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Cover by: Annin Geenhalgh

Best of 2018 Land Park News

(Editor's Note: Thanks to the talented team of writers at Valley Community Newspapers, I am proud to present the Best of 2018 for the Land Park News. -Monica Stark)

Could the Sleep Train Arena be the next home for the Sacramento Zoo?



As the future zoo relocation planning and exploration continues to progress, the Sacramento Zoo has identified several potential locations; including Sleep Train Arena in Natomas.

The Zoo needs space to lead with animal welfare and fulfill the mission of "connecting people to wildlife through education and conservation." A location, like the former home of the Sacramento Kings, could provide the necessary space (and parking) that the zoo needs to meet the modern standards of an accredited facility.

Potential experiences could include a safari lodge with nighttime dining that overlooks a kopje rock home to a pride of lions. A jeep safari could take you into a huge habitat surrounded by giraffe, zebra, rhinoceros and other African animals. An African forest could provide a much larger home for our troop of chimpanzees plus the return of gorillas to Sacramento.

The Zoo welcomes our community's feedback.

Visit saczoo.org/relocation for updates.

Source: Sacramento Zoo

Gunther's Ice Cream declared Sacramento historic landmark

By Lance Armstrong

Gunther's Ice Cream, one of Sacramento's most cherished institutions, has something new in common with certain notable capital city landmarks such as the Governor's Mansion, the Sacramento Memorial Auditorium and the Tower Theatre.

All of these places were approved as historic landmarks of the Sacramento Register of Historic and Cultural Resources.

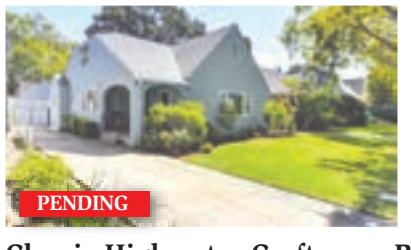
According to the city clerk's office, the ice cream parlor at 2801

see Gunther's page 3

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PENDING
This lovely 3, possibly 4 bedroom home with huge family room has plenty of elbow room for everyone. Hardwood floors and built-ins throughout and a generous kitchen with vintage commercial Wolf stove and corian counters. Updated roof, electrical panel and HVAC complement the dual pane windows and PV solar system (owned) to keep you cozy year 'round.
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Classic Highwater Craftsman Bungalow

PENDING
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Gunthers:

continued from page 2

Franklin Blvd. and three other landmarks were recently selected to receive this designation. Also recognized in this recent class are the Iva Gard Shepard Garden and Arts Center, the Freeport Chase Bank, and the Sacramento County Courthouse.

Marlena Klopp, who co-owns Gunther's with her husband, Rick, described her business's new designation.

"They are recognizing the architecture of Gunther's – so the building," she said. "It's Googie architecture, which goes back into the 1950s. There were four buildings that all got through. They all carry that kind of style of (1940s to 1960s, futuristic) architecture (from) that period."

Marlena commented on her business's recognition.

"It brings (local) recognition, for sure," she said. "Personally, for Rick and I, we've put many, many years into that place and one of our biggest concerns is when we're gone, that somebody would take (the building) and tear it down or change it.

"What it means to us is long after we're gone, it's a place that people can still come to, and hopefully forever it's still an ice cream store. But the sure thing for us is the building stands the same."

Marlena added that there are many more people who are passionate about Gunther's.

"There are so many memories of people that come in there," she said. "Every day you hear about how people would come in with their grandparents or their parents who are gone. It's that memory of walking through those front doors.

"(Gunther's) just triggers for them. For Rick and I, we just don't ever want that to go away for people, because we know how important it is."

Marlena explained what the designation means for the Gunther's building.

"It does kind of put a guarantee of protection that nobody can go in there – except after the time that maybe it's not in our hands – and tear it down and put big condominiums or apartments or something up there that would not be Gunther's anymore," she said.

Marlena added that her days of being a proponent of preserving historic buildings in Sacramento date back to the 1970s.

"In school, we did 'Save the Alhambra (Theatre' in East Sacramento) or building Safeway (at that site), and I was on the Save the Alhambra team," she said. "I was devastated when that place was torn down (in 1973), because it was such a beautiful building. I still think to this day that Sacramento lost a big part of history with (the loss of the) Alhambra Theatre.

"It's just my thing that I think that these buildings hold so many memories for people. I clearly think that these things are going away, and if we don't protect it, one day we're going to have these straight up and down buildings that have no memories."



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Gunther's Ice Cream owners Marlena and Rick Klopp

The Gunther's story

As for the memories of Gunther's, those memories began in the early 1940s, when the business opened in its original location at 3003 Franklin Blvd., at 5thAvenue.

Gunther's original owners were German immigrant William H. "Pop" Gunther and his Kentucky-born wife, Iva Gunther.

The couple previously worked for a business that ran ice cream stores throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

The Gunthers relocated their business to its current Franklin Boulevard site in December 1949.

Information pertaining to today's Gunther's site is presented in the Aug. 6, 1948 edition of The Sacramento Bee as follows:

"The city Planning Commission last night conducted a series of hearings on variance and rezoning applications, including one in which a permit was granted Mrs. Ira C. Gunther, of 3018 Donner Way, to erect an ice cream manufacturing plant and retail sales building on the southeast corner of Franklin Boulevard and Third Avenue."

Designed by the firm of Koblik and Fisher, the building was constructed at a cost of $40,000. The contractor was Charles Guth.

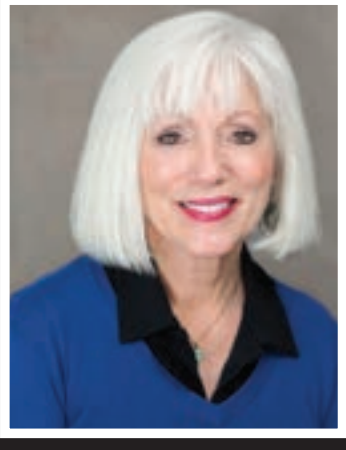
As opposed to its previous 12-foot by 40-foot business space, Gunther's was established at its current site with a 36-foot by 90-foot plant and a 26-foot by 25-foot sales room.

The 21st day of this month will mark the 69th anniversary of the opening of Gunther's at its current location.

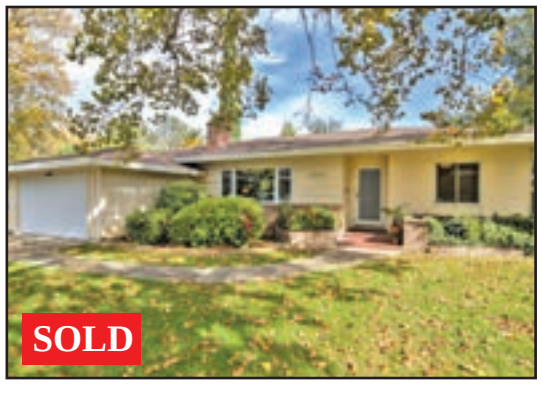
At the time of its opening at that site, Gunther's daily hours of operation were 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

In 1969, four years after graduating from C.K. McClatchy High School, Rick became Gunther's manager.

