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Land Park News

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Local Ballet Company To Resume Nutcracker Live

see page 6

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LYON REAL ESTATE

Sacramento Zoo visitors share thoughts on zoo's potential relocation to Elk Grove

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

With the city of Elk Grove and the Sacramento Zoological Society currently studying the feasibility of relocating the Sacramento Zoo to Elk Grove, visitors of the zoo last week shared what they thought of that potential move.

The current, 14-acre zoo location in William Land Park is considered insufficient in size, and has extremely limited parking availability for its visitors. A larger zoo site would also allow the zoo to further its essential mission of supporting conservation and education.

Currently under review is land consisting of at least 60 acres near the future intersection of Lotz Parkway and Kammerer Road in south Elk Grove.

The city of Elk Grove and the zoological society agreed last September to spend six months studying the practicality of a move to that city. Upon the completion of that study, the Elk Grove City Council will vote whether they feel the zoo is a good fit for the proposed location.

Elk Grove City Manager Jason Behrmann mentioned that the feasibility study period could be extended beyond six months.

"It's possible that it could go beyond that (time), but we're trying to get things buttoned up," he said. "So, we should have the feasibility study (completed) sometime in early 2022, and be able to make some decisions shortly thereafter."

Zoo member Linda Seielstad, who was visiting the zoo on Nov. 19 with her 7-year-old grandson, noted that she believes the Elk Grove location would be a quality site for the zoo.

"I think (moving to Elk Grove) is probably a pretty good fit for them, because they feel very landlocked here," she said.

"We like going and seeing animals and learning about them, so I think it will be a great thing for them to be able to get some more animals here that they haven't had. I remember when we first came a long time ago when they had the hippopotamus and things like that that they can't have now, because of the spacing."

Another zoo visitor Tamara Wilkinson, who graduated from California State University, Sacramento in 1982, is also supportive of the zoo's potential move to Elk Grove.

"I think that would be fantastic," she said. "They would be able to have more animals and more variety of animals. I think it would be great."

While standing alongside Wilkinson, Michelle Edwards added, "From a wildlife conservation (approach, a larger zoo) is a good idea."

Tamara's husband, Mike, told this paper that he likes the current Sacramento Zoo site's ability to make the most of its 14 acres.

"I think they do a great job with what they've got to work with, the size and everything," he said. "But because they have to give so much space for each type of animal, they have to get fewer animals there. It would be neat to see some of the other (animals) that are no longer (at the Sacramento Zoo). They can't keep like the bears and some of the other (larger animals). So, yeah, I think (a larger zoo in Elk Grove) would be great."

Sacramento Zoo visitor Norma Heil noted that she is familiar with what a larger zoo can offer.

"I'm from Phoenix, Arizona," she said. "We have a huge zoo and it's getting bigger. (The Sacramento Zoo) is a super neat, little zoo, but there's not enough room, especially for current animal containments."

While standing across the street from the zoo, near Fairytale Town with her grandson, Isaiah Hawkins, Julian Leonard said that she desires to see larger enclosures for the Sacramento Zoo's animals.

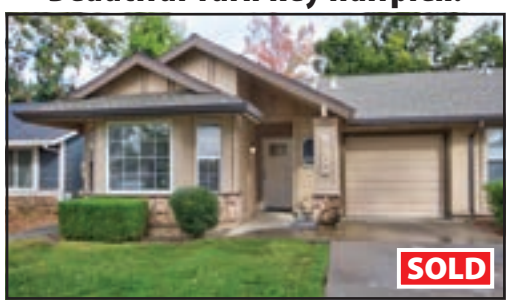
"I feel for the animals there, and they do need more space," she said. "And Elk Grove isn't that far

see Zoo page 3

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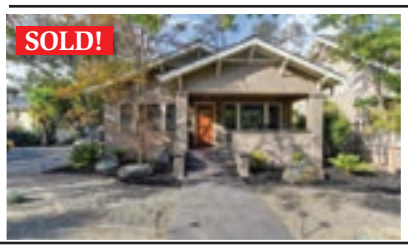
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Cover by:
Mayumi Acosta

Zoo:

continued from page 2

away from Sacramento. They've outgrown this spot."

A woman who identified herself only as Rita mentioned that if the zoo is relocated to Elk Grove, she hopes that a smaller zoo could remain at the zoo's current site.

"I hate to see it go, but there really isn't much there," she said. "It's too bad. I think they still need to keep like a petting zoo or something like that for the kids. I still think they should keep it for some of the smaller animals."

Elk Grove city officials, staff tour Houston Zoo

Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen and other Elk Grove city officials and staff on Nov. 4 visited the Houston Zoo as part of that city's zoo study mission.

Singh-Allen, who also visited the Fresno Chaffee Zoo on Oct. 22, noted that both study missions were strategically selected.

