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Land Park News

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‘NO FISHING’ rule at William Land Park draws further reaction

see page 10

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Tremendous Location



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Dual pane windows throughout, newer HVAC and metal shingle roof are some of the highlights. A covered parking spot and an oversized 2 car garage are a big bonus! Vintage tile in the full bathroom, separate tub and shower. Giant picture window in the living room brings the outdoors in. Bring your gardening gloves, tools and your vision. DIY special!!
1117 Brownwyk Dr $499,000

SMUD is taking the lead on building a cleaner future for region

By Rosanna Herber
SMUD Ward 4 Director



Following several months of community meetings, workshops and public input, the SMUD Board of Directors recently approved a Zero Carbon Plan that commits us to removing carbon emissions from SMUD's power supply by 2030. It's the most ambitious clean-energy plan of any large electric utility in the nation.

There are many reasons why we set such an aggressive path.

Sacramento's poor air quality and the growing effects of climate change through drought and wildfires prompted us to take action now. In the American Lung Association's "2020 State of the Air" report, Sacramento was ranked the sixth-most polluted city in the country based on days of unhealthy levels of air pollution in the ozone layer. The public health implications are real - the Sacramento region's childhood asthma rates are more than 20 percent higher than the national average. That's unacceptable.

While SMUD is one of the greenest utilities in the country, we currently rely on natural gas for about half of our power generation. We plan to close two of our gas plants by 2025 and re-tool the others to reduce the amount of carbon SMUD puts into the air. Our Zero Carbon Plan will focus on proven and new clean technologies, new business models and partnerships, the remodeling and retirement of natural gas plants, and regulatory and financial strategies.

At the same time, the Board is committed to maintaining reliable, around-the-clock service while keeping rate increases at or below the rate of inflation. Our customers tell us that affordable rates and reliable electricity are their top two priorities, even as they voice strong support for SMUD's clean-energy efforts. The Board will not forget it's commitment to low rates and reliability as we take this journey.

The electrification of buildings and vehicles is a key part of the Zero Carbon Plan. SMUD doesn't intend to force our customers to act one way or another, but we do plan to offer education and incentives to ease the transition to a carbon free future.

One of the biggest strengths of the Zero Carbon Plan is its flexibility. We're not taking such a large step in any one direction that we can't pivot if we need to, based on new technologies or market conditions. We know where we're going, in other words, but our path is flexible. This plan gives us the adaptability to choose the best route.

We realize we can't accomplish this important goal alone. We need the support of a wide range of players, including our residential and business customers, elected officials, local business groups, community leaders, technology companies, car manufacturers, solar companies, and more. We're committed to full transparency and to making sure that all of our customers, including those living in historically under resourced communities benefit from this effort.

Together, we can lead the way to a cleaner, healthier, more sustainable future. I encourage you to visit CleanPowerCity.org to learn more about the Zero Carbon Plan. You can also send me your thoughts at Rosanna.Herber@smud.org.

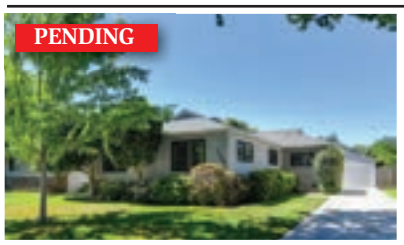


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Classic River Park Beauty!



This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has been wonderfully maintained and upgraded by long term owners and is ready for you. Refinished original hardwood floors throughout with a cozy gas fireplace and bookshelves in the generous living room and dining areas with large picture windows and plantation shutters over-looking the private and lush back yard. **5404 Spilman Ave • $675,000**

Exquisite Spanish Beauty!



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Do you have a story? Tell it to us.
Call Monica Stark at 916-429-9901

Broadway district business operators speak about June 15 full reopening

State ends tier restrictions across California

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

California's 15-month economic shutdown ended on June 15 when the state lifted its color-coded tier system that limited business activities and crowd capacities to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Since that date, those who are vaccinated are no longer required to wear face coverings, except in certain situations, such as while using public transportation, visiting health care facilities, and spending time indoors at K-12 schools and child care facilities. Businesses no longer have crowd capacity limits, but they can still require customers to wear masks, even if they are vaccinated.

As of June 11, more than 644,000 Sacramento County residents have been fully vaccinated, according to the county's public health data. The county's population is more than 1.5 million.

Sacramento County had an Orange Tier 3 status before the state ended its color-coded tier system.

Additionally, the county had a COVID-19 case rate of 3.8 new cases per 100,000 residents, as of June 15, the county's public health staff reported.

On June 16, the day after the state ended the restrictions of its Blueprint for a Safer Economy plan, the Land Park News spoke with Broadway district business operators about their experiences during the months of crowd capacity limits, store closures, and other restrictions.

Guillermo Leyva, of Pancho's Cocina Mexicana, mentioned that with the arrival of June 15 came an opportunity to increase its dining limit from 50% to 100% capacity.

"We were Orange Tier, (then on June 15), we went from (a capacity limit of) 35 (people) to our full 70," he said.

He noted that although the restaurant can operate at full capacity, he believes that customers still enjoy some separation from each other while dining.

