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East Sacramento News

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East Sacramento volunteers dig their hands in for United Way's Day of Caring

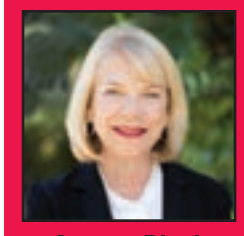
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Caleb Greenwood school community raised $30,000 at this year's jog-a-thon

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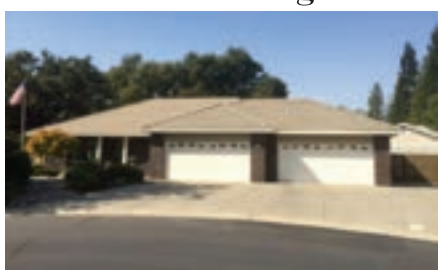
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Sally King



Volunteers help at McKinley Rose Garden in East Sacramento for United Way's annual Day of Caring in September.

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East Sacramento volunteers dig their hands in for United Way's Day of Caring

Dozens of volunteers tended to McKinley Rose Garden in East Sacramento for United Way's annual Day of Caring in September. The Law Offices of Deon R. Stein, based in East Sacramento, also participated in Day of Caring by sponsoring a project in Auburn.

Since United Way California Capital Region held its inaugural 2013 Day of Caring, 3,692 volunteers have spent one day caring for their community over the last five years. Volunteers donated 18,054 hours of service, valued at $366,572, for 182 projects with nonprofits, parks and schools across the region, including on United Way's 2017 Day of Caring that took place Sept. 22-23.

"In just five years, Day of Caring has become the single largest volunteer day in our region," said Stephanie Bray, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region. "Thousands of volunteers have dug their hands in to help hardworking nonprofits, parks and schools that do so much for our community every day."

Hundreds of volunteers donated time for United Way's 2017 Day of Caring at dozens of volunteer projects, including building garden beds at schools, painting nonprofit program facilities and cleaning up parks. The event began with a kickoff breakfast and rally at Cal Expo that included an appearance by Mayor Darrell Steinberg. As part of this year's Day of Caring, United Way held its inaugural Stuff the Bus campaign, which raised more than $11,000 in school supplies for Robla School District in Sacramento.

Nationwide has been the presenting sponsor for Day of Caring since it began in 2013. Project sponsors for 2017 included Dr. Pepper Snapple Group, ESM Prep, KPMG, Law Offices of Deon R. Stein, Nelson Staffing, SAFE Credit Union, SMUD, Social Interest Solutions, Sutter Health, Syzmanowski Orthodontics, TaxAudit.com and Zurich. Media partners included Entercom Radio's ESPN Radio 1320 AM, 98 Rock, Eagle 96.9 FM and 106.5 The End.

Day of Caring is part of United Way California Capital Region's Square One Project, a 20-year promise to significantly increase the number of local students who graduate from high school ready for success in college and beyond. Through nine decades of work and research across Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, Placer and Yolo counties, United Way believes ending poverty starts in school and is working to ensure kids meet important milestones for success in college or career. To donate or volunteer: www.yourlocalunitedway.org.

Homelessness discussion invited civil discourse between residents and panel

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Over the course of 90 minutes, Land Park and Curtis Park residents heard from a number of city, county, and resource agencies regarding a variety of topics related to homelessness in our city and particularly in our neighborhoods.

To "have a civil discourse between residents and the panelists" — that be the goal of the discussion, which was held on Monday, Oct. 23 at Sierra 2, event organizer Stephanie Duncan from the Land Park Community Association, said in a brief introduction.

Duncan said if possible the neighborhood groups will have more of these types of meetings in the forthcoming months.

Panelists included the following individuals: Eduardo Ameneyro, division manager of the Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance; Sacramento Police Department Officers of the IMPACT Team, Justin Boyd and Andrew Kahler; Cynthia Cavanaugh, director of Homelessness Initiatives for the County of Sacramento; Emily Halcon, Homeless Services Coordinator for the City of Sacramento;

See Forum, page 6

IB therefore I RUN:

Caleb Greenwood school community raised $30,000 at this year's jog-a-thon

By SALLY KING
sally@valcomnews.com

It was a perfect, crisp, fall morning for Caleb Greenwood Elementary School's annual jog-a-thon. This was their fifth year and the students were eagerly waiting to jog around their new track.

On Friday, the 13th, Principal Erin Hanson announced over the loudspeaker, "The class who ends up with the most laps around the track gets to duct tape me to the school wall." All the students cheered.

Hanson explained the students also participate in a game where the teachers stand in a line and the students spray silly string on them. It's lots of fun for the teachers and students.

Hanson said the cost to renovate the jogging track was around $70,000, which included significant irrigation work as well. The cost was shared between PTSO fundraising and the district.

Michele Payne, a parent volunteer, said the parents and teachers realized the track was in bad condition and wasn't really safe for jogging and because the jog-a-thon is an important event, knew it was necessary to get the track in good shape. "It also fits the new wellness program the school has adopted," said Payne. According to Payne, it took two years to renovate the running track.

"Being healthy, waking the students up and having a good attitude," said parent George Rocha, is also why the parents and teachers thought redoing the track was a good idea.

Payne has been doing volunteer work for the school for the last seven years and said the jog-a-thon, which is one of their biggest fundraisers, raised $30,000 this year, which is given to the International Baccalaureate program at the 500-student elementary school.

The school named the jog-a-thon 'I B therefore I RUN.'

This year, Hanson said they included at the last minute, donations for the Napa/Sonoma fire victims. The donations included needed items for babies and household products.

Payne said the track is just under a quarter-mile in length and what is nice is that it isn't just the students that jog in the mornings, there is a Friday morning community run that includes parents and families.

The jog-a-thon always takes place either the second or third week of October, when the mornings are cooler. In addition to duct taping the principal, the students who raise the most money and run the most laps get free recess and no homework for the week. Included is a t-shirt for every student.

As the morning went on there was lots of cheering as each student kept running another lap, so eager to be the next winner!



Photo by Sally King

This year's jog-a-thon at Caleb Greenwood was held on a newly renovated track. Administrators did an official ribbon cutting ceremony to kick off the event.





