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Land Park News

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Joan Didion sculpture to be installed at Sacramento's Central Library – *see page 2*

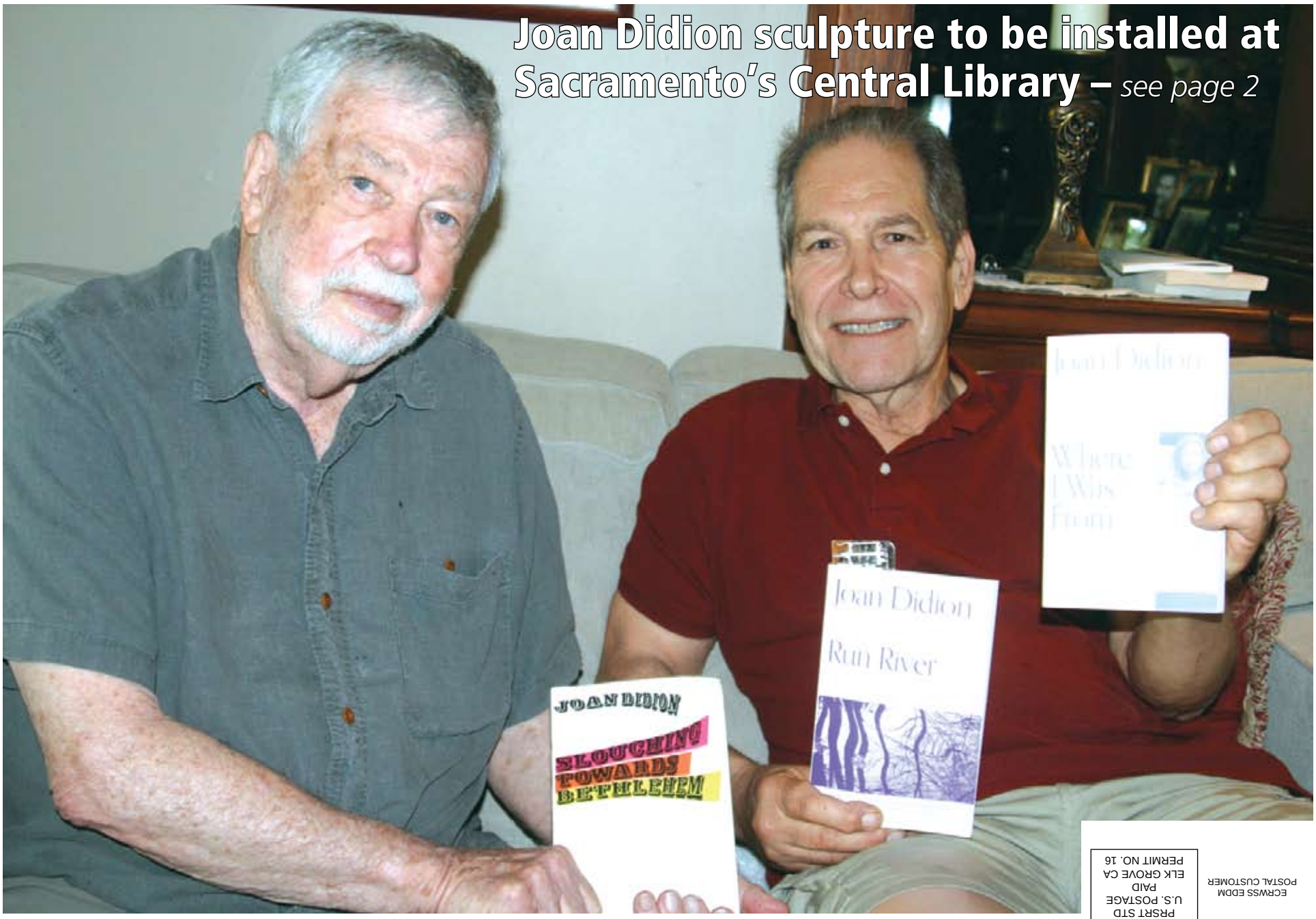


Photo by Lance Armstrong

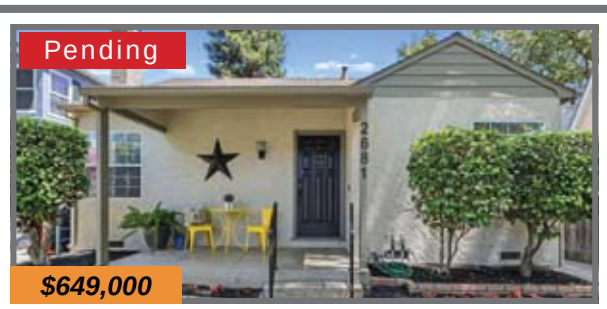
Maurice Read, left, and Gregg Lukenbill hold copies of books written by the Sacramento-born author Joan Didion.

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Joan Didion sculpture to be installed at Sacramento's Central Library

Fundraising efforts aim to support project costs, scholarships

By Lance Armstrong

A project is underway to memorial the famous Sacramento-born author Joan Didion with a ceramic sculpture in her likeness at the Sacramento Public Library's Central Library.

Didion, a renowned novelist, essayist, journalist and screenwriter, died last December at the age of 87.

Among Didion's many notable books are "The Year of Magical Thinking," "The White Album,"

"Blue Nights" and "Slouching Towards Bethlehem."

Prior to acquiring fame in the literary world, she graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School in 1952, and attended Sacramento Junior College – today's Sacramento City College.

Didion also enjoyed spending many hours in the reference room on the second floor of the city library at 828 I St. in downtown Sacramento. That room is now known as the Sacramento Room of the Central Library.

The sculpture that will be installed at a table in that room will be created by Lisa Reinertson, whose many works include the Cesar Chavez sculpture across 9th Street from the library, in Cesar Chavez Plaza.

The Didion sculpture project, which is being coordinated through the Sacramento Historical Society and the Sacramento Public Library, was organized by Sacramentans Maurice Read and Gregg Lukenbill.

Read, who is 88 years old, has lived in the capital city since he was 7 years old.

He told this publication that his idea to have a sculpture of Didion created and installed in the former reference room was inspired by a memory of his that dates back to the early 1950s.



