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LAND PARK NEWS

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Conceptual plans, drawings for proposed Elk Grove zoo unveiled

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Artist conceptual rendering. Final design subject to change

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Upcoming Events

Waterfowl fundraising dinner – This fundraiser for the California Waterfowl Association will be held at Portuguese Hall, 6676 Pocket Road, on Dec. 1.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for games and social hour. Dinner will begin at 7 p.m., followed by a live auction. The event will also include a silent auction and youth program.

For tickets, visit the website, www.CalWaterFowl.org/Tickets.

Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus holiday concerts – "Holiday Hits with a Splash of Sass," a funny, family-friendly concert, will be presented by this group on Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday evenings, Dec. 9, 10, 12 and 13 at Pioneer Congregational United Church of Christ at 2700 L St. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the curtain will go up at 7 p.m.

A matinee show will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 11, with doors opening at 2:30 p.m. and the curtain will be raised at 3 p.m.

General admission tickets are $30 each. VIP-seating tickets are $45. Students with a valid student ID can purchase tickets for just $15.

Tickets are available through the website, www.SacGayMensChorus.org or in person at Rocket Records, 1002 24th St.

Jack Gallagher comedy shows – This local comedian will perform two comedy shows in the Sutter Theater, the big room at The Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave., on Dec. 10. The shows are scheduled for 4 and 7 p.m.

With a 45-year career that includes appearances on "The Tonight Show" with both Johnny Carson and Jay Leno, a role as Larry David's doctor on "Curb Your Enthusiasm," various film roles, and comedic performances on stages across the country, Gallagher will be back onstage with two stand-up shows at The Sofia.

Tickets can be purchased for $30 each through the website, www.bstreettheatre.org.

'Winter Wonderland' at Fairytale Town – Celebrate the holiday season at Fairytale Town with holiday lights, festive décor and vendors, snow, Santa, arts and crafts, and more at Fairytale Town's Winter Wonderland event.

This fun-filled, family celebration is set for four days, Dec. 10-11 and 17-18. Fairytale Town will be open special hours for the event from 1 to 7 p.m.

For more information, call (916) 808-5233 or write to mail. fairytaletown.org.

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LAND PARK NEWS
WWW.VALCOMNEWS.COM

Email stories and photos to: vcneditor@gmail.com
Editorial questions: (916) 267-8992

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.

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Cover by: Courtesy of city of Elk Grove

'Please adopt me'

Ken the dog seeks new home



"Hi! I'm Ken, and I'm a high-energy pup who is ready for adventure. The Front Street Animal Shelter at 2127 Front St. thinks I'm about 3 years old. I'd love to find a home with someone who is familiar with the Belgian Malinois breed and knows how much mental stimulation we need. Give me a job to do and I'll be living my best life! I came in with another dog (Barbie), so I'd likely do well with other dogs with a proper introduction. However, I'd be best in a home with no small animals. To meet me, make sure I'm still available at www.FrontStreetShelter.org, then ask for me at the shelter from noon to 5 p.m. seven days a week."

