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Land Park News

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CLARA Announces First Class of CATALYST Artistic Mentor Program

see page 12



Op-ed: Yes, as Christians We Say: Black Lives Matter

By Rev. Bonnie Rambob and Rev. Rajeev Rambob

Though Christians in America are a diverse group with varied expressions, political affiliations, and theologies, we all claim the centrality of the Bible. And in the Bible, Jesus calls his followers to love, tend to the concerns of the marginalized, and work to free people who are oppressed.

Upon witnessing President Trump's scornful responses to the Black Lives Matter movement, watching him wave our holy scripture in front of a church with plumes of tear-gas poisoning the air at his command, and seeing his inability to unequivocally denounce white supremacists at the first presidential debate, as co-pastors at Sacramento's Parkside Community Church and Christians in America, we must speak out.

It is our faith that the president professes out of one side of his mouth while refusing to denounce white supremacy out of the other. Jesus has a word for this – hypocrisy. And while President Trump's duplicity is not new, what must change are the number of Christians who are willing to refute the divisiveness the president sows and acts of violence he incites.

Following the election in 2016, Parkside Community Church, like other Sacramento-area churches, felt called to uphold our faith and to stand with our friends, neighbors, and community members by publicly opposing this Administration's Muslim country travel ban and immigration policies that separated thousands of children from their families at our southern border. This included statements on our lawn at the corner of 35th Avenue and South Land Park Drive, joining community groups at large-scale marches demanding protection and justice, and calling for support of Black and brown families facing increasing levels of discrimination and intimidation.



Shown on the left is Rev. Bonnie Rambob, right is Rev. Rajeev Rambob.

As Christians, we feel compelled by Jesus' vision of God's kingdom to speak out boldly against racism wherever it rises. This includes the racist biases, policies and practices infecting law enforcement agencies locally and across the country. Since 2017, a Black Lives Matter banner has greeted those who pass by our church because our Christian faith requires this of us. As people following Jesus, there were no belabored discussions in our church – other than recognition this act should have come much sooner. Clearly

see Christians page 5



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Land Park Community Association and Blue Star Moms Team up for the Holidays

By Kristina Rogers/LPCA Communications





The pandemic may keep some families apart this holiday season, but a few creative covid-19 safe strategies could still help many celebrate together. For our servicemen and women overseas, "social distancing" is a done deal.

As a military veteran, Art Taylor understands the emotional toll being away from loved ones can take… especially during the holidays. With this thought in mind, Art contacted Debbie at Sacramento Blue Star Moms. Art is also a longtime Land Park Community Association member and decided to find out how the organization could make a difference this year.

Blue Star Moms is a non-partisan, non-political group of volunteer moms (and friends) who ship care boxes to troops stationed in countries like Iraq, Bahrain and Japan. Since 1942 they have delivered care boxes which include items like instant coffee, protein bars, and toiletries. Every box requested is a gift sent.

In November, the Land Park Community Association is teaming up with Blue Star Moms to collect donations for the 2020 holiday delivery. To learn details about the program, go to the LPCA website at www.landpark.org. There are several simple ways to participate;

Collect items from a Wish List and contact the LPCA to schedule a pick-up.

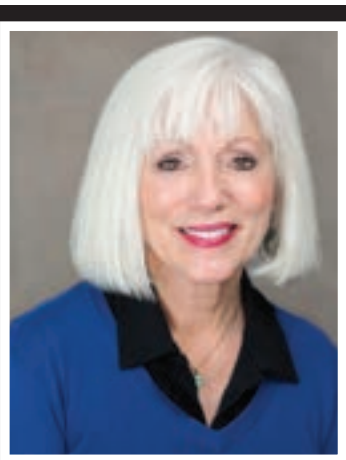
Become a "Street Lead" and collect donations from your neighbors. Then contact LPCA to arrange a pick-up.

Go directly to the Blue Star Mom's website to make a financial donation. Shipping charges alone can cost up to $20 per package, which means your monetary donation ensures delivery.

The LPCA will collect donations throughout November with a collection deadline of December 1st.

If you know someone stationed overseas, you can ensure they receive a care package from Blue Star Moms by adding them to a list. To reach out to the organization or learn more, please go to their website at at; www.sacramentobluestarmoms.org.

The Land Park Community Association is a non-profit, volunteer-run community organization serving the Land Park area. The LPCA is currently accepting new volunteers for committees such as; Events, Public Safety, Parks and Membership. If you are interested in getting involved, or have a question, please email the LPCA at: info@landpark.org.



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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



GREENHAVEN

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. Backyard with covered patios.
6640 Havenside Drive



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Korean War Vet Receives Medal for Service

By LANCE ARMSTRONG



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Former South Land Park resident Bob Ceccato was honored last month for his service in the Korean War. He also served in the construction drive for St. Anthony Catholic Church in the Pocket, and owned an auto parts business in West Sacramento for nearly 50 years.

Bob Ceccato, a former South Land Park resident who was instrumental in the establishment of a Pocket area church, recently received an Ambassador for Peace Medal for his service in the Korean War.

He received the medal during a ceremony hosted by U.S. Rep. Ami Bera, D-Elk Grove, on Oct. 9. The medal is an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to United States service members who served in the Korean War, which occurred from 1950 to 1953.

Also referred to as the "Forgotten War," the Korean conflict was a war between South Korea, which had the support of the United Nations, mainly the United States; and North Korea, which was backed by China and the Soviet Union.

During the ceremony at Margit and E. Henry Kloss Park in Elk Grove, Ceccato was joined by several members of his family, Bera, South Korean Consulate General Park Joon-yong and other representatives from the Korean Consulate in San Francisco.

Ceccato, 90, told this paper that he was "humbled" by receiving the Ambassador for Peace Medal.

"I'm not one for big celebrations myself," he said. "I've always put myself last. But I'm happy they did (present him the medal), because this is a forgotten war. The only people who knew we were there were our families and close friends. That's it.

"When we came home, there was no fanfare or what have you. We weren't given any recognition at all, and I feel that what we did over there preserved the democracies in that area – Japan and Korea."

Ceccato spoke in greater specifics about his service in that war.

"I was part of the force that entered Korea and worked on their liberation in the north," he said. "I arrived approximately a year after the war began and I spent the time with some of the earlier arrivals."

Ceccato mentioned that although he came to Korea with "18 weeks of training to kill," he was given a separate assignment two days later.

see VET page 5

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VET:

continued from page 4

"They called 50 of us out from Northern California, told us to report to the 21st Medical Co.," he said. "We didn't know what it was. We thought we were sick or (had) some disease. They said they needed medics. They were going to train us for three weeks."

