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Land Park News

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In bloom now:

Lotus flowers brighten up William Land Park's small pond

see photos page 9

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Door to Door

with PAT LYNCH

Perfect storm

Commenting on the stark divisions in this country, someone on Facebook noted, "I haven't lost friends over politics. I've lost friends over morals." I wish I could identify this person to credit him or her for a precise observation.

On our block, a microcosm of urban Northern California, we make moral choices daily. Most of us avoid crowds, not only for our own safety, but because we don't want to endanger others. Most of us wear the masks. We don't care if the president mocks us. We know the virus did not observe the shutdown and is as potent and patient as ever. We know we could have it with no symptoms, but pass it on to someone who could be dead in a week. So we mask up.

When restrictions were lifted, chiefly for economic reasons, I watched a news show featuring a crowded beach extravaganza somewhere in the South. A prodigious mass of humans squished together, few observing the distance requirements. A reporter tromped across the sand to a young woman applying tanning lotion and asked if she was afraid of violating requirements and getting Covid. "I hope I don't get it, and I wash my hands a lot," she said. She bestowed a sweet, wide smile on the reporter. "But if God wants me He'll take me."

So I ended up talking to the TV again. "Hey, what if the guy next to you doesn't want to go to God right now? What if he wants to live to 96 so he can learn what Mars is like?

What did this girl not understand? Her religion seemed small and personal, and didn't appear to include a concept of responsibility for others. A more humane value system was needed on that beach, and in all the overcrowded beaches, bars, and gathering places in this opened-up, infected country.

Then, propelled by sorrow and fury, came protests for the death of George Floyd. Unlike the armed, white protesters who stormed state capitols with guns, Nazi and Confederate flags, these African American protesters were unarmed. Many unarmed white supporters joined them. These initial demonstrators provided another feast for the virus. Then came right-wingers like Boogaloo Bois and Proud Boys (two of current white nationalist and anarchist groups who infiltrate demonstrations to turn the public against them), to provoke arson and mayhem. And then the random looters arrived. And then the police and National Guard, all massed together in smoky cities in the dark. Covid doesn't care who's right or wrong. But it knows a banquet when it sees one.

On the Sunday, May 31, Johns Hopkins reported a Covid increase of 20, 000 cases. Minnesota governor Walz said, "I am deeply concerned about a super-spreader type of incident. We're going to see a spike. It's inevitable." One sad irony is that African-Americans are a uniquely vulnerable population for this virus, and some demonstrators may return it to a community beset by the health susceptibilities linked to structural racism. And, as noted by the American Academy of Pediatrics, "racism is a public health issue." It is a public enemy that, unlike flood and blizzard, does not go away.

In this country we haven't been able to unite against this common enemy for the public good. We haven't been able to unite against Covid 19 either. This is a demonstrable failure of national leadership, but also shows flawed moral choices on our part. We haven't made this a safe country for everybody. Driving while black, walking down the street while black, jogging while black--these can still be deadly hazards in racialized America. And today in the USA we have 109,580 Covid deaths and nearly two million total cases. There will be more tomorrow, of course, and in two weeks we'll learn if super spreaders will have triggered skyrocketing numbers of highly contagious infected.

Some people, like the girl on the beach, trace their morals to religious belief. Others say moral practice derives from reciprocal altruism, which in evolutionary biology is a supposition that nature has programmed us, for the survival of our species, to sometimes behave unselfishly, and to presume fellow sapiens will reciprocate. That's how we learn to count on one another. "If I weren't for this Corona disease, I'd be out there protesting the other disease," neighbor Marie said. "And I'd resent the hell out of those looters and provocateurs who tried to make us look bad."

It reminded me of what I seen on TV. A tall, muscular man in dark clothing, including complete head covering so you couldn't identify him, used tools to break through a shop door. Two female protesters ran to him, shouted to him to stop. He grabbed the first young woman and brutally flung her to the sidewalk. She scrambled up, and by then others had run over and the man merged into the crowd. It was a perfect moral snapshot of depravity and courage. And of course Covid saw it all.

see Door to Door page 6



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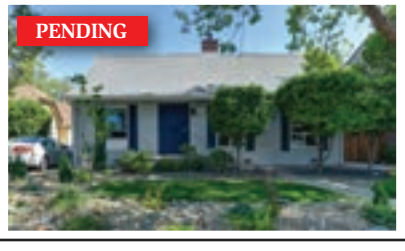
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Cover by:
Jen Henry

George Floyd protest held in mayor's neighborhood

Chants of 'Black Lives Matter' heard in the Pocket

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

About 2,000 people lied on Greenhaven Drive, near the Pocket area residence of Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, on June 5 in protest of the killing of George Floyd.

