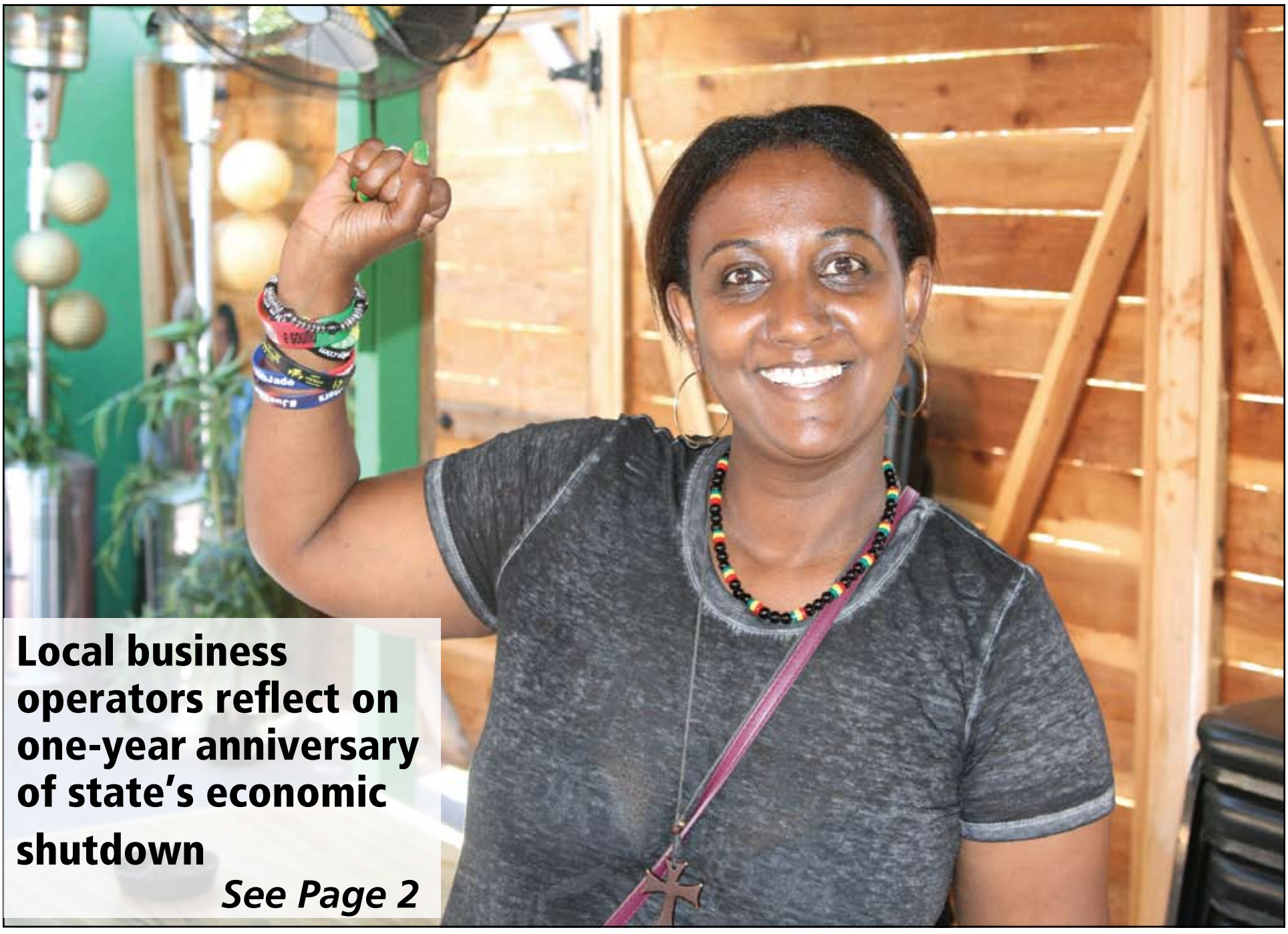
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# Land Park News

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## Local business operators reflect on one-year anniversary of state's economic shutdown

*See Page 2*

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# Local business operators reflect on one-year anniversary of lifting of state's near total economic shutdown, various restrictions

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

With one year removed from California's 15-month, COVID-19-related near total economic shutdown and various restrictions, business operators within the coverage areas of Valley Community Newspapers last week shared details regarding the status of those establishments.

It was on June 15, 2021 that the state lifted its color-coded tier system that limited business activities and crowd capacities to slow the spread of COVID-19.

While touring East Sacramento last week, this paper met with Art Lewis, manager of Scrub Boys Car Wash, at 5431 Folsom Blvd.

Lewis mentioned that although business has improved at this car wash overall in the past year, the increase in gas prices have caused another financial decline.

"(Business) was doing good until the gas (prices) went up," he said. "(The struggles) don't stop. Everybody's feeling it right now as we speak, because there's not a lot of cars coming in here."

Recalling the near total economic shutdown and restrictions, Lewis noted that it was a "difficult" time for the business's employees.

He added that he believes people are conditioned to previous times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People are still conditioned, they're mentally conditioned," Lewis said. "It was all thrust on everybody, and people just became conditioned to that (time). They are scared to get out and do things that they were used to doing before."

Lola Bailey, owner of Lola's Hair Salon, at 5295 Folsom Blvd., mentioned that her business has improved significantly in the past year.

"Yeah, definitely," she said. "It was like 25(% to) 30% of people came in, but the rest, they were all kind of scared."

Bailey added that it was during the latter part of last year that her business began to improve.

"It started getting better and better and better," she said. "I have plenty of work. I'm turning (some) customers away. It's better

See BUSINESSES on Page 3



Photos by Lance Armstrong

Joe Shook, manager of P&M Tool Center, stands alongside one of his customers, Jeff Pressnell, right, on July 6.


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The Land Park News is published on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the area bounded by Broadway to the north, Interstate 5 on the west, Florin Road on the south and Freeport Boulevard/21st Street on the east.

Publisher ..... Bonnie Rodriguez
Editor ..... Monica Stark
Graphic Designer ..... Liang Ly
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Advertising Executives ..... Linda Pohl, Melissa Andrews


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Vol. 31 • No. x

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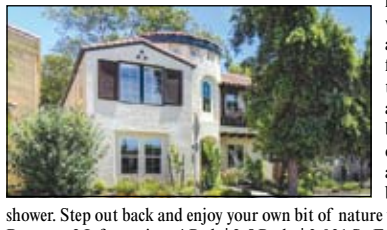
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# Businesses

*Continued from Page 2*

times now, but nothing is back to normal. It's not ever going to be back."