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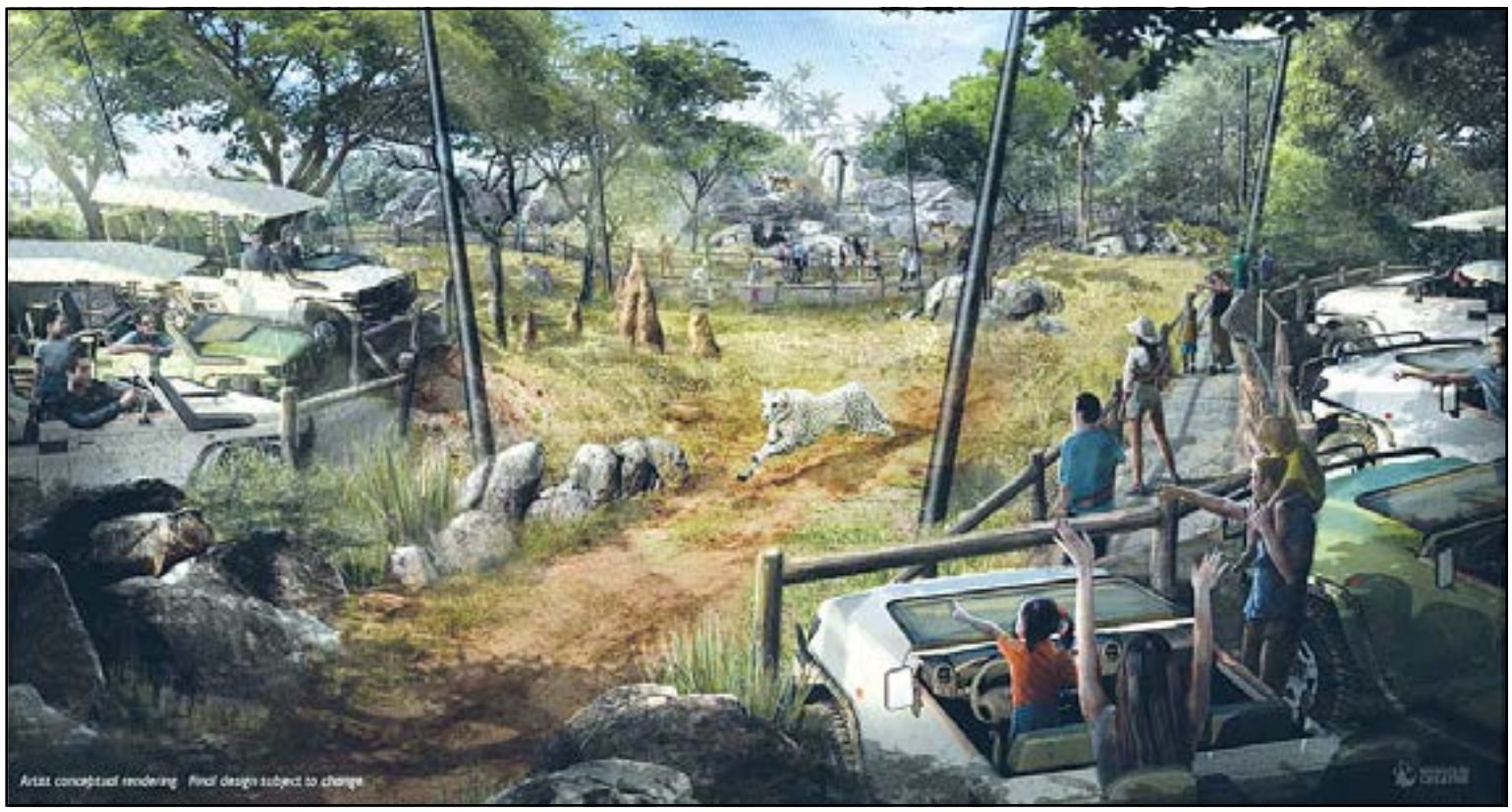
Your Neighborhood Specialist



Conceptual plans, drawings for proposed Elk Grove zoo unveiled

Facility would replace current zoo in William Land Park

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com



Photos courtesy of city of Elk Grove

An artist conceptual rendering depicts how zoo visitors could be able to view wildlife in an environment similar to their natural habitat.

The Sacramento Zoological Society (SZS) and the city of Elk Grove on Nov. 17 released conceptual plans and drawings for the proposed zoo in Elk Grove.

Earlier this year, these parties completed a six-month feasibility study that identified a potential relocation of the Sacramento Zoo to Elk Grove as a viable option.

If built, the new, regional zoo would be located on city of Elk Grove-owned property off Highway 99 at the northwest corner of Kammerer Road and Lotz Parkway.

That land was purchased by the city of Elk Grove for $9 million last February. The property totals 100 acres, of which about 70 acres is proposed for the zoo – about 60 acres for animal habitat and 10 acres for parking.

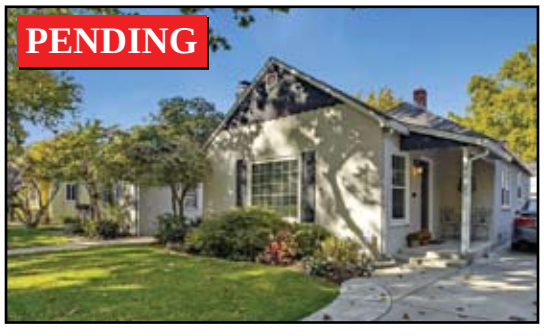
The zoo's current site in William Land Park totals 14.7 acres. This facility is home to more than 400 animals.

