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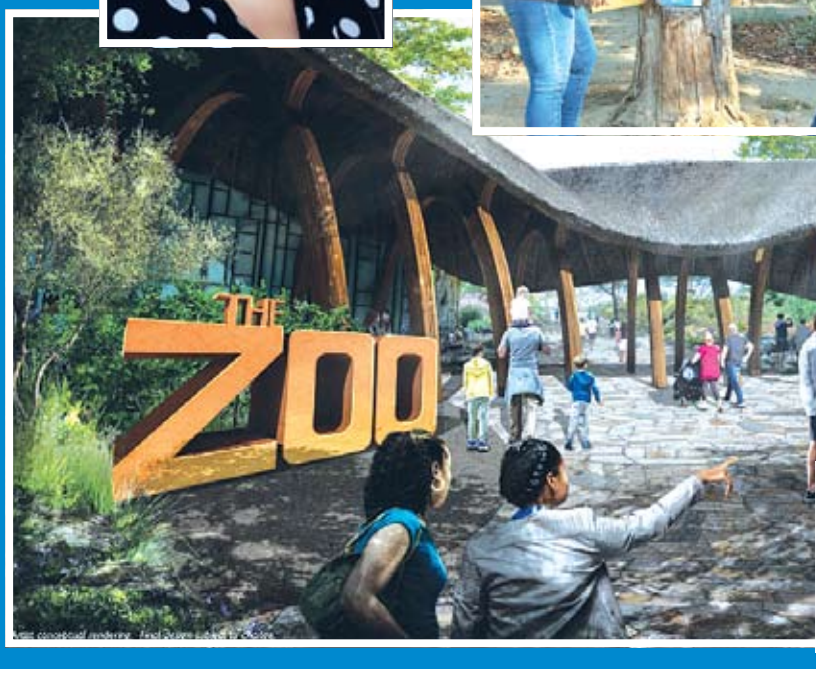
2022 Year in Review











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YEAR IN REVIEW

Conceptual plans, drawings for proposed Elk Grove zoo unveiled

Zoo would replace current zoo in William Land Park

By Lance Armstrong

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.



Photos courtesy of city of Elk Grove

This image is among the recently released artist conceptual renderings for the proposed Elk Grove zoo.

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 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.

"The renderings really help show the vision and the possibilities for this project and what it could bring to our region, but

See ZOO on page 3

LAND PARK NEWS
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YEAR IN REVIEW

Zoo:

Continued from page 2

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.



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

"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.

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.

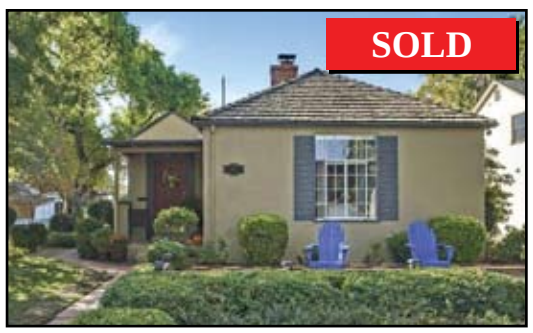


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LAND PARK

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



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YEAR IN REVIEW

Family, friends celebrate life of former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin

By Lance Armstrong

A large crowd, on May 6, gathered in William Land Park to pay tribute to former Sacramento Mayor Anne Rudin.

Rudin, a Philadelphia native who was a resident of South Land Park for more than six decades, died from complications of pneumonia at the age of 97 on Nov. 25, 2021. Her celebration of life had been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rudin was only the third woman to serve on the Sacramento City Council, beginning her 21 years of service in that role in 1971.

A mother of four children, Rudin met her husband, Dr. Edward Rudin, while attending Temple University as a medical student. Edward, who later spent 45 years working as a child psychiatrist in Sacramento, died at the age of 80 in 2003. The couple moved to California in 1948, settled in Sacramento a decade later, and had several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rudin, whose father was an immigrant from Sicily and whose mother also had Sicilian roots, would also spend time working in the medical field, as a registered nurse.