"Customers still want a little bit of that separation," Leyva said. "They're like, 'Maybe we're not ready yet.'"

Although Pancho's customers are not required to wear face coverings, this restaurant's staff must still abide by this eatery's mask-wearing policy.

Jose Barreto, manager of Scrub Boys Car Wash, referred to an increase in business at this car wash since June 15.

"We're getting more business than what it was," he said. "People feel more secure. I'm excited, too, (to) start getting more business."



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Joe Shook, manager of P&M Tool Center, said that with June 15 came the elimination of this business's face covering requirement.

Barreto recalled the early part of the pandemic, which affected this business.

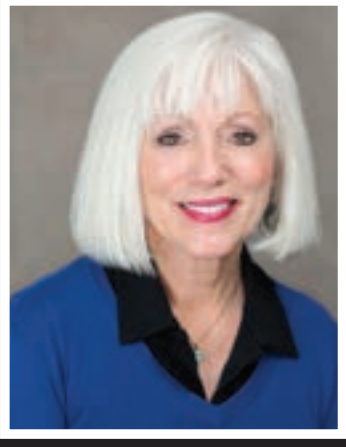
"People didn't want to come out," he said. "They were worried about their health. I don't blame them. I would have done the same thing, too. My own opinion, I wouldn't risk my health to be around a lot of people in one place (at that time)."

Shimal Shiaanjmi, of Broadway Chevron, said that although masks are still required at that business, enforcing that rule is not easy.

"We try to (enforce that rule), but it depends on the people," she said. "We can't force people to wear (face coverings). But we have the (pro-mask wearing) poster and everything."

Abdul Altah, of Payless Wireless, Boost Mobile, noted that he believes that face coverings will be around for a long time.

see Broadway page 7

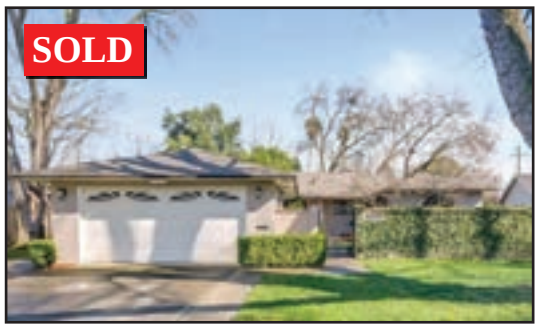


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SO. LAND PARK ESTATES

A spacious treasure in South Land Park Estates! The front double doors surprise you showing off the wide entry and over-sized living room and dining area with beautiful hardwood floors, classic light fixtures and picture windows. Two entry passageways to the expansive new Chef's kitchen with island, comfort lighting, custom cabinets, over-sized farm sink, La Cornue stove plus extra oven and wet bar with wine refrigerator. This dream kitchen opens to a family room with fireplace, and slider to the covered patio and pool sized backyard / play yard, complete with bocce ball court. The master suite has substantial closets, and the master bath has a tiled stall shower. All hardwood floors in hallway and two bedrooms plus a classic hall bathroom with a shower over tub. The inside laundry room has an extra half bathroom with additional door to yard. A WOW sized two car garage and nicely landscaped front yard. This is a must see!
1412 Carrousel Lane $1,079,000



SO. LAND PARK TERRACE

Rare find in South Land Park! Nestled on a 0.32 acre lot, this home boasts 5 bdrm/2.5 bath. Enter through a private gate to an intimate interior courtyard, complete with fountain and patio. The double door entry, brings you to a welcoming foyer with mahogany inlay, highlighting the hardwood floors throughout. A wall of built-in bookcases graces the bright formal living room, which is centered around a gas fireplace. A Chef kitchen is distinguished by custom walnut cabinetry, stainless steel double ovens, warming drawer, and large island which overlooks breakfast area and built-in desk. Kitchen is supported by spacious pantry and laundry room. Beautiful beveled pocket doors lead to the family room with fireplace insert, and airy formal dining room. Bdrms boast large closets. Updated hall bath has double sinks, marble floor, shower and tub. Master bdrm with private en suite with walk-in closet. Extensive backyard, with patio, fountain, fruit trees and small guest cottage. **4231 Euclid Avenue**



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Celebrate the return to normalcy: But understand we're not yet fully there

By Devin Lavelle



After about fifteen months of significant restrictions to protect our community from the spread of COVID, the Governor's Executive Order saw most of those restrictions come to an end on Tuesday, June 15.

Californians who are vaccinated can go nearly everywhere without a mask and most businesses can operate without capacity limits and most other restrictions.

Before we get too far into celebrating, note there are a few limitations. Some public facilities will still require masks (schools, healthcare, long term care, correctional facilities and public transit). In addition, adults who have chosen not to be vaccinated are still required to be masked to limit the risks to others from their choice. (Especially children who cannot yet be vaccinated and immunocompromised neighbors of all ages)

That said, in most ways, for most of us, if we choose, a return to normalcy is here!

