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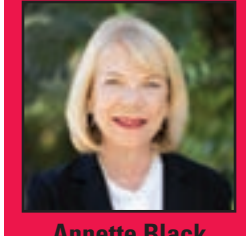
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City discusses proposed McKinley Park water vault:

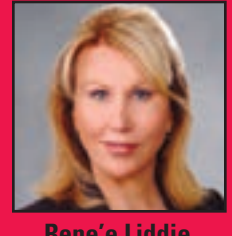
Councilman responds to criticisms of project see page 2

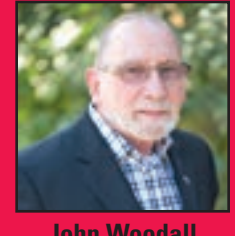
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This city of Sacramento advertisement for the proposed water vault features a car driving along a flooded McKinley Boulevard in 2009.

City discusses proposed McKinley Park water vault: Councilman responds to criticisms of project

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

The city's proposal to build a massive, underground water storage tank underneath a section of McKinley Park continues to draw interest from East Sacramento residents.

Designed in response to the longtime issue of flooding in the area, the water vault would be located on the east side of the park, between 33rd Street, the rose garden, the barbecue and picnic area and the horseshoe pit area.

The project, which would be funded by rate payer dollars, is described by the city as a temporary storage facility that would capture wastewater during large storms.

It would then allow that water to slowly enter a combined sewer system, in which storm drainage flows into the sewer.

The underground structure would have the capability to store as much as 6 million gallons of combined wastewater.

Although the proposed tank would require a 20-foot-deep hole to be dug in the park, if built, the vault would not be left exposed. It would instead be covered with a soil cap and covered with lawn.

The city states that the park would be returned to its everyday use as a valued section of the park.

If constructed, this project would also include adding improvements to the park such as revamping the walking/jogging trail and heating the pool to make it a year-round facility.

Councilman expresses support of water vault proposal

Among the proponents of the vault project proposal is Sacramento City Council Member Jeff Harris, who represents District 3, which includes McKinley Park.

The council member described the vault as solving a "very big problem, which is flooding and sanitary sewer outflows."

Harris mentioned that pressures to approach the area's flooding and sanitary sewer outflows began about two decades ago.

"(Back then), the state water board said, 'If you guys don't get on top of your sanitary sewer outflows, we can stop you from building anything in the city,'" he said.

"At that time, the council – about 15, 20 years ago – came up with a plan to do various projects and show improvements in our sewer system and our storm drainage issues, such that we were not in violation of the (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit."

Beyond supporting the plan to meet that requirement through having the water vault built, Harris expressed his desire to show people of his district that the McKinley Park area would not flood, and would have sanitary sewer outflows.

As for the location of the proposed vault, Harris said it is the ideal spot.

"It's situated here, because this is the low spot," he said. "This is where the real problem exists. (Plus) wherever you do a big storm water cache, they need some ground to do it. You can tear up a mile of road and put it under that or you can find a wide open space like we've got here, which is much cheaper and easier to effect."

Comments from the community

While the water vault proposal has its supporters, there are also those who oppose the project.

East Sacramento resident Will Green, who is part of an opposition group seeking to "halt the valt," stated why he is against the project.

"They can call it euphemistically a water tank, but sewers don't belong in parks," he said.

"The problem here is a combined, old system. The city has been told in the 1970s and again in the 1990s by two totally different contractors that the problem is an antiquated system. The solution is to split the system."

Green said that he has trouble believing that splitting these two systems would cost more than $2 billion, as the city states.

Cost aside, Green said that by not splitting the system, the city is using a "Band-Aid approach."

"I have to live by what is morally and ethically right by me," he said. "When I see something

See Water page 3



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Cover photo by: Lance Armstrong

Water:

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that's being done wrong to my taxpayer dollars and being done wrong for a recreational park, then I need to take a stand."

Green added that he does not like the idea of a very popular public park being disrupted by a project that would close a portion of that park and "bring noise, construction and pollution."

Ann Broderick, who has lived across from the park for more than 40 years, also spoke against the water vault, and in support of separating the currently combined sewer system.

