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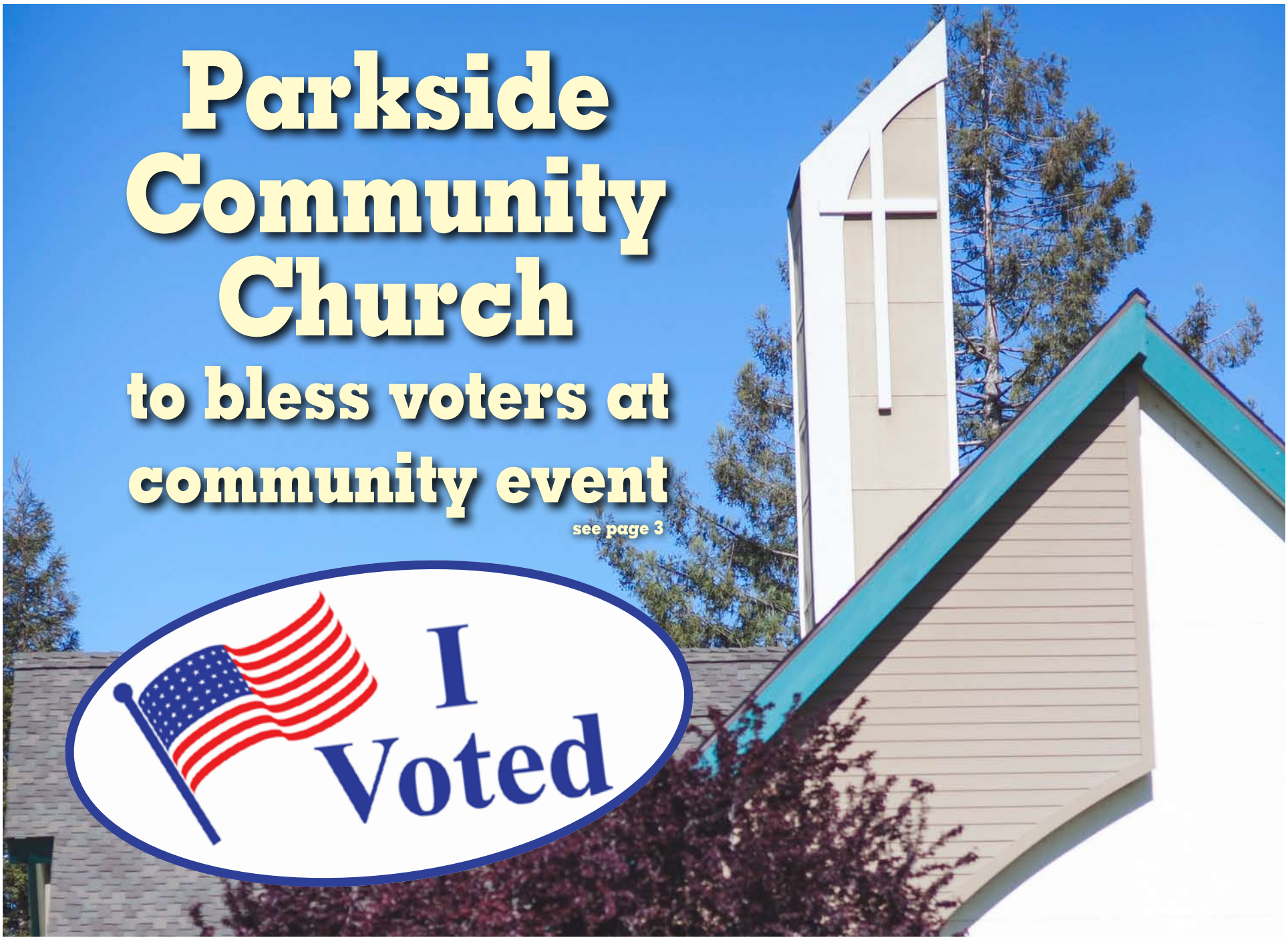
Land Park News

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Parkside Community Church

to bless voters at community event

see page 3



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South Land Park resident re-releases Elly award winning play on her family's escape from Nazi Germany

By Monica Stark
editor@valcomnews.com

South Land Park resident Susanne Sommer never knew the full story of her parents' journey from Nazi Germany to the United States. But after their deaths, she discovered letters buried in trunks, shoe boxes, hidden folders. After a five-year hiatus, Elly award winner Echoes in the Heart, a two-act play spanning from 1938-1941, is being produced again due to popular demand.

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In the shadow of Kristallnacht and the malice of Adolf Hitler there is no safe place in Nazi Germany for Jews. A young couple desperately tries to leave for America with their infant daughter by writing to distant relatives. But the United States is closed to fleeing Jews. Where will they go? Echoes in the Heart is the story of love and survival in the face of terror and hate. It is the true story of a family's desperate escape from Nazi Germany.

The plot... in Sommer's words

It's 1938 in Berlin Germany, I am one year old. My family is Jewish. My parents realize our lives are in danger, and know they must leave the country they grew up in, preferably to the United States. Hitler is still willing to let Jews leave, but few countries are willing to accept them, the United States for one. After several pleas to relatives in the U.S., a distant unknown cousin (Paul Lewinson) writes, "I will do what I can to help." But it's impossible for my parents and I to get into the U.S. After much research and speaking to people, Paul learns that the president of the Philippine Islands is willing to take a limited number of refugees.

In July 1939, just before my 2nd birthday and two months before war breaks out in Europe, we leave for Manila. Even though my parents are grateful for being allowed to enter the Philippines, life is hard. My father can't find work, the tropical heat is difficult to adjust to, and my mother is determined to come to the States. But now it's become even more difficult. Our quota numbers have come up, but the State Department is more reluctant than ever to allow Jews in. Numerous barriers are thrown in their way. Paul and his wife Jean go every route they can think of to help, and after many attempts and a long struggle, visas are issued to enter the US. We leave for San Francisco on the last Japanese ship to come to America until after the war. It is May 1941, seven months before war breaks out in the Pacific. We get out just in a nick of time as the State Department now slams the doors shut. No more German Jews are allowed to come to the U.S.Without the dogged persistence of Paul and Jean, we would never have been able to leave Germany. And you know how that would've ended. They were truly our guardian angels, and the play is a tribute to them."

