July 27, 2023

Land Park News

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Sacramento Shakespeare Festival kept audiences engaged, entertained



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Local resident seeks place to display his museum-quality rock, mineral collection

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com



Photo courtesy of Denton E. Carlson

Denton E. Carlson and his father, geologist Denton W. Carlson, participate in a nature walk, titled "Bluff Geology at The Sea Ranch, CA," on Sept. 6, 2003. The purpose of the walk was to examine the effects of storms, rock type, and faulting.

Denton E. Carlson, a 41-year resident of the Pocket area, is currently seeking a place to display his vast, unique and valuable collection of rocks and minerals that he refers to as being of "museum quality."

While recently meeting with this paper, Carlson, a 1967 graduate of C.K. McClatchy High School, showed off the interior of his home, which sits within a house-to-house lined street that is typical of many places in the Golden State and beyond.

Those who are fortunate to receive a tour of his residence quickly recognize that this home is rich with the belongings of a person who has an appreciation for art.

With that appreciation and the financial means of a hard-working man, whose careers in steel fabrication, home construction and billboard advertising spans 52 years, Carlson is the owner of various art that is a collective reflection of himself.

Having grown up listening to and attending concerts of classic musical artists such as Bob Dylan, The Doors, Neil Young, Joni Mitchell and Pink Floyd, one of his collections is an assemblage of original concert posters and handbills of those and other performers. Many of his handbills are framed and displayed on walls in his home.

These colorful, artistic, promotional advertising relics of the past are instant conversation pieces for those who grew up listening to the music of these bands or have an appreciation for the rock groups of that era.

Also on display in his home are other framed art, vintage fishing lures, and a fine nature art collection.

While Carlson provided a tour for this paper of many of his collectibles, it was his large rock and mineral collection that he was most focused on discussing during that visit.

Carlson provided a brief summary of the origin of this collection, which he noted was begun by his father, Denton W. Carlson, in 1936.

"It is a lifelong collection that includes rocks and minerals he collected at many sites, and then he would get collections from geologist friends, or they would give him specimens that they thought he would like," he said.