The masks from different regions in Mexico are a small part of a significant gift to the Latino Center of Art and Culture from Nar Bustamante, a private collector and owner/founder Nar Design Group Sacramento. They are now on display at the center in honor of Dia de los Muertos.



Photo by Ruben Reveles

"Bella (Oax Botttle Cap Girl)" Oax = Oaxaca

"Masks, Memories and a Life Well-Lived" Latino Center of Art & Culture exhibition open through Nov. 26

The Latino Center of Art and Culture, Sacramento's non-profit Latino art and cultural center, opened a special Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead exhibition "Masks, Memories and a Life Well-Lived" and will run through Saturday, Nov. 26.

The exhibition features over 50 traditional Mexican masks, images from Dia de los Muertos in Oaxaca, Mexico by photographer Ruben Reveles, and a memorial to Joanne Marie Sonn who passed away in 2014 from breast cancer. The masks from different regions in Mexico are a small part of a significant gift to LCAC from Nar Bustamante, a private collector and owner/founder Nar Design Group Sacramento. The entire collection numbers over three hundred authentic ceremonial masks from Mexico and are works of considerable age. Several are from the late 1800s and the majority

Interwoven amongst the masks are striking photographs from Sacramento artist Ruben Reveles. "I got serious about photography in 2008 during a trip to Mexico. I was there to finally find, and meet, family members that I'd long heard about. I only meant to use my camera to document my travel, and I was unprepared for how inspired I'd become by the colors and culture of Mexico," says Reveles.

He has since returned to Mexico many times and continued to photograph his experiences. "And, as the years have passed, I've experimented and tried earnestly to find a medium and technique that best captures the light and energy that exists in those moments."

Many in Sacramento who have visited the wildly popular new eatery, Cantina Alley in Midtown, will be familiar with his photographs – a commanding photo of a Cantina is the center image behind the bar. The long bar top itself was designed by Reveles and features his photo images on hundreds of colorful handmade tiles.

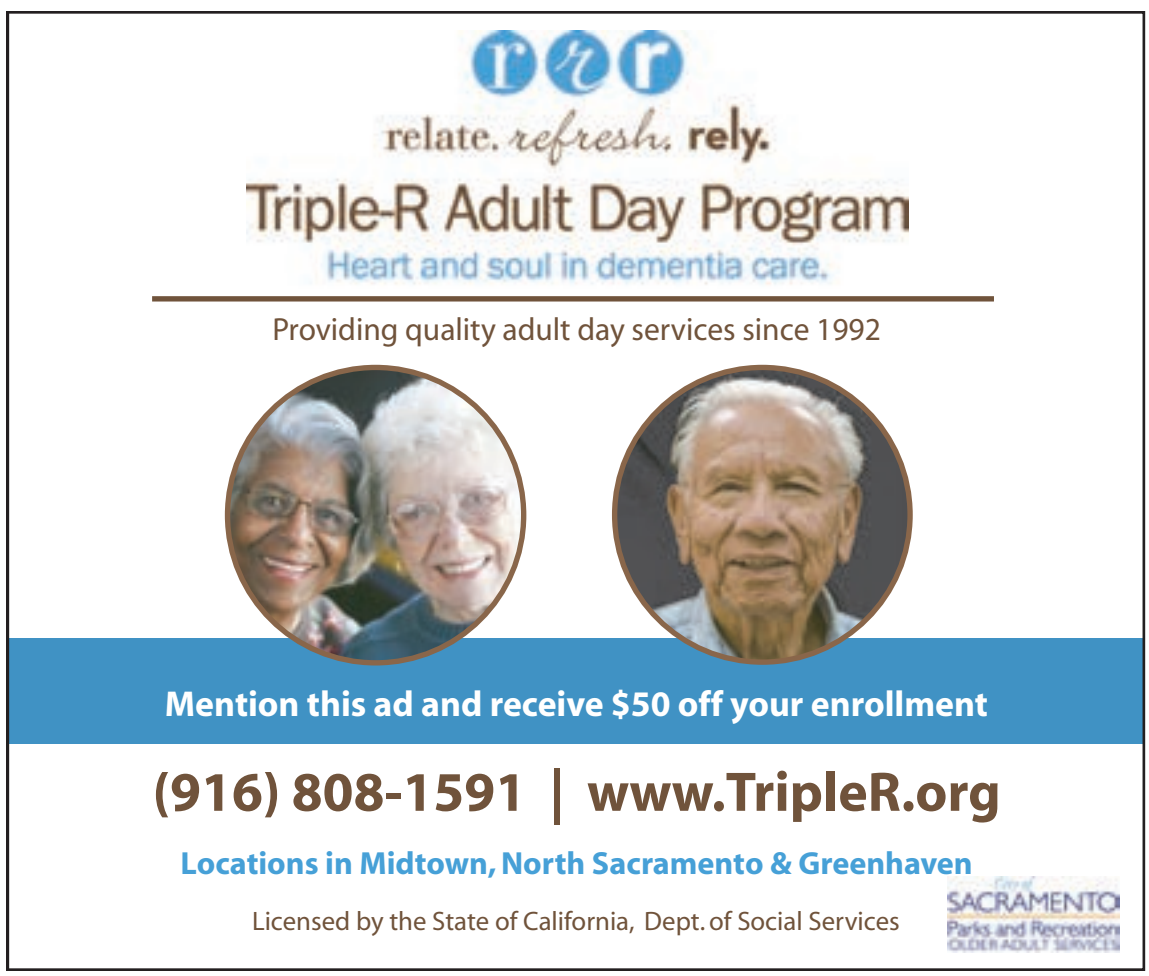
A Life Well Lived is an ofrenda dedicated to Joanne Marie Sonn or "Jo" to her friends and colleagues. Jo was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996 and passed away in 2014. Jo was part of a larger community of artists, performers, intellectuals and activists in San Francisco from the 1970s to the 1990s.

She touched lives from London literary circles to San Francisco's Pickle Family Circus, from art historians to research scientists, and every day at home or in her wide travels. Jo's unique genius of nurturing deep personal connections, her wit and intellect are greatly missed.