Guillermo Leyva, of Pancho's Cocina Mexicana, told this paper that business has improved in the past year at this restaurant, which is located at 2026 Broadway, within the coverage area of the Land Park News.

"For the most part, it's been picking up," he said. "I'd say the one thing that has kind of put a damper on everything is inflation. But it's been a thing throughout the whole pandemic.

"We're having to adjust prices a little, but it's not too much. It's like, hey, we can still cover our (expenses). So, it's getting better. We'll see what the second half of the year brings. But so far, it's been pretty good to us."

Joe Shook, manager of P&M Tool Center, at 2020 Broadway, mentioned that this business's income is slowly improving.

"(Regardless of the lifting of the near total economic shutdown and restrictions), we're always slow at this time," he said. "This month is going to be picking up."

He added that this business was assisted during the past year by a variety of people, including those who received pandemic assistance checks, and those who became involved in at-home, do-it-yourself projects.

Nonetheless, P&M Tool Center experienced a 35% decrease in revenue, Shook noted.

"I'm fine," he said. "I'm just glad the masks are gone, and I personally don't believe in the (COVID-19 vaccination) shots. The further away (the former near total economic shutdown and restrictions) gets, the better off we are."

Zion Taddese, owner of Queen Sheba Ethiopian Cuisine, at 1704 Broadway, stated that the near total economic shutdown and restrictions created a lot of challenges for her business.

"The shutdown [and restrictions] affected my business a lot, obviously," she said. "The first six months, it was just unknown whether we were really opening or closing. It was so much confusing. First, it was the two weeks thing. Are we closing for two weeks?

"We thought we were completely shutting down, and then they're like, 'Oh, no, no, no, no, you don't need to shut down if you can do to-go (orders).' We were not allowed to seat nobody at all until June 2021. So, the whole time for me, I was trying to navigate through to survive."

Taddese added that during that time she lost about 70% of her business's regular income.

Although the lifting of the near total economic shutdown and restrictions a year ago has been positive for Queen Sheeba restaurant, Taddese noted that she still experiences challenges.

"Now, the problem we're having is we have the to-go (orders) and the delivery (and) dining, and also we have the employment shortage," she said. "So, now I have to navigate through employment, because a lot of people don't want to work. Then my employees are working overtime."

Taddese told this paper that she still has customers who are hesitant to dine in restaurants.

Karina Vasquez, owner of Homero's Mexican Food restaurant, at 7465 Rush River Drive, in the coverage area of the Pocket News, told this paper that she opened her business during the pandemic, in February 2021.

"When we opened, it was very good, because it was something new in the neighborhood," she said. "But now, it's not that busy. Some days are good, some days are not that good. But (business) is much better than a year ago."

Vasquez recalled a more challenging time when her business could not open its dining room due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"Everything was to go, no dining in," she said. "A lot of people wanted to sit down and eat and they couldn't. They had to take their food. It was pretty hard. It was bad."

Danny Luna, of Salon Xpressions hair salon at 7846 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael, recalled losing a lot of income when his business was ordered to temporarily close due to COVID-19.

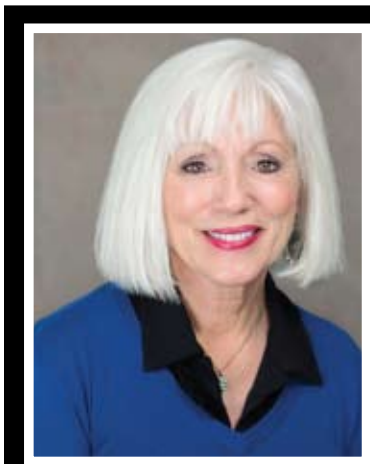
"We couldn't work at all, and a lot of people were wanting us to do business at their houses," he said. "I didn't know what was going on with COVID(-19). I wasn't really up for that (approach), so I didn't do any hair."

To compensate for his loss of income at the salon, Luna acquired a temporary job in a different field of employment.

Luna shared his excitement for reaching the one-year anniversary of the lifting of the state's near total economic shutdown and restrictions.

"I love it," he said. "I'm glad it opened up, and opened up so many doors (of businesses). Things seem like they're on the upscale, so as long as they don't shut us down again, everything should be great."


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LAND PARK
Land Park Cutie on a lovely tree lined street. Formal entry has closet and steps up to formal living room with fireplace. An arched entry leads to formal dining room and spacious kitchen with wood floors, soapstone counters and breakfast nook. Nook has two built-in hutches and a French door to backyard covered patio. Laundry area off kitchen includes a full bathroom with large shower and access to basement and garage. Three upstairs bedrooms and a full bath, hardwood floors, central H & A and many dual pane windows. A short distance to Taylor's Market, Freeport Bakery, Chocolate Fish and transportation. 1764 4th Avenue $749,000



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# Zoo news: Mabula Ground Hornbill Project

**By the Sacramento Zoo**

Ground hornbills are large, primarily terrestrial birds that can be found in the grasslands, sparse woodlands, savannas, and forest edges in Africa. There are two species of ground hornbills: Abyssinian and southern. Abyssinian ground hornbills, like the pair that live at the Sacramento Zoo, are found north of the equator in sub-Saharan Africa. Southern ground hornbills are found throughout southern Africa.



Abyssinian ground hornbills, standing just under three feet tall, are slightly smaller than southern ground hornbills, which grow to just over three feet in height. Besides their size and geography, the easiest way to differentiate Abyssinian and southern ground hornbills is the color of their heads and throats. Male Abyssinian ground hornbills have a red throat with a yellowish patch on their bill and a blue patch around their eyes. Female Abyssinian ground hornbills are slightly smaller than males and have a blue throat instead of red. In contrast, both male and female southern ground hornbills sport bright red skin on their throats and around their eyes.

Both species are mostly ground-dwelling. While they can fly to defend their territory or catch prey, they prefer to run when threatened. Ground hornbills are vocal birds, using a series of deep booming notes for extended periods of time. Males and females have even been heard singing together in duets.

Ground hornbills are omnivorous. Their eyes are specifically adapted to see the front of their beak, allowing them to accurately hunt their prey. Ground hornbills primarily eat small mammals, lizards, amphibians, insects, spiders, carrion, fruit, and seeds. Here at the zoo, our Abyssinian ground hornbills eat a bird of prey prepared diet, mice, Zupreem biscuits, minced vegetables, mealworms, and crickets.