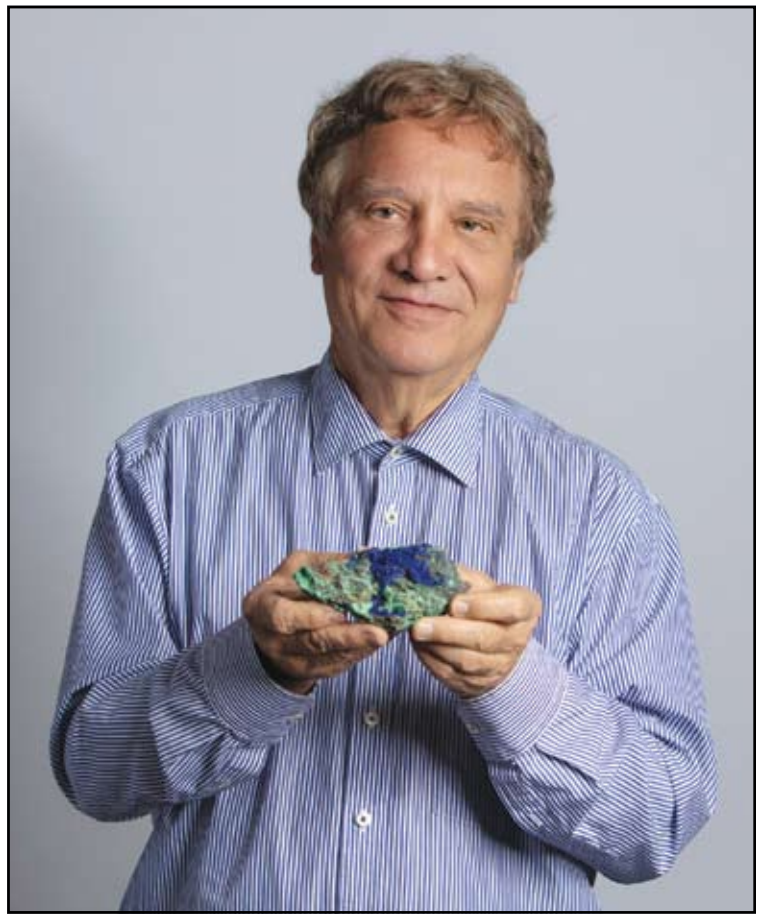


Photo by Ed Asmus Photography

Denton E. Carlson presents one of his favorite minerals: azurite. He is seeking a location to display his rock and mineral collection, which consists of about 1,250 specimens.

The younger Carlson told this paper that this collection has representative examples of all the natural elements on the periodic table, with an affinity for copper and ore minerals.

Also included in the collection are fossils of cetacean vertebrae and 25-million-year-old mollusk fossils from Chesapeake Bay.

While the collection is vast, the younger Carlson noted that most people are generally interested in seeing one thing in his collection.

"They say, 'Show me the gold,'" he said. "Perhaps that's to be expected since we are near the famous Mother Lode (gold belt region of California). But there are many more interesting things to see in the collection, in my opinion. My favorite minerals in the collection are azurite and dioptase. I am also very fond of ore minerals and as-found specimens. I want them as found. I don't want them modified or cut. I want to save them from the gem cutters."

Having grown up around his father, who died in 2010, Carlson learned a lot about his father's collection – a collection that was impressive enough by 1941 to capture the attention of the Oakland Tribune newspaper.

It was in that year that his father, who was then 15 years old, was featured in an article in an edition of that well-read publication.

That article's subheadline reads: "Room full of rocks prized by youngster."

As the eldest Carlson grew to adulthood, his rock and min-

See ROCK on page 5

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Cover by: Courtesy of City Theatre

Sacramento Shakespeare Festival kept audiences engaged, entertained

By Olivia Reed

Maintaining its esteemed reputation, Sacramento City College's City Theatre, this month, produced a phenomenal rendition of William Shakespeare's "Macbeth" for the 2023 season of the annual Sacramento Shakespeare Festival.

This department is known for providing the best-of-the-best Shakespeare performances, and yet, I was still surprised at the talent and raw emotion left on the stage. I attended the 2 p.m. matinee on the second day of the festival, and the show was nearly sold out that day and each of the following days.

"MacBeth" takes place in 11th century Scotland, where the Scottish general, Macbeth, transforms from a noble man to a power-hungry king who murdered his way to the top through intrusive thoughts put in his mind by three witches. These three witches come to Macbeth and tell him that he will soon be the new king of Scotland, leading him to question and lose his own sanity.

While his wife is the one to kill King Duncan, Macbeth is ridden with guilt and ends up murdering others due to his extreme paranoia. This paranoia turns Macbeth into a man filled with greed and malice that can be seen by all.

Due to this abuse of power, a civil war takes place to overthrow and kill Macbeth. After much bloodshed, Macbeth was murdered by Macduff, and the rightful crown was given to King Duncan's son, Malcolm.

In the Sacramento City College production, many roles were played to make this masterpiece possible. But the ones put on the forefront were those who played Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Macduff, and the three witches.

Playing Macbeth was Brandon Lancaster, an immensely talented man who handled his main lead with maturity and grace. Performing a role that causes the audience to feel sympathy and hatred is extremely difficult, but Lancaster made it look like a breeze. He entered every scene with 110% of himself, and left me in tears by the end of the show.

Playing his wife, Lady Macbeth, was Jackie Martin. It is no surprise that Jackie has been seen in this Shakespeare festival in the past as Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing," and as a company mem-

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Photos courtesy of City Theatre

Lady Macbeth (Jackie Martin) is pictured during her dramatic monologue.



The entire cast is shown at the ending scene of the play.



