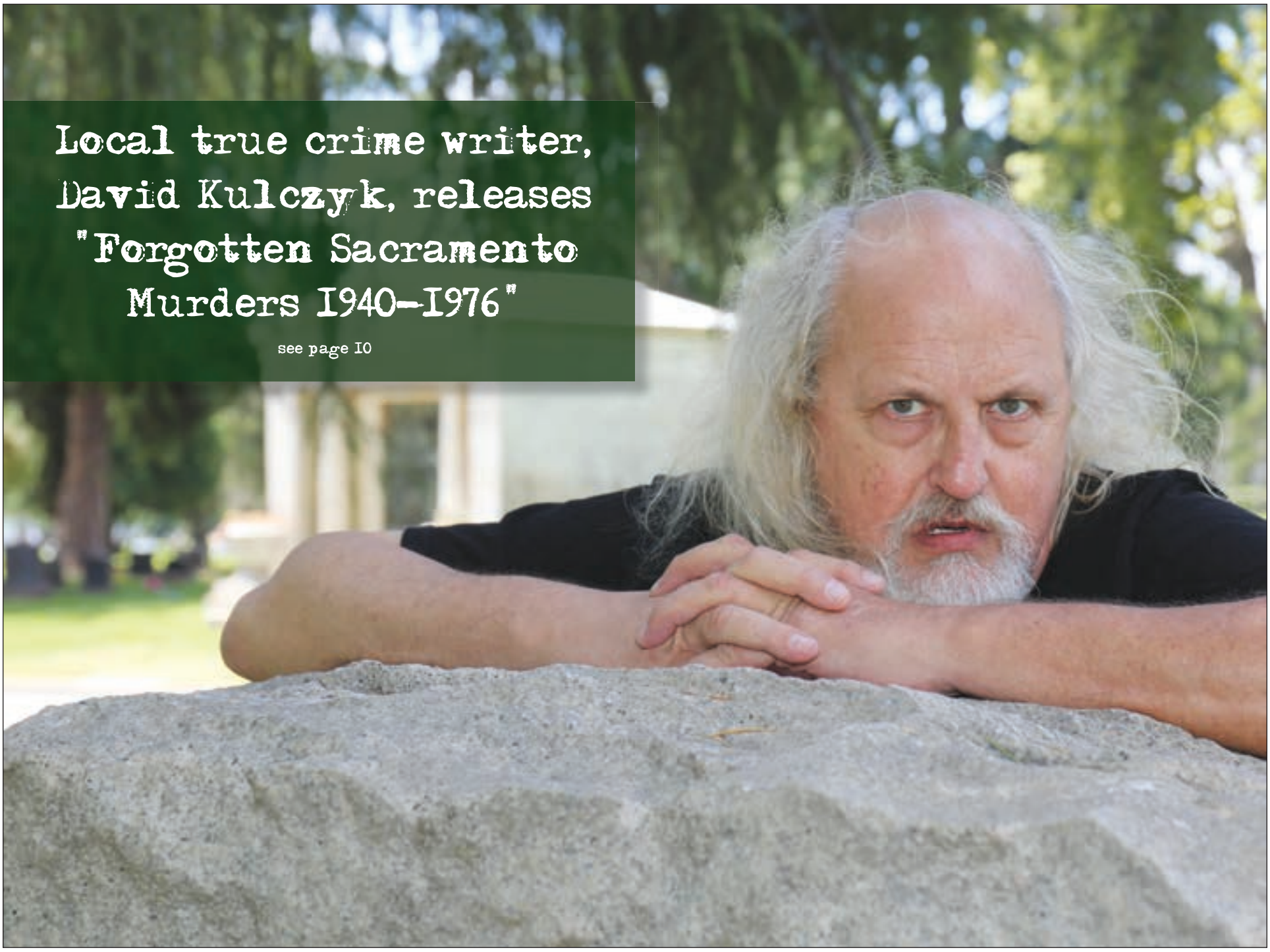
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Local true crime writer, David Kulczyk, releases "Forgotten Sacramento Murders 1940-1976"

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Obituary

Rupert "The Rupe" Hess

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Former Newbert Hardware owner reminisces about his career, life in East Sacramento

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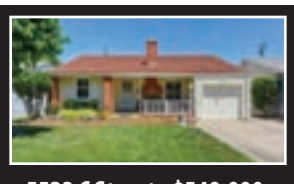
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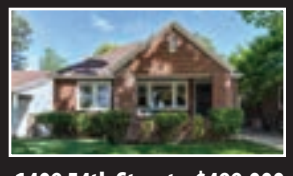
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Obituary

Rupert "The Rupe" Hess



Rupert "The Rupe" Hess, 75, resided in Sacramento, California, and unexpectedly passed away on May 23, 2018 due to complications from heart issues at Mercy General. He is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Carol, and his loving daughter, Ilsa.

Rupert was born on May 2, 1943 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to Herman and Esther Hess. He and his whole family moved to Vallejo, California when he was 5 years old. After one year, his family relocated to Sacramento.

During high school, Rupert enjoyed playing football. He even tried out for the Oakland Raiders, but sadly did not make the team.

Rupert met Carol at a technical school in Sacramento. One day during class, he told her how he had a 1958 Oldsmobile convertible with a matching boat. When she wanted to go for a boat ride with him, he said that the boat went over a cliff. When she said how they should just go for a ride is his Olds, he then explained that the car went over the cliff with the boat. His sense of humor brought them together and they were married on April 18, 1965 at St. John's Lutheran church. After 53 years of marriage, Rupert and Carol had a deep love and friendship for one another.

Rupert retired from the County of Sacramento Office of Communications and Information Technology on July 17, 1998. In his 33 years of County service, he began employment with what was then known as the Systems and Data Processing Division in 1965 as a Tab Machine Operator and retired as a Technical Support Bureau Manager in 1992. He was assigned to manage and coordinate the construction of the 799 G Street facility. He has coached many employees in technical and supervisory skills that enabled them to advance their carriers.

