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See page 6

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Squirrels: Unofficial residents of the Sac Zoo

By the Sacramento Zoo

When you visit the Sacramento Zoo, you expect an exciting day of lions, okapis, and flamingoes. But there is another resident at the zoo that often goes unnoticed. The humble squirrel.

Squirrels often get a bad rap. They raid bird feeders. They can chew through just about anything. They dart out in front of cars. They nest in attics. But, while sometimes inconvenient for humans, squirrels have a lot to offer. And they're a lot of fun to watch if you stop and take the time.

This prolific rodent can be found on every continent except Australia and Antarctica. Squirrels thrive in almost every habitat with some vegetation, from Sacramento's tidal-influenced freshwater marsh to tropical rainforests and semiarid deserts.

There are over 200 species of squirrels worldwide. Two of the most common species found in Sacramento are the Eastern fox squirrel and gray squirrel. Gray squirrels and fox squirrels can interbreed, potentially creating rare black squirrels.

The most common squirrel at the zoo is the Eastern Fox Squirrel, not to be confused with the Western Gray Squirrel or the Eastern Gray Squirrel. Both the Eastern Gray and Eastern Fox Squirrels are introduced species, both native to eastern North America.

Fun fact: squirrels are one of the reasons straws are prohibited at the Sacramento Zoo. Even if you properly dispose of your straw in the trash can, squirrels think straws are excellent toys and tools and will pull the straws from trash cans, often depositing them in animal enclosures where they can become a hazard.

Tree squirrels help maintain plant biodiversity in forests. Squirrels bury seeds for later consumption, but then forget where they buried their cache.



Over time, the seeds will sprout, expanding the forests and adding to tree diversity.

And did you know that hibernating ground squirrels, such as the California ground squirrel, may hold the key to treating strokes? Hibernating squirrels experience a loss of blood flow to their brains, like stroke patients.

See ZOO on Page 11

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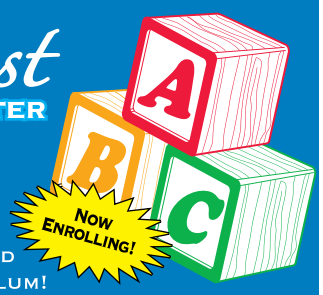

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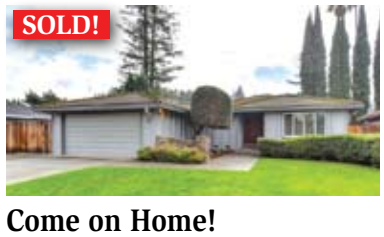

Nestled in a quiet neighborhood and lovingly owned and maintained by the same family since it was constructed in 1975, this lovely 3 bedroom 2 bath home has fresh paint, carpet and flooring and is ready for you to begin making memories of your own! Spacious updated kitchen with a fabulous 48'' SS built-in refrigerator and an island for more countertop work space that all opens up to the family room and backyard. Generous master bedroom/bathroom suite with a walk in closet and a nicely appointed hall bath. Dual pane windows throughout, new copper pipes and water heater in 2014 and a new HVAC system in 2017. Covered back patio. perfect for barbequing and entertaining and an easy maintenance good sized back yard for all your needs. Moments from Seymour Park/Greenbelt. **10 SOUTHLITE CIRCLE**

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McClatchy cancels finals week, opts for social/emotional learning 'Winter Reset'

By Dinara Brown, C. K. McClatchy

Editor's Note: This article was first published on January 24, 2022 on sacschoolbeat.com. Dinara Brown is a senior at CKM.



A change in title of the finals week schedule to "Winter Reset" is one of many changes to finals week engineered by faculty at C.K. McClatchy High School. For starters, the traditional cumulative finals have been canceled.

Teachers met with counselor Andrea Montgomery and Principal Andrea Egan to come up with a new plan for Winter Reset Week. When asked about what this plan entails, Montgomery reported that, "The plan for finals will consist of a great deal of information provided to students regarding the services that are available to them here at CKM. There will also be modules that will allow students to really think about what they need right now, how to cope with what is happening and has happened during this pandemic."

A week that was once filled with final exams has changed to a week of social and emotional learning for students.

Heather Cuda, a math teacher at McClatchy said, "The school's plan for finals is to address some of the concerns, the social and emotional concerns, that we have on our campus at a time that I think is appropriate." Many students have been reaching out to find support during COVID-19.

Montgomery later confirmed these concerns, saying, "Students have asked for groups that can help them manage stress, anxiety, peer relations and coping with difficult times that vary from losing a loved one to moving or breaking up with a significant other. Having just conducted student surveys last year, this was made clear by students that were willing to provide their input on how our high school could improve."

Despite the claims that students have expressed a need for this support, members of the faculty and staff said they are unsure of how effective this new plan will be. English teacher WIlliam Maxwell said that, "it won't be taken seriously by a good number of people."

Maxwell brought up the fact that during suicide prevention week at the school, he had, "a huge chunk of the class who were laughing at it and criticizing the video." Even so he admitted that, "If there's three people in the room that it resonates with, isn't that important?"

Students' views on the subject of social and emotional learning are also quite conflicted. In a survey that polled 170 students, 50.3 percent of McClatchy students said that they felt like social and emotional learning would not personally benefit them. Another 51.5 percent said that they would not even participate in the activities.