Prepared by SHR Studios and Mangolin Creative, the recently unveiled drawings reveal a state-of-the-art, modern zoo, featuring expansive savannas where African wildlife

See ZOO on page 4



Sue Olson
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landparkhomes.com



LAND PARK

Adorable Land Park home with Art Deco features. Living room features a lovely fireplace with Deco design, wood floors, large picture window and two additional windows that allow light to filter into the spacious room. Open archway to formal dining room with double windows and wood floors. Kitchen has white tiled counters with blue tile accents, dishwasher, stove, refrigerator and breakfast area. Laundry area is behind louvered doors. Spacious bedrooms, wood floors and ceiling fans. Many dual paned windows throughout and central heat and air. Landscaped front yard and covered porch entry. Backyard has a larger patio for outdoor dining. Separate detached garage. One-and one-half blocks distance to Chocolate Fish, Marie's Donuts, Freeport Bakery, Taylors Market and Transportation. Don't miss this Cutie! 1765 Vallejo Way $668,500



LAND PARK

Charming two-bedroom Tudor in the heart of Land Park. This adorable home features many original built-ins like entry with leaded glass window in front door, formal living room with decorative ceiling, fireplace, mantel and hardwood floors. Formal dining room opens to a spacious kitchen with engineered floors that look like slate, granite counter tops, tile backsplash, stainless appliances and classic white cabinets. Original built-in hutch with leaded glass cabinet doors in breakfast room. Hall bath has original tile, pedestal sink and shower over tub. Inside laundry room with door to yard. Wood floors in both bedrooms, wall sconces and lots of windows. Partial basement is currently set up as an extra bedroom. Backyard is an Entertainers Dream! Several dining areas and a large mural on back of garage. Built-in BBQ, brick, crushed granite and flagstone add to the landscape, including two fountains. Don't miss this one! 1620 4th Avenue $739,000



Teresa Olson
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Zoo:

Continued from page 3

will roam, and guests will be immersed in the animals' surroundings.

Sacramento Zoo Executive Director/CEO Jason Jacobs noted that the most exciting aspect about the proposed, multi-phased zoo's conceptual renderings are their depictions of the interactions between the animals and people.

"An incredible zoo doesn't just take care of animals; it also takes good care of people," he said. "We want this new zoo to be one of the best in the United States and something that Elk Grove and the entire region can really be proud of."

Included in the drawings are a variety of possible options for guests of the zoo to obtain close views of such animals as a white rhinoceros and a Masai giraffe.

Visitors could also have the opportunity to feed a hippopotamus or spend a night at the zoo in a luxury tent-cabin with views of a hippopotamus lake.

Elk Grove City Manager Jason Behrmann shared his thoughts about the conceptual drawings.



Zoo guests could have the opportunity to spend a night in one of the proposed zoo's luxury tent-cabins, which could have views of a hippopotamus lake.

"The renderings really help show the vision and the possibilities for this project and what it could bring to our region, but there is a lot of work that needs to be done," he said. "The renderings help us to better understand the costs and how we might be able to construct the zoo in phases. But it also presents an opportunity to start a dialogue with other sources for funding and collaboration."

Behrman mentioned that much effort went into determining what options would be presented in the conceptual drawings.

"(There were) a lot of meetings, a lot of discussion of understanding what makes for a successful zoo – habits for animals with priorities, animal care, conservation, what will make a great experience for visitors to the zoo," he said. "It's a very in-depth process."

Behrmann shared what he likes about the conceptual plans for the zoo.

"There's a lot to it," he said. "I love the natural aspects of the habitats. So, trying to create natural environments for the species, the animals, that mirrors as closely as we can their habitat from where they're from.

"So, if you look at the savanna or the African highlands in Ethiopia, where the gelada monkeys (live) – just that creating (of) space that people can almost be transported to those places from far across the globe."

Regarding the timeline for this proposed project, Behrmann noted that in a best-case scenario, the construction of a zoo in Elk Grove would begin in 2025, and the facility would be completed and opened in 2027.