In an interview with this paper in 2018, Rudin noted that she had no interest in holding a political position.

"I had no interest in politics," she said. "I was a nurse. I never expected to get into the political field. I was persuaded (by the Citizens for Better Government) to run for the City Council. It took me six weeks to make the decision."



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Sacramento resident Jay Rudin is shown behind a sign for the Anne Rudin Peace Pond, which was named in his mother's honor. In his hands are framed recognition certificates honoring his mother's lifetime of service.

Prior to her service on the City Council, Rudin joined the League of Women Voters in 1957, served as president of its Sacramento Chapter from 1961 to 1963, and president of the California League of Women Voters from 1969 to 1971.

Rudin, who was elected as the District 4 representative in Sacramento's first district-based City Council election on Nov. 2, 1971, established herself as a community activist, preservationist and women's rights advocate.

Rudin served as the city's mayor from 1983 to 1992.

Her first election as mayor was historic, as it marked the first time that a woman was elected as the city's mayor by the people of Sacramento.

In her 2018 interview with this paper, Rudin referred to becoming the city's mayor as "the highlight of my life."

See RUDIN on page 12

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Motorcycle club spreads stuttering awareness through Nina's Ride

By Joe Perfecto

On Saturday morning, Oct. 15, some rather uncommon delivery vehicles rumbled through a number of Sacramento area neighborhoods, bearing cargo bound for some equally uncommon destinations. Instead of scores of lumbering, parcel-packed, brown-and-gold or white-purple-and-orange panel trucks one typically sees, they were just three in number – a Harley-Davidson and two BMW motorcycles, their saddlebags laden with books.

The trio went "kickstands up" at about 9:30 a.m. from the clubhouse of the Capital City Motorcycle Club on 13th Street, near X Street, thus launching the inaugural running of Nina's Ride, brainchild of club member Joseph de Leon. These bookmobiles covered about 100 miles, dropping off copies of two specific titles at 15 Little Free Library book-sharing boxes across the greater Sacramento area.

Little Free Library boxes are public bookcases of various shapes and sizes, often post-mounted and commonly situated within easy view of a street, that operate on a take-a-book, leave-a-book system.

According to the St. Paul, Minnesota, nonprofit organization that shepherds the network, more than 150,000 sites exist in more than 100 countries.

Greater Sacramento hosts roughly 100 sites, with close to half of those in the Land Park and Pocket-Greenhaven areas.

The impetus for the book delivery event was provided by Sand Francisco Bay Area comedian, author and public speaker, Nina G, who has attained much success despite being a stutterer.

"Earlier this year, I went to a comedy show and Nina was one of the comedians, and after her show she was selling a couple of her books," de Leon said. "One is a memoir, which talks about her experience as a stuttering woman who experienced stigma and all kinds of other barriers to being a come-