Soon after Sommer's mother died in 2002, she found the correspondence between her parents and the Lewinsons. The letters were so compelling, describing in detail the difficulties of coming to America, that she wrote a book for her family using the letters.

Many more were found: from my grandparents and other relatives. More family history during this ugly period became known. Others read the book (self published) and some said this should be a play. But Sommer said she had a hard time going it alone. At last a friend asked former political consultant, television journalist and prolific playwright, Leo McElroy, if he would be interested. At first, McElroy wondered how he could write a play just using letters. "But after one night reading the book, he saw the way. So by using my words and the letters from the book, he created Echoes in the Heart," Sommer said.

As McElroy writes in his director's notes, "Echoes in the Heart is an unconventional story told in an unconventional way. Many of the physical scenes are vague, as they would be in the memory of a small child. A lot of the spoken dialogue was actually a written dialogue between the cousins. The events portrayed are accurate; however, the play is not about history, but about what history did (and does) to people. In the religious intolerance, in the hostility and suspicion

see Germany page 14



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Parkside Community Church to bless voters at community event

By Monica Stark
editor@valcomnews.com

In the midst of political turmoil when it's easy to become hopeless or complacent when faced with scandals and hostility in government, Parkside Community Church hopes to lift up the notion of voting as one thing we can all to do make a difference. On Sunday, Nov. 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m., the church (located at 5700 South Land Park Drive) invites the public to enjoy a fun outreach event that will include a bounce house, kids activities, a multicultural buffet, social justice volunteer opportunities, voter education booth and a blessing booth. "We'll have pinatas as well, which will represent concepts like war, poverty, racism, and patriarchy that we'd all like to smash," said Pastor Elizabeth Griswold.

She says while voters don't necessarily need to be blessed, the church wants to "offer a blessing to voters as a way of supporting them in their bettering of our community and our country."

The blessing itself will be one part of the wider event. Maybe they'll set up something akin to the booth Lucy from the comic strip Peanuts uses when she offers "psychiatric" help to her neighbors. Or maybe Griswold will roam among the attendees. "The specific words and ritual used will probably be a bit different for each person, depending on their preference and religious affiliation or lack thereof," she said. "But the basic idea will be about reminding each person they have a spark of the divine within them, empowering them to connect to their best self when they make the choice to get out and vote in this election, and thanking them for this commitment to our community."

The multicultural dessert buffet will be provided by members of the congregation. Initially they thought pie. After all, it's a fall event, and what's more American than apple pie? Then they thought, well it's also close to Dia de los Muertos, and what's more American than pan dulce? Then they thought, well they can't have an event without the delicious custard leche flan their Filipina members make. And of course they thought well, they've got to have sweet potato pie too! So the dessert offerings just organically grew to more truly reflect the diversity of America.

As far as voter education, Griswold explained they'll have information about a couple propositions they really care about and present an activity in which participants of all ages will have a chance to "vote" in that moment for what issues they care about most. "We'll list 20 or so issues on a big banner and ask folks to place stickers over what really touches their heart and motivates them to act. The church is in the process of doing this activity before the event, so we'll also use the display to let the community know what this church really cares about as we all learn about each other," she explained.

"On that note, it should be said that we as a congregation have taken official votes over the years to determine our identity and to proclaim it publicly. We have voted to become an 'Open and Affirming' Church especially welcoming of LGBTQ folks, a 'Solidarity' Church supportive of immigrants and refugees, and a 'Just Peace' Church committed to peace and social justice. We want the community to know that there is a Progressive Christian congregation right here in the neighborhood, and that we care about all of our neighbors and want to support them in the civic duty of voting that we all share. Everyone, regardless of any or no religious affiliation, is welcome and invited for this fun, family-friendly 'Blessing of the Voters' event meant to bring our diverse community together for the better."

Parkside has never done an event like this before, and members basically just made up the idea during the annual Church Council retreat at the end of the summer. "We wanted to do an outreach event--something that would be fun for the surrounding community and let people know that we're here and what we're about," Griswold said.

At the event, they'll have booths offering social justice volunteer opportunities too. Representatives from organizations with which members are already involved have been invited. "I believe the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet (SSIP), Sacramento Area Congregations Together (SacACT), and Family Promise will all be there, in addition to information about work that our church does directly with youth and elders," Griswold said.

If you go: Blessing of the Voters

When: Sunday, Nov. 4 from noon to 1:30 p.m.

What: Blessings, multicultural food buffet, kids activities, bounce house, voter information, blessing of voters

Where: Parkside Community Church, 5700 South Land Park Drive



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Ballot measure program draws large crowd

By Cherril Peabody

More than 100 people attended a ballot measure informational program on Saturday morning, Oct. 13, at Christ Community Church in Carmichael.

McGeorge School of Law Professor Mary Beth Whelan brought a bevy of her students to present what they have learned about the pros and cons of the initiatives that voters are being asked to weigh in on as they complete their ballots for the coming election. The free program was sponsored by the Sacramento and CHAR (Citrus Heights/American River) branches of AAUW (American Association of University Women), a nonprofit national organization that advocates for equity for women and girls.

The first four propositions are bond issues, which would authorize the state to sell bonds to provide money for special public purposes, and that money is paid back with interest over a long period of time. Proposition 1 would authorize $4 billion in state bonds to fund much needed affordable housing and veterans home loans for low-income households. Opponents say the state already has too much bond debt, not enough units would be built, and the per unit cost would be too high, as much as $300,000.

Proposition 2 is a little different, because it wouldn't require a new bond but would allow money collected from a previous bond measure that hasn't all been spent on the mental health services authorized by the measure to be used for housing for homeless mentally ill persons. Proponents say these people need housing, while opponents want all that money to be spent on mental health services. Proposition 3 would authorize $8.8 billion for various water and environmental projects. Proponents argue that the money is needed to ensure safe drinking water, repair infrastructure, capture runoff and store groundwater.

Opponents argue that reservoirs are what's really needed and the issue does not provide funds for such projects. Proposition 4 would authorize the state to add $1.5 billion to revenue obtained from previous bonds to fund projects at children's hospitals. Proponents assert that these projects will improve health care for critically-ill children. Opponents are concerned about state debt and that the beneficiaries of the proposed bond issue were the only funders for the proposition campaign.