Ceccato added that he was assigned to Company L of the 21st Infantry Regiment.

"I was in the second platoon and I was the medic," he said. "The first time I was called to attend to someone, we were in the dugout under machine gun fire. We were cornered in there, trying to stay alive."

As for his second assignment, Ceccato said that he "experienced every wound I think in the book that day" in a battle at Old Baldy in west-central Korea.

"(It) was the wounds of our people I was attending to," he said. "At Old Baldy, the Chinese were bombarding it with artillery, and we had many casualties.

"I was tending to this one person who was badly wounded, and I pulled him across on the wrong side (where) artillery was coming in. I asked for help to pull him in and I couldn't get any, so I put him on a poncho and drug him across to safety."

Ceccato said that his time of service during that war was relatively short.

"I got there in June of 1951 (and) I was wounded in October of 1951, and I ended up in a hospital in Japan for a month and (was) transported back here to the states," he said.

Regarding the injuries he sustained, Ceccato said that they occurred during a mission to capture a prisoner for interrogation.

"On our way there – I'd say 100 (yards), 200 yards out of our area – we were ambushed," he said. "Mortars were coming in here, here, getting closer and closer. We were backed in.

"I was one of the oldest in our squad. I said, 'Hell, we've got to move ahead with our objective or get the hell out of here, because they've got us.'

"By that time, boom! One landed close and I was under water, bleeding. I couldn't move. Both legs were shot. Mortar – I'm still carrying some of that in my right leg. I haven't slept on my right side in 60, 70 years."

Ceccato, who earned the Purple Heart Medal for the wounds he suffered, said that his first day on assignment with the 21st Medical Co. was the only day he was scared.

"After that, you don't have time to be afraid," he said. "I can tell you that right now, because I had people's lives in my hands."

Having fought in the Korean War, Ceccato noted that he learned a very important lesson.

"Freedom is not free," he said. "That's the one thing that I think all of our young people don't understand. And other items in this world are not free. Somebody has got to pay for them."

In his postwar years, Ceccato spent 40 years living in South Land Park, beginning in 1972. He lived there with his wife, Josephine, and their four children, who all graduated from John F. Kennedy High School.

Ceccato owned his own business in West Sacramento. It was originally known as West Sacramento Auto Parts.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Bob Ceccato (second from right) is pictured with several members of his family. Ceccato, a 90-year-old Purple Heart recipient, received an Ambassador for Peace Medal for his service in the Korean War, during a ceremony hosted by U.S. Rep. Ami Bera, D-Elk Grove, on Oct. 9.

He mentioned that he ran that store from 1963 to 1975, and then added a business partner, at which time this West Sacramento store became known as Ram Auto Parts.

During the 1970s, Ceccato served as a division chairman in the construction fund drive for St. Anthony Catholic Church's $1.2 million church and parish at 660 Florin Road in the Pocket area.

Ceccato retired from his business in 2010 and moved to Elk Grove.

One of his favorite things to do during his life was travel throughout the United States. He has visited about 30 states, and believes California is the best place to live.

Asked to summarize his life, Ceccato noted that his life has been good.

"To summarize my life in these 90 years is I'm an optimist," he said. "I made the best of everything that was thrown at me. I've had a good life."

Christians:

continued from page 2

stating Black Lives Matter is one of the most basic assertions we can make if we are to call ourselves Christian.

Recently, we received a letter from an unnamed source with veiled threats, incendiary questions, and stating: "it is very disturbing to see a church displaying the Black Lives Matter sign of support." Besides spewing a lot of misinformation about the Black Lives Matter movement, this person suggests we can't be a church because of our sign. Soon after receiving that letter, our Black Lives Matter sign was stolen. It's not the first time Parkside Community Church has been targeted because of our public faith and justice statements.

And again, we believe it's time as Christians to set the record straight: our Bible tells the story of Jesus who had been a child refugee, belonged to a marginalized group and defended the rights and dignity of every person he met. He spoke truth to power and called out unjust laws and practices in the face of powerful state and religious leaders. His speech and action led him to a state-sanctioned condemnation and crucifixion despite his nonviolence. Though we acknowledge Christianity is one of many great religious traditions, we are disciples of Jesus.

We recognize spirituality does not drive decisions for everyone – and we value and appreciate that in our greater Sacramento community and country. As speeches and threats by President Trump only intensify and move others to incite violence, what cannot be said enough is that he and so-called Christians who defend his blatant disregard for the gospel of Jesus, may be many things. But Christian is not one of them.

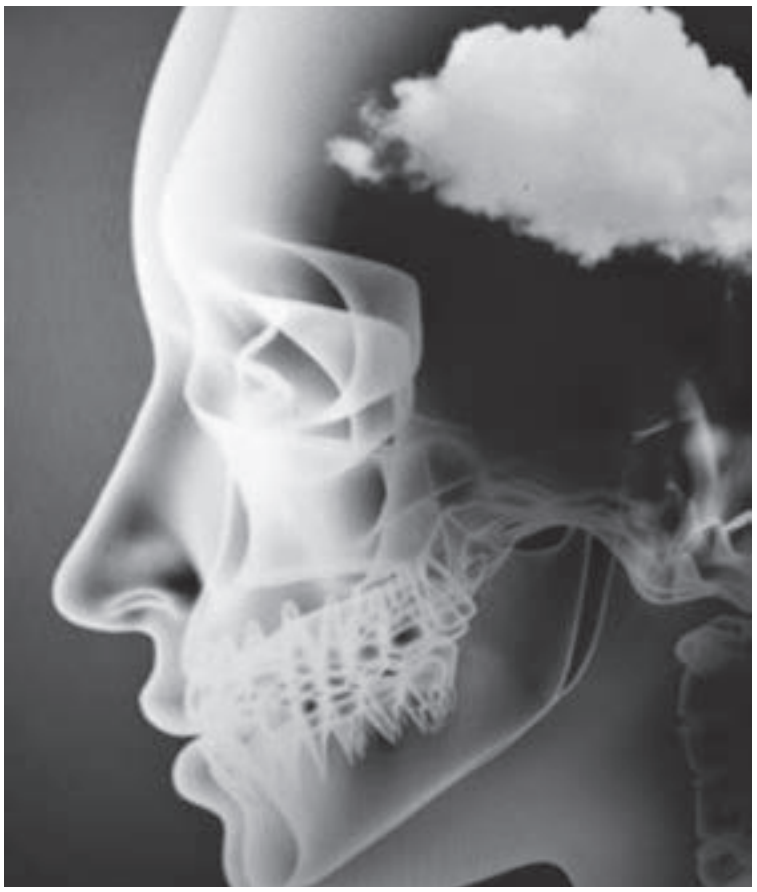
Rev. Bonnie Rambob & Rev. Rajeev Rambob are co-pastors at Parkside Community Church, located in Sacramento's South Land Park neighborhood. They are also are co-hosts of HaystacksPodcast.com - a podcast for fringe and former Seventh-day Adventists and co-hosts of Irenicast.com – a progressive Christian podcast.