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EAST SACRAMENTO

Original owners of this East Sac Mid-Century home. Features include a front porch, formal entry, spacious living room with fireplace and picture window. Party sized kitchen with eating area, hutch and built-ins with tiled counters, built-in electric oven, gas cooktop, freestanding refrigerator and dishwasher. Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Hardwood floors in living room, hallway and bedrooms. Inside laundry room with sink, folding area, and many cabinets. Bedrooms are all good sized with large closets and upper cabinets. Hallway has lots of closet space and cabinets. The gathering room is carpeted and accesses backyard patio. Detached garage w/ workbench. Separate storage room for pantry goods and canning. Covered patio, vegetable gardens, older style built-in BBQ and small storage shed. 232 41st Street



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Stately two-story Ranch style home on an oversized cul-de-sac lot near OLA and St. Michael's School. Original owners, original condition, lots of space and potential! Features include formal living and dining rooms, kitchen / gathering room combination with fireplace and backyard access. Kitchen has tiled counters, electric range and dishwasher. Large laundry room with access to yard and two car garage. Upstairs has a primary bedroom with bath, an additional five bedrooms and hall bathroom. Fantastic lot with built-in pool and lush landscape. 4731 Nelroy Way $749,000



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Shakespeare

Continued from page 3

ber with Sacramento's Big Idea Theatre.

In my opinion, I do not believe Macbeth could have fulfilled his role without his wife. Not only did Lady Macbeth take charge of the first murder, but she was also the first individual to show her ability to kill the innocent and feel extreme guilt from her actions, as well.

Lady Macbeth was the dominant one in the relationship, while also having the ability to portray her feminine and caring abilities.

While watching the scene in which she had her nightmare, I saw tears falling down her cheek, and I could not help but join her. I did not join because I felt the pain of Lady Macbeth. A tear went down my cheek, because I could feel all the hard work and emotion that Jackie had put into this role.

Playing the role of Macduff was Kathleen Poe. Watching Poe, you would have never guessed that she was a music professor at Sacramento City College first, and an actor second.



Malcolm is crowned as the rightful king at the end of the play.

Poe stated that she does theater in her free time and has been in several shows such as "Beyond Persuasion," where she played Lady Russell/Mrs. Musgrove, and "Wolves," in which she had the role of the narrator. Poe showed her abilities by physically taking part in her battle scenes and emotionally standing up to the challenge of her emotional scenes.

Lastly, the true stars of the stage were the three witches. Witch No. 1 was played by Gabriela Llarena. McKenna Sennett played Witch No. 2, and Witch No. 3 was played by Shelby Saumier.

To play these roles, they had to be extremely comfortable with making a fool of themselves, and crawl like an evil creature during all scenes.

Each witch was unique in their own acting style and complemented each other perfectly to spook the audience properly.

Those who sought a show filled with drama, lust and numerous battle scenes certainly did not need to look further than this production of "Macbeth." This year's Sacramento Shakespeare Festival was must-see entertainment that left audience members astonished and wanting more.



All three of the witches feed off someone's soul.



Macbeth (Brandon Lancaster) is approached by all of the witches, specifically Witch No. 1.



'Please adopt me'

Wiggles the dog seeks new home

"Hi, my name is Wiggles. I am a 4-year-old, spayed female, tan-colored, pit bull mix. I love human attention and I would love someone who can give me all theirs.

I am very friendly and I get very wiggly when I meet new people. I get along with kids, but I still would appreciate a slow introduction. I will need help learning that being alone at home while you run your errands is OK.

I know a few tricks, such as sit, stay, touch, and look. I will sit and lay down for treats, and I love a game of fetch. I will get a case of the "zoomies" from time to time. I walk well on a leash, and I am not reactive when I'm on a leash. I am an all-around fun and loving pup.

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. My animal identification number is A587031."



Photo courtesy of Front Street Animal Shelter

Wiggles is a female, tan-colored pit bull mix. Her animal identification number is A587031.

Rock

Continued from page 2

eral collection expanded, and he would continue to seek out new additions for that collection throughout his life.