This could be due to the fact that students would prefer to use the time on furthering their education instead. English teacher Brian Perry said gave his

See MCCLATCHY on Page 11

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Legacy of Joan Didion remains strong in Sacramento

Didion family, others share recollections about famous writer

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Editor's note: This is part two of a three-part series, with the first part featuring artist Wayne Thiebaud. Parts two and three of the series are about writer Joan Didion. Both Didion and Thiebaud spent years living in Sacramento. They died two days apart in late December 2021.

Joan Didion, a renowned Sacramento-born novelist, essayist, journalist and screenwriter, died from complications associated with Parkinson's disease on Dec. 23. She was 87.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Goto

Jennifer Goto, a bookseller at the Avid Reader bookstore in Sacramento, holds the store's last unsold copy of a Joan Didion book, on Jan. 5.

In announcing her death, aRandom House, noted: "Didion was one of the country's most trenchant writers and astute observers. Her best-selling works of fiction, commentary and memoir have received numerous honors and are considered modern classics."

Among her many notable books are "The Year of Magical Thinking," "The White Album," "Blue Nights" and "Slouching Towards Bethlehem."

She also joined Tom Wolfe, Truman Capote and others as part of the 1960s and 1970s "new journalism" movement, which combined traditional journalism with nonfiction writing.

As one of Sacramento's most well-known native daughters, Joan spent her earliest years in this capital city. However, her roots ran much deeper in the Golden State, as she was a fifth-generation Californian.

Born on Dec. 5, 1934, Joan was the first-born child of Frank and Eduene (Jerrett) Didion, who were married at the Trinity Episcopal Pro-Cathedral at 2620 M Street (now Capitol Avenue) on Jan. 1, 1934.

See DIDION on Page 5



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Didion:

Continue from page 4

According to Sacramento city directories, Frank and Eduene were living at 1011 23rd St. in 1934 and 2941 Highland Ave. in Curtis Park by 1935.

The Didions, including Joan's then-3 ½-year-old brother, James, are listed in the 1940 U.S. census as living at 2211 U St. James, an El Camino High School graduate, died two years ago at the age of 80.

Joan graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School in Sacramento's Land Park neighborhood in 1952.

Long before she planted new roots in Southern California and New York, Joan gained experience as a journalist in the city of her birth, as she contributed to both The Sacramento Union and The Sacramento Bee.

In one of those articles, which was published in The Bee on Aug. 18, 1951, Joan highlighted Sacramento High School student Carol Joan Bennetts, who was then dancing in musicals of the inaugural season of the Sacramento Music Circus.

During her senior year at the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1956, Joan won first place in an essay contest sponsored by Vogue fashion and lifestyle magazine.

Vogue awarded Joan a job as a research assistant. She accepted the position and eventually became one of that publication's editors

During her seven years with Vogue, Joan wrote her first novel, "Run River." It was published in 1963.

The book's editor was journalist John Gregory Dunne, who became her husband on Jan. 30, 1964. Two years later, they adopted their daughter, Quintana Roo Dunne.

With Dunne, Joan co-wrote several screenplays, including the film adaption of her 1970 novel, "Play It As It Lays."

Although Joan spent most of her life living away from California's capital city, a variety of references to Sacramento are present in her writings.

In her book, "Slouching Towards Bethlehem," Joan wrote about the "boom mentality" of California, and that "Sacramento is California."

She also referred to an Eden-like California of old, noting: "Did not the Donner-Reed Party, after all, eat its own dead to reach Sacramento?"

Didion relatives share thoughts on their cousin, Joan

Julie Didion, a local artist, responded to the passing of her famous relative.

"As Joan's Sacramento cousins, we have always been honored to count an important, incisive and downright brilliant writer as one of our family," she said. "Her books have affected and inspired our lives in so many ways, and her legacy will be huge.

"Our only regret is that our father, Bob Didion, who was the brother of Joan's father, Frank Didion, didn't grow up in the same family. Owing to the death of their mother during the 1918 flu pandemic, the boys were separated into different families. Because of this tragic event, the two families were not as close as they might have been, and we didn't have the opportunity to know Joan as well as we might have."

Julie also shared her family's favorite quote by Joan.

"We have a favorite quote of hers, from an interview in New York magazine," she said. "She was serving lunch to the journalist and set the table with beautiful antique silver. Surprised, the writer asked, 'You use your good silver for every day?' And Joan replied, 'Every day is all [there is].'

"My husband, my daughter and I try to keep those wise words in mind, always."

Julie added that her family is appreciative of the many kind condolences they received from the Sacramento community.

"We know that Sacramento will be mourning the loss of one of its most talented native daughters," she said.

Also sharing her thoughts about Joan was Jeanne Didion Huggins, another daughter of Bob Didion.

"Joan was such a warm and welcoming hostess during our last visit in New York," she said. "In casual social settings she didn't like to discuss her published work or what she was working on at that time. She loved to laugh and tell funny stories. In addition, she was a gourmet cook."

Didion left lasting impression on Sacramentans

Maurice Read mentioned that he met Joan while he was attending Sacramento Junior College (now Sacramento City College) in 1952.

"(Joan) was in her last year (at McClatchy High)," he said. "Through her, I met Nancy Kennedy, one of her best friends. And that was (then-future U.S. Supreme Court Justice) Anthony Kennedy's older sister."