THIS 'n' THAT

by Carol Bogart

How's It Going With 'Covid Fog'?



PHOTOS BY CAROL BOGART

'Brain fog' can be a Covid 19 symptom.

First let me say, I don't know whether I have the virus. Maybe I'm just reacting to the flu shot. But for all my lifelong ADHD focus issues, this impaired focus now is different.

People call when I'm sleeping (excess sleep/fatigue is another thing), and I forget to call them back. Or even post myself a note to do it. I empathize when Joe Biden seems a little fuzzy.

He's been tested Covid-free. I haven't had the swab test. Too many false negatives, plus they now know you can be reinfected.

Both of us are in our 70s. In my family, there is Alzheimer's. If it turns out he is Covid Foggy, I wonder if he'll wish he'd skipped the campaign trail. Stayed safe at home. Zoomed his platform to his followers.

I, being tech challenged, do not know how to Zoom. Three friends from my WLS-TV Chicago days are insisting that I learn. Sheila and I both were on-air reporters. She's back home in New York. Sandy, a Chicago native, is now in Florida. Suzanne, once a TV producer-writer, is in Boulder.

We've stayed in touch through social media. The three assured me they would teach me how to Zoom at their next Zoom date.

Whatever instructions they impart, I hope they impart them slowly. Maybe I'll write them down. If I remember where I put my pen.

Several articles related to Covid 'brain fog' were published in October. The New York Times reported: "Memory problems, dizziness or confusion were reported by a third or more respondents" in a post-infection survey. The Times went on, "… troubling cognitive symptoms … can include memory loss, confusion, difficulty focusing, dizziness and grasping for everyday words." Symptoms, said one brain expert, that impair a Covid survivor's ability to work and function normally.

The expert in neuro-infectious disease said people can be so disabled by Covid fog they can't work at all. What causes it? Covid inflammation of blood vessels leading to the brain, decreasing oxygen? Small strokes? Don't know. To date, MRI scans detect no brain damage.

Late last month, WebMD reported on a virus syndrome tagged as "long Covid". As the "long" suggests, sufferers display a range of symptoms for multiple weeks, not days. For 22 percent of those 70 or older, brain fog is one of those symptoms. Younger people are not exempt: For those ages 18-34, one in 10 appears to develop long Covid. The syndrome can include relapses and, in the younger victims, women are more at risk than men.

Medscape, a publication of the National Institutes of Health, on Oct. 20, published a Kaiser Health News article titled: "Older COVID Patients Battle 'Brain Fog,' Weakness, and Emotional Turmoil." The gist is, severe Covid cases that put people in the hospital, on ventilators, are most at risk for Covid brain fog. Another trigger: isolation. Recent research has concluded prolonged isolation can change the structure of your brain!

So. Nuts. Do I stay locked up in my apartment except for shopping because I don't want to catch the virus? Is it already too late? I've lost interest in TV, haven't cracked the stack of books I got at Goodwill to get me through the lockdown. Do spend hours on the computer posting weather and other news I think will help people. But contact with human beings?

No. Not much.

I worry about catching the virus. I also worry about being an a-symptomatic spreader. Recently, after not seeing me since Mother's Day, my son and his girlfriend made plans with me to go to Raku for sushi. It had just reopened for indoor dining.

I wanted to see them, but had just read how going out to eat is now linked to community spread of the virus. Plus, I wasn't feeling great. I canceled. So much for breaking out of isolation.

Dr. Fauci (we all know him. He's the virus expert who constantly contradicts Donald Trump) says we're not likely to see anything close to 'normal' until 2022. Other experts warn there are a great many as yet unknown viruses lurking in rain forest animals and one group wants to test ALL of them!

Perhaps we're pioneers in an unpleasantly changed new world.

I don't like it. I liked the old one.

They say those with Alzheimer's remember the past clearly, that it's the short term memory they lose. Standing at the kitchen sink to give the dog fresh water, I thought absently about my mother's last few months.

With dad declining rapidly from Alzheimer's and mom his sole caregiver, I called her daily. "Mom, are you having any fun?" I once asked. "Not much," she said, her voice profoundly sad and weary.

Lost in thought, unrinsed coffee mug in hand, dusk gathering, a familiar silhouette caught my eye. Hummie. Hovering at her feeder. Introspection replaced by joy.

So, I think what we have to do, as mom would say, is "think pleasant thoughts." Refuse to allow this 'new normal' to get us down. Dwell on what we have; not what we've lost. Embrace our joys. And decide fuzzy focus is a blessing.

For more information on 'long Covid' go to https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20201022/whos-at-risk-for-long-covid. Questions, comments? Contact Carol at carol@bogartonline.com.



WALK TO FEED THE HUNGRY—IN THE POCKET!



By Devin Lavelle

Nearly all of us have done it at some point, gotten up early on Thanksgiving morning to join with tens of thousands of other Sacramentans for the Run to Feed the Hungry. Together raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Sacramento Food Bank.

It's often the most festive part of the day, starting at Sac State and walking or running through East Sacramento neighborhoods, wearing turkey hats and other fun costumes, enjoying cheers, snacks and sometimes even cocktails from neighbors gathering in their yards to enjoy the spectacle.

The tradition will look a little different this year – but it will still go on! Like so many things, the race has gone virtual this year. Run if you'd like, walk if you'd like, wherever you'd like, whenever you'd like – all while staying safely distanced.

Supporting the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services is all the more important under COVID. Due to increasing unemployment rates and school closures, the Covid-19 Virus has created an environment where even more Sacramentans are suffering from hunger than ever before. According to the Food Bank, "SFBFS is being approached by agencies, school districts, families, seniors, and individuals who have never needed to utilize a food program before. Thirty-two million pounds of food have already been distributed this year — a jump from the 28 million pounds distributed in all of 2019. SFBFS is currently feeding over 300,000 hungry people per month (a 100% increase in output since the pandemic began)."

Our local Pocket Area Churches Together are stepping up to help encourage neighbors to participate and re-create a small (but safe) portion of the communal nature of the normal race.