His interest in rocks and minerals led him to earning a bachelor's degree in mining engineering at Stanford University in 1949.

After spending the earliest years of his life in San Leandro and Palo Alto, the eldest Carlson traveled to Montana's city of Butte, which has often been referred to as the "Richest Hill on Earth," due to its famous mining operations of copper, silver and gold.

In 1950, the eldest Carlson began working for a large mining company in Butte. And two years later, he came to Sacramento, after being hired by the state of California.

During his employment with the state, he and another geologist, William B. Clark, each earned the nickname, "the gold expert."

His accomplishments also include authoring various published reports. Those works include the 221-page report, titled, "Mines and Mineral Resources of El Dorado County, California," which he co-authored with Clark.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Denton E. Carlson observes one of the many specimens in his collection.

In addition to his employment and rock and mineral collecting, the eldest Carlson was also a family man, having married Marjorie Best in the chapel at Stanford University in 1949.

Besides his namesake son, he also had a daughter named Darlene. She currently lives in south Sacramento.

Recalling a moment during his youth, the younger Carlson once picked up a rock out of his father's collection and told him that he thought he ought to find a better-looking rock as its replacement.

As a self-proclaimed rockhound, who spent many years searching for the most special rocks and minerals for his collection, the eldest Carlson replied, "They're not that easy to find."

The younger Carlson would eventually learn on his own how true that statement is, as he accompanied his father on some of his rock and mineral searching trips.

Following his father's death, the younger Carlson began enhancing his father's collection, which is currently stored in many boxes and drawers and labeled with descriptions of each rock and mineral.

"I wanted to add to the collection with rocks and minerals that I felt were necessary to include to round out the collection," he said.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

This drawer includes trona (the rarest carbonate of all) from Rock Springs, Wyoming, and minerals containing aluminum, antimony, beryllium, bismuth, boron, calcium, carbon (diamonds, as found), chromium, quartz and zinc.

While housing a rock and mineral collection that has grown to include about 1,250 specimens is something that he thoroughly enjoys, the younger Carlson mentioned that he believes that the collection needs to be seen by many more people.