Many friends have fond memories of going out to lunch with Rupert over these many years. This was his way of staying in contact with the many friends he made during his time at the County. His lunch schedule was so booked, even his wife and daughter had to make lunch dates with him weeks in advance.

Every year after he retired from the County, he and his "Buds" would go up to Sitka, Alaska to fish for Salmon, Halibut and Rockfish. Some would say Rupert's fishing technique was unique in that he could fish while sleeping the majority of the time. His main function during these fishing expeditions was to document the fun he and his friends were having using his many video recording and photography gadgets, later to brag about it on the internet. They don't call him "The Lord of the Sea" for nothing.

Rupert loved to help people. He donated his blood and platelets on a monthly basis because he had a special blood type that was in high demand. He donated so much blood that he received numerous plaques to commemorate the many lives he saved. Over 10 people reached out to Rupert over the years to personally thank him for donating blood and saving their lives.

Many fond memories were made when Rupert and his family would travel along the Pacific Coast. Each year, they would camp at different campgrounds near Bodega Bay with their friends and sometimes with herds of cows at Bodega Dunes.

In addition to traveling, he enjoyed cooking and gardening, especially growing giant Beefheart tomatoes and hot peppers. When his daughter, Ilsa, was a child, she would "help" him in the garden. She would follow behind him and take out the "weeds", but they were actually the plant starts he was planting. "CAROL!!! HELP!!!"

Pets were a big part of Rupert's life. When he was a child, he had a pet Pekin duck and multiple cats. Later, Carol and Rupert would breed Basset Hounds, sometimes with mixed results when a stray dog would jump the fence. Other pets included more cats, parrots, finches, tropical fish, hermit crabs, hamsters, bunnies, a large tortoise and even a tarantula named Herman.

Rupert and Carol used to love to have parties of all kinds at their home that sometimes resulted in visits from the police for being too loud. During one notorious costume party, Rupert came to the door with a face painted on his chest and the officers were laughing so hard that they could barely speak to ask him to keep the noise down.

We will all miss Rupert very much. There was no one like him. His sense of humor, big generous heart, great laugh and huge personality will forever be with us.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to Happy Tails Animal Rescue.

His ashes will be scattered around the many campsites in the Bodega Bay area where he loved to camp with his family and friends and cows.

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out and loudly proclaiming, "WOW! WHAT A RIDE!!"

Former Newbert Hardware owner reminisces about his career, life in East Sacramento

By LANCE ARMSTRONG



Photo by Lance Armstrong

This Newbert Hardware sign once hung on the business's building at 1700 J St. It is now on display inside the Golden 1 Center in downtown Sacramento.



Photo courtesy of Glen Vanderford

Glen Vanderford was the last owner of Newbert Hardware, which operated in Sacramento from 1914 to 1993.

At 96 years old, East Sacramento resident Glen Vanderford is the last surviving, former owner of Newbert Hardware, one of the city's notable businesses of the past.

Newbert Hardware operated in Sacramento from 1914 to 1993.

While sitting in his Fabulous Forties neighborhood home last week, Vanderford, who was born in Colusa and moved to Natomas at a young age, recalled working for his father, Carl Vanderford, in Natomas.

"I drove a lot of tractor, I'll tell you," he said. "We worked in the harvest and we got $1.50 a day, and it was from sun up until dark. He had a partner named (George) Adams. Vanderford & Adams."

Vanderford, who grew up with five sisters, graduated from Grant Union High School in 1939 and studied agronomy at the University of California, Davis, served his country during World War II as a P-38 instructor.

It was also during the war, in 1944, when he married Sacramento native Marlyn Fitzgerald at St. Francis Catholic Church at 1112 26th St.

Through his marriage, Vanderford began working at Newbert Hardware as a clerk following the war. His father-in-law, Richard W. Fitzgerald, had been one of the company's proprietors since about 1919.

Vanderford joined the proprietorship by the early 1970s and became the business's sole owner following the 1973 death of his father-in-law.

Newbert Hardware's roots, more

Although Newbert Hardware had a lengthy history of its own, its business roots extend back even further, to the California Gold Rush of 1849.

It was in that year that Livingston Low Baker, Robert Muirhead Hamilton and James Lloyd Lafayette Franklin Warren began operating a business in a canvas tent at Mormon Island, the site of which currently lies under Folsom Lake. They sold mining supplies, general merchandise and provisions to gold seekers.

These three businessmen relocated their operations to J Street in today's Old Sacramento during the

See Vanderford, page 8

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Getting the most bang for your buck

By DAVID DICKSTEIN

What's new? What's loud? What's colorful? How long does it last? What gives me the most bang for my buck?

As sure as the Liberty Bell has a nasty crack, these will be the FAQs at every fireworks stand from June 28 through July 4, the one-week period when most communities in the Sacramento region allow for the selling and lighting of state-approved "safe and sane" fireworks in celebration of America's birthday.

Once again, Valley Community Newspapers has the answers in our annual fireworks buyers guide. We've rated the new fireworks for the season from industry giants TNT Fireworks and Phantom Fireworks. Discount Fireworks Superstore, which sold the majority of its California operations to TNT last month, has no new items for 2018, but is well represented on the "Best of the Rest" list.

The 5-star scale for the freshman class is based on performance, duration, distinctiveness and value. Judges this year included firefighters of Sac Metro Fire Station 65 in Rancho Cordova, where the test was conducted. Fireworks are listed by price, highest to lowest.

Let the sparks fly!

