Although it is common business practice to locate close to the competitors, Jeannine insisted this was not behind the choice of a site almost within shouting distance of Curtis Park's long-reigning gastropub. "We *love* them. It's just that it's something different from Pangaea; we're not trying to outdo anybody," she said. While this sentiment is typical of the industry-wide fraternal camaraderie that characterizes the microbrewing sector, business is business and at some level competition for market share is unavoidable. So, how to make a taproom relevant in a crowded market? Jeannine explained the pub's trifecta of distinguishing factors.

"It's easy—look at this patio," she said, referring to the roughly 2,800-sq.-ft. outdoor seating area that features eight picnic tables, several café tables and two long 6-8-place tables and still has room for more. In contrast, many taprooms and brewery tasting rooms have little if any exterior space; some, like Pangaea, are comparatively compacted. The value of open space is not lost on the new crop of publicans; for example, East Sacramento's Sac Yard and the new Out of Bounds Folsom site offer roomy al fresco seating/activity areas. (Other relatively-recent venues like the Natomas Track 7—where the tasting room is housed in a large production facility—also have lots of space, but it's often mostly or completely enclosed.)

Then there's the inaugural menu, devised in concert with a kitchen consultant who assisted with hiring and training staff, which is simple and limited to permit the kitchen to do an exceptional job on a small number of items rather than a mediocre job on a larger number. But in time the range of selections will increase. "I'm so happy and thankful for our kitchen team because they're all excited to create new stuff," Jeannine said, "so as we move forward, you're going to see new items on our menu, [including] seasonal specials based on whatever we get from Produce Express each day." It focuses on a few salads and snacks that incorporate locally-sourced produce, but in the starring role is the daily selection of artisanal Neapolitan-style personal pizzas baked in a wood-fired Mugnaini oven.

The decision to go with pizza as the house specialty was simple. "We didn't want fryers, we didn't want hoods," Jeannine said. "I mean, *pizza and beer*—you can't go wrong with pizza and beer."

But Matt Hawkins' trump card is what he considers the city's best—and most exclusive—draft beer list. Concocted with the help of former Corti Bros. beer buyer Todd Fancher, the list is populated with almost two dozen products little known around these parts—a fact he hopes to change. "He wants to offer the community hard-to-find beers, something that nobody [else] can," Jeannine said. "We're hoping to turn a lot of people on in this neighborhood and in this community to beers they've never heard of."

Of their 24 taps, one runs an elderflower cran-

See Hop Gardens, page 9

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Hop Gardens:

Continued from page 8

berry product from Common Cider in Drytown, while the rest dispense 10 styles of exotic ales and lagers that include seven IPAs, three stouts, three saisons, two Czech pilsners, two pale ales, two ambers and a blonde, a sour, a wild ale and a witbier. Of the featured breweries, just two are local (Sacramento and Diamond Springs); there's one each in CO, OR and WA; four are in the greater SF Bay area; and nine are in the LA and San Diego areas.

The reason these beers are not familiar to most local residents is that they are not carried by local distributors. To stock his cold room with kegs, Matt has to make a beer run—all the way to Southern California. And although many of these products are doubtless much more familiar to denizens of the southland, this particular collection won't likely be found in any one pub in that region. What's more, a few are truly rare. *Puesto Pale Ale* from Anaheim's Unsung Brewing can be had at just two other locations in this enormous state, and *Taste the RainBroh*, a New England style IPA produced in a recent collaboration between Sacramento's own New Glory and Burgeon Beer Company of Carlsbad, is available in cans, but good luck finding it on tap anywhere but here.

A random sampling of what's currently pouring includes Barebottle's *Doom Bloom* Triple IPA, Crooked Stave Artisan Beer Project's *L'Brett d'Apricot* Sour Ale, Eagle Rock's *Manifesto* Witbier, Pure Project's *Midnight in London* Stout, Sante Adairius Rustic Ales' *Full Hands In* American Wild Ale, and taking the prize in the Longest Beer Name category is a Grisette Saison from San Diego's Modern Times Beer called *Red Wine BA Transit of Venus W/Meyer Lemon and Strawberry*. This beer with the dozen-word name can be described with only two: "It's *sour*."

Although Apr. 12 was slated for the official grand opening, that didn't happen; once plans coalesce an announcement will appear on the taproom's Facebook page—https://www.facebook.com/HopGardensCurtisPark/—which is the taproom's sole online source of contact as no Website yet exists. The Internet-challenged can go old-school and call 916.476.3889.

Of course, the best way to keep up with current taproom events is to go there; currently the beer is flowing Tue.-Thu. 11-9, Fri,-Sat. 11-11 and 11-9 on Sun. Hop Gardens is closed on Mon., and so is Pangaea; New Helvetia too. But Oak Park Brewing opens at 4, so all is not lost.





(above) Furry family members are always welcome in the expansive courtyard.

(left) Seen from the sidewalk seating area, pubgoers are bathed in soft light on a leisurely afternoon.



Naming of new CKM track pays tribute to CKM Hall of Famers:

Jack Mauger & Al Baeta

Restore the Roar held a ceremony to name the new all-weather track at McClatchy High School as the Jack Mauger and Al Baeta Track & Training Complex on April 7 inside the school gymnasium. (Original plans were to have the event out on the track, but rain moved the event indoors.)

In November 2017, the Sacramento City Unified School District completed the installation of an all-weather track facility at McClatchy. This new facility includes an eight lane track, long-jump and triple jump pits, shot put and discus areas, high jump and pole vault areas and an all-weather soccer/football field. This new facility meets all current standards and will allow McClatchy students to practice and compete in adverse weather and to host CIF sanctioned track meets. In February, 2018, the SCUSD Board of Trustees approved the naming of the facility as the Jack Mauger and Al Baeta Track & Training Complex after two members of the C. K. McClatchy Athletic Hall of Fame.

