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'Rosies' unite in support to save historic New Helvetia housing

Future uncertain for Land Park area public housing project ..... see page 2

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‘Rosies’ unite in support to save historic New Helvetia housing

Future uncertain for Land Park area public housing project

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

A group of nine women dressed in the attire of the iconic Rosie the Riveter character of World War II gathered on Aug. 18 at the historic, Land Park area New Helvetia public housing project to express their support of the preservation of those structures.

This event occurred a week ahead of the Sacramento City Council’s vote on the city’s proposed revitalization plan that could lead to the demolition of these decades-old Broadway structures that were built during World War II.

The selection of the “Rosie the Riveter” character for last week’s gathering was additionally fitting, considering that these buildings were initially used as defense housing during that war, before being converted back to their original intended purpose of serving as low-income housing.

The original Rosie the Riveter, Rosalind (Palmer)Walter, died last March at the age of 95. She worked for a year in a Connecticut aircraft plant, and her image served to represent the strong, capable women who took the place of many male workers in war industry jobs.

Also significant to the history of New Helvetia is its connection to Nathaniel Colley, the first black attorney to establish a private law practice in this city and the former legal counsel of the local chapter of the NAACP – the nation’s oldest civil rights organization.

In the early 1950s, after becoming aware that certain, mostly black residents were being segregated in 16 units at New Helvetia, Colley filed a lawsuit against the city’s housing authority that led to the end that practice.

The historic, 360-unit New Helvetia complex along Broadway, between 6th and 9th streets, is the city’s oldest public housing. They sit within the New Helvetia Historic District, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014.

Several blocks from those buildings – modernly known as Alder Grove – is the 391-unit Marina Vista low-income, public housing project, which was built in the 1950s.

Both Alder Grove and Marina Vista are managed by the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency.

Of concern to the women who portrayed Rosie the Riveter last week was the City Council’s then-upcoming vote on the West Broadway Specific Plan, which includes Alder Grove and the New Helvetia Historic District.

This proposal was designed to set policy for future development for the next 20 years, within a 279-acre area intended to improve connectivity with Land Park, the Sacramento River and the central part of the city. This area is generally bounded by Highway 50 and Broadway on the north; Muir Way and 5th Street on the east; 4th Avenue on the south; and the Sacramento River on the west.

Within the proposal are new city streets that would run through Alder Grove – the historic New Helvetia low-income housing site – and necessitate the demolition of structures on that property, as well as displace low-income residents.

A city document on the plan notes that at build-out, the area “will accommodate up to 4,900 housing units, approximately 389,000 (to) 429,000 square feet of commercial and/or other public and employment uses, and approximately 148,000 (to) 163,000 square feet of public or recreational building development.” This plan also “incorporates a park and open space framework that includes improvement of the approximately 60-acre Miller Regional Park and Sacramento Marina and an additional 20 acres of parks and open space.”

While posing in their Rosie attire, the nine women were photographed with the old New Helvetia buildings as a backdrop by three local photographers.

Amreet Sandhu, one of the organizers of the event, said that the gathering was established as a photography session to document and highlight the value of the historic buildings and their grounds.

see ROSIES page 4



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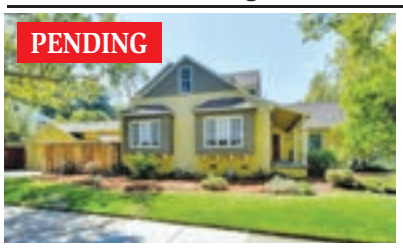
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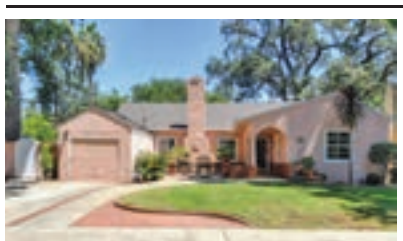
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901 3rd Avenue | $825,000

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Cover by:
Stephen Crowley

Community members come together at South Hills to save the Post Office



By Devin Lavelle

Unexpected controversy has recently beset the Post Office. We have all experienced a slowdown in service as Washington DC wrangles over this essential service so many of us depend on.