So with that, it's time to celebrate! And what better way to celebrate than by visiting one of our great local restaurants? Our neighborhood has so many great choices, covering a huge range of cuisines. Maybe visit a longtime favorite? Or try one of the newer restaurants that the pandemic stopped you from trying?

Homero's (near Bel Air) opened just a few months ago and offers great taqueria-style Mexican food. Sushi Q (on Florin) open a few months ago, as well, focused on sushi, with a full range of Japanese fare. Started in Elk Grove, this is their second location. Caffe Latte (Riverlake Village) changed ownership last winter when the LaVelles (no relation) retired and has had a major revamp since with updated the interior and an expanded menu with lots of great sandwiches and salads, in addition to the breakfast fare (plus crepes!). Tamashii Ramen (near Nugget) opened just before the pandemic, only to immediately have to shut its doors when COVID hit, with great ramen, sushi and other Japanese treats.

So what should we look forward to as we move past COVID this summer?

For Cacio's Katie, it's simple: "Tomatoes, stone fruit, Friday lunches...meatball sandwiches!! All of the things we missed last summer putting on an actual plate."

Ken, from Device, is focused on bringing community together, "We're looking forward to hosting community events, live music, and much more!"

And at Sushi Q, Kimthy looks forward to, "A more comfortable dining experience, indoors and outdoors, and possibly having the sushi bar open up!"

As excited as I am to get back to normal, our local restaurants have been through a really difficult time, both financially and having to deal with constantly changing regulations, so they are understandably harboring some reservations.

Katie relates, "We are feeling skeptical because we have had capacity/spacing restrictions for 15 months plus masking rules. We look forward to our new normal of more responsibly spaced seating indoors. The pandemic has taught us a good deal in terms of our business and we look forward to what the future holds. So many exciting things coming!!"

Ken seems cautiously hopeful, "It's good to see the state making real progress toward moving past COVID-19. My hope is that people remain responsible in their behavior and aware that this virus is not yet eradicated. However, it does appear that the population is moving toward immunity, which is fantastic news."

Kimthy shared mixed emotions, "We feel a bit relieved but also a bit nervous since we're in the same boat as most restaurants being understaffed."

All of our restaurants will have challenges over the next few months. The few who were able to keep consistent staffing levels are having to adjust to new rules and new processes as they adjust to customer wants and needs. The restaurants that have been able to fully hire are dealing with those same challenges while bringing in and getting new employees up to speed. And those that aren't so lucky are doing that all while short-staffed. They will get through it in time but know that they are doing their best and please be patient and kind when challenges occur.

Kimthy shared how important it is to remember that adjusting to this new normal is a challenge, "With indoor dining opening up, we still have a high call volume with phone-in orders. We would like others to be considerate and patient as we try to navigate new & constantly changing territory. Keep in mind, we are here to service the community and that takes a whole village."

Katie also emphasized how important reservations are to their business. "When people cancel a reservation with short notice or no show for a reservation, it now has much more impact. We count on those reservations to survive, we have staffed humans based off of these reservations. If people can do anything to help restaurants survive the next 6-12 months is to fulfill reservations or at least give enough adequate notice so tables may be rebooked. It may seem minimal to the layman but it greatly impacts us all right now."

I also heard from restauranteurs who are not able to return to normal yet. Whether from an inability to staff up or a desire to take a wait-and-see approach to ensure reopening happens safely and avoids a resurgence and future closures.

That would be the worst thing that could happen to our community, our families, our economy and, of course, our local restaurants. So please do your part:

If you're not vaccinated – get vaccinated or wear a mask.

Be patient and considerate, know that this is a time of adjustment.

Be kind, know that some neighbors and businesses may be more cautious about COVID and they are fully entitled to feel that way and enforce whatever restrictions they want within their homes and businesses.

Keep on supporting our local businesses. Things may be getting back to normal for many of us, but this is their recovery period and they'll need a long period of "normal" before they stop feeling the pain of the pandemic.

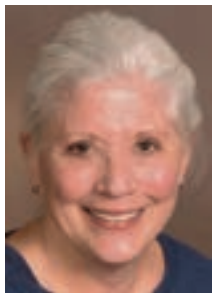
And know that your local restauranteurs appreciate you for all of your support:

Katie, "We are so grateful for all of the support we have been given. Our little restaurant has survived for no other reason than the humans that supported us every week, every month. We wouldn't be here without people who believed in us and sacrificed their own loss in finances to keep us going. The hard part for restaurants as people move forward is the acknowledgment of staffing restrictions, how capacity limitations have greatly impacted our cash flow. We all are hanging on every bit we can right now. We were fortunate to have received the second round of PPP which enabled us to hire 4 humans.

And Ken leaves us with, "These past 15 months have been challenging, to say the very least. We're so grateful to all the people who continued to support us through all of this. We're also deeply thankful for our amazing staff who faithfully came to work every day to serve our guests."

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THIS 'n' THAT

by Carol Bogart

Want To Quit Smoking?

If it was tough before, the pandemic's made it tougher, hasn't it. We crave a lot of things. Human interaction. Hugs. A drink. A cigarette. Pot. Hugs. Sex.

The list goes on and on.

My list is pretty short these days. I miss hugging. But let's take smoking.