Jack Mauger (deceased) was the first track coach of McClatchy High school from 1937 to 1952. During that time his teams won seven section track titles while he trained and mentored hundreds of student-athletes. He also coached "C" football at the school. Jack moved on to coach at Sacramento City College with similar success. He later became Dean of Students at SCC and the Dean of Administration at the new Cosumnes River College. Jack was an internationally recognized pole-vaulter prior to coming to McClatchy and held the pole vault height world record for left handed polevaulters for 26 years. Jack is also recognized as the driving force in bringing top-level track meets and competition to Sacramento. Mauger's daughters were in attendance.



Al Baeta compteting at home on the McClatchy track.



Jack Mauger and McClatchy team captain Roy Green.

Al Baeta, who was at the naming event, was a student of Jack Mauger's at McClatchy, competing as a distance runner for the Lions and graduating in 1951. He went on to run at SCC and the University of California, Berkeley under the legendary Brutus Hamilton.

After a serving in the Navy, Al returned to Sacramento and started his coaching career at Mira Loma High School and moving on to American River College as the Track and Cross Country Coach. At ARC, he coached cross country teams to 23 conference championships and seven Norther California Championships. His cross country teams qualified for the state championships 22 years in a row. As the track coach, his teams won five conference championships and a third place finish in the 1970 state meet. Al also served as an assistant coach on the US Olympic Track teams in 1992 and 1996, as well as managing and coaching other USA international teams. Al worked with his mentor, Jack Mauger, to bring top-level track meets to Sacramento.

These two men brought the 1968 AAU Championship, the 1984 & 1988 Sacramento International games and set Sacramento up as a top flight Track Town.

Dan Cole, friend of Mauger and Baeta, was Master of Ceremonies. SCUSD Superintendent Jorge Aguilar and Trustee Jay Hansen attended this event.



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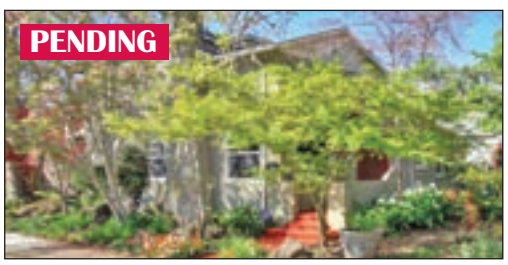


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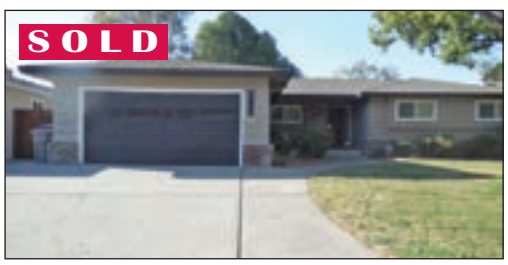
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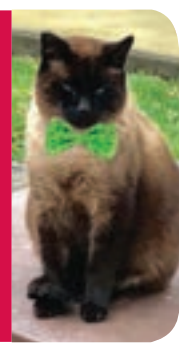
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Discussions surrounding race and gun violence of main topics at CKM forum

By JOE PERFECTO

C.K. McClatchy High School is in a period of great transformation. Among major campus improvements are a new basketball gym, completed in late 2014; a new track and cross-country facility, completed late last year; and an overhaul of the Visual & Performing Arts program's facilities, including a multi-million-dollar renovation of the school's Art Deco auditorium, which site hosted a Jan. 20 black-tie Gala showcasing that space as well as a variety of spectacular student performances. A short month later the same auditorium was the setting for a performance of a different sort, a "Community Conversation" focused on issues of low enrollment of students of color in accelerated programs, racism and campus security, and that foreshadowed what will likely be the school district's largest and most challenging improvement project to date: the wholesale transformation of the curricula of its campuses, the response to security threats and the mindset of both pupils and personnel.

The forum—prompted by a racially-charged science fair project that correlated ethnicity and IQ and the fallout surrounding a campus security concern based on multiple reports of rumors involving a student's threat of gun violence—was attended by Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) president Jessie Ryan, board member Jay Hansen and Superintendent Jorge Aguilar, representatives of the police department and the FBI (all of whom addressed the assembly), the local Consul General of Mexico and about 300 community members that included McClatchy parents, students and staff. Over the course of the three-hour-plus meeting, more than 50 audience members took a turn at one of two microphones.

In his opening remarks, Mayor Steinberg acknowledged the importance of the "uncomfortable conversations and discussions" he hoped the forum would engender and expressed the belief that such discourse would lead to "transformational change." While he lauded praise on McClatchy and its programs, he recognized the need to address "the specific controversy that we've gathered around here tonight" and urged the community to "not be afraid to tackle the issues that are uncomfortable or can be seen as divisive." His plea to "light some sparks here tonight that will lead to new agendas" did not go unfulfilled; an abundance of sparks flew throughout the event, igniting a powder keg of community sentiments and setting off a lengthy display of rhetorical fireworks that definitively laid out concerns of the district's constituency.

Most of the evening was spent discussing the multi-layered role of race in the milieu of primary and secondary educational systems both within the district and across the nation. Superintendent Aguilar initiated the discussion with a presentation that featured an analysis of statistics showing how many of the district's qualified eight-graders applied for McClatchy's Humanities and International Studies Program (HISP)--a rigorous college prep honors course of study—and how many did not apply despite being qualified, as well as a breakdown of the groups by ethnicity.

Of more than 3,300 eighth-graders, 565 qualified for the HISP lottery but only 216 applied. Aguilar acknowledged that this gap can be partially accounted for by the fact that some students would have applied to similar programs at the district's other high schools. But what is troubling, he said, is that the total number of qualified students amounts to under one in five; furthermore, students of color are underrepresented relative to the percentages they comprise among total eighth-graders. For example, while Black students account for about seven percent of all *HISP-qualified* eighth-graders, they account for about 14 percent of *all* eighth-graders.

Such underrepresentation of students of color applies during most of the K-12 pipeline, Aguilar said, so that by the time they reach their teen years, very few are qualified for advanced studies.



Photos by Joe Perfecto

Police Capt. Alisa Buckley fields audience questions and comments concerning the recent campus security scare.