New for 2018

There She Glows (Phantom), $59.99 – The prettiest pastels ever seen in a fountain come at a steep price. Smokeless lava-like globs erupting simultaneously with surging sparks can also be found in Phantom's cheaper and superior Funky Monkey fountain. 103 seconds. 3 Stars

Wizard Alley (TNT), $59.99 – Terrific crackling sparks spread far and wide, but for the same price TNT's year-old Wicked Strong is a wickedly stronger buy. It's Wizard Alley on steroids. 130 seconds. 3 Stars

Radioactive Spark (Phantom) $42.99 – Spinning sparks are a crowd pleaser, but not at a dollar a second. Cool packaging and unique rotating effect are overshadowed by the price and fleeting burn time. 44 seconds. 2 Stars

Illuminati Triangle (Phantom), $39.99 for two – "Deal of the Season" winner. Long-lasting fountain features multi-color pearls, sprays, flying stars and titanium crackle. Phantom's buy-one-get-one deals allow for mixing and matching, so consider getting one of these with an equally priced Brew Haha or Dragon's Tears. 184 seconds. 4 1/2 Stars

Tasmanian Cyclone (TNT), $39.99 – An all-star performance in a single fountain. Crackling sparks, lots of reds, greens, blues and yellows, fish effect, smokeless globs and a wild and



wide finish make this loaded rookie a winner. 106 seconds. 4 Stars

Electrolytes (TNT), $29.99 for two – Goes from meh to OMG at the 50-second mark thanks to a final half-minute of intense crackling sparks. Gets an extra star for being a buy-one-get-one deal. 81 seconds. 4 Stars

Red White & Blue Jubilee (Phantom), $25.99 – The advertised blue is more like purple, which is often the case due to the high cost of blue-producing copper compounds. Still delights with white chrysanthemums and red and blue fish and pearls. 110 seconds. 4 Stars

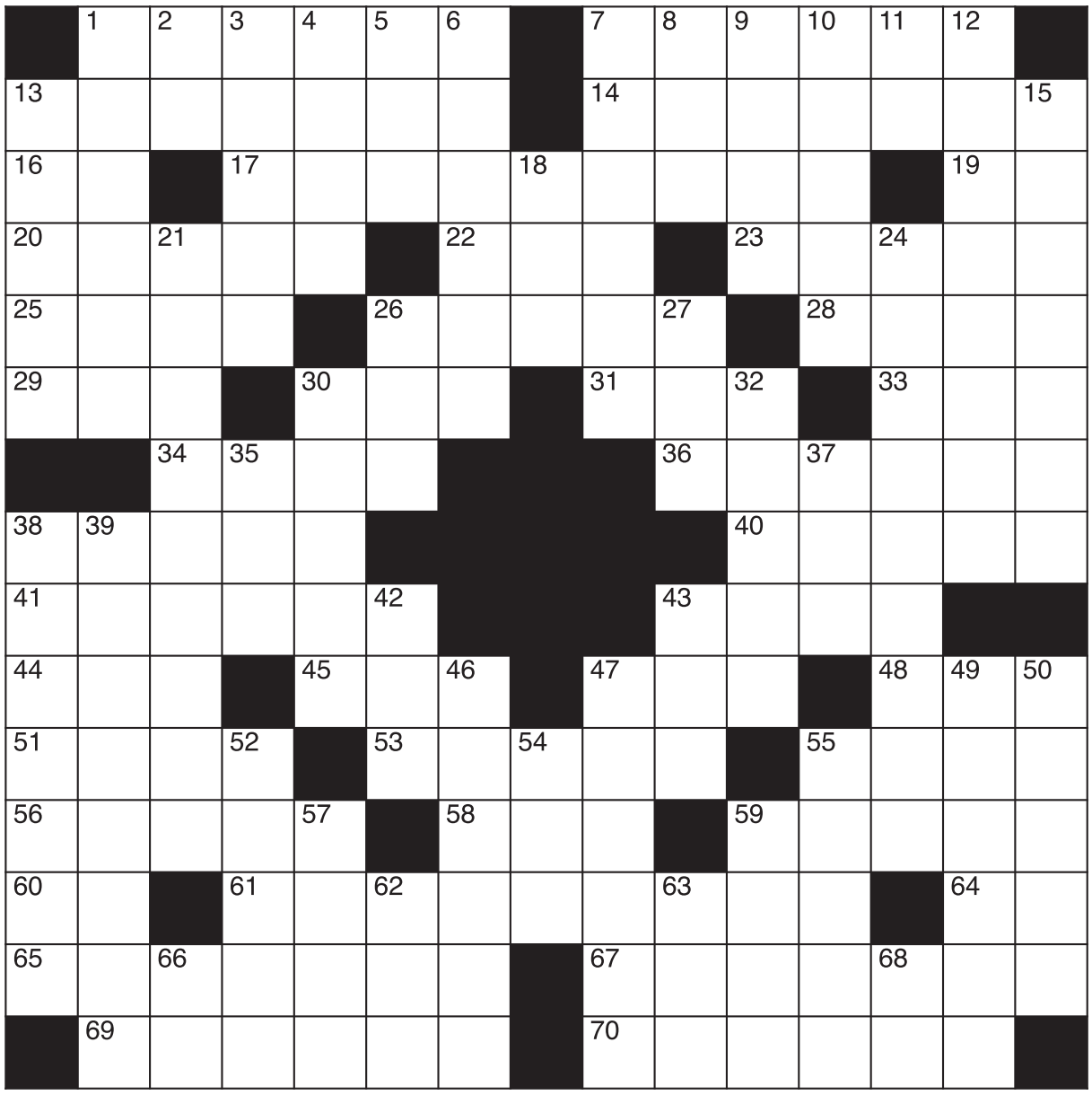
Wild Turkey (TNT), $24.99 – Love the big finish of extreme and erratic wide-spreading sparks, but this turkey gobbles up too much valuable time at the beginning. The first stage, five multi-colored flares that do nothing, lasts a full half-minute – meaning half of its total duration. If you want a fan from TNT, spend double on Delirium. 61 seconds. 2 1/2 Stars

Wild Side (TNT), $24.99 – It's like watching the super-charged final half-minute of TNT's Opening Show for a near full minute. There's no climax because it's all climax. Fellow pyro nerds might remember a deservedly short-lived TNT fountain of the same name that debuted in 2004. For-