Rich Fowler, one of the event organizers, describes the course, "We've set up a beautiful 3.1 mile walk (not run) starting at the canal on Florin Road next to St. Anthony Catholic Church. Our number one priority is to insure the safety of the walkers." In order to do that, the following guidelines will be respected:

1. There will be no mass start or mass finish
2. Walkers can start and finish any place along the route that they wish.
3. Participants can walk any time between 8 a.m. and Noon
4. Masks and social distancing will be the order of the day
5. There will be three water/refreshment stops along the way
6. Participants are encouraged to register for the ride with the SFB&FS and
7. Wear official Run to Feed the Hungry T Shirts and Turkey hats!

This has been a wonderful tradition for so many of us, it's a really cool thing that, with all we've dealt with over 2020, not only can it continue this year, but we can participate in the Run to Feed the Hungry right here in our own neighborhood.

As Pocket resident Jane Owens says, "Our family has participated in the Run to Feed the Hungry for almost 25 years. We've already signed up for this year and are excited to be able to walk with our neighbors on Thanksgiving morning. I hope many of our Pocket neighbors will join in with this COVID-safe walk."

Pastor Jeff Chapman, Faith Presbyterian Church and Chair of Pocket Area Churches Together (PACT), tells us this event takes us back to the group's founding. "PACT was created almost ten years ago to enable the faith community in the Pocket to focus together on the pressing issues in our neighborhoods. Hunger was the first issue we addressed. It is a reality in Sacramento, but it is also a reality in the Pocket.

Many people in the Pocket have done the Run to Feed the Hungry for many years. We are thrilled to be able to work alongside the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services to put together a local Walk to Feed the Hungry and want to invite and encourage families in the Pocket to join us on Thanksgiving morning."

PACT is made up of Faith Presbyterian, St. Anthony Catholic, Greenhaven Lutheran, River's Edge, and Greenhaven Community Church.

If you plan to participate (or if you just want to be supportive) please register at www.runtofeedthehungry.com, and be sure to join as a member of the PACT team.



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California Automobile Museum Reopens To The Public



A few months after closing the garage doors due to the pandemic, the California Automobile Museum has reopened and welcomes the public back to view their amazing collection.

The Museum, located at 2200 Front Street, will now be open Friday through Sunday, from 10am to 5pm. (Last accepted admission is 4pm) Admission cost is $10 for adults, $5 for kids through age 17 and $9 for seniors and military. Thursday admissions are reserved for museum members, observing the same hours.

"Our doors are open and we've implemented additional cleaning and sanitizing protocols in response to COVID. The museum is currently a touchless experience and we require groups that are not from the same household to socially distance when inside the museum," said Executive Director of the California Automobile Museum Mark Steigerwald.

Besides their collection of 140 classic and custom cars that illustrate the evolution of cars through the decades, the museum is currently presenting their latest of revolving exhibits: Reel Cars: The Importance of Cars in Filmmaking.

From the days of the Keystone Kops piling into their squad car to Steve McQueen as "Bullitt," hair-racing through the alpine streets of San Francisco, the automobile has played an essential supporting AND starring role on the silver screen, and solidified its (parking) place in American lore.

The selection of vehicles in the Museum's new Reel Cars Exhibit was chosen to illustrate how Movieland's filming process happens, employing historically iconic vehicles. The exhibit also features 3 videos depicting the use of cars in films.

Some of the Cast:

The 1963 Shelby Cobra Replica from the Oscar-nominated Ford v Ferrari, which recounts the legendary battle between the two manufacturers on the world's racing circuits, especially Le Mans.

The 1967 VW Bus driven by stoned surfer-dude, Jeff Spicoli, played by Sean Penn in Fast Times at Ridgemont High. To quote Spi-

see MUSEUM page 9

Museum:

continued from page 8

coli, "This is US History. Totally awesome."

A 1951 Nash Rambler Rolltop used by Marilyn Monroe to promote 1952s "Monkey Business" in that year's Miss America Pageant parade, where she served as Grand Marshal.

A Ferrari 250 Testa Rossa replica as seen in the film based on the best selling book, The Art of Racing in the Rain.

The 1994 Chevy Van from the film version of "The A-Team," directed by Sacramento's own Joe Carnahan.

A 1965 Dodge Coronet taxi cab featured in Mad Men and countless other TV shows and films.

The exhibit also includes a number of other vehicles seen in popular movies and TV shows that will delight guests who are not only car lovers but fans of these films and programs as well.

"We are privileged to have on display a representative selection of vehicles as used in the movies, from those that performed grunt work as camera cars to stars in their own right such as the Cobra replica from last year's Academy Award-winning film "Ford vs. Ferrari" or, from another era, a Nash Healey used in 1954's "Sabrina". These and other fascinating examples illustrate that the role of the automobile in film is almost as old as the film industry itself," Steigerwald said.



Since opening in 1987, the California Automobile Museum has told the story of over 130 years of automotive culture and history. Exhibiting makes and models of all kinds (including continuously changing special exhibits), the Museum strives to preserve, exhibit, teach and tell the stories of the automobile and its influence on our lives. Beside admissions, the museum creates revenue through vehicle sales, consignment sales and tax deductible donations.

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Help Make Christmas Happen for All Kids



By Devin Lavelle

If this were a normal year, the Greenhaven Soccer Club (GHSC) would be knee-deep in preparations for its 4th Annual Holiday Soccer Skills Clinic & Fundraiser, benefiting the JFK Soccer Program, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, and Outside the Walls Toy Drive. As Parks Commissioner, I was proud to recognize the Kennedy Women's Soccer Team for their efforts to support this event this past spring.

In the past, the toy drive has collected nearly 400 toys that were distributed to disadvantaged youth through Outside the Walls (OTW). OTW is a 501(c)3, dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty, domestic violence, food insecurity and incarceration. OTW works with at risk youth and families; providing a wide variety of counseling services, as well as parenting classes, job training and a community closet.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the clinic won't be able to happen this year, which is such a loss.

Twenty-twenty has been such a difficult year and I couldn't imagine a much worse ending than kids missing out on Christmas.

While so many of us have been blessed with good health and stable lives, there are many kids in your community who aren't so lucky. But, thanks to GHSC, we have an opportunity to step in and fill that void.

GHSC is teaming up with Council Member Rick Jennings and the Pocket Greenhaven Community Association to hold a Drive Through Toy Drive to help Outside the Walls ensure that all of their families are able to enjoy a great Christmas.

Yvette Madkins, the Founder/CEO of Outside the Walls, tells us why this is so important, "The Greenhaven Soccer Club's annual toy drive means so much to OTW. Because of this continual partnership we have been able to bless many less fortunate families, who have no means of providing toys for their kids. These families include moms and kids that have escaped domestic violence, families where dad or mom just re-entered society from prison, and families who are homeless. With COVID-19, this year will be extra special for our community families because many have lost their jobs, or their hours have been cut to part-time. The need is so great in our community and we are grateful to Greenhaven Soccer for their partnership."