"You can go down all ethnicities, and for most of them, you can see disproportionality. What you see is that the pool, by the time our students reach eighth grade, is very small. That pool is not large enough to satisfy our drive to diversify our specialty programs." In the case of Black eighth-graders, only 22 of 468—or just under five percent—were eligible for HISP, and fewer than that applied. "The one thing that I'm not prepared to accept is that we attribute these outcomes to external forces—to things that I may not be able to control as superintendent," he said. "This is fundamentally, in my opinion, an issue of our pipeline."

"I'm not satisfied with the outcomes that we're producing for you as a community," Aguilar said. "What I commit to is changing conditions for our students. We've applied the same profile of our applicants to our current seventh-graders to identify how many are on track to meet the same academic profile that eighth-graders had met when they applied. [There] is a bit of good news, in that we have over 700 students that meet that profile as current seventh-graders. [W]e have to figure out how to maintain that cohort and increase [it] in the next year." Of the 743 students matching that academic profile, seven percent are Black (n=52) and 31.5 percent are Hispanic (n=234).

Such low numbers of students of color in accelerated programs have the dual impacts of poor diversity in such programs as well as a sizable reduction in the number of colleges/universities to which non-participating high school students can apply after graduation. The most selective UC and CSU campuses, for example, have stringent qualification standards, including a near-perfect GPA, high SAT scores and completion of numerous AP or honors courses; as a result, students who do not participate in programs such as HISP must look to community colleges and other open-access institutions.

In addition to boosting numbers of students of color in accelerated learning programs, another concern is the combined effects of the racial atmosphere said to be endemic to the K-12 system, and of the lower socioeconomic strata in which such students often reside. A well-known phenomenon affecting such students from disadvantaged environments is "undermatching," which refers to the tendency of students to enroll in less-demanding institutions even when they qualify for more demanding ones. "[A]mong African American and Latino youth, students who are eligible to apply to selective colleges and universities tend to undermatch themselves at pretty significant rates," Aguilar said. "In fact, almost three fourths of African American and Latino students enroll in open access colleges and universities."

What the data overwhelmingly indicate is that students of color are not adequately served by the nation's educational system. Not only are they not adequately represented in accelerated programs, but even those who participate in such courses find that the curricula and milieu are less than suitable in various ways. To address these issues, the district is having to examine its outreach efforts aimed at grade schools, the appropriateness of curricular choices and the actual manifestations of racial interplay in its classrooms. The dozens of comments voiced at this inaugural forum offered a variety of perspectives from students, parents and staff alike that illustrated several areas of concern the district might gainfully explore.

One theme that emerged was the inadequate level of awareness of magnet programs such as HISP among the district's elementary and middle school students. "I did not hear about HISP when I signed up for high school classes," said one McClatchy student of color. "I found out

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HISP:

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about it in freshman year when a fellow student was explaining to me why he was better than me because he was in the HISP program."

"In middle school, I was never in honors but I got decent grades. I was never exposed to the honors classes or HISP or PACE or any of that," another McClatchy student of color explained. "But then I hear from the GATE kids that, oh, there's that HISP program, that's a wonderful program. I believe that...those kids in GATE are exposed to HISP, and that's why there's a big gap."

"This issue is not all on HISP, it's not all on the school, but it's a systemic issue than starts not in high school but in elementary school or middle school," said a HISP student. "I attended Cal Middle School and went into GATE classes where I was prepped to get into HISP." Referring to a fellow student's comment that he'd been unaware of HISP, he said, "It's so unfortunate that you did not receive that type of education, and that just [emphasizes] the importance of reaching out to secondary and primary school."

HISP student Amos Karlsen—who has teamed with fellow student Jonah Wiener-Brodkey on a senior project exploring ways to increase diversity in HISP—said he was not surprised to hear Superintendent Aguilar report that at Fern Bacon only one student of 40 who met HISP criteria applied for program admission. "That's because I went there, and I talked to the students, and maybe three of them even heard of HISP," he said. "There aren't formal communication channels to get to them. The district needs to work with the students to set up a formal system whereby every middle school is guaranteed to have student representatives—ideally who went to [that] middle school—to talk to students about the specialty programs."

Many participants commented on the lack of ethnic diversity among everyone involved in HISP. Audience member Karen Ross echoed Aguilar's comments concerning the inadequacy of the district's pipeline, pointing out that one factor impacting diversity is that pre-middle school curricula don't sufficiently prepare students of color for specialty programs. "The problem doesn't start in seventh and eighth grade—it starts much earlier," she said. "We all want a more diverse HISP program. I wasn't sure if you (Aguilar) were saying that you want to change the criteria for HISP; I certainly hope that isn't the case. We just need to mentor people at a much younger age so that more people know about it (HISP) and can qualify."

McClatchy teacher CKM Dominique Williams addressed the curriculum issue more broadly, saying that "a critical conversation about culturally sustaining a responsive pedagogy" is needed. "I will say, as a person who was once an honor student at a magnet school, it's not the honors programs—it's every class on campus, and it's not just who we're teaching, it's what we're teaching, it's when we're teaching it, and it's how we're teaching it," she said. "My call to my colleagues is to start having the conversation about what are the curricular choices we're making, what are the classroom management moves we are making, and how are we having to collaborate to close those opportunity gaps. Because, while we want every student to be college and career ready, when they come to us and they are behind grade level in reading and writing, how are we closing those gaps with curriculum that is engaging to them so that they make those moves?"

Others emphasized the importance of faculty diversity in aiding students to gain understanding of different cultures. "Why is it that when I'm learning about Asia and Africa and Latin America, it's almost always being taught by a white teacher?" a HISP sophomore asked. "I'm not blaming them for being white, but I just wanna know why I can't learn it from somebody who's had more experience."

