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Safe & Super Halloween

RETURNS TO FAIRYTALE TOWN

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2324 Portola Way • $789,990

Land Park resident shares his passion for classic autos

By LANCE ARMSTRONG



Photos by Lance Armstrong
Land Park resident Bob Esparza stands next to his 1964 Studebaker Hawk.

Land Park resident Bob Esparza has had a passion for old automobiles since his youth, growing up in the Tahoe Park area.

Esparza, a 1975 graduate of Hiram Johnson High School, told this publication that this passion was greatly inspired by the many cars that he has owned during his life.

"That started back in high school," he said. "My first car was a 1957 Pontiac. (He later had) a 1937 Ford and a 1965 Pontiac LeMans. After that, we had two 1936 Oldsmobiles, and then I got my 1970 (Pontiac) GTO convertible, and then after that was the 1961 Ford Galaxy convertible. After that was the 1970 Chevy Nova. Then came the 1963 Ford F100 truck."

Esparza added that old cars have always been a part of his life.

"I just kind of grew up around old cars," he said. "We always had them – me and my dad and my uncles," he said. "My brother and I always worked on old cars. It was just a pride for us to wash it and shine it and go out for a Sunday drive after church, visit Grandma, and we would put the top down.

"It just means a bit of freedom to have an old car, that I can just drive around in something unique that no one else has."

Also fueling his interest in cars was the 1973 film, "American Graffiti," which was released while he was attending Johnson High. This pop culture hit film features many classic cars.

"I remember seeing (that film) in high school," he said. "Then (there was the 1950s- to 1960s-themed television series) 'Happy Days.'"

Also memorable for Esparza is the "hot rod row" that was in Hiram Johnson High's parking lot.

"Everybody parked their old cars: the Mustang fastbacks and the Camaros and the Firebirds, all that stuff there," he said.

Esparza, 64, currently owns two classic automobiles: a 1964 Studebaker Hawk and a 1948 Ford truck.

He mentioned that it was not a quick process for him to acquire his Studebaker.

However, after some delays in the negotiations in about 2019, he eventually traded his 1947 Hudson for the Studebaker.

"We signed each other's pink slips over," he said. "He got my old car and I got his Studebaker."

Esparza noted that his Studebaker is one of the last Hawks that were manufactured.

"(Nineteen hundred and sixty-four was) the last year that they made the Hawk, then Studebaker moved operations to Canada and they (manufactured their last automobile) in 1966," he said. "They only made between 1,400 and 1,500 of those Hawks."

The Studebaker Corporation has roots dating back to 1852. It was then that brothers Clement and Henry Studebaker established a blacksmith shop in South Bend, Indiana.

Studebaker's history includes manufacturing horse-drawn wagons and later automobiles. Its production of wagons ended in 1920.

see Autos page 3



This 1948 Ford truck is parked in front of the home of its owner, Bob Esparza.



This Studebaker Hawk grill is fashioned after a Mercedes grill.



Bob Esparza is the sixth owner of this 1964 Studebaker Hawk. Photo by Lance Armstrong

Autos:

continued from page 2

As for the Hawk, Esparza mentioned that he was drawn to that model during his youth.

"The Hawk, when they first came out, I first saw those in high school," he said. "They were unusual, especially that Mercedes grill type that they have. (Also), the roofline, which was fashioned after a 1958 (Ford) Thunderbird."

Esparza is the sixth owner of his Studebaker, which no longer has its original color and engine.

He referred to his Studebaker as "a dream to drive."

"It was (originally) sold as a personal luxury car," he said. "Studebaker was going after the European market when they redesigned the Studebaker. From 1952 to 1953, you see a drastic change, (and) 1953 became a lot smaller."

In about 2016, Esparza and his father, Steve, who died two years later, began rebuilding the 1948 Ford.

Both the Studebaker and Ford bring an old-time feel to Esparza's neighborhood street, as the cars line the front of his Land Park property.

Esparza, who has a long career in the printing industry and also operates a pet care service, spoke about his 1948 Ford.

"The 1948 was the first of the F100 series that came out," he said. "It was a new body style." The car, Esparza noted, was a tremendous project to put together.

"It had no windows," he said. "It was primer red, primer blue, primer green, (and) had no hood on it. So, Pop and I put some time into that and fixed it up, updated it. New transmission, stick shift, new (modified 350 Chevy) engine in there. It was kind of a work of joy between us.

"When my dad passed away in 2018, that was kind of my inheritance, so it's kind of my joy."

Beyond his strolls in his classic cars along Land Park Drive, Broadway and other streets of Sacramento, Esparza also enjoys showing his automobiles at car shows from Sacramento to Vacaville.

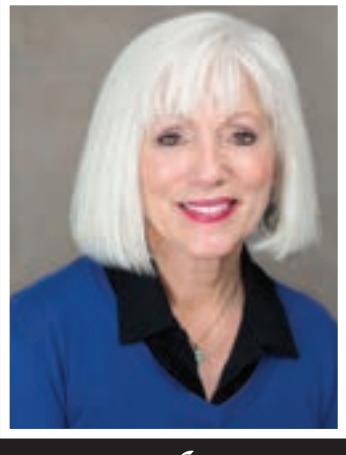
His classic automobiles have been featured at William Land Park car shows, and at the time of his interview for this article, Esparza was looking forward to participating in a car show at the California Automobile Museum on Front Street.

Esparza noted that one of his most enjoyable aspects of owning classic automobiles is the friends he makes through conversations about those vehicles.