Proposition 5 would allow carrying over the 1970s-era Proposition 13 property tax reduction to a new home. Current law requires property to be reappraised and reassessed when it is sold. Proponents say that senior citizens and disabled people can't afford to move now because they would lose the tax break on their original home. However, passage of the law would seriously impact funding for local government, schools and other special districts.

Proposition 6 would repeal the 12 cents a gallon additional gas tax that was approved by voters in the last election. It would also amend the state Constitution to require a 2/3 yes vote for all future fuel taxes. Proponents say that it is mostly low and middle-income people who are adversely affected by the tax and that any future gas tax proposals would have to be approved by a larger majority of voters. Repeal would cause the state to lose billions in tax revenues, and more than 6,500 current and planned transportation projects could lose funding, along with 68,000 project-related jobs. Amending the Constitution would make it more difficult to secure funding for infrastructure projects in the future.

Proposition 7 would allow the Legislature to update the California Government Code to reflect the required change in 1966 to conform to the national Uniform Time Act passed by Congress that standardized the starting and ending dates of Daylight Savings Time. It would also allow the Legislature to request year-round DST if it wished without a public vote of approval. Proponents say that it would allow the Legislature to amend the language to agree with Federal law and to take actions regarding the practice without requiring voter approval. Opponents say it wouldn't really change anything except passage would let the Legislature change DST without voter approval.

Proposition 8 would implement a cap on how much profit dialysis clinics could charge and require them to document patient care services. Currently the clinics can charge as much as they wish with little documentation on the services provided. Proponents say clinics will be cleaner and patients will receive better care because health services and improvements will have to be documented and inflated profit will be reduced. Opponents say it will cause clinics to go out of business as well as the insurance companies that cover private care because allowable costs do not include staff and other services that are required to run a clinic.

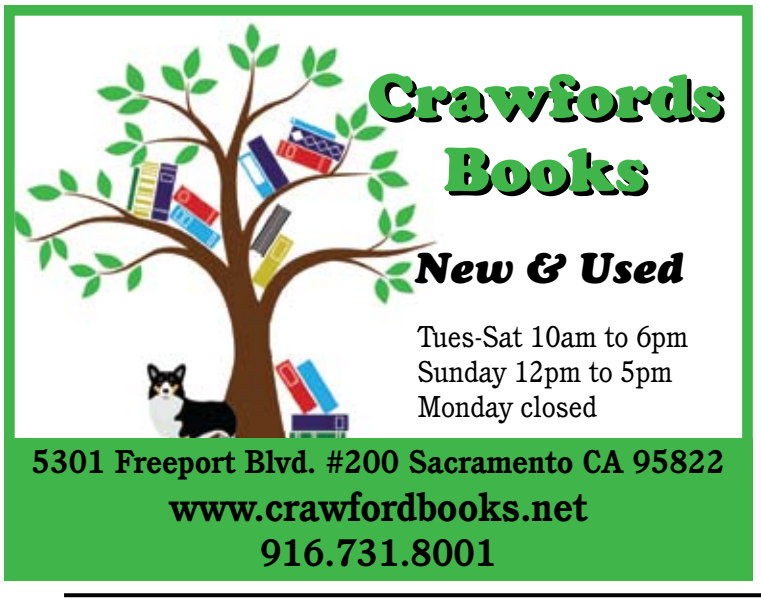
Proposition 9, a proposal to divide California into three states, was removed from the ballot because the California Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional.

Proposition 10 would allow cities and counties to impose rent controls in their jurisdictions without the limits state law currently imposes, but would not impact the "fair rate of return" that property owners are allowed under past court rulings. Proponents say California renters often have a hard time finding affordable housing and are sometimes forced to live far away from their jobs. Opponents say overregulation would discourage housing development.

Proposition 11 would provide additional mental health and crisis training for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and would allow them to remain on call during breaks, the latter provision which unions oppose, particularly because the employees would be paid their regular pay during breaks.

Proposition 12 would require farmers to provide more space for egg-laying chickens, breeding pigs and veal calves and would ban businesses from selling eggs or uncooked veal or pork housed in ways that did not meet these requirements. Proponents say that this law is needed as a step to end cruelty to farm animals and reduce the risk of food poisoning. Opponents maintain that this law extends the deadline for requiring "cage-free" status for hens, and the language of the proposition would allow smaller spaces for hens than what is allowed by current law.

A lively Q and A session followed the presentation, with many members of the audience asking detailed questions about the propositions. Professor Whelan was able to give detailed background information to supplement the answers given by the well-prepared students.





Door to Door

with PAT LYNCH

Our mother vetoed TV. She said we didn't need it. We should read. But we read all the time, we said. We read at school. We read at home. We read in bed. But the kids at school were starting to talk about TV. The cool six-grade girls who wore pricey white bucks and used special chalk puffs to brush away scuffs, would greet one another with, "Did you see Ozzie and Harriet last night? Sooooo good." It seemed they talked about TV with even more emphatic raptures when near those of us known not to have it.

I worked on my mother. "The Whitsettes have TV and the Tierneys say they're getting one."

"People can do what they like," she'd say. "It's a free country."

"Mom, TV is like having a movie in your very own house. Every night. A free movie."

"We have books. We have games. We have conversation."

During this impasse our father installed a patio outside the back door. He did it himself, and it seemed to take a long time and many six-packs. When the cement dried it was lumpy in parts, but who needs a perfect patio? He screened it in and put a tin roof over it.

I worked on my father. "After all this you deserve a TV," I said. He said he knew what I was up to.

Finally, after months of wheedling and begging, our mother surrendered and Dad brought home a TV. It was a Saturday afternoon. We closed the drapes and pulled down the shades while he plugged it in and jiggled with the rabbit ears. Slowly, the face of a woman emerged. "Hello again," she said. "I'm Katherine Kitchen."

The picture was snowy but we were struck with wonder. We sat together on the rug, transfixed. Even our mother took a seat on the couch and watched while Katherine Kitchen waved a long fork and described the perfect lamb chop. Then Katherine Kitchen went to the oven and pulled out a plate piled with lamb chops, mashed potatoes and a fluffy black-and-white salad. How brilliant she was, I thought, to have prepared her results earlier. "Will you look at that?" our father said. "Isn't that something?"

So TV had come to stay. But not in the house. Our mother said it had to go out on the patio so it wouldn't interfere with homework and family life. Our father got an extension cord, wound it through the door and out to the TV which now perched on an old coffee-table. It was autumn and we wore sweaters on the chillier nights and dragged our dinner-table chairs out to the lumpy patio. We made sure to bring the chairs back in lest Mom ban their use altogether.