Though Abyssinian ground hornbill populations are not threatened, southern ground hornbill populations are vulnerable due to humans encroaching on their territory. They face altered and destroyed habitat, secondary poisoning, and direct persecution. More than half of the wild southern ground hornbill population live outside of protected areas, alongside humans. These close living conditions have led to confrontations between the

See Ground Hornbill on page 8




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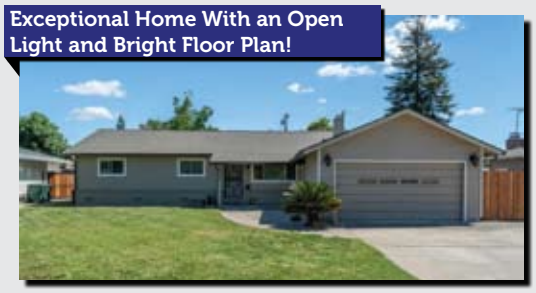


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By Lance Armstrong

The central building is the only original portion of Sutter's Fort. The remaining, reconstructed portion was completed in 1893.

# Project aims to reinterpret history at Sutter's Fort

**By Lance Armstrong**

A developing project focusing on changing the way history is interpreted and presented at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is currently in its preliminary stages.

The mostly reconstructed Sutter's Fort, at 2701 L St., stands as the oldest restored fort in the West, having been completed in 1893.

A lone structure, known as the central building, remains from the original fort, which was built in the 1840s as a trading center and a walled protection against any kind of external threat.

John Sutter, a Swiss-German entrepreneur and adventurer, established the fort as a feudal community to attract Western, European and American immigrants. He intended to profit from trade and the increased value of his real estate.

Sutter acquired the land for free from the Mexican government with the agreement that he would keep the peace and inform the government of any foreign intrusion.

He arrived with a contingent of three white, male trappers and 10 Hawaiians, two of whom were women, to build his settlement in a land populated by thousands of California Indians.

Since the 1870s when the last remnant of the fort was faced with destruction, public comment has called for the fort's preservation, its restoration and reviews of its importance to California.

Led by the Native Sons of the Golden West, the remaining building was renovated, the walls were rebuilt and the fort was restored as a monument and memorial to pre-Gold Rush California pioneers.

Since it opened to the public in 1893, the restored Sutter's Fort has served as a vehicle to present history and 19th century material culture. As an educational center and one of Sacramento's premier tourist attractions, this National Historic Landmark has been annually toured by many thousands of schoolchildren and other visitors.

John Fraser, superintendent of California State Parks' Capital District, which includes Sutter's Fort, told this publication that the current process to significantly change the way that history is presented at the fort began in 2020.

He noted that this detailed approach to evaluating how the fort's history is interpreted occurred following the vandalizing and removal of a statue of John Sutter, just east of the fort on the grounds of the Sut-

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# Sutter

*Continued from Page 5*

ter Medical Center.

The overall feeling, particularly among local tribal members, is that the Sutter story has been glorified and the native story has been underrepresented; thereby resulting in an inaccurate presentation of the actual historical record.

Among the preliminary changes made at the fort as part of this reinterpretation plan was the removal of the prerecorded audio presentations for visitors.

Fraser mentioned that the possibility of introducing different audio presentations in the future is being considered.

"We think there's ways to do some of those types of things, but have it more infused with interpretation that's actually more accurate and more consistent with what really happened here," he said. "So, we do anticipate having, if not a new audio tour, some kind of digital experience that facilitates a less structured kind of walk through the park. We think that's just something that's important that we need to have."

Fraser additionally noted that the fort's living history program was recently eliminated, because the information being delivered about native people was either inaccurate or nonexistent.

"(The living history) concept has been so central to the way that we've interpreted history here," he said. "We thought it was also a barrier for us to get to these core ideas about what we were trying to say here."

This change includes the removal of character-based programming that only incorporates Euro-American figures at the exclusion of native people.

Steve Beck, former director of education and public programming at Sutter's Fort, noted that a lack of participation by the native community was the primary reason for their exclusion from the interpretive programming.

"Most of the jobs performed at Sutter's Fort were done by native laborers from the workers in the field to Sutter's personal guard and army," he said. "There was simply no one available to accurately fill these roles."

Several tribal members interviewed for this article claimed via oral traditions, either formally through tribal council or informally through familial connections, that Sutter enslaved his Indian laborers.

However, on some levels, the historic record contradicts this contention.

According to the Charles Wilkes' naval exploring expedition, when they visited Sutter's Fort in 1841, they reported: "(Sutter) treats the Indians very kindly, he pays them well for their services in trapping and working for him. His object is to attach them, as much as possible, to his interests, that in case of need, he may rely upon their chiefs for their assistance."

Wilkes added that Sutter paid his Indian men their weekly wages in cloths, calicos, vests, shirts and pantaloons.

Fraser responded to historic references that refer to native laborers being paid for their work.

"I think there was something kind of akin to paid labor-type situation," he said. "But again, I think it's important to remember that that was really impossible for that to have been done in good faith where native people then are kind of dealing on terms that could ever be fair from their perspective."

Henry Sangmaster, former chair of the Wilton Rancheria, Sacramento's only federally recognized tribe, mentioned that his impression of Sutter changed later in his life when he became a member of his tribe's council.




John Fraser, superintendent of California State Parks' Capital District, stands on the south side of Sutter's Fort, near L Street.

"Being educated in the system that we are, we're told that these people were all heroes, these frontiersmen and founding fathers of our area," he said. "They were people to be looked up to and admired, and it was understood that without these people we wouldn't have what we have and we wouldn't have the society that we have today.

"Of course, that's all changed now, because I think (the approach) now is to rebuild truth in how they actually were. I didn't hear stories about the truth about John Sutter until, of course, many years later outside of school."

Wilton Rancheria member Darlene Brown, who worked at Sutter's Fort from 1969 to the early 1970s, mentioned that she never felt completely comfortable at the fort.

"I felt like they made us second-class citizens, that we were even marked as that," she said. "They had an Indian down in the jail way in the back looking scary in the fort – a mannequin. So, yeah, I definitely felt marginalized. I felt hurt, I felt angry."

That mannequin was removed from the fort in the mid-1980s.

It was treatment of the Indians like this papier-mâché mannequin that aided in creating animosity between the native community and the interpretive message at Sutter's Fort.

Beck suggested that a combined admission for Sutter's Fort and the California State Indian Museum, located on the same grounds, could go a long way toward accurately telling both stories without alienating or misrepresenting the message or changing the history of either park or its people.