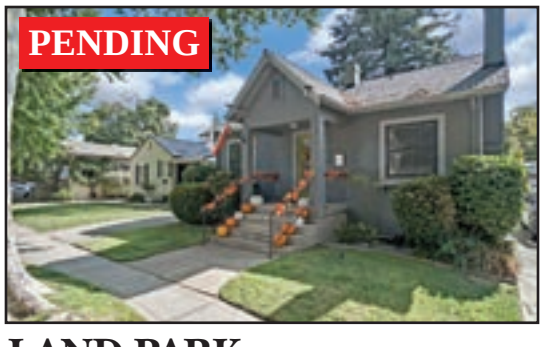
"I've made a lot of friends through cars, through car clubs, different ages," he said. "I've got buddies who are 17 years old and I've got buddies who are in their 70s and 80s. And we all have something in common, and that's cars."

In providing more evidence of his love for classic cars, Esparza mentioned what he would do if he won many millions of dollars in the California State Lottery.

"If I won the lotto tomorrow, I would probably go out and try to rescue every old car there is, and start my own (automobile) museum," he said. "Through museums and the education of cars, you can teach people so much about transportation history, about styling, about the way it changed travel throughout the United States."



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LAND PARK

Charming and quaint Land Park Bungalow on a tree lined street. Formal living room has fireplace and windows overlooking front yard. Formal dining room has newer built-in hutches that match kitchen dcor. Kitchen has Shaker cabinetry, tiled floors, quartz counters, tiled backsplash, stainless steel dishwasher, refrigerator and a free-standing gas stove. Master bedroom has an additional alcove area with storage and access door to backyard. Main bath has tiled floors and tub / shower. Hardwood floors, newer HVAC, roof and attic fan. Inside laundry room, media control closet that is wired to house and garage utilizing a Sure West fiber internet connection plus a Nest control system. Covered patio and pavers in landscaped backyard and single car garage. Walking distance to Taylor's Market, Chocolate Fish Coffee, Marie's Donuts, Freeport Bakery and Dad's Kitchen.
1956 4th Avenue $635,000



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Faces and Places: ACC concert streamed online

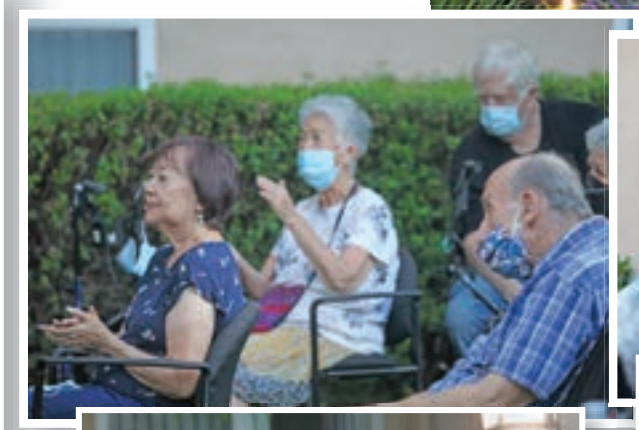
Photos by Stephen Crowley

ACC Greenhaven Terrace hosted an outdoor concert in their courtyard on Monday, Sept. 13, featuring singer Maeley Tom, a Pocket/Greenhaven resident. The concert was recorded and premiered on YouTube and Facebook a few days later, which Ted Fong mentions is another way ACC is keeping seniors engaged and connected through music in a safe environment. "With the live stream afterward, we are reaching other seniors in the community who are homebound and isolated," he wrote the Pocket News.

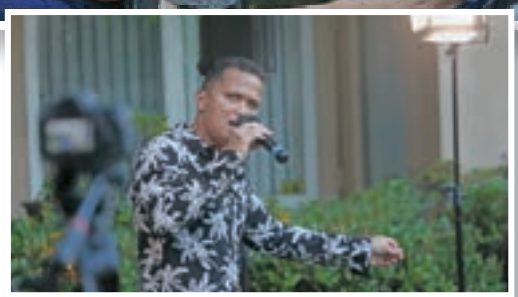
Fong noted that "Maeley is a celebrity in her own right, a former high ranking official in the California legislature and several state agencies." She recently published her memoirs and people in the community know her, but not necessarily as a performer. Her book, available on Amazon, is called, "I'm Not Who You Think I Am: An Asian American Woman's Political Journey."













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Alzheimer's Association Walk to be held on Oct. 16

What may look like a solemn procession of individuals carrying flowers in memory of loved ones through Swenson Park Golf Course in Stockton on Saturday, Oct. 16 will be a swell of families and friends raising money for the Alzheimer's Association.

With the coronavirus impacting large gatherings, the AA announced on their website the event encourages people to be fully vaccinated to attend. Also, with safety on people's minds, people may choose to walk in their own neighborhoods. The event begins with an 8 a.m. registration, followed by a ceremony at 9 a.m. and the walk at 9:30 a.m.

Elsie Warner, whose husband Don Warner of 60-plus years, has a form of dementia known as Lewy body, has varying degrees of forgetfulness from one day to the next. She and her daughter Denise Campion have participated in the walks in past years (except last year) and have been strong advocates for the Alzheimer's Association for the support that they have received as caregivers and family of Don Warner. In a previous year, Elsie was pushed in her wheelchair by friends and family on her walk team. They said they appreciated the feeling of camaraderie at the walks.



One of the services that Denise has appreciated has been the 24-hour helpline.

By going to alz.org you can find out the closest resources, support and educational programs to you.