Floyd died on May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer reportedly knelt on the back of his neck for nearly nine minutes during an arrest in which he was accused of trying to spend a counterfeit $20 bill at a deli.

The wide circulation of a witness video led to protests and unrest across the country.

A private autopsy that was commissioned by Floyd's family determined his death was a homicide, and that he was killed by asphyxiation through compression to his neck and back. Former Minneapolis Officer Derek Chauvin was charged with second-degree murder.

Organized by Black Lives Matter Sacramento, the Pocket area gathering was highlighted by the dominant scene of people lying in the street for eight minutes and 46 seconds – the length of time that Floyd was restrained with Chauvin's knee before he died.

Prior to the "die-in," the multiracial crowd began to form and sit on Greenhaven Drive, in the area of Greenstar Way.

Many people held signs, while most attendees chanted Floyd's name and various phrases such as "Black Lives Matter."

While taking a break from leading a chant of "No justice, no peace," Pocket resident Allegra Taylor, of the advocacy group, Sacramento Area Congregations Together, explained the importance of the event.

"This day is important to be out here to remember the lives of not only George Floyd, but Breonna Taylor," she said. "We have a local life here we want to remember, (and also) Antonio Thomas. We want to remember all of those who have died unjustly because of a system that is fixed, and we want that system changed.

"We want to abolish it and create a new system, and the only way to do that is to take advantage of this time while everybody is awake. That we are not just talking about injustices, that they are real."

Although Black Lives Matter (BLM) Sacramento did not respond to this paper's request for comment by deadline, the organization's website alleges a lack of accountability in local law enforcement, and a City Council that has not brought "substantial and equitable change to the city and all of its people."

BLM Sacramento also calls for the council to become independent from law enforcement.

With the very noticeable absence of Steinberg at the event, he later explained why he did not attend the gathering in his neighborhood.

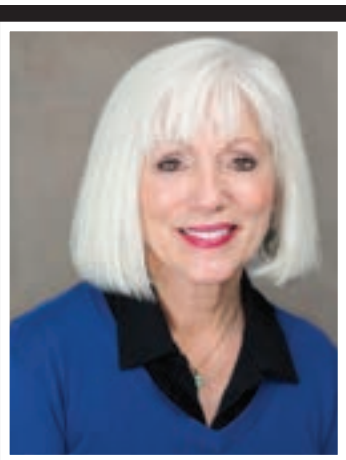
"(Black Lives Matter) did not want it to be about me, even if it was directed at me," he said. "I watched (a live broadcast in his home), and I took it in, and I know my obligation is to think deeper and to act more boldly."

see PROTEST page 4



Photos by Stephen Crowley

In memory of George Floyd who was killed last month while lying on a street in Minneapolis, protesters gathered on Greenhaven Drive during the "die-in" event on June 5 in front of Mayor Darrell Steinberg's home.



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This large tiled entry opens to a Formal Living Room with fireplace and a large picture window that views the Backyard. Kitchen amenities include built in oven, microwave, electric cook top, tiled counters and a breakfast bar. Dining space is adjacent to the kitchen with a sliding door that opens to a patio and the backyard. Other features include three bedrooms, two baths, central HVAC, partial dual pane windows, and plantation shutters. Spacious yard has a pool, covered patio and garden areas. As the area model home, this garage was featured as a game room with a built- in bar. It now is a garage with a large laundry and storage including a pull-down ladder to a photographer's dark room in the attic. All visitors to the property are to sign the CAR PEAD form and the Coldwell Banker Realty COVID-19 Prevention Plan.

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Protest:

continued from page 3

Steinberg also described his feelings about witnessing this event.

"It was a powerful, impactful event for me personally," he said. "I thought it was beautiful. I thought it sent the message in a very profound way, and I would call it one of the more impactful evenings of my entire career, even though I wasn't physically present because the organizers did not want me there."

Several other people shared their thoughts on the event, Floyd and their desires for changes.