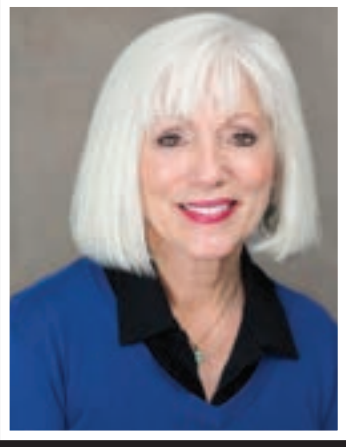
Here, in Sacramento, locals have recently gathered at the South Land Park Post Office to bring attention to the importance of a reliable postal service and its importance ensuring access to prescriptions, government services, beloved family members, and, increasingly, the ability to vote.

On Saturday, Aug. 22, nearly 150 neighbors gathered to show their support for the Post Office. On Tuesday, Aug. 18 Land Park resident and Congresswoman Doris Matsui held a press conference along with South Land Park Neighborhood Association President Joe Flores, Pocket Greenhaven Community Association President Will Cannady and other neighbors to discuss her efforts to support the Post Office's ability to serve our communities.









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LAND PARK

Charming remodeled Tudor in the heart of Land Park. Exterior has mature trees, stone paver driveway and iron gate. Features include dual pane windows, hardwoods, porcelain tile, stone and carpeting. Spacious and light-filled living room with fireplace. This leads to adjacent dining area w/ large windows and built-in hutch. Light and bright kitchen, custom white and walnut cabinets, granite counters and recessed lighting. Eating area has four large windows and separate breakfast bar. Mudroom with pantry, sink and wine fridge. Family room opens to kitchen with French doors to backyard. Two beds & full bath are adjacent to family room. Upstairs master suite plus two additional rooms, high ceilings, three wardrobe closets and a huge walk-in closet. Master bath includes over-sized shower, jetted tub, double vanity sinks and granite counters. Upstairs laundry has storage, granite counters and 1/2 bath. Lush backyard is beautifully landscaped with brick and flagstone patios.
1776 10th Avenue $1,300,000



GREENHAVEN

Trustee is selling two parcels together. Property located at 6640 Havenside Dr and lot at 11 Tern Ct. This home is in original condition and features a large tiled entry, formal living room with fireplace and vaulted beamed ceiling. Separate formal dining room, also with fireplace, opens to yard. Spacious kitchen with corian counters, dining bar and eating area that opens to yard and the family room. Family room has fireplace and a wet bar w/ refrigerator. Three bedrooms, two baths plus a den. Oversized master bedroom with large shower and great closet space. Covered patio areas and back yard open to adjacent lot. This separate parcel lot is irregular in shape, County Records say .25 acres with partial access to lake.
6640 Havenside Dr. $995,000



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Photos by Stephen Crowley

Rosie the Riveters are fighting to save New Helvetia from proposals of its demolition. They say the most proactive way to do that is to have it listed on the City of Sacramento's historic register.

Rosies:

continued from page 2

"It's important for people to know that this is a historically and culturally important community that, I think, people fail to recognize the architectural importance of (these buildings) being in the national historic register," she said. "And this photo event was to showcase those elements.

"Our purpose was to work with current residents on highlighting the space, so that for people that haven't been there, they can see that there's lush lawns for people to walk on, there are walking paths throughout the buildings.

"There are already parks in the community, and tenants are working with organizers from different parts of the community in one coalition to save New Helvetia to make sure that piece of Sacramento remains intact as it currently is."

Also attending the event was Les Light, a member of the organizing team of the Sacramento Tenants Union, which is self-described as a "tenant-led organization fighting for affordable, safe and fair housing options for all Sacramentans."

Light noted that the housing market would be impacted, if any public housing in the city is lost.

"If we see public housing being removed, that's going to effect the rates of our rents," he said. "That makes it tougher. We've got a housing crisis in Sacramento as it is. It's very concerning to us."

Residents respond to revitalization plan

Following the event, two residents of the neighborhood's low-income housing shared their views on the city's proposed revitalization plan.

Marcheri Smith, a single mother of two children, said that she desires that the old New Helvetia buildings are saved and continue to serve their original intended purpose.

"For me, I just feel like the history behind what these were built for, the legacy that it's leaving, I don't feel like it's something that should be torn down and reconstructed for the benefit of people that are already happily wealthy or living the good life," she said.

"Just the whole idea of what this was built for, was for lower-class families that were trying to do the best they could to survive. So, to take something like this away from this particular population of people is just going to make the homeless rate even (higher)."