However, Behrmann mentioned that it is important for people to understand that this project is still "very much in the conceptual phase."

"We're not going to build exactly what you see in these drawings," he said. "Part of the process is to put (these renderings) out there, and then continue to get community feedback and input. As we go through subsequent phases, it's going to be fine-tuned and modified. There are going to be some animals that will change; added, (taken) out."

SZS Board President Elizabeth Stallard stressed that extensive community support will be needed in the efforts to have a new zoo constructed.

"We hope that the release of these incredible images will inspire and motivate individuals and entities to want to be a part of creating this incredible new zoo," she said.

Efforts to find a new site for the zoo have been extensive.

The zoo board unanimously voted in the spring of 2019 to have the zoo relocated from its current site to a 50- to 60-acre site in time for a grand opening during its centennial in 2027.

See ZOO on page 9

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Fairytale Town dedicates new Story Center

By Kevin Smith-Fagan
Fairytale Town
Executive Director

For more than 60 years, Fairytale Town has brought joy to families in Sacramento. This week, its first new building since 1959 was dedicated and opened its doors to an enthusiastic and anxious crowd.

There is a new jewel in William Land Park – the just-unveiled Story Center building at Fairytale Town.

At a grand opening ceremony on Saturday morning, Nov. 12, dozens of kids and community members got a first look inside the enchanted cottage that now resides within the magical realm of Fairytale Town.

"It's a wonderful day for the children and families of Sacramento," proclaimed Fairytale Town executive director Kevin Smith-Fagan. "In this space, kids will grow in creative thinking – which is the foundation of problem solving and is crucial for success in life."

The purpose of the Story Center, he explained, is to inspire children to become authors – writing, illustrating, and even acting out their own original ideas in the Story Center. The building will also feature a reading corner that will advance early literacy and will offer children's literature in multiple languages.

The ribbon-cutting duties were handled jointly by a cadre of eager children in a happily chaotic countdown. Kids were encouraged to take home segments of the velvety red ribbon as a souvenir.

To launch it with a splash, the Story Center is hosting a dinosaur exhibit that wowed the kids who attended the kickoff event.

See FAIRYTALE TOWN on page 6



Photos by George Young

Fairytale Town's new Story Center building was dedicated on Nov. 12.



Fairytale Town:

Continued from page 5

The exhibit, which runs through December, features nearly a dozen hands-on activities where kids can have fun while learning about the fascinating era when dinosaurs roamed the planet.

Saturday's event featured local paleontology professional Breahna Fogg presenting true dinosaur fossils, "Jurassic Park"-themed activities, a park scavenger hunt, mask decorating, and more.

While the Story Center adds new attractions to the Fairytale Town experience, it's included in the park's standard ticket price.

On days when the weather makes it tough to stay long outside, parents will appreciate this new indoor space where the family can gain respite while still enjoying great kid activities.

Smith-Fagan mentioned that a key priority for Fairytale Town is to continue growing in inclusivity, and that the Story Center will feature programming that is multicultural and welcoming of children of all backgrounds.

"We want every family who visits to feel welcomed, and it's critical that kids see their own heritage reflected at Fairytale Town," he said.

Land Parkers passing by Fairytale Town have observed the construction of the Story Center for the past 13 months. The building was designed by Land Park resident Tim Mattheis, an architect with WMB Architects. Otto Construction, which built the original Fairytale Town castle in 1959 and which has long family roots in Land Park, was the builder for the Story Center and adjacent outdoor classroom.

"Hundreds of school field trips come to Fairytale Town, and the outdoor classroom will make it much quicker and easier to organize their visits," Smith-Fagan said. "Animal intros, story time and other performances will also take place on the stage of the outdoor classroom."

One key benefit to the Land Park community is the new meeting room in the Story Center, which will host Land Park Community Association gatherings and other community events. Until the arrival of the Story Center, the Land Park neighborhoods did not have a true community center.

Once the dino exhibit concludes its two-month run, the Story Center will be outfitted with original furnishings designed specially for the space by Gioia Fonda, an acclaimed Sacramento artist and professor at Sacramento City College.

Funding for the Story Center and outdoor classroom came from several sources, notably a $1.8 million state grant advocated by state Sen. Dr. Richard Pan and state Assembly Member Kevin McCarty. The city supported the initiative with a $600,000 grant.

