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Land Park News

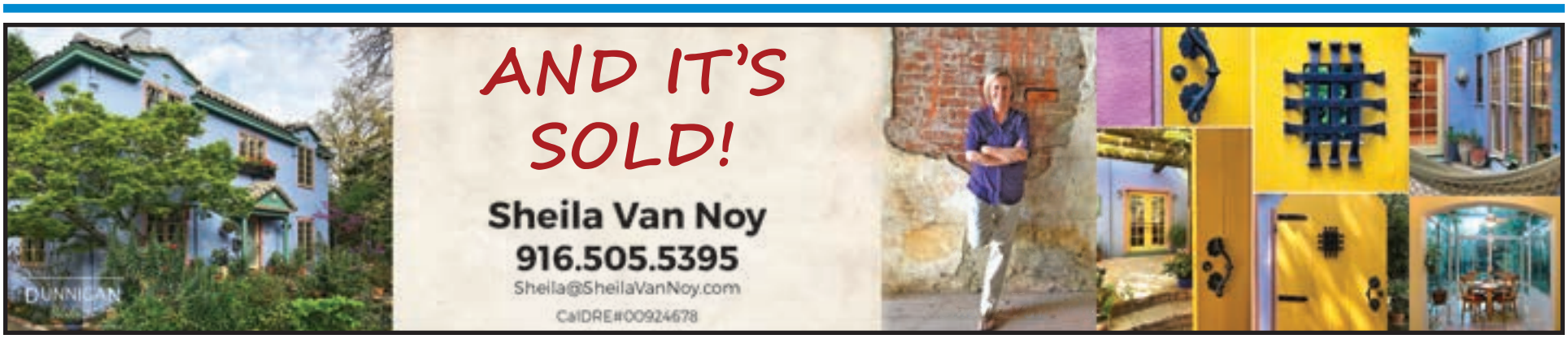
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GONE BANANAS:

ANNUAL FESTIVAL BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER THROUGH THE CELEBRATION OF THE BANANA

SEE PAGE 12



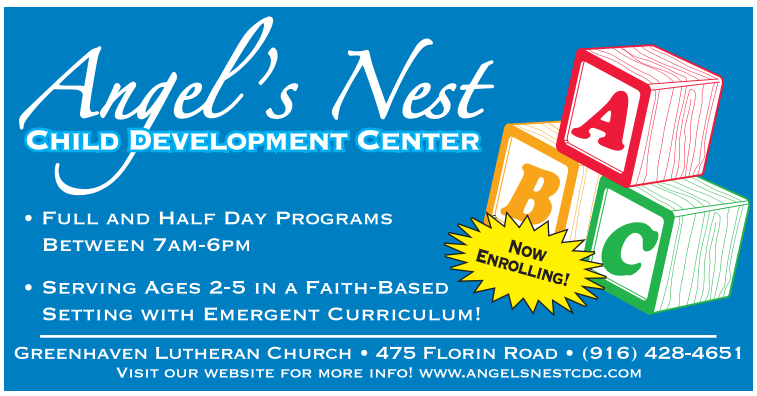
Chinese Community Church to present food festival Oct. 12

Church established in Sacramento nine decades ago



Photos courtesy of Chinese Community Church

The Chinese Community Church's food festival will include grilled chicken, and a wide variety of other edibles.



By LANCE ARMSTRONG

The Chinese Community Church will hold its 36th annual Fall Fellowship and Food Festival on Oct. 12, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

This free admission event, at 5600 Gilgunn Way, will present freshly cooked Chinese food, baked goods, and activities for kids.

There will also be live entertainment, with special performances by Sac of Soul, CCC Ukulele and Hula Fellowship, ACC Pocket Pickers, and Teens Create Dreams.

A free parking and complimentary shuttle service will be available at the Belle Cooledge Community Center at 5699 South Land Park Drive. The shuttle service will be provided through ACC Senior Services.

Church began nine decades ago

Although this event is approaching its fourth decade, the church itself is much older.

The church's local roots date back to 1924, when a Chinese language school, known as Kwai Wah, opened in a converted house at 5th and P streets. The school provided education for American-born Chinese children.

Ed Wong, whose family dates back to the founding of the church, said that the school was established in a part of the city where Asians were allowed to purchase property.

"It was tantamount to a lower income district," he said. "It was not exactly a ghetto, but in those days, if you were Asian, you could not buy property in certain areas."

Wong, 93, mentioned that the church was established (at 519 N St. in 1927), sometime following the beginning of Kwai Wah.

"It was a language school first, then later on it became the church," he said.

At that time, the church was known as the Reformed Chinese Church of Christ.

Wong noted that the church originated in Holland.

"It's part of the reformation of Martin Luther," he said. "There's a group that went to Germany – the Lutherans – and a group that went to Holland. In fact, the Reformed Church was the first Protestant church to come to the United States, (in 1628). It landed in New York (City), which used to be called New Amsterdam.

"That church backed our church and it became the (Reformed Chinese Church of Christ)."

Wong, who attended Kwai Wah and was a trumpet player in the school's marching band, recalled the local church and language school's founder, the Rev. Wai Sing Kwok, who immigrated to the United States from China in 1920.

"He was a disciplinarian and he was a good speaker," he said. "He was conversant in both in English and Chinese. He was the primary teacher of the school. (He taught language classes) in one big room, and that one big room was the sanctuary.

"(Kwok) was the teacher, preacher, the janitor, the housekeeper. He was everything."