Here's my own history. Mom, a good'50s mother, told me I should never smoke and why. When I was maybe 4 or so, she took me to watch dad play baseball. He was smoking. I sobbed and wailed. "Daaaaaddddddy! Don't DIIIIEEEEEEE!!!!"

Well, I never saw him smoke again. At night, before he went to bed, he allowed himself one Lucky Strike – behind closed doors. The bathroom.

When I was 9, I stole one. To impress friends in the neighborhood. We climbed the tree next to my folks' garage, sat on the roof and lit it. Blegh. No filter. Icky stuff on your tongue. Undaunted, we scrounged a butt-with-filter from beneath a hedge. Ugh, ugh, triple ugh. MENTHOL! AWFUL!!!

Well, the short version after that is a brief fling with cigarettes in junior high, trying to look like movie stars of the day. None in high school. Took it up again when I was waitressing. Smoking was 'what you did' when you were on your break.

By my TV News years, I was buying Winston's by the carton. And smoking two-and-a-half packs a day.

I get it that it's hard to quit that kind of habit.

When a non-smoking boyfriend wanted me to quit, I switched to Winston Lights. He said he'd take me to Acapulco if I quit completely. Hmm. I tossed the carton, but took one pack.

In Acapulco, I learned two things. Dispirited horses on the beach made me so sad and I would never, ever ride one. And, I was done with smoking.

Here's how I did it.

Each time I wanted a cigarette, I told myself I could have one … in three minutes. Oh, boy, did I watch the clock! By the time I was back in Denver, that pack was pretty ragged. The seal and cellophane were gone. The foil was ripped. But, I hadn't had one. I'd upped my 'wait' time to an hour. By the third week, all 20 cigarettes still in the pack, I threw it away.

Habituated behaviors. That's what's tough. But you can change those, too.

I used to keep a cute green glass ashtray next to my desk in Denver. Back from a story – at first I had trouble getting started. My habit was to light a cigarette and THEN start writing.

The boyfriend (also a reporter/anchor) sat at the desk next to me. A few weeks after we returned from Acapulco, he gave me skis for my birthday – and informed me he 'needed' to go to Detroit to see if he was 'over' his ex-girlfriend.

The news director told me yes, I could move my desk.

So. EX-boyfriend. But I credit him for 1) getting me to quit smoking and 2) having procedures done that, I'm convinced, resulted in my one and only baby.

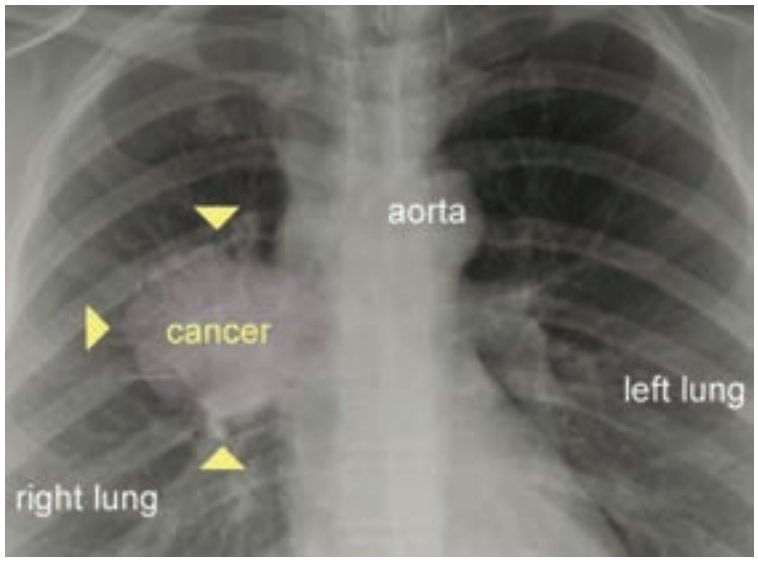


PHOTO COURTESY OF NIH

An Xray image of a healthy lung won't have cloudiness, like this left lung, or large spots.

Mom told me she'd had a dream and woke up crying, "I dreamed you started smoking again." I said, "Don't worry mom, I never will."

It took eight years, if you can believe it, to find cigarettes disgusting. Now, nearly 40 years since I quit, the desire's gone. Completely.

So if you believe the myth that getting vaccinated could mean no babies and you want to someday be a parent – and yet, you smoke – stop now. If I can do it, you can.

Did you start smoking, or now smoke more, due to pandemic tension? Current research says if you quit by the time you're 35, you'll have healthy lungs in 15 years. (Assuming some viral strain doesn't get in there and wreak havoc.) For more tips on quitting smoking, go to https://www.webmd.com/smoking-cessation/news/20040608/quit-smoking-before-age-35-to-regain-health. Questions, comments for Carol Bogart? Contact her at carol@bogartonline.com.