Additional Sacramento area Alzheimer's Association events that are coming up include a yard sale at Campion's house on Saturday, Oct. 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., 134 Partridge Drive, Galt. Furniture, household items, interior decor, yard and garden, tools, garage workbench/cabinet, clothes, purses, prints, paintings, window treatments, bath towels and accessories, electronics, holiday frames, books toys, bedding, quilt set, office supplies, materials and craft supplies. From 2 to 3 p.m., fill a bag full for $2; 3 pm. Make an offer on all remaining items; 3 p.m., children's toys and fall theme basket raffle drawing, $1 each. All proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Association.

If wondering if your loved one has Alzheimers…

Source: alz.org

According to alz.org, the following information indicates the difference between Alzheimer's and typical age-related changes, if you are wondering about someone you may suspect as having the disease.

Someone with Alzheimer's can often make bad decisions, versus occasional poor decision making.

Someone with Alzheimer's may not be able to keep track of their finances, versus someone who might miss paying a bill once in a while.

Someone with Alzheimer's may not know if it's summer or winter. Someone with typical age-related changes in this category includes not knowing the day of the week but can figure it out later.

Someone with Alzheimer's might have difficulty having a conversation versus someone who forgets which word to use in the middle of a conversation.

Someone with Alzheimer's might lose things and not be able to retrace steps to find them. Someone who has typical age-related changes might include losing things from time to time.

SUDOKU

8				1		5		
			3		7		2	
1		4		5	2			
	6				8		7	4
9			5	7	4		6	
	4					9		2
					1			
2		9	7	8	6			3
		3	2				8	6

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off. So sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWER:

8	9	7	5	6	2	3	1	4
3	1	4	9	8	7	6	5	2
5	6	2	1	3	4	7	8	9
2	5	6	8	9	1	8	4	7
4	9	8	3	7	5	.	2	6
7	4	1	8	2	6	5	9	3
6	3	9	2	5	8	4	7	1
1	2	8	7	4	3	9	6	5
7	4	5	9	.	6	2	3	8

Guess Who?

I am an actor born in New York on November 4, 1961. I debuted in TV commercials and transitioned to movies in 1980. My breakout role came in 1984 when I played a novice karate student. I've recently resumed the character in a popular TV series.

Answer: Ralph Macchio

Safe & Super Halloween returns to Fairytale Town





CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to aviation.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 11 = G)

A. **18 19 16 11 15 2**

Clue: Act of flying

B. **4 16 9 11 20**

Clue: Flight apendages

C. **1 25 26 5 23 16 9 11**

Clue: Act of getting on an aircraft

D. **2 5 26 14 17 19**

Clue: Make a journey

Answers: A. flight B. wings C. boarding D. travel

Article and photos by George Young

Fairytale Town in William Land Park is a beloved Sacramento institution. This outdoor retro-playpark is an homage to imagination since 1959. Fairytale Town has enchanted families with over 25 hands-on play structures, and friendly live animals that represent favorite classic nursery rhyme creatures found in beloved children's literature.

1986 brought the first "Safe & Super Halloween", a celebration that has grown into a cherished tradition for generations of Sacramentans. Each year a different theme is embraced for the event to inspire costumes, decorations, and photo-op elements. Past themes include: Pirates, Super Heroes, Star Wars, Harry Potter, the Hobbit, "Monster Mash" & the Wizard of Oz—to name a few. In returning the lockdown, the 2021 "Safe & Super Halloween" needed a very special theme that would be fun, appropriate, instantly recognizable and attract young and old alike. So who were they going to call? Ghostbusters!

Fairytale Town Transformed

On the weekends of October 16-17 and 23-24, Fairytale Town in William Land Park will be hosting their first large public event since the COVID shutdown. This will be their 34th "Safe & Super Halloween and the Ghostbusters theme is just in time for the November 19th release of the newest film in the Ghostbusters series: "Ghostbusters: Afterlife". This year, the Sac-

see Halloween page 7

Halloween:

continued from page 6

ramento Ghostbusters will be protecting the grounds of Fairytale Town for the first Ghostbusters themed "Safe & Super Halloween" while a 30 foot tall Stay Puft Marshmallow Man watches over all! Visitors to Fairytale town will find a safe, happy destination for a family. A unique Halloween celebration with 15 Trick or Treat Stations throughout, themed photo-ops including the giant Stay Puft Marshmallow Man, the Sacramento Ghostbusters & the Ghostbusters' Ecto-Mobile. There will be a Kid's Nightly Costume Parade, live entertainment, games, arts & crafts, food trucks, themed vendors, and more. All 3.5 acres of Fairytale Town have been transformed into a unique Ghostbusters themed world with surprises at every turn. King Arthur's Castle has turned into the New York Museum of Art , Sherwood Forest became the home of the Terror Dogs, and Mr. McGregor's Garden will be a slime-making station along with even more unique themed children's activities throughout the park



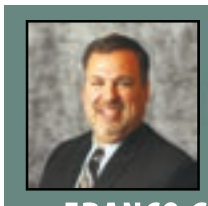
Sacramento Ghostbusters

The Sacramento Ghostbusters founding members are Andrew Whatley, Alexander Ortega, Jay Gary, and Lee Briesemeister. The team's current techs George Young, Drew Gieger, and Andy Dumm, have been with the team for several years. The team is happy to welcome their newest member Michael Pendley and his EctoFun, a Miller Meteor Ambulance/Hearse modeled after the Ectomobile. This particular Ectomobile was a barn find (similar to the new film) that Sacramento Ghostbuster Michael Pendley lovingly restored and customized over thousands of hours from a rare 1961 Cadillac Miller-Meteor Futura with the help of industrious fellow Sacramento Ghostbusters and evokes the vehicle that will appear in the new movie "Ghostbusters: Afterlife". Since 2010, they have brought smiles to many and devoted themselves to non-profits such as the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Walks, Vehicles for Veterans, and Make-A-Wish. They've also be featured in several comic-cons and other community events such as the Crocker Art Museum's "Crocker-con" and the annual Sacramento Santa Parade.