Donations from individual

See FAIRYTALE TOWN on page 7



A crowd attends the grand opening of the Story Center building at Fairytale Town.



Children attend a story time gathering near the new Story Center building.



Fairytale Town:

Continued from page 6

donors provided the cornerstone for Fairytale Town's expansion effort: A vision which also includes a forthcoming new Welcome Center that will provide the park with much-needed restrooms for guests, a streamlined entry portal, while retaining the iconic Humpty archway, proper offices for staff who work in cramped and outdated spaces, a retail shop – and even a village clock tower.

Want to visit? Though the park generally admits adults only when accompanied by children, Smith-Fagan is planning a community tour that will enable curious Land Park residents to check out the Story Center. Kris Rogers of the Land Park Community Association is a collaborator in setting up that tour.

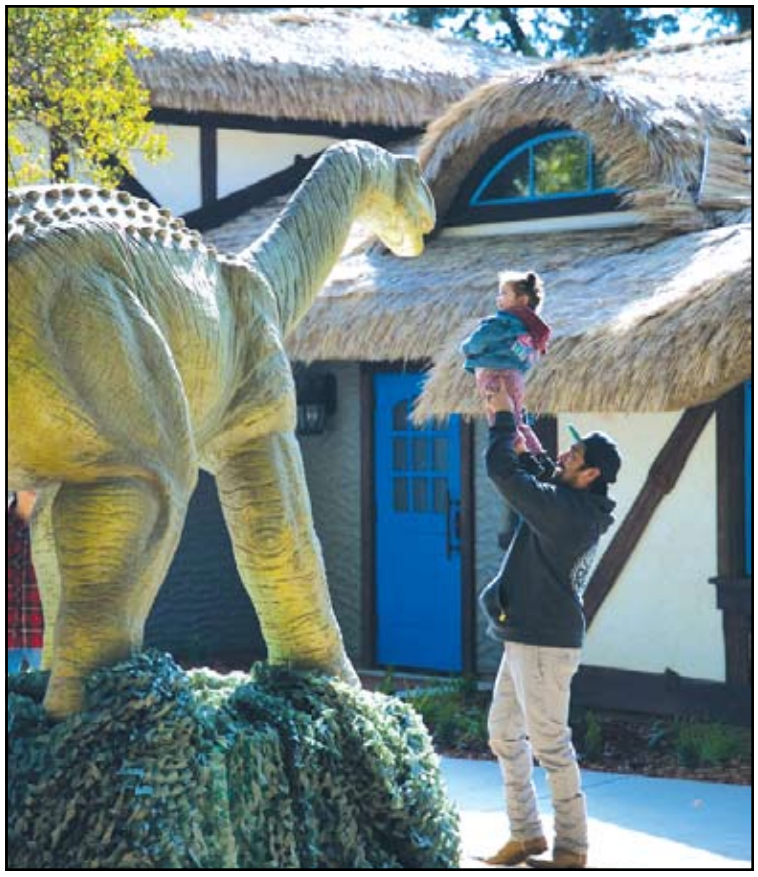
For more information about touring the Story Center, contact Smith-Fagan at ksmithfagan@fairytaletown.org or (916) 808-7060.

Fairytale Town, 3109 Land Park Drive, is open Thursdays through Sundays, weather permitting, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

General Admission for adults and children, ages 2 to 12, is $7 on weekdays and $8 on weekends.

Admission is free for Fairytale Town members and children, 1 and younger.

For more information, visit the website, www.FairytaleTown.org.



A child is introduced to a new friend at the dinosaur exhibit at Fairytale Town.

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Christmas play at Sacramento First Christian Church – Looking for something different this Christmas season? Have you ever experienced a church Christmas play? The play will take the place of this church's usual sermon on Dec. 11, during the 10:30 a.m. service.

The event will be held at the First Christian Church at 3901 Folsom Blvd. in Sacramento.

Admission is free and parking might be limited on that day, so people are encouraged to arrive early.

For additional information, visit the website, www.fccsacramento.com.

Holiday concert – Pioneer Congregational United Church of Christ, 2700 L St., will present "A Festival of Lessons and Carols," featuring The Capital Chorale on Friday, Dec. 16 at 7 p.m.