We continued to talk and giggle through dinner, and we still had family time, which often meant, for the young, prompting the Baby to toddle to others with elaborate insults, returning with equally vivid retorts. Hearing her innocent two-year old voice relaying shocking messages amused us for quite a while, but now, with TV waiting, we cut it short. Some got homework done earlier too, and made the evenings freer.

Our father told us to bring out a chair for our mother, just in case. "We got a chair for you, Mom," one of us would say. We put her chair up front because she was five feet tall. Sometimes she would

see Door to Door page 7

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Sacramento Zoo director speaks about plan to relocate zoo

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

With the recent news that the Sacramento Zoo is seeking to relocate from Land Park, Jason Jacobs, the zoo's director sat down with the Land Park News last week to discuss that plan.

The zoo dates back to 1927, when it was opened as part of the then-new William Land Park.

Its opening was one of various notable events that occurred in the capital city that year, including the opening of the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium and the Alhambra Theatre and the introduction of the famous twin steamers, the Delta King and the Delta Queen, along the Sacramento River.

The board unanimously voted last spring to relocate the zoo from its current, 14-acre location to a 50- to 60-acre site, which would include additional land for an accompanying parking lot.

A current goal of that plan is to have the zoo opened at a new location by its centennial in 2027.

Predating the board's decision to relocate to a larger site and playing a significant role in that decision, the zoo underwent an inspection by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums last November and an accreditation hearing last March.

Although the report notes that animals are well cared for at the zoo, it states that many of the exhibits do not meet modern zoological practices.

Jacobs said that the report led to some quick changes at the zoo.

"Immediately, we tore down old cages and sent animals to other accredited zoos into better habitats," he said.

Regarding the zoo board's decision to seek a new location for the zoo, Jacobs said that the board weighed various issues, including finances.

"In 2018 dollars, it's about $128 million to renovate the zoo in its entirety," he said. "And then came the question: 'If you're going to spend $128 million to renovate the zoo, do you renovate the (current) space or do you get land where on day one $128 million will provide you with a larger zoological experience than what we can offer and much larger spaces for the animals?"



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Although certain large animals no longer make their home at the Sacramento Zoo, giraffes are still among the large residents of this 14-acre attraction in William Land Park.

Jacobs added that past discussions regarding expanding the zoo in the park were not well received, and that such an expansion does not seem viable to the zoo board.

"Expansion said that we would need about 10 to 15 acres for the zoo, as well as about 10 acres for parking," he said. "We didn't see that as a viable option within Land Park."

Jacobs emphasized that parking played a significant role in the board's decision.

"You could renovate this zoo, but the number one negative attribute that we get when we survey our guests is parking," he said. "Where do we park people in (William) Land Park?"

Jacobs also said that the zoo, which focuses on animal welfare, is forced to work within the limitations of its current location.

"Over the past the 20 years, the zoo has had to make some tough decisions based on space," he said. "You don't see bears anymore, you don't see hippos, you don't see gorillas, and in January, we sent out our last tiger. Those are tough (decisions), because those are animals that people look forward to seeing here at the zoo."

An expansion to a larger site would allow for certain larger animals such as hippos to be reintroduced into the zoo.

Jacobs noted that existing animals could also have their quality of lives improved in a "very positive way" by moving into larger exhibits.

The director also stressed that the Sacramento Zoo has not kept up with the times as far as size, noting that it is the nation's second smallest accredited zoo.

Accredited zoos in metropolitan regions that are similar in size to the Sacramento region include: the 57-acre San Antonio Zoo, the 64-acre Oregon Zoo, the 74-acre Cincinnati Zoo and the 202-acre Kansas City Zoo.

Jacobs said that if the 50- to 60-acre Sacramento Zoo becomes a reality, a plan is in place to have one of its exhibits be larger than the current location of the zoo.

"That (exhibit) would be devoted to an African grassland, where our giraffes could run," he said. "They could be mixed with zebras and ostriches and rhinoceroses. I think it (would be) magical. And this (current zoo) is magical, too. We create lifelong memories, we save species, but we could be so much better."

The plan to relocate the zoo came as a surprise to the community, especially considering that during the zoo's 90th anniversary last year, it announced a plan to undergo a $75 million, phase-by-phase renovation over the following 15 to 20 years.

Jacobs explained that the relocation plan will not halt all renovation efforts at the current zoo site.

"We do not want to be a lame duck zoo leading up to this potential relocation," he said.

Recently, in-house facility workers at the zoo built a new playground to replace a smaller playground.

Renovation work on an exhibit it was also recently performed in preparation of the coming of a mob of meerkats, which are a small carnivore species of mongoose from southern Africa. It will be the first time in the zoo's history that it has housed this animal.

The zoo is also preparing for the arrival of several okapi – a forest relative of the giraffe.

Jacobs commented on the zoo's upcoming introduction of new animals.

"We're going to be bringing in some different animals that we can provide new habitats for that we can (eventually) relocate to the new zoo," he said. "So, that's the plan."

While visiting the zoo last week, several people shared their thoughts on the plan to relocate the zoo.

Fair Oaks resident Dave Morgan said that although

see Zoo on page 7



Zoo:

continued from page 6

he enjoys the current zoo, he welcomes the idea of a relocation of the zoo to a larger site.

"This place has been around a long time," he said. "It's very settled and sage, I suppose. I would like to see more animals and more space. It's pretty small compared to other zoos. But that's one of the quaint things about it is you can come and go and not wear yourself out too much."

Morgan, who first visited the zoo in 1988, added that he would like to see larger animals that could be housed at a new Sacramento Zoo.

"I think (adding larger animals at a relocated zoo) would be great," he said. "That's what a zoo's all about is having animals that you can't see unless you go on an African safari or something like that."

