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Land Park News

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Camellia Waldorf Winter Faire

see page 11

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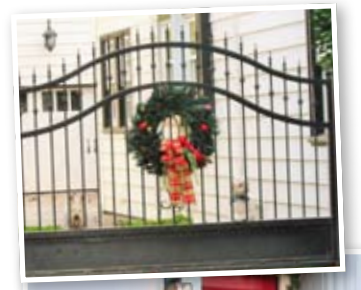
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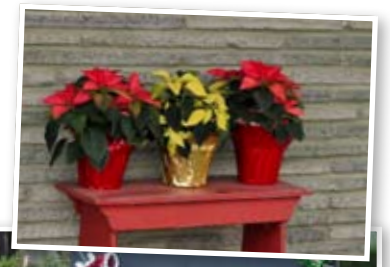
A nice December walk

Photos by Melissa Andrews

Land Parkers sure know how to decorate for the holidays. These photos were taken before many decorations in the neighborhood were destroyed by vandals.

see Walk page 3

















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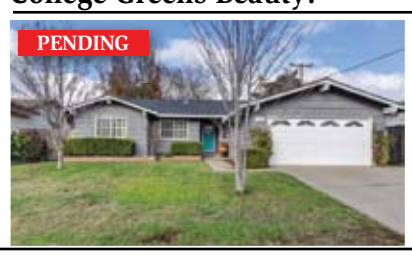
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Walk:

continued from page 2















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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



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Land Park residents, visitors share Christmas memories



Photo by Lance Armstrong

A light pole is decorated for Christmastime on 1st Avenue in Land Park.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

With dark, gray skies overhead on Dec. 15, Land Park residents and visitors brought some brightness to the day by sharing some of their cherished Christmastime memories.

It was only 10 days until Christmas as Sam and Billee Kanelos sat in the comfort of their Land Park home while visiting with the Land Park News.

Near a front window of their home sat a small Christmas tree.

Billee, a 1952 graduate of C.K. McClatchy High School, has spent her entire life celebrating Christmas in Sacramento. She grew up with her family at 1708 V St., near a neighborhood grocery store, which is now known as Nick's Market.

While looking across her living room at her tree, Billee mentioned that she has had much larger trees in previous years.

Sam, a former Sacramento Solons baseball player, agreed with his wife.

Further supporting her memories of those larger trees, Billee left her living room, and later returned with an old, faded photograph of a Christmas tree that towered to her home's ceiling, was adorned with ornaments and was completed with a star-shaped tree topper.

Billee also presented several other Christmastime photographs, including one that she would not have made available for publication several years ago.

"I wouldn't have even shown you this photo a few years ago," she said.

Featured in that photograph is Mrs. Claus – or more accurately, Billee dressed as Mrs. Claus.

Billee shared the story behind that photograph.

"The kids, all they said was 'Santa Claus, Santa Claus,' and so, one Christmas, I got myself all dressed up like Mrs. Claus," she said. "I played Mrs. Claus in front of them, and all the kids believed that I was Mrs. Claus.

"Finally, I just went in and changed, and later on in the day, I remember, they kept asking, 'Where's Mrs. Claus?' And I said, 'Oh, she left.'"

Sam, who grew up in the old town of Florin, recalled receiving a bicycle for Christmas during his youth.

"I was in about the sixth grade and I didn't have a bike," he said. "So, at Christmas – probably (his brother) Gus instigated it – I said, 'Whose bike is that (in the front yard)?' (Gus) said, 'It's yours.' It was the first bike I had and the last one. But I guess that was a big thing."

Sam also recalled traveling from Florin to Sacramento every year during his childhood to attend Christmas Mass at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, when it was located at 620 N St., where the Capitol Towers Apartment Homes now stand.

"Unless we go to the Old Ironsides (the 10th and S streets bar owned by her family), nobody has a house large enough to (hold that amount of people)," she said. "Right now, we have 19 great-grandchildren."

While standing in the driveway of the home of her parents, Sam and Billee, Land Park resident Kim Kanelos shared her own memories of Christmas trees in Land Park.

"We remember right on Broadway, next to the fish market, there was an alley and a house behind the alley and a family lived back there, and every year they would sell Christmas trees in (that) alley," she said. "We would always buy Christmas trees from them. That was in the 1970s and into the 1980s."

Kim also recalled the many decorated homes and yards in Land Park during her childhood.

"We would always go on the night before Christmas Eve and then we would drive around and look at all the different decorations," she said. "Even more than (the lights), they would have different Santas or (Nativity) scenes in the windows. The houses across the street (from William Land Park) would always have great displays.

"As we got older, my sister, Marla, rented a limo for all of us to get in and do the drive,

see Christmas page 5





Christmas:

continued from page 4

so we could all get in one car, instead of being split up."

Following the Land Park News' visit with the Kanelos family, this paper spent time with UPS Inc. driver Gustavo Quintero.

Quintero, who was taking a break from making deliveries in Land Park, also discussed his Christmas memories.

"What I remember was (visiting) Candy Cane Lane in Redwood City," he said. "They call it Candy Cane Lane, because every single house will put up candy cane (displays) in front of them," he said. "They would put 'Merry Christmas,' in different languages. My dad was a landscaper. He worked in that area a lot, so he always took us to that area to see the Christmas lights.

"Now what we're tying to do is find neighborhoods that have Christmas lights, because my (nearly 3-year-old) son enjoys his Christmas lights, for sure. I would love to take my son to see Christmas lights in Elk Grove, possibly, and definitely the Fab Forties (in East Sacramento). I would take my wife, as well."

Gerald Hutfles, who grew up in Kansas, recalled his favorite Christmas memory.