Christmas music by Mozart, Stanford and John Rutter will be interspersed with familiar carols.

There is a suggested donation of $20, and there will be free underground parking at Capitol Avenue, between 27th and 28th streets.

For more information, call (916) 443-4327.

Holiday ballets – Sac Civic Ballet Company and Deane Dance Center will present two holiday, one-act ballets, "Christmas Angels," and a narrated version of "The Nutcracker" on Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m.

Tickets for these shows are $20 for adults and $15 for children, students and seniors. They can be purchased at the door or through the website, www.DeaneDanceCenter.com.

For additional information, call (916) 453-0226.

CBS Neighborhood Concert Series – Congregation Beth Shalom is offering concerts for all ages. Michael Neumann, artistic director emeritus of the Sacramento Youth Symphony and music director emeritus of the Folsom Lake Symphony is the host of this series.

Come and see world-class musicians perform live works from Mozart, Philip Glass, opera and Broadway.

Neumann will be facilitating a question-and-answer session after each performance, and a reception will be held after the performances with refreshments.

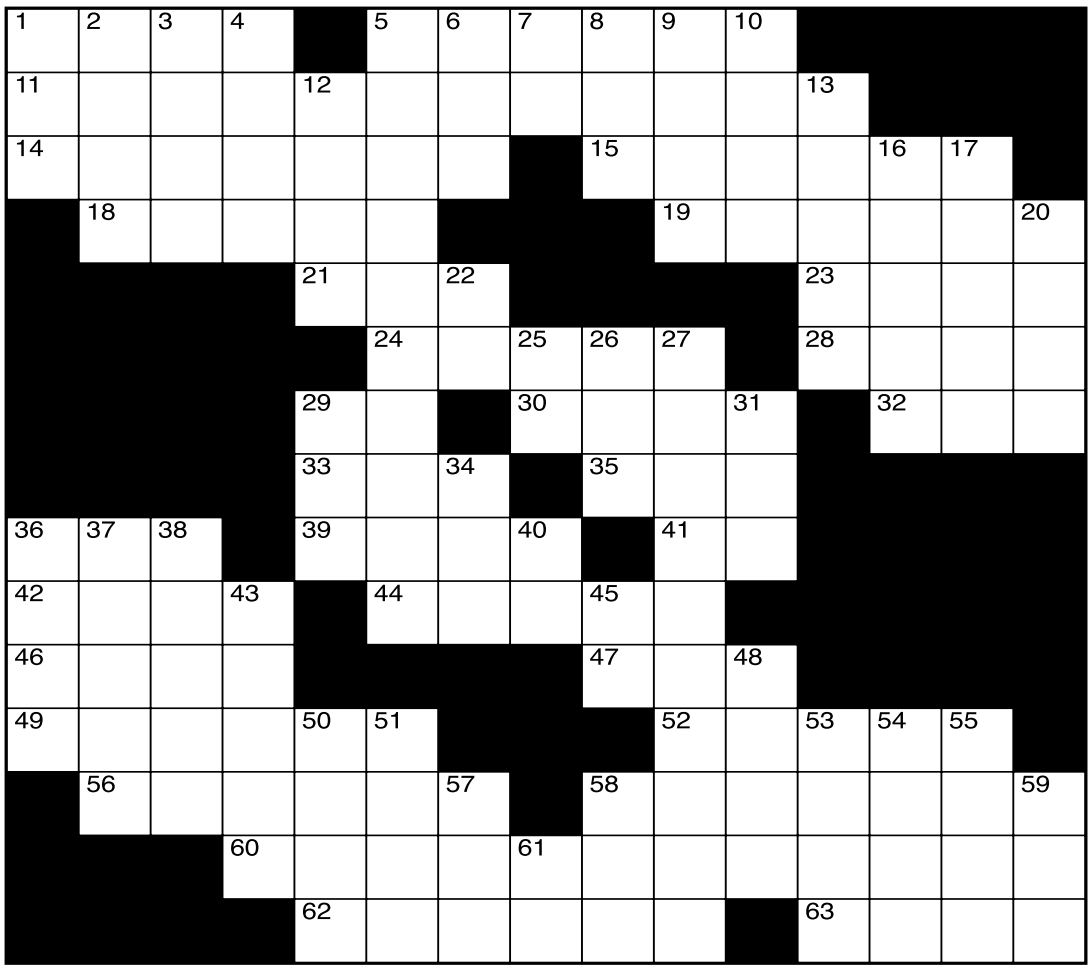
The event will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom at 4746 El Camino Ave. in Carmichael on Jan. 8 and March 12, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Ticket prices are $18 for families, $10 for adults and $5 for students.