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Original owners in this custom South Land Park Terrace home. Formal living room with fireplace, formal dining area, kitchen with skylight and eating area, three bedrooms and two baths plus a remote fourth bedroom with 1/2 bath and walk-in closet. Good sized yard with partially covered patio and an attached two car garage.
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This Campus Commons two story unit is spacious with lots of light. Formal living room with fireplace, formal dining area, downstairs den/study with sink and access to courtyard, kitchen with atrium window and sliding door to courtyard. Upstairs master suite with fireplace, double sinks and walk-in closet. Seller has installed new carpet as well some interior lighting fixtures.
410 Elmhurst Circle $405,000



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Landmark:

continued from page 3

He purchased a share in the business a year later, and bought out his partner, Carl Buchell, in July 1974.

By the following year, Gunther's had grown to six locations. Those locations included parlors at Fulton and Marconi avenues, and on South Land Park Drive in the South Hills Shopping Center.

At the latter location, Gunther's occupied the business space that later housed Brick Oven Pizza.

While currently only operating the most historic location, Rick stated last week that there is only one place that should be called Gunther's.

"People would look at (other locations) and say,'Gunther's?'" he said. "It just wasn't the same as the plant, so I got rid of all those locations and just kept the one on Franklin Boulevard."

While working at the Franklin Boulevard shop, Rick met Marlena. She began working at Gunther's in 1977 and they were married in 1980.

As a team, they have continued to operate Gunther's.

Despite many years of dedicating much of their time to their business, Rick and Marlena have no plans to retire, Marlena noted.

"We're going to step out the day they tell us to go," she said.

Rick chuckled and added, "I always tell everybody the only way I'm leaving that place is in a pine box."

With a serious tone to her voice, Marlena mentioned that it is the love of Gunther's that keep her and her husband operating Gunther's.

"The thing is for Rick and I is there's a love to that business," she said. "The biggest thing is we love doing what we're doing."

Gunther's is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and are closed on Christmas and Thanksgiving. The store also closes early for employee dinners and Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.





Freeport Boulevard Traffic Safety Committee Meeting

By Sally King

A traffic safety committee meeting was held on September 5, 2018, at 6:30 PM at St. Roberts Catholic School in Hollywood Park.

The newly elected chairman, John Maradik, began the meeting by having the members introduce themselves and state why they want to be part of the traffic safety committee.

It was unanimous that folks were attending because they want the drivers on Freeport Boulevard to slow down and many mentioned they were concerned for the children that either walk or ride their bikes to school and have to cross Freeport Boulevard.

The traffic safety committee was formed after a tragic hit-and –run accident that critically injured a six-year-old boy and killed his grandmother, who, at the time, was walking the boy across Freeport Boulevard at Oregon Drive. There was once a crosswalk at that intersection but the city had recently removed it based on a study there were heavy traffic patterns and speed along Freeport Boulevard.

This was not the first fatality on Freeport Boulevard or adjacent streets and many neighbors are concerned due to the heavier traffic and crosswalks not being visible for the drivers.

A charter, drawn up by the chair, Maradik and the vice chairperson, Dave O'Toole, was discussed, amended and approved by the committee. Some of the decisions in the charter included contacting all neighboring schools to receive input on how they think Freeport Boulevard can be made safer for students walking and biking to school. The committee will identify laws, policies and plans pertaining to the traffic infrastructure and development of the corridor. The committee plans to identify existing and potential financing mechanisms. The committee plans to serve as ambassadors to other neighborhood groups. In addition, they will talk to businesses on Freeport Boulevard. The end goal is to collect and review reports and surveys to better inform recommendations for the safety of cyclists and pedestrians on Freeport Boulevard.

A representative for Jay Scherer and a representative for Steve Hansen attend the meetings and bring feedback to the city of Sacramento and assist the committee on new projects on Freeport Boulevard and provide information as needed for the project.

These safety meetings are open to the public. Going forward, the meetings will be held the third Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at St. Robert's Catholic School located at 2251 Irvin Way, Sacramento, California.

Restored Tower Records mural unveiled on K Street

By Lance Armstrong

A vibrant, colorful, psychedelic art mural hovering above the entrance of the former Tower Records store on K Street was celebrated last week as a crowd gathered for the unveiling of this

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Tower:

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recently restored, iconic piece of Sacramento history.

Forty-five years ago, graphic artist Frank Carson was commissioned by Tower Records founder Russ Solomon to create the mural on the ceiling and sidewalls above his business's front windows at 726 K St.

The building, which now has the address of 730 K St., was then home to the Solomon-owned record store, The Sound Peddler. It would become the site of a Tower Records store two years later.

After designing the mural, Carson worked with another graphic artist, Mitch Aronson, to paint this large art piece, which includes such images as the heads of females with blue hair, ships, ferns, butterflies and an oval-shaped area with a blue sky and clouds at its center.

As age and elements took their toll on the mural, the paint from this eye-catching artwork gradually began to deteriorate, and its future was ultimately in jeopardy.

It eventually became an uncertainty whether the building itself would be saved, as efforts to revitalize the 700 block of K Street moved forward.

Three years ago, while the artwork continued to deteriorate with fading and peeling paint, Ali Youssefi, of CFY Development, co-developer of the 700 Block project, launched the mural restoration project. But he would not see it through to fruition, since he died of cancer last March.

As part of his preliminary work, Youssefi met with Dennis Newhall, of the Sacramento Rock & Radio Museum.

During that meeting, Newhall showed Youssefi some of Carson's artwork, including large calendars he had created for Tower Records during the same era that he worked on the K Street mural.

Newhall said last week that he "kept Frank up in the progress" after someone from Youssefi's team informed Carson about the project.

Shaun Burner, lead artist of the mural restoration, said that it was also three years ago when he was approached by Youssefi regarding the possibility of restoring the vintage mural.

Having grown up in the Sacramento area and admiring this mural during his youth, Burner soon agreed to take on the project.

Burner said that the project had a variety of challenges, including the peeling paint on the ceiling, which had been left exposed to elements during a then-recent construction project at the building.

"When they were working on the building the last three years, they had to redo the roof completely," he said. "That ceiling was left exposed to the elements for two years and they had some holes in it to retrofit the ceiling.

"By the time we got to it and actually started to restore it, we had to just take off what little bit of the paint was left, because we couldn't just paint over this already crumbling paint."

Eventually, the only original paint preserved was on the two upper, back corners of the mural.

