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Land Park News

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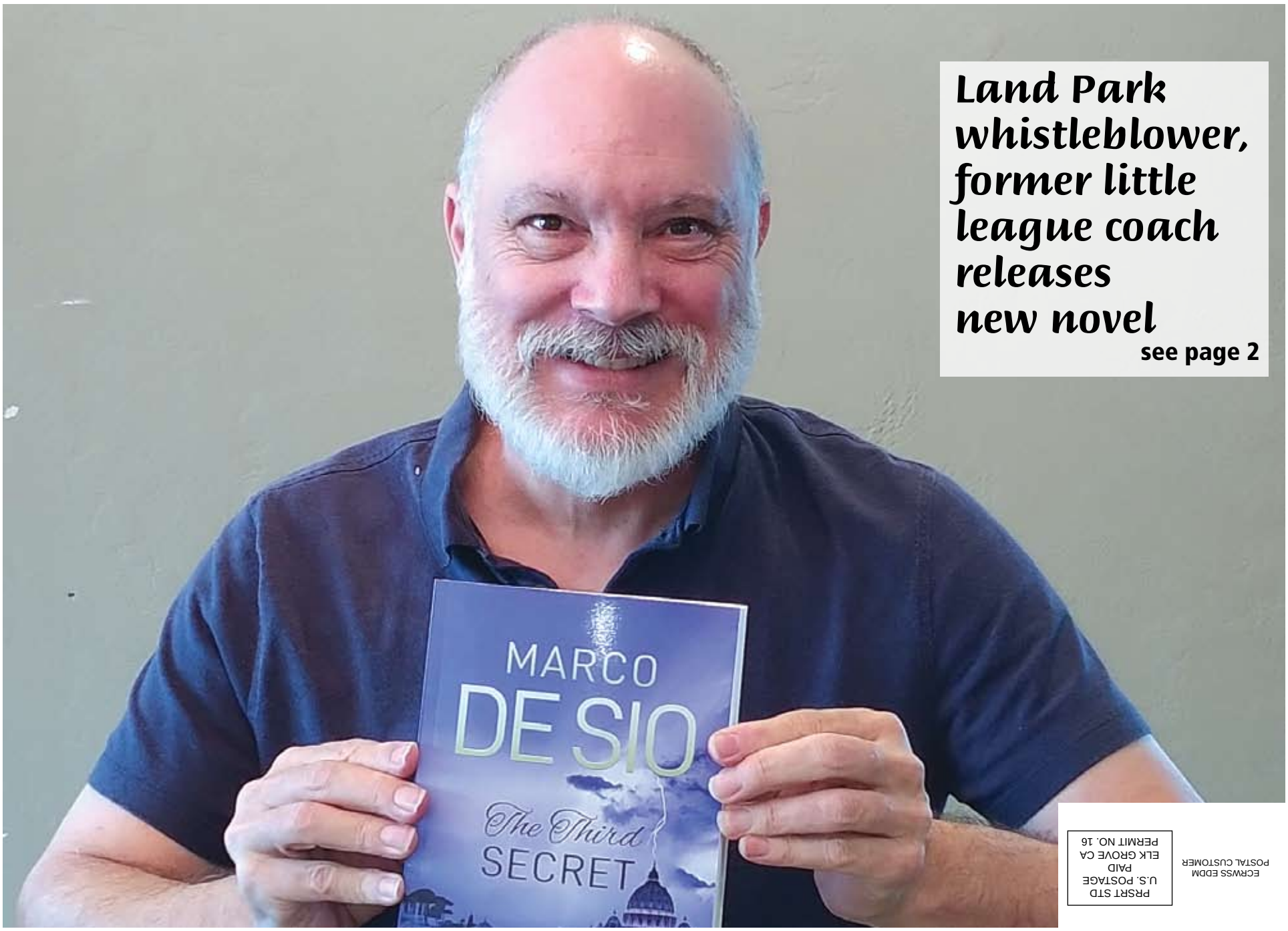

Land Park whistleblower, former little league coach releases new novel

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Land Park whistleblower, former little league coach releases new novel

By Monica Stark

Land Park resident, former journalist, and government whistleblower, Mark DeSio, released a new novel titled "The Third Secret", which follows the life of "Big Al", an Italian immigrant who has close associations with Mafia gangsters and harbors a secret that was disclosed to three children in 1917.

Readers follow the revelations of Big Al's secret through the lens of investigative reporter John Tate in the late 2000s who gets help from Big Al's son Giuseppe, a former American diplomat; and, a priest who said he had a divine encounter as a child.

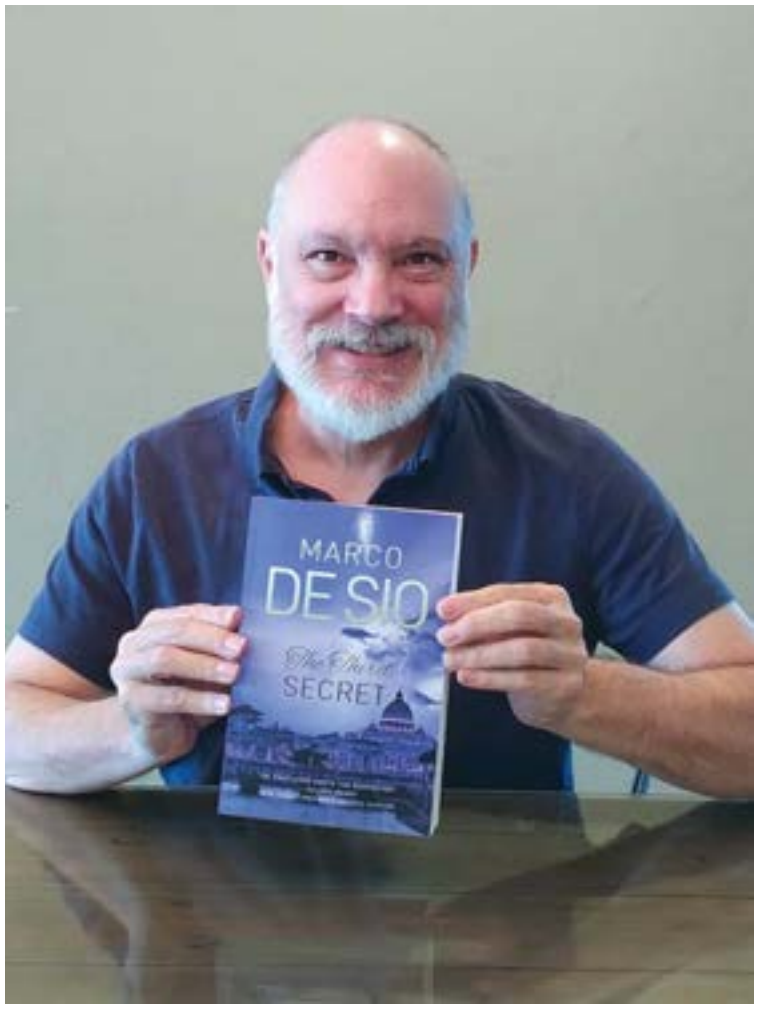
"Real or fiction? The reader must decide," Author Mark De Sio says about "The Third Secret" and the 1917 prophecy. "With the events going on in the world today, especially in Ukraine, 'The Third Secret' is very timely."

The book begs the question, as Russia pushes war, were we warned 105 years ago? And is also begs the question, how much of this book is autobiographical?

Regarding the latter, DeSio says, "it's a lot of it, and it's also a lot of Indiana Jones." In the book, Tate believes in finding relics of the past and reluctantly gets anonymous letters that he's reluctantly pulled into. He'd rather not be, but he's got this ethical sense about him. He just can't turn away, and the more he looks, the more he gets involved. "Yeah, it's a lot like me where I felt a reporter has an obligation to be a truthteller. And this person is a truth-teller. And he just even though he wants to say screw it, you know, he keeps going down that path," DeSio said. Tate wins the Pulitzer Prize but becomes an alcoholic.