About Nar Bustamante: Founder of Nar Design Group was recently awarded as one of the Top 50 Kitchen and Bath Business innovators in the country. His dedication to the growing arts culture in Sacramento will be bench marked with his new East Sacramento Design center opening in 2018.

Located at 2700 Front St., the hours for the Latino Center of Art and Culture are as follows: Tuesday through Saturday from 12:30 to 6 p.m. For more information, call 446-5133.

The center is a mulch-disciplinary cultural center and public space serving the Sacramento Community by offering Latino, Chicano, and Native arts programming, art education workshops, and a community gathering place. LCAC is a center of cultural pride, self-governance, self-expression and community empowerment through the arts. We remain a public space where young and old come to pass on their stories, share their challenges, create art and build community.



Faces and Places:

West Campus Howl-o-ween doggie mixer & costume contest

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

West Campus High School seniors hosted a "Howl-O-Ween Doggie Mixer" on Friday, Oct. 20 at the Animal Den Pet Resort, 4060 Power Inn Road. All funds raised will be going to the Front Street Animal Shelter.



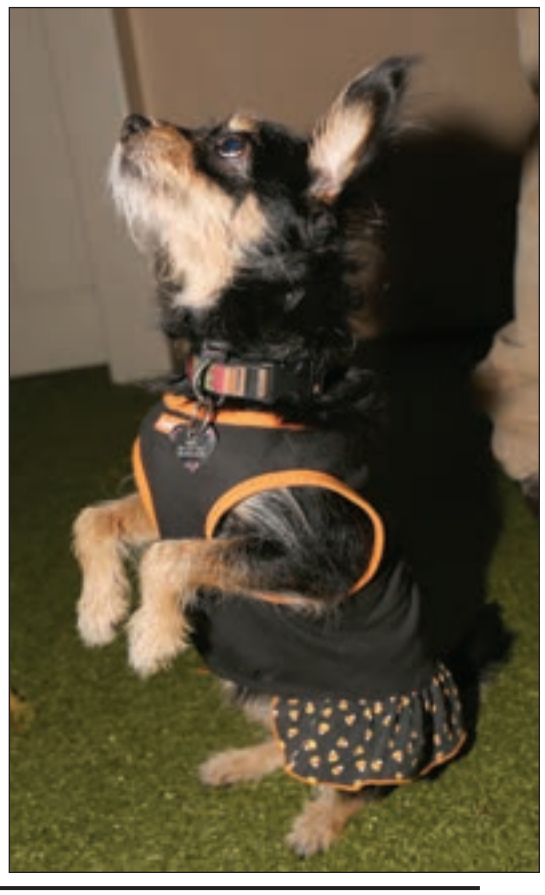












Forum:

Continued from page 2

Noel Kammermann, Loaves and Fishes general manager; Ryan Loofbourrow, chief executive officer for Sacramento Steps Forward; Tracy Pullar, homeless program manager for VA Northern California Health Care System; Melinda Ruger, executive director of Harm Reduction Services; Amani Sawries-Rapaski, chief operating officer for Volunteers of America; Jay Schenirer, District 5 City Council Member; Steve Watters, executive director for First Steps Communities and Winter Sanctuary; and Kelli Weaver, homeless program coordinator for Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services.

Related to demographics, the first question posed from the audience to the panel was the following: What percentage of homelessness is due to the following: rent issues, mental health issues, addiction, unemployment, or from people coming from other cities or states?

Loofbourrow stated typically it's people from your community experiencing homelessness, adding it's a matter of economics. "Issues of addiction and mental health are endemic of all society and all people," he said. "But it is those individuals who are barely making it or living with others and as rent increases, then they can no longer pay that rent. They become homeless and they were struggling to start with. So, on the street, you see the human condition play out and it's inflamed more when they are exposed to the elements."

Once homeless, an individual's life is reduced by about a third, Loofbourrow said, adding that in Sacramento, we have 75 to 80 individuals who have been identified as being passed away during their time of being homeless.

Asked about homeless individuals who reject services, Boyd said that out of the 1,350 who are approached by IMPACT team members, 1,044 dismiss their help whether it's for medical or housing. "There are people who refuse. It is not illegal to be homeless...Every person's situation is different and you have to be patient. It takes awhile to build a rapport with them. They're not very trusting of us. So, we'll document when they refuse services and then we'll try again tomorrow. Usually, we'll be able to make a rapport with them at some point and then start them on that path on getting housed."

Halcon, adding to Boyd's answer, said that while it is the job of officers to offer what they have, she feels it's her job to "change what we offer."

"For years and years and years, we've been offering people the same thing that has either failed them or they have failed for whatever reason. And, to be offered the same thing over and over again, you might say, 'no.' It doesn't mean that you don't want to be homeless, it means you want something different. It means you want to be met where you're at. It means you want to be given options and choices, just like all of us do. So, our job is to change the system to offer things that are different."

Ruger, a former homeless woman herself, explained that her nonprofit makes an effort to offer at least four options. "If a person is in crisis, it might be respite; it might be the ER. It might be X, Y, and Z, whatever that might be." She said "almost 99 percent of the time," someone will pick one of the four. Investing in outreach services and robust outreach teams – that's part of the solution, she said. Calling for a raise of hands, she asked how many in the audience think experiencing homelessness is traumatic. "It's a frightening experience on a day-to-day basis and depending on who you are it may be frightening in different ways. Shelter is not for everyone," she said.

"If you have post traumatic stress disorder. If you got raped last week. If you have a variety of different issues going on, the concept, the idea of going into a shelter can be extremely terrifying. I think there's a stigma in the idea of service refusal."

The Board of Supervisors recently adopted four major homeless initiatives allocating more than $6 million to improve the county's crisis response and create more pathways to permanent homes. Cavanaugh, who began in July 2016 as the first director of Homeless Initiatives in Sacramento County, said she thinks the best way through the front door for services is by dialing 211. "I think we're moving toward a system that's more like a bed reservation. We're working that first with the family system," she said.

For some individuals getting into a shelter can be problematic, as Loofbourrow points out that "pets, partners and possessions will be precluded. And, as with all of us who are housed, we hold our personal space, the people we love and the things we have precious. And, so if those are threatened there is the likelihood that the person would not be allowed to enter or choose not to."