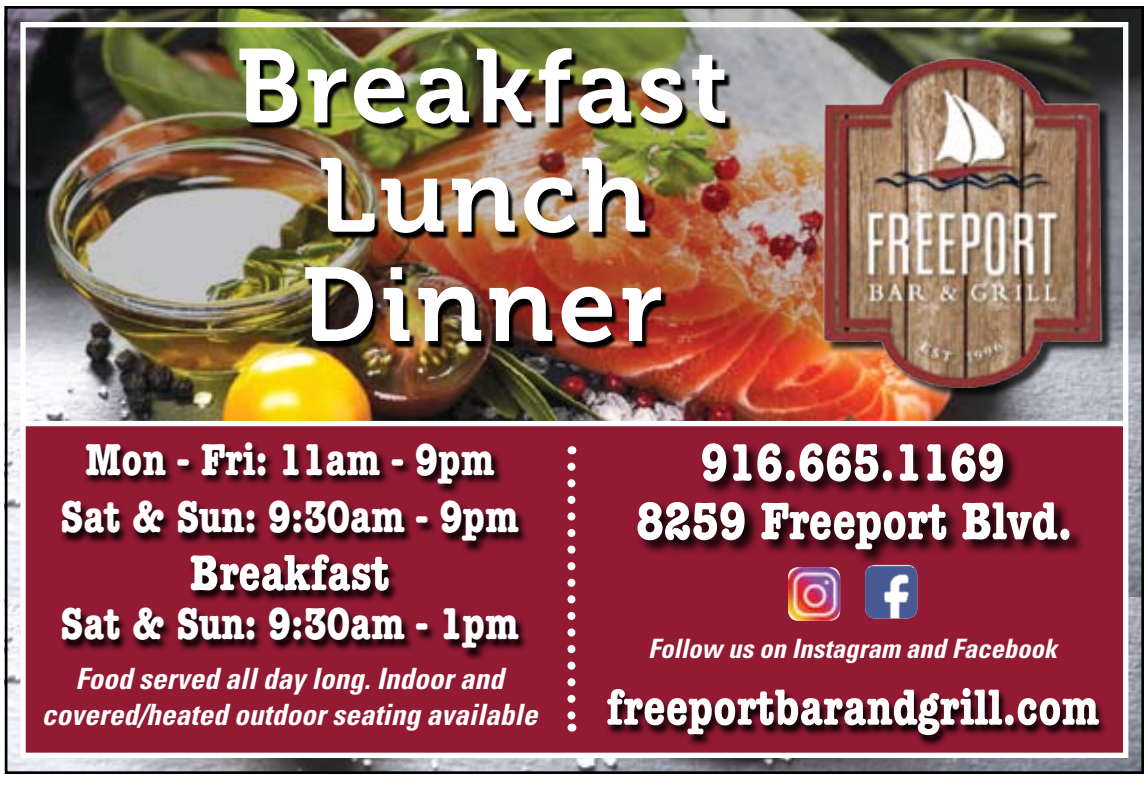
Read also shared something that Joan said many years ago.

"Somewhere along the lines, she told me that somebody asked her why she majored in English, and she said so she would always have a quote for every occasion," he said. "I've never seen that in print anywhere."

Read noted that he eventually "lost touch" with Joan.

"Joan visited us here in Sacramento once and for some reason she didn't have a place to stay, so she stayed with us for one night," he said. "That's about the last time I saw her. She and her husband moved

See DIDION on Page 12





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Introducing our new publisher: Bonnie Rodriguez

By Monica Stark

Bonnie Rodriguez, longtime Galt Herald Editor, is now the publisher of Valley Community Newspapers.

VCN has been under the umbrella of the former news company, Herburger Publications, since 2016 when David Herburger bought the company from George Macko.

Herburger Publications is now known as Valley Oak Press and oversees VCN, as well as The Elk Grove Citizen, Galt Herald, and the River Valley Times in Rancho Murieta. It also includes a printing press that prints each of those publications as well as contracts with other publishing businesses. The press will remain active and the pun "press" plays into the name Valley Oak Press as a printing press and news outlet.

The Herburgers owned Herburger Publications since 1959 when David Herburger's parents bought The Galt Herald and the Elk Grove Citizen.

The new publisher said she will strive to uphold the Herburger legacy. "I know that these are huge shoes to fill. The Herburgers are a household name. That has been the most overwhelming aspect of this. How do I earn any type of merit under their shadow because they have been so good? There are a lot of expectations out there," Rodriguez said.

Having worked for David Herburger since 2006, first in production and graphics, she moved on to become the Editor of the Galt Herald. She said she always appreciated the "family feel" of having worked for Herburger Publications.

"It's absolutely inviting and wonderful to work for," Rodriguez said, making that work environment a priority in her new position to retain. "I want to keep that. I want the whole company to feel like family. It's the greatest thing the Herburgers did. Happy employees are productive employees," she said.

After Covid-19 first hit in March 2020, the entire staff at Herburger Publications took a pay cut, and the financial times just didn't seem to improve. "I know it just gutted (Herburger). He loves his employees. He knew it was going to be horrible."

As David Herburger walked back into his office after announcing the pay cuts, Rodriguez said she followed him in and told him, "I don't know if this is offensive, but if you ever shut these doors, I want the Galt Herald." Having jumped into the Galt com-

See RODRIGUEZ on Page 7



File photo

Bonnie Rodriguez the leader of the new parent company Valley Oak Press.