Photo courtesy of Lisa Reinertson

Pictured is a Joan Didion, clay model sample created by Lisa Reinertson.

"Joan and I went to Sacramento City College together, and occasionally a group of people (including Didion) would go to the main library reference room and study," Read said. "And I was thinking about (Didion about

See Didion on page 3



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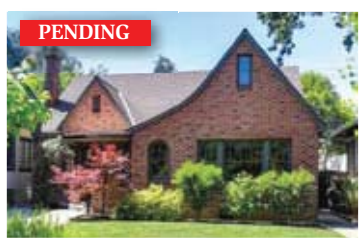


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Didion:

Continued from page 2

three years ago, and) I thought, '(Didion's image) would make a nice statue. And I got the idea of the statue sitting in the chair (at a table)."

Read added that it was not until after Didion's death that his dream of this sculpture began to move forward.

"I contacted (Reinertson three years ago) and we started talking about a bronze statue and different costs, and I talked around to people in town and nobody was particularly interested (back then)," he said.

At that time, three years ago, Read received some interest in the proposed project from Bob Weidner, a Sacramento native who dated Didion for about five years in the 1950s.

Read mentioned that he and Weidner wrote two letters to Didion about the proposed project, and she never responded.

"(The second letter was) a registered letter (that) didn't get a response, and I checked with the post office department and they said, 'The letter has been delivered. That's all we can tell you.' And at that point, we just totally dropped it."



Photo courtesy of Lisa Reinertson

This drawing by Lisa Reinertson was created as a preliminary step toward her future Joan Didion sculpture, which will be installed in the Sacramento Room of the historic, city library building at the southwest corner of 9th and I streets.

Lukenbill, the Sacramento Historical Society member who is best known for his successful efforts to bring the Kansas City Kings to Sacramento in 1985, recalled being approached by Read about his idea following Didion's death.

"I thought that was a great idea," he said.