See Fireworks, page 14

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Glowering
7. Sports equipment
13. Relief organization
14. Go against the flow
16. A public promotion of some product or service
17. Premier League's Spurs
19. Of I
20. Tears down (Brit.)
22. One point north of due east
23. Sandwich shops
25. American spy
26. Medieval stringed instrument
28. Self-immolation by fire ritual
29. Pearl Jam's debut
30. Panthers' Newton
31. Press against lightly
33. __ Squad
34. Eminem hit
36. Violent seizure of property
38. Native or inhabitant of Asia
40. Loudness units
41. Knotted anew
43. Daddy
44. Folk singer DiFranco
45. Women from the Mayflower
47. Metric capacity unit
48. Couple
51. A way to coat
53. __ and Diu: Indian territory
55. French river
56. Asteroids
58. Investment measurement (abbr.)
59. India and Nepal border river
60. Santa says it three times
61. Hungers
64. Linear unit
65. Speech
67. Taking forcefully
69. Places to be
70. Amusing behavior

CLUES DOWN

1. Adult female
2. An alternative
3. Rituals
4. Native American people
5. High school exam
6. Respect
7. Tanned
8. Kilometers per hour
9. Ancient Israeli city
10. Periods
11. Electron volt
12. Smallest interval in classical Western music
13. Metric weight unit
15. Occupies
18. __ and flow
21. Responsive to physical stimuli
24. One who presses into thin sheets
26. Jogged
27. Automobile
30. Punished
32. Belonging to a bottom layer
35. Japanese delicacy
37. Soda
38. Algonquian language
39. Legislators
42. Father
43. Needed at the ATM
46. Baltimore footballers
47. __ Tomei, actress
49. Expands
50. Person (Indonesian)
52. Related
54. Where wrestlers work
55. American communist leader
57. Creatively tell
59. Separatist group
62. Edgar Allan __, poet
63. A way to discolor
66. Actinium
68. Integrated circuit

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A hidden gem

Locals work to preserve the history and nature of North Sacramento's Camp Pollock

By JOE PERFECTO

The rivers of the Sacramento area have served as the setting for many historical events and discoveries, dating back to at least the first decade of the 1800s when army officer Gabriel Moraga explored the Central Valley for the Viceroyalty of New Spain. Among the first Europeans to visit the land of the indigenous Nisenan Maidu, Miwok and Wintun peoples, Moraga named the river to the west of the future city the Rio del Santissimo Sacramento (River of the Most Blessed Sacrament) and dubbed that to the north either the Rio de las Llagas (River of Sorrows)—possibly due to encountering hostile natives—or the Rio de los Lagos (River of the Lakes) based on the area's vast marshes. After several treks made by renowned fur trapper Jedediah Strong Smith in the 1820s, local natives and Spanish settlers renamed that river the Rio de los Americanos in Smith's honor. Smith's travels are also commemorated by the Jedediah Smith recreational trail that parallels the portion of the south fork between the Sacramento River and the city of Folsom, which fork Smith navigated in a failed attempt to find a trans-Sierra transportation route.

About 15 years later came city founder John Sutter's landing of his three vessels on the south bank of the American roughly 300 feet north of where the intersection of 28th and C Streets now stands. There followed the establishment of Sutter's fort and various business ventures, including a riverside lumber mill about 50 miles upstream, where the earthshaking discovery of a certain yellow metal was made by James Marshall in 1848, which put fledgling Sacramento smack in the middle of the global map and led to the much-storied Gold Rush of 1849.

And yet for all that transpired in the ensuing 170 years, there is a window to the past, a little chunk of riparian splendor on the north shore of the American a mere 1.25 miles from where Sutter disembarked, and just a quarter mile from the Northgate exit off the ever-bustling Highway 160, that even now is primarily the domain of the cognoscenti, still undiscovered by even lifelong residents of Old North Sacramento.

The site—Camp Pollock—does enjoy some recognition as a longtime Boy Scout facility, but for most people that's where the familiarity ends.

"There are plenty of residents who don't know this place exists," said camp manager Tim Fiock. "I just had an individual say he grew up in the area and he had no idea this was here; now he's 30-something."

The camp was established on a single acre donated in 1922 to the Boy Scouts of America by the North Sacramento Land Company, itself founded in 1910, before much of the area was developed; the camp was among the earliest of many such community projects the still-extant company has sponsored. After the Lions Club stepped in and constructed a lodge and courtyard in 1924, the Pollock family increased the camp's footprint by donating an additional 10 acres. After 90 years as a BSA property, the site was sold in 2013 to the California State Lands Commission. The Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC), which facilitated the transfer of ownership, manages the site in accordance with the American River Parkway Plan under a 25-year lease.

The camp has since been open for fee-free public visits every day of the year, although charges apply for overnight stays and some other uses. Facilities include the grand 4000-square-foot Myrtle A. Johnston Lodge with large deck, a multi-purpose courtyard with moveable picnic tables, a showering outbuilding, an enormous green space and river access. Located a scant two miles from the State Capitol grounds, the open-space sanctuary is easily reachable from urbs and suburbs alike, and combines a full-scale wilderness experience with quick, easy access to inner-city amenities—plus, unlike with many remote retreats, cell phone service doesn't suffer.



Photo by Joe Perfecto

Elk Grove residents Olivia Bettencourt (left) and daughter Julia clear weeds from around the courtyard fence.

"It's not all the way out in the middle of nowhere, but that's one of the benefits," Fiock said. "You can have a campout with the family or a group or educational camping event, and if you forget your tent or sleeping bag, you can just go back home, grab it and come back out here because it's only five [minutes] from downtown."

While the SVC is committed to keeping the property available for camping and youth day programs, river access and a variety of public and private events, the facilities as received were in need of much work. After five years of smaller capital improvements, the first of two phases of a major lodge restoration effort is complete. Local firm Otto Construction undertook the $1 million project, which involved replacement of all ramps and stairs, improved restroom access, structural upgrades, hazardous material abatement and removal of the outer walls of the "Order of the Arrow Room" at the east end (in its place now stands the expansive "River Deck" intended as an outdoor classroom space). SVC is seeking sponsorships in the neighborhood of $250,000 for the final phase, which will include a kitchen renovation, AC system installation and replacement of historic windows and siding.