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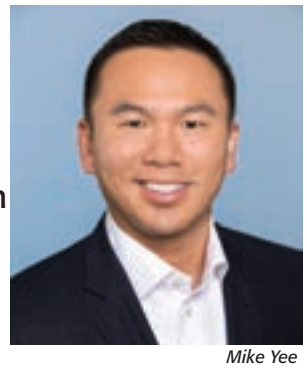
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Scouts of Troop 259 participated in a historical flags ceremony



On Flag Day, June 14, the Scouts of Troop 259 participated with Elks Lodge #6 in a Historical Flags Ceremony. This ceremony gave testimony of the endeavors and sacrifices for each of the flags that have represented the United States of America through its past. Afterward, the Elks participated with the Scouts as numerous U.S. flags that were no longer in a fitting condition for display were respectfully retired.

With reverence, every flag was distinguished for its individual tour of duty prior to ceremoniously being relinquished from service in a dignified manner. This role is a heavy responsibility, and the task was not taken lightly.

As our community is coming out of Covid, Scout Troop 259 has been actively moving forward to getting out there too. Of course, we also are jumping through every hoop to ensure the priority of our own health and safety. No shortcuts.

We are striking out to return to monthly campouts and a week-long summer camp experience! The Scouts are itching to get out of the Zoom classrooms and into great activities where they can be the guys making the stories.

Campfires may be banned in California this year, but not making an omelet in a zip-lock bag dropped in boiling water on a propane stove (try that one out!). For those 11-to 18-year-olds who are interested in Scout Troop 259, we meet every Monday at the Elks Lodge, 7 p.m.

Reducing Fire Risk in County Regional Parks



Goats grazing in dry grass and vegetation

Fire season has started early this year, and the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks has a multi-pronged plan to reduce fire risk, defend wildlife habitat and protect our natural resources and neighborhoods adjacent to the parks.

For its 2021 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan, the Department of Regional Parks has lined up cattle, sheep and goat grazing contracts; is utilizing maintenance crews to maintaining fire breaks; and is issuing fuel break maintenance permits to properties bordering Park properties.

"We are halfway through June and we have already seen a higher fire frequency this summer than in recent years past," said Deputy Director Mike Doane, Sacramento County Regional Parks. "It is important for park visitors to remember that open flame fires are not allowed; barbequing is only permitted in designated picnic areas; and smoking is only allowed in developed picnic areas, asphalt surfaces, golf courses and levee tops in the American River Parkway".

To decrease the number and size potential of wildfires in our parks system, the techniques used will be applicable for each area and will include:

Firebreaks – A combination of mowing, soil discing and targeted herbicides will be used where appropriate to create perimeters around open fields, along fence lines and behind neighborhoods. This work is scheduled to be completed by end of June.

Ladder Fuel Hand-Crews – In limited, hard-to-reach areas, hand-crews will remove vegetation that allows the potential for a fire to climb up or move into urban areas.

Grazing – There are hundreds of acres of undeveloped or protected land in our Regional Parks. This vegetation can be a costly and deadly fire hazard. Goats and sheep are ideal for vegetation management and are great at eating down weeds, bushes and grass that manned crews cannot get to. Grazing is expected to occur between May and the end of June.

Annual Encroachment Permits – Residents who live adjacent to Regional Parks properties are able to apply for free annual encroachment permits to maintain a fire break behind their property line. These allow residents to string-trim grass and weeds for up to 50 feet beyond their private property line. To request a permit, provide your name, address and contact information to Regional Parks at parksinfo@SacCounty.net.

Visit the Regional Parks website to learn more the 2021 Fire Fuel Reduction Action Plan for Sacramento County Parks. If you see a fire burning in our Regional Parks, please call 9-1-1.

Discounts available to encourage travel by train this summer

With the State's reopening on Tuesday, June 15, the Capitol Corridor is re-introducing a pair of popular fare promotions this summer to encourage train travel in Northern California. The two promotions are:

Take 5 for $5 Weekends: Buy one full-fare ticket and bring up to five companions for $5 each person, each way. Offer is good for travel on Saturdays, Sundays, and holiday Mondays through September 19, 2021. More info: https://www.capitolcorridor.org/takefive-companion-fares/

Seniors Ride Half Off Midweek: Half-off fares for seniors ages 62 and over. Offer is good for travel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays through September 23, 2021. More info: https://www.capitolcorridor.org/seniors-save-50-percent-midweek/

"Ridership has been gradually increasing since the start of the year, and we expect that trend to accelerate with the recent opening of the State," said Rob Padgette, Managing Director of the Capitol Corridor. "We are excited to start seeing more riders on the train as people head back to offices and leisure travel picks up. By offering a variety of fare discounts, we hope to give people more reasons to choose the train to reconnect with friends and visit their favorite places in Northern California.

California Everyday Discounts: In addition to the new fare offers available this summer, the Capitol Corridor has a number of everyday discounts that passengers can take advantage of at any time. These include California Everyday Discounts for students, seniors, passengers with disability, veterans, and active military.

The Friends & Family ticket offer, which is good any day of the week, allows one full-fare paying customer to bring up to five companions at 50% off.

Terms and conditions for all discount fares, as well as booking information can be found at www.capitolcorridor.org/deals-promotions/.