Watters, whose nonprofit works with the city and county to offer shelter, meals and services including the winter sanctuary program, said last winter they turned a very small amount of people away. The few times they did, he said, it was because "their presence was perhaps endangering the safety of the other hundred people that were there."

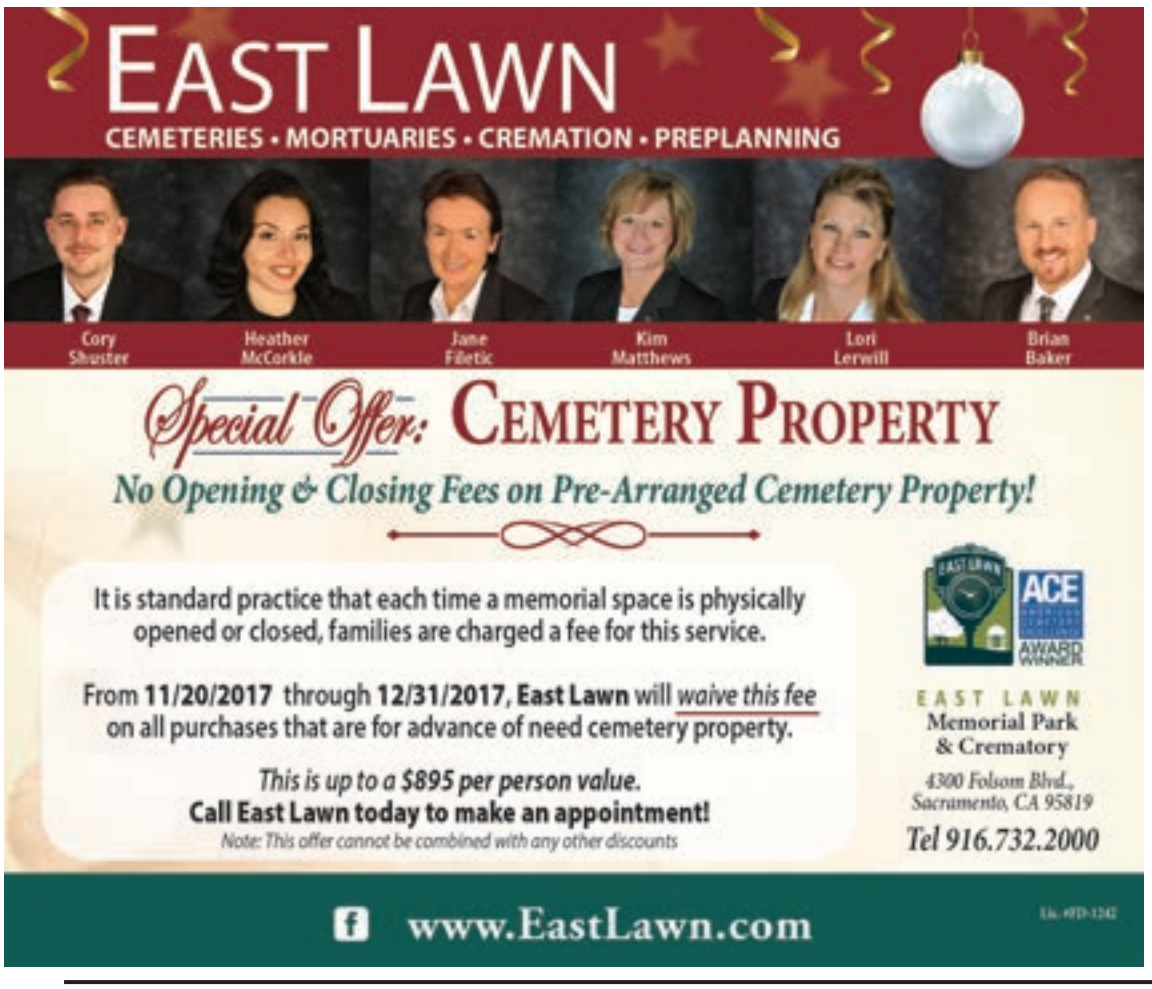
But, they didn't just turn them out to the street, he says. "We made every effort to find somewhere else for them to go to get the appropriate services. I think we have to look at what is being done and how inclusive the system is really becoming."

Because last year's winter was so cold and the rivers were so high, the movement of homeless into the neighborhoods has been clearly evident.

Schenirer mentioned a grant the city received from the federal government for $64 million, which will provide intensive case management for homeless individuals. "So when you talk about why are they resisting services, that's something we can go over and over again. My belief is that when you hit the right tone, people will come in for the most part."

Responding to the last question of the night, "What can I as an individual do to address systematic homelessness?" Ruger said, "This is kind of my thing. We are waiting for miracles, right? I think us, as service providers, we start feeling like that too. In the hearts of each and everyone of you — you are here because you care. You care about your kids. You care about your community. Clearly, you care about the people you see that are suffering. So, on this micro level, what can you do? You can recognize there are systematic barriers that people are encountering. On a macro level, we can start working on that."

On a micro level, recognizing the humanity of those on the streets is something that each of us can do. Ruger said when she was homeless, she wanted to walk down the street with her head down, never wanting to look at anyone. "One of the reasons was because no one would look at me. Like no one would look at me. And, this is not a magic solution. This is not going to end homelessness, but you know what, it will create a level of humanity, which we are moving closer and closer in that direction."







Door to Door

with PAT LYNCH

Steve lived with his sister and her husband. Steve was a handsome man, well built, engaging. His sister got him a low stress, part time job maintaining an office,--some clerical work, some sweeping. "He's doing great," she said. "We talk a lot. He wants a new life." She was delighted that he got on so well with her husband, a high achieving professional. One night Steve didn't come home. They called, searched everywhere. Weeping, she said, "He went back to the street."

Steve, homeless again, used up most of his money for drugs and went on the hunt. He panhandled, but didn't have much luck. Maybe he looked too fit. So he made a fist, braced himself, and slammed his fist into his mouth. He did it again, and again, until his right front tooth spilled with a spurt of blood into his hand. He told the ER doctor he'd been jumped, got a prescription for Norco, filled it, returned to his encampment across from McDonald's on K St., ground the Norco into powder, and inhaled it up his nose with a straw. At last he felt restored. Talkative and optimistic, he snorted the drug until it was gone.