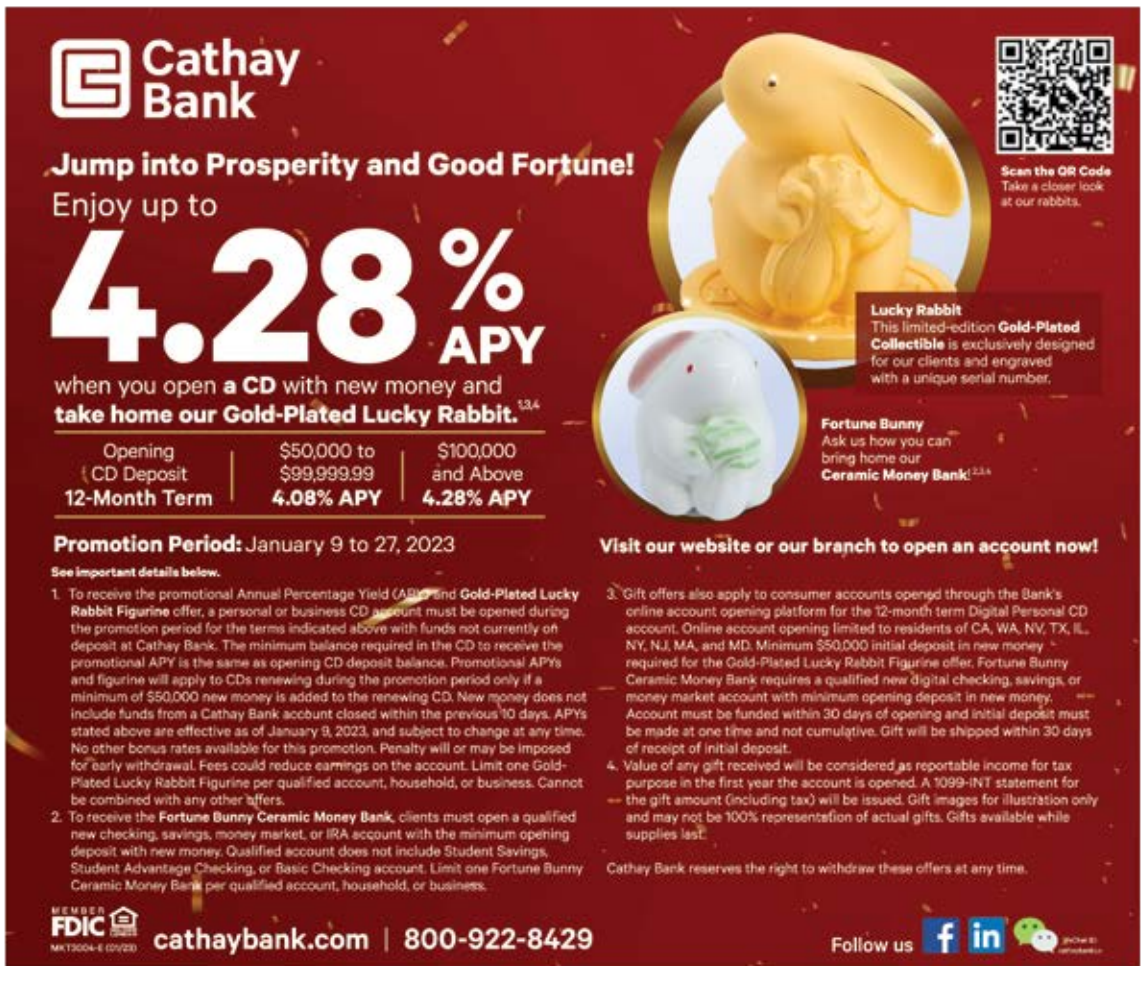
See NINA'S RIDE on page 6



Photo by Joe Perfecto

Comedian/author Nina G autographs a book to be sent out on Nina's Ride.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Nina's Ride:

Continued from page 5

dian. I read that book and was super inspired."

As de Leon had a history of donating his old books to Little Free Libraries, he thought it would be good if all the Sacramento locations had a copy of Nina G's memoir.

"I bought 20 of her books, and I thought I could get them to 20 different libraries around town to get the word out – we could spread awareness about stuttering," he said. "(Then) I learned that Nina also wrote a children's book on disability accommodations, and I bought 20 of those."

When de Leon visited the Little Free Library website, www.LittleFreeLibrary.org, he found that of the 100 or so local sites, about 60 listed email addresses. He sent messages to all of them, but only 17 replied, and two of them were impractically distant from the others. Half of the 15 finalists were clustered in Land Park and East Sacramento, with the remainder in Rancho Cordova, Antelope, Roseville, Wilton, Sloughhouse and West Sacramento.

The books by Nina G that de Leon and crew delivered just in time for International Stuttering Awareness Day (Oct. 22) are "Stutterer Interrupted: The Comedian Who Almost Didn't Happen" and "Once Upon An Accommodation: A Book About Learning Disabilities."