Lukenbill added that he has known Reinertson for about 34 years.

Read, who has known Lukenbill since 1978, spoke about his renewed interest in the Didion sculpture project.

"Sometime in the past six months, Gregg and I were talking and I mentioned this (proposed project), and he said, 'Oh, that's great. I could get behind this.' And I thought, 'Gregg could do this. I could do it with Gregg.' And Gregg and I worked together before and kept friends since that time. So, we just started doing it again and called Lisa again."

With the sculpture project effort once again underway, Read called Sacramento County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy and shared details about the project.

Read mentioned that Kennedy was quick to provide the first donation to the project.

"(Kennedy) said, 'I'll send you

See Didion on page 4

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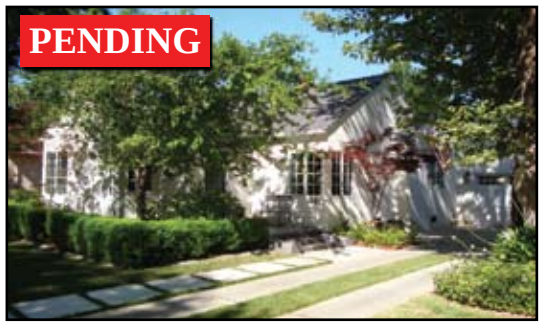
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Didion:

Continued from page 3

$1,000,'" he said. "I didn't request the donation."

Thus far, the fundraising efforts have resulted in about $20,000 in donations.

While the cost of the sculpture is $38,000, the fundraising goal for the entire project is $100,000, Read noted.

"We decided at some point we're going to be able to raise ($38,000) easily, (so), let's raise some more money and endow some sort of scholarship," he said.

Read mentioned that the scholarship funds will be provided to Sacramento City College for young women who inspire to be writers.

While sitting in his East Sacramento home alongside a small stack of Didion's books, Lukenbill praised the sculpture project as a whole.

"It's a women's equality statement on behalf of Sacramento, and if you know the history of Sacramento, when this state came in, it basically came in as probably the first women's equality state in the Union when it came in (on September 9), 1850.

"Secondly, it's about enlightened literary thinking, which is Joan Didion. That



Photo courtesy of Lisa Reinertson

This clay model by Julie Reinertson presents an example of how the completed, full-size sculpture could appear.

woman has a mastery of the English language, (and) she has a magic to the way she writes sentences. There is a certain rhythm and musicality about the way she writes."

Read added that Didion notes in her book, "Where I Was From," that she acquired that rhythmical style through books written by Ernest Hemingway.



Photo courtesy of Lisa Reinertson

Sculptor Julie Reinertson stands alongside one of her artistic creations.

Lukenbill also stressed that the sculpture project is important, in that it serves as a way to immortalize Didion as a Sacramento woman who had the ability to inspire future, women writers.

"That's really what it's about for me," he said.

Also important to Lukenbill and Read is that this project has the support of members of the Didion family.

Julie Didion, a local artist who is one of this famous author's cousins, expressed appreciation for the sculpture project.

"All of us Didion cousins in Sacramento are thrilled at the prospect of having a beautiful, memorial sculpture of Joan in the library," she said.

Sacramento Historical Society members and the public are invited to attend a special event featuring Reinertson at Columbus Hall, 5961 Newman Court, in Sacramento on June 21 at 6:30 p.m. She will speak about her library sculpture project and Didion.

Admission is free for Sacramento Historical Society members and $10 for nonmembers. A $2 convenience fee will be charged for credit and debit card purchases.

As an alternative to this in-person event, this presentation will be available for viewing through the Zoom application.

To register for this event or to donate to the Joan Didion sculpture project fund, visit the website, www.SacHistoricalSociety.org.



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The Pocket 4th of July Parade returns

By Devin Lavelle





Councilmember Rick Jennings is proud to announce the return of the 4th of July Parade! The theme is Unity in Our Community, which Councilmember Jennings chose because the 4th of July Parade is a delightful opportunity to bring together the many diverse people, businesses and volunteer organizations who all work tirelessly to improve our neighborhood's quality of life. After two long pandemic years, this theme resonates more than ever as we come back together to celebrate our wonderful community.