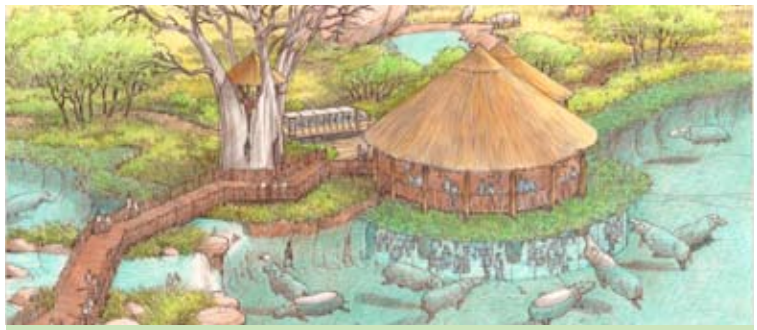
Not everyone favors the zoo relocation plan.

Arden area resident Judy Nuttall, for instance, said that she is against that plan.

"I don't like that (plan)," she said. "You look around this place and everything is so well kept and the animals seem like they are in good shape. I'm 71 years old and I've lived here forever, and I just think (a relocation) would be a disaster. You know, we saved the Kings. Can we save the zoo?"

Caroline Niel, a Manteca resident who frequently visits the zoo, shared a differing view.

"I'm excited," she said. "I think it would be fantastic, because they do such a beautiful job with the zoo as it is. To see them possibly expanding and make it grow and do more with what they have would be fantastic. I would love to see that."



Courtesy of the Sacramento Zoo

The Sacramento Zoo has been located in William Land Park since 1927. The zoo board recently voted to pursue a relocation of the zoo to a much larger location.

Door to Door:

continued from page 5

stand at the door and watch for a few minutes, then shrug and walk away. She usually sat in her easy chair and read one of the murder mysteries she loved. One night murder came to the TV. A man with an overcoat and mask stalked the shadowy streets, stepping from behind doors and cars to stab people in the neck. It baffled the detectives. Mom came to her perch by the door. "We got a chair for you, Mom," Sheila said. "It's murder, Hon," our father said. But she stayed by the door and watched until she nodded and made a satisfied half-smile. She already knew who the murderer was and why he did it. But in our house you didn't tell because it was wrong to spoil the suspense. She returned to her book, wrote the murderer's name on the back of a paper, tucked it in her pocket. And she was right. She was always right about murder.

It was mid October now and the nights got chillier. We wore sweaters out to the screened-in porch. One night she stood by the door while we watched the George Gobel Show. During the commercial George Gobel held up a bar of Dial Soap and said, "Please use Dial Soap. It's not that we think you're dirty, we just want you to buy our soap." A surprised laugh broke from her. Then she sighed and went to the chair we'd placed. I ran in and got her sweater, but it was George Gobel who did it—got her in the front row.

Two days later the TV was in the living room, where it was warm and the furniture was cozy. For the first few weeks we'd watch anything, including commercials. Then the commercials became the opportunity to ransack the kitchen for snacks and after a few more weeks we gathered only to watch our favorite shows. She loved the western, Have Gun, Will Travel, which featured a ruggedly handsome guy named Paladin. He rode around the West dispatching or regulating bad guys while quoting with marvelous aptness from literary masterpieces.

We all liked Paladin (It'd have been disloyal not to), and Father Knows Best, Bonanza, Dragnet, The Honeymooners, and we loved Lucy. Everybody loved Lucy. At school one day I waited till the white bucks girls were near and said, loudly, to my friend, Jane, "Did you see Lucy last night? Soooo funny."

Jane said, "Why are you yelling?" The white bucks girls ignored us. But I knew they heard.

In time we gathered before the TV for our favorites but returned to other activities when dud shows were on. For me the duds were The Beverly Hillbillies, Flipper, Gomer Pyle and Petticoat Junction. I abjured these programs but can't remember why. Maybe they were too rural. On the other hand, we all loved the Andy Griffith Show and will still watch re-runs.

TV is different now. Now we actually do have movies streamed into our houses, and multiple channels where producers, writers and actors work furiously cranking out stories for us to binge on. Screens are flat and huge and everything throbs in surround sound and brilliant color. I like all this though it's not popular to say so. It's always more approved etiquette to mourn the old days.

Our mother grew to love certain shows, and in her final years she became addicted to Perry Mason reruns, a courtroom drama starring Raymond Burr. Like Perry, she was quick to figure things out and identified culprits early on. (She had these gifts as a parent too). But even Perry Mason couldn't trump her number one show of all time, a program she never missed and watched with perfect contentment from her easy chair, legs propped on the footstool—Murder She Wrote.

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The Dad Navigates Troubled Waters: Seven hours

By Steve DeBenedetti-Emanuel

I am not a stay-at-home dad! I am not a stay at home dad! Rinse and repeat: I am not an SAHD!

It's not like didn't spend a ton of time w/ KD when he was little. He was pretty sick as a little kid, so I decreased my work hours and was a semi-SAHD. We have those stories: cumin instead of cinnamon in his applesauce, chugging "go-go Juice" (a.k.a. a large Nalgene bottle of ice coffee,) and other stuff. But those days are memories…

Life has changed a bit, and we're moving backwards to the early days. Captain Mommy (my wife Stephanie) is way busier, and KD and I are hanging out again. And I am way out of shape.

545 this a.m. my alarm went off, and I needed to rush KD out of bed, because he had to do his physical therapy and spelling words before we were supposed to called UBER at 650, so he could go to his allergy shots. I don't drive, so we didn't have much time to space.

As KD always does, he dilly-dallied in his room and I had to ride him to saddle-up to get going. We busted out his spelling words. 17-20. 85%. We reviewed the ones I thought he got wrong and was done with it. Good enough.

CRAP, Captain Mommy was sick and then asked me if I'd sent in the order for the Raley's pick-up and Whole Foods drop-off. I'd put things on the list, but I didn't know I sending in the orders and arranging all the timing.

Whew, the Whole Foods went through, but the Raley's was screwed-up. And then KD popped-in to ask me to go outside to do his physical therapy stuff. And he was supposed to eat. And he was supposed to do his nose sprays and sunblock. And I melted down. The clock was moving double time, and things weren't going well. I told him to blow-off his P.T., because we had all these other things to do.

KD disappeared to talk to Captain Mommy and I melted down even more, since this wasn't on the time clock. Fortunately, she'd coached him on how to do the Raley's stuff on the computer, and he got it. Small victory.

But he still needed to pack his lunch and eat breakfast. Somewhere along the line, I'd washed his thermos and heated up his food. And he threw together some food for breakfast. I don't think he had any fruit, but he ate something, and it was time to call UBER to go get his allergy shots. Ok, we were a little behind schedule, but assuming everything went as planned, he'd be at school on-time.