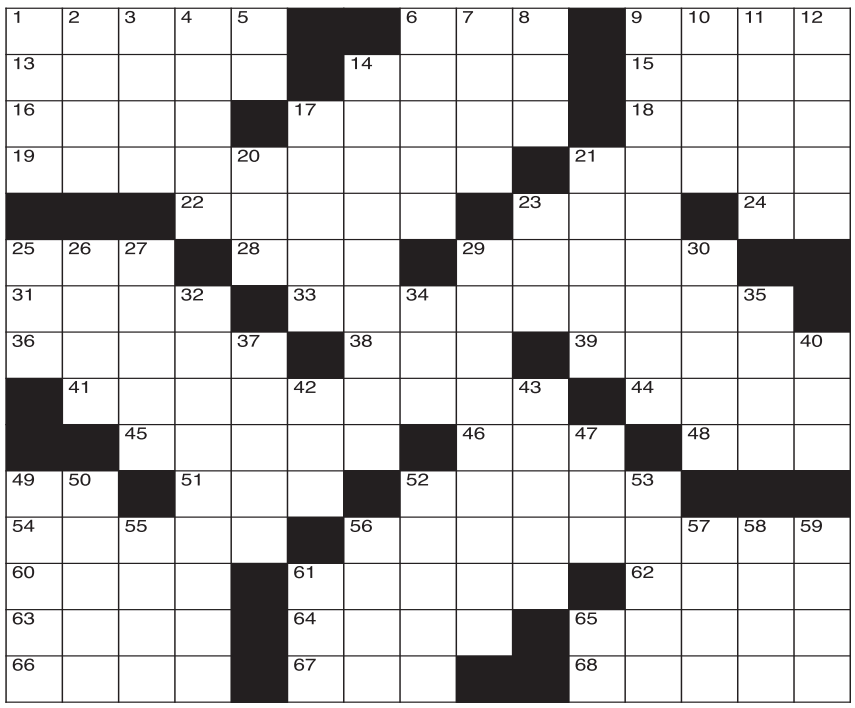
Smith stressed that there is a need for upgrades at Alder

see HELVETIA page 5

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1. Emaciation
6. Million barrels per day (abbr.)
9. Light dry-gap bridge system (abbr.)
13. Anatomical term
14. Tropical starchy tuberous root
15. Jewish calendar month
16. Round Dutch cheese
17. Western Pacific republic
18. List of foods
19. It can strike the ground
21. Drenches
22. Some are cole
23. __ Squad
24. Expresses emotion
25. One point east of due south
28. Satisfaction
29. Holds nothing back
31. Top of the body
33. Not well-liked
36. Did slowly
38. Greek goddess of the dawn
39. Gland secretion
41. Vital to existence
44. Aristocratic young women
45. Erik __, composer
46. Not young
48. Jewish term for "Sir"
49. Secondary school
51. __ student: learns to heal
52. Regarding
54. Highly excited
56. Mainly
60. Thin, narrow piece of wood
61. Cakes
62. Biomedical nonprofit
63. Dried-up
64. One who is symbolic of something
65. Body part
66. Muslim ruler
67. Women from Mayflower
68. Notes

CLUES DOWN
1. Not us
2. Helper
3. Bleat
4. Type of chair
5. Jr.'s father
6. Necessary for certain beverages
7. Hillside
8. Dutch painter Gerrit __
9. Gave a new look
10. Ancient Greek City
11. Confidence trick
12. Type of fund
14. From an Asian island
17. Malay boat
20. Western Australia indigenous people
21. Cluster on underside of fern frond
23. You need it to get somewhere
25. The woman
26. It may be green
27. Makes less severe
29. One from Beantown
30. Cavalry sword
32. Metric linear unit
34. Hawaiian dish
35. Yokel
37. Dissuade
40. Mutual savings bank
42. __ Caesar, comedian
43. Primordial matters
47. We all have it
49. Hermann __, author of "Siddhartha"
50. Historic MA coastal city
52. Shady garden alcove
53. Small amount
55. Horse-drawn cart
56. Nocturnal rodent
57. Spiritual leader
58. Air mattress
59. Speaks incessantly
61. Auction term
65. Atomic #62





Helvetia:

continued from page 4

Grove, but that the buildings are valued by the tenants who live there.

"I think they should just stick with doing some modifications inside," she said. "A lot of the buildings, they don't have central air and heat. It would kind of be unfair to all of a sudden throw all these people out who haven't had central air and heat all this time.