You can look for me and Junior Park Inspector Charlie riding in style in a classic car once again!

This year's Grand Marshal Honorees will be front line workers from the grocery, medical, and long-term care industries, along with educators, who will represent ALL of the front line heroes who kept us going during the pandemic. Stay tuned to this publication, as well as the parade website www.july4thpocketparade.com and the parade Instagram account @july4thpocketparade, as we announce our honorees and share a little bit of their story with you.

As always, this year's parade will feature hand crafted floats, car clubs and a wide variety of community groups. The parade begins promptly at 10:00am and follows the traditional route along Windbridge Drive from South Land Park Drive to Pocket Road. Based on extensive feedback from the 2019 participants and spectators, there will be no performances at the reviewing stand. This is easier on the classic cars who do not like to idle, as well as the children marching who also might struggle to stand and "idle". This change also allows a smooth progression of the parade throughout the entire route to Garcia Bend and enhances the enjoyment of spectators who line the 1.2-mile route.

Interested in participating in the parade? Entries are free! Just fill out the parade entry registration form and the parade waiver form found on the parade website at www.july4thpocketparade.com Entries are due by June 22. Due to the logistics involved in organizing the parade, no day-of registrations are accepted.

Councilmember Jennings encourages everyone to come out on the 4th; enjoy the parade and celebrate Independence Day alongside your friends and neighbors!





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East Portal Bocce Club announces upcoming Little Italy Bocce Tournament

By Christy Swider
Special to Valley Community Newspapers





On June 11 and 12, Little Italy of Sacramento will host 20 bocce teams and 80 players for a two-day event. East Portal Bocce Club and east Sacramento will be the treasured host. The two-day event will run 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. totaling 32 games on Saturday and 30 games on Sunday to determine the finals.

This tournament is drawing teams from all over California. The current list of teams include Martinez, San Rafael, Stockton, Salinas, Pittsburg, Antioch, Auburn, Fresno, Chico, Huntington Beach, Penn Valley and Sacramento.

Michael Mathis, the director is enthusiastic about bringing this level of bocce play to Little Italy, Sacramento. Rodeo Way is a busy neighborhood street and it brings an abundance of foot traffic to the park which is ideal to promote bocce in the community and showcase the tournament. The tournament is open to the public and the park provides bleachers for spectators. All are invited to come and watch.

My own grandfather, Christopher Cuilla and his brother, Sam Cuilla immigrants, played bocce at East Portal back when the courts were dirt. I will be sponsoring a family banner to recognize their memory and interest in bocce. Under the direction of the Sacramento City Parks and Recreation and the East Portal Bocce Club, the courts and team participation have flourished which is only fitting for Little Italy, Sacramento.

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: Which country owns the Canary Islands?
2. MOVIES: Which movie features the song "Moon River"?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase "non ducor, duco" mean in English?
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of ducks called?
5. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features a character called Sethe?
6. TELEVISION: What drive-in diner is featured in the 1970s TV sitcom "Happy Days"?
7. MUSIC: When did Lynyrd Skynyrd's anthem "Sweet Home Alabama" chart in the Top 10?

Answers

1. Spain
2. "Breakfast at Tiffany's"
3. "I am not led, I lead"
4. A raft
5. "Beloved"
6. Arnold's
7. 1974

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Community Briefs

Library Updates

ADULT 101: LIFE SKILLS FOR TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS WORKSHOP SERIES

Sacramento Public Library is offering a 6-week workshop series focusing on core skills that support the transition from youth to adulthood. Participants will learn skills related to sustainable employment and the overall development of a person as they enter a new season of life. We will be discussing 6 different topics over the 6-week period, with one virtual and one in person session each week available for teens and young adults ages 16-24.

Week 1: Healthy Living with the Health Education Council

Learn about food advertising and how it impacts choices and shopping on a budget. Receive a hands-on food demo to make a quick, cheap and good tasting healthy meals and get a bonus 30-minute basic yoga tutorial.