Tickets can be purchased through the website, www.cbshalom.org.

For more information, call (916) 485-4478 or write to the email address, lorinalangan@yahoo.com.

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14. Glazed ceramic ware
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19. More greasy
21. Upper-class young woman
23. Light beige
24. Belief in a supreme being
28. Indigenous people of Scandinavia
29. A beloved princess
30. Transfer property
32. Field force unit
33. Automated teller
35. When you hope to get there
36. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
39. Politicians Fischer and Conroy are two
41. Blood type
42. Stringed instrument
44. Curses
46. Barbary sheep
47. Belonging to a thing
49. Supporters
52. Leaf-footed bug
56. A shower of water
58. Attribute to
60. Intermittent
62. Soda waters
63. Scottish island

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3. Expel saliva
4. The extended location of something
5. Certified
6. Cease to exist
7. Powerful legal pro
8. The OJ trial judge
9. Popular greeting
10. "90210" actress Spelling
12. __ Blyton, children's author
13. "This Is Us" star Fitch
16. Battery cell with a nickel alode
17. Full of bacteria
20. Remains of an old building
22. Exist
25. It gets you into places
26. Witness
27. The spreading of a disease to another part of the body
29. Father
31. Touch gently
34. Licensed for Wall Street
36. Herring-like fish
37. Lute used in N. Indian music
38. Mirabel shouldn't talk about him
40. Atomic #62
43. Religious
45. Silvery-white metal (abbr.)
48. Influential civil rights organization
50. Acknowledgment (abbr.)
51. Turn away
53. Kidney disease (abbr.)
54. Smooth-feeling fabric
55. Competently
57. Sea eagle
58. General's assistant (abbr.)
59. It helps you see
61. Emerging technology

Zoo:

Continued from page 4

In September 2021, following unsuccessful efforts to find a suitable new site for the zoo in Sacramento, the city of Elk Grove and the Sacramento Zoological Society entered into an exclusive negotiating agreement to evaluate the creation of a new, modern zoological park in Elk Grove.

Since that time, the feasibility study and economic impact analysis was completed, and arrangements were made for SHR Studios to create the proposed zoo's conceptual plan.

Future steps in the process to potentially relocate and expand the zoo in Elk Grove includes developing a schematic design and financing plan, and completing an environmental impact review.

The proposed Elk Grove zoo project could be presented to the Elk Grove City Council for their consideration as early as the latter part of next year.

To view the conceptual drawings and learn more about this project, visit the website, www.SacZoo.org.



The proposed Elk Grove zoo would include opportunities to view a variety of birds.

Sacramento Zoo to receive white rhino

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

Sacramento Zoo Executive Director/CEO Jason Jacobs last week spoke about the zoo's plans to acquire a southern white rhinoceros.

Jacobs mentioned that this animal could potentially be living in Elk Grove, if the proposed relocation and expansion of the zoo in that city becomes a reality. That zoo could open as early as 2027.

"Obviously, it takes several years to assemble animals for the potential of a new zoo, and one of the species we're looking at is (the) white rhinoceros," he said.

Jacobs noted that there is no set date for the arrival of the rhino, but that it would be acquired "sometime in 2023."

He added that the animal will become the first rhino resident in the history of the Sacramento Zoo.

In preparation for the rhino exhibit, the zoo is converting a habitat that formerly held its bongo antelope exhibit within the southern portion of the zoo.



Photo by Jason Jacobs

When the Sacramento Zoo receives its southern white rhino, it will mark the first time in the zoo's 95-year history that it will be home to a rhinoceros.

Jacobs mentioned that it is not yet known where the rhino will come from, but he assured that it would be acquired from an Association of Zoos and Aquariums accredited zoo.