All under the umbrella of fiction writing, the process of completing the book in some respect, was a challenge for the seasoned journalist. "It was a challenge because I didn't want to come across as some kind of

See Novel on page 3





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Curtis Park Tudor Home!



Elegant Tudor in Curtis Park! Designed by Sacramento Architects' and Engineers' Club as Sacramento's entry in the Prestigious National Better Homes Contest in 1924, this lovely home was dubbed the Windsor Cottage" and built by Squeaky Williams with oversight by Charles Dean of Dean and Dean Architects. Perfectly situated among the trees on a sought after street, this 4 bdrm, 3 bath welcomes you with dramatic roof lines, massive old world wooden door, gorgeous hrdwd floors throughout and light streaming through vintage lead mullioned windows. Large living room with soaring cathedral ceilings flowing gracefully to the backyard through French doors, or the dining room and the lovingly renovated kitchen (2014) with quarter-sawn oak shaker cabinets, SS appliances, soapstone countertops and farm sink. Spectacular master bdrm/bthrm suite with lead mullioned picture window overlooking a sparkling pool and delightful garden below. 50 yr roof (2005) and a full bath with potential in the garage! $1,150,000.

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Novel:

Continued from page 2

job like a conspiracy theorist," DeSio said. "So I wanted to make it light entertaining, but not come across like a whack job, which a lot of people so it was challenging. So I tried to take the truth and put my own spin on the truth."

While published by a Christian publisher, DeSio says it's more like the DaVinci Code with its Catholic backdrop in the mystery genre. The actual secret doesn't really matter, though it's a reporter on the trail to find it. The more important aspect, DeSio said, relates to reader response as the truth behind what the reporter uncovers is questionable. DeSio puts the reader on edge, asking "Well, is the secret true? Or is it not true?"

Growing up exposed to the Catholic Church and in an Italian family with known mafia members, DeSio had a fisherman uncle who tried to organize labor down at the docks in New York, and the mafia ran him out, basically all the way to California. "He ran for his life, and then another uncle, who kind of like in the book, was using a business as a front for basically doing the lottery. He had a mattress shop. And it wasn't really he wasn't really selling mattresses," DeSio said.

Prior to working on this book, DeSio was the communications director for the California Board of Equalization. The board's chair had the agency audited and DeSio uncovered corruption at the BOE, including nepotism and controversial hirings. This led to a dismantling of the BOE and he lost his job, though about three years later in 2020 he was able to recoup lost wages after battling it out in court. He has struggled to find work because, as he explains, no one wants to hire a whistleblower.

His valiant efforts did, however, earn him the honorable James Madison Freedom of Information Award last year.

The reporter bug never escaped DeSio, and has been considering a retirement job as a small-town newspaper editor outside of Sacramento.

Some Land Parkers may know DeSio from his many years coaching little league and basketball. "It was so much fun," he says about those athletic years. "And I still run into these kids. Now they're like, you know, in their 20s and they're like 'Hey, Coach.'"

Published by Covenant Books of North Carolina, The Third Secret is the first of three books in a series planned by author Mark De Sio. He penned the first volume under his Italian name, Marco De Sio. "The Third Secret" became available in paperback at Barnes and Noble on April Fool's Day. The link to the book on Amazon is https://lnkd.in/ekpvidRu



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Land Park Volunteer Corps held another cleanup day

By Art Taylor

On Saturday, April 2, 2022, the Land Park Volunteer Corps (LPVC) met for a Park Workday. I worked with Team #3, volunteers led by Team Captain Bob Ream and Student Team Captain Anthony Wong. We were assigned the ZOO CORNER, corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville, for removal of weeds, clean beds, trim and rake bushes. Our group did a great job!

The LPVC normally meets the 1st Saturday of the month, unless a holiday, from March-November. Following our assignment, we then headed back to our Base Camp, located behind Fairy Tale Town, to partake of a prepared BBQ lunch, led by Chef Forrest Neff and his crew.

The LPVC was organized by Craig Powell, as a result of City reductions of Funding and Parks Personnel, due to a Recession. For approximately 12 years the LPVC has offered volunteers the opportunity to contribute to the Beauty and Welfare of the Largest Regional Park in Sacramento. The Parks Department, aka-Department of Youth, Parks, & Community Enrichment 915 I Street, New City Hall, Third Floor continues to suffer from the lack of funding and staffing, thus impacting the more than 200 parks in Sacramento.

Thank you all who have volunteered to participate with the LPVC, making our Parks a place where families can: hold events, picnic, walk, run, bike ride and enjoy nature and the outdoors.



California Automobile Museum founder Dick Ryder dies at 92

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Sacramento native Richard Clark "Dick" Ryder, whose idea it was to establish today's California Automobile Museum, died at the age of 92 on Feb. 15.

A June 1947 graduate of C.K. McClatchy High School, Ryder spent his life dedicated to his greatest hobby: working with automobiles.

His love for automobiles would lead to his efforts to open an automobile museum in Sacramento in 1987.

In an interview with this paper in 2012, Ryder spoke about his deep roots with the California Automobile Museum, which was originally known as the California Towe Ford Automobile Museum.

"People come up to me and say, 'You're one of the guys who founded the California Automobile Museum,'" Ryder said. "And I tell them, 'No, I am the founder of the museum.'"

Ryder, who owned many cars during his life, spoke about his desire to create that museum, which is located at 2200 Front St.

"After (Harrah's Reno casino owner) Bill Harrah died at the age of 66 (in 1978), his collection of 1,500-plus cars was left without plans," he said in 2012. "I figured that it was time for the creation of a California car museum located in Sacramento. We never received any cars from Harrah's collection, but Harrah's death definitely created the concept for the (Sacramento) museum in my mind, and the idea immediately caught hold."

Although Ryder referred to himself as the sole founder of the museum, he was quick to note that he had help to have his dream become a reality.

In a 2010 article for this publication, he recalled that "the movement" to create an automobile museum in the capital city began on Saturday, Oct. 2, 1982.

"The movement began with a meeting attended by 12 Sacramento auto enthusiasts at the old Del Prado restaurant (at 5500 Stockton Blvd.)," he said. "The meeting resulted in a series of monthly, Saturday breakfast programs. These programs brought car-related personalities and entertainment."

At that meeting, six men, including Ryder, donated $100 each as the initial funding for the future museum.

Kay Thornburg, Ryder's only daughter, spoke about that meeting.

"Some people are calling (all of the people at that meeting) the founders, and Dick (was) very adamant about it that it was his idea," she said. "He and Mom (the now 101-year-old Irene Ryder) came up with the idea, and he did all the legwork.

"They supported him, encouraged him, met for breakfast, included people, but he was the one that made the contacts and did all the leg running and stuff."

Monday, Oct. 4, 1982 was also a special day in the history of the museum, as the California Vehicle Foundation was created and efforts began to apply for charitable foundation status through the IRS. Ryder was elected as the foundation's first president.

Subsequently, every Monday for the following several years, a core meeting was held as a planning session. Ryder mentioned, in 2010, that although these gatherings were effective toward meeting goals, sometimes the meetings were attended by as few as two people.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Dick Ryder shows off his 1934 Pierce-Arrow Deluxe Eight Sedan at the museum in 2010.

Information regarding the Sacramento automobile museum project eventually reached Deer Lodge, Montana resident Edward Towe (1914-2012), who had accumulated the world's largest collection of a single make of car, which included every year and model of Ford automobiles from 1903 to 1953.

Towe corresponded with Ryder in October 1985 and expressed interest in moving his collection out of Montana.

Ryder noted, in 2010, that a 71,000-square-foot warehouse building on Front Street in Sacramento was among the places where Towe would consider moving his collection. Ryder worked with former Sacramento Mayor Joe Serna, then a council member, to secure a 20-year lease on that structure from the city for $200 per month, with the lone stipulation being that the museum's operators have the roof fixed.

"After an exchange of trips between Deer Lodge and Sacramento, an agreement was drawn to bring the collection to Sacramento (and house them in the Front Street building)," Ryder said. "We interested Bill Hadley of Hadley Automotive Transport in bringing the collection to Sacramento. Hadley provided 13 transporters and his personnel to bring approximately 100 cars from Deer Lodge to Sacramento."