"My favorite Christmas memory was when I got a K'Nex (building) set when I was 13 years old," he said. "I really enjoyed building things, and that was something that I was very fond of, and I used that for years to come. And it still might be at my parents' house right now."

While en route to shop in a store in Land Park last week, Little Pocket resident Amy Mishimura said that she finds much satisfaction in her annual gift-giving tradition.

"Seeing my grandkids open their Christmas presents," she said. "It's wonderful. It's so much fun being a grandma. You can get things you couldn't get before for your kids."

Mishimura added that COVID-19 pandemic mandates have "cramped the style" of her family's Christmas celebrations.

Chris Holt, who grew up in south Sacramento and is a 2003 graduate of Sheldon High School, spoke about his family tradition of gathering for Christmas.

"I'm looking forward to going back and seeing my parents and stuff," he said. "We all get together. My grandparents passed away a while ago, so that (part of the) tradition fell apart. (His brother) took over the tradition, so we're going to his house."

In recalling favorite gifts he received for Christmas during his childhood, Holt mentioned that he was always glad to be given Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles action figures.

While taking a break from cycling in Land Park, Mark Moore told the Land Park News that he has a Christmas memory that does not make him proud.

"My Christmas memory was when I was about 8 years old, my mom had gotten Christmas presents for us and we peaked (under the wrapping paper), and everything we wanted was there, and more," he said. "We got caught and we got to open them all up right then and there.

"At the time, we were happy, but looking back now, I can really see the value in when you get your kids what they want for Christmas, without them knowing. The one time it could have been a memorable thing, we ruined it."



Photo courtesy of Kanelos family

Kanelos family members enjoy Christmas dinner in 1985.

Moore added that he hopes to create positive, lasting memories this Christmas.

"I've got to do what I have to do to capture the moment, (to keep) Christmas going, so next year I won't be like, 'Ah, it's just another day.'"

Alex Vishnevsky spoke about what Christmastime means to him.

"December is like a miracle type of month," he said. "I think I can say it like that. Like the mood is different. It's just a different vibe when it's Christmas and all that."

Vishnevsky also shared a holiday message for others.

"You've got to appreciate everybody you've got, like your family members, because at one point in life we ain't going to be here," he said. "And it doesn't matter whether it's Christmas or not, you've just got to keep staying positive."

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Sacramento County addresses COVID-19 safety during the holidays

Case rate spiked 40% in county after Thanksgiving

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

With a 40% increase in Sacramento County's COVID-19 case rate occurring after Thanksgiving, a county spokesperson last week said it is additionally important to be as safe as possible during this year's remaining holiday gatherings.

Janna Haynes, public information officer for Sacramento County Public Health, told this paper on Dec. 8 that since Thanksgiving, county case rate for COVID-19 rose from nine cases per 100,000 people to 14 cases per 100,000 people.

"Through our contact tracing efforts, it is very clear that this spike is a result of Thanksgiving family gatherings," she said. "And while we don't want people to feel like we're back in where we were last year, in 2020, during the holidays, where they literally (could) not see their families and friends, we do want people to take precautions."

Haynes recommended that people get tested for COVID-19 before they attend an indoor gathering, to make sure that they are healthy.

"(Stay) home if you're not feeling well," she said. "Even if it's not COVID(-19), that doesn't mean you cannot transmit the flu or something else. And if you're going to have an indoor gathering, make sure that you try to stay as socially distanced as possible, that you wear masks when you're not actively eating or drinking."

Haynes also suggested that people consider moving their holiday gatherings outdoors, and using outdoor heaters or gathering in an open garage to be protected from elements, particularly rain, while still having airflow.

For those who still prefer to gather indoors, Haynes provided various tips.

"If you must be inside, maybe consider opening up your front door and your back doors, so you have kind of an airflow going through," she said. "But also, just consider maybe not everyone sitting together at one 6-foot table; maybe spreading out throughout the house, so that while you're maskless and you're eating and drinking, that you're not directly next to someone else that you don't live with."

As opposed to last year, Sacramento County does not currently have an order preventing people from different households from getting together.

But while mixing households is not prohibited, Haynes stressed the need to decrease the risk of COVID-19 transmissions during holiday gatherings that consist of combined households.

"The last thing that we want to see is our case rate continue to go up and up and up from Thanksgiving to Christmas to New Year's Eve, and then at the beginning of the year," she said.

In 2020, the county's highest COVID-19 spike occurred between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Haynes noted.

"And that was when a lot of people weren't even getting together with each other, but the rate of transmission was so high on Dec. 11, 2020, our case rate was 62 per 100,000," she said. "You know, that's (nearly) five times where we're at right now.

"So, we're in better shape now than we were at this time last year by far. But let's keep that trend going and not see a huge spike, because we're still experiencing quite a bit of surge in our hospitals – not just from COVID(-19),

see COVID page 7



COVID:

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but from the flu and from other things."

As of Dec. 8, Sacramento County had 151 active, hospitalized COVID-19 patients, including 33 people in intensive care units. However, Haynes mentioned that because of Sacramento County's large hospital system, its hospitals receive COVID-19 patients from other counties.

"We have to be aware of the fact that it's not just our residents (that are admitted into those hospitals)," she said. "We may see transfers come in from Yolo and El Dorado and Placer (counties), because of the robust hospital system that we have here."

Although there is no law requiring people to get vaccinated for COVID-19, Haynes noted that there are many benefits for people to get vaccinated for this virus.

"We've seen really, really good results from vaccinated people," she said. "I mean, just from a numbers standpoint, out of the almost 170,000 (confirmed COVID-19) cases in Sacramento County, the breakthrough rate – which is a person that is fully vaccinated, but that tests positive for COVID(-19) and is experiencing symptoms – there's 3,400 cases across the county.