Burner noted that attempting to match paints for the mural was one of the project's greatest challenges, since the original paints had picked up a lot of grime and faded so much throughout the years.

But as far as the original pattern and imagery of the mural, Burner said that it is "definitely spot on."

Burner, whose experience in art includes creating other murals and working as an artist in various parts of the world, said that he first saw the K Street mural when he was about 13 years old when he came to the Thursday Night Market on his skateboard.

"I was always kind of mesmerized by (that mural)," he said. "So, looking back after working on this thing for the last two or three months, I realize how much it kind of influenced my own style."

Those assisting Burner in restoring the mural included Franceska Gamez, Jeff Musser and Mitch's daughter, Sophie Aronson.

Another name that Burner made sure to mention was Seamus Coutts, who he said he brought in as the project manager for the mural restoration project.

During last week's unveiling event, which also highlighted the upcoming opening of Solomon's Delicatessen at the former Tower Records K Street site, Carson sat at a table signing original copies of his Tower Records calendars. The calendars were sold for $50 each, but Carson's autographs were free.

Also offered were pieces of paint that were removed from the mural during its restoration.

In an interview with this publication, Carson said that he was never around to view the mural's deterioration.

"The day I finished it, I never came back," he said. "I didn't want to remember it. It was a very hot summer."

Carson recalled beginning the mural with the blue sky on the ceiling, and working on scaffolding for 10 hours a day and seven days per week during a three-month period to complete the job.

Occupying tables alongside Carson were Solomon's Delicatessen employees, Jared Serviss and Fiona Heenan, who offered food samples and merchandise of this Jewish deli, which was inspired by Tower Records and Russ Solomon. Another location of this locally-owned business is operated in Davis.

Adding to the artistic ambience of the event was live music by the band, Black Yacht Club.

The event drew a variety of Sacramentans, including artist Bob Rakela.

While standing near the mural, Rakela said that he appreciates the preservation of this artwork.

"I think it's really important to our community to have this street art thing that's happening right now," he said. "To have one that has this kind of history to it and has been around this long – and Frank's still around to enjoy us and for us to enjoy him – is very, very, very special."



Photo by Matias Bombal

Kay Iannucci recalled seeing the mural for the first time when it was only about a year old.

"We started coming down here to (K Street) back then," she said. "Then we started going to the (Tower stores) on Broadway and Watt (Avenue).

"I think it speaks for the time that Russ was opening these stores and the kind of commissioning (Solomon) was doing for art and to make the city a little more lively. (Solomon) made a huge impression on this whole area, and then look what he did, (establishing Tower) stores all over the country and (world)."

Melissa Uroff, a local artist and photographer, expressed her concern for the longevity of murals, and said that she is well aware that murals are constantly in danger of being painted over.

"(A mural is) such a temporary piece and when you're a muralist, you kind of know that," she said. "I have a few murals under my belt and almost all of them have been painted over."

Uroff also lamented over the loss of a mural by the artist Skinner that was located on the alley side of the former Javalounge coffee shop's building on 16th Street, north of Broadway.

More recently, Burner and Gamez's mural on the former Awesome Video building on Freeport Boulevard was painted over.

Because of her understanding that murals are often temporary artworks, Uroff said that she was pleased that the old K Street mural has been preserved.

"It's nice to see something that's so historical and kind of magical come back to life," she said. "The artists that worked on it were a really good choice, for sure. So, I think they did it justice."



Community celebrates William Land Park



Photo by Lance Armstrong
Freeport Bakery donated this three-section, 100th anniversary cake for the event.

By Lance Armstrong

Generations of families joined together on Aug. 3 to celebrate the history of the grandest of Sacramento's parks: William Land Park.

It was 100 years ago that the Sacramento City Commission – predecessor of the Sacramento City Council – resolved to purchase the current site of the park to memorialize former Sacramento Mayor William Land through funds he bequeathed to the city.

As a fitting tribute to a park named after a former mayor, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin cut the centennial cake, which was donated by Walter and Marlene Goetzeler of Freeport Bakery.

Also a part of the evening's attractions were free ice cream provided by Vic's Ice Cream, a performance by the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, a car show presented by the California Automobile Museum, children's activities, various booths, and the presentation of a city resolution honoring the park.

Steinberg told a crowd gathered at the park's William A. Carroll Amphitheatre that William Land Park is his favorite place in the city.

"People ask me all the time, 'What's your favorite place in Sacramento?'" he said. "I have to be careful now, because I represent every place. But I'm going to tell you a little secret."

Whispering into the microphone, Steinberg said, "Land Park."

Sharing his impression of the park with this publication, Vice Mayor Steve Hansen referred to it as the "crown jewel of our city parks."

Rick Stevenson, a member of the Land Park Volunteer Corps, told the Land Park News that it was his idea to celebrate a centennial of the park.

Jean "Pinki" Stevenson Cockrell, the former Land Park Community Association board member who led the organization of the Aug. 3 event, said that from Stevenson's idea, a list of possible ways to celebrate the park's history was compiled.

Cockrell noted that once that list was narrowed down to a community party in the park, the gathering occurred after only three months of planning, thanks to many contributors.

"Everything was done courtesy of all these community organizations donating their time and effort and it's just super," she said.

Cockrell added that LPCA also plans to plant a centennial tree in the park.

Among the many attendees of this event were families that built a longtime tradition of visiting William Land Park.

Rachel Burt, who was attending the event with her son, Ron, and her grandchildren, Levi and Anna Grace, said that four generations of her family have enjoyed visits to this park.

"We've been coming out here more than 50 years," she said. "As a child, I came here with my mom and dad (Paul and Virginia Smithers) and my (siblings). I was one of 12 kids."

Another attendee of the event, 87-year-old Patricia Valentina (Yniguez) Vega-Fanno, recalled visiting the park as early as about 1938.

"My father (George Yniguez) used to bring us to the park and show us around," she said. "When I first saw the park, I thought it was beautiful. It was open, and to this day, I appreciate the openness of it."

Maria Moreno, a 1975 graduate of C.K. McClatchy High School, said that she began visiting William Land Park in the 1970s.

"I would come out here with my parents, and (later) my kids," she said. "I still come here. I do a 5K (run) here every morning. I love it out here. It's beautiful. There is a lot of nature and a lot of families."

The final attraction of the Aug. 3 park celebration began at sundown in the amphitheater, with a showing of the Disney Pixar film, "Coco."

Also celebrating the park's history in various manners last week were the William Land Golf Course, Funderland, Fairytale Town and the Sacramento Zoo.

Historic Trails restaurant building damaged by fire

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

An early morning fire on July 19 severely damaged the interior of one of the Broadway district's most notable buildings: the historic Trails restaurant building at 2530 21st St.

Trails closed in 2014 after six decades in business, and the structure has been home to the Shoki Ramen House since 2016.