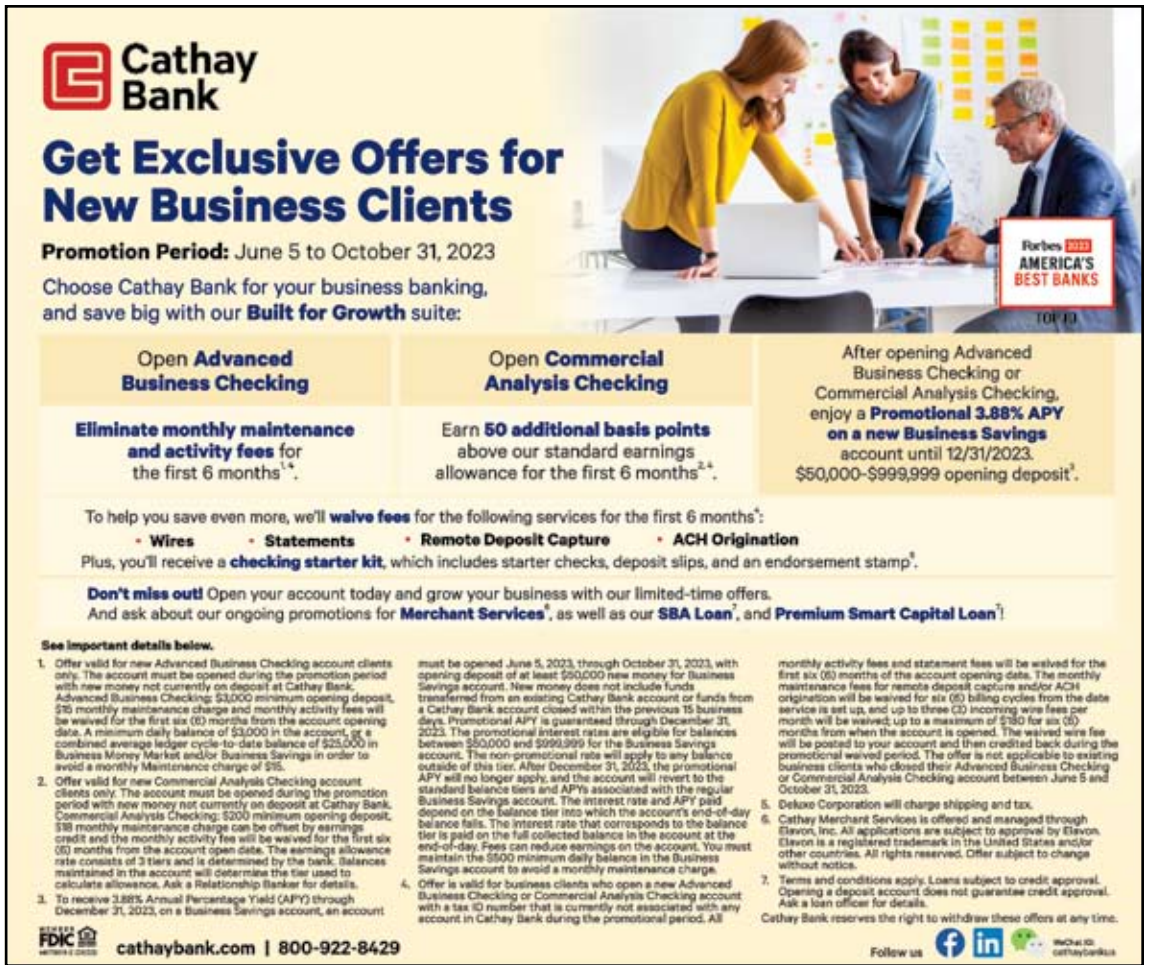
"I want to find a place where the collection can be admired and studied by as many interested geologists and students as possible," he said. "For example, it would be nice for it to be displayed at a mineral museum or at a university."

Those interested in assisting Carlson in his search for a display location for his collection can contact him by email at OutdoorMedia@msn.com or by U.S. Postal Service mail at P.O. Box 221391, Sacramento, CA 95822.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

The igneous rock drawer includes volcanic ash from Mt. St. Helens, 1980; graphic granite, andesite porphyry, floating rocks from New Zealand, and lava & beach sand from Hawaii. Igneous rock is formed when liquid rock freezes into a solid rock.



Scenes from the California State Fair

Annual summer event continues through July 30

This year's edition of the California State Fair is winding down, as the public has only four days remaining to attend this event. The fair continues through July 30.

During the fair's second day, Saturday, July 15, the Land Park News spent several hours on the grounds of Cal Expo, visiting with vendors and guests.

A few of the scenes witnessed by this paper during that visit are featured on this page.

For additional information about this year's State Fair, visit the website, www.CalExpoStateFair.com.

Photos by Lance Armstrong

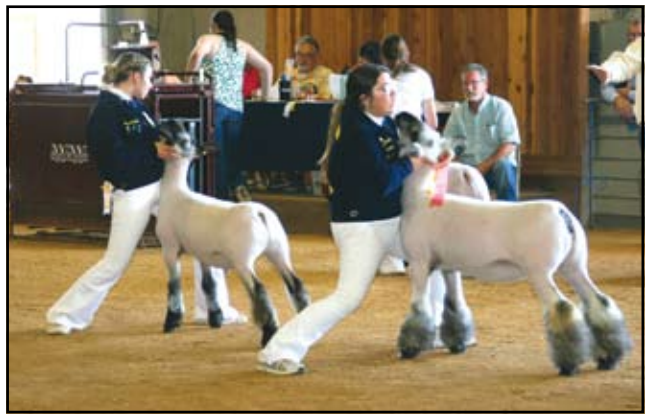
















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Under-the-freeway Sunday farmers' market returns

The under-the-freeway Certified Farmers' Market returned to 8th and W streets on July 9, after having been relocated to Arden Fair mall due to freeway construction.