"Fresno was selected because it's a comparable climate to Sacramento and then Houston was selected because it would be comparable to a size," she said. "They were very specific. It's not like we went to San Francisco and San Diego. They were very specific as part of a study mission."

Singh-Allen stressed that the new zoo would take a modern approach by focusing on conservation and educational opportunities.

"The zoos of 100 years ago have no place in modern society," she said.

She also recognized the potential Elk Grove zoo as both a "tremendous economic driver" and more evidence that "Elk Grove is open for business."

"If this all comes together, it's a beautiful day for our city, but even a better day for all of the animals we get to help save," she said.

Upon his return from Houston, Elk Grove City Council Member Kevin Spease noted that his visit to that city's zoo was "very insightful."

"The Houston Zoo tour was very insightful into construction and operations of a world-class zoo," he said. "The idea of designing, developing and operating a zoo is very exciting and, at the same time, we need to understand the initial investment, ongoing costs and risk."

Spease stressed that it is important to be sure a sound investment can be presented to the Elk Grove community.

Elk Grove City Council Member Pat Hume mentioned that he found the trip to the Houston Zoo helpful in envisioning the long-range plan for a similar sized zoo.

"It was helpful to hear about emerging trends, best practices and the needs and flexibility that should be anticipated in a new project," he said.

Hume also noted that Houston Zoo operators described their struggles and what they would do differently if they were building a new zoo.

"(They would) have more naturalistic, multi-species exhibits arranged by geography, rather than similar animals clumped together," he said. "(They would) build redundancy into the infrastructure, so that repairs and maintenance are more manageable."

Hume added that other ideas would be to create flexibility at the exhibits for power sources and sound systems to transform spaces into learning centers, and use topography and plantings to provide a sense of depth to a habitat, rather than a visible enclosure.



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

As a 21st century zoo, a new zoo in Elk Grove could additionally use modern technology to enhance the experience for its guests, Hume noted.

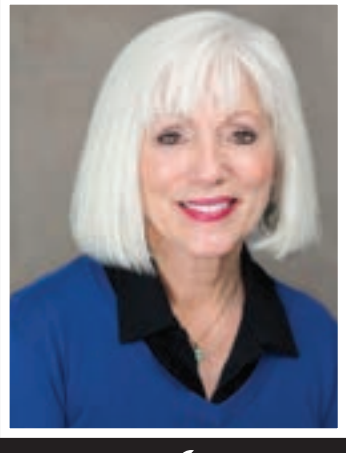
"Think QR (Quick Response) code that pulls up a website on a particular exhibit," he said.

Hume mentioned that another idea for the potential Elk Grove zoo would be to construct places that could accommodate public events.

Elizabeth Stallard, president of the zoological society's board of trustees, said that the zoo study missions represent the feasibility study's first phase.

Stallard spoke about the feasibility study's upcoming second phase.

"The next phase, which is going to take some time to do it, is looking at a proposed plan for the (Elk Grove) site, and evaluating what kinds of things we want to have there, how much they could potentially cost, so we can get a sense of the overall scope of the project," she said.



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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.
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Visions In Education Student Signs National Letter Of Intent to Swim at Master's University

Visions In Education is proud to announce that Home School Academy Senior Kylee Sears signed to The Master's University Swimming and Diving Team on Nov. 10, 2021.

Kylee has been a Visions student for the past four years and during that time has swam competitively with the support of Spare Time Aquatics. Her brother, John "JT" Sears, is also signed to The Master's University swim team.

One of her high school coaches, Matt Paige, had this to say about Kylee regarding her improvement over the past three and a half years: "In the 500 freestyle she's gotten 47 seconds faster over the past three and half years. That's monumental and it goes to show her dedication and that she's always willing to put in the work … .bottom line she gets the work done, is willing to bring her smile and joy and her teammates certainly love her. I know at Master's she will do so well in the NAIA. She had plenty of Division I offers but the fact that she's willing to go to a school that shares her values so she can contribute to their program is fantastic. Congratulations."

Master's University Aquatics Director and Head Swim Coach, Olympic medalist Gabe Woodward, is eager to welcome Kylee to the team saying: "We are very excited to have Miss Kylee Sears come swim for The Master's University! We see her as an outstanding addition to the team both in and out of the water and are excited to see the Lord grow her and use her. We will be watching her this season in anticipation of the beginning of her career as a Mustang next Fall. Go Mustangs!"

Kylee said she chose The Master's University because it believes in educating the whole student, both mind and heart, inside and outside the classroom and intentionally has a small student body that allows for individual mentorship and discipleship in all areas of student life, academics and athletics. "These are the qualities that I appreciate about Visions also … the individual attention and the development and concern for the student with individual learning goals and strengths," she said.