About 90 of those cars arrived in a long procession to the new museum on Front Street in late September 1986, and the others were transported later. This event led to the opening of the museum on May 1, 1987.

Ryder would remain dedicated to the museum, serving as a docent for more than three decades, and regularly attending the weekly docent lunches at the museum.

A long, eventful life

Ryder, who grew up in Land Park and last resided in the city's Little Pocket area, jokingly told this publication in 2012 that he ushered in the Great Depression with his birth at the old Sutter Hospital at 28th and L streets on Sept. 6, 1929.

"I started the Depression," he said. "It's my understanding that Sept. 6, (1929) was the first day that there was any indication that the stock market was falling."

In 1930, Ryder, whose parents were Clark and Mary Ryder, moved with his family into a former tract house at 2800 Regina Way, where they lived for many years.

During his youth, he witnessed the construction of the Tower Theatre and later attended Saturday kiddie matinee movies at that theater.

See Ryder on page 6

Ryder:

Continued from page 5

His childhood activities also included attending professional baseball games at Riverside Boulevard and Broadway, visiting the old Sacramento Municipal Airport (today's Sacramento Executive Airport), and swimming in the American River.

After he nearly drowned in the river, his father had a pool built in the family's backyard in about 1938.

He would eventually collect a 5-cent per person admission fee to the pool from neighborhood kids. Ryder also earned money during his youth through his newspaper delivery routes with The Sacramento Union and The Sacramento Bee.

Among his other jobs during his youth was working in a Sacramento cannery and at the Tahoe Tavern as a busboy. He would hitchhike to and from Tahoe City for the latter job.

One of Ryder's favorite childhood memories was playing the saxophone in a youth band at the World's Fair at San Francisco's Treasure Island in 1939.

Also notable was Ryder's distinction of being one of the customers of Land Park's Vic's Ice Cream during its grand opening on Feb. 2, 1947 – a fact that he often boasted throughout his life.

After graduating from McClatchy High, Ryder served his country in Guam during the Korean War and attended the institution known today as Sacramento City College, and the University of Colorado, where he earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in June 1952.

Ryder chose that university due to his love for skiing. He also worked on both the Rocky Mountain and Squaw Valley ski patrols.

From 1956 to 1982, Ryder worked in the insurance industry. He established the Insurance Protection Analyst company at Arden Way and Howe Avenue and then he served as the president of Howe-Ryder Insurance Service at 2613 24th St.



Photos courtesy of Cyndi Thornburg

Dick Ryder served his country during the Korean War.



Dick Ryder began playing the saxophone while growing up in his native city of Sacramento. He performed in a youth band at the World's Fair at San Francisco's Treasure Island in 1939.

During the early 1970s, Ryder was one of about 10 people who owned the DC-7 aircraft that appeared in the 1973 film, "American Graffiti." Other activities in Ryder's life included traveling to many places throughout the world, his work as a certified appraiser of collector cars, and his dedication to the Sacramento Rotary Club and the Fremont Presbyterian Church.

Ryder, who was married to the former Irene McIntyre on March 21, 1959, had two children, 14 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Friends, family fondly remember Ryder

In addition to Thornburg, other family and friends of Ryder shared their thoughts about him.

Gabriel Ionica, communications coordinator with the California Automobile Museum, expressed his gratitude for Ryder's role in the museum's history.

"Dick was one of the reasons that we're all here today, and words cannot express our gratitude for the contributions he made to our museum and to the automotive community as a whole," he wrote in a statement sent to associates of the museum.

Bob Daloia, a docent with the museum since 2007, recalled Ryder's introductions at the museum's docent luncheons.

"He (would) always introduce himself as Genesis, that started the museum," he said. "He liked that (nickname). The other nickname that I gave him, we had his 88th birthday here, and I tagged him with 'Rocket 88.' The Oldsmobile, one of their models was the Rocket 88."

Cyndi Thornburg, one of Ryder's granddaughters, told this publication that her family has received many kind comments about her grandfather.

"(People said), he's a wonderful man, he loves to talk, he tells great stories, and he was the heart and soul and the driving force behind that museum," she said. "That (museum) was his baby. He put so much into that (place)."

Sacramento resident Harrington King, who was a longtime friend of Ryder and the operator of his OneManBand music, storytelling and comedy business, also fondly recalled Ryder.

"Dick Ryder was a goldmine for any aspiring storyteller of Sacramento," he said. "But unlike mine, all his anecdotes are true.

"We shared over 1,500 weekly volunteer lunches through the years at the car museum. His real gift was the ability to make everyone feel appreciated."

Beth West, who graduated with Ryder at McClatchy High, noted that she was impressed by him throughout their more than 75 years of friendship.

"He was, without a doubt, the most honorable, kindest, trustworthy and sometimes funny man anywhere," she said. "He had a positive effect on McClatchy. He participated in anything that would help them out and help the sports children at McClatchy. He wasn't a big sports player, but he helped them."

Paul Jubb, who served on the automobile museum's original board, also shared his admiration for Ryder.

"I've been in Sacramento since 1967 and he's been a big part of it," he said. "He contributed to the community more than I could ever think of. An exceptional person is the way to describe him. I will miss him quite a bit."

Subheadline: A celebration of Ryder's life

A service celebrating the life of Ryder was held on March 11, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the Fremont Presbyterian Church at 5770 Carlson Drive.

Practical Magic: The Real Elves of Land Park

By Kristina Rogers

In Land Park's Tanglewood Forest, children often search for magical creatures behind the tiny doors at the base of the trees. Although a sprite or elf has not been found yet, they notice small chairs and items scattered around. Evidence of magic afoot!

In the "adult world," there are also signs of magic in the park. One day, I'll see a broken bleacher at Doc Oliver Field on Monday and by the end of the week – poof! it's fixed and freshly painted!

While some might say, that's just the city parks department doing its job, there is more to the magic here. Parks may provide some support, but City Parks, or YPCE, cannot manage the work it takes to maintain William Land Park on a regular basis. Budget cuts and low staffing numbers have made it an impossible task. They have help from a community of elves: The Land Park Volunteer Corps (LPVC).

I came across some LPVC folks at the outdoor amphitheater on a recent sunny afternoon. Gabriel Lopez, Forest Neff, and Bob Ream were installing and painting new wood benches. A little old beat-up Toyota filled with work tools close by. While Bob continued to sand a new bench, Forest and Gabriel agreed to talk with me for a few minutes. I asked what work the LPVC crew's done for the park over the years, and this was their answer:



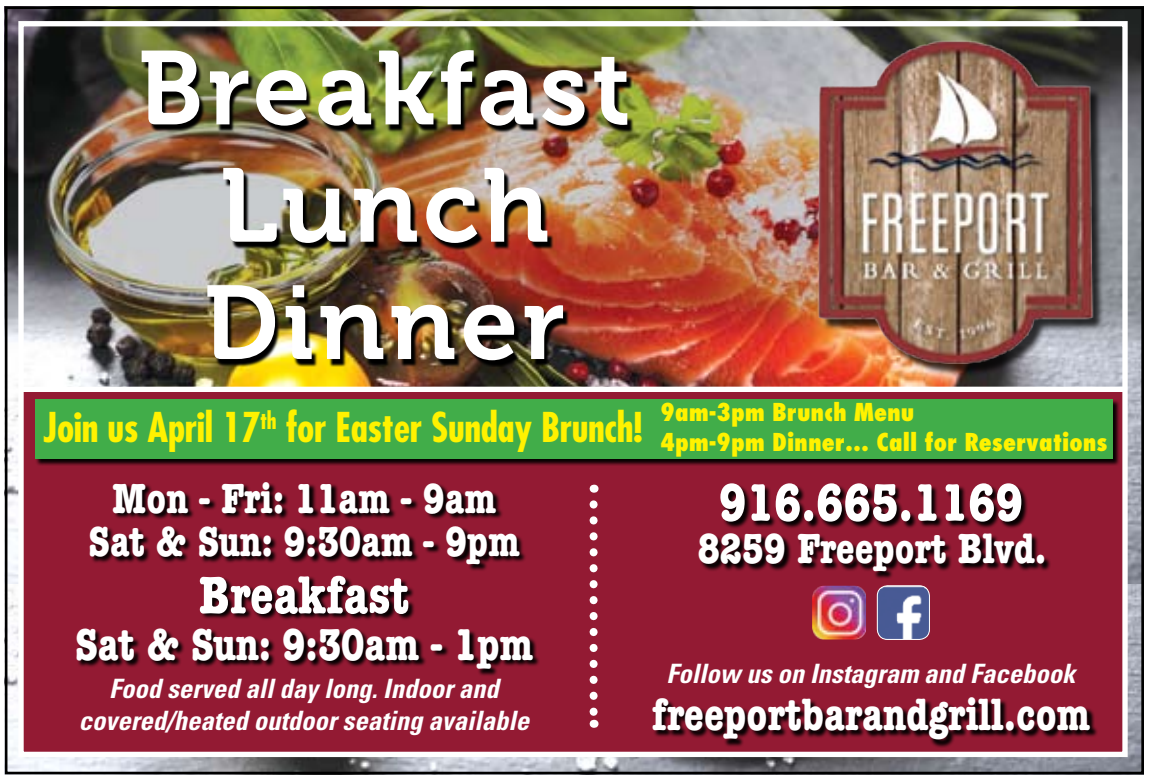


- Rebuilt every bench, bleacher, and dug-out in the park
- Installed 27 barbecue pits
- Built a new shed for the Pony Ride area. When a tree fell on the shed and the city couldn't replace it, LPVC rebuilt it.
- Added canvas to help shade the working ponies. Every Saturday morning, a volunteer sets it up and takes it down every Sunday night.
- Installed two memorial benches by Doc Oliver Field and by the Golf Course. Money is raised by a private group then donated to the LPVC to manage the purchase and installation.
- Rebuilt a rotten, falling-down pergola by the pond.
- Built the granite benches at the Swansons Garden area (next to the zoo).
- Designed and planted Daffodil Hill (south of the Swanston Stream It's blooming right now!

Looking forward this year, the LPVC team plans to help tackle the vandalized gazebo at the WPA rock garden. It's been heavily tagged, which is heartbreaking to see. More maintenance and planting ideas are being discussed.

The Land Park Volunteer Corps runs on private donations.

See Elves on page 11





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May 2022 Programs at Fairytale Town

Children's Book Week
Monday, May 2 to Sunday, May 8 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM every day

Celebrate Children's Book Week with story time, activities, and giveaways each day of the week! From May 2 – 8, join us on the Mother Goose Stage each day at 12 PM. A different book will be featured each day with storytime and craft activities inspired by the selected book. There will also be a Scholastic Book Fair with books and more for sale. It's a week of literary fun!

Weekday admission is $7 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Weekend admission is $8 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Members and children ages 1 and under are free.

Children's Book Week is the annual celebration of books for young people and the joy of reading.

Activity Schedule:
10 AM – 3 PM: Shop for books at the Scholastic Book Fair
12 PM: Join us for storytime, activities, and giveaways on the Mother Goose Stage

For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.

May the 4th be With You
Wednesday, May 4 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Weather Permitting

May the fourth be with you! Meet some of your favorite intergalactic characters at Fairytale Town for Star Wars Day. Plus, enjoy a craft activity and a game.

Weekday admission is $7 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Members and children ages 1 and under are free.

For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.

Books and Brews
Friday, May 6 from 6 PM - 8 PM
Weather Permitting

Do you miss the Scholastic Bookfair at school? Remember going through the catalog and

See Fairytale on page 9

Fairytale:

Continued from page 8

marking your favorite books, toys, stickers, and more? Well, this night is just for you, we're hosting a book fair for grown-ups. Join Fairytale Town as we host our first Books and Brews!

Walk through the park, grab a brew from one of our various breweries/wineries. Check out our vendors throughout the park. Then, stroll through our Scholastic Bookfair located in the Children's Theater. Don't forget to grab your one-of-a-kind silly pens and erasers!

For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.

Dinosaur Day

Sunday, May 15 from 10 AM - 2 PM

Weather Permitting

RAWR! Join Fairytale Town in celebrating Dinosaur Day. Step back to prehistoric times to explore and learn all about dinosaurs through



interactive hands on activities. Play themed games and enjoy a craft activity from 10 AM – 2 PM.

Weekend admission is $8 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Members and children ages 1 and under are free.

For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.

Fairytale Town Troupers Present: Fairytale Town's Got Talent 3

Saturday, May 21 - 22 & May 28 - 29

Showtimes: 11:30 AM & 12:30 PM

Weather Permitting

See talented young performers from the Sacramento area perform LIVE on our Mother Goose Stage in this fast and funny entertainment experiment. Enjoy singing, dancing, comedy, and more! There will be 2 performances per day. Showtimes are 11:30 AM & 12:30 PM on May 21, 22, 28, & 29.

For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-5474.

Scout Night: Fur, Feathers, and Ferns

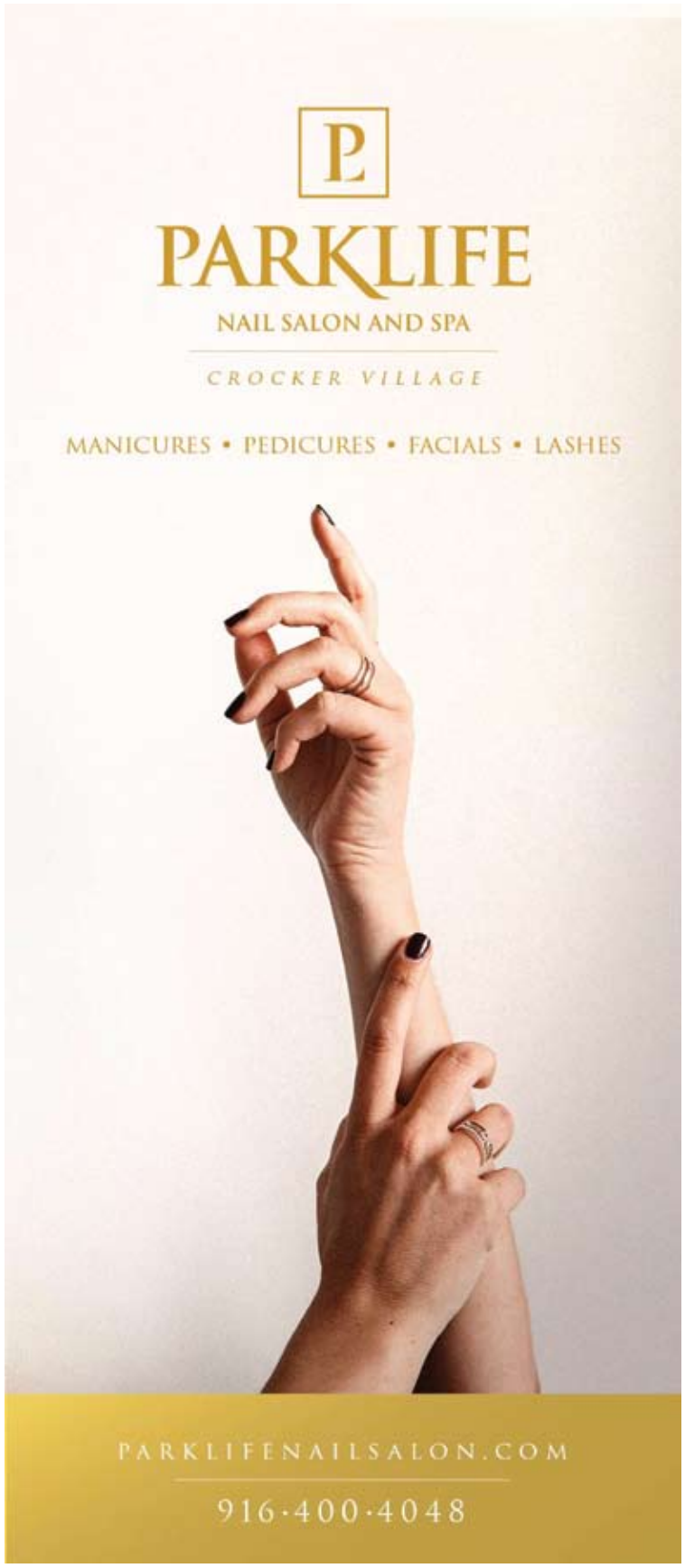
Wednesday, May 25 from 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Calling all Bear Cub Scouts! Join us for an evening of fun and earn your Fur, Feathers and Ferns Adventure Loop. This two and a half hour workshop will fulfill all badge requirements and include a snack break.