As California State Parks moves forward with this reexamination of the past, it will rely upon oral history, written history, original sources and public comment.

Fraser shared a potential timeline for making changes to the park's presentation. The overall plan includes the completion of public workshops last April.

"We expect to have all of that (information from the two public workshops, an online survey and an interactive website) kind of sorted through, I'd say by the end of summer," he said. "If that holds true, I think we would have a department-approved master plan by the end of the year.

"And then we would bring the substance of that plan to the (California) State Park and (Recreation) Commission, who would then approve a general plan amendment to essentially validate the new thinking in the master plan as the guiding approach for the interpretation here."

Fraser encouraged people to stay engaged with the project.

"We recognize (that Sutter's Fort) has become an iconic place for people in the Sacramento region," he said. "So, we want to hear from everyone, we want them to pay attention and contribute to what's going on here. And this is change that I think is long overdue, but I think is also going to make a more important and vibrant visitor experience for people, too."

For further details about the reinterpreting plan for Sutter's Fort, visit the website, www.InterpretingSuttersFort.org.

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# Ground Hornbill:

*Continued from page 4*

birds and humans.

Ground hornbills are territorial birds, prone to attack other birds deemed as a threat. Human communities are full of reflective objects, such as windows and car mirrors. When southern ground hornbills see their reflection in these objects, they see another southern ground hornbill in their territory. They will attack and break reflective objects, leading to damaged property that often results in fatal retribution.

Human communities are full of cultured lawns, yards, and parks. Ground hornbills are drawn to broad, open areas for hunting. Unfortunately, many of these areas are located along busy roadways, leading to vehicular collisions.

Organizations like the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project (one of the Sacramento Zoo's longtime conservation partners) are integral in southern ground hornbill conservation. Established in 1966, the project's mission is "to reverse the decline of the Southern Ground-Hornbill (Bucorvus leadbeateri) population in its historical range in South Africa, and support conservation efforts in the rest of its range." To this end, the project partners with local communities to monitor and research current populations as well as engage in educational and awareness opportunities. "If people are the problem, then people must be the solution."

### Reintroduction

According to the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project, "The most effective way to re-build the remaining wild population is to perform reintroductions of new groups into areas where the species historically occurred but is now locally extinct." Southern ground hornbills will typically lay second eggs in their clutches. These second-hatched chicks would normally die of dehydration in their nests. The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project rescues these chicks, hand-raises them, and then reintroduces the birds into their historical territory.

## MONITORING

Long-term monitoring of ground hornbill populations allows researchers to assess trends in the population, changes to behavior, the impact of intervention and conservation efforts, and to identify new and evolving threats to the birds.

Every year, an annual nest monitoring day is conducted across KwaZulu-Natal and in the Limpopo River Valley. This initiative assesses the productivity and safety of known nesting locations. While ground hornbills spend most of their time on the ground, they build in their nests in trees. At times, these nests are inaccessible to monitoring teams. In 2020, the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project began using drones to check these inaccessible nests with great success.

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project sponsors a citizen science database, encouraging the local community to submit their ground hornbill sightings to a national monitoring database. Involving the community in this research not only provides additional data for the project but fosters a sense of ownership and pride in their role in ground hornbill conservation.

## ONGOING RESEARCH

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project recognizes the importance of continual research, broadening our understanding of ground hornbills so that we can better care for and conserve the species. Researchers from

See Ground Hornbill on page 9

# Ground Hornbill:

*Continued from page 8*

the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project conduct a broad range of research from investigating materials for nesting boxes and reintroduction models to cognitive behaviors and genetic modeling.

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project researchers recognize the importance of sharing data. They regularly share their research through a variety of platforms, such as conferences and university publications. The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project also supports external research into southern ground hornbills by students and other researchers. Wildlife conservation is most effective when everyone works together as a united community.

**Education**

The Mabula Ground Hornbill Project runs education programs aimed at educating rural communities about hornbill conservation. They create age-specific materials translated across multiple local languages to reach as broad an audience as possible.

**PRESENTATIONS AND CURRICULUM**

In 2020, the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project went to 25 different schools to teach classes about ground hornbills, their ecosystem, and wildlife conservation. Presentations were also made at the Bulawayo Museum of Natural History to over 120 people and the staff of Safari Plains and Adventures with Elephants. Presentations conducted at the Shierlik Community helped secure an additional area to release a group of ground hornbills.

**BIRD OF THE YEAR 2020**

Southern ground hornbills were named the Bird of the Year for 2020 by BirdLife South Africa and the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust. The campaign helped generate a greater awareness about the birds and the threats they face. As a result, the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project was able to network with a variety of reporters to broaden their reach and support.

Both southern and Abyssinian ground hornbills are flagship species on the African savanna. They are an indicator to the health of their environment. Ground hornbill territory is so expansive that positive conservation work helps not only the birds, but also other species that share their ecosystem, including threatened species such as cheetahs and wild dogs. All species within an environment interact with each other. Conservation of one species makes a stronger, healthier environment for all. Organizations like the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project play an important role in southern ground hornbill conservation and protecting the greater African savanna.

**Take Conservation Action**

Donate to the Sacramento Zoo's conservation fund.