Stuttering, an incurable but often manageable condition, affects about one in 100 people around the world, and about 3 million in the United States. Affected males outnumber females three to one. Those having the condition frequently experience discrimination in both their professional and private lives. It is this issue that "Stutterer Interrupted" discusses, and why de Leon chose to share it via Little Free Library boxes.

"What a Little Free Library does is it amplifies a local voice," de Leon said. "When you take (a book) to your little library, then your neighbors can read that same story and maybe have the same experience. I love the idea of (book) sharing. It's a way to connect with the community."

After the ride, de Leon reported that the deliveries went well.

"We received a warm welcome from several little libraries – a couple even gave us snacks," he said. "We definitely plan to do it again next year."

For stuttering-related information and resources, consider visiting the National Stuttering Association's website, www.WeStutter.org, write to the email address, info@westutter.org, or call (800) 937-8888.



Photo courtesy of Judy Burrell

Harper, a female Maine coon cat, was lost in the Land Park area on Dec. 27.

Lost Maine coon cat

Land Park resident Judy Burrell is seeking her lost cat, Harper.

This female Maine coon feline is 3 years old, weighs 13 pounds and has a brown tabby color.

Harper was discovered lost on Dec. 27 at 14th Street and 2nd Avenue, a short distance from the Land Park News office at Markham Way and Land Park Drive.

Burrell told the Land Park News that if someone sees Harper "she will likely come to them for food."

She added that Harper has a very sweet personality and is a little skittery.

Anyone with information about this lost cat can reach Burrell by calling (949) 636-2694 or by sending a message to the email address, rosethburrell@gmail.com.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Introducing our new publisher: Bonnie Rodriguez

By Monica Stark

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

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

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

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

The new publisher said she will strive to uphold the Herburger legacy.

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

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

"It's absolutely inviting and wonderful to work for," Rodriguez said, making that work environment a priority in her new position to retain.

"I want to keep that," she said. "I want the whole company to feel like family. It's the greatest thing the Herburgers did. Happy employees are productive employees."

After COVID-19 first hit in March 2020, the entire staff at Herburger Publications took a pay cut, and the financial times just didn't seem to improve.

"I know it just gutted (Herburger)," she said. "He loves his employees. He knew it was going to be horrible."

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

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

"He looked up at me, and said, 'Shut the door.' I thought I got myself fired," she said.

But instead, he offered The Galt Herald as a package deal with all of its sister papers, as well as the printing press operations and outside jobs, she said.

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

Time passed and there were months when the issue wasn't discussed, but whenever it was, mutual interest was shared. She helped clear a warehouse on the press's property in Galt and fill it with a tenant. Herburger put her in front of the operations for more than a year.

Rodriguez says that probably the most daunting part of taking this leadership role is filling the difficult-to-fill Herburger shoes.

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

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YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo by Joe Perfecto

South Land Park Neighborhood Association board member Brian Ebbert recounts the years of work involved in making the Del Rio Trail a reality.

Ground broken for future Del Rio Trail

By Joe Perfecto

Big changes are coming for a stretch of century-old railroad track that runs through several neighborhoods south of the grid in the form of the Del Rio Trail, a nearly 5-mile-long multi-use trail that will connect with other transportation infrastructure and feature structural improvements, including landscaping, public artwork and other amenities.

Details of this $23 million project were discussed at a Nov. 17 groundbreaking ceremony held at 35th Avenue and Park Village Street in South Land Park.

The project, which will become the longest trail the city has built in the last 25 years, is the result of a nearly decade-long, grassroots effort on the part of citizens who waged an uphill battle against the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

The long-retired line at the center of the controversy hearkens back to the days when railways were Sacramento's lifeblood, serving as a vital mode of transportation for cargo and citizens alike.

Freight trains brought produce from the fertile Delta farmland and carried locally produced goods to other parts of the state and beyond. Local commuter lines ferried residents around town via a network of tracks that crisscrossed the city's environs.