Kylee Sears

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Sacramento Public Library Brings Outdoor Family Storytime to Community Parks

Photos by George Young

The Sacramento Public Library (SPL) is hosting weekly in-person storytime events for families at parks throughout the Sacramento region. Outdoor Family Storytime is a live 30-minute program with songs, rhymes and stories designed for young children, infants to 6 years of age, and their caregivers.

"Storytimes are fun way for the entire family to encourage early learning and help build the foundation for pre-reading skills," said Library Early Learning and Development Manager Donna Zick. "We're thrilled to be able to safely return to in-person family programming through this series of outdoor events."

Outdoor Family Storytimes are scheduled at the following community parks: Brock Park, Carmichael Park, Elk Grove Regional Park, Howe Community Park, Kunsting Family Park, Robla Community Park, and Woody Hampton Park. Weekly events will also take place in the green spaces adjacent to local libraries including Belle Cooledge Library, Colonial Heights Library, Fair Oaks Library, McKinley Library, and Rio Linda Library.

The recent turnout at Belle Cooledge Park affirmed the desire of the community for literacy programs such as this. Markers were spaced on the grassy areas before the stage, giving the families a safe clear view of the recently added Belle Cooledge Amphitheater from where the





stories were being shared.. The attendees, both young and young-at-heart thoroughly enjoyed the presentation by Julia Erlanger, Youth Services Librarian at the adjacent Belle Cooledge Library on South Land Park Drive. This well attended event promises even more success in the future.

For more information about this program, including the schedule of events, visit www.saclibrary.org/OutdoorStorytime.

(George Young contributed to this report.)





Local ballet company to resume Nutcracker live

Land Park resident has leading role in holiday ballets

After almost two years of virtual and outdoor performances, Sac Civic Ballet and Deane Dance Center will resume their long-time tradition of presenting two one-act holiday ballets live on stage December 18 and 19. Sac Civic Ballet Company is a well-established pre-professional ballet company founded in 1946 by Barbara Crockett, and the Deane Dance Center is a local dance school directed by Allyson Deane and Don Schwennesen, both former dancers with the San Francisco Ballet.

Local Land Park resident, Ana Konovaloff, will be dancing the leading roles of the Snow Queen and the Rose in the Nutcracker Suite and will dance the lead role of the Dove, as well as other roles, in The Story of Noah's Ark. Ana is a Junior at Christian Brothers High School and a graduate of Holy Spirit Parish School. She has been studying dance since she was 3 years old and has studied in the summers at Sacramento Ballet Company and Boston Ballet. She is looking forward to dancing live on stage again.

The Story of Noah's Ark is a one-act version of Don Schwennesen's well-received, popular ballet. The Nutcracker Suite has the familiar roles, beautiful sets and costumes, and the wonder music of Tchaikovsky. The cast has over 50 dances, including guest artists, Macy Almendariz, Fiona Galvin, and Davis Bier.

This year the ballets will be presented at the Veterans Memorial Center Theater in Davis, 203 E. 14th Street, 95616, Saturday, December 18, at 7 pm and Sunday, December 19, at 2 pm. Tickets are $20 for adults and $15 for seniors and children. Tickets at the door or deanedancenter.com; call 916-453-0226 for questions. Masks required for patrons.



Photos by Mayumi Acosta

Ana Konovaloff to play the leading role of a local Nutcracker production

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Elks 6 Lodge Updates

Dave Hamm Memorial Bicycle Drive/Marine Toys for Tots Toy Drive

In memory of Elks 6 departed member Dave Hamm, Elks Lodge 6 continues the long standing tradition of its annual participation in Marine Toys for Tots toy and bicycle drive. Each year Dave donated a new boy's and girl's bicycle to the toy drive, and through generous donations from Lodge members, family, and friends, the Dave Hamm bicycle fund was established, ensuring that the tradition would continue for years to come.

The Lodge is a designated drop-off location for Toys for Tots. New and unwrapped toy contributions are due by December 12, 2021. Donation boxes are located in the Lounge and outside of the office. Donations to the Christmas Bicycle Fund can be made by calling the Lodge at (916) 422-6666, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Cash, check and secure credit card donations are accepted.

Members have the opportunity to grant wishes during the holiday season for families in crisis through the WEAVE wish list. I continue to be so proud of the work that Sacramento 6 does in the community.

Volunteers & Donations Needed: "Tree Trimming" & Appetizer Potluck: Beginning November 28th, volunteers are needed to help set up and decorate Christmas trees throughout the Lodge's lounge and ballroom. Bring your Christmas cheer and share a bite to eat. You can also catch the San Francisco 49ers vs. the Minnesota Vikings game while there (see "Lodge Events" below). If you would like to join in on this fun and festive event, simply e-mail-Newsletter@elks6.com.