This year-round market in the state parking lot, next to Southside Park, is open every Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon.

An announcement posted on the Certified Farmers' Market of Sacramento County website prior to July 9 notes: "This location (had) been our home for decades, so we are looking forward to this much-anticipated return."

Customer parking is available in the east lot on 8th Street, under the freeway. Additional street parking by Southside Park may also be available. Bicycle racks are located near the X Street side of the market – southwest corner of the customer parking lot.

The customer parking lot on 8th Street is the only area for customer vehicles under the freeway, and the market area lots will be closed off to make room for farmers only.

Land Park News contributor Patrick Powers attended the July 9 return of this market to mingle with attendees and take photographs on this excitement-filled day. These are a few of the scenes he captured through his camera's lens.



















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Batter up!

East Sac family has a 'field of dreams' in their backyard

By Patrick Powers

Ding dong…ding dong…ding… "Tim, there is someone at front door," called out East Sacramento resident Elaina Blankenship to her husband from their home's kitchen.

"OK, OK, I'll get it," Tim Blankenship responded before opening his front door.

A nicely dressed man then greeted Tim, and asked, "Do you have a batting cage in your backyard?"

"Oh, oh, here it comes, a complaining neighbor," Tim thought before responding, "Yes, I do."

"Thank you, thank you," said the man. "I love the sound of the early morning pinging of a ball on a bat. My two boys played Little League baseball and those early morning sounds brought back good memories."

Tim thanked the man and slowly shut his door.

This proud dad-coach smiled, and in that "field of dreams" moment, he said, "I knew if I built it, they would use it."

Tim and Elaina and their two daughters are a baseball and softball family. Ella, 11, plays catcher on her East Sacramento majors softball team, and Harper, 9, is a pitcher and plays third base on her River Park Youth Baseball all-star team. Harper is the only girl on that team.

Here are details about those teams: River Park is out of the championship with a doubleheader playoff loss. Ella's East Sacramento majors softball team won their championship game at Rancho Murieta by a score of 5-0, and has moved on to the state championship game in Visalia.

Ella played outfield in that dramatic win, and Harper and her parents will be in the stands cheering Ella on in the state championship game.

The backyard field of dreams was a project of what to do with the backyard after home renovation. It didn't take much convincing for the dad-coach to create a backyard for aspiring athletes.

Tim purchased a rototiller and tore up the whole backyard. He dug it down 4 inches before laying down a bed of crushed gravel and sand. Next, he covered that layer

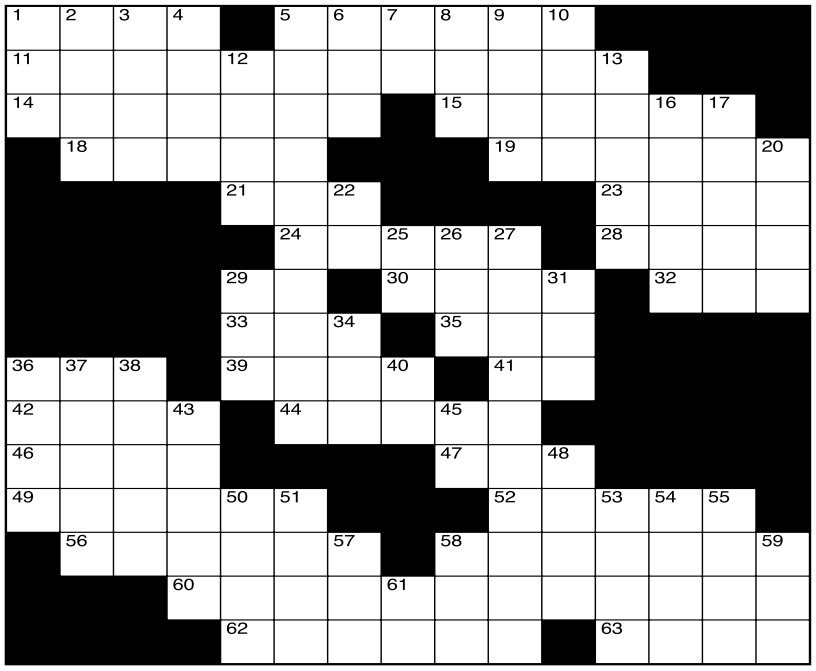
See BATTER UP on page 9



Photos by Patrick Powers

This East Sacramento baseball and softball family – the Blankenships – does not have to leave home to play these sports. They simply step into their backyard.