SVC depends on the private sector—from citizens to communities to corporations—to support not only major projects but day-to-day upkeep, as it receives no dedicated public funds to manage the camp. But as important as monetary donations are, on-site volunteering is also prized; each Saturday (weather permitting) the public is invited to visit the grounds and lend a hand with the chores of the day, which can include gardening, housekeeping, site cleanup, fence repair, trenching and even carpentry and electrical work.

Among the handful of volunteers who showed up on a recent Saturday were Elk Grove residents Olivia Betten-

See Camp Pollock, page 7

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Camp Pollock:

Continued from page 6

court and daughter Julia. A pupil at a Catholic grade school, Julia was there to accrue credit toward the required eight hours of community service students approaching Confirmation must perform. They're given a long list of possibilities from which to choose; Julia said she opted for Camp Pollock "because I like the nature and stuff." Was mom getting credit too? "You know," Olivia said, "the parents are supposed to do four hours of community service as well." The mother-daugher team spent their time weeding and cleaning windows, jobs that while unglamorous are nonetheless necessary.

While the Bettencourts had not visited the camp previously, a few volunteers are familiar faces. For Tom Monahan, weekend work at the camp is a ritual; he and son Elliott have seldom missed a Volunteer Day in about five years. "It's a regular [thing]; it gives us a great bonding experience," Monahan said. "We have our little routine. He's the lawn mowing guy, usually. He learns a lot, and we get to spend time together, so it's good. Then we go to lunch together."

Woodlake resident Gary Roller is also frequently found at the camp—really frequently, as he doesn't limit his participation to Saturdays. While Roller has been volunteering for under two years versus Monahan's five, Monahan commented that Roller's total hours of service are rapidly approaching his own: "He's catching up fast because he's here almost every day." Actually locating Roller, though, might take a bit of hunting, as his assorted tasks take him from crawlspace to rooftop to outbuilding, and sometimes to the hardware store, so he's not often easy to track down.

A retired contractor and former owner of a construction maintenance firm, Roller first learned about the camp when attending a live music event on site. "My wife and I came here, and they were looking for volunteers, and I have a lot of experience, so I thought, well, I had finished remodeling a couple of houses, and I ran out of things to do," he recalled. "I can't sit around—I've gotta do things—so I started doing a little work around here, and they have plenty to do."

Monahan and Roller have together tackled just about every job imaginable: digging utility line trenches, installing sprinklers, roof repair, septic system service, camping area maintenance, trail building, fence construction, electrical work, conversion of an outbuilding into a tool shed. And even after all that, there's so much to be done that a volunteer could work daily for weeks and do a different job every day if s/he so chose.

In addition to fishing, birding, nature walks and other outdoorsy activities the site offers, SVC rents the lodge, courtyard and River Deck for a variety of private uses and camping spaces for individuals and groups. "We've had tons of different events—weddings, celebrations of life, birthdays," Fiock said. "In the last couple of years we've had an arborists convention, which works out for us because we get some of our trees worked on when the arborists climb up and do their demonstrations. We still get Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts using the property; within the last few months we had a Boy Scout group from the Bay Area do a bike-in that used a portion of the Jedediah Smith rec trail. They biked in here, dropped off their stuff, took showers and did a hike to Old Sac, then camped out here and did some fishing in the morning and some other cool stuff. That seems pretty awesome to me that they were utilizing all the different options, including the bike trail and ways to access Old Town."

The entire camp can even be reserved for private events, during which the site is closed to other visitors; in keeping with the Parkway Plan's mission of keeping such sites accessible to the public, this option is both pricy and only available a few times each year.

SVC hosts a number of seasonal event series. The Thursday evening Concert in the Parkway series, which typically features 80s-90s rock, runs from early May to early October; among this year's bands are Cat's Meow, Garage Openers, Papa Hip and The Taylor Chicks. A Wednesday evening summer Yoga in Nature series led by SVC docent Summer Ward has been offered but is not currently shown as scheduled. The Glamp-Out series offers a catered evening repast, an overnight campout and a pancake breakfast. Less-frequent gatherings include a Mother's Day campout, a Wilderness First Aid class with NOLS and REI and special events like the Nature Bowl Competition, an annual science-based program for 3rd-6th graders that increases ecological knowledge and conservation literacy.

Information about everything from volunteering to rentals to site details is available at the SVC's dedicated Camp Pollock page at http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/camp-pollock.asp; a schedule of events is found at http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp. General inquiries can be directed to info@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.

If asked, the tireless volunteer duo of Monahan and Roller would surely have Website visitors click the Volunteer Now button at http://www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/help-volunteer.asp, which redirects visitors to a brief survey and a means to sign up. "We can always use help and materials," said Monahan. Volunteering inquiries can also be directed to camppollockcaretaker@sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.



Vanderford:

Continued from page 3

following year. Their business was then known as Warren & Co.

In 1853, Warren sold his portion of the company to his business partners, who proceeded to open a new business, Baker & Hamilton. The firm featured agricultural implements and hardware.

This establishment later expanded to San Francisco and Los Angeles, had an office on Wall Street, and a manufactory in San Leandro. The manufactory was later relocated to Benicia.

With Baker & Hamilton no longer operating in Sacramento, in 1914, the Newbert Implement Co. (the original name of Newbert Hardware) began its history in the former Baker & Hamilton building at 109-113 J St.

Newbert Hardware was originally owned by former Baker & Hamilton employees, William E. Newbert, George W. Hausman and nine other men.

Other Newbert Hardware business partners at various times included Antone J. Raffetto, Lazarus Bloomberg, Abraham Bloomberg and John P. Ryan.

Newbert Hardware relocated to 1616 J St. in about 1925, and to its final location at 1700 J St. in 1937.

Following this business's closure, The Beat record store relocated to the 17th and J streets building and operated there for nearly 20 years, closing in June 2013. The structure has been home to BevMo! since June 2014.

Although it has been 25 years since the closure of Newbert's Hardware, there are certain reminders of this local institution, including its neon sign, which hangs inside the Golden 1 Center in downtown Sacramento.