But as the 20th century waned, so too did the role of the railroad in the area. The arrival of the age of the automobile brought sweeping changes to the landscape of transport and the local small rail companies disappeared, their railways abandoned and left to decay.

That stretch of track, which from roughly 1910 to the mid-1970s served as Sacramento Southern Railroad's Walnut Grove Branch Line, is nestled in the corridor between Interstate 5 and Freeport Boulevard.

Not long after Sacramento Southern ceased operating on the line, the Sacramento Regional Transit District considered it for possible light rail use, but chose other routing.

Then a decade ago, it looked as if, after some 40 years of disuse, it would soon be carrying rolling stock once again, because

See DEL RIO on page 9

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Del Rio:

Continued from page 8

Caltrans sought to put it back into service. And for all intents and purposes, by mid-2013, that was practically a done deal – it having met no resistance from residents of the neighborhoods, the rail line traversed. Few, if any, likely were aware of it as Caltrans didn't solicit their input.

What brought the matter to light was a conversation between South Land Park resident Brian Ebbert and a Caltrans staffer who mentioned that after years of planning, the final environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposal to reactivate the old line was about to be approved. The proposal had escaped Ebbert's notice as it came under the title of "Old Sacramento General Plan" and thus wasn't on his radar.

But after reading the 700-page EIR, Ebbert was convinced that the proposal was not in the best interest of the residents it would impact. Suspecting he was not alone, he partnered with a neighbor to gauge the sentiment of others in the area. "Within a week [we] had 500 signatures [of residents] opposing that plan," he recalled.

Ebbert took the issue to the South Land Park Neighborhood Association (SLPNA), but the response was at first unenthusiastic.

"The SLPNA was kind of on its deathbed at the time," he said. "So, I show up to the association meeting, which was four guys sitting (at) a kitchen, and I said, 'Get me on the board and I'll help kill this plan.' [They said], 'Eh, it's probably too late.' But we did it, and the next thing you know, there were 15 board members, and we had hundreds of people showing up."

A contingent of residents began to attend California State Parks and Recreation Commission hearings to air their concerns. State parks was among several entities having ownership of the corridor. Others included the city of Sacramento and Regional Transit.

"I was the first person to testify against the train plan in fall of 2013, and I was ignored, because who cares about this?" Ebbert said. "I remember telling the state parks and recreation commission at the time, 'Yeah, my 3-year-old daughter would love to have a choo-choo train running through her backyard, but that's why we don't have 3 year olds on the park and rec commission.

"Looking at this old rail line, you would wonder why would this cause so much drama and controversy? But you can also see how close it is to homes."

When they unsuccessfully lobbied state parks to hold hearings in South Land Park, the group appealed to elected officials for help, at which point the commission offered a compromise.

"When state parks didn't want to even hold a community meeting here and (then-Senate Pro Tem) Darrell Steinberg said, 'Hey, stop the EIR and listen to the community,' they decided to hold a meeting in Old Sacramento instead," Ebbert said. "But guess what? Hundreds of us went to Old Sacramento, and we made sure our voices were heard." State parks has a district office at 101 J St.

The community was not unanimous in objecting to the Caltrans plan, however. Some residents emphasized the importance of the railway's history and welcomed a renewed presence of train traffic in the area.

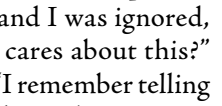
Despite being opposed to it, Ebbert acknowledged that viewpoint.

"We, from the start, wanted to honor that history," he said. "Unfortunately, it became a battle between train buffs and the neighborhood, and, frankly, it got ugly."



Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg congratulates stakeholders on their success in bringing the Del Rio Trail project to fruition.