Maybe you feel sorry for Steve, enslaved by his addiction. I do. And maybe you feel sorry for his sister, a good woman who loves her brother and dreads the day she may have to identify his body. But I hope you realize that Steve will never move from the streets into any shelter or program that demands he quit taking opioids. He'll freeze in a ditch before he'll accept rehab as a condition for succor. The pull of his addiction is the profoundest thing in his life.

I feel less sorry for a couple we'll call Bob and Sue. A few winters ago they lived in a cheap apartment and both worked part-time at minimum wage jobs. One paycheck paid the rent, one paid for drugs. In May they collected a tent, folding canvas chairs, cooking utensils, sleeping bags, and moved to the Parkway. No more rent. Now both their paychecks could go 100% to dope, dope they snorted, shot and swallowed. They could drift in and out of an almost perpetual high that they called, 'living the life.' They wouldn't have to leave until late September or even early October. All they needed now, Sue said, was a pit-bull.

When I learned about Bob and Sue, homeless by choice, homeless by strategy, I felt, well, used. That's our Parkway, and they're two of the reasons we can't go there. With their needles and waste, they make a lavatory out of what should be an outdoor laboratory for the study and enjoyment of nature. School kids should be bussed to the Parkway to experience its marvels; they should be taught to stand still on the trails and listen for the screech owl or the acorn woodpecker. They should learn to find chicory and milk thistle and watch for mule deer. This lush, protected classroom should be theirs, and ours; it shouldn't be a squalid hideout for drug users and violence prone parolees. (One statistic I see often, and from fairly reputable sources, says 45% of the homeless have committed violent crime. This means over half of them may be the victims of other half--hence the pit bull guard dogs).

Depending on what report you read, 20 to 35 percent of the homeless suffer from mental illness. My friend Jenny was such a one. I knew her from back in the day at Sac State. She was quiet, pretty, smart. She stayed on the fringe of our political hubbubs, finally got involved with one of the new-wave spiritual seekers, but still showed up for marches and protests. She once gave me a velvet-covered copy of the Rubyiat, from which she could recite aloud with marvelous intonation. But then it seemed that she started to crumble from within, month by month. She said voices told her she was pursued by government agents. I went with her to a psychiatrist. He said her "auditory hallucinations" and other symptoms meant schizophrenia. Her adopted family didn't like this. Schizophrenia was too much of a stigma, so they took her to multiple counselors, healers and ultimately quacks to get a more palatable diagnosis. During this time she went untreated and began disappearing for months, always coming back in worse condition.

She'd come to my flat. I always let her in because there was torment in her eyes. But by then her incessant, frenzied monologues had become inevitable, and would eventually drive me from my own place. This happened to others too, and often. None of us knew how to help her. She'd disappear again and the cycle would repeat. I finally moved to East Sac and lost contact with the old crowd. Ten years later on a January night a friend and I saw a bag lady pushing a grocery cart from Safeway. I called her name. She turned. Her hair and clothes were filthy, her face mottled, but she was Jenny. She told ghastly tales of the homeless life: rapes, thievery, and through it all the internal voices that screamed at her, cursed, and never stopped. We took her to a motel so she could bathe and sleep in safety for a few days while we tried to find help for her. She wouldn't shower but gratefully camped on top of one of the beds. The next night I went over with hot Chinese takeout, but she had gone again, back into the streets.

This meager personal knowledge the homeless leaves me with mixed emotions. I feel pity and concern for lost souls, but resent people who destroy our public places. I've seen a lot of websites, all quoting different statistics that sentimentalize, even romanticize, the homeless. Others, with different stats, rail against them.

So how does the City sort through this tangle of data to move the homeless to safety and save our parks and Parkway? Does the mayor lead a triage team through the bushes? If he does I hope he makes Bob and Sue clean an acre of trash before he bounces them. But what about the 77 year old Vietnam Vet they're bound to find? This guy, addled by fortified wine and despair, needs hospital care and compassion. But his campsite needs to go.

A while ago the Bee reported that the City is contemplating two pet-friendly shelters that will house 600 people. That seems a tad skimpy for our estimated 2,000+ homeless, but it's a beginning. Women and children should certainly be sheltered and those shelters protected by real police. Some politicians are sure to oppose this and say it's too costly and is throwing money at the problem. But they're repeating a rather tiresome cliché. The truth is, if you throw money at a problem and it hits the problem, and helps solve the problem, that money is well thrown.

I hope the City will provide protected shelter for the needy, while at the same time returning our parks and Parkway. It built an arena with luxury parking, but that project was about money and status. This project is about serving our downtrodden (whether we like them all or not) and conserving our green spaces.

The last I heard Steve went to Seattle where some homeless males travel in aggressive bands. I don't know what's going on with Bob and Sue today, but doubt they have abandoned drugs. Jenny is dead. Her life was too hard and though she looked old and battered, she died too young.

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SACRED HEART Holiday Home Tour

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Sunday, December 3rd: 11am to 5pm

Rain or shine!

Tickets on sale November 1st
One of Northern California's most popular holiday home tours returns with six elegantly decorated homes in East Sacramento's historic Fabulous Forties neighborhood.

This self-guided walking tour begins on 47th street between M and Folsom Blvd with participating home addresses and a neighborhood map on the back of each ticket.

Don't miss the Holiday Boutique and Cafe located at Sacred Heart Parish School.
No ticket is required to visit the Holiday Boutique and Cafe.

www.sacredhearthometour.com

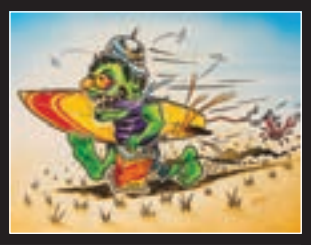
Tickets are $30 in advance and $35 the day of the event.
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O'zapft is! Gemütlichkeit Flows at Turn Verein 50th Oktoberfest

By JOE PERFECTO



Photos by Joe Perfecto

The Alpentänzer Schuhplattler dance troupe performs with the Alpen Tanz Kapelle band.