Beth Koster, GHSC President, is spearheading this event with long time board member Robin Ohara.

Said Beth: "GHSC considers ourselves so fortunate to be part of this community. Pocket Greenhaven and the surrounding neighborhoods have enabled us to provide youth with a positive soccer experience since 1976.

"Moreover, they have consistently responded and supported us as we expanded into other areas of community service. Our community always steps up to help those in need, and that spirit of generosity is needed now more than ever as we confront the devastating economic impact of the pandemic." Added Robin, "Everyone in our community has been affected by COVID-19. Our community is strong, giving and special. Please donate a toy and help us be the community who can help other children feel special this Christmas."

In his typically humble fashion, PGCA President, Will Cannady, added: "Unfortunately COVID-19 has caused a significant economic hardship for many of our local families. Because of the amazing work done by Beth, Robin and Devin with organizing this event many of our local youth will still have a happy and joyful holiday season."

The Toy Drive with be held on Saturday, December 5th from 2:00-4:00pm in the School of Engineering & Sciences Parking lot (7345 Gloria Dr). If you are able, please bring new, unwrapped toys to donate.

In order to ensure everyone's safety, this toy drive will be touchless and drive through. We'll strictly adhere to County Public Health Guidelines.

Please stay tuned to http://www.greenhavensoccer.com and http://www.pocketgreenhaven.org for other details.

In addition to the aforementioned services, Outside the Walls also operates a FREE weekly community closet that is open every Thursday from 1p-3p for low-income, homeless and less fortunate families. Our clients are able to receive FREE items once every thirty days from our closet. Some of the items that we distribute are: bedding, clothes, appliances, furniture, vacuums, dishes, pots, pans, bathroom items, and Much More! Clients can call 916-245-0388 to schedule an appointment to patronize our closet.

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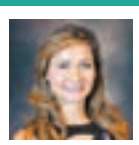
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Shining a Spotlight: Local Students Highlight Inspiring Girls, Women in 'The Female Focus'



By Monica Stark

Two juniors at Franklin High School in Elk Grove, Neyha Thandi and Olivia Hemmings, have taken to Instagram to feature stories about inspiring local women under the handle @thefemalefocus. From doctors to lawyers to fitness coaches, the women highlighted hail from various professions and are often found discussing topics like gender equality in the workplace, pay disparity, women's rights and the health and welfare of women.

Neyha said they both share a passion for women empowerment and they wanted to virtually spread information about feminism and women empowerment. "We have been good friends since middle school and we always bonded over our passion for contributing to the worldwide feminist conversation," she said.

At school, Neyha founded a local chapter of Girl Up, the oldest United Nations Foundation's adolescent girl campaign, where girls empower each other and where she had been managing and planning activities.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Neyha had a goal to hold an event for the community, where women from varying careers would be invited to share their stories with local youth. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the club was unable to hold the in-person event, so Neyha had to pivot and find creative ways to share the stories of various inspiring women.

During the summer, Neyha worked with Olivia on finding alternative ways to broadcast their message and that's where the idea of @thefemalefocus was born. Since the inception of @thefemalefocus Olivia and Neyha have had the privilege of interviewing eight females ranging from the former State Superintendent of Public Education, Delaine Eastin to their most recent guest, Avery Gudel, who is an inspiring fourth grader who shared her experiences being diagnosed with Type I diabetes at age five. The interviews are posted on their Instagram page and they are currently working on additional interviews.

"Being able to see so many different women from various backgrounds who are all unique in their respective ways and who share their stories" has been most rewarding says Neyha. "We are two high school students doing our best to navigate our education and prepare for our future, however this project/blog has become so important to us. Learning from these women and their experiences continually teaches us so much valuable knowledge that we also wish to share with others," she said.

Due to the fact that Instagram is the fastest-growing and most popular social media platform of 2020, Neyha acknowledges the ability to reach more people, with even more consistency. "Due to this social media platform we can reach a wider audience and update contact instantly," Neyha said.

Neyha said they have received an overwhelming amount of support for our project from the community. "We have had numerous young girls and women who have reached out and told us how they were inspired by reading the stories on our page, which makes everything we do feel so rewarding," she said.

Led by a community of passionate advocates raising awareness and funds, Girl Up's efforts help the hardest to reach girls living in places where it is hardest to be a girl. They have participated in the 2020 Women's March held in downtown Sacramento and a Holiday Product Drive, where they hosted a drive at school and collected feminine products and diapers for the women and children at My Sister's House in Sacramento - a safe haven which serves Asian and Pacific Islander and other underserved women and children impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking by providing a culturally appropriate and responsive safe haven.

"Although our plans for the in-person Female Focus event were canceled, we still enjoyed the experience of collaborating with City of Elk Grove Councilwoman Stephanie Nguyen to share ideas about the event. We look forward to working together on future events," Neyha said.

Juniors in high school, Olivia and Neyha are both still in the process of figuring out what careers they want to pursue in the future, however, they know for certain that we want to be powerful, educated women who inspire others. "No matter where we end up after high school, we will continue to educate others about women empowerment and gender equality," Neyha said.

Check out the amazing and inspiring stories @thefemalefocus, and if you would like to recommend someone that they should highlight on their account, email femalefocusblog@gmail.com





CLARA Announces First Class of CATALYST Artistic Mentor Program

10 high school students paired with 10 professional artists for year-long apprenticeship

CLARA announced the 10 high school students and professional artists who will participate in CATALYST, a 9-month professional apprenticeship program meant to help emerging artists in their late teens define their professional and educational paths.

Catalyst is an iteration of two previous CLARA programs -- CLARA's existing high school internship program in partnership with Sacramento City Unified School District SCUSD), and the Sacramento Emerging Artist Showcase (SEAS), which would have been launched in the spring of 2020 to provide early-career artists with tangible marketing tools. In looking to reframe both projects for a post-COVID creative economy, inspiration struck:

"COVID-19 has forced many artists to reconsider their future in the sector," explained CLARA's education outreach director Emili Danz. "The pandemic has put many career artists in a position of seeking renewed purpose and hope. By pairing them with eager emerging artists, we provide an opportunity for them to make a life-long impact on the next generation -- arts workers who will be desperately needed when we rebuild the arts in our community post-pandemic."

Students from SCUSD who have indicated that they plan to pursue the arts as a professional vocation are paired with an artist mentor and personal coach to learn vocational skills, apply them to their craft, identify further avenues of investigation, and track culminating projects; collectively, the students will participate in a remote cohort that focuses on leadership development and goal-setting.