Becoming an East Sacramento resident

While working at Newbert Hardware, in about 1963, Vanderford moved to his current home in East Sacramento.

He said that this move was made upon the wishes of his wife, whose dream it was to move to this section of the city. They continued to live together in the same home until her death at the age of 89 in 2012.

Alhambra Bowl, Alhambra Theatre

In addition to his longtime residency in East Sacramento, Vanderford recalled some of his other memories of this area.

Among those memories were his regular visits to the Alhambra Theatre, which was located along Alhambra Boulevard, south of J Street, from 1927 to 1973.

Vanderford, who referred to this former cinema palace as having been "such a beautiful place," recalled visiting the theater every weekend to watch movies and stroll through its gardens, which fronted the theater.

Vanderford also remembered bowling at the 16-lane Alhambra Bowl, which operated at 1221 Alhambra Blvd. from 1942 to 1982.

"Newbert Hardware used to sponsor a team (at Alhambra Bowl)," he said. "Johnny Bascou ran the place. There were five bowlers (on the team). I could pick any five bowlers. I put up the entry fees and the shirts. I was one of the bowlers. The best I ever did was 276. But I carried a 174 average in the league, which is fantastic. (A score of) 140 is the average of the average bowlers."



Photo courtesy of Glen Vanderford

Glen Vanderford was a P-38 pilot instructor during World War II.

Trapshooter, hunter

Among Vanderford's other pastimes in life have been trapshooting and hunting.

Vanderford, who was a member of the Sacramento Trapshooting Club, participated in many hunting trips and trapshooting competitions.

On display at his home are various trapshooting awards, including four gold, two silver and three bronze medals he earned in a state competition.

Also on display is the head of a sheep he killed during one of his hunting trips.

Vanderford belongs to various military veteran organizations and has participated in the annual Veterans Day parade in Elk Grove for the past five years. He has one son, Carter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

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Local true crime writer David Kulczyk releases "Forgotten Sacramento Murders: 1940-1976"

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

When local author David Kulczyk drives around Sacramento, he points out old crime scenes to his passengers, so he thought why not write a book about it. Having written four other books about California crimes and oddballs, he has amassed a sizable collection of murders and odd deaths that he filed away on yellow legal pads.

When everyone smoked cigarettes and drove giant cars with zero safety features, "Forgotten Sacramento 1940-1976" explores the crimes by "Sacramento's Greatest Generation" – the murders that shocked Sacramento two generations ago but are now only remembered by a handful of people.

Who remembers the Hobo Murderer Lloyd Gomez? He murdered eight people between 1949 and 1951. Thomas Lynn Johnston was a real life Boogeyman who murdered a 7-year-old boy in a downtown movie theater's restroom in 1956. Sixty years ago, Channel 10 television personality Ogden Miles was stabbed to death while engaged in a same-sex tryst in his car.

"People tend to think that senseless murders are a new ill on our society, when it has always been here," Kulczyk says. "That's why I included addresses on all but one of the crimes. The one that I omitted was because I could not nail down the address. I'm pretty sure I know where it happened, but I'm a historian, and I strive at being accurate."

The author of "Death in California: The Bizarre, Freakish, and Just Curious Ways People Die in the Golden State" and "California Justice: Shootouts, Lynchings and Assassinations in the Golden State", Kulczyk says "Forgotten Sacramento Murders 1940-1976" is his most focused work. "My other books took in the entire state of California. This one is just about the city that I love."

But it begs the question: Is Kulczyk obsessed with murder or just death in general? "I am not an obsessive person. I believe in a balanced life," he says, adding that he writes about murders because he finds them so tragic, and interesting. What were the circumstances? What drove this person to murder? What happened to the murderer afterwards? Most of the murderers that he researches and writes about lived a law-abiding life until one day they cracked. Whereby almost every house on "the grid" has a crime, murder or suicide attached to it, Kulczyk had a lot to choose from. But, he says, not every murder is interesting.

"I want to make it clear that I despise murder, crime and criminals. I hate the idea of a favorite murder, because lives were ruined, and families destroyed. I hate that Dorothea Puente is idolized. She was a lifelong con-artist who murdered the meekest of society," he said.

That being said, the most interesting murder sprees happened in 1957 and 1958, Kulczyk argues, when four men and one woman were brutally murdered in the same manner as the Mad Basher of 1941. "I'm pretty sure the Mad Basher, who had killed at least four transient farm workers and then suddenly stopped, came back to Sacramento in 1957 to continue his killing spree. The deaths are all eerily similar."

His usual publisher, Craven Street Books passed on "Forgotten Sacramento Murders 1940-1976", so he put it out himself. With a dark sense of humor, Kulczyk says his next book is going to be a children's book called, "Mommy Won't Wake Up."

You can catch Kulczyk at Time Tested Books, 1114 21st St., on Thursday, July 12 at 7 p.m. for what he calls a Dead Talk. He'll discuss the murders in the book, adding in some things he didn't write about.



Photo by Steve Crowley

You can meet local author and historian David Kulczyk at Time Tested Books, 1114 21st St., on Thursday, July 12 at 7 p.m. for what he calls a Dead Talk where he will discuss the murders featured in his latest book, "Forgotten Sacramento Murders:1940-1976."





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Fireworks:

Continued from page 4

tunately, this isn't a reissue. 60 seconds. 4 Stars

The 3 Emigos (TNT), $14.99 – Unless you're sold on the clever name and super-cute metallic label that features a silly emoji mariachi band, for less than half the price you can buy TNT's comparable and far-superior Neon Force fountain. 68 seconds. 2 1/2 Stars

Blackbeard's Cutlass (Phantom), $9.99 – Supervised kids will enjoy brandishing this sword-shaped handheld, but even Capt. Jack Sparrow would agree that this sparky sabre needs serious sharpening. 32 seconds. 2 Stars

Best of the Rest

(4 1/2-5 Stars)

Opening Show (TNT), $69.99 – "Best of Show" winner. Budget permitting, this former "Best New Finale" (2013) is a 500-gram must-have. You'll forget the steep price at the 1:40 mark when shock and awe strikes anyone closer than 25 feet away. Get your smartphone camera out for this one. 130 seconds.