Each participant will receive an insulated grocery shopping bag and a yoga mat.

Tuesday, June 14, from 3-5 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Zoom

Thursday, June 16, from 3-5 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Arcade Library(Opens in a new window)

Week 2: Money Savvy with SAFE Credit Union

Understand the basics of budgeting, opening and maintaining a checking account, as well as overall financial health and the impacts that debt can have long term.

Each participant will receive an envelope budgeting system.

Tuesday, June 21, from 3-4:30 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Zoom

Thursday, June 23, from 3-4:30 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: South Natomas Library(Opens in a new window)

Week 3: Job Readiness with SETA/Sacramento Works for Youth

Go over the process of seeking and securing employment by marketing yourself to potential employers and begin familiarizing yourself with your skills, your personality, and your accomplishments. Digital literacy skills for job searching, resume writing, and interview preparation will also be included.

Each participant will receive a resume padfolio.

Tuesday, June 28, from 3-4:30 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Zoom

Thursday, June 30, from 3-4:30 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Colonial Heights Library(Opens in a new window)

Week 4: Effective Communication in a Digital World with Hacker Lab & Data Privacy with Data Detox x Youth presented by the Sacramento Public Library

Examine common digital communication methods, how to stand out, when to use each, how to be effective, and the common pitfalls of different platforms in part one of this session. Then learn about data privacy and how to navigate online platforms while keeping your information secure in part two.

Tuesday, July 5, from 3-5 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Zoom

Thursday, July 7, from 3-5 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Sylvan Oaks Library(Opens in a new window)

Week 5: Mental Health & Stress Management with Sacramento Youth Mental Health & NAMI Sacramento

Destigmatize mental health issues and learn about what resources are out there for you. You will be provided with hands on mindfulness and stress reduction tools and techniques.

Each participant will receive a stress reduction fidget keychain.

Tuesday, July 12, from 3-5 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Zoom

Thursday, July 14, from 3-5 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Belle Cooledge Library(Opens in a new window)

Week 6: Personal Organization & Time Management with Pam Posz, Professor Librarian at Sacramento City College

Become proficient in ways to keep yourself organized and on track while keeping stress levels low. You'll also learn how to organize your tools for job hunting and how to start a LinkedIn profile.

Each participant will receive a dot journal

Continued on page 12



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Photo by Barbara Cherry

"Come Saturday Morning" is wonderful at Elk 6's Farmer's Market

By Stephen B. Clazie
Special to the Valley Community Newspapers

"Come Saturday Morning" was a popular song in 1970, but at least for me and over 700 other people, "Come Saturday morning I am goin' away with my friends" to attend the Farmer's Market at Elks Lodge No. 6.

That first Saturday on May 7th was such an outstanding morning of pure enjoyment. It was so overwhelming to see so many friendly and kind people enjoying an opportunity to gather in such a pleasant atmosphere. The bonds of Covid seemed to completely disappear, and people were smiling and greeting each other and connecting with neighbors and friends they had missed for so long. It was truly a "Come Saturday Morning!"

Over 20 vendors gathered in the Elks parking lot, and for the vendors it was a tremendous success. Nine of the vendors sold out of everything they brought. In less than an hour The Manzanita Bakehouse sold out of 60 loaves of bread made from organic flours with zero additives or preservatives. The Bakehouse is nestled in the kitchen of Greg Severn's home in Upper Land Park. Since that first Saturday, Greg has been determined not to sell out. The second week he had 80 loaves, the third 108, and the fourth120. Each week he sold out of all his bread plus four dozen cookies. He is making even more bread!

The vendors are not only local; some of them are members of Elks Lodge No. 6. Jeffery Allen is a member of the Lodge. He has a brand new mobile restaurant that really sparkles, and the outside of the Allen BBQ truck has a dragon proclaiming "feed your dragon." Jeff claims they are "Serving up the West's best brisket, Tri Tip, chicken, burgers and more!" From the truck customers were heading to sit at one of the tables or rest upon the lawn.