"When you look at the deaths, there are only 96 people in the entire county that have passed away that were fully vaccinated. And that's in comparison to 2,400 people that were not vaccinated that passed away. I think that that, in and of itself, speaks to the effectiveness of the vaccine."

Sacramento County is currently experiencing a significant increase in the demand for COVID-19 vaccinations, compared to a month ago.

Haynes mentioned that she believes this increased demand is associated with new COVID-19 variants.

"I think new variants coming out have people feeling more the urge to get vaccinated, whether it's their first dose of vaccine or whether people are now getting their booster shots," she said. "With the overarching eligibility opened up for everyone, we definitely see the demand for those booster shots, which is great."

Regarding the omicron variant – a highly mutated form of the virus that causes COVID-19 – Haynes said that it was recently detected in Sacramento County. This variant was initially reported, on Nov. 24, as having been detected in specimens collected earlier last month in Botswana and South Africa.

"Right now, we just found out that somewhere in Sacramento County, we know that there's an omicron variant, because we show the mutation in our wastewater," she said on Dec. 8. "While we haven't actually seen a positive case come out of our lab yet, it is only a matter of time. And so, we have to continue to be vigilant and do everything that we can to protect ourselves, not only from a vaccination standpoint, but just a sanitation standpoint."

A day after Haynes made that statement, Healthy Davis Together and the University of California, Davis Genome Center announced that they identified the first-known case of the omicron variant in the Sacramento area.

"The infection occurred in a West Sacramento adult with recent domestic travel who was vaccinated against COVID-19," notes a press release from Healthy Davis Together that was issued on Dec. 9.

Haynes mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic recently reached an unfortunate anniversary.

"We're (at) 100 weeks," she said. "Never in my wildest imagination, if you asked me this question 85 weeks ago, could I have ever thought that even now, 100 weeks in, we are still wearing masks, we're still working to get a bunch of people vaccinated," she said.

"You can't possibly know (the future of COVID-19). I think in some ways that we may see (this virus) stick around indefinitely, just like we see the flu."

On a positive note, Haynes told this paper that she believes that better news regarding COVID-19 will emerge next year.

"I do not think that in December 2022 that we will be in the same position that we're in right now," she said. "I think that we will have returned to a much (more) normal pace of life.

"I'm hoping that we are not wearing masks everywhere we go in December of 2022. I hope that children are not wearing masks in school in December of 2022. That would be almost three years after we started this, because we're almost two years into this already."

As for when Sacramento's County's indoor mask mandate can be lifted, Haynes explained that the COVID-19 case rate would likely need to be significantly lower.

"We have said that that order probably will not be lifted until our case rate drops to five (cases per 100,000 people)," she said. "So, we were getting close before the Thanksgiving holiday. Now we're moving in the wrong direction, but hopefully we'll start to see a decline again and we'll get to a point where we can lift that indoor masking mandate."

Haynes stressed the need for more people to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

"We have said for months that (achieving a) high vaccination rate is really our only way out of this pandemic," she said. "So, we continue to see our vaccination rates climb in Sacramento County, but there's still a lot of work to be done. We still have thousands and thousands and thousands of people that have not gotten vaccinated, even one dose."

She added that while it is important for people to get vaccinated against COVID-19, one should not forget to get their flu shot.

"We're doing co-clinics, between flu and COVID(-19) vaccines, and people can get those at the same time," Haynes said. "We want to remind people that COVID-19 is not the only thing you can get sick with. And because there (are) such scarce resources in our hospitals, we want to make sure that we're keeping people out of hospitals with other preventable diseases."

For additional information about COVID-19 in Sacramento County, visit www.SacCounty.gov/COVID-19.



Photos courtesy of Sacramento County

A genome sequencing kit sits in a secured isolation room at Sacramento County's primary care facility.



Pocket resident Fran Jaksich enjoyed 102 years of life

She was among the early residents of the Greenhaven neighborhood



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Friends and family of Fran Jaksich are shown in the backyard of her Greenhaven neighborhood house, where she lived for 55 years.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

More than 50 friends and family of the late Pocket resident Frances Norell "Fran" Jaksich joined in a celebration of her 102 years of life on Nov. 20.

People arrived from as far away as Florida to join in that celebration, which began at the Nicoletti, Culjis & Herberger Funeral Home in East Sacramento, continued to St. Mary's Cemetery on Fruitridge Road, and concluded at Fran's home in the Pocket.

Fran, who died on Nov. 7, was an early resident of the Greenhaven neighborhood, having moved there in 1966. Her house, which was then new, was built as part of the second phase of the Greenhaven 70 development.

As a Northern California native, Fran was born in Yuba City on Feb. 1, 1919 and grew up on her family's ranch between Yuba City, Live Oak and Sutter City.

The ranch included farm animals and an almond orchard, with almonds that were sold to Sacramento's California Almond Growers Exchange, producers of Blue Diamond brand almonds.

Fran was the youngest of the nine children of Albert and Bessie Lueth, who met in Illinois.

The Lueths moved to California following a doctor's recommendation that Albert live in a place with a warmer climate due to his health issues.

During her youth, Fran spent her summers working in packing sheds in the Butte City-Marysville area.

Fran also enjoyed playing basketball and softball, and as a positional player in the latter sport, she was a catcher.

John Jaksich, Fran's son, mentioned that his mother discovered early in her life that she was not a talented singer.

"(Her high school's) choir director asked her to come and audition for the choir and when he was done auditioning, he said, 'What I want you to do is stand on this particular place in the choir and do not sing.' She never did have a (singing) voice."

After graduating from Sutter High School in 1937, Fran obtained employment at a Giant Orange roadside stand in Roseville for 33 1/3 cents per hour.

It was there where she met George Zoller, president of Citizens Bank of Sacramento and cashier and treasurer of Capital National Bank.