Rodriguez:

Continue from page 6

munity, including leading the Chamber of Commerce as its president, she said she loved the Galt community.

"He looked up at me, and said, 'Shut the door.' I thought I got myself fired," she said. But instead, he offered the Galt Herald as a package deal with all of its sister papers as well as the printing press operations and outside jobs, she said.

Her initial thought was affirmative, as long as no there were no layoffs. Sleeping on the offer for three weeks, Rodriguez said she expressed her serious interest in the business.

Time passed and there were months when the issue wasn't discussed, but whenever it was, mutual interest was shared. She helped clear a warehouse on the press's property in Galt and fill it with a tenant. Herburger put her in front of the operations for over a year. "Just ask Bonnie," he would say to customers, recalls Rodriguez.

"He put my face out there, so (the ownership change) wasn't a shock …I just want readers and clients to know that new management cares about them and this is not a hostile takeover. David left us so that we could succeed. I am here for the long haul. I don't know if I could match 61 years. I don't think I have 61 years ahead of me. One of my children is semi interested so we will see. One child is 24 and doesn't want to do anything with it," Rodriguez said.

Keeping up with the changing media landscape hasn't necessarily been a priority in the past, but Rodriguez is making it one of hers. She's applied for new computer grants; a podcaster room may be in the future and adjustments for the press are in the works. "We'll have a better product as well and to be able to communicate with the outside world-- those are two initial changes. We also need to be more digital. We have trust with print readers but we need to engage online as well."

While computers are about 15 years old and some cannot open attachments or access some web pages, the company focus, however, has always been on getting into the community, knowing the ins and outs of what's happening and reporting it with integrity.

Roy Herburger had local schools produce the contents for pages in the Elk Grove Citizen, on a regular basis. Roy Herburger has an elementary school named after him in Elk Grove. David's mother, Mary Lewis, the Citizen's former Society Editor, was involved with local organizations like the Soroptimist Club and had a column called "About Town." A park in Elk Grove is named after her.

While Rodriguez never held the role of publisher until this year, she began her tenure at Herburger Publications as a graphic artist in 2006, and by 2012 became the Editor of The Galt Herald, a position she held until year's end, 2021, along with the managing editor of the River Valley Times, which she added to her resume in November, 2016.

Her background in newspapers began when computers just began filling newsrooms and were still utilizing the "paste-up" method for production, rather than desktop publishing programs. Originally from the Granite Bay area, she fondly recalls yearbook class at Oakmont High School where their innovative teacher had them paginating their own pages. "I started with the old pagemaker and freehand and these programs that don't exist these days," she says.

After high school, she moved to Utah, lived near extended family and attended Brigham Young University. She worked at newspapers in the area there before realizing that the grind of a daily newspaper was too much for a young, growing family. So she moved on, promising herself she would never work for another newspaper. But,then about six years later, she had moved to Galt, and saw that there was a posting that the local newspaper was looking for help. She thought to herself, "'Oh, what the heck? A weekly would be much easier than daily," she recalled.

So she said she turned in her resume, not really thinking much about it, since it had been about six years since she worked in the industry, and she knew it was changing. Meanwhile, she had her second child who was just an infant at the time, and she had gone through a divorce.