"I was a part of HISP from ninth though twelfth grade," said Ms. Johnson, a McClatchy alumna. "All the Black teachers did not teach in the HISP program, so I wasn't reflected in the classrooms. My teachers did an excellent job of educating the students, but as a Black student I felt completely disconnected from the rest of the population. My suggestion is to have more people who look like the students in the classroom, and even if they *don't* look like the students, put them in the classroom, because they (students) need to see people who don't look like them."



In a rousing address, McClatchy alumnus Carlos Molina called for a public apology from the teacher who conducted the science fair that included a racially-incendiary project.

The disconnectedness Johnson reported was related by other speakers, who identified it as an issue for students of color due to the lack of diversity among faculty and students that is not reflective of the community the district serves. One HISP student noted that such disconnectedness begins long before HISP. "[I]nside the HISP classroom there definitely is that feeling of isolation," she said. "No one's intentionally doing it, but being the only Black person in my HISP class, it's always really awkward, and it's been like that for me since second grade, in the GATE program too—it's not limited to HISP. In addition, even being in HISP, I feel isolated from everyone else. I've been told that I'm not Black enough because I'm in HISP."

"How is a program that's based on learning about cultures of the world *devoid* of cultures of the world when it's sitting in one of the most diverse cities in the country?" one McClatchy parent asked.

"I'm asking us to update the HISP criteria so we can have a community more reflective of Sacramento," said McClatchy alumnus Carlos Molina. "According to the HISP Website, we have these students travel the globe. But they don't know the rich cultural diversity of their community just across the way. Let's not just account for the numbers of young Black and Brown people who are *not* in the HISP program, but those who *were* but felt so isolated in those classrooms and unsafe in those spaces that they dropped out."

"My brother was in HISP for four years, attended Gonzaga U and got his master's at UC Davis; I attended HISP and dropped out for two years," said Oak Ridge Elementary principal Danny Rolleri, a

See Diversity, page 14

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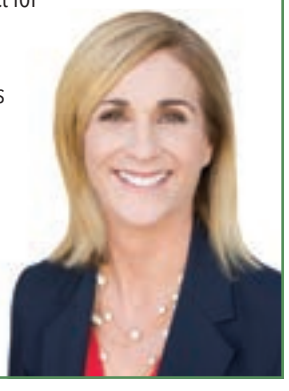
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Diversity:

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SCUSD alumnus and parent. "The system for whatever reason resonated with him more than me. As we look at diversifying specialty programs, are these programs prepared to deal with students of different colors, different backgrounds, socioeconomic statuses? Are we gonna support them, and are we going to track and monitor so students don't drop out like me?"

The takeaway from the evening's proceedings is that the lack of diversity among HISP's student population results primarily from the district's pipeline and the program's curricular content/design and homogeneity of faculty. But a HISP student's controversial project, displayed in an early-Feb. science fair, claimed that the correlations and causality behind the program's lack of diversity lay elsewhere.

Titled "Race and IQ," the study posited—and claimed to confirm—the hypothesis that if the average IQs of Blacks, Southeast Asians and Hispanics are lower than the average IQs of non-Hispanic whites and Northeast Asians, this accounts for the rigorous program's racially disproportionate demographics. (HISP current enrollment of 508 includes 12 Black, 80 Hispanic and 104 Asian students.) The student, said by other students to be of Asian descent and prone to making racist comments in the classroom, based his conclusion on an analysis of the results of an online IQ test taken at his request by a number of teens of different races. Such hypotheses had a number of proponents generations ago, and are still advanced for political reasons in some quarters despite being long since debunked. In this light, the community's ensuing outpouring of incredulity and outrage was inevitable, and impassioned. The project was seen as a symptom of the racism that exists both in the minds of students and in the educational system.

"I am a parent of a HISP student," one speaker began. "He's been acutely aware, along with his peers and very much us, that the implicit message that the demographics of the program sends to the whole school community is just completely unacceptable, and it's something that I've felt shame and discomfort about the whole time that we've been in the program. It doesn't send a message of inclusion, and it really puts in a very crystalline form this notion of these racial supremacist ideas because it suggests who belongs where and who doesn't."

"I'm a junior here; I'm completely Mexican," a student said. "I was taught about social injustice in HISP. I learned that this isn't about the HISP program; the problem is that by the time we're old enough to apply to these programs, the damage has already been done—we've been in this systematically racist system for nine years."

"The ideas that were presented by that science fair project are white supremacist, eugenic-oriented, suicidal, genocidal ideas," said audience member Angelo Williams. "What I need denounced are those types of thoughts. That's like pointing a gun to my head. I can't have my child in an environment where those ideas are spread. And I need you to put something at the front of the building that says 'No Nazi-oriented thoughts in this school.' We're all duly affected by the gun violence, but I'm telling you as an African American man that that idea, in this school, should not happen, and is just as lethal as those bullets."

"What are we gonna do to support Latino students here on campus?" asked Jose Verdin, CKM Parent Resource Coordinator. "I have seen so much opposition, and I think at this point I kinda just got used to it, and a lot of my kids are telling me now, I'm kinda used to it. Some of our kids are starting to internalize this, and just saying, you know what, that's the way it is. And I will say now: *no más—basta*."

A similar sentiment was expressed early in the program by SCUSD Board President Jessie Ryan. "This has been a very difficult past week and a half; I am proud to have heard from hundreds of community members, parents and students who have shared their outrage, their discomfort and their extreme sadness with the events that transpired. For me this is deeply personal as well, because as a daughter of a struggling, single welfare mother, I easily could have been a statistic that never had an opportunity to access my college dream. Now, as a parent to adopted children who are Black and Latino, I see how they struggle with racism and injustice on a regular basis, and find it unacceptable."

One speaker questioned the student's capacity for properly conducting such a study. "[T]he first thing that came to my mind was the results of the student's research were pretty superficial, and this happened because—and I'm not criticizing science programs, but—high school students don't have the background, the statistical analysis ability [to] deal with a sophisticated problem like this," he said. "I think that [there should be] a policy that lays out guidelines [for] research that involves sensitive issues, the way that universities have policies that deal with human subjects. [With] sensitive issues there needs to be something where you don't take on these projects that cannot be analyzed appropriately so that you get results that can't be defended."