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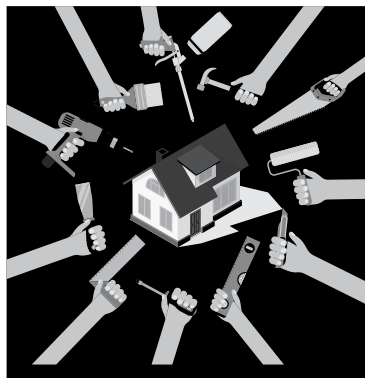
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YEAR IN REVIEW

Rudin:

Continued from page 4

In addition to her service on the council and with the League of Women Voters, Rudin was involved with the American Association of University Women, the KVIE Women's Committee and the Natomas Basin Conservancy.

As mayor, she also promoted bilateral relations between the United States and Japan, and helped lay the foundation for Matsuyama to become Sacramento's first sister city in 1981.

While gathered beneath an overcast sky near the Mayor Anne Rudin Peace Pond, which was named in her honor in 2018, various speakers stood at a podium and shared their memories about this legendary figure in the city's history.

The speakers addressed a wide range of topics about the former mayor, from her political and family life to her personality and her dedication to making her own clothes. One of those outfits was on display at the event, along with photographs, newspaper articles and other mementos from her life.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

From left, former Sacramento Mayor Phil Isenberg, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg and former Sacramento Mayor Heather Fargo were among the event's attendees.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg praised Rudin for her approach to politics.

"Here was an unpretentious, public official who was both kind and tough as steel at the same time," he said. "And here was someone who had such conviction that she was unafraid to take on things that political consultants, and even many people in the electorate, would say, 'Why are you working on that (issue)?'"

Steinberg added that Rudin was also a woman who was way ahead of her time on LGBTQ issues, and one who fought for the arts in this capital city.

In recognition of Rudin, U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui, D-Sacramento, presented a Congressional Record statement that will be forever housed in the Library of Congress.

"We won't forget (Rudin) here, but I want to make sure that the United States of America does not forget," she said.

Matsui additionally presented the Rudin family with an American flag that had been flown over the U.S. Capitol in Rudin's honor.

"Anne Rudin was a patriot at the highest level, and it's an honor that the United States confers on her," she said.

Heather Fargo, who was the only other citywide elected female mayor in Sacramento history, mentioned that Rudin's legacy also included leading efforts to establish the Sacramento River Parkway.

"I know that the community kind of thought they were done when they did the American River Parkway, but we do have this other river that a lot of us live near and would like to have access to, and she was an ardent supportive of that for a very long time, which is helping," she said.

Fargo told this publication that Rudin was a leader who led with courage and integrity.

"She was a mentor really to the whole city in how to get along, how to resolve issues and how to build a good community," she said.

Another former Sacramento mayor, Phil Isenberg, who served on the council with Rudin from 1971 to 1982, shared his own impression of Rudin's approach as a political leader.

"The Anne Rudin I knew was kind of like the master nurse in a hospital who goes around pretending to be sweet and wonderful, but is like a prison guard with soft gloves," he said.

Isenberg called Rudin's support of the federal government's decision to gradually close all military bases in Sacramento as the "toughest thing she ever did."

"As mayor in 1984, I think it was, she refused to appeal that decision through the federal process," he said. "The peace (pond) is real and meaningful. Ed and Anne were part of that all their lives, and it takes courage to do the little things. It takes a lot of courage to do big things."

Jeff Raimundo, who spent 24 years working for The Sacramento Bee, recalled the respect that The Bee had for Rudin.

"Reporters recall that Anne (while serving as mayor) would sometimes make a statement and then, after reading her own words in print, call to say that wasn't what she really meant to say," he said. "And in a rarity for The Bee, they sometimes would print a clarification, illustrating their respect for Anne."





YEAR IN REVIEW

Grand celebration pays tribute to the life of Joan Didion

Sculpture of the late, renowned, Sacramento-born author unveiled at event

By Lance Armstrong

A celebration of the life and legacy of Joan Didion took center stage on Nov. 10, as about 300 people gathered at downtown Sacramento's Golden 1 Center for a tribute event honoring this Sacramento-born author.

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

While growing up in the Golden State's capital city, this fifth generation Californian attended local educational institutions, including C.K. McClatchy High School and Sacramento Junior College – today's Sacramento City College (SCC).