Health & Safety a Priority; Masks Still Required: To ensure the continued health and safety of passengers and staff, the Capitol Corridor's rigorous health and safety protocols remain in place with enhanced surface cleaning and air filtration. Passengers are also required by federal mandate to continue wearing a face covering while onboard trains, buses, and at stations. For more information visit www.capitolcorridor.org/health.

Broadway:

continued from page 3

"Restaurants, I did notice a bit of change (since June 15)," he said. "Some people don't wear masks, some people still do. Also, gyms, some people start to not wear masks. But I think it's going to be more of a slow process of people getting the vaccine and giving up the mask."

Altah added that all of Payless Wireless, Boost Mobile's workers are vaccinated, and that this business's employees and its customers are not required to wear masks.

"It's up to the customer on how they want to approach it," he said. "We recommend that either you get vaccinated or you wear your masks – one or the other – but it's up to the customer. But once you're vaccinated, in my opinion, I don't think there's any reason to (wear a mask)."

Felise Sanchez, owner of Mane Exclusive Salon, told this paper that not much changed at her business on June 15.

"I'm a pretty low-key salon," she said. "We've been taking the necessary precautions for a while. We're not on top of each other, so we really didn't require the barriers (between hair stylists), because everything's already apart. (People) usually come in with the mask and then they take it off."

Joe Shook, manager of P&M Tool Center, noted that with June 15 came the elimination of this business's face covering requirement.

"We had a sign (referring to that mask requirement), but yesterday, my boss said, 'The mask isn't required,'" he said. "So, we took the sign off the window."

Although P&M Tool Center has fared well during the pandemic, Shook noted that he does not like to celebrate that fact due to many of his business neighbors who experienced financial hardships related to COVID-19.

"We did really good through it, because of the construction work and everything like that," he said. "Contractors all over (were) doing business like crazy, so they've got money and they're coming in shopping."

Stan Forbes, owner of The Avid Reader, told this publication that his business also experienced success during the pandemic.

"(The full reopening) doesn't have any bearing on us, because we've been open the entire time, since we sell newspapers and magazines you pretty much can't get anywhere else in Sacramento," he said.

Forbes added that his business retained its face covering requirement.

"We're going to continue to wear masks in the store," he said. "Actually, that's what most of our customers are doing anyway. I think there has only been two people we've had to ask to put their mask back on."

Dharmendra Ram, owner of C&B Food & Liquors, said that although he no longer requires people to maintain a 6-foot "social distancing" separation from others in his store, he has opted to continue to request that his customers wear face coverings.

Ram added that while the majority of his customers wear face coverings, some of his customers who do not wear face coverings ended up in confrontations.

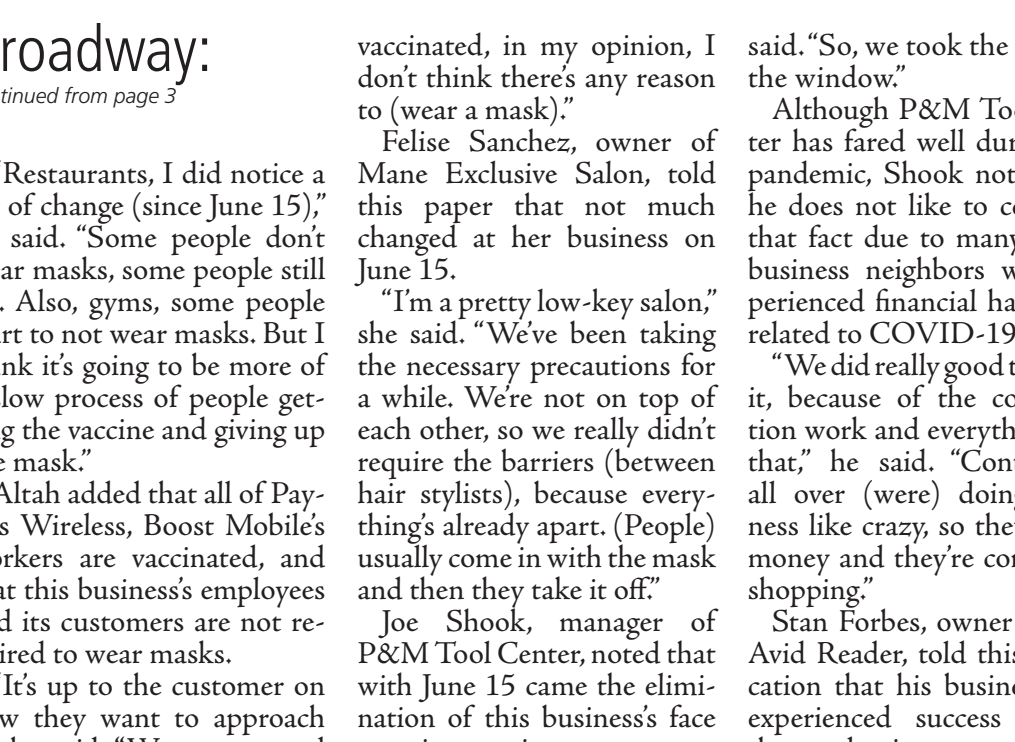
"They started having arguments and a lot of fights (pertaining to whether people should wear masks)," he said. "We've had a lot of fights in the last 16 months – not with me, (but) customers with customers."