Visiting Fairytale Town

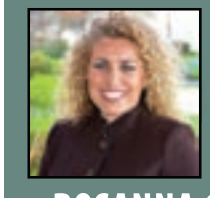
TICKETS are on sale now and going fast and this event may sell out, so get your tickets today!

For more information, please visit their website at www.fairytaletown.org.



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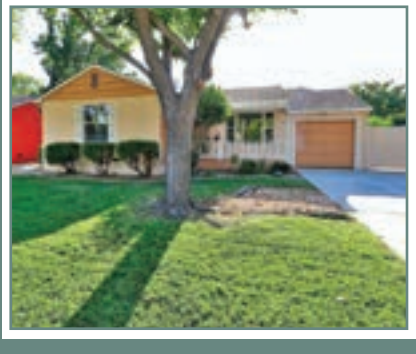
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Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk coming to Sacramento region

By Susan Laird
VCN editor emeritus

An iconic national 5K run/walk is coming to Sacramento on Nov. 6.

That morning, at 9 a.m., Sacramento's William Land Park will host the first annual Sacramento Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk.

Run. Walk. Honor.

Just like the original "T2T" 5K held in New York City every year, this event will symbolize New York Firefighter Stephen Siller's final footsteps from the foot of the Battery Tunnel to the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001, and pays homage to the 343 FDNY firefighters, 71 law enforcement officers, and thousands of civilians who lost their lives.

Proceeds from the race go to benefit the Gold Star families with young children of first responders who lost their lives in the line of duty, and catastrophically injured service members.

Local woman inspired

This year, more than 30,000 people participated in the New York event. But not everyone has time to travel to the east coast for a 5K event. So, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation is expanding the event to cities nationwide.

East Sacramento resident Mary Parra is coordinating the event's debut in the Sacramento area.



Photo courtesy

The inaugural Sacramento Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk will be held at Sacramento's William Land Park at 9 a.m. on Nov. 6. This event is held annually in New York City (pictured), and is expanding to cities throughout the nation. Proceeds benefit the families of first responders who gave their lives in the line of duty, and catastrophically wounded members of the armed services.

"I learned about the Tunnel to Towers Foundation and saw up close how it makes an incredible impact on families of first responders who have suffered a great loss," Parra said. "I was drawn to learn more about the organization and that led me to be inspired to put together a 5K for the Sacramento region. This is one of 70 5Ks across the country benefitting the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. This money benefits their In the Line of Duty Program, which provides mortgage-free homes to our nation's catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, and Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children."

Parra explained that the Tunnel to Towers Foundation was established by a group of siblings who lost their brother on 9/11.

"FDNY Stephen Siller, on 9/11, had just gotten off duty when he heard the call for help over the scanner in his truck," Parra said. "He turned around, strapped 60 pounds of gear on his back and ran through Battery Tunnel (now the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel) to the Twin Towers, where he gave up his life while saving others."

For six years running, T2T has achieved the highest rating, four stars from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities.

Local impact

Tunnel to Towers has quietly been a large part of the Sacramento region over the years, Parra explains.

"They paid off the mortgage of fallen Modesto Police Officer Corporal Ronil Singh in January, 2019, as well as the mortgage of fallen El Dorado County Sheriff Deputy Brian Ishmael in October 2019, and fallen Sacramento County Sheriff Deputy Adam Gibson this past February," she said. "I think it's important to support the organization that has made a big impact on our local first responders' families and our community."

How to participate

As an inaugural event in the Sacramento region, the T2T 5K Run & Walk expects to be on a more intimate scale than it's parent in NYC. Parra hopes to have a few hundred participants this year, then grow the event every year as awareness spreads.

"We would love to have as much support as possible for our inaugural 5K," Parra said. "If you don't want to run or walk, we are also looking for volunteers. You can reach us at sacramento@tunnel2towers.org."

Still time to register

To participate, visit t2t.org. Click on Get Involved, then on Register. Select "Sacra-

see Tower page 12



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No bull…RUOFS sent to pasture

Sacramento furniture business bids farewell to its locally famous, fiberglass bull

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

After 37 years in business, Ruland's Used Office Furnishings is moving from its original location at 215 North 16th St., and it does not plan to take along its most famous possession: a red-and-white, fiberglass bull known as RUOFS – pronounced Rufus.

For more than three decades, this life-size, yet larger-than-life figure has grabbed the local spotlight for its presence on the sidewalk in front of Ruland's.

On a daily basis, commuters pass by RUOFS, who is known by many people, including those from Land Park who have their own famous fiberglass bull, which stands above the doorway of the Riverside Clubhouse – formerly The Hereford House – on Land Park Drive.

A significant part of RUOFS' attraction along North 16th Street is that his sides have for many years been used as a billboard for many types of messages, including those related to holidays and current events, and thought-provoking ones such as "Humankind. Be both." RUOFS has also been used as a billboard for marriage proposals.

On one occasion, an extra, extra large pair of boxer shorts with hearts on them lied at the bottom of RUOFS' hind legs, and one of his sides bore the message, "Party your pants off."

Ruland's, which will close its current location by the end of this month, and reopen at 1624 North C St. early next year, has shipped RUOFS off to the south part of the county. His new home is at the 9-acre Fog Willow Farms in Wilton.