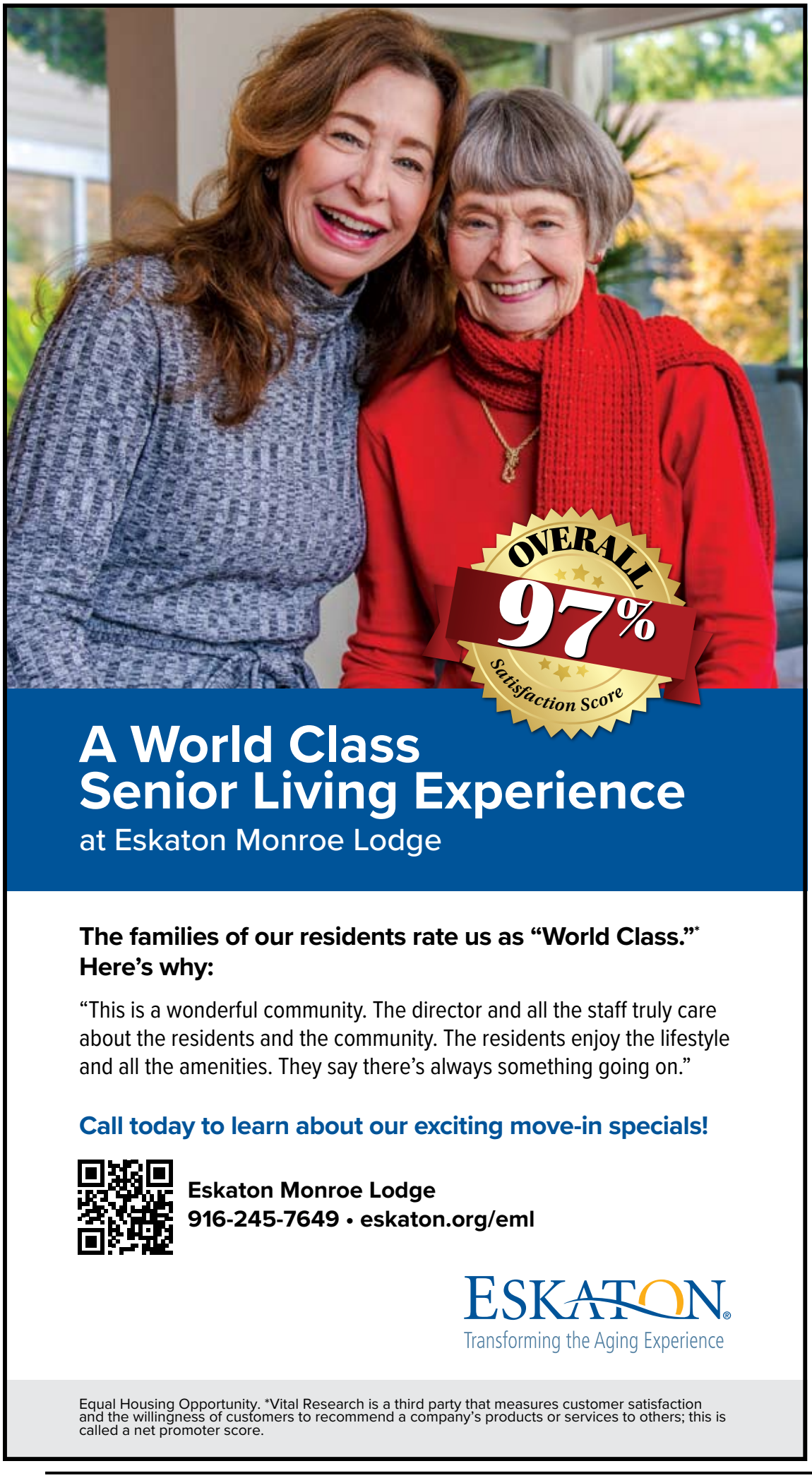
But, two years later, she got a phone call from David Herberger saying, "'Hey, you submitted a resume two years ago. Are you still looking for a job? Just kind of laughing at him say, oh, gosh, now it's been eight years that I've been out of the industry. I'm sure you guys are so much further advanced than what I know. So I don't know that I you know, you guys even want me and he laughed harder than I did, and said, 'Oh, no, you need to come in and come talk to us.'" So she did and found out that they were just about where she left off technology-wise at her previous job and the rest is history in the making.

Rodriguez says that probably the most daunting part of taking this leadership role is filling the difficult-to-fill Herburger shoes. "The Herburgers are a household name for the good. That has been the most overwhelming aspect of this. How do I earn any type of merit under their shadow because they have been so good. There are a lot of expectations out there."

But truth be told, from Galt Herald graphic artist to publisher of Valley Oak Press, Rodriguez has the resume, connection and heart to take on this huge task.







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Chautauqua Playhouse presents "Crimes of the Heart"



Chautauqua Playhouse continues its season with the comedy/drama "Crimes of the Heart" by Beth Henley, beginning on January 21st at the Playhouse. The show will run through February 20. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. The performances are held at the Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Road in the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Admission is $23 General, $21 Seniors/ Students and SARTA members. Premium seating is an additional dollar. Tickets at the door are $25.

The scene is Hazelhurst, Mississippi, where the three Magrath sisters have gathered to await news of the family patriarch, their grandfather, who is living out his last hours. Their troubles, grave and yet, somehow hilarious, are highlighted by their priggish cousin, and the awkward young lawyer who tries to keep Babe out of jail while helpless not to fall in love with her. The telling is so true and touching and consistently hilarious that it will linger in the mind long after the curtain has descended.

Patrons will be required to follow CDC, local and state requirements and must be masked during the performances. Proof of vaccination or a recent negative covid test and/or a temperature check may be requested.

The direction is by Bill Zarriello, with set and light design by Andrew Fiffick. Costumes are by Steve Buri. The cast features Jenna Zepponi Lehman, Michelle Champoux, Shane Burrows, Vannah Nettel, Lauren Hirsch, and You Wei Randolph

Information and tickets are available through the Chautauqua Playhouse website: www.cplayhouse.org or call the box office at (916) 489-7529, during business hours.



COVID pandemic increases mental health needs on high school campus

By Kayli Huang, Mira Loma High School

(Editor's Note: This article was first published on Sacramento School Beat)

This year, a Peer Mediation Group was made available to students at Mira Loma High School to support mental wellness. This group of students help their peers resolve minor conflicts and problems and steer them to resources for larger issues.

The program is launching in the wake of a nationwide spike in youth mental illness.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought youth mental health into the spotlight as many children and teens have found themselves isolated from friends and dealing with greater stress - especially during periods when schools have gone remote.

The number of minors struggling with mental health has been climbing, according to Mental Health America (MHA) National, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting mental health. In 2021, 206,000 more youths (age 12-17) have experienced major depressive episodes in the United States compared to 2020. Most of these young people - 59.6 percent - do not receive any mental health treatment, according to MHA.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the largest grassroots mental health organization in the US, 50 percent of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75 percent by age 24. In other words, a lot of people who experience mental health challenges are likely to experience them before finishing high school.

Aaima Arshad is a junior at Mira Loma High School and a peer mediator. She explained that in order to become a peer mediator, training was mandatory.

"Duing school, we had to do mock mediations in groups and were put in the positions of both the mediator and the person having the conflict," Arshad says, "This helped us understand what it means to be in the role of a mediator and what the person with the conflict is going through, while also helping us gain experience in being a mediator. But before all of this, we were taught the process of mediation and were shown several videos of mock mediations."