"Most of the other cities are doing it by decades – all the cities on the East Coast," she said. "They're forking out the money to do it right. That's all they have to do is every year you do a couple streets or whatever and you separate the system."

Another East Sacramento resident Chris Drouin said that he feels that the vault project is being "rammed down our throats as neighbors."

Drouin said that he spoke to about 50 of his neighbors, of whom he noted 80 percent of them are opposed to the water vault proposal.

A card distributed by the opposition group notes: "Bad odors aren't controlled by the current storm drains. Why should we believe that (the) Dept. of Utilities will control the odors from this sewer/water vault any better than we experience now?"

East Sacramento residents who support a water vault for the park include Marsha Black, who stated that the project is misunderstood by some people in the community.

"They think it's a sewer system and it's not," she said. "It's separate from the sewer system. It's just going to collect all the excess water that now floods into the streets.

"(Overflow water) doesn't sit there (in the vault) forever. It drains out in a couple days and then it's empty again until the next flood. I just don't understand what the opposition is about."

Harris responds to criticisms of vault proposal

Harris also commented on citizens who state that the water vault is the equivalent of a very large sewage tank.

"I know that there are some protestors that think that it's a sewage tank," he said. "It's not; it's a storm water cache. Will there be some sewage in it? Yes, because there was sewage on the street, as well.

"But the fears of nauseous gases and stuff, I think we've demonstrated very well that those are not issues."

Harris added that the city conducted a tour of three other city water vaults.

"(Those vaults) have been very successful and right in the neighborhoods," he said. "No odors, no issues, no sound, no problems."

The council member noted that about 10 people attended the tour, and that they entered the event with skepticism, but left convinced that the proposed water vault had no major problems in its approach.

As a preventative measure against potential odors being emitted from the proposed vault, its design includes an underground odor control facility.

Harris also addressed the issue of separating the combined sewer system.

"It would cost well over $2 billion, take 20 years and tear up almost every street in this city," he said. "There's no way it's ever going to happen. We would have to triple everybody's utility bills, just to get enough revenue to bond against to do it."

Harris said that the cost of the proposed vault project has increased.

"When we first talked about it, it was around $30 million," he said. "When we started the engineering was two years ago and prices for construction have really gone crazy, because there's a shortage of labor and because of the president and the tariffs. Steel is high, concrete is high."

Responding to a request for an updated water vault cost estimate, Brett Grant, this proposed project's supervising engineer, said last week that it would cost "upwards of $34 million."

If approved, the water vault could begin as early as next spring. In that case, it is projected that the project would be completed in August 2020.

Harris stated that although having a construction project in the park would cause certain inconveniences, he stressed that the project would be temporary and occur in only a relatively small percentage of the park.

As for protestors who state their intention to "save McKinley Park," Harris said that the vault would not destroy any part of the park.

"People have said to me, 'Why would you destroy our most beloved park in the system?'" he said. "'This doesn't destroy anything in my mind. It makes the neighborhood better. When it's done, it will look very similar to what you see (now). What you're going to see is a grassy field.'"

Harris summarized some of the criticisms he has heard about the project.

"People, I feel, build up in their minds worse case scenarios," he said. "Our job is to use facts and say, 'Look, here's what the engineering is, here's how it will be built, here's how it actually works.'"



Local citizens share their feeling about the proposed water vault.
- Photo by Lance Armstrong

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Q & A Measure U

by: Alexis Schreiber

Measure U is a controversial measure that won by only a couple thousand votes in November 2012 to add temporary ½-cent sales tax to restore and protect police and fire services, park maintenance, and other essential City services that were cut between 2008 and 2013. Between $40 million and $47 million in revenue per year comes from the existing Measure U tax.

The new Measure U that will be on the November 2018 ballot will not only increase from ½-cent to a whole cent but it will be permanent if approved by voters bringing the total sales tax of Sacramento from 8.25 percent to 8.75 percent.

Local voters have an opportunity to hear from candidates during a general election forum set for Thursday, October 11, at the McAlester Campus of Eastern Oklahoma State College.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is structured into two main functions; one is voter education and the other is advocacy. The LWV does not support or oppose any candidates or political parties. They research measures & propositions which are on the ballot and take a position. However, on October 11 the voter education team will be moderating the Measure U Forum.