RUOFS has become part of a very rural scene with thousands of pumpkins (this month only), goats, dogs, chickens, a duck pond, unique structures, a footbridge and more.

Steve Ruland, owner of Ruland's Used Office Furnishings, spoke about his donation of RUOFS.

"We got to talking to (Fog Willow co-owner Joe Cates) about what he was doing (at Fog Willow), and I had been racking my brain trying to come up with a retirement program for him. So, something for him to go and do.

"And so, we got together with them and made the offer to donate him to (Fog Willow). We're telling everybody we put him out to pasture. So, he's out at the pumpkin farm."

RUOFS traveled to Fog Willow on Oct. 6, with much fanfare, noted Joe Cates, who owns Fog Willow with his wife, Stacey.

"It's really funny, because it went on a flatbed trailer and we were driving down the road and so many people honked at us about it," he said. "And it's because they recognized it. They really did recognize it. He is famous."

Cates added that RUOFS will be well taken care of at Fog Willow.

"I'm going to build a little pen around him, so nobody vandalizes him," he said. "We have to put a little Bondo on him. He's got a broken nose a little bit, and we'll do a couple repairs on him, which won't take very long.

"But I have to make sure nobody jumps on him and hurts him, because he's made of fiberglass, even though he looks like a 1,600-pound bull. And then we'll put him up in a very prominent spot, and we're going to write something very fun on the side that will work great for the kids and the families, and it will be something where people come take their picture with it."

"You'll see a lot of older people – (the kids') grandparents – they'll recognize that thing. They know exactly who RUOFS is."

Ruland, who is a 1968 graduate of West Sacramento's now defunct James Marshall High School, recalled acquiring this fiber-

see RUOFS page 11



Photos courtesy of Ruland's

RUOFS is shown during his time as both the furniture company's mascot and a billboard along North 16th Street.

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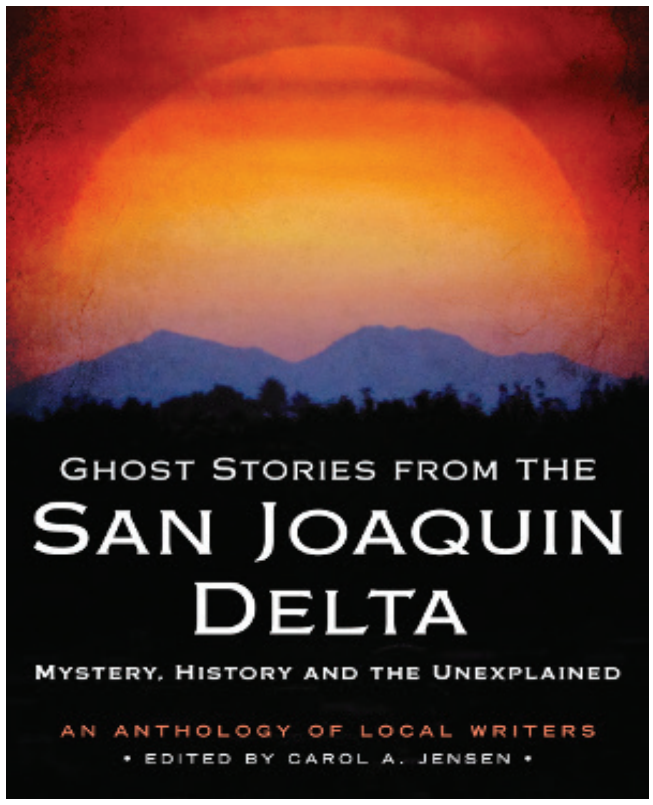
A new book resurrects ghost stories from the San Joaquin Delta

A new book out -- "Ghost Stories from the San Joaquin Delta" -- provides an introduction to local history through stories that reflect our culture and identity. Tule fog, railroads, waterways and remote homesteads provide a rich canvas upon which local legends are built. Once home to the wealthiest pioneers in California, few today remember John Marsh.

Point of Timber, populist political wars, and ritualistic murders were once known in far eastern Contra Costa County. Truth is stranger than fiction as creation stories, cultural myths, extraordinary deaths, and unsolved mysteries from the California Delta heartland are revealed. You will find hair-raising stories of escaped anaconda snakes, missing wives, lone horsemen, train wrecks, fire and wistful love.

The communities of Brentwood, Byron, Knightsen, Oakley, Discovery Bay, Bethel Island and the Far East Islands were settled by agribusiness pioneers, exported more grain in the 1870s than the entire Mississippi Valley, and welcomed the San Pablo and Tulare railroad—and they were scary! The bandit Joaquin Murrieta stole horses here, ritualistic murders occurred on Jersey Island and Hispanic folklore brought the La Llorna legend to the waterways. Do not forget the ghosts at the Byron Hot Springs! Today, these communities are safe and secure San Francisco Bay Area suburbs. Or are they? Do not underestimate the unexplained apparition of Sarah Norton, the "White Witch," lurking just outside your home.

With 65 images and 128 pages, author Carol A. Jensen delights in discovering the history of the California San Joaquin Delta and collecting early 20th-century ephemera and documenting the cultural history of the area from those who lived, farmed, recreated and visited the beautiful California Delta. The fruits of her historical search can be found at the East Contra Costa Historical Society & Museum, Knightsen, California. She is pleased to compile and edit this anthology of Ghost Stories from the East Contra Costa County communities.



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RUOFS:

continued from page 9

glass bull in Elk Grove in 1989.