In this adventure, Bears will explore the outdoor world of mammals, birds, plants, and more! They will understand that every living thing has a home—often very close by. Scouts will also discover that almost every living things shares their neighborhood with another living thing. Protecting those homes, called habitats, is up to everyone, and Bears can help!

Scouts will receive a certificate and their Belt Loop at the conclusion of the event.

For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.





Hospital to open at Sleep Train Arena site in 2025

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

California Northstate University (CNU) on Feb. 15 received unanimous, final approval from the Sacramento City Council to move forward on its teaching hospital/medical center project at the former site of the Sleep Train Arena in North Natomas.

With the council's approval of the project, CNU President and CEO Dr. Alvin Cheung told this publication last week that the hospital is currently on pace to open in late 2025.

"That would be a very reasonable timeline," he said.

CNU previously pursued having its 13-story hospital built near its Elk Grove campus. But following opposition from neighbors, business owners and environmentalists, that controversial proposal was ultimately rejected by the Elk Grove Planning Commission due to that site's existence within a 200-year floodplain.

After a later attempt to have the hospital built in Rancho Cordova, last June, the Sacramento Kings, in partnership with the university and the city of Sacramento, announced the plan for the hospital/medical center to be located on property donated to CNU by the Kings.

That land, which totals 35 developable acres, includes the vacant arena, which served as the home of the Sacramento Kings from 1988 to 2015. That facility was known as ARCO Arena for the majority of those years.

As part of the approved project, the old arena will be demolished.

The medical center will transform this site into a mix of uses. Its features will include CNU's 400-bed hospital, dormitories, a child care center, a senior residential care facility, and supporting office, commercial and retail uses.



Photo courtesy of CNU

This image shows a massing model view of California Northstate University's future medical center campus at the former Sleep Train Arena site. The largest structure, shown to the left, is the university's future teaching hospital.

Other residential uses for the site include single-family residences, duplexes, mixed-use residential, town homes and multi-family homes.

The overall project, which is known as Innovation Park, will also have bike trails, parks and a grade school.

A map shown during a presentation of this project at the Feb. 15 council meeting includes a new street called Innovator Drive. As the project's primary commercial corridor, it runs through the center of the site.

Also coming to the area is a 160,000-square-foot Costco Wholesale store, which will be located near the medical center site on Arena Boulevard, at East Commerce Way. Plans for that project were announced in early February.

In his Feb. 21 interview with this publication, Cheung called the council's decision on the medical center project a "big

See Hospital on page 12



Absolutely stunning Del Dayo home featuring a formal living room and family room, 4 spacious bedrooms and 2.5 baths. The family room has a fireplace and access to the backyard. The kitchen is updated with granite counters, beautiful wood cabinets, tons of storage, a breakfast nook, a bar for casual dining and a wet bar for entertaining. The formal dining room is right off the kitchen and is ideal for holidays. The primary suite is light and bright and has access to the backyard, a large walk in closet and a spa-like bath. This home has an inside laundry room with cabinets which is adjacent to the coveted half-bath. The backyard has mature trees, low maintenance synthetic turf, a charming covered patio and a sparkling pool; perfect for summer parties. Located on a quiet street and walking distance to Jesuit and Rio Americano High Schools and the American River Parkway, this is the ideal place to call home.

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Elves:

Continued from page 7

Money helps pay for tools, materials, and lunch. For instance, the LPVC park clean-up days can cost $300 per event to feed hard-working volunteers!

If you would like to donate to the LPVC or have questions about volunteering, reach out to Craig Powell at 916-718-3030 or email: ckpinsacto@aol.com. They welcome newly retired folks to volunteer regularly.

For many years, City Parks has partnered with the Land Park Volunteer Corps in the background to ensure projects get done. Special improvements have raised the quality of life in the park and done it swiftly and cost-effectively. This kind of collaboration means those who come to celebrate family gatherings each weekend can enjoy a safer, better-maintained park. Rick Jennings and his staff are eager to get involved, too, and we look forward to seeing what will happen in the following months.

Land Park Volunteer Corps members don't expect awards or attention for their dedication. They love William Land Park and want to keep it nice for everyone. That's the real magic of a volunteer heart.

Next time you spot a little helper in the park, thank them for their support!

Kristina Rogers is Vice President and Communications Chair for the Land Park Community Association. To learn more about the LPCA go to: www.landpark.org

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Hospital:

Continued from page 10

step" toward meeting the university's goal of having the hospital constructed at the old arena site.

The hospital, which will include surgical and emergency services and the teaching of medical students, will feature 265 single, private occupancy beds in its first phase.

Cheung mentioned that the demolition of the arena will take six months to complete, and that this portion of the project will be followed by the grading of that site.

"We are scheduling to break ground (on that site) in October, if all goes well after the Kings arena demolition," he said. "So, I'm very pleased that is something that we can all celebrate."

Cheung noted that the demolition is scheduled for completion by the end of September.

The hospital will be constructed on the highest point of the old arena's footprint. It will encompass an area of about 76,000 square feet, and the project's total square footage will be about 730,000 square feet, Cheung said.

Including the central utility plant, the medical center will be larger than the arena site, Cheung noted.

A proposed, unique feature of that plant is to have a screen on that structure change its color to purple whenever the Kings win a game.

Cheung recognized that the university is taking an aggressive approach to the timeline of its project.

"I know that it is a very complex project and a lot (of) opinion out on the street is that it may take a little bit longer," he said. "We try to think positive, we try to be strategic in planning the stages, so that we can have the hospital fully built in that time span."

With the predevelopment portion of the project continuing to move forward, Cheung mentioned that the architectural plan is 99% complete at that level, and that the university is in the process of concluding its arrangements with the general contractor.

He additionally noted that although the hospital will not be built in Elk Grove, CNU will continue its presence in that south county city, with its campus that opened there more than a decade ago.

Cheung stressed the necessity for bringing a new hospital to North Natomas.

"Across the U.S., we have 2.5 patient beds per 1,000 population," he said. "California is only at 1.9 (beds), and then, in areas outside of Sacramento, (there are) 6.9 beds per 1,000 (people)."

As for teaching hospitals, Cheung mentioned that CNU's Sacramento hospital will join the University of California, Davis Medical Center as the only medical institutions with teaching hospitals from Sacramento to the Oregon border.

The CNU hospital will become the 10th teaching hospital in California.

Cheung anticipates that the opening day of the hospital will be a joyous occasion.

"Myself included and members of the community and also the leadership within the medical community, we all feel that that will be a momentous period in a sense that we are No. 1 having a second teaching hospital in this region bolster the access and also the infrastructure," he said. "And then, it is also a very exciting time for the medical community, because we are now having the ability to attract more biotech, more life science investments in this region."

During the Feb. 15 council meeting, Mayor Darrell Steinberg expressed appreciation for CNU's decision to select Sacramento as the site of this university's medical center.

"I want to thank Dr. Cheung and the board, because I know you were considering other options at one time, and you have chosen Sacramento, and we are grateful to you," he said. "And we are also very, very happy, and believe you and your board have made a good and wise decision."