Paula Lee, Vice-president of LWV will be leading the forum. LWV will have a timer, volunteers to pass out & collect question cards. There will be LWV sorters who will go through all the question cards and sort out the questions to avoid redundancy. There are no prepared questions.

A Brief Outline of the Forum

LWV introduces speakers

Opening Statements: Each side will have 5 minutes which will be timed.

Audience will write down questions on the cards provided by LWV who will collect the question cards and sort them

LWV moderator will read the questions and each side will be allowed one to two minutes, which will be timed, to answer the audience's questions.

Closing Statements: Each Side Will have 1 minute for a closing statement which will be timed.

What LWV will do since there are only two speakers is flip a coin to see who presents their opening statements first. Winner of coin toss goes first. Then the order is reversed for the closing statements. Whoever spoke first at the beginning will speak last the conclusion.

Craig Powell is the president of the tax-watchdog group Eye on Sacramento, an independent, nonpartisan, community-based nonprofit organization. He is against the measure.

What is it about the measure that you disagree with?

"I don't think the voters of Sacramento can trust the city to spend $100,000,000 that measure U will rise with the purposes that the promoters of this measure are saying it will be spent for. The track record of broken promises on measure U is long and we know for a fact that CalPERS have advised that it is a certainty that the city in four years is going to see a $62,000,000 higher per year pension bill and that is a legal claim against the city.

New $50,000,000 brought into the general fund are going to go to pay the $52,000,000 pension bill that is looming over this city. The only way that would not happen is if this city somehow discovered a new abiding interest in dramatically reducing spending, which has shown no evidence what-so-ever. It is a mathematical certainty that all this money will have to go to satisfy that pension bill and none of it will be available to pay any of the many many promises that the mayor said how he is going to spend it.

The other trust issue is that when measure U was passed, we were told by city officials and politicians that it would raise somewhere between $25 to $27,000,000 a year and a couple of months after it passed, the city fessed up and said they miscalculated how much it would raise. They want to increase from $50,000,000 to $100,000,000 a year, so they would be four times the amount of money the citizens of Sacramento thought they were going to be improving when they first voted on measure U."

What parts, if any, do you agree with?

"Well, it's kind of a black and white issue in a sense. I actually literally can't see a single thing beneficial in this. There is one thing I'd like to bring up that may be a concern to some people. Measure U passed with a wide margin in a time when the city was flat on its back. Laid off 1,500 employees, this was perceived as a real need to bring back these people. The question is, do you still need that half of a cent? $50,000,000 to keep those people, we said no but if there are people who feel that way they've been cheated by this mayor from having the opportunity to vote for the option of simply renewing and extending the current half a cent sales tax.

The mayor, for sheer political reasons, did not want to give the people that option. He wanted to be able to hold out the threat of budget cuts and pain from budget cuts as a way to try to drive people into voting for a one percent hike tax. He knew that if people had the option of renewing and extending the half a cent tax, that would do that! That's just common sense if you're left with a choice of one or the other."

What alternative ideas do you suggest?

"The goal here is to free up $125,000,000 worth of resources. We're not seeing how these resources should be used. It could simply be used to finance the loss of existing Measure U, that $50,000,000 and the taxpayers would have relived that half percent burden or it could

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Measure U:

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be used in anyway the people want and that's really not what we're advocating.

We're simply saying these are cost opportunities that should be seized upon that are fair, just, and rational and then the people can decide through their representatives whether to relive as soon as Measure U expires or can decide that they want to put a bigger initiative on homelessness. We not saying do this and don't do this, we're just saying this is how the money is being wasted today. We're not getting any benefits from these items. We can liberate that money, not have a 1% $100,000,000 tax and still need money ahead.

We can clean up $125,000,000 more with these spending reductions than what Measure U would raise without the pain. Without the $200 per person pain of this huge increase in a highly aggressive tax. In particularly the impact this has on the poor."

In the top 10 largest cities in CA, Sac's sales tax rate comes in at #6 at 8.25%. If the measure passes, it will bring Sac's sales rate up to 8.75% making it at number #5 surpassing San Francisco at 8.5%. Do you think that number is too high for CA?