The teacher came under fire for even permitting the study to be conducted. Judging from audience response to his comments, McClatchy alumnus Carlos Molina summarized the position of many in attendance. "Where was that science teacher? That was the adult in the room who could have had this teachable moment with the student," he said. "If someone can be fired from the Heritage Foundation for writing a dissertation equating race and IQ, then that science teacher should at least be disciplined. And I think for our young people and our community [the teacher should] issue an apology for gross academic negligence. The intellectual capacity of our students cannot be measured by outdated tools. So let's have some cultural awareness among the staff, some training, so that those who are eligible [for HISP] are welcomed and embraced by our community."

A few speakers took a more charitable view, arguing mitigating circumstances. "One student's project slipped through a human teacher's grasp," said one speaker. "I am a substitute teacher in SCUSD for nearly 15 years. I have two students who have nearly completed HISP, and I'm at schools literally of all demographics and regions around the district. So, to that teacher's defense, I've been in science classrooms here, and know what that looks like when you have a stack of papers. I would just ask everybody to be a little bit more hesitant [about] making a judgment."

"The project was unacceptable and wrong, but it's not something that the teacher can solely be blamed for," said a HISP senior. "The student himself was not truthful about when he went in for checkpoints, and he intentionally avoided [letting it be] known what his project was. In theory, the idea of addressing the racial disparity in HISP is incredibly important or we wouldn't be here today. The question that the project posed was necessary—the issue is that what the student did was pseudoscience, as was his conclusion, and he tried to pass [it off as science]."

"I frankly was appalled when I heard about that science project," a McClatchy parent said. "[W]hile we can understand that teachers are very busy and sometimes get overwhelmed, I think that shining a light on the problem begins with one message, which is, racism in any form will not be tolerated at C.K. McClatchy."

McClatchy teacher Arabella Lora saw the controversy as an opportunity to bring the racism issue to light. "I'm one of those strange people who says I am very glad that this happened," she said. "I've been teaching at McClatchy for 20 years, and I'm finally, finally hearing that we're having a conversation that I feel has been due for a long time. It saddens me deeply that it had to be this way—it had to be in a controversial way for us to step up and actually talk about the problems and issues that we need to improve. We use to have cultural assemblies at this school that have disappeared—I want to see them back. I don't think that just reading a textbook is gonna teach a child about a cultural experience; you have to live it. You have to touch it, you have to hear it. I also want to see activities where we bring the communities of students together."

Late in the evening the discussion turned to a recent campus security scare involving a threat of gun violence on campus. Reports of the threat traveled throughout the student body and parents, and reached school administrators and law agencies, primarily through social media

See McClatchy, page 17

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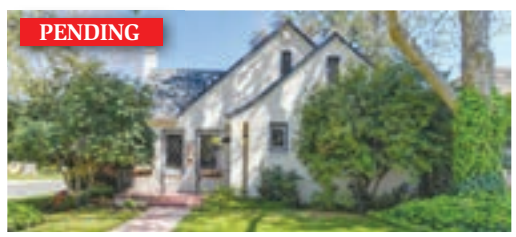
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CKM Track

Continued from page 10

The oldest living McClatchy athlete, Lou Montfort and well known Northern California Track Coach, Bob Rush spoke on behalf of Jack Mauger and Al Baeta, respectively.

Restore the Roar committee members include Denis Ishisaka, '83; Sara Culleton, '90; Brent Walthall, Mihran Berejkian, Bob Sertich,'67.

Restore the Roar is a non-profit organization dedicated to support and promoting McClatchy Athletics and its successful student athletes. You can learn more about Restore the Roar at www.restoretheroar.org



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McClatchy:

Continued from page 14

such as Facebook. Five days after the reports, the school announced via text, the Nextdoor social media forum and other means that the potential threat had been investigated and found not to be credible. But much confusion among parents and students about whether it would be safe to go to school that morning ensued, leading to many absences; many forum attendees questioned how the whole situation was addressed.

Members of the city police department and an FBI agent who were connected to the investigation explained the sequence of events, the challenges they posed, and the protocols that govern how security threats are handled.

Police Lt. Adam Green, who supervises the school resource officer program, said that the case was researched by the SRO special investigations unit. "Additionally, we work cooperatively on incidents of that type with the FBI, and in this case the FBI conducted some investigations themselves," he said.

"We get these threats on a daily basis—sometimes it seems like an hourly basis," said FBI Agent Bob Tripp, supervisor of a violent crime squad and crisis management coordinator. "Our SOP has been followed in Sacramento, since I've been here, without exception. What we do is we give [the threat] an immediate assessment—we'll triage it; that will lead to a call to a supervisor who'll view the threat, assess its credibility. We'll review what we know about the person who is referenced in the threat and see if there's any information in our databases that indicates there's something to it, and we will almost always follow up with in-person investigation that includes an interview with the subject and an assessment to determine if he or she has the capability to do what he or she has been accused of. That includes determining if the subject has access to weapons. If we determine there's any credibility to the threat whatsoever, we'll assign it to agents and task force officers for immediate follow-up."

"We did receive this information independently, as I understand it, from the way the Sacramento Police Department received it," Tripp continued. "Our first course of action was to link up and handle the assessment jointly. The threat was assessed, it was determined not to be credible, and we acted appropriately."

"We worked very closely with the school system [and] with the FBI," said police Capt. Alisa Buckley. "We determined it was not a credible threat, and I know it can be incredibly frustrating for you as parents because I got a lot of questions as to, why can't you just make an arrest. How do we determine what is a real and credible threat? It's something that's immediate and something that we can define. It can't be based on conjecture, and it can't be hypothetical."

The officials commented on the problematic role social media played in the process of addressing the situation.

"Some of the challenges that we faced as we looked into these threats were that a lot of the information that we received was third- and fourth-hand. A lot of the information that you are familiar with was based on social media posts," said Capt. Buckley. "One thing [about which] I would caution you [concerning] social media is that it sort of feeds off each post."