That meeting led to her employment in the Capital National Bank's statement department in downtown Sacramento. But prior to being hired by Zoller, Fran attended business school in Oakland.

While working at Capital National Bank, Fran met one of the bank's customers, Jerry Jaksich.

After dating Jerry for four years, Frank and Jerry were married in Reno on Feb. 20, 1943.

Fran and Jerry had their first child, Barbara (Jaksich) Mikacich, during the following January. Their only other child, John, was born seven years later.

John, a 1969 graduate of John F. Kennedy High School, noted that his parents were initially in the dairy business.

"My mom had left the bank and they went to the farm and they worked the farm," he said. "During that time, they had 100 head of cattle, and this was before automation, so they were hand-milked cows. My mom made breakfast, lunch and dinner for the crew."

Fran would also load a flatbed truck with tomatoes during harvest season, and then drive in alleys in Yuba City and Marysville selling tomatoes to restaurant operators.

John mentioned that one of his father's favorite scenes on the farm was watching Fran wear

see Fran page 9

Happy Holidays

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Fran:

continued from page 8

high heels while collecting eggs from the chicken coop.

After selling the dairy, Fran and Jerry moved into a home they had built near the Plumas Lake Golf Course in Olivehurst.

John noted that his parents still had a couple of horses at that time.

"(Jerry) would offer them to the sheriff's posse for all their parades, and he had matching sets of saddles – beautiful black saddles – and the posses would use them," he said.

John described his mother as having been a "country girl" who dreamed of being a "city girl."

"In 1956, my mom got her wish, which was she just wanted to be a city girl, and they moved near Country Club Centre (shopping center, which was then only four years old)," he said. "My dad had gone into the car business with his brother – my uncle, Ed Jaksich – at Busy Bee Motors (at 2300 16th St. several years earlier)."

In 1953, they moved their business to 1521 K St., just south of the Memorial Auditorium.

John described how a single incident led to his father's career change.

"One day, my dad was talking to a gentleman by the name of Dan Barker," he said. "They were car guys, and they were standing on the corner of 16th and K (streets) and a pickup truck pulling a boat behind it attracted my dad's attention.

"He and Dan jumped in the car and they followed that boat, and it was called the Kettenburg Sweet Sixteen. It was one of the first fiberglass over wood boats. My dad tracked that boat down and he ended up being a (boat) dealer in Sacramento for Kettenburg boats."

The business, Jerry's Boat Sales, opened in about 1956, and was located on the second floor of a two-story, brick building that housed a Studebaker dealership on its ground floor.

A classified advertisement in the Aug. 16, 1957 edition of The Sacramento Bee identifies Fran's involvement with the business at that site.

"If you need marine or yacht insurance, see Frances N. Jaksich at 1510 J St.," notes the advertisement.

A few years later, Jerry became the general manager of the Sacramento Yacht and Supply Co. at 1331 K St. He would later begin selling larger boats in Antioch and Redwood City.

John said that his parents moved to the Pocket area in 1966 in order to shorten his father's commute to work.

In about 1967, Jerry earned a brokerage license and opened United Yacht Brokers at the Willow Berm Marina in Isleton.

Working as a team in Isleton, Jerry would sell Chris-Craft boats and Fran would sell marine insurance.

Jerry's involvement in the boat business ended due to a stroke, John recalled.

"(The stroke ended his) marine business," he said. "My mom took care of him for another 19 years, all on her own, (with) no help at all. She continued on selling marine insurance (until about 1995)."

Jerry died at the age of 91 on Aug. 31, 2004, and Fran continued her life for another 17 years, which included driving her car until the age of 99.

It was also during that time that Fran was a member of YO Mamas, a knitting group that met weekly in the Pocket and had the core mission of providing clothing and gifts for local charities.

Remembering Fran

During Fran's three-part celebration of life on Nov. 20, several people shared their memories about her for this article.

While sitting inside the dining room of Fran's house, Barbara described both of her parents as very social.

"They loved other people," she said. "They had a lot of good friends and they did a lot of things with them, and they would party without being crazy. They just loved being with other people."

Barbara also recalled learning things from her mother.

"I remember her saying, 'It's always business first; we can't go on a vacation unless we take care of business,'" she said. "So, she taught me a lot about business. And then as a child, she taught me how to sew. She was a great seamstress."

Barbara's brother-in-law, Pete Mikacich, 87, also fondly remembered Fran.

"She was a wonderful person, one of the nicest people I've ever met," he said. "She was always smiling, and she was very active in the American Slavic Society."

Julie Campbell Allen, a great-niece of Fran, referred to her as "one that commands friendship and community and family and togetherness."

Natalya Beeson, who spent time living with Fran during her later years, remembered her as a very positive person.

"Fran was one of the most joyful people I had ever met in my entire life," she said. "She was very positive, very inspirational, one of the best people I had ever come to know."

Nick Bilandzich referred to Fran as a friend who was a joy to be around.

"Frances was a very active member of our Croatian community," he said. "She filled many responsibilities in our community club, and it was such a great joy to share monthly dinners with her.

"She was always a positive lady and we miss her. She lived 102 (years), and let me tell you, a person like this, if they live another 102 (years), it will be still short, because we enjoyed her. She was nothing but positive."



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Fran Jaksich, pictured in 2013, was a resident of the Pocket for 55 years.