In Germany's southeastern state of Bavaria, a region renowned for its breweries, the capital city of Munich is the beer-lover's Mecca. It was here that the Oct. 1810 marriage of Kronprinz Ludwig (later King Ludwig I) to Princess Therese gave rise to Oktoberfest, a 16–18-day celebration of things quintessentially Germanic in which beer naturally plays a central role. Since its inception the festival has grown to gargantuan proportions; it's likely the dream of most of the *bierernst* ("beer serious") to attend the world's largest *Volksfest* even once (or for those who *have* participated, to return). Fortunately there's an easy, much more affordable way to "drink in" the essence of the Munich experience just minutes from midtown, at the Sacramento Turn Verein (STV) Oktoberfest held annually at Turner Hall, the stately brick edifice erected in 1925 at 3349 J St.

Founded in 1854, STV is the city's oldest continually operating club, based on a holistic education model found throughout Germany. "Turn Verein is a gymnastics club, in the broader sense of the word, in that it goes back to the Greek idea of a sound mind in a sound body," Trustee Ingeborg Carpenter said. "The Greeks trained their young men in gymnasiums where they would get schooling and physical training. There's a soccer club, there's the Harmonie—which is a singing club—a library, a [German language] school—everything for the whole person to be exercised." (While gym activities are no longer offered, STV's seven "sections" include a handball-racquetball club and 10 soccer teams.)

The *Turnvereine* model doesn't include a "beer-drinking club"; such would be redundant as the beverage has long been intrinsic to German life. Historically, in agrarian societies beer was considered "liquid bread"; for countless generations of the working class, ales made with hearty grains and nutritious yeast were a daily staple, providing essential nutrients and stamina to fuel their labors. By virtue of that role it enjoys a central focus in this long-standing autumnal celebration.

Through the atmosphere and activities in a variety of venues located throughout the voluminous Hall and grounds, the club strives to capture the essence of Germany's best-known cultural event. "Germans like what's called Gemütlichkeit, when you sit together with your friends and have some music and do some dancing," said Carpenter. "That's what we are trying to recreate here—the spirit of the Oktoberfest."

Some time after the doors opened on Oct. 13, the festivities officially commenced in the main hall with the traditional parade followed by the ceremonial keg tap, which in Munich is performed by the mayor, but here Republic FC president Warren Smith did the honors with a single mighty swing of an enormous wooden mallet. At this point, in Munich, the announcement *"O'zapft is!"* ("it's tapped" in the Bavarian dialect) is made, the brew is sampled and declared fit for drinking and the beer halls open their taps while the band plays "Ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit" (A Toast to Good Times). But here, since the bars were already serving, the words fell on a hall full of Bierkrüge (mugs) holding various levels of lager the attendees had already found to be plenty *trinkbar*.

While Germany produces a wide variety of brews, the ceremonial keg held a Hofbräu-München lager, one of a handful of official Oktoberfest styles produced in Munich in accordance with the Reinheitsgebot purity law of 1516 that permits only hops, barley, water (and later, yeast) as ingredients. Other brands served at the fest's three bars included Hacker-Pschorr, Paulaner and Weihenstephaner (the world's oldest brewery)—all of them officially sanctioned.

Featured at the fest's four venues were a handful of

See Oktoberfest, page 11

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Traditional dress lent an air of authenticity to the festivities.

Oktoberfest:

Continued from page 10

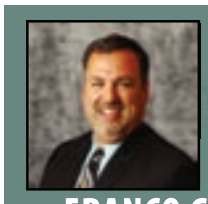
musical groups, a traditional dance troupe, an assortment of cultural foods and, of course, countless kegs (except in the Kaffeehaus). Lending an air of authenticity were the visually striking head-to-toe Trachten (garments) common among both attendees and performers of all ages. In evidence throughout the festival site were *Frauen und junge Damen* clad in Bavarian Dirndls—blouse-bodice-skirt-apron ensembles, with *Männer und Jungen* sporting Trachtenhüte (Alpine hats) and Lederhosen (braced shorts) of various colorful designs.

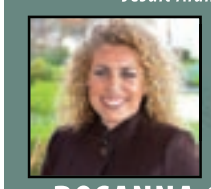
In the large main hall guests could dance to the Gruber Family band; taking the floor from time to time was STV's Alpentänzer Schuhplattler dance troupe in traditional costumery, with accompaniment by the Alpen Tanz Kapelle band. Just outside, the Biergarten featured numerous picnic tables from which guests could enjoy the Alpenmeister band while noshing al fresco on a variety of foods that included roasted almonds, "currywurst" (sliced bratwurst under curry sauce), soft pretzels as long as a forearm and Leberkäse, the famous Bavarian sandwich made of slices from a loaf of bologna-like "liver cheese." Beer and food were also available upstairs in the small Festhalle, where the selections performed by rock cover band AKA LIVE catered to those seeking a more modern sound. Just across the hallway, the bright but sedate Kaffeehaus offered a quiet space for enjoying a caffeinated brew and any of a number of homemade baked goods offered by the STV Harmonie club, which included the popular Bienenstich (Bee Sting Cake), Apfelstrudel and Black Forest Cake. While this may seem out of place, Oktoberfest is after all not simply a "beer festival" but a celebration of all things German—in this case, the *Kaffeeklatsch*; an afternoon visit to the bakery for cake and coffee is a German custom.

In size and scope there is of course no comparing this fest to its megalithic progenitor. Munich's event, which opened with a spectacular parade of nearly 10,000 participants along a four-mile route, hosted 6.2 million visitors who consumed 7.5 million liters of fine Deutsch bier in 34 enormous halls/tents over 18 days. At STV, on both days the parade made a few loops around the middle of the main hall, and 2,500 visitors downed somewhat fewer than 10,000 liters. But by the metric that truly matters, that of *der menschliche Geist*—the human spirit—the local attendees, German or not, easily matched their European counterparts with each raising of a stein in *ein Prosit der Gemütlichkeit*, in celebration of life.



Guests approach the main entrance to Turner Hall.