While mock mediations are a great way to understand the process of peer mediation, Prachiti Kamle, a junior at Mira Loma High School and peer mediator, described the meaning behind the style of training.

"We had a 2 day training in which we covered a variety of topics to help us better help students who come to mediation," Kamle says, "A lot of our training was focused on understanding why people may feel a certain way, and how to help them convey these emotions and feelings in a respectful yet

See HEALTH on Page 10





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Health:

Continue from page 9

impactful manner, since sometimes the conflict could just be a misunderstanding between peers. After that, we specifically focused on methods of reaching a compromise or mutual agreement, hopefully helping both sides see why the other feels the way they did, and what they both can do in the future to resolve the issue."

There are many reasons for why high school students would want to take on the role of being a peer mediator to help out other students in their school community. For Arshad, it was the ability to gain experience in the medical field while giving back to her community.

"I feel like it is a great way of helping others and getting back to the community. I also possibly want to be a psychiatrist in the future, so counseling or being a help to others let's me try out some aspect of counseling," Arshad says, "I generally like the idea of being able to be there for others in times of need and being able to resolve conflicts would act as a way to do that. I also think that things as such help you gain experience in not only mediation and being there for others, but also being able to solve your own conflicts because at the end of the day, we all have problems."

According to Kamle, another motivator for students to take on the role of peer mediator is the opportunity to improve the well being of the school as a whole by helping one student at a time.

"The most valuable thing to me when I am involved in a conflict is when someone is willing to listen (and even offer advice on occasion), as it keeps me from spiraling further into the situation," Kamle says, "I wanted to be a similar 'listening ear' for students at Mira Loma, and helping others become more open-minded makes for a more compassionate and caring school environment in my opinion."

As this program is starting up, there is lots to be done, especially as the whole world moves out of the pandemic and being socially cut off from everyone else, Arshad states.

"We have not done any actual mediation so far but from what I would assume, people are a lot more distant and would have trouble socializing again."

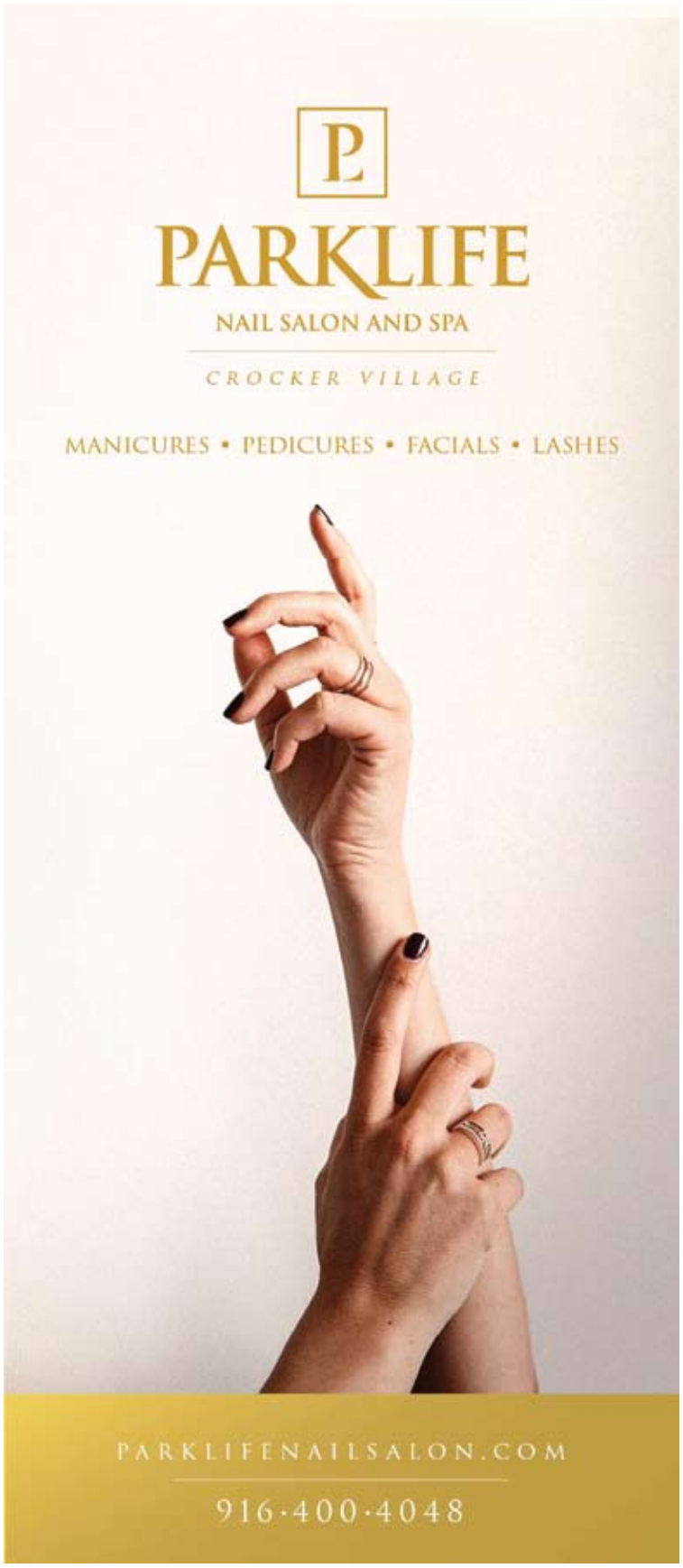
There are also some benefits that have come out of the pandemic, Kamle explains. Isolation, in a way, allowed for some other bonds to be strengthened.