Pocket resident Ella Kelley shared her thoughts on Floyd's death.

"When I saw it, it was like 'Here we go again,'" she said. "I was born in Mississippi, so I went to an all-black school. I had to fight my way to and from school with the white children. I would get a spanking when I got home, because I had rocks in the front of my dress, because I had to fight to get an education.

"My parents brought us to California, because we wanted a better life, and we're dealing with the same issues here. So, it's like enough is enough."

Kelley told the Pocket News that more laws need to be made that would protect blacks.

"We've got a lot of laws on the books; we need more," she said. "And with those laws, we need to enact them, as well. Talk's cheap. We need action. No more promise of the 40 acres and the mule. None of that. Make it happen."

Another Pocket resident, Gordon Ho, noted why he attended the "die-in."

"It's bigger than us," he said. "Al the black people that have been killed by police, all the injustice that wasn't captured on camera. Nowadays the camera enables us to see the truth what the black people are going through all these years. So, I just wanted to be out here and support them."

Ho added that he believes that police should be held more accountable for their criminal actions.

"So many times, they would be caught, but they wouldn't be charged or they would be fired and then they would be rehired," he said. "We've got to make sure we weed out all the bad apples. We understand that not all cops are bad, but we really need to make sure that those bad cops are (held) responsible."

West Sacramento resident Amanda Yarrington recalled when she first heard about Floyd's death.

"I can't say that I was initially very surprised that it happened," she said. "I think he's just kind of the catalyst for this whole movement right now that's going on. But I think it's been in process for a long time. It's not really shocking to hear about an incident like that happening, unfortunately."

Pocket resident Vanessa Lewis mentioned that she has a fear of raising two blacks sons in a country where black people are being killed by police.

"It's really scary raising black boys and knowing that they could possibly be killed by the police," she said.

"As a black woman, it's really scary. It gives me the chills. It frustrates me, it angers me. I'm really upset about it. We're humans, too. That shouldn't be happening. It's not a joke. It's irritating."

Lewis also called for the reformation of police departments.

"There needs to be a police reform," she said. "They need to dismantle it.

"The community really needs to be involved, so we can know what exactly is happening on the inside. Why isn't body cams on? If we were to get into an incident, we're going to be charged for it. Why aren't the police being charged like us, like the citizens? It's really frustrating."

While observing the large crowd at the event, Lewis recognized a movement in a positive direction.

"This makes me really, really proud," she said. "This is amazing. This is a great turnout.

"If people are coming out here for things like this, nobody is coming out here for us to be separate. People are coming together. This is what we want. This is what we need. Give us what we need."

Lewis, however, stressed that much more needs to be done, beyond the protests.

"(These protests) are steps, most definitely," she said. "But the steps need to be taken."

Op-ed: Decarcerate Sacramento calls on the city and county of Sacramento to move toward sustainable justice

By Decarcerate Sacramento

Sacramento residents, and communities across the globe, are at a pivotal decision making juncture about how the world we want to live in should look, both through and beyond this Covid-19 crisis and the crisis of legitimacy facing law enforcement. Meanwhile, Sacramento County officials continue to make these important decisions, including budget decisions, with severely limited access for the impacted public to meaningfully weigh in.

A June 11 press statement from Sacramento County noted they are using this time to "work with department heads to develop plans for expenditure reductions as a result of anticipated revenue reductions." They are planning the deep cuts they will serve us, without our presence or participation. On Monday morning, officials were invited to listen to the community live or via teleconference, as we modeled accessible decision making spaces that honor public sentiment, especially during this critical time. Now is a time to make way for community voices, particularly Black voices, as we envision an equitable and just future for Sacramento.

In listening to those voices, Decarcerate Sacramento, in chorus with growing numbers of organizations and individuals across the world, "is calling on our elected officials to stop feeding our precious tax dollars into unaccountable and militarized law enforcement agencies that cause significant harm in our communities." That money should have long ago been re-invested in community programs and support, the type of quality of life improvements that keep our neighborhoods healthy and safe, that keep crime rates low and families thriving. Education, housing, and healthcare are just some areas in desperate need of an infusion of resources to create the community of safety we all desire and deserve. For too long the narrative of public safety has successfully ushered our dollars away from our well being and into riot gear, weapons, and criminalizing under resourced Black communities and other communities of color.