Sadly, I think we had the lowest-rated UBER driver ever. Before we'd buckled-in, she burned rubber and wasn't happy when I asked her to slow down. KD and I hung on for dear life, but we made it in decent time and he got his shots.

Problem was that there were no UBER drivers and we had a wait. We were still ok. And it gave me time to text-back the Raley's clerk, because they didn't have something I'd ordered. Back-and-forth we went, and she was finally clear.

Of course, our driver had a cigarette right before he picked-us up, and he didn't provide a gas mask. Still, we made good time, and KD was at school 15 minutes early.

Crap, there were the groceries. Captain Mommy usually picks them up, but she was still down for the count. So, I hoofed it down to Raley's, thinking I'd be able to carry it all. We only live a 10 minute walk, so it's no big thing. But I couldn't dilly-dally much, because I knew I had to be home by 10 for the Whole Foods.

The clerk waddled to the front with 5 bags. There was no way I could carry it all. The parking lot has those systems that keep you from taking the carts. But I figured they had to have a cart I could use. After all we're regular customers, No dice.

see Seven hours page 14

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Sacramento City Unified School District kicked off elementary sports program at all schools

Photos by Stephen Crowley

On Wednesday, Oct. 3, Sacramento City Unified School District kicked off an elementary sports program that will serve over 22,000 children participating in sports throughout the year at all 45 elementary schools. The new sports program is good for kids and will also boost student attendance rates to help generate potentially millions more in revenue to address the district's budget deficit. Kids will have the opportunity to play flag football in the fall, basketball in the spring, or participate in a running program that runs year-round. A press conference was held at the kick off ith district officials, community leaders, and representatives from the Be Here student attendance campaign prior to the start of the first flag football game.

"We had a great kickoff that was supported by our superintendent, board, mayor city council, and SCUSD labor partners. Throughout the district we had several hundred students, parents, staff and community members participate," wrote Greg Purcell, SCUSD's athletics coordinator, in a statement.

The day-to-day activity portion of the elementary sports program is the running program STRIDE (SacCity Tracks Running to Improve Daily Education), which is led by Ellen Moore from the Sacramento Running Association, Purcell explained.

STRIDE is for all students grades 1-6. Flag Football and basketball are co-ed sports for students in grades 4-6. Parents and students can sign up for flag football and basketball at elementarysports.scusd.edu. Students in STRIDE are signed up by coaches at the school sites.

STRIDE and Flag Football are underway. Basketball begins February 13 All activities range from 3-10 hours per week. Coaches are teachers, parents, classified staff and community members. The funding comes primarily from the district and a small amount from the city of Sacramento.













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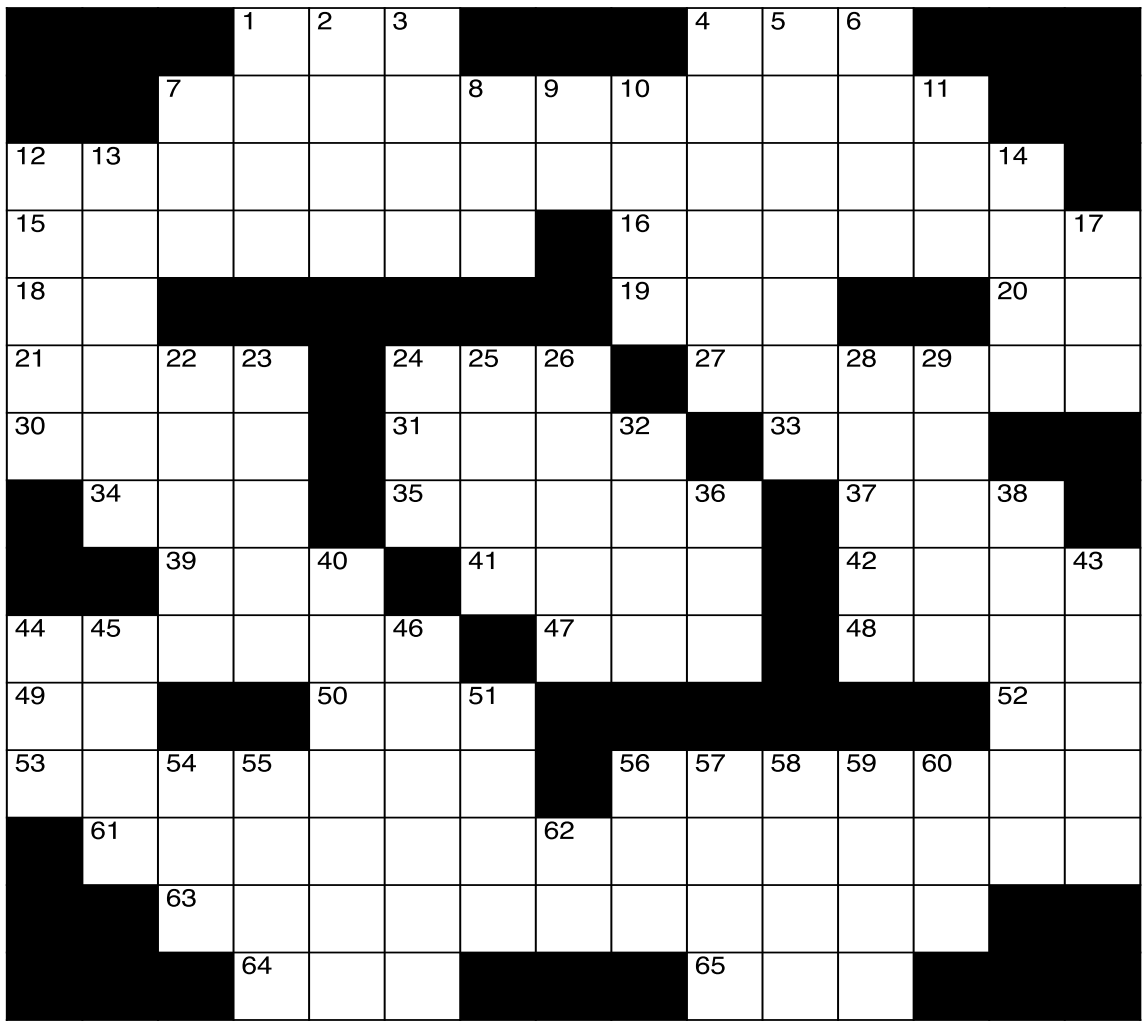
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Solutions on page 14