"The information that was being passed on social media was very much different from what actually occurred, based on our investigation," said Lt. Green. "We stress very heavily that 'if you see something, say something.' What we want to encourage is that that information is not reported via Snapchat or Facebook or Twitter—that that information is reported to the police department, to the staff at the school and to the school administration. [Otherwise], it becomes really difficult for us to conduct an investigation when we have to contact every person who calls us because of a story or communication that occurred via Snapchat. Our school resource officers are the first point of contact for the school administration, the staff, your children, and they can be for you as parents. We rely on them heavily for gathering information. Students feel comfortable and have a relationship with SROs, so if they get information that is concerning, [the SRO] is a very valuable point of contact."

A number of parents spoke to the notification process, saying it was rife with problems and didn't begin soon enough.

"Receiving a text at six AM before school starts that there was a threat that turned out to be non-credible was very unsettling," one parent said. "I pondered for a long time whether or not to send my child to school, I talked to other parents, I tried to call the school to get more information, and no one answered. And then I called the non-emergency line at the police department and spoke to a person who said that somebody would call me back; within an hour a sergeant gave me more information than I received from my school. I then spread that to the parents I had been texting, and I also replied to Nextdoor, saying that I'm sending my kid to school. So I sent [my son] to school, and he said [later] that there were maybe 10 kids in every class. I feel that the situation could have been handled much better, that there could have been more information disseminated, and that also it could have been done with a little more notice. Two hours isn't a lot of time to make a decision if you're gonna put your child in harm's way or not."

"There's definitely a communication issue here," another parent said. "You just can't have all those communications and say that it's not credible. You guys gotta step it up. Your attendance got very low that day because not enough notification came out earlier. Even if you didn't know, simply say on Saturday night—or whenever—we're investigating it, we have everybody on this, we have the FBI on top of it. It would have saved the day."

In response, Lt. Green stated that since the threat was determined to be unfounded fairly early on, no notification would actually have been called for. Only due to a morphing of the applicable information through continued online discussion, which made further investigation necessary, did notification result. "Part of this had already been investigated and unfounded and it was at a point where there was no need to make notifications," Green said. "But what happened was the rumors and the conversations and dialogues that occurred at the school and got back to you eventually started to perpetuate on social media, to a point that we had to get reinvolved. Part of that was because the original information, that had been investigated and unfounded, had taken new wheels and become something other than what it used to be; social media turned [it] into something else."

"I found out about [the threat] from my children last Wednesday, and I sent an E-mail to the principal [then, in which I said] rumors are going around on social media among our children of a gun threat, and it would be very helpful if the school got in front of this and clarified the issue," one parent said. "The first word I heard from the school was midnight on Monday. [It's] extremely frustrating that our children were talking about this for five days before the school [said] there was communication with law enforcement, because in that period it festered to the point where you're saying that it got out of control. My frustration's not with law enforcement; my frustration [is that] we heard something, and I said something, and there was zero response from the school."

"I agree with [another parent] about the transparency on how parents were notified, as well as [needing] the details of [the situation], because as a parent, I want to be able to make my own informed decision on whether it's safe for my child to go to school," said another parent. "And if I'm not getting all the details and information I need from the school, that's not enough for me—so that's why my daughter did not attend school. And from what I saw, it was, like, copied and pasted from the Nextdoor site to the E-mail that was sent to the parents."

The mother of a McClatchy student accused of being responsible for another campus threat incident raised an issue not often discussed—the aftermath of such an event and its effects on the subject's family. Addressing police representatives and Superintendent Aguilar, she asked for a statement concerning her son's scholastic and legal status. "He's been bullied. He's been wrongfully accused, wrongfully harassed, and I want to get to the bottom of this," she said, her voice quavering. "I've gone to meet with the assistant principal, Mr. Schlager, and my son was excused from school yesterday, and it wasn't just because of the gun issue, which he did *not* have. And all they tell me is they're doing an investigation; this has been going on for over a month now. And, I want to know what the school is going to be doing about bullying. It's destroyed our lives. He told me yesterday it's ruining his life."

"*You're not alone*; we want to know *for* you," a woman said loudly. "*We* don't need to know the information, but we need *you* to know."

"As we work with law enforcement, there are times where we don't have all of the information either [about] these investigations because of the sensitivity related to these kinds of issues," Aguilar responded. "I'm going to stay here afterward and talk to you directly about the information that you were sharing so that we can work together on resolving this matter; obviously, we'll turn to our law enforcement partners as well, given that they are probably still looking into this issue."

"I don't know all the details of the situation," another audience member said, "but if he truly has been accused of something [of which he's innocent], this is an opportunity for the school to do the same thing that we need to do in this racism issue, and crowd around him as a community, crowd around this family as a community—and *not* say to him, 'I will speak to you *privately*.' This is a *community* issue." The audience broke into applause.

More meetings are planned; notices may be available at http://www.ckmhisp.org/ or at https://ckm.scusd.edu/; the latter site offers links to the 2017-18 CKM Parent Survey (in English and Spanish) that, per the site, "helps our school identify and implement school improvement needs and supports accountability."

In her opening remarks, board president Jessie Ryan perhaps best summarized the process faced by the school, the district and the community. "I was blessed to have the opportunity to host a student in an exchange program who lived with me in Oak Park and participated in HISP. He said that at times he was angry about the lack of diversity because it hurt both ways—it hurt the students who were not in the classroom to participate in that rigorous program, and it hurt the students who *were* in the classroom because they didn't benefit from the diversity of the students who were left out. And he said to me, if there was one thing that he could offer our community at large, it is this: It is [that] we courageously engage in these conversations, with a commitment to opportunity, access and equity that will allow us to be a society of adults that are truly focused on unity and inclusion beyond just the words."

What's happening, Land Park?