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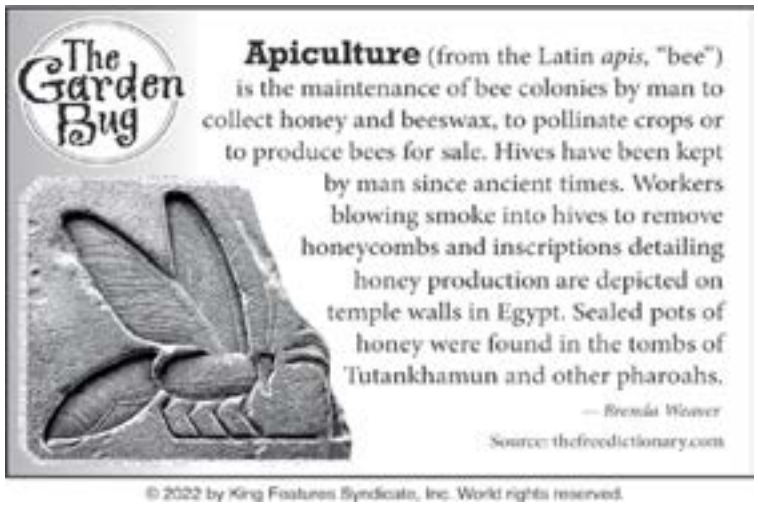

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Blind Sacramento resident discovers the art of independence



Susan Hood was working on a degree in art history in Connecticut and a lifelong dance history project. Then, a dental visit led to a staphylococcus blood infection that nearly killed her in 2017.

"I wasn't expected to live, but I did," Hood said.

After nine weeks in the hospital, Hood was alive, but the infection had damaged her mitral valve and caused 12 small strokes. She had open heart surgery to replace her mitral valve. She had to learn to walk again and lost much of her vision. After multiple eye surgeries, her vision improved slightly, but she still would need to learn to navigate her world very differently.

"Seeing through my left eye is like looking through a Coke bottle that has Vaseline smeared on it – I can see shapes, color and movement, but that's all," Hood said. "In my right eye, my central vision is completely gone."

As she lay in her hospital bed in Connecticut, she confessed to a friend that her biggest fear was losing her independence. She knew of no services for people with vision loss in Connecticut. With a little help from her brother in Galt, Hood moved herself across the country to Sacramento on Christmas night 2017. In less than two months, she had signed up with the Department of Rehabilitation and begun working with Sacramento nonprofit Society for the Blind. She began with the group's Senior IMPACT Project retreat, an eight-day immersive experience for seniors to learn blindness skills.

"With the Senior IMPACT Project, I started to feel confidence in the possibility of retaining my independence," Hood said. "I was struck by the really warm, positive, upbeat approach of the facilitators and instructors. They took an interest in each of us and that really built my confidence."

Hood graduated from the Senior IMPACT Project and became a mentor for the program. Just a few months later, she entered Society for the Blind's Core blindness skills classes determined to overcome her fear of cooking without sight.

"That got me over the hurdle," Hood said. "I was so afraid of burning or cutting myself, and the heat was scary, but I got over that." Through her Core classes, she also learned orientation and mobility, Braille and how to use assistive technology, including a computer program that would allow her to continue to write in longform, tracking footnotes and citing sources. In April 2019, she was teamed up with her guide dog, Geode, who is now 4 years old. She also participates in Society for the Blind's writer workshops and yoga classes.

"My landing at Society for the Blind was extraordinary," Hood said. "It was like taking a running jump into the pool and immediately swimming."

Hood had managed to maintain her independence, but she was still navigating how to maintain her lifelong interest in art. She had previously worked as a freelance theatre critic and arts journalist for local Connecticut newspapers. Now she could no longer see details in paintings or dance movements.

She began asking for magnifiers and digital press kits when she went to local museums.

"My vision now depends on scale and contrast," Hood said. "With magnifiers, I can get a general idea or look for certain details. With digital press kits, I can blow up wall text and labels."

With dance, Hood relies on contrast and lighting. She can see silhouettes and some costume outlines. She has spoken with dance professionals in the area about providing audio narration and has been interviewed about what makes for good audio description of dance.

Thanks to the tools she learned at Society for the Blind, Hood continues to work on her lifelong dance history project and visit exhibitions and performances in Sacramento's art community.

"I'm just really grateful that Society for the Blind exists," Hood said. "Thanks to them, Sacramento is a really good place to be if you're blind or visually impaired."

For 68 years, Society for the Blind has created innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 27-county region of northern California. The nonprofit provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship, and access to tools to maintain independence for more than 5,000 youth, working-age adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. For more information or to make a donation, visit SocietyfortheBlind.org.





Dinosaur Safari: Fact vs. fiction

By The Sacramento Zoo



When people think of dinosaurs, they generally imagine the dinosaurs depicted in the popular Jurassic Park series. However, the real-world picture of dinosaurs painted by paleontological research suggests a different view of Mesozoic era.

Lucky for you, the dinosaurs at the Sacramento Zoo's Dinosaur Safari exhibit are all life-sized and as paleontologically accurate as possible! Ready your cameras and explore the difference between Jurassic Park and real-world dinos.

Dromaeosaurids: A Family of Raptors

Size is a big deal in action-adventure movies. Godzilla would not be nearly as imposing if he were the size of a horse. Velociraptors in the Jurassic Park world stand at six feet high, looking down at protagonists Alan Grant and Owen Grady. In the real world, they were just over a foot tall, making them one of the smallest in the dromaeosaurid family (a family of feathered theropods that included raptors).

While Velociraptors weren't actually six feet tall, the Sacramento Zoo is home to a dinosaur that was, the Utahraptor. Utahraptor is the oldest known and largest of the dromaeosaurids. Like Velociraptor, Utahraptor had a large, curved claw on its second toe, primed to deliver a lethal blow.

When you visit Utahraptor and Deinonychus at the Sac Zoo, you're bound to notice another difference from the movies: feathers. Dromaeosaurids were feathered, including Velociraptor, Utahraptor, and Deinonychus. Paleontologists have known about the existence of feathered dinosaurs since the discovery of Archaeopteryx in the early 1860s. In Jurassic Park's defense, the quill knobs on Velociraptor's forearms weren't discovered until 2007, 14 years after the release of the first movie.

Tyrannosaurus rex

Further paleontological research suggests that Velociraptor wasn't the only Jurassic Park dinosaur that was supposed to be feathered; Tyrannosaurus rex also sported a fine coat of feathers.

Tyrannosaurus rex hatchlings were likely covered in fine, downy feathers. Paleontologists debate whether T. rex lost their feathers in adulthood. Some hold that as T. rex matured, they would lose their feathers, resulting in an image similar to the Tyrannosaurus rex that greets guests here at the Sac Zoo. Others believe that as T. rex grew, they would retain feathers on their head, neck, and tail, likely for display.

Tyrannosaurus rex wouldn't have been nearly as intimidating in the Jurassic Park movies without her iconic bellow, inspired by the large, apex carnivores of today. However, in reality, T. rex's cry was more of a low-frequency rumble. A team led by paleontologist Julia Clarke and naturalist Chris Packham studied a 3-D scan of a T. rex skull to determine that its hearing was tuned to one low-frequency call – that of another T. rex. The team took the sound of a Chinese alligator and lowered the frequency to match that found in the scan. It resulted in a deep, threatening rumble that could be felt as well as heard.

These low-frequency sounds allowed T. rex to communicate over long distances, not unlike whales and elephants today.

The Tyrannosaurus rex is very quick on her toes in the Jurassic Park movies. John Hammond, the owner of Jurassic Park, says in the film that they "clocked the T. rex at 60 mph." Later, the giant dinosaur nearly runs down a jeep.

Today, paleontologists believe that T. rex would have reached speeds of about 10 mph – the speed of a jogging human. But most of T. rex's prey was comprised of slow-moving herbivores or carrion (and sometimes even other Tyrannosauruses!).

Fossil records suggest that T. rex was a pack hunter. Groups of Tyrannosaurus rexes ranging from ages two to 26 have been discovered together. T. rex trackways depicting multiple T. rex individuals traveling together have also been unearthed, supporting the hypothesis of T. rex herds.

When you visit the Tyrannosaurus rex animatronics at the Sac Zoo, you can imagine the two dinosaurs cooperatively hunting together, working to pin you between the flamingos and membership office.