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Superhigh frequency
4. Sinatra's ex-wife
7. Unity
12. Not useful
15. One who mocks
16. Teachers
18. "Pollock" actor Harris
19. Fifth note of a major scale
20. A type of coalition
21. Aircraft transmitters
24. Where golfers begin
27. We all have them
30. Monetary unit
31. Calendar month
33. Pouch-like structure
34. Winter sport tool
35. Minneapolis suburb
37. __ student, learns healing
39. Keyboard key
41. Brief proposal
42. Gasteyer and Ivanovic are two
44. Lunatic
47. Cool!
48. Japanese musician
49. Successor to League of Nations
50. Actor Diesel
52. The Constitution State
53. Go back over
56. One long or stressed syllable followed by unstressed syllable
61. All of it
63. Seriousness
64. Adds color
65. __kosh, near Lake Winnebago

CLUES DOWN
1. Turfs
2. Handle
3. Floating ice
4. Railways
5. Breathe in
6. Neutralizes alkalis
7. Coenzyme A
8. Make a mistake
9. Tin
10. Parts of a machine
11. Midway between northeast & east
12. Prizes for victory
13. Great amount
14. Goodwill (archaic)
17. Suspicion of having committed a crime
22. Signed one's name
23. Quake
24. Exercise system __-bo
25. Round Dutch cheese
26. Ready to go
28. Khoikhoi peoples
29. Opera scene
32. Husband of Sita (Hindu)
36. A sign of assent
38. Cut a rug
40. An army unit mounted on horseback
43. Satisfies
44. Austrian river
45. In a more positive way
46. Religious creed
51. Brazilian NBA star
54. One and only
55. Street
56. Explosive
57. Gambling town
58. Public crier calls
59. Hard money
60. Time units (abbr.)
62. Exists

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Faces and Places: **Noche for Niños**

Photos by Stephen Crowley

On Saturday, Oct. 7, the Latino Center of Art and Culture, 2700 Front St., celebrated Noche for Niños with altars, craft tables for the kids, and an outdoor screening of the Disney movie, "Coco." Inside the gallery, Ruben Reveles and Andres Alvarez displayed their Día de los Muertos inspired work and talented volunteers held a workshop on Cempazuchitl (crafting with the traditional flor de muerto, marigolds) and a mask workshop. The event was a precursor to the center's Panteon celebration, which will be held on Oct. 27-28 in midtown between J and K streets.















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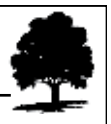
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Germany:

continued from page 2

toward immigrants, this story of the past gives us something to think about today. We all learned something doing this show...about history, about love and hate, and, most of all, about ourselves."

In 2013, Sommer produced Echoes and it was a huge success, filling the small Geery Theater on 22nd and L streets for five weekends (the play was extended an extra weekend) and could've gone on longer. "Winning the Elly for best original script was a huge thrill. For me it was as good as receiving an Academy Award," she said.

The play is being produced again, this time by Tim Cahill, because so many people have asked about it.

The play has five characters: Sommer's mother and father, Max and Marga Grunwald; Paul and Jean Lewinson; and the narrator. There are several minor parts played by the same person. The actors are local community theater performers with considerable experience. Tabitha Ward plays Sommer's mother; Colin Coate, her father. Mark Ludwig and Lisa Derthick play Paul and Jean. Victoria Goldblatt is the narrator. She played Jean during the first run. Tom Bost performs the various small parts.

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Seven hours:

Continued from page 8

So, I sprinted home, sprinted back, and sprinted home with the rest of the groceries. I was home by 10 and had everything put away whenever the Whole Foods came. I put it all away.

However, I couldn't leave, because I still had to clean the kitchen up and make breakfast for Captain Mommy. The kitchen was hit by a typhoon, and by the time I unloaded, put away, rinsed, and ran the dishwasher, it was 145. Honestly, I don't know what happened with those last couple of hours; they're a blur.

With a deep exhale, I was finished, seven hours after starting my day. And off I went to my easier job. And then my glasses broke. I threw them in my case and headed out the door to the train. Crap, did I put on deodorant?

Until next time.

Steve DeBenedetti-Emanuel is a licensed marriage and family therapist for River City Counseling, located at 1501 28th St., Suite 230. He can be reached at 916-919-0218 or by email at steve@rivercitycounseling.com. His website is www.rivercitycounseling.com

What's happening, Land Park?

THURSDAY, OCT. 25

MEDICARE BENEFICIARY BRIGHTS & APPEALS: Learn why you should not write off Medicare to cover long term care and how to ensure you are receiving all the benefits available to you. There will be a discussion on how to appeal denials of care and the relationship between Medicare and Medicare Advantage and supplemental policies .Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Thursday October 25, 2018 from 1:30-2:30pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916) 393-9026 ext 330 or www.acssv.org.

SATURDAY, OCT. 27

CREEPY CRAFTING FOR KIDS – Get ready for Halloween by making some creepy arts and crafts. We will be making monster putty, spider slime, floating glow-in-the-dark eyes, spiderweb prints, and more! School Age. Saturday, October 27 from 2-3 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

THE ANNUAL ELKS HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR will take place on Saturday, October 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's never too early to start your holiday shopping; and this annual craft fair is the perfect place to find quality, artisan gifts from local artists. Over 100 vendors will be displaying handmade crafts such as photography, ceramics, plant gifts, and other unique items for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Custom jewelry is always a big attraction and this year's designs should be a highlight. Visitors are encouraged to "shop til they drop" and then take a break at the Elks Bistro. Admission is free to shoppers. The Elks Lodge No. 6 is located at 6446 Riverside Blvd., near the intersection of Florin Road. For more information, contact Joyce Breen at 916-421-3601 or visit www.elks6.com.