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS
1. Commoner
5. Tea leaf
11. They save you a table
14. Submissions
15. Secretly revealed
18. Personification of the sea (Norse)
19. Unreal
21. No seats available
23. Bangladeshi currency
24. Leaders
28. Famed garden
29. Denotes past
30. Not living
32. Midway between south and southeast
33. Small island (British)
35. Woman (French)
36. Wife
39. Two-toed sloth
41. Blood group
42. Soaks
44. Biu-Mandara language of Cameroon
46. Japanese prefecture
47. Place to be during a rock concert
49. Fully grown humans
52. Emaciation
56. Sparkling
58. Fruits you peel
60. Derived from a noun
62. Popular items to grill
63. Port in Yemen

CLUES DOWN
1. Before
2. Actress Dunham
3. This (Spanish)
4. Director Peter
5. Dominant
6. English artists' society (abbr.)
7. NY Giants legend
8. It's in the ground
9. No No No
10. Pesky insect
12. Danish-American muckraking journalist
13. Kids love to do it
16. Good Gosh!
17. Fakes
20. A citizen of Denmark
22. Mystic syllable
25. Commercial
26. Letter of the Hebrew alphabet
27. Helpers
29. Water (French)
31. Young woman
34. Red-brown sea bream
36. Messenger ribonucleic acid
37. Comprehends
38. Walk with confidence
40. Home of the Flyers
43. Appetizer
45. News organization
48. Source of the Nile
50. A way to march
51. Soluble ribonucleic acid
53. Egyptian bull-god
54. Children's author Blyton
55. Baseball pitching stat
57. Rude young person
58. Table napkin
59. Monetary unit in Asia
61. One-time AL MVP Vaughn

Free life jacket rentals offered through fire department

With the arrival of hotter temperatures, the Sacramento Fire Department (SFD) is urging swimmers and boaters to be cautious and wear life jackets in waterways this summer. And to help keep people safe, the department is currently offering free life jacket rentals.

"Our goal is to remind people of the risks of swimming in our local waterways and the best practices for keeping themselves and their loved ones safe," said Sacramento Fire Capt. Justin Sylvia. "This includes wearing a life jacket, especially for children."

Fire stations in the Sacramento region offer life jackets to the public on a loan basis. Life jackets are available for children and adults and can be borrowed for the day or weekend simply by completing a form.

Life jackets can be obtained at the following SFD fire stations: Station No. 1, 624 Q St.; Station No. 5, 731 Broadway; Station No. 8, 5990 H St.; Station No. 11, 785 Florin Road; Station No. 15, 1640 West El Camino Ave.; and Station No. 60, 3301 Julliard Drive.

Below are a few more water safety tips from the fire department:

Always wear a life jacket.

Never swim alone and never go in the water after drinking alcohol.

Stay within an arm's length of inexperienced swimmers.

Always watch children in and around water. Assign a "water watcher." Don't assume someone else is watching. Drowning is quick and silent, it can happen in seconds.

Drain inflatable pools and coolers after each use. A toddler can drown in just 1 inch of water.

Call 911 right away if someone is in trouble.

Learn CPR.

Wear sunscreen.

Batter Up

Continued from page 8

with artificial turf.

He did not use regular turf, but he instead used a sports-grade turf that lets water seep through at a good rate. When it rains, there is no standing water or puddles.