Artist mentors are Sacramento-based artists working in the student's field of interest. This relationship is intended to generate artistic feedback, professional guidance, and pragmatic advice for the student on how to chart a career path in their chosen art form.

Brian Chris Rogers, a musician mentor, puts it like this: "There are things time has taught me. As a mentor, my aim is to use that wisdom to give her the piece of the puzzle that will make her art soar, because she's 99% of the way there already. She can play circles





around me -- and that's how it should be."

The student/mentor pairs are:

Kathryn Taytroe, a junior at McClatchy High School studying classical guitar, is paired with Brian Chris Rogers, an award-winning vocalist and drummer who has opened for Yo Yo Ma, Bernie Sanders, Blues Traveler, and Warren G.

Estephany Anguiano, a senior at Luther Burbank with a talent for sketch and digital illustration, is paired with the artist and illustrator Tabitha Jensen. The two share a passion for imaginative artscapes inspired by science fiction and fantasy.

Silvia Fernanda Figueroa is a senior at The Met Sacramento who is applying to AMDA for vocal performance; she will be mentored by Kamilyn Davis, a choral conductor, music educator, and performer who has toured internationally with her music.

Viviana Garcia, a senior at John F. Kennedy High School focusing on photojournalism is paired with Emma Montalbano, a photographer, collagist and printmaker who currently serves as the artistic editor of TUBE, a Sacramento-based arts and culture print magazine.

Karla Lopez, a vocalist who is currently a junior at The Met Sacramento, is paired with bassist / vocalist songwriter Casey Lipka, a regular collaborator with Capital Dance Project and the lead singer of Dear Darling.

Isabel Melchor, a junior at The Met Sacramento interested in textiles and costume design, is paired with Christina Pate, a sculptor and designer who creates "wearable art" with upcycled garments and sculptural elements.

Daniela Torres Melendrez, a junior at John F Kennedy High School with a passion for live event photography, is paired with Melissa Uroff, a photographer experimenting with cyanotypes and mixed-media print projects. She is a regular participant in Art-Mix at the Crocker and monthly shows at WAL.

Theo Osborn, a senior at CK McClatchy High School focusing on acrylic and spray paint art is paired with the multidisciplinary artist Brandon Alxndr, who is best known locally as the curator of Elysium Live.

Noah Sample, a junior at The Met Sacramento studying drums, is paired with Patrick Shelley -- a drummer and teaching artist who has toured the United States, Canada and Europe as a working drummer for numerous bands.

Leo Williams, a senior at The Met Sacramento interested in tattoo artistry, is paired with Jocelyn McGreggor, a photographer and tattooist who is currently the artist-in-residence at The Old Republic Tattoo Company in Sacramento.

CATALYST was made possible by the Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture's Creative Economy Grant as well as a Local Impact grant from the California Arts Council.

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Halloween Special: A Monster Mystery Solved at East Lawn

Frankenstein's Monster Actor Was Thought to Have Been Interred at East Lawn Memorial Park



East Lawn Memorial Park is the final resting place of more than 100,000 people.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

With Halloween in our distant past, the timing is right to present a story of mistaken identity related to one of history's most famous monster characters: Frankenstein's monster.

Through a quick search of the internet, one can find references to the silent film actor Percy Standing as having been interred in East Sacramento's East Lawn Memorial Park.

Those references also identify this Percy Standing as having starred as "The Creation" in the first feature-length film adaptation of Mary Shelley's 1818 novel, "Frankenstein."

This 1915, silent-era film, "Life Without a Soul," tells the story of a doctor who creates a soulless man. It is ultimately revealed that the film's events were dreamed by a young man who had fallen asleep while reading Shelley's book.

That film was preceded by "Frankenstein," a 16-minute silent film, which was produced by Edison Studios, in New Jersey, in 1910. The monster in this short film was played by Charles Ogle (1865-1940).

Because of online misattributions, East Lawn Memorial Park was led to believe that the actor who played the 1915 Frankenstein's monster character was interred at that cemetery.

It was not until last week that East Lawn was informed that their Percy Standing is not the same Percy Standing who appeared in 42 films from 1913 to 1934, and was born in London on May 10, 1877.

A discovery during research for this article instead revealed that the Percy Standing interred at East Lawn was a longtime Southern Pacific employee in Roseville.

His obituary in The Sacramento Bee notes that he lived in Roseville from 1915 to 1950, was a member of the Roseville Masonic Lodge and the Scottish Rite bodies in Sacramento, and was a car inspector for the Southern Pacific.

Both this obituary and a card on file at East Lawn Memorial Park refer to the Percy Standing of Roseville as Percy A. Standing, who had a daughter named Winifred Routt. The Bee also refers to a second daughter: Nellie Rawson.

That Percy Standing – or more precisely Percy A. Standing – was born five days before Halloween in 1882 and died on September 17, 1950.

He is also referenced in voter registration listings from the 1920s and 1930s as a resident of Roseville, and his World War I registration card recognizes him

see Mystery page 17

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Balshor Florist celebrates 70th anniversary



Photo by Lance Armstrong
Marie Balshor opened Balshor Florist with her husband, Al, on Nov. 4, 1950.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Balshor Florist, one of the city's oldest florists, celebrated a milestone anniversary last week, as this Land Park business turned 70 years old.

Founded by Sacramento native Al Balshor on Nov. 4, 1950, this full-fledged, mostly old-style florist is one of the city's few remaining florists that operated during that era.

Another one of those florists, Relles Florist, played a role in the eventual opening of Balshor Florist.

In February 1947, Al, who was then a 22-year-old World War II veteran, began an apprenticeship at Relles Florist, when that business was located at 2220 J St. It is now located at 2400 J St.

Al, who grew up at 3rd and U street, near Southside Park, was not new to the flower-selling industry at that time. He worked his first florist job in 1941, providing weekend labor for Piazza Wholesale Florist at 1328 7th St.

Those jobs were just part of Al's employment background before he became a florist owner.

His résumé also included working as a newsboy for The Sacramento Bee when it was located at 911 7th St., and selling programs at the now-longtime defunct L Street Arena boxing venue at 223 L St.

Those familiar with Balshor Florist know that this business has always been a family-run operation.

Al, who died in 2015, was assisted by his wife, Marie, during the entirety of his 64 years of running this florist.

Marie recalled learning about Al's desire to operate his own florist.

"(Al) came home one day, walked in the door from work and he said, 'I'm going to open up a flower shop,'" she said. "He said, 'Hop in the car. We're going to go look (for a business location).' I said, 'Now?' And he said, 'Yeah, right now.'"

"So, we rode around for two or three hours. He liked this one place (at 730 O St.) very much. We kept coming back to it. When we got home, I said, 'Well, have you made a decision?' He said, 'Yeah, 730 O St.'"