During a storm in February 1938, the church received major structural damage from a tree that fell on it.

see CHURCH page 17



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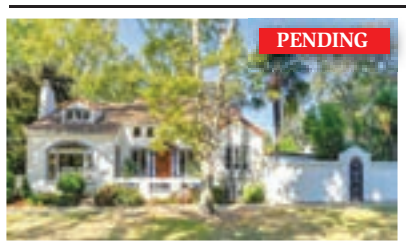
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Iconic Parkside Mediterranean!



Nestled amongst the trees with a commanding view of Curtis Park, this 3(possibly 4) bed, 2 bath tile-roofed beauty has been admired by many as they enjoy the Park. Gorgeous lead-mullioned windows drink in light and bathe the exquisite Moroccan style arched doorways and hardwood floors throughout. Curved barrel ceilings grace the generous living and dining rooms for elegant entertaining or comfortable day-to-day living and the spacious kitchen.

2545 Curtis Way | $799,950

Beautiful Bungalow in Curtis Park!



This lovely 2 bedroom 1 bath Craftsman style home is in great company on an excellent street and close to everything. Open living room with hardwood floors and a fireplace that looks on to the charming dining room complete with box beamed ceilings. Spacious updated kitchen with granite countertops, glass tile backsplash and stainless steel appliances. Updated Jack and Jill bathroom with separate tub and shower. Quarter basement with lots of storage.

2159 Portola Way | $475,000

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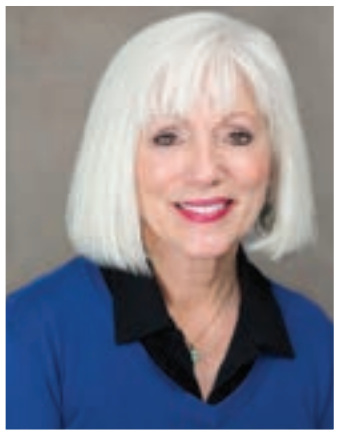
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LAND PARK

Charming storybook tudor on a lovely street. Formal living room with fireplace, vaulted beamed ceiling, dark wood floors and leaded glass bay window. Formal dining room with hand hewn beams and french doors to brick patio. Updated kitchen with granite counters, stainless steel appliances and breakfast nook with built-in hutch. Three bedrooms and two updated baths. Master suite with sitting/office area and over-sized walk-in closet. Master bath with double sinks and marble flooring. Low maintenance backyard with pool/ spa combo and detached garage. Tiled 1/4 basement with laundry hook-up. This is a must see!

1120 Robertson Way $955,000



ROSA DEL RIO

Rosa Del Rio Planned Unit Development. Sought after 2 bedroom / 2 bath single story unit. Living room with fireplace, eating area, vaulted ceiling and access to back patio. U shaped kitchen with dining bar. Master bedroom with walk-in tub and sliding door to patio. Attached two car garage, close to transportation and shopping.

1155 Oak Hall Way $299,000



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Broadway to get massive makeover: Traffic patterns to change slightly, bicyclists to get safer routes



photos by Joe Perfecto

by Joe Perfecto

Broadway is nearly as old as Sacramento itself. Named Y St. in the city's 1848 plat drawn up by the son of founder John Sutter, it formed the southern boundary of the fledgling city, which initially was confined to what today is known as The Grid; the other boundaries were the American and Sacramento Rivers to the north and west and 31st St. to the east. As the city expanded to the southeast (Oak Park) and south (Curtis Park, Land Park) decades later, Y Street developed into a thriving commercial corridor, complementing those at the Embarcadero and, later, the K St. district. Ninety years after the grid was laid out, the street was renamed Broadway in honor of the establishment of Tower Theatre in 1938.

Broadway remained vibrant until the mid-60s, when about 30 city blocks were razed to make way for the W-X section of I-80/Hwy. 50. This practically eliminated the contiguity between the central city and the area south of X St. and initiated a long decline from a bustling business district to a broken boulevard—still not without scattered pockets of charm, but largely fragmented, deficient in infrastructure, plagued by crime and uninviting.

Many longtime south-of-Broadway residents have long pined for the Broadway of old, and they and more recent arrivals saw much potential in the once-thriving thoroughfare. They may see their dreams realized in the guise of the City's Broadway Complete Streets Plan, launched in 2012 as a result of a walking study conducted by the Urban Land Institute, a non-profit research and education organization focused on appropriate land use. Currently at roughly the halfway point, the project began with a planning and public process phase involving workshops, public outreach, preliminary analyses, plan development and grant applications. The funding and contracts phase spanned early 2017 to early 2019, at which point the current preliminary engineering and environmental studies phase kicked off. More grant applications are in progress, as are traffic analysis, technical studies, further concept development and continued public outreach. The second of two public workshops occurred Aug. 8 at Leataata Floyd Elementary, where project principals provided an overview of the process to date as well as next steps. Attendees included City Councilmembers Jay Schenirer and Steve Hansen, project manager Megan Thompson, Transportation Engineer Megan Carter, representatives of consulting firm Mark Thomas and Co. and a roomful of interested parties.

Complete Streets aims to bring major changes to the corridor from about 3rd St. to 24th St., including road diets, traffic calming, lane reductions and streetscaping, all intended to improve the driving, biking and walking experience as well as create a safer environment for residents, visitors and commerce. Project goals were largely shaped by public input, according to Thompson. "What we heard was that people want to prioritize pedestrian and bicycle safety; they supported a lane reduction and traffic calming and they were also interested in streetscape elements," she said. "The goals are to balance accessibility between drivers, bikes, pedestrians and transit users—to enhance safety and comfort for all those modes of travel, especially the vulnerable pedestrians and bicyclists; to improve connectivity between the residents who live south of Broadway, midtown and downtown and the businesses along Broadway; and to encourage economic revitalization and reinvestment along the Broadway corridor." Funding to extend the project beyond 24th St. to Frank-

see BROADWAY page 5





Broadway:

continued from page 4

lin Blvd. will be sought early next year.