Saturday morning breakfast for my wife and me consisted of a latte and a hot chocolate from Kimberly Allen's Good Roots Cafe. She has both hot and cold drinks along with bagels and liege waffles, and she one of the vendors that is in the process of also becoming a member of the Elks Lodge. With drinks in our hands, it was a quick stop at Lisa's Sweet Camellia Box to get a donut or pastry that is gluten-free, vegan and no refined sugar

It wasn't just a morning of shopping, but a "Saturday Morning" of family fun. Children were playing with freebies while parents sat under the trees visiting. It was also educational with children and adults learning about bees from Uncle Jer's Honey and Bee Show.

See Market on page 13

9,435 reasons to celebrate.

As Sacramento State celebrates the 2022 graduating class, we're inspired by the tenacity with which these students succeeded, no matter what challenges life presented. Their optimism, adaptability, and creativity give this region countless reasons for hope.

Hats off to the Class of 2022. You've made us proud.



Photo: Jameel Pugh, BA '05, Bowtie Pixs

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Sacramento 6th grader shares memories of his Grammy-winning experience

By Lance Armstrong

Jayvyn Thwaites, a 6th grader at David Lubin Elementary School, may seem like a typical 12-year-old. But there is one distinct thing that sets him apart from most kids his age: he contributed to a Grammy Award-winning album.

Jayvyn, who comes from a musical family, was among the children who sang on Indian musician Falguni Shah's children's album, "A Colorful World." Shah performs under her stage name, Falu.

"A Colorful World" won a Grammy for "Best Children's Album" at the Grammy Awards ceremony, which was held in Las Vegas on April 3.

In an interview with this publication last week, Jayvyn spoke about what it is like for him to be a part of a Grammy-winning album.

"I'm speechless," he said. "I had a feeling that we were going to win, but being up on that stage was probably one of the best moments of my life."

Although Shah lives in New York, through modern technology, Jayvyn was able to sing for the Grammy Award-winning album without leaving the capital city.

"There were a lot of kids (who sang on the album)," Jayvyn said. "I just recorded my vocals at a separate studio – (Think Tank Recording Studio in Sacramento)."

In addition to standing under the bright lights of a Las Vegas stage, Jayvyn walked the red carpet and saw and met celebrities.

"I got to meet Paris Hilton and Taylor Parx," Jayvyn said. "I saw Olivia Rodrigo walking down the red carpet and I saw Justin Bieber from a far distance. It wasn't that far, but he had a pink beanie on, so I could just spot him everywhere."

With Bieber and Bruno Mars being his top two favorite musical artists, Jayvyn mentioned that what would have made his experience at the Grammys event better would have been for him to have spoken with Bieber.

In summarizing his overall experience at the Grammy Awards ceremony, Jayvyn said, "It was really fun."

Jayvyn noted that making his way to the show was quite challenging.



Photos courtesy of Shawn Thwaites

Jayvyn Thwaites is shown in Las Vegas, where he attended the Grammy Awards ceremony, on April 3. He was among the vocal contributors to the Grammy Award-winning children's album, "A Colorful World."



Falguni Shah, whose album, "A Colorful World," won a Grammy Award, puts one of her arms around Jayvyn Thwaites at the Grammy Awards ceremony, on April 3. One of her sons holds the Grammy Award to the left of Thwaites.

"The line was long, there was a lot of people, but when I got in I had so much fun," he said. "And when (the album) won the Grammy, I didn't even know what to say. My head was blank."

In addition to Jayvyn, also joining Shah on stage were her two children who also sang on her Grammy Award-winning album.

Also singing on the album were about four other children about two other adults.

While the actual Grammy Award was presented to Shah, each of the other vocalists re-

See Grammy on page 11

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Grammy:

Continued from page 10

ceived Grammy participation certificates.

Present to support Jayvyn in the crowd at the ceremony were his father, his sister, Kamari, one of his cousins and some of his father's friends.

Jayvyn mentioned that having grown up around his parents, Shawn and Sabreen Thwaites, who are musicians, it came naturally for him to become a singer.

"I've been singing for seven years and my mom is a singer," he said. "So, that's when I really started singing when I heard my mom (sing). So, that's why I started to sing."