"I think the isolation aspect of the pandemic took a major toll on the mental health of my peers and I. It was definitely difficult going from seeing each other every day to barely at all, and many of us are still working on rebuilding that social aspect of our lives," Kamle says, "These dramatic life changes were definitely not easy for many, especially when we had so much thrown at us in such a short period of time. However, I also know that many people relied on their friends for emotional support even more during the pandemic, creating stronger bonds between them."

According to Kamle, "Although the isolation was difficult, it allowed for many to reflect on their mental health, and may have provided more opportunities to process emotions and heal."

For students at school, councilors are always available to meet whenever a problem arises. There are also several crisis hotlines like The Source by the Sacramento Children's Home, the Crisis Text Line, and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline for youths to get help, or when they just need someone to talk to.

Source: https://sacschoolbeat.com/931/indepth/covid-pandemic-increases-mental-health-needs-on-high-school-campus/.

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Zoo:

Continue from page 2

However, squirrels wake up without brain trauma due to a cellular process that protects brain cells. Scientists have isolated the enzyme that keeps oxygen-deprived brain cells from dying and research is now being conducted to hopefully create a treatment to improve stroke recovery.

The next time you visit the Sacramento Zoo, take a moment to appreciate that squirrel jumping from fence post to fence post, or stop to observe his cousin who dares to enter the cheetah exhibit in search of a nut. Think about their wonderful contributions to nature and biodiversity.

McClatchy:

Continue from page 3

perspective, "I understand the desire to help students, but at the same time, and this is probably speaking from the kind of students I serve, a lot of my students are counting on the opportunity to raise their grade by taking these finals."

Going back to the fact that the campus was so split on opinion Perry said that, "A campus wide policy like this is one solution for 2300 individuals and it's not necessarily the best for everybody." He said, "Teachers can make decisions based on their students, their classes and what's best for them."

A common sentiment expressed by teachers was that they felt unprepared to give social and emotional education to children. History department head Bridget Martinez spoke about the implementation of SEL: "I think the plan has good intentions, but I don't think that it is being implemented in the right way . . . In order to do something effectively in relation to the social emotional health of our students, there needs to be authenticity and sincerity."

Martinez also said there was a lack of teacher input before the choice was made to cancel finals. She brought up the fact that because many teachers were not on board with the decision, they will not be able to properly lead the activities which could ultimately cause the SEL to be more harmful than helpful.

Martinez was not the only one to make note of the absence of teachers' approval, as the only teachers who were included in the meeting with the counselors and principal were the heads of each academic department. When asked if he would have liked to be included in the meeting, Perry (who is not a department head), said, "Yeah, I think a decision this big . . . It seems like we should have had a larger discussion."

"We knew from the get go that these are trying times for students, that they are more anxious and stressed than ever and that this pandemic has exacerbated already existing issues," said Perry. "We should have been addressing this from the start, not in a one off during what would normally be finals.

Perry was not alone in having reservations. Maxwell said, "SEL is an awesome thing. I think it's just really hard to, out of the blue, sell kids on SEL from teachers who are not really well trained in doing it."

Teachers Perry and Maxwell shared the same opinion: that canceling finals was not completely necessary.

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Didion:

Continue from page 5

to New York, and we just kind of lost touch."

Sacramento resident Moni Van Camp told this paper that although she never met Joan in person, she was greatly inspired by the words that she wrote.

"Joan just was my inspiration for moving to Sacramento from (the University of California, Berkeley) and (the city of) Berkeley (in 1965), and 'Run River' gave me the heart of Sacramento and our (Sacramento-San Joaquin) Delta, and she did it beautifully. And I've been a fan ever since I read her first book."

Van Camp, who read four of Joan's books, also mentioned that she could relate to her writings on the loss of her loved ones.



Photo courtesy of the Lance Armstrong Collection

Joan Didion is shown in her senior year photograph in the 1952 C.K. McClatchy High School yearbook.

"You know, I lost my daughter and she lost hers, then she lost her husband, and she's wrote beautiful books about losses," she said. "It just hit home for me a lot."

Pocket resident Mary Snyder (formerly Carol Monahan), a 1963 graduate of McClatchy High, where she was a classmate of Jeanne Didion (later Huggins), recalled reading "Run River," which has its setting in the Sacramento Valley.

"I was a librarian at one time, so I've done a lot of reading in my time, so (Joan wrote) something about the river (in that novel) and what it was (like living in Sacramento), which was true, being raised in Sacramento," she said.

Snyder also mentioned how Joan wrote about trying to adjust to living in New York.

"My mother was a New Yorker, but I could never go to New York with my mother," she said. "It's a total different pace of life compared to Sacramento, and I love Sacramento myself and I could relate to (Joan's) feelings, her emotions that way."

Jennifer Goto, a book seller at the Avid Reader bookstore on Broadway, just a short drive from the high school that Joan attended, told this publication last week that all but one of this business's Joan Didion books were sold out.