The bulk of the project addresses multiple aspects of the traffic infrastructure, which Thompson outlined. "Because of its proximity to the freeway [Broadway is] a de facto freeway bypass route," she said." "Bike connectivity is poor; south of T St. there are no east-west bike facilities. Broadway is one of the corridors in the central city that has high numbers of collisions between cars and pedestrians and bikes. Broadway carries between 13,000 and 19,000 cars a day."

"The Federal Highway Administration has identified that as traffic volumes increase, four-lane roadways that don't have a continuous center turn pocket tend to have higher rates of collisions. In the west end of the corridor, between 3rd St. and 13th St., that section has two lanes and a two-way left turn lane, and within a five-year period there have only been four rear-end collisions. Between 13th and Franklin you have some isolated turn pockets but you don't have that lane; the rear-end collisions have occurred at a much higher rate."

"We are proposing a reduction from four lanes to two lanes, a consistent two-way left turn, on-street parking that will be formalized and easy to see and buffered green bike lanes. At intersections, we're proposing bulbouts to shorten pedestrian crossings, also eliminating slip right turns. We also have some vehicle circulation changes; one will be a new roadway segment between X and Broadway called 29th St., and then a two-way [section] of 16th St. between X and Broadway. This one-block addition of 29th St. is the magic key because it'll allow X St. to be used as a parallel, high-capacity route in lieu of Broadway."

Also of benefit to bicycle riders is connectivity to planned lanes on 10th, 19th and 21st Sts. as well as the existing protected network on the Grid. For pedestrians, the bulbouts will shorten crossings and reduce the conflict space; also under consideration are pedestrian-activated flashing beacons and lighting in currently dark areas. On RT route 51, which runs through most of the project zone and is the city's busiest line, some bus stops could be relocated to controlled crossings and shared bike/bus lanes are being evaluated for some stretches.

Such sweeping changes are not without side effects, most notably to the traffic volume, red-light queues and resulting delays at a number of intersections. Traffic engineer Carter stated that negative impacts are expected to be minimal, the most notable predicted at Land Park Dr./16th St. (100 foot longer queue, 17-second additional delay) and 24th St. (25 foot longer queue, four-second additional delay), while queues and waiting times are expected to go unchanged or decrease slightly elsewhere. "On average, Broadway will have a reduction in volume of about 4,000 cars," she said. "With that 29th St. extension, the model shows that the travel patterns of those commute vehicles go to X St., W St., Highway 50 and some distribution to other parallel routes through the grid. We also evaluated the delay and queuing at many of the major intersections. Most of the traffic from the neighborhoods actually crosses Broadway; analysis shows that there will be a minimal increase in north-south traffic, and that the



average delay will increase 15-30 seconds at the peak hours—the morning and evening commute. We also evaluated the free flow travel time from one end of the corridor to the other, and show a two-minute overall increase."

Thompson stated that the benefits will outweigh the potential negative impact to travel time. "These facilities, even though they might have fewer lanes, tend to operate just as efficiently as four-lane sections without turn lanes [and] the safety is better," she said.

"What we're trying to do is make Broadway safer for pedestrians, for people who want to bike," said Councilmember Hansen. "We want to make sure that we can have more outdoor dining. Broadway is—and, I hope, will continue to be—the epitome of Sacramento's diversity, from a cuisine standpoint, from an opportunity standpoint, and our goal is to enhance the business environment, the quality of life for the neighborhood, and to make sure that the impacts from this project are mitigated. When they put in the W-X [freeway], they really changed things in ways that aren't necessarily very good. This Broadway project has a chance to reconnect what has been a lost opportunity to the neighborhood and to really support a lot of our different goals."

Kevin Grimes of the Greater Broadway Partnership echoed Hansen's sentiments. "This is an action item to [address] some of the [problems] that have occurred on Broadway and that continue to plague us. The problem has been to come out of this malaise we're in with crime; the answer is going to be development. Look at R St., at the successes that other neighborhoods have had. This is a big step towards getting to that place. This is what we've been trying for for so long. I grew up in Land Park and I cannot tell you how much this means for me to see Broadway becoming vibrant and walkable and bikeable and drivable and safe and secure. Broadway has got such a great potential."

The current phase will conclude once environmental studies have completed and federal design funding has been secured, projected for early 2020. A funding and contracts phase will follow, then a final design phase during which more public input will be solicited. Actual construction is planned to begin in mid-2022 and may occur across the entire project zone or be done in sections.

The City has posted project materials for public review, as well as contact information for the project principals, at the Broadway Complete Streets Webpage, https://www.cityofsacramento.org/Public-Works/Engineering-Services/Projects/Current-Projects/Broadway-Complete-Streets.

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Road-tripping: Local Mercedes car club enthusiasts adventure throughout Northern California

By Charlotte Sanchez-Kosa

At the end of one of the Mercedes SLK car commercials, a woman looks into the camera and asks, "So you wanna go for a ride?" Well...Duh!

That same question was posed to me recently by Don Owen who founded Sacramento Valley SLK Enthusiasts of Sacramento in 2011. Being a sports car fan all my life and having a father who taught me about classic cars, it took me all of about two seconds to answer Owen with a resounding yes.

Owen, who lives in the Arden area, said club members get together once every month for a rally and drive to a pre-selected locations where they will have lunch or dinner, maybe stay the night and take in some of the areas sights or activities.

Last month, the group drove to Bodega Bay and this month, Owens decided on driving to Apple Hill with a stop in Placerville for lunch.

"We've actually been down to Sausalito three times," he said. "We went to Capitola one time."