Marie noted that the following day, Al found out who owned this then-vacant building, which previously housed a grocery store on its ground floor and living quarters on its second floor.

Al made arrangements to purchase the building from its owner, Tavalou Jackson (1925-1965), who was also a World War II veteran.

Marie recalled that rent for "the whole place" was $125 per month.

She also remembered the business's first day of operation.

"We made $3.65 that day," Marie said. "We gave flowers away, because we were opening and that kind of stuff. And many friends helped us put it together, because it was just an empty, vacant building and we had to get refrigeration and things going. We were very indebted to a lot of people. They're all gone now."

After about a decade of renting this structure, Jackson sold the building to Al for $25,000.

With his desire to have his own floral shop constructed, Al purchased another property cattycorner from 730 O St., through an auction. Later, in 1971, the state of California purchased the site from Al through eminent domain for $50,000 and began renting the property to him for $300 per month.

In May 1972, Al purchased the former site of Marty Gardens Florist at 2661 Riverside Blvd. for $80,000. The building was constructed in 1955 to house that business.

Later that decade, Al purchased the remainder of the building – the business spot next door, at 2665 Riverside Blvd., where Mary's Alterations eventually operated.

Since moving from the 730 O St. building to Riverside Boulevard, Balshor Florist has built a longtime relationship with customers throughout much of the greater Sacramento area.

The business makes free deliveries in that area and has a long history of providing flowers for weddings, funerals and hospitals.

Five years removed from the death of her husband, Marie noted that his approach to customer service remains a staple part of Balshor Florist.

Marie described her business's customer service philosophy.

"We're here to please, we're here to serve our people, and we get very few complaints," she said. "And when we do (receive complaints), the staff gets kind of upset. I say, 'Oh, we need those to keep sharp.'"

Among the family members who have assisted Balshor Florist in its pursuit to "keep sharp" and assist with their customers flower requests are Al and Marie's sons, Al, Jr. and Jerry, and their daughter, Judie.

With this florist now 70 years old and serving generations of customers, Marie described her feelings on reaching this milestone anniversary.

"It makes me very humble that we've had these wonderful customers all these years," she said. "We know that we've done excellent work, because we have such repeat customers. Besides that, Al and I have administered to many people who needed it. Many of them, we just bring them in the office and have them sit in the 'Listening Chair.'"

The Listening Chair is about a 100-year-old, wooden chair that has sat at this florist since 1974, and has developed a reputation as a place where regular clientele and first-time visitors of this business can sit and openly speak about non-florist related topics.

Marie said that she is uncertain how long her business will remain open, but she vowed that it would never be sold.

"We will never sell," she said. "I can't say it's going to (exist) forever, but we'll hold on as long as we can."

As a way to celebrate their 70 years in business and their appreciation for their many customers throughout the years, Balshor Florist held a very casual, socially-distanced party on Nov. 4. The gathering was open for anyone to visit the shop anytime during that workday and have some cake and other snacks, and visit.

Despite the 70 years that have accumulated since the debut of Balshor Florist, Marie, at 92 years old, retains a youthful approach to the business and in some ways wonders how the years passed by so quickly. "It seems like only yesterday (that Balshor Florist opened)," she said.



Left to right, John Castillion, Veronica Castillion, Marie Balshor and Jerry Balshor celebrate Balshor Florist's 70th anniversary. Longtime customers and other friends of the business stopped by the shop on Nov. 4 to congratulate this florist's staff.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the article, "A Changing Landscape Former cemetery garden volunteers express frustration with city's vision for cemetery grounds", which was in the last issue of the Land Park News. Volunteers always signed city volunteer forms. The issue was the punitive, restrictive, cemetery-only volunteer form that staff imposed in early 2019, which included a gag order. Volunteers are unaware of any trellises falling over in the past 7 years. City staff ignores the Cemetery Master Plan, which states a vision of a historic cemetery, museum, and gardens. This vision is reflected in the listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which identifies the rose garden as a contributing feature. Until, and if, the listing is amended, the staff is under a legal obligation to protect the gardens on the same basis as other features of the cemetery. The consultants, whose expertise is monument preservation (not historic landscapes) have recommended removing non-historic vegetation (pre-1962) as well as turf and covering the ground with decomposed granite and mulch. This will make the cemetery a barren, lifeless place once again, which is not city policy, what the public wants, or required by preservation standards of rehabilitation, which are what apply to the cemetery. The staff has continued to assert that it is a cemetery, not a garden. Why can't it be both?

Thanks.
Anita Clevenger

MYSTERY:

continued from page 13

as a car builder for the Southern Pacific in Roseville.

That card, which is dated Sept. 12, 1918, includes a signature bearing his full name: Percy Archibald Standing, and his birthplace as England.

He signed his World War II card in the same manner. That card, which is dated April 25, 1942, also refers to his employment with the Southern Pacific and his place of birth as England, but more specifically London.

While Percy A. Standing died at the age of 67, Percy Standing, the actor, lived to be 75 and died on March 1, 1953.

This actor's full name was Percy Darrell Standing, and he was interred in Abney Park Cemetery in London.

Last week, Craig Peterson, mortuary manager at East Lawn Memorial Park, told this publication that it was about five years ago when he first read that the Percy Standing interred at East Lawn was the actor who played Frankenstein's monster, or "The Creature."

He mentioned that while browsing the internet for details about East Lawn Memorial Park, he discovered that it did not have a Wikipedia website page.

"I see that there is no East Lawn (page), but East Lawn is mentioned in some other Wikipedia (pages)," he said. "So, then I click on the (link for) Percy Standing and see that he was a silent movie actor (interred at this East Sacramento cemetery). I'm part of the American Theatre Organ Society. We take care of theater pipe organs and we show silent films.

"So, I thought, 'Well, let me look through the list (of Standing's films) and see if I know any of (them).' I'm looking through them and I don't recognize any of the titles exactly, but then I saw 'Life Without Soul.'"

Peterson recalled being excited to read that one more notable person was interred at East Lawn Memorial Park.

"It's pretty exciting," he said last week before learning about the mistaken identity. "The great thing about working in a cemetery like this is the stories of people, and being here since 1904, we have a lot of stories, we have a lot of people – over 100,000 that are interred here. So, when I find somebody like this (at the cemetery), that's a little above average story, it's kind of an interesting find, kind of an exciting find."

Among the notable people who were interred at East Lawn Memorial Park were U.S. Rep. Robert Matsui, Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna Jr., restaurateur Frank Fat, and Newton Jasper Earp, the half-brother of Wyatt Earp, the notorious deputy town marshal who participated in the legendary gunfight at O.K. Corral in 1881.