"They'll rebuild it, put central air and heat in here and not even let them come back and enjoy it, because now they want it for the public and not for the housing community that it's supposed to be for."

Smith emphasized her desire for the historic New Helvetia structures to remain standing.

"I just hope that they come up with something different, that demolishing this is not an idea," she said.

Kianah Thompson, another resident of this area's low-income housing, said that she is concerned about where her own family and neighbors would live, if they were displaced from their homes.

"My main concern is everybody living there," she said. "I already know that most of those people, they don't have anywhere else to go, including my family. If it wasn't for (this housing), I'm sure that most of those people would be living with other people or they would just be straight-up homeless.

"I would feel extra bad (for the residents), because I don't really want anybody to be homeless. We already have so many people on the streets already, so it would just add on to that, and people would complain more about homeless people being on the street. But really, it's not even their fault. It's the city's (fault). It's just kind of irritating."

The city's proposal

In an interview with this publication earlier this month, Elizabeth Boyd, a senior planner with the city, stressed that the West Broadway Specific Plan is a policy document for the next 20 years, as opposed to a project.

Boyd told this paper that this document would prepare the city for the possible creation of more diversified living in the future.

"The city knows that things can change over 20 years, over 10 years, so it wants to put forth what would we want to see if they would do something different than they're currently planning, which could happen, because of changes," she said.

"So, what would we like to see this area be? And we really would like to see it as more connected and mixed income, and a place where we just don't have poor people. But we're still providing affordable housing, but we're also providing for it to be a mixed-income community."

Boyd additionally noted that in the event that any changes are made to the current residents' living situation, they would be provided with relocation assistance.

A report on the City Council's Aug. 25 decision on the West Broadway Specific Plan will be published in an upcoming print edition of this paper and online at www.valcomnews.com.

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Meet the Sacramento Squad

Four locally elected progressive women of color come together in light of recent uprisings



All photos by Stephen Crowley

The Sacramento Squad from left to right, Katie Valenzuela - Sacramento City Councilmember-Elect; Tamika L'Ecluse - American River Flood Control District Member; Zima Creason - San Juan Unified School District Member; Mai Vang - Sacramento City Unified School District Member.

By Monica Stark

In the midst of the pandemic and racial justice uprisings after the murder of George Floyd, four elected women of color – Zima Creason, Tamika L'Ecluse, Katie Valenzuela and Mai Vang – banded together to use their platforms to save Black lives by pledging to end the financial relationship between law enforcement and politicians.

They soon became known by the community as the Sacramento Squad, a nod to the congressional Squad – Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, Ayanna Pressley and Rashida Tlaib.

Initially drafted by Vang, and further crafted by her "sisters", the Pledge to Reject discusses the history of law enforcement and police union political contributions and power that "warp" the conversation about public safety and it calls out those elected officials who receive those contributions as undermining community trust in their ability to perform that oversight role. The pledge calls for that conflict to end, be it from school boards, city councils, county boards of supervisors, district attorneys, state legislators, elected and appointed officials at various levels of government that hold oversight powers over law enforcement. The Sacramento Squad has urged all elected officials and candidates in the greater Sacramento region to sign the pledge to no longer accept campaign contributions from law enforcement.

"I am incredibly honored to be fighting alongside three amazing, fierce, bold and courageous leaders," said Vang. "For me, I feel like each of us play a role of moving Sacramento in a way that can meet the needs of our families and our communities. We need progressive bold leadership and that's what the Sacramento Squad embodies."

L'Ecluse said the Sacramento Squad represents a new generation of women of color representatives that push progressive policy such as medicare for all and no cops in schools. "We just roll together. We communicate every single day and we support each other every single day."

The pledge started with just the four of them and soon they were known as the Sacramento Squad. "We didn't think of the name at all," said Vang.

But, as Creason added, "We love it though."