The tragic killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and Rayshawn Brookes by police, have brought us into a national moment of reflection and reckoning. The institution of policing itself is being called into question; both its past and present violence in Black, brown and poor communities, as well as its legacies and origin in white supremacist violence and control.

We stand in solidarity with the Abolition movement, as well as Black Justice Sacramento, in calling for these necessary steps to move forward toward sustainable justice and lasting peace.

- Defund Police
- Demilitarize Communities
- Remove Police from Schools
- Free People from Prisons and Jails
- Repeal Laws Criminalizing Survival
- Invest in Community Self Governance
- Provide Safe Housing for All
- Invest in Care Not Cops

FUNDING FACTS

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

- Sacramento Sheriff's Department currently receives over $372 million every year, which is 80% of all funding allocated for elected officials and over one third of the entire budget, and their budget increases every year.

see JUSTICE page 8

Dear folks with heart and compassion,

Remember three years ago when "Black Lives Matter" was a radical chant that was "poorly named and divisive" and now it is on your Netflix home screen and your mayor is saying it in speeches?

Remember when all you wanted was "Don't ask, don't tell" and thanks to tireless work we have marriage equality?

Don't squander this moment. The movement to defund is morally just. The abolitionists are right. Don't be the cringey "but what about" moderate who would settle for "nicer masters" and thinks civil rights is "too much too fast" and queer folks should "just keep that to themselves." To use Lamar J. Pringle's example: Don't be the folks in 1852 trying to balance new slave states and free states. You never look good in the history books. In fact, you've never been right in American history.

Besides, if enough of us say "defund," you moderates will get the reforms you're already willing to settle for. After all, none of you would go into a car dealership asking for the price you want. You'd anchor low to get there. It is called strategy.

Now is not the time to be the white moderate of yesteryear --or the brown faces of white moderation. Stop complaining that the "messaging is bad." It really isn't. Now mainstream media is covering defunding the police, actual policy change is happening with police in schools and police budgets, and we have traction in part because of the financial impact of COVID on municipal budgets.

Now is the time to ask for more, not less. Say it with your chest! Don't fumble the pass.

But whatever you do, don't condescend the people who gave you this platform by doing decades of research and advocacy ground work. The words you're looking for are: Thank you!

Sincerely, Flojaune Cofer

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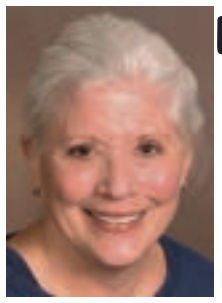




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THIS 'n' THAT

by Carol Bogart

Closing Down the Stress Valve

There are times I'm glad I'm not a street reporter anymore. This is one of them. It's all gotten to be just too much, hasn't it? A pandemic like we've never seen in the last 100 years. Pandemonium in our streets. Heat waves and curfews that make us stay inside, just when we thought we might get out a little.

I'm on stress overload and maybe you are, too.

So this week, I'm taking a break from all of that, because, well, because I need to. Instead, I'll share with you my possum stories (opossums, to be accurate, although growing up, everyone I knew just called 'em possums).

So, anyway, if you'll forgive the shorthand, I first learned about 'possums when, looking under the hedge for a lost ball, I found, instead, a long-dead kitten. The neighbor kid (who'd thrown the ball), exclaimed, "Possum!" "Possums," Tommy, 7, said with certainty, "will kill a kitten."

Well, being 5-years-old and gullible, I took that statement to be fact. For 30 years, I hated possums. When I was driving and spotted something lying in the road, I'd stop if I thought it could be saved. Even saved a stunned fox once. But, if, when I got close, the pile of grayish fur turned out not to be a cat, I'd swerve, while thinking to myself, "just a 'possum," and keep on going.

(Truth be told, a possum is a different animal. Cuter. Looks a bit like a koala. Lives in Australia.)

My antipathy toward opossums softened when I met 'Marcie.'

I was freelancing for a Cleveland TV station. The assignment desk needed a story for me to do. I said, "How about I do a feature on the Nature Center?"

Most such places love free publicity and the Nature Center was no exception. It's wildlife guide introduced us (me and my shooter) to long-time residents of the center: a crippled hawk, and Marcie. Each had had an unfortunate encounter with a car couldn't survive in the wild. Instead, the two educated and entertained grade school kids. And clueless reporters who knew squat about opossums except that they killed kittens.