Sunday Breakfast: Additional volunteers are still needed for Sunday Breakfast. If you are interested in cooking, serving, busing, or chairing the breakfast event on a monthly team, please join us. The return of Sunday breakfast has been a popular request, but the Lodge can only continue to do this with the help of the members and volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail Newsletter@elks6.com.

Policy Development Volunteer: The lodge is seeking an individual(s) who has experience writing and implementing policies from time to time. If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the Lodge operations and has a talent for organization and writing, please contact Exalted Ruler Rebecca Icarro at rsicarro@gmail.com andDiana Cuccia, Elks Member, at DiDi0829@sbcglobal.net.

"Tree Trimming" & Appetizer Potluck -November 28th: The "Tree Trimming" potluck will be held on Sunday, November 28, beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

The Lodge invites you to be a part of the team to help set up and decorate Christmas trees in the lounge and ballroom. Please bring an appetizer to share. The sign up sheet for appetizers will be posted in the Lounge.

During the potluck, the Lodge will be showing the San Francisco 49ers vs. the Minnesota Vikings game. Kick off time for the game is at 1:25 p.m.

Wreaths Across America Wreath Sponsorships - December 18th: The Sacramento Elks Lodge will participate in "Wreaths Across America" at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery on Saturday, December 18th by placing wreaths on the headstones of American heroes.

What does it mean to sponsor a wreath? It means you'll honor an American hero at one of more than 2,800 locations nationwide this year on Wreaths Across America Day. It's a day that's been set aside to lay wreaths at the places where we remember, honor and teach about our veterans: cemeteries, monuments, parks; anywhere we can pay tribute to their sacrifices.

Your sponsorship will ensure that a wreath is hand-crafted of all-American balsam and hand-tied with a red velvet bow in Columbia Falls, Maine. It will then be sent to one of our participating locations, where a volunteer will place it on the marker of a fallen hero. That volunteer will then "say their name" to ensure that the legacy of duty, service and sacrifice of that veteran is never forgotten.

You have the opportunity to join a grateful nation in saying "thank you" to our veterans. If you would like to sponsor a wreath, information can be found here:https://wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/15553/Overview/

Elkamper Campout in Jackson: The Elkampers Fall getaway was in the beautiful hills of Jackson at the Rancheria Resort. Forty Eight Elkampers attended from October 25th to the 29th. This site not only has gorgeous scenery in the Fall, we also had use of their huge lodge to plan many activities. The Palmers and Henmans were Co-Wagonmasters and planned a full week of activities to choose from. Bill Palmer cooked a shrimp boil for the crowd, and I enjoyed decorating the lodge Louisiana low country style with a little touch of voodoo. Very fun!

This same festive décor was used the following night for the pre-Halloween costume party but with more skeletons added and a graveyard scene. It was a blast seeing so many Elkampers dressed in great costumes! The night ended with the Barones setting up a huge screen in the lodge and showing the movie Young Frankenstein and serving us all popcorn. Thursday, Bill organized Texas Hold'em poker games, while some of us attended a private tour and wine tasting at Avio winery for only $5! We have a tradition to just have pizza delivered on Thursday night so no one has to cook the night before leaving. The Wagonmasters appreciated how everyone helped throughout the week and the last evening with clean up.

There is a Christmas party planned at the Lodge on Monday December 13th at 5:00 p.m. The next campout is being planned for January by Co-Wagonmasters the Littrells and Planchons.

More info to come soon but if you are an Elk with an RV, you might want to consider joining Elkampers because we have a lot of fun on every campout!

Meal OrderingIf you are attending any of the meal events above, please pre-pay your meals with your secure credit card transaction by calling (916) 422-6666, extension 2 during regular office hours, or stop by the office during regular business hours to pay in person. (The 8.75% sales tax for Sacramento is included in the price of your meal.)

An advanced purchase of your meal will help with preplanning the menu items, reducing food waste, as well as unnecessary costs.

Extra meals may not be available for purchase after the ordering deadline. An additional cost will be added to the price of each meal ticket if it is purchased after the deadline date.

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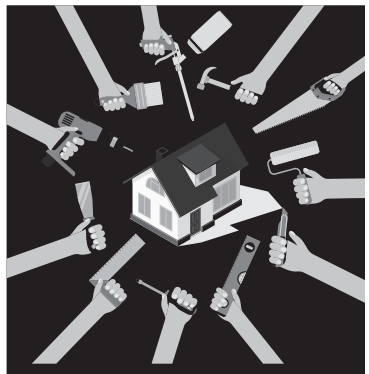
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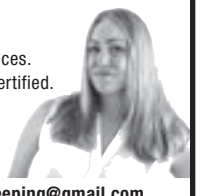


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