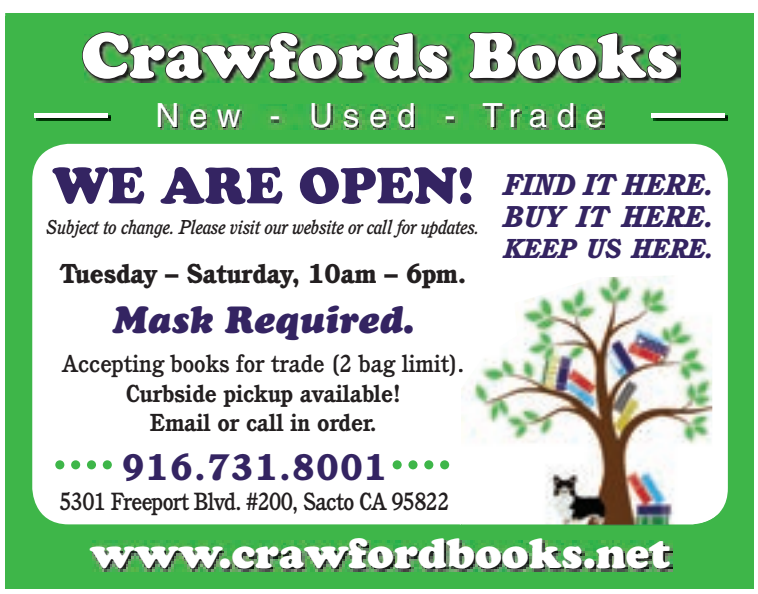
At this point, Valenzuela said the Sacramento Squad is working to support the candidates who have signed the pledge. "I'm excited that more folks keep signing on and to see a related initiative at the state-level catching momentum as well. I think this is a real turning point for this discussion, and I'm excited that we're a part of it."

Creason, added, however that some electeds have had a negative reaction with lost endorsements. "We were called anti-union and hypocrites. The negativity comes from the system that is systematic racism. Hard things are hard and fighting racism is hard. These remarks show me that we are making an impact, that we are upsetting the system. If what we are doing didn't matter, they wouldn't care. I think we are making a real impact. We will keep up the fight."

see Sacramento page 8







Who has signed the Pledge to Reject?

Elected Officials

Norma Alcala - Trustee, Washington Unified School District
Will Arnold - City Council Member, City of Davis
Karen Bernal - Member, Sacramento Democratic Central Committee
Christopher Clark - President, Folsom Cordova Unified School District
Ash Kalra - California State Assembly Member *(AD-27)*
Steve Ly - Mayor, City of Elk Grove
Melissa Moreno - Trustee, Yolo County Board of Education
Tami Nelson - Trustee, Los Rios Community College District
Gloria Partida - Mayor Pro Tem, City of Davis
Don Saylor - Supervisor, Yolo County
Tracie Stafford - District Director, CADEM African American Caucus
Rachelanne Vander Werf - Trustee, American River Flood Control District
Paula Villescaz - Trustee, San Juan Unified School Board
Jackie Thu-Huong Wong - Trustee, Washington Unified School District

Candidates

Regina Q. Banks - Elk Grove Unified School Board *(Area 1)*
Linda Deos - Yolo County Supervisor *(District 4)*
Kelsey Fortune - Davis City Council *(District 5)*
Seta Ghazarian - Victor Valley Union High School District *(Area 1)*
Connor Gorman - Davis City Council *(District 5)*
Martha Guerrero - Mayor, City of West Sacramento
Larry Guenther - Davis City Council *(District 3)*
Dillan Horton - Davis City Council *(District 2)*
Fatima Malik - SMUD Board *(Area 5)*
William O'Mara - U.S. House of Representatives *(CA-42)*
Nailah Pope-Harden - Sacramento City Unified School District *(Area 4)*
Chinua Rhodes - Sacramento City Unified School District *(Area 5)*
Rev. Les Simmons - Sacramento City Council *(District 8)*
Amandeep Singh - Elk Grove City Council *(District 3)*
Danny Thirakul - Washington Unified School District *(Area 2)*
Kelly Wilkerson - Los Rios Community College District *(Area 4)*
Chris Yatooma - Los Rios Community College District *(Area 3)*

Original Signatories

Zima Creason - San Juan Unified School District Member
Tamika L'Ecluse - American River Flood Control District Member
Mai Vang - Sacramento City Unified School District Member
Katie Valenzuela - Sacramento City Councilmember-Elect



Each of them are wearing masks with the word vote. Creason's is in Hindi; Valenzuela's in Spanish (Vota); Mai Vang's in Hmong as pov npav.