That day, I learned that opossums are the only 'marsupial' in North America. "Marsupial" means that, like a kangaroo, opossums have a pouch. In that pouch, again like the kangaroo, the female opossum carries, and suckles, offspring. They do NOT eat kittens. They gorge on ticks, thus protecting dogs from heartworm.

"Okay," I thought. "Not such horrid creatures after all."

I asked the center's wildlife guide if he'd stand with me with Marcie as I did my liveshot. He said, "Wouldn't you like to hold her?"

Masking my reluctance, I said, "I'll need a chair." (I didn't want to drop her or otherwise upset her.) Involved standups were popular, I knew. Viewers like it when you DO something.

So, I cradled Marcie in one elbow and we went live. As I was explaining about opossums being North America's only marsupial, I looked down to smile at Marcie.

Her face split open in a big wide yawn. Teeth. All I saw was teeth. LOTS of teeth. I shrieked. The nature center guy retrieved Marcie, the producer cut back to the anchors, and they wrapped things up.

I went back to the station to rework the piece into an anchor voiceover for a later show. The minute I walked in, the news director said, "Let's go in my office." "Oh boy," I thought. "Here we go." With his back to me, he cued my liveshot. With Marcie and I facing each other, our mouths wide open, he turned, laughing, and told me, "Best standup in the show!"



PHOTO COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

An opossum has 50 teeth but, if cornered, is more likely to feign a heart attack than try to bite you.

Forever after, I've been a true fan of 'possums.

I love that there are wildlife rescue and rehabilitators in Northern California who specialize in raising joeys. They look for mama opossums on the road. If the mama doesn't make it, the rehabilitators remove the tiny joeys from the pouch and then hand-raise them. Amazing, given that they look like newborn hamsters. Or maybe popcorn shrimp. Anyway, they SAVE THEM! Only such rehabilitators, with permission from the state, are allowed to release them when they're grown. And regular people, like you and me, are not allowed to own one as a pet. However nice they might prove to be.

So, I hope you haven't minded my not writing about virus deaths and looting. I needed to share something that brings me joy. Like 'possums and their little joeys.

Carol Bogart hopes, if you ever see an opossum in the road when you're driving, you'll try not to hit it. It may only be stunned, plus opossums really do 'play dead' when they're really scared. Given a few minutes, the opossum might get up and amble off, saving herself – and her babies. Questions, comments? Contact Carol at carol@bogartonline.com.

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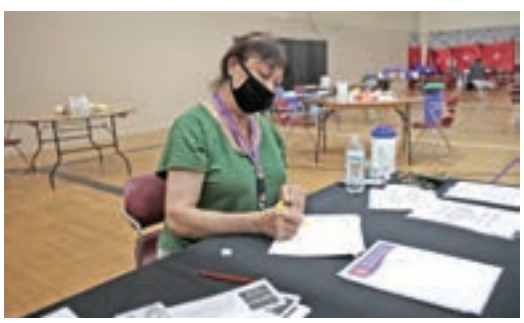
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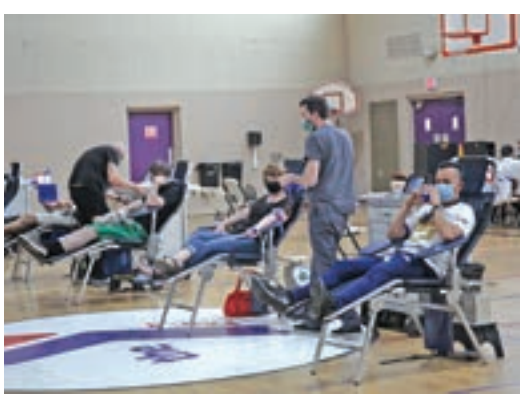
continued from page 2

Then came Trump and his use of American troops to rout peacefully assembled American citizens so he could take a theatrical stroll to a church where he smirked and waved a bible. This was creepy because we don't so far have a state religion in this country. Or do we? Or was the spectacle supposed to make us forget that we endure this administration's multiple failures, first to recognize the disease threat (remember the "hoax?"), and then to combat it with a national testing and tracing program? Or was the bible display supposed to make us forget that Trump refused to apologize for the full-page ads he took out in '89 calling for the death of the innocent Central Park Five (one Latino kid and four African American kids wrongly imprisoned for rape)?