Dave Lauchner, a spokesperson for the Sacramento Fire Department, said that a fire crew was called to the scene shortly after midnight and the fire was extinguished about five minutes following the crew's arrival.

Lauchner noted that the crew encountered heavy flames coming from the backside of the building and that the flames broke through a couple of the upper windows. He referred to interior damage to the structure as "pretty extensive."

Although the damage occurred throughout the building, the department's crew contained the fire inside the building.

No injuries were reported and there was nobody at the scene of the fire when the department's crew arrived.

As of the deadline for this article, the cause of the fire was unknown, and was currently under investigation by the department.

Asked whether the building could be saved, Lauchner said, "The bones of the building should be fine."

Fortunately, for the business's owners, Yasushi and Kathy Ueyama, the building was insured.

While standing behind the building several hours after the fire, Kathy told the Land Park News that she intends to have the structure remodeled for the purpose of reopening the restaurant.

"Our intentions are to overcome all this," she said. "We're just happy that no one got hurt. The fire department did a fantabulous job, I think, containing (the fire). Everyone that's been helping us out has been doing a wonderful job."

While holding back tears, Kathy recalled learning about the fire around midnight.

"I was shocked," she said. "I didn't know if it was for real. I thought it was a prank. Then I raced down here, only to see what I saw."

Kathy added that by the time she arrived at the building, the fire had been extinguished.

She said that the fire began in the kitchen about two hours after her employees left the restaurant.

"We closed here at 9 (p.m.), but I think my staff left at about 10 (p.m.)," she said.

Tanya Brown, a Sacramento resident who remembers the days when Trails restaurant was in operation, said she was especially surprised to learn about the fire, since she saw the ramen business in operation about five or six hours before the fire was discovered.

"Last night, they were busy," she said. "Everything yesterday was as normal as could be. That was about 6 or 7 (p.m.) last night. I wasn't around for the fire. (At that point), I was shut eye."

Aaron Schurer, a local barber, said that he was disappointed to hear about the fire.

"I cut their son's hair, (and the owners) are really nice people," he said. "It's a bummer that the place (caught on fire), but it's the price of doing business sometimes, unfortunately."

Kathy said that she appreciates the support that many people showed her family during the morning hours following the fire.

"I've been getting a lot of texts and calls from customers that have heard the news," she said. "We're very grateful."

Kathy added that her family operates a second location

see Trails page 7



Photo by Lance Armstrong
A fence surrounds the historic Trails restaurant building following a fire on July 19. The structure has been home to the Shoki Ramen House since 2016.

Trails:

continued from page 6

of their business at 1201 R St., and will be able to accommodate customers at that location who would have otherwise dined at the 21st Street location.

As for when she foresees reopening the 21st Street location, Kathy said she is uncertain.

"I was thinking right away, but I'm hearing that it's a process, so we'll just do the best that we can," she said.

SF Supermarket opens in South Hills Shopping Center

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

South Land Park residents finally have the long-awaited grocery store that they have been wanting.

SF Supermarket in the South Hills Shopping Center opened its doors to the public on June 29.

Located at 5820 South Land Park Drive, the market – which is managed by Tina Nguyen – offers a wide variety of Asian food, fresh meat, fish and vegetables, as well as various American groceries.

The new store is part of the 25-year-old SF Markets chain, which has 10 other California locations, including 6930 65th St. #123 and 4562 Mack Road in Sacramento. The company, which is operated by the Tran family, also has two stores in Las Vegas and another one in Dallas.

Prior to the opening of this South Land Park market, a special ceremony was held with brief speeches by Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Council Member Jay Schenirer, South Land Park Neighborhood Association President Brian Ebbert and others.

The ceremony also included introductions of the ownership team, traditional dragon and lion dances, the setting off of thousands of firecrackers, and a ribbon cutting.

Steinberg praised the opening of the market as a grand example of the good that can come through immigration in the United States.

"Is there a greater living example of what good can happen when we welcome people to this country than what we're celebrating here today?" he asked. "I don't think so."

As part of the day's attractions, the store's first 500 customers to make a purchase received either a free 10-pound bag of jasmine rice or a 12-pack package of noodles.

During the grand opening celebration, Huy Trieu, general manager of SF Markets, told this publication that he was pleased to introduce this store to the community.

"We are so excited to see the neighbors, the whole community together and celebrate the grand opening of the store," he said. "We're so happy to be here."

Trieu, an immigrant from Vietnam, said that his new store offers a variety of international food.

"You can buy almost any food, (including) American food," he said. "We try to be a connection between different cultures, where everyone can find something in one store. But our main goal is to bring the freshness of products – meat, seafood and produce."

Dan Riddell, who walked to the SF Supermarket grand opening from his South Land Park home, said he was thrilled to have a new store fill the empty space that formerly housed Vic's IGA Market.

"(The vacancy) was a blight in the neighborhood," he said.

Riddell added that he is already drawn to the new store's meat and fish.

"It looks awesome and fresh," he said. "Yeah, look at it. It looks like it is all fresh and good quality."

Patricia Velasquez said that having a store at the old Vic's site is extremely important.

"We moved here (to South Land Park) 10 years ago, because there was a (grocery) store nearby, and I wanted to be able to walk to it," she said. "Then somebody else (ran Vic's), and that was horrible.

"And then there was nothing (at that site), and we had to go to Raley's or Bel Air, and we had to get in the car and drive (to those stores). But here (at SF Supermarket), it's right around the block. I'm so grateful that they opened up, and it's beautiful."

Rocio Candiotti also expressed satisfaction with the store's location.

"We used to go all the way to Raley's (on Freeport Boulevard) and wait for some fresh seafood, but I know the Asian stores always carry those, so we're excited," she said. "Otherwise, we have to go all the way to Stockton Boulevard (to shop at a large Asian market). So, this is great for us."

Among those attending the store's grand opening from outside of the South Land Park and Pocket neighborhoods was 22-year-old Arden area resident Sophia Lotz.

Lotz, a student at California State University, Sacramento, said that she was excited about the opening of the market.

"It's very exciting," she said. "It's a huge store, and they have a huge selection of products. They have different types of exotic fruits and different types of fish and all that stuff. It's really cool."

Also attending the event was West Sacramento resident Linda Yip.

Yip, an immigrant from Hong Kong, said that the store is a short commute from her home.

"It's nice and it's close by to where I live in West Sacramento," she said. "You don't find Asian stores in West Sacramento this big. I guess I will come here two or three times a month maybe. I will buy fruits and vegetables. It's (convenient). I just hop on the freeway and get off on Fruitridge Road and come over here."



Photo by Joe Perfecto

With the traditional red ribbon cut to bits, the new SF Market in the South Hills Shopping Center, officially opened on June, 29, 2018.

Elma Aglubat, who identified her culture as Filipino, said that she also commuted to the store's grand opening from several miles away.