Sacramento:

continued from page 7

Zima Creason

Zima Creason is a parent, advocate, and businesswoman. She serves as the Executive Director of the California EDGE Coalition and she was elected as a San Juan Unified School District Governing Board Member in 2018. She also serves as a California Democratic Party Delegate and is a member of the Blue Ribbon Commission on the Establishment of a Sacramento County Women and Girls Commission. At EDGE, she works to address the skilled workforce shortage, create pathways to the middle class, and to advance shared prosperity for all Californians. She is committed to stakeholder empowerment and coalition building to establish and sustain thriving communities. Zima has worked in the policy field since 2001 and much of her work has focused on equity as it relates to mental health policy as well as stakeholder outreach and engagement. She is dedicated to supporting people to avoid crisis outcomes, social justice, and for all Americans to have access and opportunity to achieve the American Dream regardless of their zip code, culture, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, health/mental health status, gender identification and/or who they love.

In her roles, Creason works to improve education including, but not limited to, equitable outcomes for Black kids, ending the school-to-prison pipeline, removing law enforcement from campuses, better special education services, and education that focuses on putting kids on a path to high road jobs which are jobs with family sustaining wages, benefits, and dependable schedules.


Zima Creason - San Juan Unified School District Member

She is working to reimagine public safety including, but not limited to, ending the financial relationship between politicians and law enforcement, ending incarceration for many crimes, ending money bail, making jails/prisons therapeutic instead of torture chambers. She has worked for economic and social mobility for all Californians, especially people of color who have been locked out of prosperity.

see Squad page 9

Squad:

continued from page 8

Tamika L'Ecluse

Tamika L'Ecluse is the Secretary for the American River Flood Control District and her seat is up for re-election this November. She is the first Black woman on the board. A life-long Sacramentan, she has fond memories of weekends along our rivers. She also remembers flooded streets, school closures, and filling sandbags at a young age. Sacramento is fortunate to have two beautiful rivers, bikeable/walkable trails, and caring communities. These qualities come with great responsibility. She joined the American River Flood Control District in 2019 with the intention of using her teaching experience and neighborhood advocacy to represent North Sacramento communities, including our home, Del Paso Heights.

While serving as an American River Flood Control District trustee, she realized she could make an impact on other ways, including: Prioritizing solutions to homelessness while ensuring the safety and structure of our levees; increasing our relationship with all communities through intentional outreach and communication; ensuring workers had the necessary protections before and while the COVID-19 epidemic continues.

The ARFCD maintains, monitors and repairs all of the levees from I-5 Discovery Park to Rancho Cordova along the American River, and her coverage area includes Arcade Creek, the one that needs the most levee repair work which is compounded by the fact that many homeless people live in the area. "Not much water runs through there, but when the river gets higher, that creek is rushing higher and there are a ton of people who sleep in there. They're the most vulnerable because they are sleeping there and those who live a mile from the levee. Our job is to make sure there are no holes, no old pipes that need to be removed. We have to make sure we have safe regulations. Have to make sure the equipment is up and up."

She explained the levees in her area are solely meant to be blockage from flooding, they're not intended to be a recreation place. "Those are conversations for certain communities, no my community. I have a responsibility to make sure that flood control board is relevant because my community needs a voice. There needs to be an overhaul about how we work with our homeless population. We need to have social workers checking in with these folks weekly to see what they need to get them where they want to be. The best thing we can do on the flood control board is to make sure the levees have complete integrity, are safe and not fire and flood risks."

see Progressive page 10



Tamika L'Ecluse - American River Flood Control District Member



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Katie Valenzuela - Sacramento City Councilmember-Elect

Progressive:

continued from page 9

Katie Valenzuela

Katie Valenzuela was elected to the Sacramento City Council to represent District 4 last March and will be sworn in this December. She is currently the Policy & Political Director for the California Environmental Justice Alliance, and co-chair of the Board for the Sacramento Community Land Trust. Katie has almost two decades of social justice advocacy and community organizing experience. Prior to running for office, Katie was a founding member of the Sacramento Urban Agriculture Coalition, the first Sacramento-area representative on the AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, the first consultant for the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Change Policies, and started her own consulting firm focused on pursuing environmental justice in California. She earned her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Community Development from U.C. Davis. Katie was born and raised in Oildale, California, and moved to Sacramento in 2009."I hope to be a conduit to communities who want to engage in city decision-making, and to work hard to make it easy for people to know what's happening and how to express their opinions. I'm hoping to bring my decades of organizing experience to this job. My term will be four years, ending in 2024. It's too early to know what time will bring!