She would later attend the University of California, Berkeley as an English major, and during that time she won first place in an essay contest sponsored by Vogue fashion and lifestyle magazine.

Didion would eventually become one of that publication's editors, and she would also author such notable books as "Slouching Towards Bethlehem," "Run River," "The White Album" and "The Year of Magical Thinking."

The Nov. 10 event, the Golden Land Joan Didion Celebration, featured many speakers, videos played on the venue's large screens, a silent auction, and the unveiling of the Joan Didion sculpture, which was later installed in the Sacramento Room of the Sacramento Public Library's Central Library at 828 I St., where Didion spent many hours during her youth. High praise was given to Didion by the speakers, including the Sacramento-born Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis, who referred to her as "the most famous of Sacramento's daughters."

"Joan Didion is one of America's most prolific writers, novelists, screenwriters, a founder of the New Journalism movement, providing us both sharp as a steel blade and deeply personal (writings)," she said.

Kounalakis expressed her gratitude to Gregg Lukenbill and Maurice Read for their efforts to make the Nov. 10 Didion tribute event possible.

Their work on the Didion sculpture project and the creation of a Joan Didion Sacramento City College literary scholarship led to their latter efforts to organize the event at the Golden 1 Center.

Lukenbill is best-known for bringing the Kansas City Kings National Basketball Association team to Sacramento in 1985, and Read met Didion while he was attending Sacramento Junior College (now Sacramento City College) in 1952.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

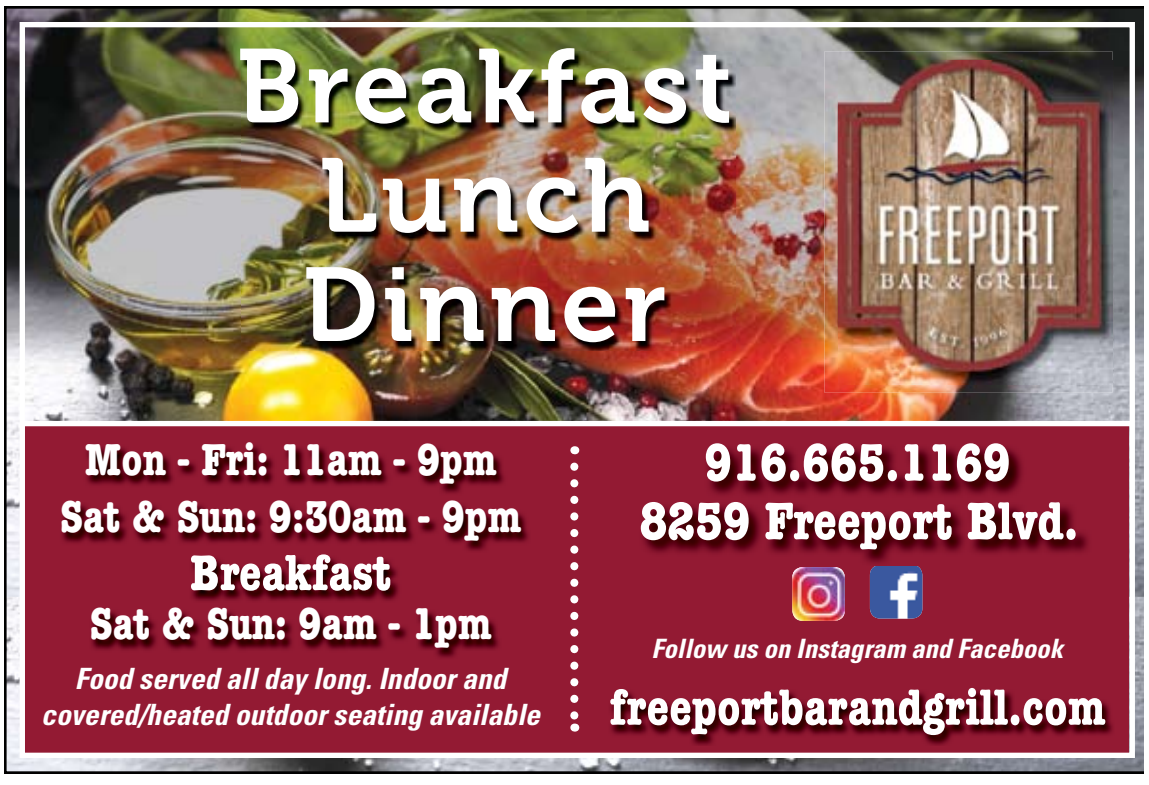
From left, Lisa Reinertson, Maurice Read and Gregg Lukenbill stand alongside Reinertson's Joan Didion sculpture at the Nov. 10 event at the Golden 1 Center.