Jayvyn referred to his parents as his mentors in music.

"I look up to my dad and my mom," he said.

Singing is something that brings Jayvyn a lot of joy, he noted.

"I like to sing, because it makes me happy and it makes other people happy," he said. "And that warms my heart a lot, because I like to make other people happy."

He mentioned that his current favorite song to sing is "Freedom," by Jon Batiste.

Jayvyn described himself as having an interest in various genres of music.

"(His favorites are) hip-hop, pop, R&B, jazz," he said.

In addition to Bieber and Mars, Jayvyn named some of his other favorite musical artists as Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder and PJ Morton.

"I like all those guys," he said.

As for his future, Jayvyn stressed that music is not his only love.

"I'm really focusing on my basketball," he said. "I'm on a basketball team named 916 Elite. It's a really good (Amateur Athletic Union) team. It's great for me. Some of my friends are on that team. I play point guard and shooting guard."

Thus far, Jayvyn has been a member of two AAU championship teams.

Asked if he has any other hobbies, Jayvyn was quick to respond.

"I love to dance," he said. "I have a lot of favorite dancers. Some of them are my favorite artists (such as) Michael Jackson, Bruno Mars. Those are amazing, great, great, great dancers."

Shawn, a local musician who graduated from the Berklee College of Music in 2003, spoke about how his son became involved with Shah's children's album.

"I was contacted by (Shah)," he said. "She was working on her album, called 'A Colorful World,' and she needed children's vocals, and she knew that I had a son that's a vocalist and had a very good voice. She (said), 'I need a kid that can actually sing to help kind of navigate through those tunes and stuff.' So, she had Jayvyn record."

Shawn mentioned that Jayvyn was initially reluctant to be a part of this project.

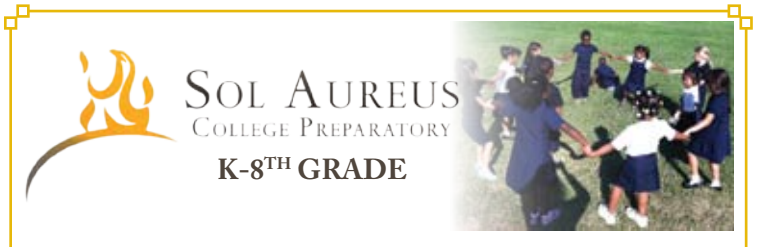
"Jayvyn really didn't want to record," he said. "He wanted to go to school that day, because he loves school so much. He was just telling me (that he) didn't want to do it. I was like, 'Well, you know, this is an opportunity and you never know what could happen.' And 'A Colorful World' won in the 'Best Children's Album' category."

"A Colorful World" is currently streaming on iTunes and Spotify.

Jayvyn also has his own YouTube channel, It's Jayvyn. The channel includes videos of him singing songs by some of his favorite musical artists.



Paris Hilton, center, is pictured with Jayvyn and Kamari Thwaites at the 2022 Grammy Awards event.



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Simone Nazzal
Education Coordinator
Del Oro Caregiver Resource Center

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Simone Nazzal, MA
Education Coordinator

Simone Nazzal graduated from Stanford in 2010 with a BA in English. In 2011, her mother was diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer, and Simone became a fulltime caregiver and, eventually, a Del Oro Client; therefore, she knows firsthand how vital Del Oro's services are. According to Simone, "Del Oro CRC became an essential support system that allowed me to work, maintain a household, and care for my mother at home per her wishes." Over the next several years, she worked in public education in various capacities, including as a support specialist for students with special needs and English language learners. After her mother passed away, Simone earned a teaching credential at UC Davis and taught middle and high school English for several years. In 2019, after completing her master's in English (a degree she put on hold in order to care for her mother), she joined the staff at Del Oro as Education Coordinator. In this new position, Simone feels as if she has come "full circle;" she loves serving regional caregivers by developing different educational and training opportunities. Through strategic programming that offers both practical skills and a sense of community, Simone hopes to validate caregivers' experiences and, in line with Del Oro's mission, improve their daily lives.