"In my ideal world, law enforcement is the last resort. I dream of people on the streets having access to housing and services to meet their needs, of youth having access to the programs and support they need to live healthy lives, and of a City that values people and workers over business interests and profit. By becoming a more people-centered community, we will reinvest in the strategies that work, and hold ourselves accountable for outcomes of improved quality of life for everyone. It seems ambitious, but extensive research and case studies tell us it's possible - and I believe Sacramento is the right city to make this dream a reality."

Valenzuela says she has been proud of our City and how we've mobilized to defend Black lives. "I've gone to several protests and saw people taking care of each other, expressing pain/frustration/

see Women page 11

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Women:

continued from page 10

hope, and literally dancing in the streets (during the Juneteenth event). It's a beautiful thing to see, and I'm incredibly hopeful that folks will stay engaged in the long road we have to achieving policy and budget justice here in Sacramento."

"District 4 is an incredibly progressive community, and many of my constituents really care about defending Black lives and standing up for justice. When I have seen racism come up, it has always been quite covert - when talking about certain groups of people or using coded language that the individual may not even realize is based on a racist foundation. For instance, I recently heard a neighbor say they were upset that 4th of July had become a gangster holiday, probably not even thinking that she was assuming this was brown and Black youth from elsewhere - not her white neighbors - that were firing off illegal fireworks at all hours of the night.

"To be anti-racist means recognizing that we all hold bias, and being comfortable naming that when it occurs so we can all learn and be better. But it also means proactively working to dismantle the systems that perpetuate systemic racism by getting involved with local groups and being willing to use time and resources to help Black, indigenous, and people of color here in our community."

Mai Vang

Mai Vang is the daughter of Hmong refugees from Laos, the eldest of 16 children, and a proud native of Sacramento. She was elected to the Sacramento City School Board in 2016, and is currently running for Sacramento City Council to represent District 8. In addition to her work as the Executive Director for the Buck Scholars Association, a nonprofit that provides college scholarships, she is also a fierce social justice advocate and an Ethnic Studies lecturer at both Sacramento State and U.C. Davis. She is running to represent her community on the Sacramento City Council because of her deep commitment to serving others and fighting for racial and economic justice.

Growing up in poverty, Vang saw first-hand how access to wealth determined a person's quality of life and the resilience of families striving just to get by. As a result of this experience, Vang co-founded Hmong Innovating Politics, an organization whose mission is to strengthen the political power of disenfranchised communities via innovative civic engagement and strategic grassroots mobilization. Throughout her career as a community organizer and activist, Vang has worked directly on local and national issues involving education, labor, and racial/ethnic health disparities. In her free time, Vang enjoys hiking with her dog, coffee, and spending time with her 15 siblings.

"The reason I am running for Sacramento City Council is to continue my life's work for improving life for South Sacramentans. The reason I ran for Sacramento City school board was to make sure we get the resources to our students. We also know that when we think of the quality of life for our students and families, especially for our scholars, it's also about the social conditions outside of the classroom. Given the pandemic now, we are seeing the importance of collaborative partnership in order to meet the needs of our students and families that have dire need.

"As the current pandemic continues to impact our city and our neighborhood, while the struggle is wide-spread, it's not equally shared. And what we are seeing Black, Brown and Indigenous are bearing the brunt of the devastating effects of Covid. Moving forward it's incredibly important for policy makers, those in position of power to make sure we center on families and communities. It's got to be the core of the recovery. Some of the issues are emergency rent and mortgage payment assistance," she said.

She and her team put out a survey to distribute to residents that was the highest priority, followed by food assistance, mental health and social services and business recovery for minorities and women-owned businesses.

"In education, we are seeing the need to address digital inequity because many of our students while we can provide them with a laptop, often times families don't have access to wifi. There are buses with wifi and those are great but we got to meet them where they're at and that's at their home. (Wifi) is a means for survival from government assistance programs to everything else. You need access to that not just for our scholars but for our families in general. It's a larger conversation about public broadband. It's a right."

As an organizer, Vang fought for ethnic studies to be a requirement for SCUSD students, and as a school board member she had the honor of voting it to become a requirement. "I think it's really important for students to understand the lived experiences and struggles of other students of color, of other Black and Brown students of color. We know that in itself won't solve the issue, it's also about who's teaching it, the pedagogy and the curriculum, but it's the first step."

Once she get to city hall it's about co-creating solutions together with the community to address the needs and challenges. "I will announce what that looks like. It's the people-power piece. I think like an organizer."