Later last week, after learning that East Lawn Memorial Park is not the final resting place of the actor who played the role of "The Creation" in the first feature-length film adaptation of Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" novel, Peterson said he was glad to have the record set straight.

"Based on a find on Wikipedia and then the Find A Grave (website), we thought that we had the Percy Standing that was the actor who had been the first (feature-length film) Frankenstein's monster, and we were kind of excited about that," he said. "But now we're finding as we're diving into it more and finding an obituary from the Percy Standing that we have here at East Lawn that it was not the same Percy Standing that was the actor, but (one who) worked for the railroad.

"So, we're happy to have the record set straight. Hopefully, Wikipedia and (Find A Grave) will be updated somewhere along the way."

The latter website, as of last week, included pages for both of these Percy Standings, and each of those pages included references to the actor.

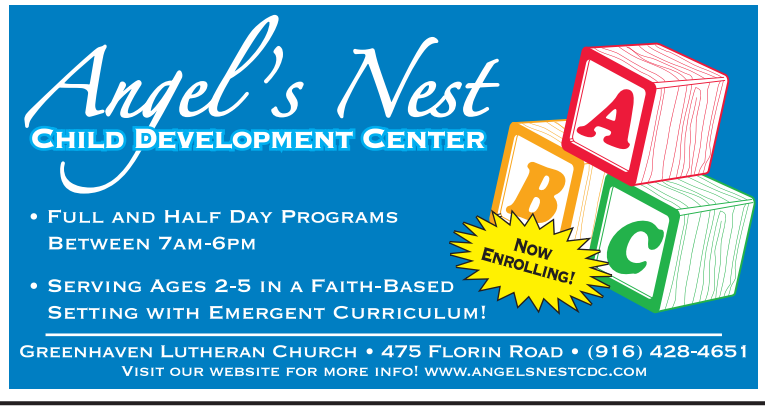
As for the Percy Standing, who was an actor, his first film experience was a non-leading role in the American short film drama, "His Wife's Child."

He appeared in two other films – one short- and one feature-length – prior to appearing as "The Creation" in "Life Without a Soul."

That film, which was written by Jesse J. Goldburg and directed by Joseph W. Smiley, is considered a lost film.

An original lobby card for the film includes the following description: "A dramatic masterpiece pulsating with heart interest, interwoven with a love tale of sacrificial devotion."

Railroad history buffs or anyone else who is interested in viewing the final resting place of the Percy Standing who is interred at East Lawn Memorial Park should visit the Palm Court Deluxe crypts in the southeast portion of this cemetery.





Raley's and LPNA Halloween

Photos by Stephen Crowley

Families enjoyed Halloween from the safety of their cars at a drive-thru trick-or-treat event at the Raley's parking lot on Freeport Boulevard. The event was organized by the South Land Park Neighborhood Association.

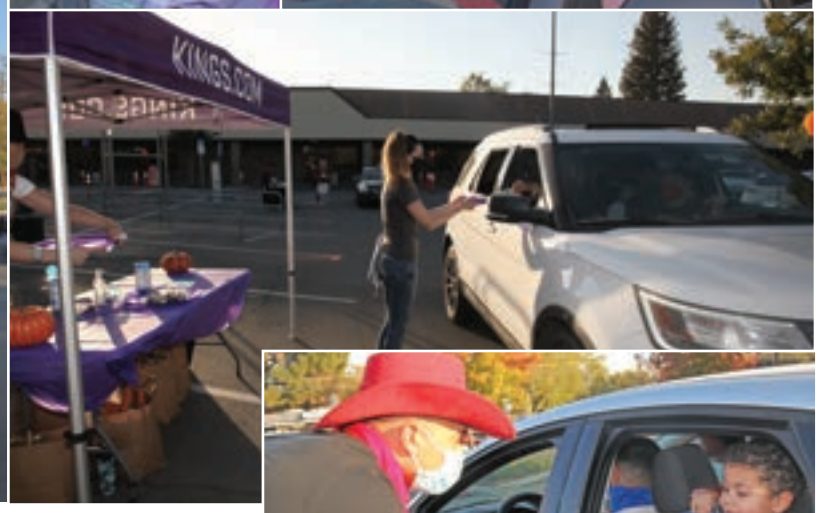








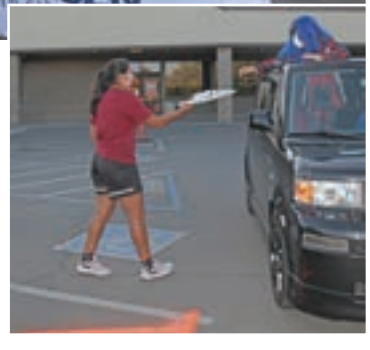












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see HALLOWEEN page 19

Halloween:

continued from page 18







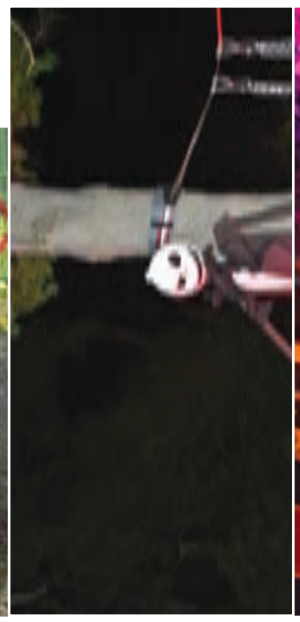


Halloween Displays

Photos by Monica Stark

In Land Park, neighbors took the theme of scary homeschooling to a new level. In Hollywood Park, at the home of local artist Nixy Cane (whose chalk art was featured earlier this year), Pirates of the Caribbean was the theme in the yard with sea-faring skeletons aboard a haunted ship.

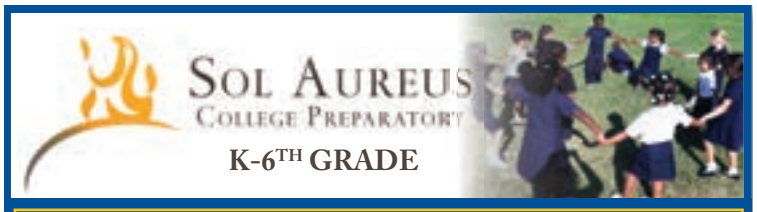












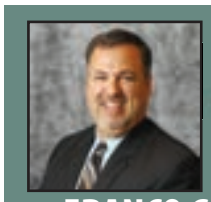
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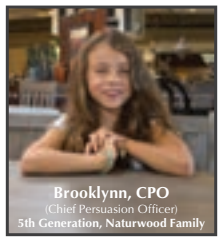
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