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SATURDAY, NOV. 4

COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING: This is the fourth tree planting of the River Park Tree Canopy Project – a neighborhood group working with the Sacramento Tree Foundation and SMUD to plant trees at River Park homes. It's fun! Meet neighbors and help build a beautiful tree canopy! Where: Glenn Hall Park (5499 Sandburg Drive, 95819) at 9 a.m. to noon, meet for coffee, treats, and orientation. Then, the group will be planting more than 30 trees so they need a lot of helpers! Planters will be part of a small work group of River Park neighbors who plant trees that have been sited and delivered by the Sacramento Tree Foundation. Be sure to wear gardening shoes and clothes, and wear gloves. You may want to bring water and a hat as well. All tools will be provided by the Tree Foundation. Please sign up here: http://bit.ly/2k6V5Rj. The sign up will help us plan our work groups. Also you will be able to sign the volunteer waiver. You may find this video about how to plant trees helpful: sactree.com/plantvideo; Any questions:contact Kate Riley, 916-716-3102 or kbriley@surewest.net . The River Park Tree Canopy Project is a volunteer group sponsored by the Sacramento Tree Foundation, the River Park Neighborhood Association, the River Park Garden Club, Caleb Greenwood School, our Council member Jeff Harris, and SMUD.

SUNDAY, NOV. 5

AMERICAN SONG BOOK: TIM METZ TRIO AT PIONEER CHURCH: The Great American Song Book as interpreted by, Joe Gilman, piano; George Ban-Weiss, bass; Tim Metz, Drums; and Casey Lipka,vocals, will played in concert Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 p.m. The concert series of the Sacramento Community Concert Association continues at the historic Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 L Street, across from Sutter's Fort. The most classic songs ever written, feature compositions by George and Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Irving Berlin. According to Scott Miller, President of the Sacramento Community Concert Association, "The Songbook is in good hands with this stellar group. Joe Gilman is one of the most respected pianists and educators in the country. George Ban-Weiss, a highly engaged bass player, can be heard on many jazz albums and video games. Casey Lipka, a stunning vocalist, is an amazing songwriter in her own right, and Tim Metz has played with some of the leading lights of the international jazz scene." Student tickets are available for ages 5-24. This is SCCA concert series performance. for information, www.sccaconcets.org.

SATURDAY, NOV. 11

CONCERT PIANIST JASON SIA TO PERFORM FREE CONCERT AT PIONEER: Pianist Jason Sia will be performing works by Chopin, Beethoven, Ravel, DeBussy, Brahms, and Gershwin, Saturday, November 11, 7 p.m. at Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 L Street. The concert is free, part of the Pioneer Church's musical series. Sia received his formal musical education at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and at the Aspen Music School. He earned his Bachelor and Master Degrees in piano performance at California State University, Sacramento. He began playing at age 6 and has performed at Carnegie Hall and recitals in France, Hone Kong, Korea, and the Philippines. Currently he is the pianist for the Sacramento Valley Concert Choir. He is preparing for his Carnegie Hall solo piano concert in June of 2018. Door open at 6:30 p.m. with the performance at 7:00 p.m. The historic Pioneer Congregational Church is located across from Sutter's Fort, at 2700 L Street. www.pioneerucc.org.

FRIDAY, NOV. 17-SATURDAY, NOV. 18

SAC STATE'S OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS BERLIN TO BROADWAY WITH KURT WEILL: A Musical Voyage, at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 17 & 18, and 2 p.m. Nov. 19, in the Capistrano Concert Hall on campus, 6000 J St. The performance is a joyous and moving celebration of composer Kurt Weill, known for songs such as "Mack The Knife" and "Alabama Song (Whisky Bar)." Tickets are $10 general, $7 seniors, $5 students, available at (916) 278-4323 or www.csus.edu/hornettickets. Contact: (916) 278-5155.

FRIDAY, NOV. 17-SUNDAY, NOV. 19

RIVER CITY QUILTERS' GUILD 2017 QUILT SHOW: The River City Quilters' Guild is hosting their annual quilt show. "Reflections and Visions," at the Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H Street, Sacramento on November 17 through November 19. Times are Friday from 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Admission is $10 for all 3 days. Ages 12 and under are free if accompanied by an adult. The show will feature hundreds of beautiful quilts, including traditional, contemporary, and art quilts and wearable art made by textile artists. The Country Store and a multitude of vendors will have a fabulous selection of items for holiday gift giving. Don't miss your chance to win a beautiful red and white basket quilt or the cherry red Singer Featherweight Sewing machine, lovingly refurbished by Twice Nice Sewing Machine Restorations. The Boutique will offer chances to win many great baskets and other items, many not quilt related. There will be numerous demonstrations during the three day show. Parking at Scottish Rite is free and lunch is available on site from Ambrosia Café & Catering. Featured artist this year is Carol Smith, a prolific award winning quilter and charter member of the Guild, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2017. Carol is a mentor, teacher, judge, and lecturer whose quilts reflect many varied techniques she has learned in the 40+ years she has been quilting. Proceeds from this event will support the activities of the Guild, which include promoting quilting and the use of textiles within the Guild itself and in the community at large. The Guild contributes to the knowledge of quilting techniques, patterns, history, and quilt making by providing educational meetings, fun, and fellowship. Community service activities include making hundreds of quilts annually for pediatric patients in area hospitals; creating quilts for veterans at Mather Hospital; sewing flannel "lovies" for the Sacramento County Sheriff Chaplaincy and drawstring travel bags for children at the Children's Receiving Home; providing a scholarship at CSU Sacramento for an aspiring quilter; and participating in other charitable quilt auctions.

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

PIONEER CHURCH GIVES "SONGS OF THE SEASON": "Songs of the Season", the annual Pioneer Congregational Church family holiday musical will be performed Saturday, December 2, at 7:00 p.m. Capital Public Radio's Donna Apidone is the "story teller". Pioneer Music Director, Jim Jordan, has drawn musicians and singers from the four-county area for the holiday production. "The jubilant secular and joyous sacred pieces are wrapped in a beautiful story masterfully told by Donna Apidone. This will be an evening sure to delight young and old alike," says Jordan. The 35 voice choir and 24 piece orchestra is from a variety of community musical organizations from the Folsom Lake Symphony, Camellia Symphony Orchestra, Rancho Cordova Civic Light Orchestra, Sacramento Choral Society, West Sacramento Symphony, and California State University, only a partial listing. Tickets are available at www.brownpaperticket.com or at the Pioneer box office at 916-443-0032, $20 in advance and $25 at the door, children under the age of ten are free. Parking is available at Sutter Community Garage, 27th and N Streets. The historic Pioneer Congregational United Church of Christ (UCC) is located at 2700 L Street, across from Sutter's Fort.