I don't know. But I know we are plagued. The whole world is plagued with these diseases. As I write the White House is barricaded like a palace in an authoritarian state, and troops without insignia formed around protesters. No insignia means no identification and no identification means no accountability. I don't know how secret police fit in a free country.

I do know this: race hatred is a mental deficiency that retards humanity. I know the USA has 4% of the world's population and 24% of its Covid 19 (Johns Hopkins/Washington Post). I know we should trust science. I know our constitutional freedoms need protection. I know our burdens are ancient and complex. I know if some of us get Covid, we die. I know black lives matter.





Masked faces and places:

YMCA Community Blood Drive for Vitalant

Photos by Stephen Crowley

The Sacramento Central YMCA, 2021 W St., held a blood drive for Vitalant where donors learned their COVID-19 antibody status on Friday, June 6 and Saturday, June 7. Blood donation is needed as hospitals offer more medical procedures.

Blood donation delivers double the good to help save lives because donors are able to learn their COVID-19 antibody status, which is especially important given the critical shortage of blood as hospitals have increased surgeries and other procedures. Antibody tests are used to tell if someone had a past infection with SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. This testing, however, does not indicate whether the antibodies neutralize the virus and protect against reinfection. For more information, visit: www.ymcasuperiorcal.org/blooddrive.



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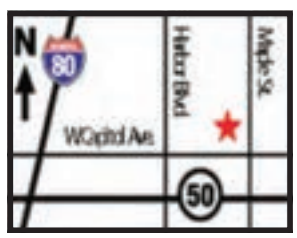
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Thank You,
John Lane
Northern California Kingsdown Bedding Company

Justice:

continued from page 5

• Sacramento County recently approved a $7 million dollar design/build contract to begin planning to expand the Main Jail downtown. This is just the beginning of what we know will be an extremely expensive project, with devastating human and financial costs. We demand the Board of Supervisors cancel the contract and invest the $7 million in community-based resources.

• Our jail population was reduced by over 30% due to COVID-19 related releases, and the County should be focused on continuing down this path by reinvesting savings, in housing, mental health care, and re-entry efforts led by impacted people — not giving more money to the Sheriff.

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

• The Sacramento Police Department is slated to get $41,727,000, an ~51%, of 20/21 Measure U funding, outweighing all other community improvements combined, with Youth, Parks and Enrichment getting only $14,403,000 total. This is in direct contradiction to Mayor Steinberg's Measure U campaign promises.

• The City's 20/21 Budget forecasts this same disparate Measure U allocation for the next 5 years, with the $41,727,000 toward SPD growing to $48,155,000 by 24/25.

• The overall City of Sacramento 20/21 Budget increased the Sacramento Police Department's allowance by $10,476,000, for a total budget of $157,505,000. The total for Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment is $43,501,000.

Lotus flowers in bloom at William Land Park

Photos by Jen Henry

Every year at just about this time, lotus flowers bloom in the small pond at William Land Park.







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Welcome Back and Parrot Updates – A Message from the Sacramento Zoo Director

By Jason Jacobs

First of all, we are thrilled we have been able to welcome our community back to the Sacramento Zoo, as of June 15! Please remember that all tickets (even for members) must be reserved in advance for a specific day and time through the Plan Your Visit page on our website. No tickets will be sold at the gate. Thank you for your patience and support! We look forward to seeing you at the zoo beginning next Monday.

The Sacramento Zoo houses nearly 500 animals, each with its own individual story and specific husbandry needs. Caring for such a variety of species comes with a flow of births, transfers and sometimes, death. In late April, a longtime zoo resident, Heinie, an Amazon parrot passed away.

Heinie was hatched nearly 35 years ago and arrived at the Sac Zoo in 1991. Despite several attempts over the years to introduce her to other parrots, Heinie preferred the company of humans. She was a favorite of zoo staff, docents and our guests. While playing music from a phone, her keeper, Kristene, noticed Heinie showed greater interaction and moved up and down her perch, moving with the beat. Amazon parrots are social birds, so with the approval of the zoo's veterinary team, a playlist was tailored to Heinie's specific musical tastes. She enjoyed songs by the Beatles and Beach Boys, as well as upbeat holiday music. Staff posted a sign adjacent to Heinie's aviary encouraging our guests to dance and sing along with her. She would often welcome visitors to her corner of the zoo with whistles and other vocalizations. For the last several years, Heinie had been receiving treatment for several long-term chronic health issues including heart disease and degenerative joint problems which were carefully monitored by zoo keepers and veterinary staff. Heinie's long life at the zoo represents the best of what we can provide to our animals, a forever home with daily care and incredible veterinary science for aged and geriatric animals.