Spinosaurus aegyptiacus

Spinosaurus made its Jurassic Park debut in the third movie as a rival to Tyrannosaurus rex. It's hard to forget the ferocious battle at the beginning of the movie, which, for the first time, toppled the mighty T. rex. While it is true that Spinosaurus stood taller than T. rex (23 ft vs 20 ft), T. rex had far more mass and a greater bite force. Spinosaurus was simply not designed for epic, terrestrial battles.

Spinosaurus is a true aquatic

See Dinosaur on page 15

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Dinosaur Safari: Fact vs. Fiction

About Dino Don's Dinosaur Safari

Experience the awe and wonder as more than 20 life-sized animatronic dinosaurs migrate from the Mesozoic Era to the Sacramento Zoo until May 1. Hold your ground against towering, 40-foot-long Tyrannosaurus rex and a pack of feathered Deinonychus. Watch a tender moment between a Maiasaura mother and her baby. Avoid getting head-butted by a Pachycephalosaurus.

Dinosaur Safari was created by Dino Don, Inc, a leading supplier of animatronic dinosaurs to zoos and museums across the globe and the only creator of full-sized robot dinosaurs. These robots were designed and created under scientific supervision. Don Lessem advised Steven Spielberg on the original Jurassic Park film and on the Universal and Disney theme parks.

Dinosaur:

Continued from page 14

dinosaur. Its iconic sail is complimented by a giant fin running along its tail. This tail fin would have provided powerful underwater locomotion, allowing it to effectively hunt fish and other marine animals. Paleontologists believe that Spinosaurus may have had a similar lifestyle to alligators and crocodiles, able to remain in the water for long periods of time as the dinosaur hunted.

Geological studies in Egypt, where Spinosaurus fossils were discovered, found that Spinosaurus lived in ancient mangrove forests. Its slender build, elongated snout, and highly adapted fins made Spinosaurus ideally suited as an aquatic hunter.

Why are the dinosaurs in Jurassic Park so different from real world dinos?

Jurassic Park is not a documentary. It is an action-adventure monster story. The story required monsters, not real-life animals, something acknowledged by the franchise. Dr. Henry Wu, the geneticist at Jurassic Park that created the dinosaurs, said, "Nothing in Jurassic World is natural… And if the genetic code was pure, many of them would look quite different. But you didn't ask for reality, you asked for more teeth."

There's nothing wrong with a monster movie filled to the brim with teeth and roars, but it's important to differentiate fact from fiction. Enjoy the dinosaurs of Jurassic Park for what they are: fun, iconic movie monsters.

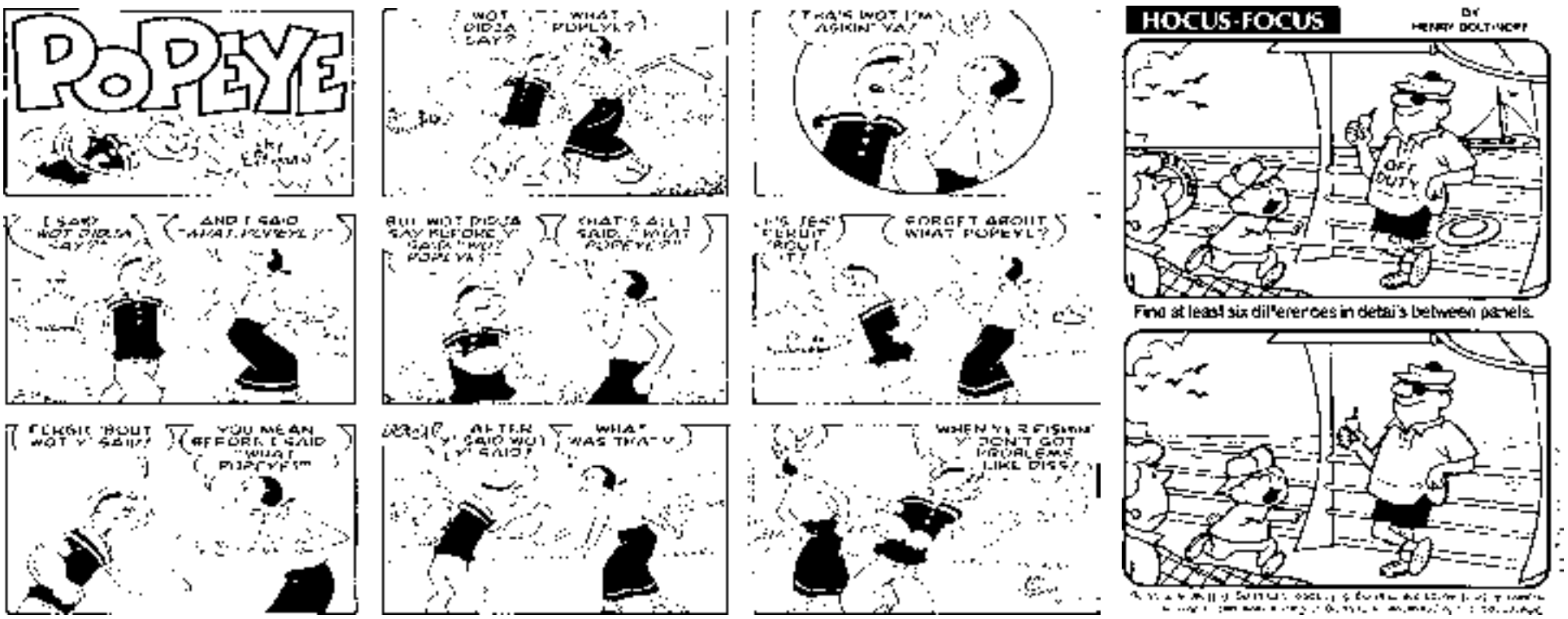
As you ramp up for the release of Jurassic World: Dominion later this year, book your tickets for the Sacramento Zoo. Take a walk around our Dinosaur Safari, populated by life-sized, paleontologically accurate dinosaur animatronics.

"Time, the ever-flowing river. Come with us now to a time before man when the river flowed through a newborn world and giants walked the earth."

Plan-Ahead Pricing gives you the opportunity to plan a zoo visit that matches your budget and schedule. Ticket prices may increase daily, and the price will never be lower for a particular day than is currently listed. Get the best price for your visit when you purchase your tickets early!

The Zoo is open for entry from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; the grounds are open until 5 p.m.

The Sacramento Zoo is located at 3930 West Land Park Drive. For more information, call 916-808-5888 or email info@saczoo.org.



Doggy Dash 2022- Saturday, April 23, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

https://www.sspca.org/doggy-dash

The Sacramento SPCA is excited to announce that this year's Doggy Dash will be BACK IN-PERSON at William Land Park on Saturday, April 23rd.

Registration will go live to the community on Monday, January 10th with early bird rates open the entire month of January. Individual registration ($25) and Team registration ($35). Prices increase by $10 starting February 1st.

This will be in-person for the largest 2k/5k dog walk and pet festival in Northern California!

Root Down, Rise Up 2022, April 28, 6 to 9 pm.

3514 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95817-2825, United States

Tickets · $45 - $70

www.eventbrite.com/e/root-down-rise-up-fundraiser-tickets-227395926337

A #SacBeerWeek fundraiser for Alchemist CDC in partnership with Oak Park Brewing Co. featuring limited release beer, dinner, and live music.

Enjoy a delicious Spring evening while supporting the work to make Sacramento the Farm to Every Fork Capital. This fundraiser event will include:

- Limited release kettle sour beer and limited release non-alcoholic seltzer made with juice from fruit gleaned in Sacramento

- Dinner, with unique appetizer, entree, and dessert options that incorporate ingredients made by local Alchemist Kitchen Incubator food entrepreneurs, grown in nearby gardens, and sourced from local farmers' markets (vegan options available)

- The chance to meet Alchemist Kitchen entrepreneurs

- Live music

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A laid-back evening of great local flavors and support our work connecting communities to land, food, and opportunity.

Buy tickets at: https://www.eventbrite.com/.../root-down-rise-up...

Interested in sponsoring the event? Write sam@alchemistcdc.org for more info.