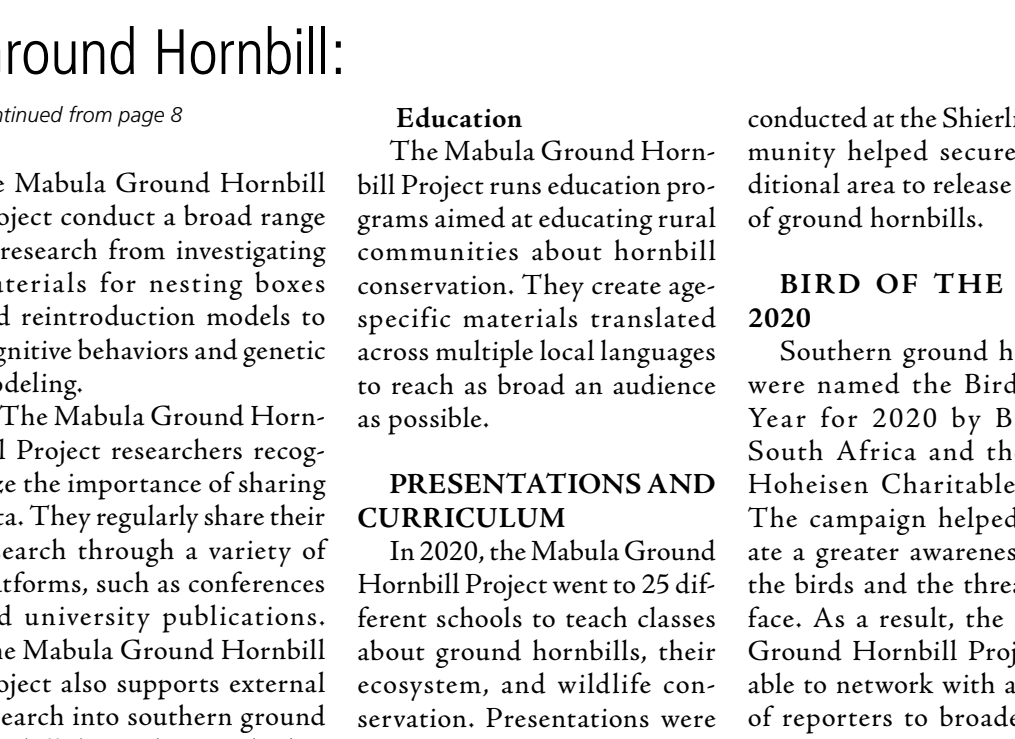
Spend a fun day at the zoo with your family and friends! Every time you visit the Sac Zoo or purchase a membership, you are contributing to wildlife conservation efforts around the globe.

Share the ground hornbills' story with others on social media. Awareness and education are the first steps in working together to make a difference.

Do you live in South Africa or are you going to travel to the area? Be on the lookout for southern ground hornbills and submit your sightings to the Mabula Ground Hornbill Project.

*This was first published on www.saczoo.org/2022/06/mabula-ground-hornbill-project/*

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Gloria and Walter Burt

# Five Artists Receive Gloria Burt Sacramento Region Arts Fellowship

## Fellowship honors the memory of a local force in the arts community

Five area artists have been awarded the Gloria Burt Sacramento Region Arts Fellowship, a joint project of the Sacramento Alliance for Regional Arts (SARA), Blue Line Arts, and the Sacramento Region Community Foundation (Foundation) that honors Gloria Burt, whose advocacy for art invigorated the capital area's creative community until her passing in 2017.

Selected from a competitive cohort of applicants, the five Fellows specialize in a range of disciplines—including performance art, visual arts, electronic media, and literature—and, over the course of the next year, will produce work that bridges public institutions or commerce across the Sacramento region.

"The last few years have challenged local communities in so many different and sometimes divisive ways," said Sheree Meyer, a member of both Blue Line Arts' and SARA's boards of directors who served on the Fellowship selection committee. "The arts can help heal, transform, and reconnect us. Through their art, each of these Fellows gives voice to their own stories and to the stories of others. Their works speak to the past, address concerns we face today, and provide hope for the future."

As part of the Fellowship, each artist will receive a financial award to support the development and implementation of their artwork. The Fellows and the projects they'll pursue are:

- Teresa Forsyth, who will develop and perform "Ghosts of Placer County," a play that employs collaboratively sourced ghost stories to examine local historical events and their present-day echoes, , with Placer Repertory Theater.

See Artists on page 11



Amee Evans Godwin and Melissa Muganzo Murphy



Amee Evans Godwin and Melissa Muganzo Murphy with SARA and Blue Line Arts Board Members 2.

# Artists:

*Continued from page 10*

• Amee Evans Godwin, who will partner with American River Conservancy and Arts and Culture El Dorado to explore the phenomenon of wildfire through visual art and recorded interviews, culminating in a live performance, a six-week exhibition, and an online gallery.

• Jaya King, who will collaborate with youth artists from Wellspring Women's Center to create a large community mural in Sacramento's Oak Park neighborhood.

• Melissa Muganzo Murphy, who will finalize and premiere "The Big Hysto: A Black Womb Revolution," a documentary utilizing visual and performing arts to explore the history of obstetrics and gynecology research and practice in relation to Black and LGBTQ+ communities, contextualizing the current impact that medical racism, sexism, and genderism has on health access and outcomes.

• Omari Tau, who will work with students from Los Rios Community Colleges and other collaborators to film "A Day Light Speed," a micro-opera for soprano and string quartet that explores the relentless demands of families, jobs, and personal needs.

"This Fellowship honors each artist's creative accomplishments and their shared commitments to uplifting their communities," said Linda Beech Cutler, the Foundation's chief executive. "There's no better way to celebrate Gloria Burt than to support artists like this year's Fellows and invest in work like theirs—art that is innovative, inclusive, and inspirational—to help our region recover from the upheaval of the past two years."

Cutler noted that the Fellowship aligns with the Foundation's sustained support of the capital area's creative community. It augments the Foundation's ongoing investments in the regional arts sector, including the funding it directs through its initiative to Transform the Creative Economy. To learn more, visit www.sacregcf.org/arts.







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# Herbert K. Yee, family honored at state railroad museum

**By Lance Armstrong**

Dr. Herbert K. Yee, a former South Land Park resident, dentist and philanthropist who died last year, was recently honored during a special ceremony at the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento.

With many of his family in attendance at the June 17 event, Herbert was recognized for his longtime commitment to the museum.

The ceremony was held as part of the Spike Reception, an event honoring the California State Railroad Museum Foundation's highest level members and donors. The foundation supports and markets the museum and Railtown 1897 State Historic Park in Jamestown.

As part of the ceremony, Dr. Wesley Yee, who is a Sacramento dentist and one of Herbert's sons, accepted a plaque recognizing the contributions that the Herbert K. Yee and Inez F. Yee Foundation made to the museum's "Chinese Railroad Workers' Experience" exhibit. Inez F. Yee was Herbert's wife for 71 years, until her death in 2016.

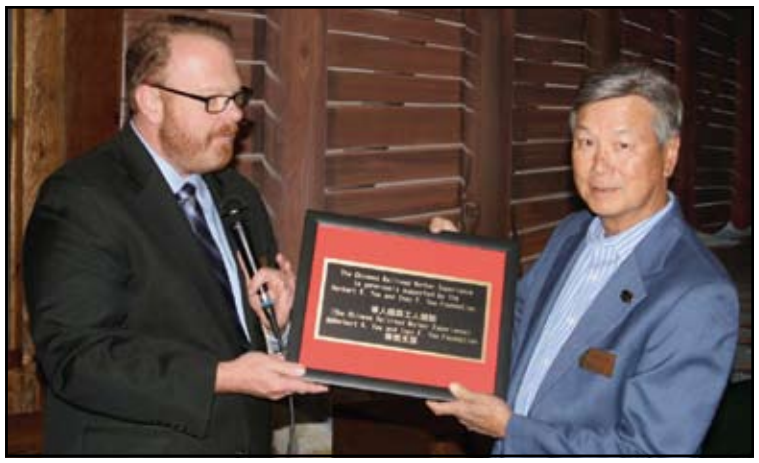
The exhibit, which highlights the Chinese workers who built the western portion of the nation's first transcontinental railroad, includes a mural with a worker that was painted in Herbert's likeness.