Over the past several weeks Heinie's former aviary was refreshed with new perching to house a pair of hawk-headed parrots. These beautifully-colored birds are native to South America. The Sacramento Zoo's pair were hatched at separate AZA-accredited zoos in 1998 and brought to our zoo within the past year and a half for introductions to each other. The species receives its name from the elongated red feathers, edged in blue that rest on its head. When alarmed or playfully excited, the parrot can raise the feathers on the nape of its neck to form a fan to make it appear like a larger bird. Hawk-headed parrots nest inside hollowed holes within trees; these holes are usually formed by other birds such as woodpeckers.

All parrots are classified as Psittacines. This group of birds includes species such as cockatoo, macaw, parakeet, lorikeet and cockatiels. Psittacines are known for their hooked bills, colorful plumage and feathers as well as their vocalizations. Many species are popular in zoological parks due to their ability to mimic other sounds, including the voices of humans. Despite their popularity, nearly a quarter of the 400 species of Psittacines are threatened with habitat destruction or other challenges such as capture for the pet trade.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists the hawk-headed parrots as a species of least concern, which means that for now the wild population of these parrots is stable. In the tradition of Heinie the Amazon parrot, the zoo's pair of hawk-headed parrots are extremely gregarious and enjoy interacting with our guests and staff. On your next visit to the zoo, make sure to pay them a visit in their aviary near the jaguar habitat. If you say a few kind words to them you might receive a chirp, whistle or several other fun assorted sounds.



Heinie the plain-colored Amazon parrot

We look forward to seeing you at the zoo soon!

Jason Jacobs is the executive director of the Sacramento Zoo. If you wish to assist the animals during these unprecedented times, consider a donation to the zoo's Emergency Relief Fund.

Sacramento Zoo is located at 3930 West Land Park Drive. For more information, call 916-808-5888, email info@saczoo.org or visit saczoo.org



Fairytale Town has reopened



With approval through the new County Health order, Humpty's gates are once again open to the public, as of Saturday, June 13.

Of course, things are a bit different for visitors. The biggest change is that reservations are needed to enter the park. You can make your reservation online by visiting the plan your visit page. Please print your confirmation tickets and bring it with you to the park. Please note that reservations are non-refundable and non-transferable.

REMOVING RESERVATION FEE FOR MEMBERS:

If you are a member and have not received an email from Fairytale Town, please email the Membership Team at members@fairytaletown.org or call 916-808-4537 or 916-808-7462 to get your exclusive code that removes the reservation fee. Please provide your membership number in your email or voicemail and staff will return your message as soon as they are able.

NEW PRECAUTION AND RULES:

Staff asks guests to follow a few simple rules to help keep everyone safe:

Parties must stay together at all times.

One family at a time on playsets, so please be thoughtful and give others a chance to play.

Please keep six feet between you and guests outside of your party.

In compliance with the Governor's new mask order, all families must wear masks at Fairytale Town. Children under the age of 2 will not be required to wear a mask.

Please do not plan to visit if you, or anyone in your party, are feeling ill.

In addition to requiring reservations to enter the park, we have instituted enhanced protocols and procedures to help keep you safe. Regular cleaning of the play equipment, additional hand sanitizer stations, and blocking off select benches, tables, and play sets are just some of the ways we are working to protect you and your family while you're at the park. Please watch our informational video to see how things will look on your next visit.

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Country Club Lanes reopens with $25,000 in upgrades

Business had been closed since March 19



Photo courtesy of Country Club Lanes

A member of the Country Club Lanes "Clean Crew" sanitizes a countertop.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Country Club Lanes, the decades-old entertainment center at Watt and El Camino avenues, reopened to the public on June 12, with a new look to its interior.

The business, which had not served a single customer in nearly three months, spent about $25,000 on improvements, much of which are designed to prevent the spreading of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sacramento County public health officials, on March 19, issued a stay-at-home order, and called for the closure of all nonessential businesses.

During its closure, this business took full advantage of its sudden free time to make upgrades to protect its employees and customers.