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

A SARTA SOIREE at the Kennedy Gallery Pairs wine tasting with art appreciation and live entertainment from 6 to 9 p.m. The Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance (SARTA) is delighted to announce a new kind of fundraising event called A SARTA Soiree. This delicious event combines the visual arts with live community theatre performances, wine tasting and exciting raffle prizes to create a special blend of arts appreciation. Kate Pratt, SARTA board member, and brainchild behind this event recounts her idea, "Why not offer a wine tasting event at a unique local venue and add live theatre performances?" So, when Kate met like-minded artist and gallery owner, Michael Misha Kennedy, of the Kennedy Gallery – The Jewel of Midtown-- it was the perfect match! A SARTA Soiree is one night only – Thursday, April 26 from 6 – 9p at the Kennedy Gallery located at 1931 L Street in midtown Sacramento. Online only purchases can be made at www.sarta.com. Tickets are $20 for SARTA members and $25 for General Public. All proceeds will benefit SARTA's matching fund for Big Day of Giving. SARTA is a 501c3 non-profit theatre arts service organization. SARTA educates, collaborates and celebrates community theatre and is for home to the annual Elly Awards program – now in it's 36th year- which honors excellence in local and regional community theatre. Please visit www.bigdayofgiving.com/SARTA for more information. And remember, Big Day of Giving is May 3rd. Join Sacramento and over 600 nonprofit organization for the biggest online giving day of the year! For more information on the Kennedy Gallery, please visit www.kennedygallerysac.com

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FRIDAY, APRIL 27

I DIDN'T KNOW THE LIBRARY DID THAT! The library isn't just a building full of books. It's a community space filled with opportunities for lifelong learning, access to technology, special events and much more. Learn the secrets of the Sacramento Public Library in this class. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Friday April 27, 2018 from 1:00-2:00pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

CHALLENGING EXCLUSION FORUM: "ART, ACTIVISM, AND HEALING": Discussion on the role of art in activism, social change, and processes of healing trauma from 6 to 8 p.m. at Sol Collective, 2574 21st St. Artists participating in Sol Collective's installation, along with local artists working on issues related to immigration and social change, are invited to discuss personal and communal processes of healing trauma through art, asking questions about the role of art and artists in policy debates and activism. Suggested Donation: $5, no on turned away!
INTERACTIVE INSTALLATION (April 7 – May 2) This project employs digital storytelling to produce an open access archive that gives a human face to the deportation crisis (www.humanizandoladeportacion.ucdavis.edu), making visible a diverse range of personal narratives, from crossing the border in hopes of a better life to growing up in the US, serving in the US Military, the challenges of being undocumented, the atrocities of immigrant detention, families separate by the 'wall', unbreakable bonds of love, struggles with addiction, making a new life and building community. In collaboration with local artists and organizations working on themes surrounding immigration and deportation, UC Davis students and Sol Collective invite you to join us in creating a participatory space for reflection and dialogue.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

SCNA HOME & GARDEN TOUR 2018. Hosted by The Tattered and Tied and Sierra 2 Center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St. Tickets Available at events.r20.constantcontact.com: Throughout the day people from the greater Sacramento area will enjoy strolls under leafy canopies while viewing five homes in Tudor and Craftsman styles, in addition to several unique gardens. The homes on tour are located throughout the neighborhood, encompassing a loop of just over two miles. Bicycle racks will be provided for those that opt to cycle between the homes. Interiors range from contemporary to classic. The Capitol A's Model A Ford Club will display pristine vintage cars in front of the homes and periodically tour the neighborhood throughout the event. There will be live music at two of the homes. Several activities are scheduled throughout the event at the north end of Curtis Park including acoustic music by Sarah Karliner, (Flute) Matt Lancara (Guitar), and Tattered & Tied and food for sale from Slightly Skewed, Rita's Shave Ice, An Honest Pie. Information displays, picnic tables and chairs will be provided as well as restroom and handwashing facilities.

SUPERHERO DAY: Calling all superheroes! Celebrate National Superhero Day at Fairytale Town, 3901 Land Park Drive. Enjoy arts and crafts activities and meet your favorite superheroes. From 10 – 11 AM, meet some of our everyday heroes from a local Fire Station and sit in Fire Truck 5. Come dressed in your capes and masks! Superhero Day is free with paid park admission. Weekend admission is $6 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Members and children ages 1 and under are free.

STAR WARS DAY AT SACRAMENTO ZOO:
From 9 to 3 p.m., meet your favorite Star Wars characters without making a trip to a galaxy far, far away. Visitors are encouraged to bring their cameras to Star Wars Day and pose for free photos with the costumed characters throughout the day. Visitors will learn how animal adaptations and behaviors in our galaxy relate to the creatures from the Star Wars universe through wildlife stage shows, crafts and other activities. Visitors will also be able to enjoy Star Wars themed concession items in Kampala Cafe, a ride on the Conservation Carousel to Star Wars music and face painting. The animals will join in on the fun as they receive special Star Wars themed enrichment items throughout the day.
Special Ticket Required
Adults: $16
Children ages 2-11: $12
Sac Zoo members receive free admission, no ticket needed
*Two entry times available: 9 am to 12 pm or 12 to 3 pm
*Special ticket required with limited availability
*General admission tickets & discounts not valid for Star Wars Day
*Pre-purchase highly recommended; limited tickets are available day of event
*Tickets are non-refundable. Rain or shine
*Sacramento Zoo members receive free admission, no ticket required
**COSTUME NOTICE
Due to animal safety, you may be asked to remove full head costume pieces in certain areas of the zoo. Lightsabers are allowed, but cannot be used over fences or animal barriers. Any costume blasters or guns are NOT allowed unless you are with the 501st Legion, Rebel Legion, Mandalorian Mercs or R2 Builders Club and have had your prop inspected and tagged before entering the zoo.
Sacramento Zoo, 3930 W Land Park Drive
Tickets Available at www.saczoo.org

See Events, page 19



River City Chorale



"I Will Sing a New Song!"