"I live in Elk Grove," she said. "I came all the way here, because I like SF (Market). I buy the Asian food – the fish, the veggies. There are so many Asian people, so this a good store for them. It's so accommodating and so accessible."

Jason Lam, who works for a Hayward-based, Asian food supplier for the store, supported Aglubat's words.

"There's a good, sizable population of Asian people (in this area), so there's a need, there's a growth," he said.

Linda Chang, property manager of the SF Supermarket site, described the importance of having this store open in South Land Park.

"It's very, very important, especially for this community," she said. "There are a lot of Asians here that don't necessarily want to go all the way down to Stock-

see Supermarket page 8

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Supermarket:

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ton Boulevard. They would ask, 'When are you going to open?'"

Chang credited brokers Shaun Morrow and Justin Allen as being instrumental in bringing SF Supermarket to the South Hills Shopping Center.

During the market building's three years of vacancy, efforts were made to bring a Trader Joe's grocery store to the old Vic's Market site, Chang recalled.

"Trader Joe's was supposed to be at (the current site of Sprouts Farmers Market grocery store on Del Rio Road)," she said. "I believe there was a last minute decision not to be there.

"We were gunning for a Trader Joe's, but Trader Joe's wants 15,000 square feet as their footprint. This is double that size (at 29,000 square feet). Trader Joe's said it was too big for them and they were done with Sacramento. That's what they were telling our broker. But no, (SF Supermarket) is better than a Trader Joe's."

Chang mentioned that the quality and success of SF Supermarket has led to its continuous growth. She noted that plans have already been made for two other SF Supermarkets. The first of those stores will open in Portland, followed by another store in the old Sam's Club building on Sunrise Boulevard in Rancho Cordova.

South Land Park's new SF Supermarket is operated by 45 employees, of which about 30 work during a single shift.

The store is open daily from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., 365 days a year.

For additional information about this store, call (916) 619-8112.

From "Thank God it's Pieday," to "Every Day is Pieday":

Curtis Park pie shop dishes up the American culinary classic five days a week

By Joe Perfecto



Photo by Joe Perfecto

By midday, this chunky, luscious apple galette was among the few remaining wares on offer.

The pie has been a part of the American culinary landscape from the day the first ships landed at Plymouth Rock. Since then it's changed a bit in its construction and ingredients (for example, 18th-century pies had inedible shells)—but not in its importance, witness the common World War II-era statement that we were fighting for "Mom and apple pie," from which came the phrase "As American as motherhood and apple pie." Expressing a similar sentiment, Jane Austen wrote that "Good apple pies are a considerable part of our domestic happiness."

A well-made apple pie is a wonder to behold, and the most

see Pieday page 9

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Pieday:

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popular type in the U.S., but of course it's just one of the hundreds of varieties available today. No doubt so many kinds exist because they're reportedly so simple to make—easy as pie, so the saying goes. Well, whoever coined that phrase obviously never tried to make one. "Easy as bad pie," maybe—anyone can produce one of those. But the job of crafting one worthy of the discriminatory palate takes skill, experience, and a whole lot of effort.

Just ask Kira O'Donnell Babich, who knows a thing or two about the subject. Her recent formal return to the local pastry scene was met with substantial enthusiasm. O'Donnell Babich built a following via her Real Pie Company at 12th and F streets, which was open for barely a year when she closed it in early 2008 to devote more time to her young children. Within two years she resumed filling orders, using her home kitchen as well as those at Paragary's and Corti Bros. It was a sort of mail-order arrangement: customers had to subscribe to her newsletter—which listed the varieties that would be baked that week—then place orders via email and pick up their goods at locations such as East Sac Mercantile and Corti Bros. on each site's designated Pie Day. But with Real Pie's mid-April grand opening, the refrain of countless loyal customers, "Thank God it's Pieday," has at last changed to "Every Day is Pieday."

What's more, the new version of the beloved shop is bigger and better than the original Mansion Flats location. The space at 2425 24th St., at the upper end of Curtis Park, is more than triple the size of the original 1000-square-foot shop, with enough room for a handful of tables to accommodate customers enjoying a slice of something sinfully savory or devilishly decadent and a little coffee, tea, soda, microbrew or wine, or perhaps a "pie milkshake" (the result of putting pie a la mode in a blender).

O'Donnell Babich's fame as a pastry primadonna is the result of long years of honing the craft. Her introduction to pie making came in her grandmother's kitchen, and childhood experiences of life on her grandparents' Humboldt Co. farm sparked a lifelong passion for food and agriculture that led to positions in the University of California's statewide Small Farm Program, California Walnut Board, UC Davis Department of Viticulture & Enology and the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science; stints as baker and pastry chef at Chez Panisse in Berkeley, Auberge du Soleil in Rutherford and Ristorante Piatti in Sonoma/Yountville; and publication of her culinary prose in Sunset, Sacramento magazine, the SF Chronicle and other outlets.

What sets Real Pie products apart from those typically found elsewhere is not only the body of experience that drives their production but how and where the ingredients are sourced, and how they are used. Real Pie takes advantage of the cornucopia of local, fresh produce the world-famous, fertile Sacramento Valley offers via a select group of small organic farms across a half dozen counties. The shop also sources produce through its Backyard Fruit Project, which targets local private parties who have an overabundance of things such as blackberries, figs, Meyer lemons, quinces, rhubarb and stone fruit.

This wide assortment of produce is fashioned into a variety of seasonal products including fruit, nut and cream pies, meat and vegetarian pot pies, hand pies, produce-focused cakes, tarts, galettes and cookies. Every pie is made from scratch, with a handmade all-butter crust that is produced in a separate, temperature-controlled room to protect it from the heat of the ovens (the shop goes through about 200 pounds of butter each week). Pies that are always available are the Butterscotch-Banana Cream, Chocolate Cream, Coconut Cream, Jumbleberry (marionberries, cherries, wild blueberries and raspberries), Key Lime and Old Fashioned Lemon Meringue, as well as the Chicken Pot, Vegetable Pot and Shepherd's savory pies; two quiches are featured on weekends. A long rotating list of seasonal items includes bourbon walnut, Meyer lemon/blood orange macaroon and winter citrus meringue pies; Lindsey's Almond, Ginger and Date Tart and a roasted beet, walnut and goat cheese tart; and an apple galette. The selection changes weekly.

Although Real Pie's cache of recipes spans an impressive range, the shop is open to product suggestions, which customers can offer through the "Wish You Made…" program by placing a written request in a special box. Every month a request will be drawn from the box and the suggested item—if feasible—will be offered for sale during the following month. Not only will the submitter receive that baked good gratis, the item will be named in his/her honor and s/he will be mentioned in the shop's next newsletter.