Wicked Strong (TNT), $59.99 – Fan-finale hybrid packs a wallop, spewing most of its 500 grams for a serious sparkfest at the 90-second mark. 105 seconds.

Apache Firedance Premier (Phantom), $49.99 – Former "Best New Firework" honoree has 500 grams worth of top-notch crackles, strobes and height. 140 seconds.

Delirium (TNT), $49.99 – Still the benchmark of all state-approved fan fountains after 13 years, this 500-gram finale emits radiant colors and clamorous whistles and crackles. Phantom's response is the nearly identical **Coral Reef ($49.99)**. Both 105 seconds.

New York Harbor (Phantom), $49.99 – Venerable 500-gram finale is distinguished by its stellar burn time and best-of-breed chrysanthemums. 252 seconds.

Brew Haha (Phantom), $39.99 for two – Beer stein-shaped fountain overflows with a cavalcade of color and a loud opening whistle. Solid mix and match deal. 145 seconds.

Magnetic Heat (TNT), $39.99 – Amazes with gorgeous smokeless globs, pretty palms and intense colorful crackles. 112 seconds.

Miss Liberty (TNT), $39.99 – Beautiful multi-color stars with silver rain and intense crackles. 100 seconds.

Sea Serpent (Phantom), $35.99 – Outstanding crackles, whistles, darting silver sparks and height. 100 seconds.

Seventh Heaven (DFS), $35.99 – The tallest state-approved fountain (16 inches) and one of the longest lasting. Good 500-gram value. 240 seconds.

Flight of Fancy (DFS), $30.59 – Flower-shaped fountain from Brothers packs a dazzling display of multicolored showers and pearls, silver glitter, crackling, pine needles and golden flowers. 123 seconds.

Funky Monkey (Phantom), $29.99 – Pyrotechnic primate produces pretty prismatic pearls plus pleasing performance. 90 seconds.

Moondance Premier (Phantom), $24.99 for two – A pair of this highly rated super-sized version of Phantom's little Moondance Fountain is a great deal. 100 seconds.

Shut Up! (DFS), $24.99 – Surges of multi-colored sparks and flares are kinda quiet, but with crackles this item isn't as "low noise" as Black Cat describes and the name suggests. 75 seconds.

O-Blivion (TNT), $19.99 – Unique ring-shaped fountain emits multi-colored chrysanthemums with pine and impressive titanium crackles. Sweet burn time. 125 seconds.

Power On (TNT), $19.99 – Packaged to look like a miniature power plant, last year's "Best New Firework" electrifies with towering crackling sparks and unique fusing that moves from end to end. 85 seconds.

Sparknado (TNT), $29.99 for two – Three-year-old crackle-happy fountain is being discontinued after this season, and with it the cool effect of geysers of sparks breathing in and out before going into a frenzy. 85 seconds.

Serenity (Phantom), $17.99 for two – Noiseless fountain opens with lovely lava lamp-like lumps and peacefully pleases with seven colors and white chrysanthemums. 59 seconds.



King of Bling (Phantom), $16.99 – Crackles heard during the final third sound just like popping popcorn. Chrysanthemum and whistle effects are majestic. 90 seconds.

Nuclear Physics (DFS), $16.39 – Mushroom cloud-shaped packaging is the selling point, but gotta like the pretty gold flowers, silver chrysanthemums and noisy crackles. 66 seconds.

Little Big Show (DFS), $14.59 – This Black Cat dynamo is true to its name with lots of color, multiple effects and sweet burn time. 95 seconds.

Firecracker (Phantom), $10.99 – Delivers an awesome crackling barrage alongside multi-colored pearls. 76 seconds.

Phantom Dragon Slayer (Phantom), $9.99 for two – Solid pick with white, blue and lemon chrysanthemums, rowdy crackles and red stars. 66 seconds.

Lil Red Devil (TNT), $9.99 for two – Packs plenty of heat for the size and price. Ends strong with wide-spreading titanium crackling sparks. 35 seconds.

Everglow (TNT), $9.99 – Last season's rookie sensation scores with a quiet fish effect opening, titanium sparkle middle and boisterous crackle finale. Striking reds and greens. 61 seconds.

Luck of the Irish (TNT), $9.99 – Wowing revelers for 17 years with a performance of gold and silver spray, red and green balls, crackles and four super-loud whistles. 75 seconds.

Neon Force (TNT), $6.99 – Some of the best height, crackles and color at this price point. 55 seconds.

Cool Breeze (TNT), $3.99 – Non-stop crackle, vibrant color and a great price for the duration – what's not to like? 55 seconds.

Cool (DFS), $3.18 for two – Little dynamo emits loud crackles, purple pearls and glittering gold and white sparks. Lower-priced clone of TNT's Purple Rain ($5.99 for two) and Phantom's Moondance ($3.49). 45 seconds.

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A	T	E	N	S	■	V	A	R	■	S	A	R	D	A
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What's happening East Sacramento?

SUNDAY, JUNE 24

PEACE DOVE RELEASE AND PEACE POLE UNVEILING AT PIONEER CHURCH: A Commemorative World Peace Garden will be dedicated Sunday, June 24th, 11:30 a.m. at Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 L St. Twenty peace doves will be release as the peace pole in unveiled by Vice-Mayor Steve Hansen and Pastor Phil Konz. A World Peace Pole is centered in the commemorative brick area open to the Sacramento community. It symbolizes the oneness of humanity and our common wish for a world at peace.Eight languages on the World Peace Pole say "May Peace Prevail On Earth" in Spanish, Japanese, Hebrew, Miwok, Arabic, Hindu, Russian, English and English in Braille . Speakers in all languages will interpret what peace means to their cultures. The community is invited to attend the outdoor ceremony. For information call the church offices at 916-442-3727 8 a.m.-1 p.m. or 916-896-7766.