That work included the building of 11 partitions that separate each of the four-lane sections of Country Club Lanes' 48 lanes.

Other improvements included installing sanitation stations, repainting the building's interior, replacing some sheetrock, and refurbishing all four downstairs restrooms.

Dave Haness, president of Country Club Lanes, last week, mentioned that the partitions' Plexiglas alone cost about $3,000.

Each partition includes a wood border to create an aesthetically-pleasing appearance.

Throughout the business's closure, seven to nine employees were kept on the payroll to assist with the physical changes inside the building. Those people were management and mechanics.

The business also retained about 60 employees, who weren't working during the closure, and several employees are currently assigned to the "Clean Crew," which does nothing other than sanitize the business against the spread of this coronavirus.

Despite its reopening and having the funds to perform upgrades, Country Club Lanes is financially challenged in its current situation, Haness noted.

"Being able to operate is certainly better than being closed," he said. "But we're still at a position with the situation that we have right now, (that) you can't make any money. We're still bleeding, because we're not open to capacity."

Haness described his approach in having the recent improvements made at Country Club Lanes.

"I not only wanted to follow every protocol that (Sacramento) County Health Director Peter Beilenson laid out in his health order, but I wanted to go above and beyond it to make sure that when our customers came into our facility, they could feel as assured as possibly that they were in a safe environment, with as little chance as possible to catch the virus that the world is so concerned with," he said.

Another way that Country Club Lanes is extending beyond the health order is creating a face covering-related requirement.

"Instead of strongly encouraging masks, as the county health order provides, we mandate masks to enter the facility," he said. "We don't mandate masks while they're actually in the bowlers' area bowling and consuming food or beverage.

"But once they're out of the bowlers' area, whether they're going to the restroom or they're going to order, or visit a friend or see someone up on the course, there has to be a mask that is worn."

Haness stressed that the business does not waver on this rule.

"We're vigilant in making sure that actually takes place," he said.

Another way that Country Club Lanes extends further than the county order is through its mandatory temperature checks of every person that desires to enter the facility, including the business's owners and management, and sales and delivery workers.

Haness stressed the importance of protecting anyone who works for him.

"Their health, their welfare, their safety is of the absolute tantamount importance in my mind, and that's what we're going to continue to focus on as the months go by as we're open," he said.

With his efforts to help prevent the spread of this coronavirus, Haness hopes that Country Club Lanes will serve as a model for businesses that are operating with looser restrictions, in terms of mask wearing and temperature checking, and the monitoring of social distancing.

"I'm terribly distressed at the lack of care that so many of my business peers are exhibiting as they open up with Phase 3 of the county's order," he said. "It really bothers me that so many (businesses) don't have anywhere near the care or concern that I think they should have for their employees, as well as the customers that are patronizing their businesses.

"One of ours goals is to be a model, and I enjoy it when people come up to me and say, 'Gosh almighty, I don't know anyone that has taken the care and caution that you're taking here at Country Club Lanes. I take pride that people see it and appreciate it."

Although he recognizes the importance of the nearly three-month closure of this entertainment center, Haness shared his disappointment with the ending of this business's continuous streak of never closing.

"Since I started running the business (in) 1977, one of the first things I did was to have our facility open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, no exceptions, year after year after year," he said. "It was an odd deal when we had to shut down March (19).

"What we were always known for was we were the only family entertainment center, certainly in the greater Sacramento area and probably Northern California, that was open 24 hours."

The business currently operates from 9 a.m. to 2:30 a.m. daily, with plans to eventually return to its previous schedule of operation.

Currently, the six and a half hours that this business is closed per day are used by employees to perform additional sanitizing and deep cleaning.

In addition to bowling, Country Club Lanes offers an arcade, a bar, food concessions and laser tag. The latter attraction is not yet open to the public.

Also currently closed is the facility's 7,000-square-foot, upstairs room, which is generally available to be rented for a variety of events.

For additional information about Country Club Lanes, call 916-483-5105 or visit the website www.countryclublanes.com.

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Juneteenth celebrated at Cesar Chavez Park on Friday, June 19

Photos by Monica Stark

Commemorating the Emancipation of the last remaining enslaved Blacks in the Confederacy, Juneteenth was celebrated with speeches of social justice, including the call to defund the police and to take police out of schools.



























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