Photo courtesy of Jaksich family

Fran Jaksich is pictured in 1963, three years before she became a Pocket resident.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. SCIENCE: How long does it take for light to travel from the Sun to Earth?
2. TELEVISION: Which comedian used the catchphrase "one ringie dingie, two ringie dingies" in a TV character sketch?
3. MEASUREMENTS: How many centimeters are equivalent to 100 inches?
4. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who is the only president to serve nonconsecutive terms?
5. LANGUAGE: How many languages are spoken in the world today?
6. GOVERNMENT: Which branch of U.S. government is responsible for making laws?
7. SPORTS: Which famous baseball pitcher's nickname is "The Chairman of the Board"?
8. FOOD & DRINK: What type of food do the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles love?
9. GEOGRAPHY: Which ocean does Bermuda lie in?
10. MATH: What is a prime number?

Answers

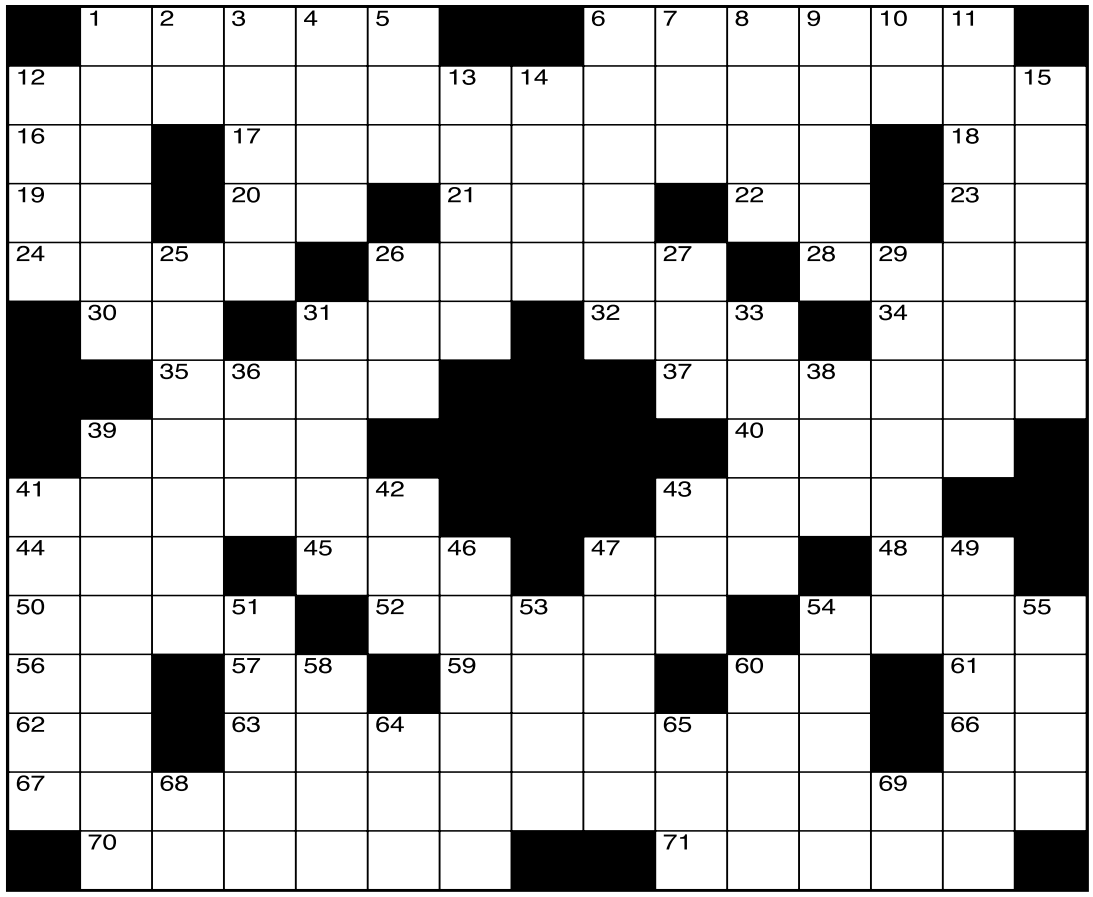
1. Eight minutes, 20 seconds
2. Lily Tomlin, as telephone operator Ernestine
3. 254
4. Grover Cleveland
5. More than 7,000
6. The legislative branch — U.S. House and Senate
7. Whitey Ford
8. Pizza
9. Atlantic
10. A number that is only divisible by itself and 1

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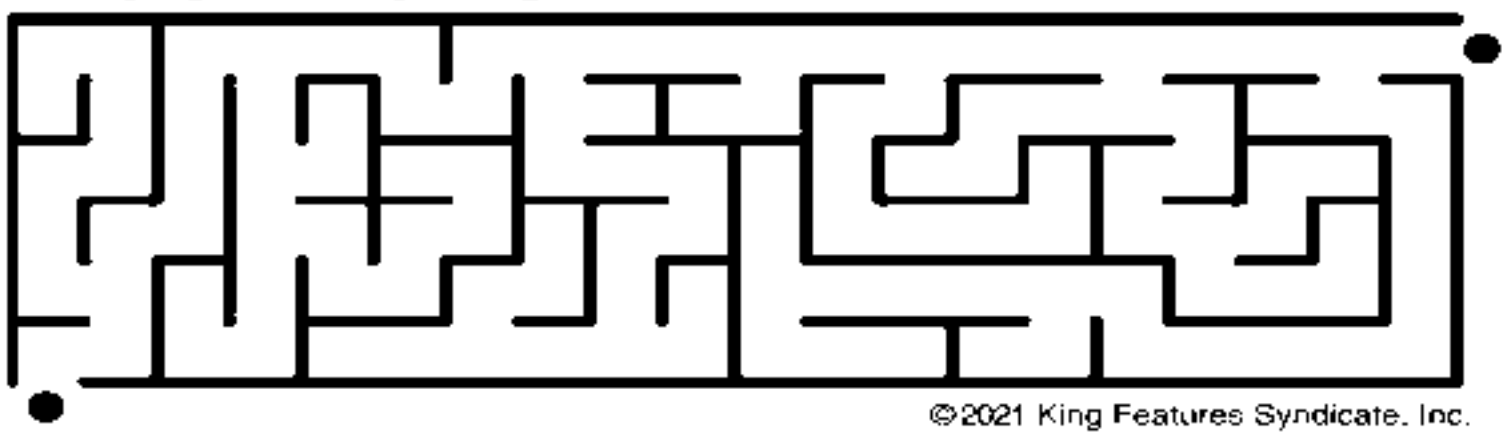
CLUES ACROSS