Since some people—OK, a lot of people—like a little ice cream with their pastry, Real Pie offers varieties such as buttermilk, caramel, cinnamon and vanilla bean from nearby Gunther's, another local institution famed for its handmade artisan fare. Real Pie will feature a different pairing each month; two examples mentioned at their Website are cinnamon ice cream with a plum crisp and walnut ice cream with a roasted pear tart.

Real Pie's raison d'etre is to provide the ultimate, quintessential pastry-centered gastronomic experience—there's nothing humble about this pie. Such gourmet fare, however, comes at a cost; pot pies fetch about $9 and full-size pies hover near $20. But this is to be expected for artisan goods of this calibre, and Real Pie's droves of repeat customers clearly recognize this; on an average day, most of the shelves are empty by 3 p.m., which is why there's usually a line outside the door before the shop opens. (Insider tip on snagging a freebie: the shop will award a free slice of pie to any patron on his/her birthday. Also, any student earning good grades—B's or better—can score a slice gratis. But get there early in the day, before the slices run out.)

This is just a small part of the Real Pie saga; the Website (http://www.realpiecompany.com) tells more of the story and offers scads of information about the shop's local small farm partners, community supported agriculture, and outreach efforts like the company's Kids' Pie-Baking Program of classes for 8-to-12-year-olds. The Website also offers a means to sign up for an e-newsletter with information about this program and other things concerning Real Pie. The shop can be reached at 916-838-4007.

And remember, there's no such thing as too much pie. A whole pie can be tackled in one sitting, and we have Yogi Berra to thank for revealing the strategy. "Cut my pie into four pieces," he said. "I don't think I could eat eight."

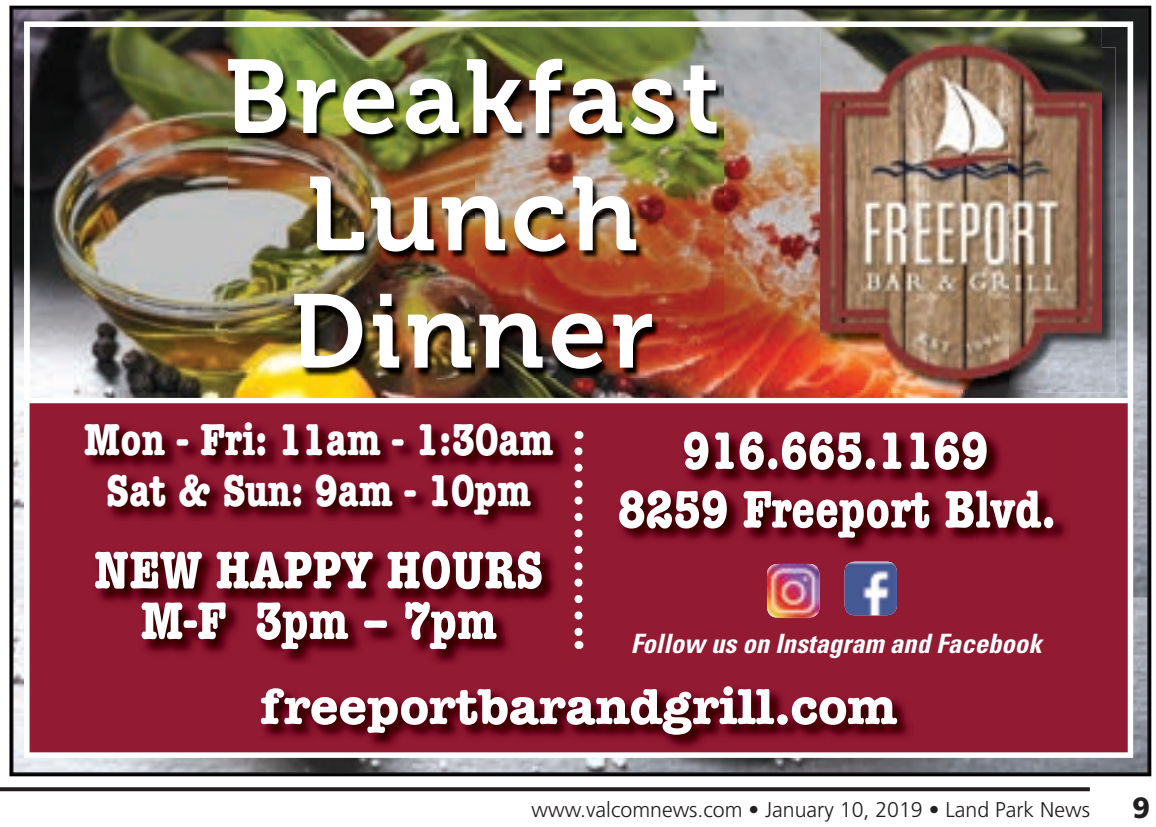
Traffic and pedestrian safety continue to concern Land Park residents

By Jan Dalske and Monica Stark

Are you a resident of the Land Park area? Are you concerned about pedestrian safety in crosswalks? Do you know and what is needed to improve the streets in the Land Park area?

On May 2, 2018, a meeting was held, and a work group was

see Saftey page 10



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organized. They are developing their scope, purpose and role. The group was in agreement that they needed to do more than "outreach and education". They want to include infrastructure improvements within their scope. At this meeting, the attendees shared these thoughts: Traffic is increasing in the area and they are convinced that this increase is due to recent and ongoing development. And, because the City of Sacramento has no funding available to pay for street and intersection improvements, the local residents might experience more traffic related problems.

The City of Sacramento is reacting to automobile accidents. They are developing a city-wide program to identify "crash hot spots". This information will be used to investigate and gather information that can provide capital funding for safety improvement projects, as well as Active Transportation Projects.

In 2013. Governor Brown signed legislation which created the Active Transportation Program (ATP).

This program is in the Department of Transportation. The ATP consolidates existing Federal and State programs, including the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) and State Safe Routes to School (SR2S), in a single program with a focus to make California a leader in active transportation.

The purpose of ATP is to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation by achieving the following goals: Increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking, Increase safety and mobility for non-motorized users, Advance the active transportation efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, Enhance public health, Ensure that disadvantaged communities fully share in the benefits of the program, and Provide a broad spectrum of projects to benefit many types of active transportation users.

And, The City of Sacramento has developed a short term plan. They are installing signage along Freeport Boulevard to slow the traffic down. They will be using speed feedback/radar signs and other warning signage. The Sacramento Police Dept. will also be doing more frequent enforcement in the neighborhood which should address the drivers who speed. They will especially be monitoring the pick-up and drop-off times of the students at neighborhood schools.

The City has presented a "Vision Zero Action Plan" to the City Council. This plan addresses long-term data, as well as data driven solutions to identify the factors that have contributed to traffic deaths and severe injuries. It includes proven safety counter measures which include education, traffic engineering, enforcement and evaluation. They also plan to conduct an updated safety assessment on Freeport Blvd, just south of Sutterville Road. This will help them to redesign streets to serve residents as well as commuters. The City of Sacramento is in the process of pursuing additional funding. These funds will be used to install high-visibility crossing beacons. They plan to place them at the intersections with the highest collision rates.