During the same period, the business had its front door broken on three occasions and a window broken four times by upset customers, Ram noted.

Ram mentioned that he will be very happy when the pandemic is finally over.

"Normal people will start smiling," he said. "You know, maybe less stress. It's going to take some time after the coronavirus. People will still feel stressed and (down, losing) their jobs, (and some who were) making free money and have to go back to work."

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‘No fishing’ rule at William Land Park draws further reaction

Locals, others hope for lifting of fishing ban at park

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

A group of local residents and former Sacramento area residents, with experience fishing at William Land Park, last week spoke against the ban on fishing in the park’s ponds.

In an article published in the May 13 edition of the Land Park News, Tony Ulep, Sacramento city parks superintendent, noted that the park’s fishing ban was instituted two years ago, and that additional “no fishing” signs were recently posted at this park.

He also explained why the decision was made to prohibit fishing at William Land Park.

“Two years ago, we had a meeting – so, the parks’ department; the manager (and two superintendents) – with the (city) animal control manager,” he said. “We were getting a lot of complaints that the ducks and geese were getting (fishing hooks) impaled into their beaks or their bills (and) their feathers and their wings, and they were getting wrapped up with fishing line.”

To emphasize this issue, Ulep sent this paper a link to an online news story about a Canada goose that was impaled by a fishing hook and rescued at William Land Park last March.

The same report, which was published by CBS13, mentions that two weeks earlier, another bird was rescued after it was found dangling by fishing line in Elk Grove.

Ulep this week told the Land Park News that he was recently informed that people continue to fish at William Land Park, despite its posted “no fishing” signs.

“We have a concerned citizen that cares for the wildlife at (William) Land Park (who said) there is still fishing going on there and it’s still harming the wildlife by (people) not picking up the hooks or the fishing line,” he said.

Land Park native Ronald Fong, who organized the group that is protesting the park’s fishing ban, told the Land Park News last week that he is very concerned about the park’s ban on fishing.

“The kids don’t have any place to go to,” he said. “It’s urban fishing. You don’t have to go to the river. Your parents can drop you off (at the park). It’s a safe zone.”

Fong, a 1967 graduate of C.K. McClatchy High School, noted that he began fishing at the park when he was 6 years old and that his memories of fishing there are very special to him.

“It basically taught me the basics of fishing,” he said. “You started catching carp and bluegill and all that. It started my love of fishing. So, it’s very sentimental to me, and you can start the joy of fishing right there, catching small fish that are planted (by birds) in the pond.

“(Fishing at the park) keeps you out of trouble, because you’re not doing anything that’s wrong.”

Also memorable to Fong is the park’s former fishing derby event. He said he would donate $500 per year to the derby, if it returned to the park.

Fong, who most recently fished at William Land Park last year, added that he never used to hear anything about fishing being an issue at this park.

“I’m 72, so the first 50 years, no one complained about this, at least,” he said. “So, what’s happening is more and more people are using the park, and more and more people are feeding the geese that are wild geese that really don’t belong here.

“I’ve seen the population of geese maybe go up from, I don’t know, 50 to 300 during the pandemic. Everybody’s got no place to go, so the free zone is the park, and everybody goes down there and feeds the geese. So, that would lead to more geese getting injured, because you’ve got more geese and ducks there that normally aren’t there.”

Kacie Young, who grew up in the Pocket area and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in 2008, fished with her father and uncle at William Land Park during the early 1990s.

Young addressed the topic of birds getting injured by fishing line and hooks at this park.

“I understand both sides that it is a safety concern for the environment and for the people that go to the area, but I also feel like the fishermen are pretty responsible or at least should be held responsible in certain cases like that,” she said. “I do think fishing is an important part of (William) Land Park. I think it adds to the family values of the area.”

South Land Park resident Willie Louie, a 1967 graduate of McClatchy High, also spoke against the park’s fishing ban.

“Many of us in our generation learned to fish there, and that’s why it kind of surprised me that somebody can come along and put a ‘no fishing’ sign up there without discussing it with the public,” he said. “I know there are a few individuals that are (dedicated) to that, having to protect this, this and that, but they overlook the memories of kids.

“I can’t believe there’s that many ducks and birds that are getting killed by fishing hooks. It can happen, yes, but to put a restriction on fishing there because of that, I’m not a believer in that.”

South Sacramento resident Rich Alcartado, a 1968 Hiram W. Johnson High School graduate who grew up visiting William Land Park in the 1950s and 1960s, noted that he was surprised to learn about the park’s birds being injured by fishing lines and hooks.

“I’ve never seen that when we were down there, and there were always ducks and geese down there,” he said. “Where do these kids go now (to fish)?”

South Land Park resident Kim Deeks-Lederer, a 1998 McClatchy High graduate, grew up participating in fishing events at the park.