In addition, club members have driven to Placerville, Auburn, Grass Valley, other Northern California areas and some places in Oregon as well.



The cockpit of the 230 SL has been completely restored.

"There was another SLK group which is in the San Jose area," he said. "So we used to have to drive to San Jose if we ever wanted to go for a drive. So we didn't like having to drive two hours just to get there and then go on an hour and half drive. Then we'd have to drive all the way back home again. So we just said, 'Well, why don't we start our own little group right here in Sacramento?'"

That group has grown to 90 members and Owen said it grew gradually.

"We started out really small," he said. "Sometimes there were just two cars and then it seems like every month we'd add one more car and somebody else would tell somebody else."

Owen added, all trips the group takes are planned out properly.

"Most of the time, we like to do a pre-drive to make sure everything is safe, check with CalTrans and see if there is any roadwork scheduled," he said. "I usually spend two or three days planning the trips."

When the day and time for my drive arrived, I was greeted at my front door by Melinda Lincoln, who lives near Country Club Center. I had always been around boys and men who were into cars and seeing Lincoln was a pleasant surprise. I also had no idea that seeing her car would send shivers up and down my spine.

Lincoln is a rarity in the club as she doesn't own an SLK but does own a fully restored 1967 230 SL convertible.

"I don't have an SLK," she said as I got settled in the passenger seat. "My car is the grandmother to all of their cars so Don let me in the club."

She added, she purchased the car in Southern California and it had been garaged all the time but over its lifespan, various people had driven it. When Lincoln found the car, the carpet was ratty and the seats were torn. She put T-shirts on the seats because they were broken up.

"It took probably a year to restore it," she said. "This is still the original paint. I just polish it."

The car is fully restored with stock parts inside and out. It has teak wood trim and chrome accents in the cockpit. Lincoln did all of the detailing work on the car.

She added her love of cars came from being around her brother who is a collector and owns 18 cars.

After securing our safety belts and rolling down the windows, Lincoln turned the key and the engine rumbled to life and off we went.

Our first stop for the day was in El Dorado Hills in a parking lot where all of the day's drivers met up and chatted for a while. As the cars pulled into the parking lot, they all parked in a row because after all, it is a club and seeing all the same model of cars is impressive. One SLK even sported a set of giant women's eyelashes along the top edges of the headlights.

Some drivers came from Concord while others came from Modesto, Olivehurst, Elk Grove and Sacramento. In all, about 19 had arrived and after a brief meet and greet, Owen and others gathered in a circle to discuss the upcoming route.

Arriving in Placerville for lunch at The Farm Table Restaurant, all the drivers and their passengers chatted as they ate and talked about previous driving adventures.

see MERCEDES page 7





Club members enjoy the camaraderie and have a lot of fun on the trips. Sitting at High Hill Ranch are, from left, Jan and Don Wigle of Modesto who came in their SLK 320, Ampy and James FoyoSpecht, Elk Grove, Katherine and Lloyd Curtis of Olivehurst.



The 1967 Mercedes 230 SL

Mercedes:

continued from page 6

After lunch, we all once again got into the cars and drove up the freeway to Carson Road and then to High Hill Ranch in Apple Hill where club members shopped, ate apple themed desserts and drank cider before making the trip back to Sacramento.

But before leaving, club members spoke of what the drives mean to them.

"It's fun," one member said. "It creates camaraderie. You get to meet new people."

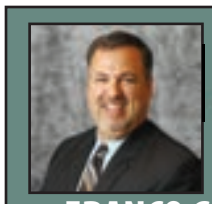
Others agreed.

"You go into parts of the world that aren't cemented," said James Specht, of Elk Grove. "That's the whole point...to get away from it all."

Once parked in front of my house, I stepped out of the 230 SL with my face and arms sunburned, and my short hair was a mass of tangles. I took one last look at the car and slowly turned towards my lawn. As Lincoln revved the engine, I stood in the street to watch her pull out and disappear around the corner.

My day of adventure was over but I will always remember the great people I met and the thrill of zooming around in a classic sports car.

For information on Sacramento Valley SLK Enthusiasts visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/SVSLK/.



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The Raging Grannies for Climate Change

Youth-led climate strike brought out large crowd to the Capitol's west steps

By Ellen Cochrane

On a beautiful fall morning in Capitol Park it was hard to believe that our planet is in peril and climate change and global warming threaten our very existence. But young Sacramentans take it seriously. More than a thousand young protesters left school on Friday September 20th to gather on the west steps to participate in the worldwide School Strike for Climate.

The global movement started in 2018 when 16-year-old Swedish student, Greta Thunberg, sickened by the lack of adult action, skipped school to sit in front of the Swedish parliament building. She demanded that Sweden adhere to the Paris Climate Agreement. Her simple act led to an international movement that plans to strike every September until world leaders act to reduce fossil fuels.

During Sacramento's Climate Strike 13-year-old Syphra Patel took the mic. She called on political leaders to reduce fossil fuels. "Will you speak up and protect your constituents, or will you choose to be spineless, bowing down to corporate inter-

see STRIKE page 9





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Bee Payne, Climate Activist



Photos by Ellen Cochrane

Mayor Darrell Steinberg and Climate Strike students

Stirke:

continued from page 8

ests and being scolded by a 13-year-old girl?"

More than 1.5 million students in 139 countries worldwide walked out of school and here in Sacramento many adults joined them. Mayor Darrell Steinberg introduced Patel to the audience and expressed his support of the movement. "The youth is inspiring. Young people are coming together throughout the world, and in Sacramento. They are organizing and are committed to taking bold action against climate change."

Bee Payne recalled her introduction to the movement. "I was inspired by my high school biology teacher to act and I came here to fight for climate justice," they said. (Payne requested that the pronouns they/them/their be used.)