Concerned resident Jerry Champa provided follow-up information from the May 2 meeting and some of the comments shared by group members, as follows:

- Traffic is increasing, in part due to recent and ongoing development and re-development; as such, more traffic-related problems can be expected, especially since officials indicate that city has no funding for street and intersection improvements
- The City is reacting to crashes, and now developing a city-wide program to identify "crash hot spots" that will be investigated toward grant applications to provide capital funding for safety improvement projects (and Active Transportation Program projects).

Champa commented that the purpose of new Work Group is essentially the same as purpose of school Safety Coordinator; this led to Action Item to invite school reps to next meeting.

"Traffic safety issues exist on major streets in other 'park' communities and described the unsafe conditions along Land Park Drive, which has several marked but uncontrolled crosswalks serving residents and four schools. The unsafe conditions include: excessive width for a 2-lane street; aggressive driving, and use of continuous left turn lane and bike lane for illegal passing by commuters and others who cut through the community," Champa said.

At the May 2nd meeting, the city asked the Freeport SRS work group "to do some of what schools are supposed to do: Safe Route to School planning and outreach among law enforcement, city traffic engineering, community, parents, etc.," Champa said. He argues the numerous traffic and street improvement studies now underway are "potentially overlapping and disconnected." These include: Vision Zero "project," Systemic Safety Analysis Report (contract); Broadway (west end) planning study; the Freeport SRS work group, and the LPCA Public Safety Sub-Committee study/investigation.

The LPCA Public Safety Committee is actively collecting & organizing input about traffic & safety concerns from residents in order to raise awareness among city officials and community leaders & representatives about the Increasing risk and potential for severe crashes along and at Land Park Drive intersections (and elsewhere).

Champa argues that fatal and other severe crashes like the one in Hollywood Park earlier this year can occur at anytime at a Land Park intersection or pedestrian crossing. "Ironically, some of the risk along Freeport was transferred to Land Park Drive because drivers have been avoiding the congestion that was intentionally generated by the Freeport Road Diet project." He says the increase in "cut-through" traffic along Land Park Drive includes drivers who are frustrated and more aggressive due to congestion on the 99 and I-5 freeways, and now Freeport.

But most importantly, Champa says, is the fact that Land Park Drive lacks many of the safety features and speed management treatments that are part of a 'Complete Street," and that have been implemented throughout Midtown and along corridors that serve business interests (like Broadway though Oak Park) Land Park Drive lacks fundamental and modern street features because, in part there are no businesses and therefore no business district to lobby and influence city and elected officials.

"The increase in traffic (especially cut-through traffic) and aggressive driving, and the lack of complete infrastructure is the primary reason that many parents do not allow their children to walk across or bike along Land Park Drive. It is even relatively unsafe for adults, especially older people who do not walk or run as fast as we used to.

"All should be informed that Land Park Drive serves multiple travelers, most of whom are either passing through the community (on their way to/from work) or traveling to and from Land Park schools and William Land Park's numerous amenities. Others are driving to and from new businesses in Midtown and along the border of Land Park and Midtown, such as restaurants (Selland's) and craft beer tap rooms and breweries (Bike Dog, Urban Roots) along and adjacent to Broadway with three more new businesses under construction at the corner of Broadway and Land Park Drive.

Champa further questions the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. "Does the City recognize and have a plan to address the increase in crashes that will come with the planned increase in cycling and walking? It is a fact that more travelers will automatically increase the number of conflicts among travelers, delay and crashes unless the affected streets and intersections are equipped with complete and modern features to reduce speeds and especially speed differential where conflicts frequently occur. In short, the plan (and investments) to make Sacramento more livable is good, but it is incomplete. The city chooses to assume the risk of crashes because it is popular and easy to blame drivers rather than the obvious omissions & deficiencies that can be addressed."

The Fifth String continues transition at new location

Longtime, local music business's new Curtis Park home has lengthy history, newly-opened music venue

By Lance Armstrong

The Fifth String, which began relocating from East Sacramento to Curtis Park six months ago, continues to settle in at its new location at 2900 Franklin Blvd. That transition includes the opening of its new, live music venue.

John Green, this music business's owner, said that the move from 3184 N St. occurred after he decided to close out the retail end of this establishment.

"I got out of retail because everybody was buying online and I'm a (certified public accountant), so I didn't need the grief of competing with the big box stores," he said. "There was no point in a retailer trying to survive in the current climate."

Last year's relocation of The Fifth String marks a continuance of a business that dates back to 1981 in Sacramento. The business opened in a Queen Anne Victorian at 1931 L St. and has operated in several locations in the capital city.

Bay Area Fifth String locations

Predating The Fifth String in Sacramento were earlier stores of this business that opened in San Francisco and Berkeley. Those stores are no longer in operation.

The first store was opened by Richard Keldsen in San Francisco's Marina District in 1973. A later proprietor was guitarist and banjo player Larry Bowen.

Green, a 1972 graduate of Rio Americano High School, recalled establishing a Sacramento location of the store.

"I came up out of Berkeley," he said. "There was a Fifth String in Berkeley, so I brought it up here and started it with my brother."

After ending that partnership to become a CPA in 1986, Green re-obtained his share of the business about five years later. He also works as a tax accountant for the music industry.

With its retail end removed, The Fifth String currently focuses on stringed instrument instruction through its school of music, and live music performances at its new venue.

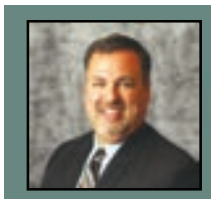
The Side Door

This all-ages venue, known as The Side Door, seats about 140 and does not serve alcoholic beverages.

Green, who presented occasional shows at previous locations of his business, explained a major reason why he desires to operate a more active music venue.

"My idea here in a nutshell is there are some problems," he said. "One is there are not enough all-age venues. I'm very, very, very much wanting kids to get a chance to hear (live) music."

see String page 12


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String:

contined from page 11

He also said that he is interested in presenting quality, live music to people around his age who want to return home by midnight.

Green noted that he did not previously envision operating a live music venue in Curtis Park.

"This location just kind of fell in my lap," he said. "We just peaked in the window when it happened to be open and then the (occupant) decided to move, so we ended up with the whole building.

"I just decided, 'Well, why not have a nice, little listening room?'"

Green mentioned that the venue was named after its reconstructed, 4-foot-wide door.

The first show at this venue featured a performance by Eric Andersen and his band on April 27, 2018.

Further details about scheduled performances can be found on the venue's Facebook page.

Tickets to upcoming performances can be purchased at www.thesidedoor.net or at the door on the day of the show.