SUNDAY, OCT. 28

SAFE & SUPER HALLOWEEN: DINOSAURS AT FAIRYTALE TOWN: From 5 to 9 p.m., dinosaurs will take over Fairytale Town for trick-or-treating and family friendly fun at Fairytale Town's 32nd annual Safe & Super Halloween. Follow the dino tracks throughout the park to meet and take photos with different dinosaur species. Dig for giant fossils at the excavation site, visit the reptile lab to see growing dinosaurs, and test your dino roar with the roar-o-meter. This Halloween extravaganza also features 15 treat stations, a nightly costume parade at 8:30 PM, hands-on activities, and lots of fun. Sevilla Magic FX will perform "The Dino Encounter" each night at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. in Sherwood Forest. This is a special ticketed event; tickets are on sale now.. Fairytale Town will be closing at 2 p.m. each day in order to prepare for the evening festivities.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31

SELF-ACUPRESSURE (REFLEXOLOGY): Self Acupressure points are the same body points used in acupuncture, but self-acupressure is a preventive modality used to avoid more serious issues. You will be given a personal acupressure chart to learn the meridian point. which can help you stay healthy. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $20 required. Drop-in Fee $25 at the door. Class will be held Wednesday October 31, 2018 from 1:30-3:00pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916) 393-9026 ext 330 or www.acssv.org.

THURSDAY, NOV. 1

DIABETES ACADEMY EDUCATIONAL SERIES: This class will be discussing the checking and managing of your blood sugar and coping with diabetes. Pre-registration required. Free of charge. Class will be held Thursday November 1, 2018 from 10:00-11:00am at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916) 393-9026 ext 330 or www.acssv.org.

INTERNET SAFETY: A COMPUTER USER'S GUIDE TO PRIVACY AND SECURITY: Computer and internet have changed our world. We work, learn, play, socialize, shop and manage our lives online. But not everyone we interact online is trustworthy. Some use the Internet to harass or annoy others, to damage your computer or data and even commit crimes. Pre-registration required. Free of charge. Class will be held Thursday, Nov. 1 from 2:30-4:00p at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916) 393-9026 ext 330 or www.acssv.org.

SATURDAY, NOV. 3

CEMETERY TOUR – PHOTOGRAPHERS: The Old City Cemetery Committee presents an interactive tour of photography in Sacramento on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 10 a.m., at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. Standing on J Street during the latter part of the 19th century, it seemed you could throw a rock in any direction and hit a photography studio. On this interactive tour we will be delving into the lives of local photographers and their subjects. We're asking for shutterbugs of all levels to participate. Working together, we will have an album on Facebook dedicated to this tour and everyone's perspective of some of the most beautiful works of art that the cemetery has to offer. Bring your Point-and-Shoot, DSLR, or cell phone and get ready to have some fun! The cemetery is located at 1000 Broadway, Sacramento. There is free street parking on surrounding streets. Tours are free; however, donations are appreciated and benefit cemetery preservation. For more information, call 916-448-0811.

LEGO MANIA!- Like building with LEGOs? Join us for our monthly Lego free-play afternoon! LEGOs and DUPLO LEGOs will be provided for this family program. Saturday, November 3 from 2-4 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St. Sacramento 95818.

SUNDAY, NOV. 4

BLESSING OF THE VOTERS: Voter education, special attraction, blessing of voters, kids activities, bounce house, multicultural buffet. Noon to 1:30 p.m. at Parkside Community Church, 5700 South Land Park Drive.

TUESDAY, NOV. 6

CA RELAY-CAPTIONED TELEPHONE: California Relay Service is available 24/7 at no cost and allows individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind or have difficulty speaking to make and receive phone calls. This class will discuss the products and services available to meet these individual's needs and how to apply for the program. Pre-registration required. Free of charge. Class will be held Tuesday November 6, 2018 from 3:00-4:00pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916) 393-9026 ext 330 or www.acssv.org.

FRIDAY, NOV. 9

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUD: The Department of Business Oversight is responsible for consumer protection for companies and individuals selling financial products. Learn how to protect yourself from financial fraud and scams. Pre-registration required. Free of charge. Class will be held Friday November 9, 2018 from 1:00-2:00pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916) 393-9026 ext 330 or www.acssv.org.

SATURDAY, NOV. 10

READ TO A DOG- Looking for a fun way to boost your child's reading skills while making new friends? Kids are invited to read aloud to trained therapy dogs, provided by Capital Therapy Dogs. Participants may bring their own books or borrow one to read aloud to their new furry friends. School-Age. Saturday, November 10 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

BIRD HOUSE DECORATING FOR KIDS- Come join us and put your artistic and decorating skills to use! We will provide wooden bird houses for each participant and have paint and decorating materials for you to make your own bird house masterpiece. Limited to the first 20 participants. School Age. Saturday, November 10 from 2-3 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.Sunday, Nov. 11



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4th
4:00 p.m.

In honor of our Organist-Choirmaster, Scott Nelson, celebrating 30 years of upholding & promoting the Anglican Tradition of Music & Liturgy at All Saints Episcopal Church

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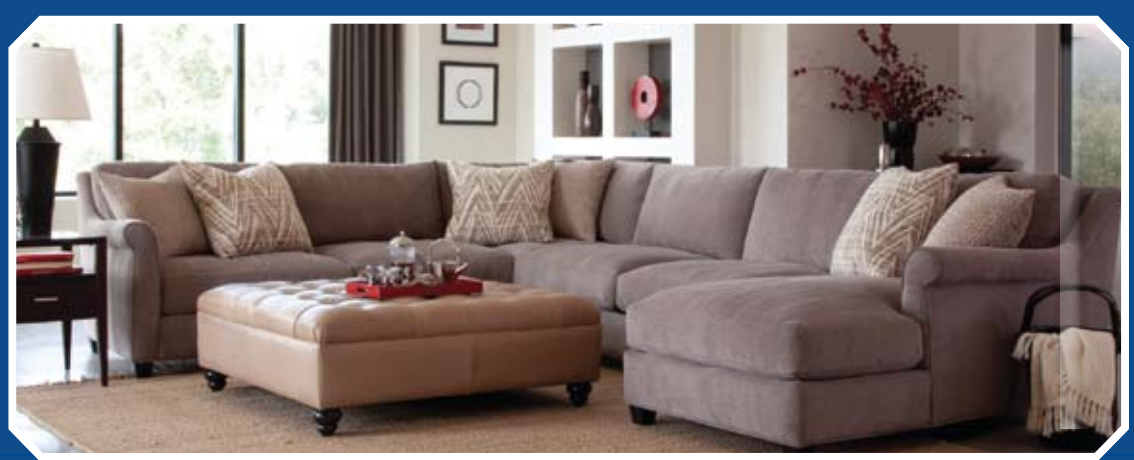
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