On the edge of the crowd two women in saffron monk robes, sandals and floppy sun hats held evergreen branches. The Placerville Forest Monastery monks came to support the children. "I stand for care and compassion for all beings, and the climate crisis threatens all beings," said Venerable Dhammadipa Aloka Vihara.

Sacramento student activists plan to participate in all future Climate Strike actions. For more information about local action contact the Sacramento Climate Coalition on Facebook @ ClimateSac.

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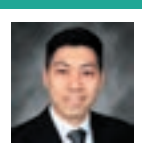


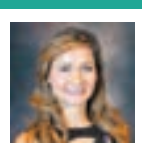
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A Watershed Year In The History Of The World!

Sure, in 1969 men walked on the moon for the first time (and a second successful visit before the end of the year) and there was the first AFL win in the Super Bowl when Joe Namath's Jets beat the Baltimore Colts. However, there were many other important events that took place that year. For example: the first flight tests of the Boeing 747 and the SST Concorde occurred; the first woman prime minister of Israel was elected and the first temporary artificial heart was implanted; the Stonewall Riots in NYC marked the start of the Gay Rights movement and the multi-day Woodstock concert attracted over 400,000 music lovers to a muddy field in upstate New York; the Beatles released their "Abbey Road" album and a half-million anti-Vietnam War protesters participated in the Washington DC Mortarium March; and in 1969 the very first nodes of computer hook-ups were established, permitting the development of the internet.

But all these historic milestones fade away when another major event is considered—the graduation of the John F. Kenney High School Class of '69! The Pocket Area educational institution was open in 1967 and has been a major community influence ever since. Built to accommodate the crush of Baby Boomers who crowded the halls of McClatchy and Burbank High Schools, the Class of '69 was instrumental in organizing the initial student government and fielding a full slate of sports teams by the brand-new campus.



A half-century has now passed and the 470 graduates have continued their individual successes in the "post-high school real world." Many have served in the fields of law, medicine, the military and education. Many spent careers keeping the government responsive to its citizenry and others have advanced research and some found success in business and the entertainment world.

A significant 50th Reunion Celebration is planned for October 19, 2019 at the California Automobile Museum. Many years in the planning, it promises to produce a wonderful and memorable event for JFK Class of '69 members. The Reunion Committee is composed of (pictured top to bottom, left to right) Lynette (Greenslate) Bell, Judy (Phillips)Lemke, Mary (Renfree) Bartron, Ruth (Trubschenck) Lundsten, Mark Carlos, Julie (McLane) Dulany, , Kim (Johnson) DeHart, Debbie Martin.

All alumni of JFK Class of '69 are encouraged to get details and register to attend by going to www.jfk69.com. The event promises to provide good food, good fun, good entertainment, and great memories! A 50th high school reunion only comes along once in a lifetime and it would be very regrettable to look back and say you missed it. Go to www.jfk69.com today and register!

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Bacon & Butter, Culinerdy Kitchen to Enter the YMCA's S'moresfest Competition

YMCA seeking more entrants for S'moresfest Competition to be held on Saturday



The YMCA of Superior California announced two entries today for their S'moresfest Competition on Saturday, October 12. Camp Capital City S'moresfest is a Great Outdoors Gala held at the Sacramento Central YMCA to benefit YMCA Youth Programs.

The first entrant, Bacon & Butter, serves a farm to fork breakfast, brunch and lunch at two Sacramento neighborhood locations: Tahoe Park (59th and Broadway) and East Sacramento (3839 J St.). Bacon & Butter believes in hands on, artisan cookery with cuisine that is California farm-to-table.

S'moresfest's second entry is Culinerdy Kitchen, located 524 12th Street in Downtown Sacramento, is known for amazing burgers, vegan burgers, mac and cheese, and their legendary Brussels Sprouts using ingredients that are sustainable, responsibly sourced, and local from the Sacramento region.

"The YMCA is still looking for more entries for the S'moresfest Competition" says Tracy Holmes, Vice President, YMCA of Superior California. "We are hoping to find some creative chefs out there who want put their creativity and passion on display in a fun competition to help send kids to camp. This town loves good food and good sports - so putting those together makes this a can't-miss night in Sacramento - and a can't-miss opportunity for competitive chefs."

Camp Capital City S'moresfest is a one-of-a-kind opportunity for adults to relive camp memories, featuring a s'mores dessert competition, gourmet barbecue dinner, Drake's Brewing, canoe wine bar, live music, and favorite camp games such as archery, tomahawk throw, cornhole, and tumble tower. Guests will also have the opportunity to enjoy Panning for Jewelry, Fishing for Wine, auctions, and raffles. Proceeds will benefit YMCA youth programs to send kids to camp next summer.

Those interested in entering the S'moresfest Competition should contact Tracy Holmes at tholmes@ymcasuperiorcal.org.

Tickets for Camp Capital City S'moresfest are on sale now at www.ymcasuperiorcal.org/smoresfest.

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Gone bananas:

Annual festival brings community together through the celebration of the banana



An Aztec dance group walks the parade route.

Story and photos by Joe Perfecto

As the planet's fifth-largest supplier of food and agricultural commodities, it's hardly surprising that California is home to a dizzying cornucopia of food festivals. No matter what the comestible, whether apples, artichokes, avocados, bacon, beans, carrots, cherries, chili, chocolate, citrus, corn, coffee, eggplants, fruitcake, garlic, nuts, olives, pears, peaches, pears, potatoes, pumpkins, raisins, salsa, strawberries, tamales, tea, tomatoes, truffles or watermelon, there are probably a number of events dedicated to its celebration. One such gathering, the 10th Annual Banana Festival, was held Aug. 10-11 at the southeastern corner of William Land Park.