"I got (a) call to go out to Elk Grove Meats to buy their furniture and they took me out to a barn that had this rusty, old (furniture)," he said. "You know, 35 years ago, used office furniture isn't what it is today. It was some old, clunky metal (desks). We called them tank desks – Army issue stuff, the old, steel (desks).

"Anyway, they had several pieces of it out in the barn. But standing out in the barn behind them was this bull. So, I talked him into throwing that in with the purchase."

During his years in Sacramento, RUOFS has had many adventures from meeting Sacramento mayors and drawing much attention from children to being vandalized, stolen and hit by a truck.

He has also made appearances around the city, such as at Sacramento City Hall, and at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Golden 1 Center.

Ruland spoke about RUOFS' visit to City Hall.

"(Then-Mayor Heather Fargo) actually gave (Ruland's) a proclamation, invited us to City Hall," he said. "(RUOFS) and I showed up down there and we couldn't get through the door, because they had a post in the center of the doorway back in those days. It wasn't wide enough for him to go through."

On one of his most unique adventures, RUOFS was rented to a group that took him skydiving.

Ruland mentioned that despite making his donation to Fog Willow Farms, he maintains a small herd of fiberglass bulls that he will keep at the new location of his business, which like his bulls, will have the new official color: purple.

Recalling his acquisition of the business's second bull, Ruland noted that a man ran through the front entrance of the store and presented a newspaper from Downieville with a photograph of a fiberglass bull.

"(Someone) owned this (fiberglass) bull up there and they didn't know what to do with it, so it kept moving around from the library to the police department to the school," he said.

"I contacted them right away and told them I was interested and told them who I was and what I did."

Ruland added that because this fiberglass bull was owned by a school district and could not be sold, he traded office furniture for it.

The most recent member of the herd came from the

see RUOFS page 12



A SIDE OF BEEF: RUOFS displays a "Happy Birthday" message on one of his sides.

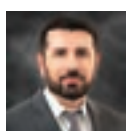
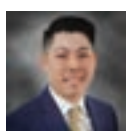
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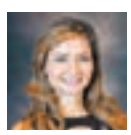


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Tower:

continued from page 8

mento." There, you will have the option to register for the event or to donate. There is also an option to do a virtual run. The website has additional details for the day of the race, when to pick up t-shirts, fundraising, teams, etc. For a $5 discount, use promo code FANDF.

Doing good in the neighborhood

T2T has a four-star certification by Charity Navigator – its highest rating. Roughly 93 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to T2T's programs and services. The organization's Chairman and CEO, Frank Siller, is an uncompensated volunteer.

slaird@handywriting.com

RUOFS:

continued from page 11

Riverside County city of Temecula through a Facebook post.

With its relocation, Ruland's will maintain its name and expand its online presence, while operating a much smaller show space, Ruland noted.

"We're moving around the corner," he said. "We're not going to have a big presence like we have (on North 16th Street). We're mostly going to be online, but we're trying to come up with some kind of a small showroom, but not until after the first of the year."

Ruland mentioned that his decision to relocate his business and downsize his show area came as a result of significant revenue losses.

"For the last 30 years, we were probably the largest used office furniture dealer in the area," he said. "But with COVID(-19) and the business turndown and everything, we've decided to go through some changes. We've sold our property. We had a couple of blocks (on North 16th Street).

"Now we're in the clear-out stage and that's what brought the owner of Fog Willow to us."

Ruland added that the property's new owners plan to open about 250 low-rent apartments at the site.

For additional information about RUOFS and Ruland's Used Office Furnishings, visit www.Rulands.com or the business's Facebook page, which includes RUOFS' skydiving video.

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to aviation.

A T S S E

Answer: Seats

Infinite Giving: Neighborhood-based fitness center gives back to the community

By Monique Hollowell
Special to the Land Park News



Established in 2019, Infinite Giving Inc. is a Sacramento-based organization that gives back to local nonprofits through community fitness experiences. Infinite Giving provides needed items to local schools and centers that cater to the homeless and transitional circumstances for children, women and families.

Monique Hollowell, the founder of Infinite Giving 916, started this organization off the pure passion of wanting to help her local communities & recognized that no matter what type of giving you do, anything & everything goes a very long way. She is a Greenhaven/Pocket native who attended Bear Flag & Didion Elementary and transitioned to Sam Brannon Middle School and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. After leaving the area for 8 years on a collegiate scholarship and recieving her undergraduate degree from the University of Washington and her MA from the University of San Francisco, she decided to come back to her neighborhood to start a mobile fitness/rehabilitation business & raise her own family in the community that she loves. "Now 15 years later, the need for us to give and volunteer is at an utmost priority, which is why I blended my two passions (fitness & giving) and created Infinite Giving 916," Hollowell said.

Over the last 2 years Infinite Giving has held two events in the Greenhaven/Pocket area, resulting in over 5,000 donated items to our local non profits in Sacramento. Coming into their third year, they've expanded and are looking forward to amazing things ahead.

"We have welcomed Dr. Kawanaa Carter to our team who brings an abundance of talent & true passion of giving to our organization, in addition to expanding to a second location, 'Infinite Giving 209', in Stockton. Our goal is to lead by example and encourage others to participate in the simple model of fitness & giving by hosting a free with donation community fitness event (walk, cycle, yoga, zumba, swim, etc) in their city," Hollowell said.

They are hosting their 3rd Annual event at Garcia Bend Park on Sunday October 24th! They are collecting donations from 8 a.m. to noon. The 2 Mile River Walk will start at 8:30 a.m. If you are in the Stockton area, Infinite Giving will be hosting 2 free indoor spin classes (10:30am & 11:15am) on Saturday Octo-

see Giving page 14





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Giving:

continued from page 13

ber 16th at Sweat Fitness Center (Donations 8am-12pm).