1. Struck firmly
6. Shirt part
12. Nevertheless
16. Article
17. Adornment
18. Educator's helper
19. Healthcare pro
20. Atomic number 28
21. Extinct flightless bird
22. Mystic syllable
23. College sports decision maker (abbr.)
24. Edible mushrooms
26. Venerable English monk
28. Surrounded by
30. Forming fractional numbers from 4 onwards
31. Eastern France river
32. Short cry or yelp
34. Brew
35. Ornamental box
37. In a way, surfaced
39. Attired
40. Peculation
41. Netted
43. It shows you paid (abbr.)
44. Payroll firm
45. Antidiuretic hormone
47. Japanese classical theater
48. The first two
50. Ancient burial chamber
52. Type of card
54. Expression of sorrow or pity
56. Hectoliter
57. Morning
59. NYC subway dweller
60. Law enforcement
61. Sodium
62. Elevated subway
63. Facility where wild animals are kept
66. Integrated circuit
67. Seaman's tool
70. Drink to
71. Small group

CLUES DOWN

1. Poem
2. Everest is one (abbr.)
3. Olympic legend Jesse
4. Portable tent
5. When you hope to get there
6. Unwavering
7. Back muscle
8. Within
9. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
10. Six
11. Involved as a necessary part
12. 2002 Liotta, Patric film
13. Living thing
14. Type of gin
15. Moved around in pursuit of fun
25. Makes light bulbs
26. Story of one's life
27. Small island in a river
29. A type of bliss
31. Genus of large herons
33. A way to make dry
36. One's grandmother
38. Vocal style
39. Pronunciation mark
41. American Indian chief or leader
42. Insecticide
43. Go bad
46. Capital of Zimbabwe
47. Polish river
49. Cast out
51. People of India and Sri Lanka
53. Cleaning fabrics
54. Very skilled
55. Pouches
58. Restaurant must-have
60. Native Americans from Arizona
64. Remaining after all deductions
65. Fleece
68. Dorm official
69. It cools your home

Kids' Maze



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Faces and Places: Camellia Waldorf Winter Faire

Photos by Stephen Crowley

On Saturday, Dec. 11, the Camellia Waldorf Winter Faire was held with many seasonal crafts and activities for all ages. The Camellia Waldorf School is located at 7450 Pocket Road.











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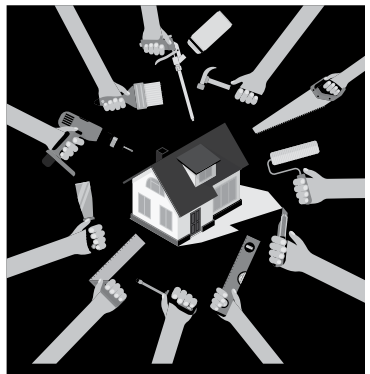
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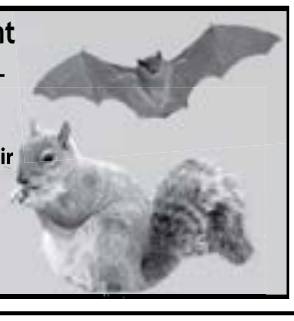
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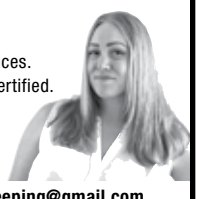


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Redistricting Our Relationships

By Jennifer Holden

Sacramento received new City Council district boundaries effective around 9:45 pm on December 16, 2021. Please study the new map closely, and determine if the Sacramento Independent Redistricting Commission (SIRC) just changed your City Council representation for you.

As a well-educated white woman from a privileged background living in District 5, this map represents a bad deal for all Sacramento residents.

In case you haven't been following the meetings, every map over which the SIRC spent significant time in deliberations contained a district referred to as the 'unified Central City' with Downtown, Midtown, and East Sacramento all in one district for the first time ever in the history of Sacramento. This emphasis on the unified Central City caused every other district boundary to shift, with some residents in every district of the city finding themselves with a brand new councilmember for whom someone else voted. In particular, most maps with a unified Central City that were considered also contained a 15-mile long District 5 between HWY 50 and Mack Rd. that Commissioner Hussey, a Ph.D in Political Science with a focus on districting practices, repeatedly called 'a gerry-mander' (and should not even be considered). Yet our new City Council district map contains a version of that 'gerry-mandered' D5.

The D4 unified Central City of the final map is 55.51% white - the highest percentage of white residents of any new district in the city. D7 followed from the unified Central City and now contains Land Park, South Land Park, and Curtis Park in with the Pocket for the first time ever. This new D7 has a white population of 42.41% - now the second whitest district in Sacramento. The area that was left over from creating two South Area white super-districts therefore had to become D5 and D8. As every district needed to have around 65,000 people – give or take 2,000-3,000 – and D5 shares a boundary with D4 at HWY 50 in North Oak Park, the SIRC had to head south from HWY 50 along the side of D7 until D5 contained around 65,000 people. That took D5 south 15 miles to the Parkway neighborhood at Mack Rd. After defining D5, the remaining residents had to be in D8 in the remaining city area as long as the population of D8 was around 65,000 people. There was a lot of back and forthing about the exact streets for the boundaries for D7, D5, and D8 in the last 3 meetings, but the basic shape of these districts were there for all to see. The final District 5 is 20.08% white, and District 8 is 10.94% white.