Library Updates

Virtual Piñata Making Workshop with Patty Botello - Día 2022

April 30 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Sacramento Public Library is excited to welcome back artist and piñata maker Patty Botello for our 2022 Día de los niños / Día de los libros series.

We will be creating a mini fruit piñata sculpture using various piñata making techniques. This workshop will also focus on using recyclable items like cardboard and newspaper and giving these ordinary objects a new purpose.

Piñata making kits available at your local library branch while supplies last. This event will be hosted on zoom and streamed live to Youtube.

Register here to attend Zoom workshop: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIld-ihpzksHtL5cZ7aPt5zfDHdeeX_l8nF.

About Patty Botello: "Growing up as a kid in Los Angeles there were fruit vendor carts at gas stations, freeway exits and at every corner in downtown LA. I remember the excitement of seeing the frutero and begging my dad to stop the car so we could get fruit. My sister and I would watch in awe as the fruit vendor sliced the fruit for our order like a fruit ninja. My dad would always chat with the vendor about how business was for them that day, ask them where they were born and how life as a vendor was for them. I think those questions came naturally to him as a fellow immigrant. My dad would thank the vendor by name after we received our fruit pouches and always overpay and tell them to keep the change. It's that nostalgia that makes me want to help to tell the story of our local fruit vendors so that we might also get to know them by name and know their stories and struggles."

Patty Botello was born in Los Ángeles, California. At the age of three, she learned how Piñatas were created from her next-door neighbor and babysitter. She studied art at San Jose State University where she earned her Bachelor of Arts, Concentration in Studio Practice. While being immersed in studio art classes she fell in love with the creation of three-dimensional art. Before graduating, she began Fuzzy Lollipop, a small online business in 2009 where she sells her piñata sculptures.

Genealogy: Splitsville: Divorce Records and the Hidden Gold Within

Saturday, April 23: 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Not all marriages have ended in happily ever after. Don't despair though! Searching for a divorce record should be part of your research plan. An overview of the records and examples of how to locate divorce records will be presented. Learn how to analyze the information and the importance of these records for genealogical research.

This program will take place on Zoom. Register in advance for this meeting by clicking on the link below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkdOCvqzwpGNLkyY4TvAdmDGV_0wyq3oEp

For more information, contact Stephanie K. West at (916) 264-2920; contact@saclibrary.org

A History of Sacramento's Cycling Community

Saturday, April 23, from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Sacramento's pioneer bicyclists rode without helmets, bike lanes, or spandex. They included record-breaking members of the Capitol City Wheelman, an early bicycling group. Learn how bicyclists helped spur the development of the modern highway system, forced overdue changes in women's clothing, and led progress in the emerging motorcycle industry. Presented by historian Eric Bradner and the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery Committee.

This will be a Zoom event and is facilitated by the Sacramento Room:

https://zoom.us/j/91207735949?pwd=QStXYzRqSU1DR2V3MlFuVkJONExOdz09

Meeting ID: 912 0773 5949

Passcode: bike

Presenter: Eric Bradner

James Scott; (916) 264-2795

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Virtual Children's Programming

Enjoy virtual storytimes featuring popular childrens' books and activities to grow your child's vocabulary. Follow us on Facebook(Opens in a new window) and catch our live storytimes(Opens in a new window) every Tuesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Play and Rhyme

Join librarians on Facebook every Thursday at 10:30 a.m., starting July 8, for Virtual Play and Rhyme! This program unites playful elements of storytime with play activities and prompts that encourage families to move, bond, learn, and play. Join us for this wonderful opportunity to bring developmentally appropriate early learning ideas home. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Dial-A-Story

Call to hear children's stories read in English and Spanish. Stories are available 24/7 and change every few days. Call (916) 441-1234 or (866) 241-7490. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Dial-A-Tale

Every three days, we upload a new reading in which a passage from essays, short stories, excerpts and poetry are read by library staff. Call (916) 575-4590. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Virtual Adult Programming

Schedule graphic of virtual adult book club scheduleAdult Book Club

The Adult Book Group invites you the first Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. Travel to a different time and place through the pages of a good book. We will meet on Zoom. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Between the Covers: A Romance Book Club

Join us on Zoom to discuss a delightfully diverse collection of romance novels on the second Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. We'll also be discussing what romance novels are making you happy while staying safe at home. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Forever Young Book Club

Join the official Sacramento chapter of the FYABC, where we celebrate reading teen books as adults. This virtual book club meets on the last Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Grownups Unite! Book Club

Looking to join a *new* book club that reads comics and graphic novels for adults? Join us on Zoom the third Wednesday each month at 6 p.m. https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Virtual-Programs

Luther Gardens Apartments for Seniors approved by Sacramento City Council

Recently the Sacramento City Council unanimously reversed itself and approved a 24-unit apartment building for seniors with the city planning and design review commission also voting unanimously for it.

Architect-developer Bob Pecora has been working on this project for years going through the upheavals in the real estate cycles, and the back and forth with the politics, but his steadfast persistence won the day.

This is a uniquely designed project referenced as Luther gardens apartments on an infill ¾ acre site in south Sacramento and is planned for active seniors 55 years and older. It is located conveniently to several bus lines, a train station, freeway and several shopping centers and is not far from the hospitals in the area.

The building is distinctive and bold in its design with such features as central linear skylights and slits in the floors with parapet walls around the slits and possibly with hanging plants to bring light down into the building's corridors, while at the same time adding more interest to the corridors. On the building's roof tenants can grow their own fruits and vegetables in built in planters using techniques to encourage greater yield and this activity could function in conjunction with a cooperative program with Luther Burbank High School agricultural program.

The roof also provides areas where tenants can socialize with one another, play various parlor games, have snacks and share their produce. Solar panels will be used as a cover for a parking canopy and a solar structure on the roof.

Passive solar design features will also be incorporated and the use of recycled materials is envisioned to the maximum extent possible.

Contractors who will be involved with the building would be encouraged or stipulated to have on the job apprentices to help them learn their respective trades.

Each apartment will have either a patio or balcony with half of the



units opening up to a play field, allowing the building to breathe better, thus not another building looking back on it. Apartments will have two bedrooms and be 1,000 square feet in size, much larger than what is typically found.

When built, the building will make a very positive impact on the street scene.



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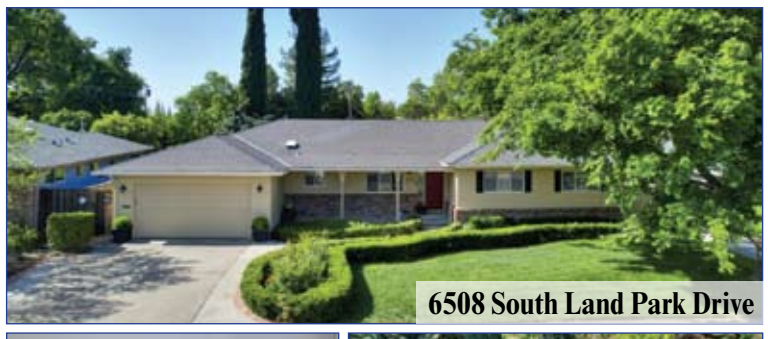

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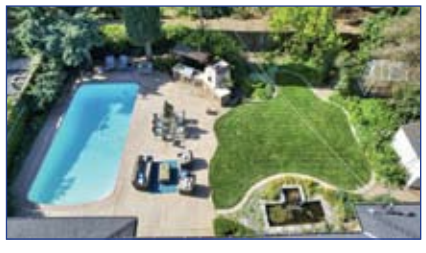

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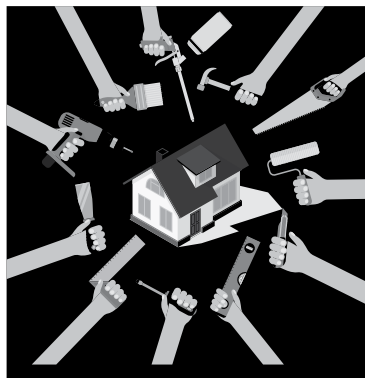

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