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Women's Shelter/ Transitional Center Needed Items/ Donations List: Travel size toiletries, art supplies, household supplies, bedding, towels, blankets, feminine hygiene products, cleaning supplies

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For more information please go to www.infinite-giving.com or find us on FB & IG @ infinitegiving916.



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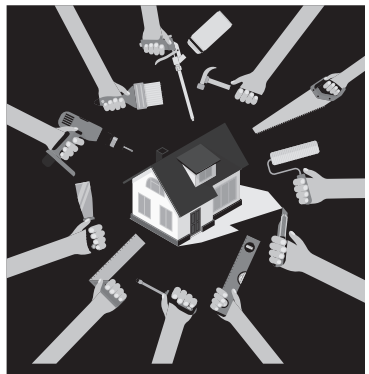
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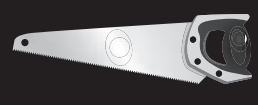
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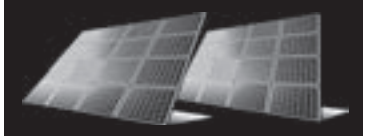
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Calling out the Land Park Volunteer Corps





With the support of thousands of volunteers and many generous donors over the past 11 years, the Land Park Volunteer Corps halted the previous decline of William Land Park and worked steadily and tirelessly to restore its condition. Corps volunteers can take tremendous pride in returning the park to its renewed status as one of Sacramento's premier civic amenities, drawing an astonishing 1.5 million visitors each year.

But maintaining the park requires a sustained community effort.

Saturday, Nov. 6, 2021, starting at 9 a.m., will be the last Work Day, for 2021, then there will be a 3-month "rest & recuperation winter break". The New Work Year will begin in March 2022. The October workday had about 80-100 volunteers working in William Land Park.

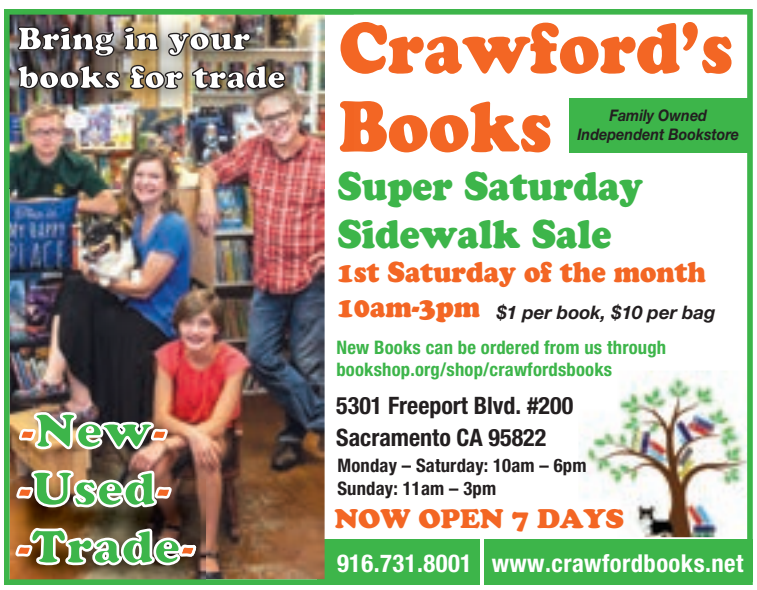
There will be numerous park projects to choose from, suitable for volunteers of all abilities and interests, each led by a Corps team captain.

Volunteers will be able to enjoy a light breakfast of Freeport Bakery pastries and Marie's Donuts. All tools and supplies, including regular deliveries of cold water, are provided. Just bring gloves. After a 2.5-hour work period, volunteers return to Base Camp for a barbecue lunch prepared by the hard-working Corps cooking team. Everything is complimentary!

The Corps wants to especially thank the coffee brewer, Five Sips Coffee and Tea.

Masks are optional for volunteers. Corps Base Camp personnel, including our check-in staff and cooking staff, will be masked. Base Camp is located directly behind Fairytale Town in the park (3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento, CA, 95822). Please call if you have any questions or have any trouble finding the group.

For more information, contact Craig Powell, Lead Coordinator, at (916) 718-3030 or ckpinsacto@aol.com





Sacramento Zoo could relocate to Elk Grove

City, zoological society to study potential relocation, expansion in that south county city



Photo by Lance Armstrong

The Sacramento Zoo has been located in William Land Park since 1927. Zoo officials are considering relocating this capital city institution to Elk Grove.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

After years of exploring potential, new zoo sites in Sacramento without resolution, Sacramento Zoo officials are considering relocating this nearly century-old capital city institution to Elk Grove.

Through an exclusive negotiating agreement, announced on Sept. 23, the city of Elk Grove and the Sacramento Zoological Society will spend the next six months studying the feasibility of relocating the zoo to about a 60-acre portion of a 98-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Lotz Parkway and Kammerer Road, in Elk Grove.

That undeveloped land is currently owned by Kamilos Companies.

A press release notes that the city of Elk Grove recently secured an option to purchase that 60-acre property, which would be appropriately zoned for a zoological park upon that city's approval of a use permit.

The city of Elk Grove's efforts coincide with the zoo's mission to have animals that it can conserve, and also house additional animals that guests are most interested in viewing. An expanded zoo would also provide larger living spaces for the animals.

Elizabeth Stallard, president of the zoological society's board of trustees, told this publication that the Elk Grove site aligns with the zoo's existence as a regional amenity.