Although not in attendance at the event, former Gov. Jerry Brown shared his thoughts about Didion through a video that was shown on the large screens above the arena's basketball court.

Brown mentioned that he met Didion, as well as her husband, John Gregory Dunne, at their Malibu home in the 1970s, but

See DIDION on page 14





YEAR IN REVIEW

‘Please adopt me’
Kobe the dog seeks new home

“Hello, my name is Kobe. It is not a coincidence that staff at the Front Street Animal Shelter at 2127 Front St. named me Kobe. I have been reported to be able to jump 6-foot fences with ease. My previous foster said they had never seen anything like it.

I will need a home that knows my ability to escape and is willing to work with me. I may not want to jump fences as much once I get comfortable with you, but I will need time to adjust. In the meantime, I will shower you with kisses and big smiles.

I have done well with dogs here at the shelter, with a slow introduction, I may do well with another friendly dog.

I have very good manners in my kennel. I walk well on a leash and I don’t react to other dogs. I will follow wherever you lead.

I have a history of finding cats too interesting, so a home without them is best for me. I like treats and I take them very gently.

I also like to chase toys and I am learning to bring them back and drop them. I know how to sit and I am learning to stay. I love attention and cuddles, and backrubs are the way to my heart. If you are interested in a friendly handsome boy with serious hops take me home today.

To meet me, make sure I’m still available at www.Front-StreetShelter.org, then ask for me at the shelter from noon to 5 p.m. seven days a week.”



Photo courtesy of Front Street Animal Shelter

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Didion:

Continued from page 13

that he did not truly get to know her until he was her guest at her New York apartment during his presidential campaign.

He also recalled hearing about Didion from his sister, Barbara, who, like Didion, was also majoring in English at the University of California, Berkeley in 1953.

“She and Joan would share a smoke together and talk about the novels they were reading,” he said. “Years later, my sister’s most vivid memory is that of Joan coming down for breakfast in a pink, chenille robe, drinking a cup of coffee and smoking cigarettes.”

Brown concluded his speech by praising Didion as a unique Californian.

“Joan Didion was a Californian, all right,” he said. “She was gentle, and she was fierce. Sadly, very sadly, we won’t be seeing the likes of her again – ever.”

Prior to unveiling her Joan Didion sculpture, Lisa Reinertson gave a speech about her work as an artist. The speech was accompanied by images of some of her completed artworks, as well as photographs of her Didion sculpture at various stages of its creation.

Another feature of the event was the presence of the Sacramento literary luminaries painting by artist Jerald Silva. The painting, which includes an image of Didion, was prearranged to be later placed on permanent display in the Sacramento Room.

Both Sacramento County Supervisor Don Nottoli and Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg praised Didion and presented resolutions in her honor.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 New Year's Eve event draws hundreds

Nearly 450 attendees ushered in the new year at the Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 building on Riverside Boulevard in the Pocket area. Rudy and Karen Del Real chaired the event. Their crew of friends and volunteers all pitched in to help make the gathering a success. Even though the electricity went off a few times, the Barones, kitchen crew, and bartenders all made the evening fun and memorable.







Photos courtesy of Jim and Chris Kleckner





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