Although the banana's name itself makes it sort

see BANANAS page 13



An information booth was jammed with banana-themed items.



A performance group from Sacramento's Brazilian Center performs on the main stage.

Bananas:

continued from page 12

of a whimsical fruit (well, technically an herb-borne berry), the Banana Festival, while certainly a source of much mirth, has a serious side, and as event organizer Willie Hardin III noted, "Anything that brings a community together is no laughing matter." For not only does the festival serve as the main local fundraiser for its presenter, National Academic Youth Corp., and some charity-based vendors, it affords many non-mainstream elements of the community—visual artists, musicians, stage performers, vendors and others—a chance to converge in celebration of the cultures in which the banana plays an important societal/economic role. These include the cultures of the so-called "banana republics" but also Belgium, Germany and even the Netherlands. Thus, unlike with most such festivals, for the Bananafest, rather than commanding the spotlight center stage, the featured fruit plays more of a supporting role.

Although no clog dancing performance was on the schedule and no one was observed wandering about in lederhosen, there were plenty of African, Aztec, Brazilian, Caribbean and Latino costumes and cultural elements about the place (and a few bizarre simian-like costumes were in evidence as well—because who likes bananas more than a monkey?). A variety of acts, ranging from bands and dance troupes to a cir-

see FESTIVAL page 14

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A small bunch of banana festival royalty is gathered for a photo.



A canvas picturing a banana-devouring Andy Warhol was among the many banana-themed works on display.

Festival

continued from page 13

cus act and a fashion show, were presented on the main stage both days, officiated by MC Gerry Simpson.

Vendors included a number of artists and craftspeople who offered e.g. African-style garments and accoutrements, faux tattoos and health care products; one even offered banana trees for sale. There were also representatives from radio stations and community groups, and a few outliers promoting products such as gutter filtration systems and AT&T services.

A variety of eats represented a range of cuisines. Many menu items of course incorporated banana, from the more mundane funnel cakes and beignets and fried plantains to the more adventurous banana bean cakes and banana beef tacos (and let's not forget the "largest banana pudding in California"), but more mainstream food truck fare was also available.

The wine tasting tent was banana booze central, tempting attendees on that toasty weekend with concoctions such as banana beer, banana colada, banana sunrise and banana wine (although as the required hardware was sadly not in evidence at the bar, a banana frozen daiquiri did not seem doable). Also on offer there was "Carawaiian" chicken with banana rum sauce, served with rice and corn, for imbibers needing a little nibble.

To encourage attendees to visit vendor booths, the event program included a "Banana International Passport"—a half page containing a printed grid of 10 squares, each of which was to be stamped by a different vendor; once filled this sheet could be turned in at the Banana Store booth and the participant would then be entered into a prize drawing.

Children's attractions included a play area, an enormous inflatable multi-lane slide, a face-painting booth, a magic show and hula hoop dancing at the kids' stage and a small petting zoo featuring adorable small goats in the Kids Zone.

On Sat. afternoon a "banana parade" featured a variety of dance and musical groups and other performers, many adorned in colorful costumery, who wended their way around the event grounds. The festival is probably one of the more colorful and culturally-diverse events one is likely to encounter locally, and offers many unusual photo opportunities. But as the festival is a spectacle involving not only sights but sounds, aromas and tastes, this reporter is, uh, split (get it?) concerning which of the senses predominates the experience. Whatever the case, the event probably has a little something for everybody.

Event organizer National Academic Youth Corp., a United Way certified partner based in south Sacramento, serves about 15,000 area youth and adults annually through arts and cultural awareness educational programs. Although the organization's Website is shown as www.sojoarts.net, as of press time the site was invalid. However, information about the corporation and the event is available at https://www.sacbananafestival.com/.



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Church:

continued from page 2

As a result, Kwok arranged for the church's meetings and other activities to be held at the YMCA at 505 J St.

On April 26, 1941, Kwok announced that a new, $15,000 church building would replace the old church building and educational center at 519 N St.

The building project was funded through the assistance of the Reformed Church in America, and a capital campaign by members of the local church.

With the construction of the new, two-story church building – which was designed by architect Herbert E. Goodpastor – the old church building and an educational center on the same site were demolished.

The new church building's cornerstone was laid on July 9, 1941, and the structure was dedicated on Nov. 11, 1941. Features of this building included three rooms for language courses on the first floor, and an auditorium for church services and other meetings on the second floor.

Kwok and his family resided in quarters at the back of the auditorium. He had a wife named Ko Po Young Kwok, and five children: John, Andrew, Alice, Sarah and Esther.

In addition to his work with the church, the reverend also participated in community functions.

For instance, during the Sacramento Camellia Planting Drive, in 1942, he presented a Chinese proverb to the committee. It reads: "It is good luck to plant a camellia."

During World War II, Kwok was a member of the war bond committee of the Chinese division of the Fifth War Loan.

In about 1951, the Rev. Theodore M. Tang replaced Kwok as the church's pastor, and Kwok spent his retirement in the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles County until his death in 1959.

Another notable figure in the church's early years was Sacramento native Mary Fong Shew, a local piano teacher who was the congregation's organist for a decade and also played the organ at Chinese weddings and other activities. She died at the age of 35 in 1954.

During research for this article, the earliest reference to the church's current name was discovered in the Oct. 23, 1954 edition of The Sacramento Bee. That reference reads: "The Chinese Community Church, 519 N Street, is the only Chinese work in the Reformed Church in the American denomination."

In the same edition, it is noted that the church's pastor at that time was the Rev. Gilbert Lum. A Sunday morning service was then regularly presented in English, followed by an evening service in Cantonese.