Tim's next effort on this project was building an enclosed batting cage with a net tunnel – a feature that made the neighbors happy, since no more foul balls landed in their yards. Tim lucked out on getting used netting for the batting cage tunnel.

This East Sacramento backyard field of dreams has proven valuable for other local youth. During some rainy days, several players used the batting cage for practicing, as the other baseball fields were soaked and muddy.

With a pitching machine, the kids were ready to practice. Ella and Harper would go outside during early mornings before school, and practice hitting and catching ground balls; hence the sound of balls being hit in the early morning.



Which ball is better? Ella Blankenship, left, holds a softball while her sister, Harper, presents a baseball.

With the batting cage in use and as seasons change, so do the sports. Both girls also play soccer and use the net tunnel to practice dribbling and kicking the soccer ball.

No more balls into neighbors yards, and now the Blankenship family does not have to go to commercial batting cages. Those commercial batting cages use heavier balls, which can damage their aluminum bats. They use their own bats in their own batting cage.

Now when mom calls 'batter up,' hey, walk out the back door to the Blankenships' mini field of dreams in East Sacramento.



Harper Blankenship awaits a pitch from her father, Tim, as her sister, Ella, crouches behind home plate.

Pocket resident named local United Way HR operations director

Pocket resident Daniel Del Mazzio was named director of human resources and operations for United Way California Capital Region.

Del Mazzio joined United Way in 2022 as an operations manager and helped the organization grow through recruitment of new employees. As director, he will lead human resources and operations for the local United Way, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO of United Way California Capital Region, expressed confidence in Del Mazzio.

"Daniel has ensured that we have passionate and committed team members that can make a huge impact in the capital region," she said. "For 100 years, United Way has served the greater Sacramento community, and we look forward to how key staff like Daniel will help usher in the next 100 years."

Originally working in management, Del Mazzio transitioned to human resources in 2018 with the California Environmental Protection Agency at the California Water Resources Control Board.

A Division 1 college soccer player at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Del Mazzio transferred to California State University, Sacramento, where he studied kinesiology and coaching – skills he now uses daily through his work in human resources, as well as for his daughter's 12 and under competitive softball team, the Pocket Aces.

He also volunteers as the secretary and registrar for the Pocket Girls Softball League.

Del Mazzio mentioned that teamwork, positivity and communication are three essential traits for him in his life.

"I strive to be the voice in the ear of someone who is teetering on the brink of being lost, or lend my ears to listen and council someone facing adversity," he said. "I'm humbled by the trust our local United Way has in me, and I look forward to what the future holds for this incredible team that will continue to strengthen our community."

For 100 years, United Way California Capital Region has been working to end poverty by creating stronger, healthier, more compassionate communities.

Since 1923, the local United Way has raised more than $500 million to fight poverty in the region, and help families succeed.

The group recently announced a goal to raise $3 million to help 10,000 kids excel in school by 2025, as part of its work to end poverty for local families. The local United Way has found one place in each community to reach the most families in need, with school as "Square One" for ending poverty.



Photo courtesy of United Way California Capital Region

Daniel Del Mazzio, a resident of the Pocket area, was named director of human resources and operations for United Way California Capital Region.

United Way uses its "Square One" approach in its work toward ending poverty for local families by helping children excel in school, investing in families, and strengthening schools with resources to address increased poverty and deep roots of racial inequality.

For more information or to donate to United Way California Capital Region, visit the website, www.YourLocalUnitedWay.org.

Puzzle Solutions

P	L	E	B	■	O	O	L	O	N	G	■	■	■	■
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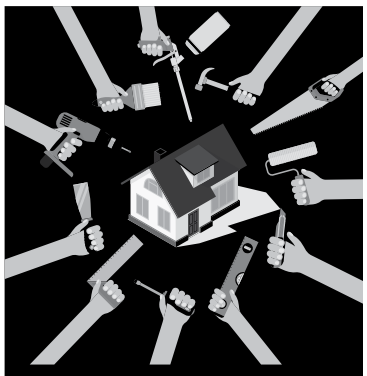
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