Stallard spoke about the city of Elk Grove interest in bringing the zoo to that city.

"We reached out recently to the city of Elk Grove and we were thrilled to find out that they shared our enthusiasm for this project and for the possibility (what) an expanded zoo located in Elk Grove would bring – not just for animals, but for people, too," she said.

Stallard referred to the need to relocate the zoo from its longtime Land Park site and expand it at a larger location as "urgent."

"Animal care standards have improved, including the required minimum space requirement to keep animals in care in

see Zoo News page 5



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Zoo News

continued from page 4

a zoological park," she said. "All 14.7 acres here in Land Park have proved themselves to be insufficient. We've outgrown our space."

The current zoo site also provides extremely limited parking for its guests.

Stallard stressed that there is a need to continue to support the zoo's "critical mission" of supporting conservation and education.

Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen mentioned that Elk Grove is "well positioned" to provide space that would support a new zoo.

"Elk Grove has land that can support the growth and expansion that the zoo needs to survive and thrive as a regional attraction for the future," she said. "The Sacramento Zoo has been a cultural education institution in our region for generations, and a new facility would allow them to inspire and connect more people with the natural world."

Sacramento City Council Member Angelique Ashby acknowledged the challenges that the zoo faces at its current site.

"The zoo, as it sits right now in Land Park in Sacramento, does not have large enough enclosures for the animals to meet current standards for the Association of Zoos (and Aquariums)," she said. "(Zoo officials) were given a period of time to remedy the situation, and the clock is ticking on them.

"In order for them to continue to exist, they have to find a larger space and build more of a free-roaming type of zoo for the animals. I wanted to help (Sacramento) do that. We did several studies, and the studies indicated that in the city of Sacramento, the two best locations to site a new, modern-day zoo were both in Natomas, in my (council) district."

Those sites were North Natomas Regional Park, at 4989 Natomas Blvd., and the site of Sleep Train Arena, the closed North Natomas entertainment facility that was known for the majority of its years as ARCO Arena.

Ashby mentioned that she is "very supportive" of having the zoo relocate to Natomas. However, she noted that many of her fellow City Council members did not support that effort for such reasons as the expense of the zoo buildout and investing in the zoo in Natomas.

Although Ashby told this publication that she prefers to have the zoo remain in Sacramento – and more specifically in Natomas – she is also supportive of the Elk Grove plan as an alternative.

"The Sacramento Zoo should be in Sacramento, if possible," she said. "I would love for it to be in Natomas, but if it's not in Natomas (or elsewhere in Sacramento), Elk Grove sounds good to me, too. I just don't want us to lose our regional amenity."

Ashby added that the Sacramento City Council will soon discuss the status of the zoo, and their interest in having the zoo remain in the city of Sacramento, but in a larger location.

"(Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg) put out a statement (on Sept. 23) that he wanted the (Sacramento) City Council to take a vote on whether or not they want to pursue the zoo," she said. "My assumption is that in the next few months that will happen. If they vote not to pursue the zoo, then the city (of Sacramento) will do nothing.

"(If the city (of Sacramento) decides to pursue the zoo, then I presume they'll put together a package for presentation to the zoo for an alternative to whatever they're working on with Elk Grove to be reviewed after the exclusive negotiations period is over."

Ashby noted that wherever the new zoo is constructed, it will be built in phases. She estimates that the project would be completed in four or five phases.

"The first phase is obviously land acquisition," she said. "The second phase will probably be some of the easier enclosures to build, some of the open spaces.

"That first phase is going to cost about $100 million. The question is how much of that can the zoo fundraise versus how much does a city – Elk Grove or Sacramento – or the county of Sacramento or whoever have to pay, and if so, where would that money come from? And this is where the city of Sacramento really got hung up on. They just didn't want to commit to a $100 million project around a zoo."

Ashby added that the second phase of the project would cost at least another $50 million, and that a full buildout of the zoo would cost about $150 million, aside from land acquisition.

"I'm basing that off of feasibility studies that the zoo had done," she said.

Sacramento Zoo has long history in capital city

The Sacramento Zoo is among the capital city's most cherished institutions, having regularly drawn local and regional visitors to its site within William Land Park since its opening in 1927.

Established with a collection of more than 40 animals, the zoo, which is located at 3930 Land Park Drive, opened in a relatively modest state within a 4-acre parcel at the southwest end of William Land Park.

To support and raise funds for the zoo, the Sacramento Zoological Society was established in 1958.

Three years later, a major renovation project improved the zoo and doubled its size.

Eventually, the zoo outgrew its space and various larger Sacramento area sites were considered for a relocation of the zoo.

Zoo officials also became worried that the zoo's relatively small size could eventually result in a loss of its national accreditation, since the zoo is required to regularly expand its animal habitat spaces.

The Sacramento Zoo, which is home to about 500 native, rare and endangered animals, is one of more than 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

The zoo board ultimately determined, in 2010, to maintain the zoo at its current site for the following 20 years.

However, in 2018, the zoo board unanimously voted to relocate the zoo from its current, 14-acre location to a 50- to 60-acre site, which would include additional land for an accompanying parking lot. But that pursuit did not result in a plan for the zoo to remain in Sacramento.

With negotiations in place for a potential relocation and expansion of the Sacramento Zoo in Elk Grove, Stallard mentioned that future details of that option will be regularly presented with transparency.

"We know the public is just as excited as we are, and people will be anxious to know more about our plans," she said. "Transparency is a key value for both the city and the society, and we plan to update the public about our discussions as soon as possible, and regularly throughout the process."





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