Due to redevelopment in the area of the church's building, the congregation's current church structure on Gilgunn Way was built by the Charles F. Unger Construction Co. in the late 1950s. It was constructed with a 120-seat sanctuary and an educational unit.

A unique feature of this building is its split roof, which allows for indirect, natural lighting within its interior.

Like the 5th and N streets church, the current church was built through funding from the Reformed Church in America, and a capital campaign by members of the local church.

The first services in the Gilgunn Way church structure were presented, with Lum speaking to the congregation, on Sept. 27, 1959.

Today, five generations of families have attended this church, which has maintained a consistent membership and plans to continue to progress toward its milestone centennial anniversary and beyond.

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Maybelle Whang, a longtime member of the church, noted that despite this church's name, its membership includes people who are not of Chinese descent.

"We have blacks, Hispanics/Latinos, whites and Asians," she said.

Whang added that the church's name can cause confusion, since it doesn't tell people that its members are Christians.

"We are a Christian church," she said. "People have asked me: 'Is that a Buddhist church.' They can't tell by our name what religion it is."

Pastor Louis Lee retires

Wong noted that the church has had other pastors during its history.

"We've had both Caucasian ministers and Chinese ministers, and most of the Caucasian ministers that we hired were Dutch," he said. "Well, they were Americans, but their (ancestry) was Dutch."

The church's most recent pastor was the Rev. Louis Lee.

With Lee's recent retirement, the church is currently without a pastor.

Lee, who converted to Christianity when he was 12 years old, left a strong legacy with his more than 10 years of service to the church.

Adele Din, who serves on the church's board, expressed appreciation for Lee, whose parents emigrated from China.

"Pastor Louis has been a blessing," she said. "He brought so much diversity and spiritual growth to our congregation."

Wong also fondly recalled Lee's service to the church.

"Louis was a highly educated, very conversive," he said. "In fact, he's a very eloquent public speaker. He is also very outgoing, and when I was in the hospital, he would often visit me and give me strength. We would have our prayer sessions, and I really appreciated him. I like Louis. Now we have a vacant pulpit and we're searching for (his replacement)."



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ADULT AND TWEEN/TEEN BOOK CLUBS AT CRAWFORD'S BOOKS: Crawford's Books is hosting a monthly adult book club on the first Thursday of the month from 6:30- 7:30 p.m. They also host a tween/teen book club every other month. This group convenes on the 1st Saturday of EVEN months from 4 to 5 p.m. Light refreshments are provided. For more information and the list of books that will be discussed, please visit crawfordbooks.net. Crawford's Books is located at 5301 Freeport Blvd., #200, Sacramento. For more information, call 916-731-8001.

AUTO MUSEUM DEBUTS ALL-NEW EXHIBIT: HITTING THE ROAD: ROAD TRIPPIN' THROUGH THE YEARS: The California Automobile Museum is proud to present a new exhibit titled Hitting the Road: Road Trippin' Through the Years" that is on display until Feb. 25, 2019. The exhibit allows guests an opportunity to explore the historic American pastime of traveling with family and friends. Depending on age, race, and financial status, experiences and memories of road trips differ dramatically. The goal of this exhibit is to explore these differences along with how the automobile and road trips changed American culture, and also helped to shape entire industries. The exhibit will showcase the heyday of road trips in the '50s,'60s and '70s as well as take a look at how the experience has changed over time. Museum guests will learn how different Americans experienced life on the road. For instance, the exhibit demonstrates how some families were squished into a station wagon on the way to the lake while others traveled in a cozy camper bound for Yosemite. As part of this nostalgic exhibit, a number of iconic cars will be on special display, including: a 1952 Dodge 2-door Sedan, 1964 Ford Falcon Deluxe Wagon, 1953 Kaiser Traveler, 1956 Chevy Bel Air Wagon, 1959 Shasta Airflyte trailer, Custom 1972 Toronado RV, 1972 Oldsmobile Vista Cruiser Wagon, 1966 VW EZ Camper with tent canopy, 1955 Harley-Davidson Panhead, 1976 BMW R100/7, 1930s home-built tear-drop trailer and 1962 Ford Falcon Squire Wagon. The Hitting the Road exhibit is free with Museum admission: $10 for adults; $5 for youth ages 5 to 17) and free for children ages 4 and under. For more information about the special exhibit or the California Automobile Museum in general, please call 916-442-6802 or visit www.calautomusem.org.

YOGA MOVES US CLASSES – Free indoor community yoga classes on Thursday evenings. Classes are 60 minute vinyasa style all-level yoga classes taught by local registered yoga teachers. Bring a mat, a water bottle, and a friend! Every Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

KLASSY TALKERS TOASTMASTERS provides a supportive, positive and fun learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills. The club welcomes the public to check out the club on Mondays (except holidays) from 7:15 – 8:30 p.m. at Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Blvd.

SOL KIDS DAY! EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH: From 2 to 4 p.m., families are welcome to enjoy a day of cultural arts, crafts, and music., Sol Kids Day provides different hands-on arts and health activities every Second Sunday like nature creation labs, healthy snack assembly stations, yoga for kids and everyone's favorite, slime-making. Engaging performances for kids include hip hop theatre production, beat-making workshops, and guest appearances from some local unicorns and magicians. Sol Kids Day also hosts a gently used toy/clothing exchange every month as well! Sliding scale donations. No one ever turned away for lack of funds. Funded in part by the Cultural Arts Award Program of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission with support from the City and County of Sacramento. Sol Collective is located at 2574 21st St, Sacramento, California 95818.