Tim Schroepfer, president and CEO of the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, described Herbert as one of the museum's earliest supporters.

"(Herbert) was a passionate supporter of this museum, under-recognized for a lot of years," he said. "We're very happy tonight to celebrate all of his contributions to the museum, all of the time and effort and energy he put in to helping make this museum what it is today.

"We're very lucky to have had him in our midst for as long as we did, and we're very happy to have the family here tonight to celebrate his life and his commitment to this institution."

Schroepfer referred to the Yee family and the Herbert K. Yee and Inez F. Yee Foundation as "one of our best donors."



Photos by Lance Armstrong

Tim Schroepfer, president and CEO of the California State Railroad Museum Foundation, left, presents Dr. Wesley Yee with a plaque recognizing the contributions that the Herbert K. Yee and Inez F. Yee Foundation made to the museum's "Chinese Railroad Workers' Experience" exhibit.



The museum's "Chinese Railroad Workers' Experience" exhibit includes a mural with a worker – shown in the forefront – that was painted in the likeness of former South Land Park resident Dr. Herbert K. Yee.

"They have been one of our most ardent supporters over the years, and tonight was the night to honor them," he said. "You can't miss the Yee family in Sacramento. They are supportive and kind, philanthropic across a broad spectrum of causes here in Sacramento, and we're very lucky to be one of those causes."

Dr. David Yee, who is a urologist in Roseville and one of Herbert's grandsons, mentioned that there are few Spike-level members of the California State Railroad Museum Foundation.

"(Those members) are actually only about 3% of the member population, but they help fund about 25% of the projects for the railroad museum," he said. "So, it's quite an honor to be in the Spike society."

David recognized his grandfather's longtime connection to the railroad museum.

"He was one of the early pioneers who helped bring this museum to fruition, and so, he always had a very fond place in his heart for the railroad museum." He added that his grandfather enjoyed showing off the museum to visitors of Sacramento.

"(Herbert) took a number of dignitaries, including the ambassador from Taiwan, here," David said.

Adding to David's own personal love for the museum is another aspect of railroad history.

"For me, the railroad museum is doubly significant, because I'm actually a descendant of railroad workers from my mom's side (of his family)," he said. "So, my maternal great-great-grandfather, N.Y. Lee, worked on the transcontinental railroad, and then later became a successful California businessman."

Dr. Wesley Yee, who is a Spike-level member of the museum foundation, recalled his father's involvement in Sacramento's 1969 centennial celebration of the completion of America's first transcontinental railroad, and his longtime support of the California State Railroad Museum.

"He was very happy to be involved with the railroad museum, because they also included the

See Yee Honored on page 13




# Yee Honored:

*Continued from page 12*

Chinese history," he said.

California State Controller Betty Yee, who also attended the event, spoke to this publication regarding a variety of topics, including Herbert's commitment to the railroad museum.

"I think his commitment to this (museum) is to be sure that we remember," she said. "I think for so many of the young people here, they're going to remember this experience.

"Just stepping foot into the museum and meeting the descendants of Dr. Herbert K. Yee, I have to say it's just really having a piece of history become a part of you. And you realize just how much struggle there was in so many ways. (It was) a common immigrant story, but in many ways a very unique story about someone who just has so much talent and discipline that played a major part in California history."



Dr. David Yee and California State Controller Betty Yee stand next to a locomotive during the June 17 event at the California State Railroad Museum.

Betty Yee, who is not related to the Herbert K. Yee family, also shared her thoughts on the Chinese workers who helped construct America's first transcontinental railroad.

"This is a legacy that we're very proud of," she said. "Obviously, it came with a painful aspect of our legacy, but also a very hopeful aspect of our legacy. So, to have the railroad be such a prominent part of the state's history, and how our community was an integral part of building that, it's very special."

Franklin, Yee, Herbert's brother and the patriarch of his family, told this paper that he was proud to attend this ceremony honoring his brother.

"That's tremendous," he said. "You know, it's my dear brother. So, I'm really proud that they honored him, because he deserved it. He really devoted a lot of years to the California State Railroad Museum." Franklin mentioned that Herbert was instrumental in bringing more attention to the role that Chinese played in the construction of the western portion of the United States' first transcontinental railroad.



The Yee family and a few others are pictured at the museum on June 17.

"Back in 1969, as Wesley mentioned, they didn't have the Chinese speak (at the railroad completion ceremony in Utah) and so on," he said. "So, Herbert made it a point to have the Chinese recognized. And the (railroad) museum here does recognize it through Herbert's efforts."

Franklin recalled his brother as a very active person in a lot of projects in Sacramento, including the California Museum, which opened as the Golden State Museum in 1998.

"He ended up being (nearly) 97," he said. "Over his lifetime, he (assisted with many major projects in Sacramento and elsewhere)."


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# South Land Park native appointed to state Asian, Pacific Islander commission

**By Lance Armstrong**

Dr. David Yee, a native of South Land Park and a sixth generation Californian, is among the newest commissioners of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs.

He was appointed as a commissioner by Gov. Gavin Newsom, and sworn into that position by State Controller Betty Yee during a ceremony at the state Capitol on April 23.

The mission of this commission is to raise "the political, economic and social issues of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by contributing to and strengthening how state government addresses the needs, issues and concerns of the diverse and complex Asian American and Pacific Islander American communities."

Yee, who is a urologist, spoke to this publication last week about his recent swearing in to this position.

"It's my honor to be a part of this (commission)," he said. "I was very thankful, appreciative and in awe of the moment.

"I felt this commission would be an opportunity to serve in this capacity (with) my interest in this particular field, with my background in medicine, public health and high school and college journalism; that I could really help in this regard.

Attending the ceremony with Yee was his wife, Kathy, and his children, Sarah, Samantha and Henry.

Yee has a history of being active in various circles in the Sacramento área, having worked professionally at Sutter Memorial Hospital in East Sacramento. and attended the Chinese Grace Bible Church in the Pocket área. He was also a member of the now-defunct Southside Improvement Club, and he is a current member of Del Paso Country Club.