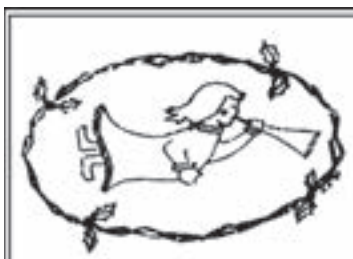
SUNDAY, DEC. 3

2ND ANNUAL ESP SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH & FASHION SHOW: East Sacramento Preservation invites you to a benefit fashion show and brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Katia's Collections, 5619 H St. (Free parking available in the back.) Learn about the latest trends and what styles look best on your body type. A special discount will be offered to all guests exclusively for this event. Cost: $25. Please make your tax-deductible check payable to ESP. All proceeds benefit the East Sacramento Preservation Scholarship Fund. Reserve your seat by mailing your name, email address and check to: ESP, PO Box 191763, Sacramento, CA 95819
For more information, email contact@eastsacpreservation.org, call 456-9625 or visit eastsacpreservation.org/

ONGOING

CHAUTAUQUA PLAYHOUSE CHILDREN'S THEATRE PRESENTS "CINDERELLA": Chautauqua Playhouse will present the timeless fairy tale "Cinderella", adapted by Robert Gerould, beginning on Oct. 28 at the Playhouse. The show will run on Saturdays at 1 p.m. through Nov. 11. The performances will be held at the Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Road in the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Admission is $8 for all seats. The most famous fairy tale in the world comes to Chautauqua, with all the characters you love. Cinderella, a scullery maid in her own home, dreams of finding love and escaping from her wicked stepmother and stepsisters. Only a Fairy Godmother and an optimistic heart can help Cinderella achieve her happily ever after. The direction is by Warren Harrison. The cast includes Stella Pedersen, Dean Dudzik, Pat DeBruyn, Jamie Bristow, Linden Tarr, Shelly Montes and Stephen Watson. Information and tickets are available through the Chautauqua Playhouse website: www.cplayhouse.org or call the box office at (916) 489-7529, during business hours.

– EVENT CALENDAR –



Please Come....
CRAFT FAIR

Our 39th Year ~ Over 150 Crafters

Friday, Dec. 1	5 – 9 p.m. *($5 at door)*
Saturday, Dec. 2	9 a.m. - 7 p.m. *(Free)*
Sunday, Dec. 3	9 a.m. - 3 p.m. *(Free)*

St. John the Evangelist School
5701 Locust Avenue • Carmichael, CA 95608

Holiday Craft Faire
Saturday, November 4th
9am - 3pm • FREE
One of a kind holiday gifts!
Mission Oaks Community Center
4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael
916-972-0336

ACC Craft & Bake
Friday, Nov. 10, 2017
9am - 3pm. FREE to public
Unique Crafts, Baked Goods, & Raffle Prizes!
ACC Greenhaven Terrace
1180 Corporate Way, Sacto, CA 95831
Contact Chau Nguyen (916) 394-6399

SACRAMENTO CIVIC BALLET
& CROCKETT-DEANE APPRENTICE CO
& DEANE DANCE CENTER PRESENT

NUTCRACKER & CHRISTMAS ANGELS
Friday, Dec 15, 8 p.m. - Preview
Saturday, Dec 16, 2 pm
Sunday, Dec 17, 2 pm 2017

"The Center" 2300 Sierra Blvd
Tickets $8 - $15
(916) 453-0226 Tickets at door OR
DeaneDanceCenter.com



ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Choral Evensong for Feast of All Saints
Featuring Adult Choir
& Guests of the Church,
AND Organ Recital by Robert Rouch
Sunday, November 5, 2017, 4:00 p.m.
2076 Sutterville Rd (Across from City College)
Reception following - **FREE event** – Child Care Provided

Got News?
e-mail editor@valcomnews.com

Public Notification

City of SACRAMENTO
Department of Utilities

Construction Is Underway

The City of Sacramento, Department of Utilities and its construction contractors are working on water meters, water mains, and water service lines in the area.

Visit **www.MetersMatter.org** to learn more about the project and to find out what may be happening in and around your neighborhood.

This work may result in:
- Traffic delays
- Sidewalk closures
- Construction-related dust and noise

This work addresses the State's mandate for water meters to be installed on all water services.

Thank you for your cooperation on this very important project.

Contact us for more information:
www.MetersMatter.org
Meter Information Line: 916-808-5870

311 Español | 中文
Tagalog | Tiếng Việt
Hmoob | Русский



METERS MATTER
responsible water management

In-Stock Dining Sale!



Sale $209 reg $239 342925

42"x26" Leg Table w/2-8" drop leaves
Side Chair $79

Guests are on their way!
Is your dining room ready?

We have over

70

Dining Sets IN-Stock & ready to go for your holiday entertaining!



Sale $169 reg $199 053595

42" Round Counter Height Table
Barstool $99



Sale $399 reg $459 103770

42" Round Pedestal Table w1-15" butterfly leaf
Side Chair $89



Sale $429 reg $479 487667

42" Square Pedestal Table w/1-15" leaf
Side Chair $89



Sale $659 reg $739 265946

36"x54" Counter Table
Barstool $139



Sale $599 reg $659 472424

42" Square Pedestal Table
Side Chair $119

All dining room furniture is on Sale!*

1 Week Only!



Sale $759 reg $859 942892

40"x84" Metal Top Table
Side Chair $129 Three Drawer Server $699



Sale $1399 reg $1549 754915

42"x60" Trestle Table w/2-18" leaves
Side Chair $299 Sideboard $1379

Naturwood® HOME FURNISHINGS

12125 Folsom Blvd.
Rancho Cordova
916-351-0227

Mon – Fri 10am – 8pm
Sat 10am – 6pm
Sun 11am – 6pm

www.naturwood.com

*Sale applies to all indicated items except all "Clearance" and "Special Buys". Sale price not available in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Sale Ends 11/08/17