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

MUSIC AND MOTION AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY: Rowena Alverto brings exercise classes for seniors with a combination of yoga, tai chi, zumba, for seniors on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. $5. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP: Every first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: Is your friend or family member in a domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking situation? This free, drop-in group is for you. Learn how to support your loved one, and receive some support yourself among people who are in the same situation. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

#METOO SUPPORT GROUP: Every third Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: This drop-in support group is free, confidential, open to all genders, and available to sexual assault survivors at any point in their healing. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

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

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

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH SACRAMENTO: The friendliest club in Sacramento, the Rotary Club of South Sacramento meets every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Casa Garden, 2760 Sutterville Road.

SAC TRANSIT RIDERS UNION WEEKLY MEETING: Interested in democratizing transit and putting the "public"





What's happening, Land Park?

back into "public transit"? Sac TRU's weekly meetings, held every Saturday from 1-3 p.m. addresses these issues. Organize Sacramento, 1714 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE FORUM: HEALING PATHWAYS PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES: Every Thursday from 5:45 to 7 p.m., the community is welcome to the Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St., to participate "CONVERSATIONS ON THE EDGE!" The forum provides a framework for investigating human nature. FORUM IS NOT THERAPY, it is a ritualized form of communication designed to enhance transparency, growth, and community. A Way of Group Communication and Being in Community through a Culture of Non-Violence. Tamara Intentional Community and Forum Founders Sabine Lichtenfels and Dr. Dieter Duhm define one aspect of community as living truthfully with each other and this is the cornerstone of our peace work. Another aspect of having a culture of non-violence is ending the war between genders, by letting go of fear in the humanistic love we share with and for one another, despite our gender differences and the complexities brought to our gender identity. These definitions embody what it means to be in Forum, including transparency with our felt experience and what is alive in us, psychologically and emotionally. Participants connect through their own self awareness and through a willingness to share it with the group. They may wish to do this nonverbally, with active or passive facilitation, through a poem, dance, or whatever moves you! The Forum will be held in the Garden Room. Donations are encouraged to cover the cost of room rental.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SACRAMENTO SOUTH MEETING: The club welcomes women and girls to the club's lunch meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Aviators Restaurant, at Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd.

WEDNESDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION GATHERING: Every Wednesday morning from 7 to 10 am., join neighbors at Cafe Latte, 7600 Greenhaven Drive, for conversation and fun. Find the group back near the piano.

ACC PRESENTS 'BODY WISDOM BREATH AND MOVEMENT': Perform easy to follow seated and standing exercises for health and well-being. Most movements are based on eastern techniques for relaxing and re-energizing the body. Use simple Qigong postures to stimulate vitalizing "Chi". Discover the joy of self-massage and acupressure. Slow down with guided imagery and meditative breathwork. Improving your health and be simple and fun. Pre-registration and Pre-payment of $20 @ $5 per class required. $7 Drop-in rate per class. Class will be held from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at ACC Senior Services, 1180 Corporate Way. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

ACC PRESENTS YOGA-NEW: This yoga class introduces the lyengar method of hatha yoga. Basic standing, sitting, forward extension, introductory inversion, and restorative postures will be taught. This class will build upon prior class and will use props to assist the students. You will need a yoga mat and possibly blocks, belts and blankets. Pre-payment is $6 per class or $8 drop-in rate. Pre-registration required. Class is now held from 7 to 7:30 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. for more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330. www.accsv.org

BABY/TODDLER STORYTIME -- Babies and toddlers (ages 0 to 3 years) and their caretakers are invited to join us for songs and rhymes. Arrive early or stay late for extra social time with other children and parents. Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

KNIT TOGETHER -- Love to knit? Want to learn? Join the library for expert advice, great conversation and more. All crafters are welcome--not just knitters! Every Friday from 1 to 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

COMMUNITY DAY AT THE SACRAMENTO ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND: All ages are invited for a day of play at the Sacramento Adventure Playground! Children get to create their own play structures and spaces by re-purposing everyday items such as cardboard boxes, plus household wares, natural elements and unexpected items. The Playground is a fun and safe environment where children can use their imagination and creativity to direct their own play! Community Days also feature special activities and craft projects. Families are requested to wear closed-toe shoes and clothes that can get messy. The event will take place rain or shine. Admission to the Sacramento Adventure Playground is free. Featured activities include: Box forts, mud play and slide, sand play, bike riding (bring your bike and helmet!), craft projects, bubbles, painting. While the Sacramento Adventure Playground's regular operating hours are designed for ages 7-15, the Playground opens up for children of all ages to come and play on Community Days. Advance registration is not required. Community Days are held on the second Saturday of the month (except December and January) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 3301 37th Ave.

NATURE EXPLORERS AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO: The Sacramento Zoo and the Sacramento Library in an open play environment, the last Saturday of the month anytime between 10 am to 2 pm. Near the playground, there will be storytime, playing, and exploring the wonders of the natural world with a new topic each month. For more information, call 808-5888; 3930 West Land Park Drive.

WELLS FARGO WEDNESDAY AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO: Thanks to Wells Fargo, the first Wednesday of each month in 2017 is Wells Fargo Wednesday. Up to four children ages 2-11 receive free admission to the Sacramento Zoo with a paid adult.

TECHNOLOGY HELP – Are you curious about eBooks but not sure how to get started? Is your tablet or eReader a mystery? Do you need basic computer help such as creating e-mail accounts and using the internet? Come by the McClatchy Library and meet with a Technology Assistant. Sessions are first come, first served and last 30 minutes. Adult. Every Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St., Sacramento.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER: This class is designed for beginner or students with limited or no experience with computer. Learn about computer hardware, system components, software and more. Pre-payment of $30 and pre-registration required. Class will start from January 16 thru 25, 2018 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

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HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.



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