"We have one Joan Didion book left; it's called 'A Book of Common Prayer,'" she said on Jan. 5. "When she passed away, we had customers come in asking for her books. So, we've sold out of the rest of our stock, and many of the titles are now back ordered. So, we're waiting for more to come in – hopefully later this week."

Goto added that customers of various ages have been visiting this store recently, speaking fondly about this famous Sacramento-born author.

"Many of them just (talk) about what a loss her voice will be, and that the first time that they read (one of her books), they were really moved."

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Julie Interrante, End-of-Life Educator and former chaplain, on how to have meaningful conversations and experiences with a loved one who is dying. 2/23, 3/1, and 3/9

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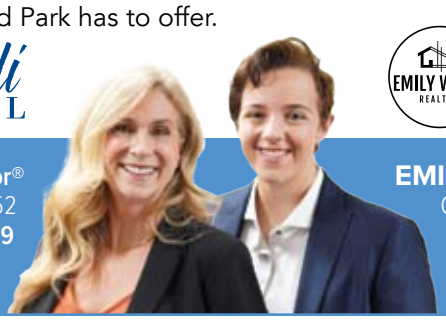

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SCUSD approves 1300 Campaign Resolution

Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD) is a proud supporter of the 1300 Campaign, an initiative led by Improve Your Tomorrow (IYT), the Sierra Health Foundation, My Brother's Keeper Sacramento, and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. The Campaign aims to send an additional 1300 young men of color (YMOC) to Sacramento State and UC Davis by 2025. At the board meeting on January 13, 2022, the board members considered and approved a resolution proclaiming their support of the Campaign's 9-point policy plan, which aims to eliminate barriers for YMOC in attaining a college education.

The resolution commits to making Ethnic Studies courses a graduation requirement (starting with the class of 2022-23) to foster cross-cultural understandings of the diverse ethnicities that have contributed to the history of the United States, and hiring an additional 13 counselors who are representative of student demographics. It also includes the district's ongoing cross-departmental efforts to draft a plan to increase college eligibility rates for students across the district, particularly among underrepresented subgroups of students. These efforts will help build a sense of belonging for young men of color and help provide academic and social support for them on their quest to attain a college education.

The 1300 Campaign is working alongside SCUSD in their ongoing efforts to establish a steady pathway towards college attainment, such as improving high school readiness for middle school students transitioning to the 9th grade, working with the Los Rios Community College District to provide dual enrollment opportunities for high school students, and providing mental health support for struggling students which aims to ensure that students have an equal opportunity to graduate and attain a postsecondary education.

"Sac City Unified's guiding principle of equity, access, and social justice led us to the 1300 Campaign, and together we will work to make deep-rooted change in our community," said Christina Pritchett, Board President, Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education. "We are committed to provide young men of color with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options."

Through partnerships with the Los Rios Community Colleges, Sacramento State University, and the University of California, Davis, the 1300 Campaign seeks to permanently transform the Sacramento region by creating an equitable pipeline for more young men of color to obtain college degrees. Research shows that YMOC with college degrees are 38 times less likely than their peers without degrees to be incarcerated. It is also widely known that individuals who obtain a college degree generally have expanded access to job opportunities, increased earning potential, economic stability, and a better quality of life.

"For far too long, young black and brown youth have continuously faced barriers toward attaining a college education and continue to do so. By engaging with the 1300 Campaign and adopting a resolution that seeks to address these barriers, Sacramento City Unified School District acknowledges the systemic inequalities young men of color face, and will build upon their previous work in dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline," said Michael Lynch, Co-Founder and CEO of IYT. Continuing, Michael stated, "On behalf of the partners of the Campaign and everyone at IYT, I want to thank the Sacramento City Unified School District board members and Superintendent Aguilar for committing to remove systemic barriers that hinder our young men of color in reaching college."

The 1300 Campaign is a targeted policy campaign working towards dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline. To learn more about the 1300 Campaign, please visit www.1300campaign.org and www.scusd.edu/1300campaign.

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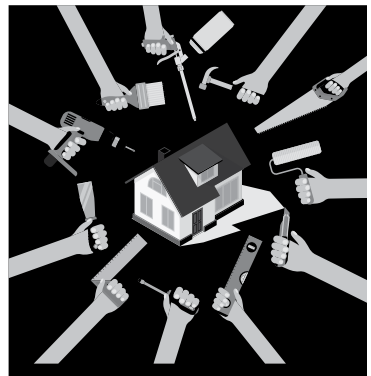

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‡The Wells Fargo Furnishings credit card is issued by Wells Fargo Financial National Bank. ONE YEAR Special Financing applies to qualifying purchases of $1,500 or more charged with approved credit and 35% down payment. Minimum monthly payments are required during the promotional ONE YEAR period. Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date at the APR for Purchases if the purchase balance is not paid in full within the promotional ONE YEAR period. Paying only the minimum monthly payment will not pay off the purchase balance before the end of the promotional period. For new accounts, the APR for purchases is 28.99%. If you are charged interest in any billing cycle, the minimum interest charge will be $1.00. This information is accurate as of 1/01/2022 and is subject to change. For current information, call us at 1-800-431-5921. *Since the State of California requires that tax be paid on all retail sales, we reduce the purchase price by an amount equal to the tax on the reduced purchase price except "Special Buys", all "Mega Clearance" and icomfort products. Offers not available in conjunction with any other promotion, discount, or financing. Offers not available on previous purchases. Sale ends 2/21/22.