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Community Briefs

Continued from page 7

planner to be used in the session.

Tuesday, July 19, from 3-5 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Zoom

Thursday, July 21, from 3-5 p.m. Register here(Opens in a new window).

Location: Valley Hi-North Laguna Library(Opens in a new window)

Participants will receive a digital badge from Badgr(Opens in a new window) upon completion of each session as well as digital certificates. The project was supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

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

Sacramento Juneteenth Festival returns to William Land Park

By Gary R. Simon

Good News: On June 17, 2021 the U.S. Senate passed legislation that recognizes Juneteenth as a Federal paid holiday. In addition, the California State Legislature has presented legislation to make Juneteenth a California State holiday as well.

In 2021 Mayor Steinberg and the City Council attended the festival to present Sacramento Juneteenth, Inc.(SJI) with a resolution acknowledging the 17 years of producing Sacramento's Annual Juneteenth Festival to recognize and celebrate the freeing of those enslaved in the United States of America.

SJI will produce this year's festival June 17-19, 2022 in William Land Park. This year's theme will focus on systematic economic injustices. We will partner with several local organizations to highlight and expose the systems and laws that perpetuate the continued economic injustices inflicted on communities of color.

This year's festival will kick-off on Friday night(17th) with the "Gospel Under the Stars All-Star Reunion Concert". The concert will feature many of Juneteenth's best gospel acts. Former greats include: Melinda Watts, Yardley Griffin, James Jackson and more.

Saturday, 18th will feature 2 stages of live entertainment, The Juneteenth Talent Show(top 10 acts, see audition information), food/ware vendors, Health/wellness row, Arts and Education Pavilion, Fraternity/Sorority Row, Freedom Stage (youth acts), American history presentations, Keynote speakers and more.

Sunday, 19th will conclude this year's festival with the Juneteenth Golf Tournament at William Land Golf Course. See registration information.

We will also recognize individuals who have proven themselves to be true "Soldiers" of the community. We will again present this year's recipients with our "Community Soldier Award". Past recipients include: Margaret Fortune, Chet Hewitt, Greg King, Derrell Roberts, and Gloria Robertson to name a few.

Sacramento Juneteenth, Inc. has partnered with many of Sacramento's local organizations and corporate partners to produce Sacramento's Juneteenth Festival for the past 19 years. We thank all who have supported us over the years and look forward to continuing the work of recognizing one of the most momentous occasions in American history- The signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Gary R. Simon is the Executive Director of Sacramento Juneteenth, Inc.

Market:

Continued from page 8

Through education and bee rescue, Uncle Jer hopes to help conserve one of our most precious resources. Uncle Jer puts on educational shows with live honey bees. He is selling his honey from the local area at Elk 6's Farmer's Market. Many of the adults remembered getting Uncle Jer's quarter-pound cookies at school in the 1980's and 90's.

Tom Guinn is another Elk, and he has beautiful strawberries from Watsonville. He ran out the first week, but he has proven to his supplier that this is a great venue. Tom pointed out that other top quality vendors are also realizing that this is a great market place.

With any new event there is always things that go wrong. The vendors have their own network. They have been a big help in letting the top vendors know that the Elks Farmer's Market is one of the very best and where you want to have your product. Every week the Elks 6's Farmer's Market has been getting more outstanding fruit and vegetable vendors.

This coming Saturday Morning I am looking forward to going with my best friend of 60 years to eat some fresh radishes from Mou Farms with a bottle of wine from Felicita Wine Company in Lodi. Nothing could be greater than sitting upon the lawn enjoying the fragrant and soft aromas of white peach and apricot with zesty citrus flavors of lime and white grapefruit in Felicita's cheerful Sauvignon Blanc. The whole time we are listening to a free concert by two musicians while my wife enjoys her bouquet of flowers. If she is not watching, I can relive my childhood and see how far I can spit the cherry seeds. The Alpine Blue Farms cherries are great to eat even if you can't spit the seeds. I never knew going grocery shopping could be so much fun, and it was fun just to see other families gathering on the lawn to enjoy their treats and their kids playing.







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