And before you say 'squeaky wheels get the grease', we can all be proud of the strong turnout of residents living south of Florin Rd. at the last 4 SIRC meetings, advocating for Meadowview within the redistricting process.

Our Meadowview neighbors were the loudest squeaky wheels, and yet they were given very little grease by the SIRC. (You can watch the the finalizing of the current map boundaries at the last meeting on Dec. 16th at: https://sacramento.granicus.com/player/clip/5137?view_id=64&redirect=true between the 04:08:45 – 05:33:00 minute mark. But to catch the full action in building this map, you also need to watch the video minutes of the Dec. 1st and Dec. 8th SIRC meetings.)

There is a serious Meadowview casualty in this final map of which many readers may not be aware – the neighborhoods of Pollack and Parkway were taken from Meadowview and placed in D5. Combined these neighborhoods have the strongest black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) working-class voting block in Meadowview. Taken from Meadowview and placed in the same voting block with Hollywood Park and a gentrifying Oak Park will weaken their voting voices for a section of our city greatly in need of voting representation. Repeated requests from a roaring Meadowview to keep Pollack and the Parkway with Meadowview fell on deaf ears with the SIRC. Again – the mostly white, unified Central City was far more important to this Commission than attaining long-awaited voting equity for BIPOC working-class residents in South Sacramento.

So who are these commissioners making these decisions, and in which parts of town do they hang their hat?

SIRC commissioners each have a city council district to represent, and ideally the commissioners should be long time residents of the districts they represent. As there are 8 council districts, and the SIRC by law has 13 commissioners, it follows that 5 districts will have 2 commissioners. This SIRC had 14 participating commissioners with 10 commissioners living south of the American River: Of the 2 D4 representatives, one lives in the Central City and the other lives in Land Park; Of the 3 D5 representatives, one lives in Oak Park, and two 'near Hollywood Park'; the D6 representative lives somewhere in the current D6; Of the 2 D7 representatives, one lives in the Pocket and the other in Oak Park (that's in D5); the D8 representative lives in Meadowview; and one of the D2 representatives lives in the Pocket (that's in D7)

In other words – the roughly 100,000 residents living south of Florin Rd. and east of Freeport Blvd., had one SIRC commissioner living among them, using the same roads, schools, shopping centers, and parks.

There are 4 commissioners out of 14 living in the boundaries of D5 and north of Fruitridge Rd. (The 2020 Census data reports that the old D5 that went to Florin Rd. contained 60, 240 people), representing D5 and D7.

There are 2 commissioners living in the Pocket (current population around 40,000 people), representing D7 and D2.

see Opinion page 15

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Opinion

continued from page 14

The following map* shows either the council district or general area where SIRC commissioners live (not to the precise neighborhood in most cases, and never the precise street). Notice that almost half of the commissioners live between Fruitridge Rd. and the Central City/East Sacramento area. Just at a glance it is clear that there is very little representation on this commission south of Florin Rd. and east of Freeport Blvd., yet there is plenty of representation for the Pocket and areas north of Fruitridge Rd.

So who among the South Area Commissioners participated the most in SIRC discussions? A brief analysis of the total number of comments made by D5, D7, and D8 Commissioners during the last three SIRC meetings allows us one possible way to see who drove the conversations to finalize the boundary lines for the South Area-District of Residence* Commissioner Dec. 1 Meeting.

This is further evidence that the Pocket and the region north of Fruitridge Rd have good representation on the Commission, but that the area south of Florin Rd. and east of Freeport Blvd. has far, far less representation on the Commission. (Technically, Chair Horiuchi lives in the South Area, but as she has the SIRC to lead, so some of her comments are to guide the meeting, while some are comments for the other commissioners to consider, and some are a blend of both.)

As the neighborhoods south of Florin Rd. have so little representation on the SIRC, I asked 3 neighborhood associations south of Florin Rd. if they were ever notified of the need for more redistricting commissioner applications during the SIRC commission application process. Each neighborhood told me that they had not been given any requests for commissioner applications, or even any information about redistricting before the SIRC was selected.

I also have concerns for the participation level of the alternate Commissioner Davis - the 4th SIRC commissioner to live in D5. There have been 13 sitting commissioners present at the most recent meetings, and 13 commissioners to cast votes, and 3 of those Commissioners live in D5. Yet the alternate without an assigned district in some cases drove the direction of SIRC conversations, and sometimes participated in straw votes which guided the next direction of the conversation. Looking back at the table, Commissioner Davis made the second most and 3rd highest number of comments of South Area Commissioners, and from an already overrepresented area of this City. Chair Horiuchi was supportive of his numerous comments during the Dec. 1 meeting when she said around the 5:55:26 minute mark that she was happy to treat Commissioner Davis as an equal on this commission, and her comment was immediately supported by Commissioner Gandara.

(https://sacramento.granicus.com/player/clip/5129?view_id=64&redirect=true) Then there was a comment from Commissioner Davis in the Dec. 8 meeting that he attended college classes with the city staff mapper who supported the SIRC meetings by drawing the map boundaries for the commissioners.

(https://sacramento.granicus.com/player/clip/5137?view_id=64&redirect=true)

Switching from SIRC Commissioners, I am also troubled by the number of other (non-SIRC) City Commissioners who were signing weekly letters with a large, politically well-connected redistricting coalition that submitted multiple maps each with an unified Central City and a 15 mile-long D5 starting in October 2021.