He currently serves as a board member of the Yee Fong Toy family association, and he is a member of the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Association.

Yee also serves as a physician mentor and volunteer at the Paul Hom Asian Clinic, and he is on the clinical faculty of both the University of California, Davis School of Medicine and the California Northstate University College of Medicine.

His educational background includes graduating from C.K. McClatchy High School, completing medical school at the University of California, Davis, and earning a master's degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley.



Photos courtesy of Dr. David Yee

South Land Park native Dr. David Yee is sworn in as a commissioner of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs by California State Controller Betty Yee.

In his professional life, Yee serves as the director of the Urology and Genitourinary Oncology Services at Sutter Roseville Medical Center and is a principal investigator of prostate cancer clinical trials at Sutter Health. He additionally serves on multiple medical boards.

Yee was also an advocate for the state's recent three-year, $166.5 million investment in the Asian, Pacific Islander community. Those funds provide resources in response to increases in Asian hate, and address racial inequities in that community.

In helping to emphasize the importance of his new, state position, Yee noted that one in every six Californians are of Asian descent.

Yee highlighted some of the historical contributions made by Asian and Pacific Islander Americans.

"From building the transcontinental railroad, developing farmlands, forming civic infrastructure, and defending our nation, our forefathers have shaped and lived the American dream," he said. "It is our duty to share their stories in our schools and to continue to build on the solid foundation that they have provided."

Yee told this publication that he was appointed to the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs partially based on his interest in Asian, Pacific Islander American history, and his background in volunteerism and other community service.

See Commission on page 17





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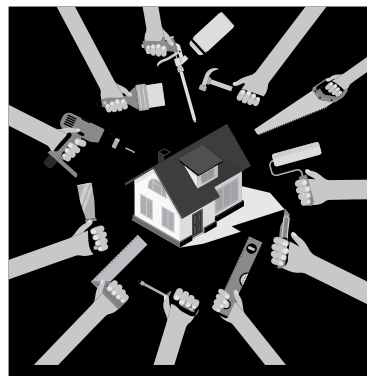
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# Commission:

*Continued from page 14*

For Yee, learning about Chinese history – in particular his family heritage – has been an important part of his life since his childhood.

His mentor for learning about his family's history was his grandfather, Dr. Herbert Yee, who attended Sacramento's schools in his youth and later became a well-known dentist, philanthropist, and historian of his family's history.

"I spent a lot of time with grandpa," Dr. David Yee said. "He always encouraged us to learn about our heritage, to support our heritage," he said. "He took me to Fiddletown, which was kind of fascinating. It's a real time capsule into the mid-19th century."

Yee has a direct connection to Fiddletown, as his great-great-great grandfather, Dr. Yee Fung Cheung, operated his practice and had an herb store there during the Gold Rush.

Herbert, who died last year, graduated as a dental surgeon from Stanford University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1948, and set an example for many of his family members who sought higher education and profesional careers.

Dr. Yee mentioned that the timing of his appointment presented a nice transition into Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, which has been celebrated in the United States each May since 2009.

"May was chosen (for that celebration), because that's when the first-known Japanese immigrant to the U.S. arrived, on May 7, 1843," he said. "It also kind of commemorates the completion of the (first) transcontinental railroad, which was finished on May 10, 1869. Twenty thousand Chinese workers participated in the (construction of) the railroad."

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is additionally special to Yee, considering that this monthlong celebration was inspired by one of his relatives.

"It was actually my Aunt Jeanie on my mom's side," he said. "Her name is Jeanie Jew. (She) was a former Capitol Hill staffer that had experienced the U.S. bicentennial celebration in 1976. She was concerned about the lack of recognition given to Asian, Pacific (Islander) Americans.

"At that time, there was already Black History Month. There was also Spanish Heritage Week. But there was really nothing to commemorate Asian, Pacific Islander contributions to the United States. She worked with her congressman, Frank Horton, and over time they were able to get initially a week (celebration in 1978), and then followed by a month(long celebration)."

Also instrumental in establishing Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was the late Norman Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation.

Moving forward as a commissioner of the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, Yee expressed excitement for his new role.

"As a commissioner, it is my hope to continue my family's long history of service to our state and to advise our elected officials in crafting effective policy addressing the concerns of the state's Asian and Pacific Islander American communities," he said. "I think that's incredibly important."



Dr. David Yee is joined by his family – his wife, Kathy, and his children, Sarah (furthest to the left), Samantha, and Henry – at the California State Capitol on April 23.



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# Sea Scout Ship youth program takes to the sea

An independent program of the Boy Scouts, We are Sea Scout Ship Polaris (2017), operates out of Sacramento and Elk Grove on the water at Georgiana Slough in Isleton.

Chartered by the non-profit Eagles Nest Society has weekly meetings at the Sacramento Elks Lodge located at 6446 Riverside Blvd. Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month with weekend activities held on one or two weekends a month. They are in the process of recruiting a new Crew for youth living in the Discovery Bay area.

Sea Scouts were created by Warington Baden-Powel, older brother of Lord Baden-Powel, in 1910 and was organized as part of the Boy Scouts of America in 1912 with the help of the Secretary of the Navy. For over 110 years Sea Scouting has promoted better citizenship and improved members' boating skills through instruction and practice in water safety, boating skills, social and public service experiences, and knowledge of our maritime heritage.

Water is what makes Sea Scouts unique from other Scouts. Sea Scout units use a variety of boats to experience a world that is distinct from anything ashore including their own language and customs.

In addition to the BSA Scout Oath or Promise and the Scout Law, Sea Scouts seek to keep the Sea Promise:

As a Sea Scout, I promise to do my best:

To guard against water accidents

To know the location and proper use of the lifesaving devices on every boat I board

To be prepared to render aid to those in need



Photo courtesy

Back Row, left to right: Marc Grimm, Skipper – Susan Mihanovich, Committee Chairperson - Oleh Kuzo, Mate – Laurel Grimm, Executive Officer; Front Row, left to right: Chris Grimm, Boatswain – Ksenia Kuzo – Andrew McCarthy – Owen McCarthy – Trevor Hicks, Boatswain's Mate – Isaac McCarthy – Connor Lupton

To seek to preserve the motto of the Sea: Women and Children First which has been modernized to "Let those less able to come first."