Friday, May 4, 7:30 pm
Northminster Presbyterian Church
3235 Pope Ave., Sacramento

Sunday, May 6, 4:00 pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
7869 Kingswood Dr., Citrus Heights

Tickets: $15.00 **($20.00 at the door)**
www.rivercitychorale.org
or call 916-331-5810

Events:

Continued from page 18

PTA BRET HARTE ELEMENTARY PANCAKE BREAKFAST: Please come by the school to buy your tickets to our PTA. The pancake breakfast is on April 28th from 8am-11-am. Come by our school before the SCNA Garden Tour for breakfast.2751 9th Ave, Sacramento, CA 95818. https://www.facebook.com/gerine.moore/posts/10216573193189046

MONDAY, APRIL 30

ACTIVE RETIREMENT INVESTING: An in-depth look at financial topics for those who are retired or will be soon. Assess your portfolio; see if is suitably allocated for your needs. Whether you are DIY investing or would like to check on how your advisor is doing with your portfolio, you'll find this class enlightening and useful. Prerequisite: Adults over 55. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $12 required. Class will be held on Monday April 16, April 23, April 30 and May 7, 2018 from 10:00-12:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www@accsv.orgs.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

SOUTH LAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING: This is the monthly business meeting of a nonprofit organization that addresses neighborhood issues. The meetings sometimes include guest speakers. Association members and area residents are welcome to attend. 7 to 9 p.m. at the Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

THE TRUTH ABOUT HEARING LOSS: If you ever made the remark "My hearing is not that bad"-- then this class is for you. Mild hearing loss is bad for you; it can hurt your health, well-being and relationship with people. Learn all you can about hearing loss and how to seek hearing gain. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Friday May 4, 2018 from 9:30-10:30am at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

SPRING SHRED DAY FUNDRAISER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE--Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. to Noon in the Holy Spirit church parking lot at 3159 Land Park Drive. Secure shredding by Iron Mountain of your old tax documents and forms, bank statements, business records, and other private documents. Suggested donation is $10 per box or bag. Proceeds go to those in need of services.

CEMETERY TOUR – PARKS & WRECK: The Old City Cemetery Committee presents a tour of Sacramento's parks and secret histories at 10 a.m. at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. Sacramento has an extensive park system that is the envy of residents of other cities, but it didn't come easy. Meet people who fought for and against establishing many of our more familiar parks, such as William Land, Cesar Chavez, and Southside Parks. Learn the secret history of your favorite city parks, and hear various tales of misadventure and misfortune that happened within them. The cemetery is located at 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. There is free street parking on surrounding streets. Tours are free; donations are appreciated and benefit cemetery preservation. For more information, call 916-448-0811.

ASIAN FOOD BAZAAR: The Sacramento United Methodist Church, 6929 Franklin Blvd., presents its annual Asian Food Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Food items include teriyaki chicken, Korean short ribs, chow mein, udon and sushi. Boutique handmade items include: handcrafted cards, raffle, games and entertainment.

SUNROOM AND PATIO BOOK SALE – Come find a bargain while you support the Friends of the Ella K. McClatchy Library! Books, media and other items for all ages will be on sale. Time TBD. Saturday, May 5 at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

MONDAY, MAY 7

ACTIVE RETIREMENT INVESTING: An in-depth look at financial topics for those who are retired or will be soon. Assess your portfolio; see if is suitably allocated for your needs. Whether you are DIY investing or would like to check on how your advisor is doing with your portfolio, you'll find this class enlightening and useful. Prerequisite: Adults over 55. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $12 required. Class will be held on Monday April 16, April 23, April 30 and May 7, 2018 from 10:00-12:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www@accsv.orgs.

GARDEN WORKSHOP – DEADHEADING AT DUSK: The Old City Cemetery Committee presents a volunteer opportunity to help upkeep the cemetery's Historic Rose Garden from 6 p.m. till dark. Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. Join volunteers at the Historic City Cemetery's Rose Garden for deadheading at dusk. Participants will be removing spent blooms from the many rosebushes and tidying up the garden which encourages repeat blooming of the roses in the garden. If you have buckets and tools, please bring them, otherwise tools and training will be provided. Light refreshments will be served. The workshop is free, but donations are gratefully accepted to help support rose garden operations. The cemetery is located at 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. There is ample free street parking on surrounding streets. For more information, call 916-448-0811.

SATURDAY, MAY 12

CKM WRESTLING CLASSIC CAR SHOW: Help support C.K. McClatchy's wrestling team. As most of you know there isn't a very big budget for high school sports teams are left to fundraise as much as possible. There will be a bike and classic car show at McClatchy High School from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 3066 Freeport Blvd. If you are interested in entering your car or motorcycle please contact me as spaces will be limited. If you belong to a club bring the crew. This is also a great opportunity to bring the family and check out the beauties. There will be prize raffles.

LOCAL AUTHORS DARLENE SMITH AND ROBERT BARTRON BOOK SIGNING: Come and meet local authors, Darlene Smith and Robert Bartron for a chance to view, share in their adventures and purchase their books. There will be door prizes and refreshments! Great Mothers Day gifts. All proceeds will go to the following charities: Helping Hands/Monkey Helpers and St Baldrick's Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research. J Crawford's Books is located at 5301 Freeport Blvd. Suite 200, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

STAR WARS PARTY – Come enjoy a Star Wars themed party with us! We will be making our own light sabers, crafting our own Star Wars starships, and making Star Wars keychains with Perler beads! Don't forget to check out one of your favorite Star Wars books before you go. School Age. Friday, May 26 from 2 – 3 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St. Sacramento.

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING OR MONTHLY EVENT?
Let us know.
e-mail Monica:
editor@valcomnews.com

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CHOOSE ONE OF THESE SEMINARS

Thurs., June 7
11:30 am to 12:30 pm
EAST LAWN
Memorial Park & Crematory
4300 Folsom Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95819
Tel 916.732.2000

Wed., June 13
Dinner at 6:30 pm
(Spanish & English)
EAST LAWN
Andrews & Greilich Funeral Home
an East Lawn Mortuary
3939 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95820
Tel 916.732.2026

Reservations Required. Please RSVP to the location of your choice. Seating is limited to 30 attendees per seminar.
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www.EastLawn.com

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