Deeks-Lederer mentioned that she is disappointed that she cannot take her son to fish at William Land Park.

see Fishing page 11

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GO FOR BROKE



By Debbie Eto

On Saturday, June 5th, 2021, The California Museum. Florin JACL, Sac JACL and Sac State Japanese American Archives put on an event to introduce the newest "Forever" stamp called "Go For Broke". The "Go For Broke" stamp is in honor of the 442nd Infantry Regiment. The 442nd was comprised of mostly 2nd generation Japanese Americans (Nisei) who fought in WWII. These men served (while their families were prisoners in internment camps) to prove their loyalty to America. The 442nd is the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. military history.

In 2005, three Nisei (2nd generation) Japanese American women from California: Fusa Takahashi, Aiko O. King, and the late Chiz Ohira began a grassroots campaign to have a USPS stamp in honor of the 442nd Infantry Regiment. The 3 women, are widows of "Go For Broke" World War II veterans. Their many years of hard work paid off, when the stamp was unveiled at the California Museum, June 5, 2021. The event (small in size) due to Covid restrictions featured stirring speeches by Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Honorable Judge Charles Kobayashi, Lester Ouchida, Kiyo Sato and Sac City Councilwoman, Katie Valenzuela. Sacramento Taiko Dan opened the program then Tom Nakashima took over the hosting duties. Postmaster Douglas Smith unveiled the stamp to thunderous applause and many heartfelt tears. Accompanied by Esther Hokama's lovely voice and Ukulele, Lois Nishimura and Kiyo Sato danced in celebration at the end of the program.

Also on hand, Honorable Judge Johnny Gogo from Santa Clara County, brought the 48 star flag and had survivors of the Internment camps sign the flag. Most were young children when interned, and were proud and honored to sign the flag. He brought the 48 star flag since that was the number of states during World War II. He is traveling across the country trying to get as many signatures of internment survivors as possible. At the end of the program, Tule Lake survivor, Keiji Takagi remarked how he wished his parents were here to see this and how it takes courage to heal.

Fishing:

continued from page 10

"A lot of places along the river aren't exactly safe," she said. "Homelessness is a huge problem in Sacramento, and so, I don't feel comfortable taking him down to (the west end of) Broadway, where the boat ramp is there, especially by myself as a single female."

She also spoke about the issue of birds getting injured by fishing line and hooks at the park.

"If it was a big of a deal as they say it is, we never heard it," Deeks-Lederer said. "It's never been in the news, it's never been in a newspaper. I take my kids to Fairytale Town and the zoo all the time. They have never seen a duck or a goose or anything with fishing line in it."

Pocket area resident Cecilia Lew also shared her thoughts on the park's fishing ban.

"It's not good," she said. "When (her kids) were little, I used to take them with my friend's kids (to William) Land Park to the little pond and also to Southside Park. I think it's beneficial to the children that they have some place close by that they can learn how to fish."

Lew suggested that the park district limit fishing to kids, 12 to 15 years old and younger.

"It would be good for the kids to continue (to) fish there, instead of closing the whole area for anybody to fish," she said.

Galt resident Jean Warren mentioned that she has fond memories of bringing her children to the park to go fishing in the early 2000s.

"It was a wholesome, easy outing that I could do with my kids that I felt comfortable doing," she said. "They love fishing, but to go to the river, that's a lot of work to go to the river.

"(The ban on fishing at this park) upsets me, because it's a wholesome-type activity that anyone can do with their kids, and it was a place that was safe."

Land Park resident Maury Hatch, a 1982 graduate of McClatchy High, said that he used to fish at William Land Park twice per week, and that before the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided fishing instruction for kids at the park.

Hatch, who makes a living in the fishing industry, shared his initial reaction to learning about the park's fishing ban.

"When this thing first came to light, I saw the signs and just thought it was another thing that happened in California, that they're cracking down on everything," he said.

Hatch added that he observed a change in the type of people who fish at the park.



Photo courtesy of Ronald Fong

Land Park resident Ronald Fong holds a fishing pole near a "no fishing" sign at William Land Park.

"Over the years, especially the last 10 years, it seems like it went from a place where kids fished there to a place that adults fished there, kind of for subsistence fishing, instead of fun fishing," he said. "It's my understanding that there was so much 'catch and keep' fishing by this new wave of fishermen that they kind of fished the place out.

"When we were little kids, we never kept the fish there. We hooked the fish, took a good look at it, studied it a little bit and threw it back to catch it another day."

Hatch concluded that his "strongest suggestion" would be for the park district to allow fishing for kids, 16 or 17 years old and younger.

"It seems like it would bring it back to more of a fun thing, less serious, and you wouldn't get the crowds there (fishing). I think it should be a catch and release fishery, and all for the youth."

Asked whether fishing will ever be allowed at William Land Park again, Ulep provided some hope to those who support that action.

"As of currently, probably not, and that's just because of the fishermen not being responsible by being careless and leaving their hooks out and entangling the wildlife (with fishing line), and now we have rescue groups getting involved," he said. "As of today, no (fishing at William Land Park), but it could possibly change later."

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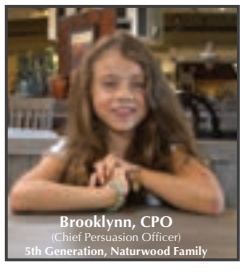
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