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Mai Vang - Sacramento City Unified School District Member

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Tuleyome Certified California Naturalist Course goes online and in the field



Tuleyome is once again providing a Certified California Naturalist course in partnership with the University of California. Tuleyome's Naturalist course, which begins in January 2021, introduces students to the wonders of California's unique ecology and engages them in the study of, and fosters a sense of stewardship of, our region's natural communities.

The program uses hands-on learning, problem-solving, citizen science and volunteer service to build an appreciation for and deep understanding of the Northern Inner Coast Range Mountains and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument region. No special degrees or previous naturalist experience is required. Class time is set aside to help students learn how to accurately identify some of the region's most common plant, animal, and insect species. Participants are also eligible for four academic credits through UC Davis Extension for an additional fee.

Tuleyome's 2021 naturalist classes start January 15, 2021 and continue for 10 consecutive Fridays from noon to 4 p.m. Classes are scheduled to take place in Woodland but with the current public safety restrictions due to COVID-19, preparations have been made to hold virtual classes. In addition to the ten classroom dates, students are required to attend three field trips, scheduled for Saturdays during the class. These in-field classes help students understand and apply what is learned in the classroom and how to collect data and interact with nature.

Visit Tuleyome's website at www.tuleyome.org/projects/calnat for more information and to sign up.

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Don't Hoard Patio Furniture, Dine Al Fresco Instead!



By Devin Lavelle

First it was toilet paper and wet wipes. Then pork and beef started coming short, just at the start of barbecue season. Coins were the next commodity to fall victim to COVID supply chain challenges. Now, as al fresco dining has reemerged, our local restaurants are facing another shortfall I never would have anticipated.

Sacramento's Farm-To-Fork Al Fresco program allows restaurants to expand outdoor dining into sidewalks, parking lots and in select areas, even the streets. Many other areas have taken a similar approach to help restaurants stay afloat during COVID. While many are excited to enjoy the opportunity to sit down and enjoy a meal out, they do still need a place to sit.

A Taste Above has been experiencing this challenge first hand. As its co-owner Ray Gin tells us, "We were hoping to have patio service by the end of July, but it has been a huge challenge just trying to buy patio furniture. Every restaurant is looking to buy patio furniture so they are in high demand. We have tried many different sources and still have not been able to secure the table sets we want. We have our names on waiting lists with several different vendors so stay tuned. We are hoping to have patio service by late August, if we get lucky it may even be open by the time you read this." When you go, whether for takeout or al fresco dining, you can expect "freshly sanitized tables, chairs and service areas, with hand sanitizers and wipes offered to all of our guests. Our staff are required to wear face masks and gloves and will monitor social distancing."

The surge in demands from restaurants follows already high consumer demand in the spring, as many households planned for a long summer at home, putting a further crimp in the market.

Even as A Taste Above waits to get their order for patio dining sets in, they are happy to accommodate customers who are not as patient. "There are a few guests that have requested for a table to be set up for them in our patio area. We have accommodated their request and they have been very happy that we do that for them," Ray tells us. They would also be happy to accommodate you as well, if you'd like to enjoy your favorite treats on their patio. "Our guest particularly enjoy having a banh mi sandwich and fries with a Maui beer. That's by far our number one seller." My boys will also tell you that Gunther's ice cream and fruit freeze are their favorites on a warm day.

Happily, Ray says things have been looking up. "It has been a bit of a challenge. However, our business is picking up as more people are getting use to the idea of take out and ordering from Doordash, Grubhub or Uber eats. We are grateful that our regulars have been so supportive of use." (Please be sure to only use delivery services if they are recommended through a restaurant's website.)

Whether you are more comfortable with takeout, delivery or al fresco, please do what you can to support our local restaurants, including A Taste Above. They are all struggling right now, but we need to ensure they'll still be there for us to gather in celebration with our family and friends once COVID in finally behind us.

They will all be so grateful for your support, "We would like to send a big thank you out to this great community for their support so we can continue to serve them."

To help you decide what to eat tonight, the Pocket-Greenhaven Community Association has developed a list of local restaurants with up-to-date information on dining options: pocketgreenhaven.org/restaurants/

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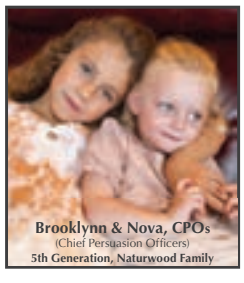
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