Three out of the nine City Planning and Design Commissioners have been working with this coalition and one Parks Commissioner signed letters with this coalition. These three Planning Commissioners also voted in August 2021 in favor of a Sacramento Housing Element that suggests the City is open to building roughly 3,000 low-income high-density housing units in the section of Meadowview that is roughly bounded by Florin Rd., Meadowview Rd., 24th St., and Franklin Blvd. during the next 10 years. Our new district map splits that area in half between 2 council districts, leaving the local residents less able to advocate for that area should any of the Housing Element possibilities turn into actual development proposals. You can find the names of these Planning Commissioners if you read through the letters submitted in public comment for every SIRC meeting –their names are a matter of the public, legal redistricting record.

Now that the final map deed has been done, what is the response of the affected neighborhoods – especially the neighborhoods who had their council representation changed to create newer and whiter District 4 and District 7? Are they at least happy with this outcome?

Land Park- now this is an interesting story to share....

At the Dec. 16, 2021 SIRC meeting, Commissioner Horiuchi said around the 02:56:35 minute mark that, "...in fact, we did get a letter from the Land Park Neighborhood Association (it's the Land Park Community Association – LPCA) that I read in our public comments and what they were saying is that they welcome Pocket and Greenhaven and South Land Park and even Curtis Park into this new D7 and they are excited to try to work with these new neighbors. It was not like most of the things I have read this week. So it gave me a little bit of assurance that the decision to keep Land Park with South Land Park and then to add the Pocket in there in order to create this new D7 so we could do other things even though that is the district with the lowest population stability and even though a lot of those people are losing their elected official and are getting a new elected official as soon as we adopt the map that the people I spoke to in this area are not unhappy about it with the exception of the people in Curtis Park. We know very well from what they reported, but we can't meet everybody's needs in this map although we are trying to.".

Population stability is a term for the number or percentage of people in the district who will retain their current city council representative. When Chair Horiuchi said that the new D7 had the lowest population stability, she was saying that in order to create the new D7, the SIRC changed the council representation for more people in the new D7 than any other new district in the city. Without having access to the map report that provides the population stability numbers for this D7, I'm guessing that it's probably around 34,000 people who just had their council representation changed for them. Put another way, Land Park, South Land Park, and Curtis Park residents were just given an elected councilmember for whom Meadowview participated in an election.

Back to the LPCA letter mentioned by Chair Horiuchi - reviewing correspondence and e-comments in the public record, I could not find a letter to the SIRC from the LPCA between December 8th -16th for the final SIRC meeting. I reached out to the LPCA to ask them about their correspondence with the SIRC. The LPCA doesn't recall sending a letter to the SIRC that matches Chair Horiuchi's description. Kristina Rogers, Vice President of the Land Park Community Association has this to say about the final outcome: "The LPCA was far from silent in the redistricting process. We informed our community many times about the redistricting process and encouraged their participation. Board members also made e-comments for the public record. Finally, we collaborated with the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA) and sent a letter to the SIRC in favor of Map B (not accepted for advancement by the SIRC in the Dec. 8th meeting). Our preference was to not be in the same district with the Greenhaven neighborhood. Based on Greenhaven citizen comments, several felt the same. The final map does not have everything we advocated for, but we realize the process is complete.

Looking ahead to 2022, our goal is to build positive and productive relationships with all neighborhoods in D7."

So Chair Horiuchi's sense of reassurance about rearranging the council district representation for Land Park residents didn't come from the Land Park Community Association.

Perhaps Chair Horiuchi confused official SIRC correspondence with a SacBee redistricting article by Theresa Clift updated on December 11, 2021, which states, "Some neighborhoods were pleased with the changes, however. Kirk Vyverberg, board member for the Land Park Community Association, said the group was happy with the proposed map. 'We are pleased to share both community and representation between Land Park, Curtis Park, and a reunified South Land Park, while anticipating a new relationship with the residents of the Pocket,' Vyverberg said in a statement. 'As for the use of Broadway, Freeport and Sutterville, as boundaries, we will try to benefit from the collaboration of two districts in shaping the future development of these neighborhood 'Main Streets' into vital residential and retail transportation corridors.'".

(https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article256466376.html?fbclid=IwAR1IjTT_cxyPvPTOFx6RcXxjtIWzZeSm58gRLAPuDIvTmGf0bpbr4xIfX1I) To recap: Kirk

Vyverberg said the LPCA was pleased about Land Park, Curtis Park, and South Land Park being together – no mention of the Pocket or D7 were included in the clause about being pleased. And no where in his statement did Kirk Vyverberg say the LPCA was happy or pleased with the proposed final map as Chair Horiuchi stated –It was Theresa Clift who said the LPCA was pleased and happy with the proposed final map. Regarding the Pocket, Kirk Vyverberg said the LPCA was anticipating a new relationship with the Pocket, which Kris Rogers later confirmed. Which option did the SIRC give to Land Park but to anticipate a new relationship with the Pocket now that they are in D7 with the Pocket by SIRC vote?

Puzzle Solutions

	S	M	O	T	E			S	L	E	E	V	E	
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
A	N		E	P	A	U	L	E	T	T	E		T	A
R	N		N	I		M	O	A		O	M		A	D
C	E	P	S		B	A	E	D	A		A	M	I	D
	T	H		A	I	N		Y	I	P		A	L	E
		I	N	R	O				T	A	R	R	E	D
	C	L	A	D					R	A	I	D		
S	E	I	N	E	D			R	C	P	T			
A	D	P		A	D	H		N	O	H		A	B	
C	I	S	T		T	A	R	O	T		A	L	A	S
H	L		A	M		R	A	T		P	D		N	A
E	L		M	E	N	A	G	E	R	I	E		I	C
M	A	R	I	N	E	R	S	C	O	M	P	A	S	S
	S	A	L	U	T	E			B	A	T	C	H	

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WREN OTTOMAN
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