The ship's company currently consists of 13 registered youth members (all required to have California Boaters Card CBC); three adult officers Marc E. Grimm, Skipper; Laurel Arellano Grimm, Executive Officer; Oleg Kuzo, Mate; two adult officers in training Aaron Hicks and Teresa Hicks; an advisory committee made up of volunteers and parents of the youth members led by Susan Mihanovich, Chairperson; Bill Heberger, Charter Organization Representative (COR) and Youth Leader Christopher A. Grimm, Boatswain.

Ship Polaris (2017), as is the case with all BSA programs, operates through a Charter agreement with an approved non-profit entity. The Ship's sponsoring entity is the Eagles Nest Society. The head of the Eagles Nest Society is Michael Sullivan. The Society provides insurance as well as technical, financial, and monitoring support to the Ship and holds title to its vessels.

The members of the Eagles Nest Society have over 50 years of combined service with commu-

See Sea Scout on page 19







# Sea Scout:

*Continued from page 18*

nity youth organizations providing sponsorship, trained leaders, and financial support. Its leaders have experience in a wide range of programs from Scouting to science and technology (STEAM).

The leadership and staff have devoted themselves to the advancement of the youth in their care. They always strive to lead by example and to maintain the standards of excellence that parents expect of their children when signing them up with Society hosted groups. Our Charter Organization is always interested in exploring new opportunities to serve youth organizations and is not averse to expanding its scope of operations to include new groups and types of programs.

## Ship Polaris (2017) Vessel Inventory

The Ship's program is conducted on two primary and four secondary vessels that have been surveyed and inspected to ensure their safe operation.

## Our primary vessels are:

A 26' MK V U.S. Coast Guard Motor Surf Boat (S.S.V. Polaris) was built at Coast Guard Yard in 1968. The vessel is powered by a DD 353 engine. The electrical system, engine instruments, pumps, and safety equipment were replaced during winter layups in 2020 and 2021. The vessel passed a USCG Vessel Safety Check on July 243, 2021. This is the primary training vessel for all new youth members working to attain qualification as a Coxswain and as such, it suffers more than its fair share of bumps and scrapes. When under the command of a qualified Coxswain, youth members may operate this vessel without adult supervision except in areas where there are specific local restrictions that would prohibit such. This vessel is maintained on a USCG trailer at South Sacramento, CA, and is moved to various training sites throughout the Discovery.

A 40' United States Navy Admiral's Barge (S.S.V. Shoemaker) was built under government contract by Willard Marine in 1993. The vessel was maintained on a cradle aboard the U. S. Navy aircraft carrier Abraham Lincoln and was last used by Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker. The vessel is powered by a Cummins Marine 6BTA and was repowered in 2013. The vessel was surveyed in May of 2021 and has recently undergone preventive maintenance including the replacement of all fresh and sea water hoses, disassembly and servicing of engine jacket-water cooler, oil cooler, and intercooler, and through-hull valves. S.S.V. Shoemaker provides the Ship with training opportunities on a larger vessel as well as accommodations for longer cruises and overnight stays. At this time, only two adult officers are authorized to operate this vessel, the Skipper, Marc Grimm, and the Eagles Nest Society head, Mike Sullivan. It is the goal of the ship to eventually extend Coxswain training and certification to this vessel. This vessel has been identified as the one that will be berthed at Discovery Bay Marina.

## Secondary Vessels:

Secondary vessels are maintained to afford the Scouts a wider variety of on-the-water experiences and include:

2 14.2' Capri sailboats

26' Tri-toon Deck Boat built in 2007 by Starcraft Marine and powered by a 150 HP OB (Privately owned and insured)

12' Rigid Inflatable tender built by Zodiac and powered by a 15 HP OB

In expanding the program the Sea Scouts remain faithful to the requirements and ideals of the Boy Scouts of America, by providing a program built around marine-related activities designed to develop character and individual skills that will assist our youth in later life.

Sea Scout Ship Polaris and Eagles Nest Society goals of the Sea Scouting program, the Ship and the Society seek the following:

Growth of Sea Scout units and membership through outreach and recruiting of youth and adults in the greater Sacramento, Elk Grove, and Discovery Bay communities

Expanding the variety and scope of experiences available to youth members of the Ship

Promoting recreational boating and career opportunities in the marine industry

Gaining access to professional training and mentoring support of Sea Scout activities in the areas of:

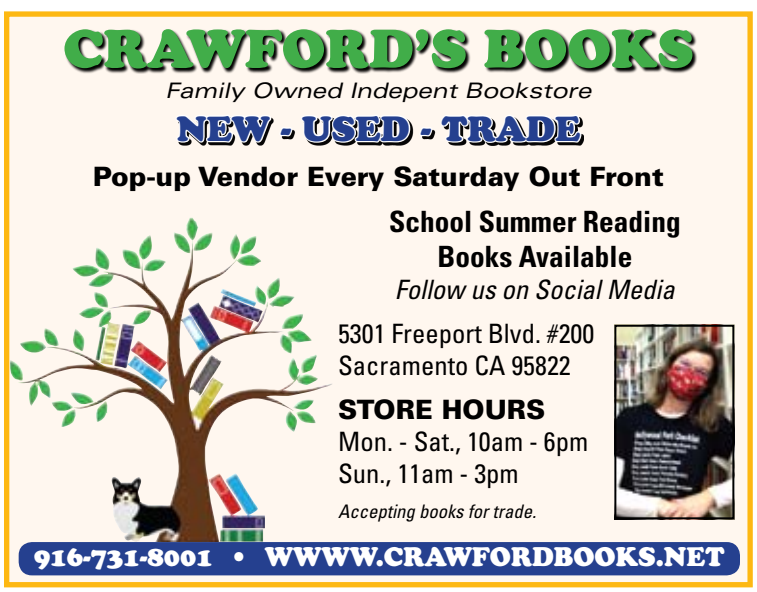
Safety
Operations
Maintenance
Marine careers

Development of a wider base of adult leadership and support for Sea Scouting and similar programs from among members of the recreational and professional boating community; including the recruitment and registration of adult leaders.

Assistance from institutions and individuals with any part of the program that helps to improve safety and lessen the financial burden of maintaining Sea Scouts and similar youth programs.

Sea Scouts are supervised by adults who are registered with Scouts BSA and have completed a program-specific Life Scan background check and a recently mandated State Youth Protection Training course. Additionally, co-educational activities require the presence of an adult female advisor.

Marc E. Grimm is the Skipper Sea Scout Ship Polaris (2017). For more information, call Grimm at 916-206-3132 or by email at megrimm@surwest.net.




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