SATURDAY, JULY 7

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS A-Z Saturday July 7, 10:30 am McKinley Library
-Developing the college lists
-The application process
-Next Steps
-Financial Aid & Testing
-Question and Answer period
Questions: contact@apcollegeconsulting.com

SATURDAY, JULY 14

BUGS BUGS BUGS WITH NITA DAVIDSON: Friends of the Riverbanks invites you to this monthly event, which generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (note there are exceptions so check the calendar), at Sutters Landing Park at the VERY end of 28th Street in Sacramento. Bring water and sunblock, and a change of clothes for young ones who are sure to get sandy, muddy, and wet. Children under 13 must wear life jackets if they go into the water, per law. Leave your dogs at home and please bike, walk, or carpool if you can to keep our carbon footprint as small as possible. Directions: Head north on 28th Street, cross C Street and then the railroad tracks. Continue to the last parking lot where the park abuts the American River Parkway.

TASTE OF EAST SACRAMENTO: 10th Annual Taste of East Sacramento Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 14th. From 6-9 pm, this year's Taste of East Sacramento festival offers residents a unique opportunity to revisit some the area's favorite established culinary talent while exploring exciting newcomers. 10th Annual Taste of East Sacramento Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 14th. From 6-9 pm, this year's Taste of East Sacramento festival offers residents a unique opportunity to revisit some the area's favorite established culinary talent while exploring exciting newcomers.

SATURDAY, AUG. 11

USEFUL PLANTS WITH BRIAN COLLETT: Friends of the Riverbanks invites you to this monthly event, which generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (note there are exceptions so check the calendar), at Sutters Landing Park at the VERY end of 28th Street in Sacramento. Bring water and sunblock, and a change of clothes for young ones who are sure to get sandy, muddy, and wet. Children under 13 must wear life jackets if they go into the water, per law. Leave your dogs at home and please bike, walk, or carpool if you can to keep our carbon footprint as small as possible. Directions: Head north on 28th Street, cross C Street and then the railroad tracks. Continue to the last parking lot where the park abuts the American River Parkway.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8

DRAGONS AND DAMSELS, GREG KAREOFELAS: Friends of the Riverbanks invites you to this monthly event, which generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (note there are exceptions so check the calendar), at Sutters Landing Park at the VERY end of 28th Street in Sacramento. Bring water and sunblock, and a change of clothes for young ones who are sure to get sandy, muddy, and wet. Children under 13 must wear life jackets if they go into the water, per law. Leave your dogs at home and please bike, walk, or carpool if you can to keep our carbon footprint as small as possible. Directions: Head north on 28th Street, cross C Street and then the railroad tracks. Continue to the last parking lot where the park abuts the American River Parkway.

SATURDAY, OCT. 13

WELCOME BACK, SALMON: Friends of the Riverbanks invites you to this monthly event, which generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (note there are exceptions so check the calendar), at Sutters Landing Park at the VERY end of 28th Street in Sacramento. Bring water and sunblock, and a change of clothes for young ones who are sure to get sandy, muddy, and wet. Children under 13 must wear life jackets if they go into the water, per law. Leave your dogs at home and please bike, walk, or carpool if you can to keep our carbon footprint as small as possible. Directions: Head north on 28th Street, cross C Street and then the railroad tracks. Continue to the last parking lot where the park abuts the American River Parkway.

SATURDAY, NOV. 10

SURPRISE! Enjoy beautiful fall day outdoors independently. Friends of the Riverbanks invites you to this monthly event, which generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (note there are exceptions so check the calendar), at Sutters Landing Park at the VERY end of 28th Street in Sacramento. Bring water and sunblock, and a change of clothes for young ones who are sure to get sandy, muddy, and wet. Children under 13 must wear life jackets if they go into the water, per law. Leave your dogs at home and please bike, walk, or carpool if you can to keep our carbon footprint as small as possible. Directions: Head north on 28th Street, cross C Street and then the railroad tracks. Continue to the last parking lot where the park abuts the American River Parkway.

SATURDAY, DEC. 1

PARTICIPATE IN 34RD ARNHA ANNUAL WILDLIFE COUNT: Friends of the Riverbanks invites you to this monthly event, which generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (note there are exceptions so check the calendar), at Sutters Landing Park at the VERY end of 28th Street in Sacramento. Bring water and sunblock, and a change of clothes for young ones who are sure to get sandy, muddy, and wet. Children under 13 must wear life jackets if they go into the water, per law. Leave your dogs at home and please bike, walk, or carpool if you can to keep our carbon footprint as small as possible. Directions: Head north on 28th Street, cross C Street and then the railroad tracks. Continue to the last parking lot where the park abuts the American River Parkway.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23

POPS IN THE PARK FEATURING THE COUNT: Playing the music of The Allman Brothers Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and an occasional twist thrown in for good measure, The Count strives to take their audience on a journey where every note played truly "counts." The Count is: Ed Nelson/vocals, Sean McAuliffe/guitar, Bruce Leino/bass and vocals, George Stratton/guitar and vocals, Mike Caselli/keyboards, and Jim Caselli/drums. The Count is proud to be part of the Playtone Galaxy of Stars and is managed exclusively by Sol Siler Productions. Visit The Count at www.thecountband.com. The Count will be playing from 6 to 9 p.m. at Glenn Hall Park, 5201 Carlson Drive.



ONGOING

LOW-COST VACCINATION CLINICS AT THE SSPCA: Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for vaccines; no appointments necessary. Vaccines include:
1) DAPP vaccine ($20) — DAPP stands for Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus. While important for dogs of every age, puppies are susceptible to the Parovirus.
2) Bordetella ($20) -- often referred to as the kennel cough vaccine, this helps protect against a strain of bacteria that can cause kennel cough. Many boarding kennels and groomers require this vaccine for services,
3) FVRCP vaccination ($20) prevents three potentially deadly airborne viruses: rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia in cats,
4) Rabies shot ($6) -- this vaccine is required by animal control or to license your dog. The first vaccine is valid for one year, subsequent vaccines if given on time will last 3 years.
If you are 65 or older, vaccinations are free! The Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is located at 6201 Florin Perkins Road, Sacramento.



4TH of July SALE

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