Music instruction

As for music instruction, Green said that because of the quality of his music school, he did not want to end its operation.

"We had a nice music school and I didn't want to give up on teaching," he said. "That's one part we really like. I just have good teachers here and it's really structured to get people to play."

Fifth String Music instructors include Steve Randall and Dave Shapiro, who teach guitar; Julie Meyers, who teaches guitar, piano, ukulele, voice and bass; and Fiona Pulskamp, who is a violin/fiddle instructor.

New location's history

Regarding his business's new location, Green said that he is curious about the history of this building.

"I heard this (building) used to be a Safeway," he said.

Research for this chapter shows that the structure originally opened as a Skaggs Safeway store in about 1928.

Beginning with the 1930 city directory, the location is mentioned as home to a Safeway store.

That status remained until about 1951, when DD&W Hardware opened at that site. This business was owned by Sacramentans William DeLacy and Marvin Warner, and Albert Deaton, of Vallejo.

The hardware store was replaced by Eddie and Betty Watson's Eddie's Furniture Exchange in about 1961.

It was also during the early 1960s when the building began housing Shop Rite Market, and Buehler's Quality Meats, which was owned by Fred Buehler.

A longtime operating business in this building was Bishop Interiors, which was run by Leo R. Abern.

Established in about 1967, this business remained in operation for about 12 years.

By 1980, Clear Glass Works had its manufacturing plant and showroom in this building.

Green said that in more recent years, the building was divided between a metal working business and an artist-run, noncommercial art gallery known as Tangent Gallery.

"This (building) was split in half, because when Tangent was here, they didn't have the other side," he said. "The other side was a metal working couple that worked out of here for 16 years. They spent half the time here and then half the time out at Sedona, (Arizona). They were a lot on the festival circuit for art."

From early last year until last fall, the building sat vacant. It was previously occupied by ESH Gallery, which was owned by Jennie Krausse, owner of a local estate sales business.

Norm King, who has operated Norm's Barber Shop in the building since Dec. 28, 1994, said that this space was previously occupied by an earlier barbershop.

King added that Alex Bober bought the structure "within the last year." He added that the same family has owned the building for many years.

An invitation to visit

With The Fifth String's relocation, Green is interested in having more people visit his business in Curtis Park.

"People please come by," he said. "We would love to get you into learning how to play music. That's my biggest thrill of it. And the venue is just exceptional. It's something that didn't exist in Sacramento, but it does now."

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, 2018 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 pole-vaulters 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, 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,

see Tribute page 13

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Tribute:

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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.

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

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, 2018 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, 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.

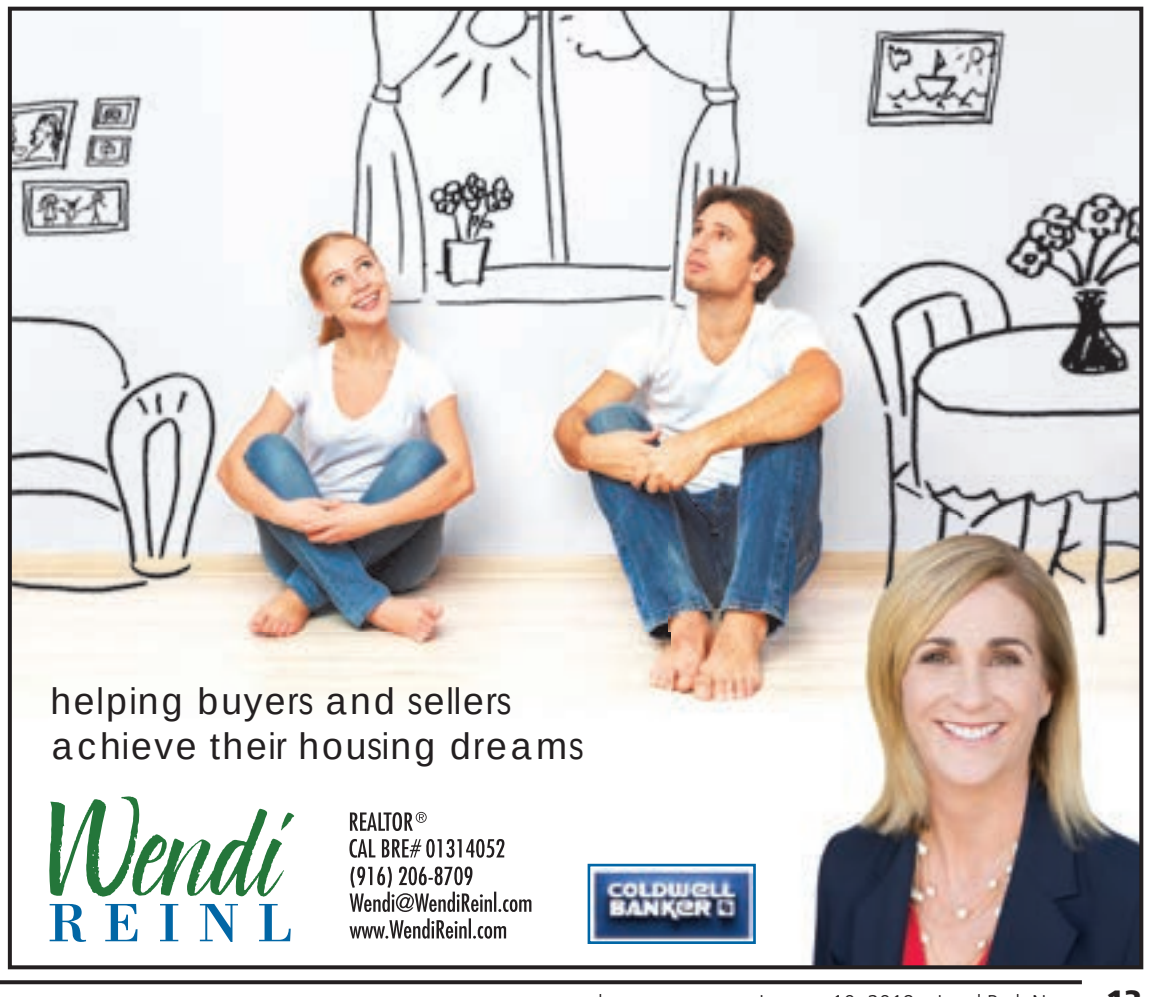
Most of the evening was spent discussing the multi-layered role of race in the milieu of primary and secondary educational systems both within the district and across the nation. Superintendent Aguilar initiated the discussion with a presentation that featured an analysis of statistics showing how many 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. "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).

see Violence page 14



Violence:

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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 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,

see Disscusions page 17

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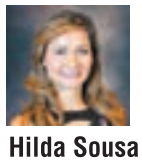
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Discussions:

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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."

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 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."

see Gun page 18



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Gun:

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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 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

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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 6 a.m. 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.

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."



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