The zoo staff is anticipating the future arrival of the zoo's first rhinoceros with much excitement, Jacobs noted.

"We're really excited, because it provides a story to tell," he said. "It's a preview of sorts for the new zoo, because we are looking at grassland animals for the first phase.

"People are going to be very excited to see a rhinoceros and learn about it, and more importantly, we will engage our public to take action to help animals at this rhinoceros habitat. And more information regarding those actions will be coming in 2023."

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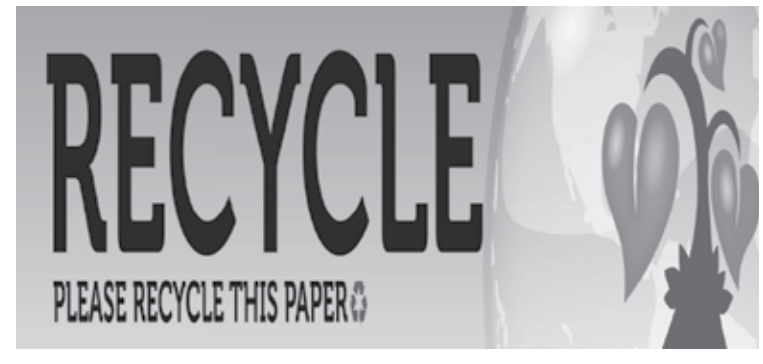
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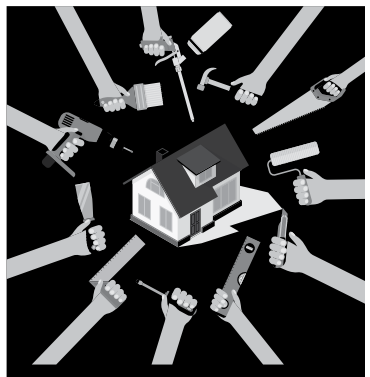
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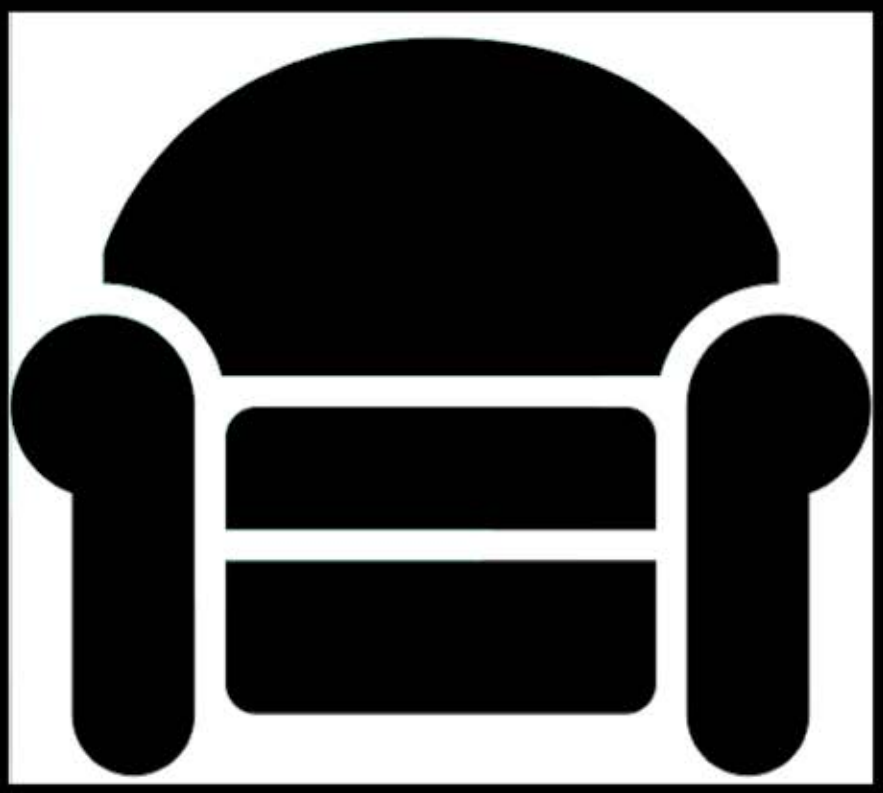
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