"I think it is too high for the central valley. We don't have the kind of incomes that people in the Bay Area have. This is an extraordinary burden on people who have much lower incomes in the central valley communities than they do along the coast. So, yes, it's way too high of a burden. There is a legal limit in the state of California for how high the sales tax can be at the local level and we are pushing that maximum."

What do you think about measure U on the 2018 ballot being voting on to be permanent now rather than temporary as before when it was first voted on in 2012?

"We think it's ludicrous. We think it's breaking a promise to the voters, this past promise in particularly. The past promise said this would be a gap filler until the city revenues recovered. They have fully recovered and then some.

It's time for city leaders to keep their promise. With the city politicians breaking their promise, they're now saying let's go ahead and make it permanent. They are sacrificing the incomes of future generations of Sacramento."

Do you think this Measure U has helped or been successful at all since 2012?

"Well, this gets into the slide of hand. If we had not passed Measure U, what would have happened is this rapidly increasing city revenues from the traditional level resources, that money wouldn't be used to hire those people back anyway. So, what has happened with Measure U? Measure U will not only be used to hire people back as really liberated as the city's budget.

The city has used that newly increasing city revenue from regular sources of income to hand out very generous wages to pay for rapidly escalating retirement funds. Exactly the thing that we were told that Measure U would not be spent on. And that concept is called supplanting, where they injected new money, which has allowed the city to avoid having to spend these other tax revenues on hiring people back and freed the city up to use there rising revenues from other sources to hand out much more lucrative raises and pension costs and other costs then they would have had measure u not have been passed.

Now try to explain that in a 30 sec commercial. That's the reality…"

The people in favor of the measure claim that it will ensure that we can keep up with our population growth and increasing needs for fire protection, emergency response and public safety. What do you say about that?

"It's a complete misrepresentation of the percentage sales tax. If [the people] were taxed $500 per person per year for city services, flat tax, then I would agree with you, then we would have to increase taxes, then cost of living goes up. You'd have to raise it to $550, or $525 to adjust for inflation…. But we don't have a dollar tax, we have a percentage tax.

A percentage tax allows for annual growth and the tax revenue of the city as its revenues and incomes of the residents rise. So if the cost of living is rising for city government, it's also rising for the salaries and incomes of our residents and businesses. It already funds rising costs of the city government because it uses a percentage tax not flat dollar amount."

Was the city successful before Measure U was put in place?

"I would have to say the city was in dysfunction before Measure U in a way that they responded to the recession. The city had a number of choices when they dealt with the recession. They choose the blunt ass approach of firing people. They could have renegotiated labor contracts. I don't think they did a very good job before the recession."

Zachary Yeates is the director of Civic Engagement at the Office of Mayor Darrell Steinberg. He is in favor of Measure U.

Why are you in favor of measure U?

"As one of California's fasted growing cities, the passage of Measure U is critical for our City's ability to keep up with our population growth and increasing needs for fire protection, emergency response and public safety.

It also provides funding to address homelessness and affordable housing and allows for investment in job creation, youth and neighborhoods. Measure U is not the answer to every challenge; but it is an extraordinary opportunity to match real resources to elevate our city's renaissance and to address our greatest challenges."

What parts, if any, do you disagree with?

"We are all in for Measure U. Measure U is essential to providing vital city services, emergency response and public safe-

see Measure U page 19

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14-1

Fundraisers organized for Sacramento music promoter Jerry Perry

Former Cattle Club operator, Chalk It Up director in need of assistance for medical bills

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Jerry Perry, who spent many years promoting local bands and bringing live music to venues in Sacramento, is in need of assistance.

After having a stroke on July 27, Jerry was hospitalized and has undergone daily physical therapy in hopes of having a full recovery.

As the cost of his medical expenses continue to rise, the former Cattle Club operator and current Chalk It Up to Sacramento! festival executive director, is experiencing the reward of building a life of giving to musicians and music fans.

Recognizing Jerry's need for financial assistance, musicians and others have bonded together to raise funds for Jerry.

Among those efforts is an upcoming benefit concert featuring bands that played at the Cattle Club, which operated on Folsom Boulevard, between 65th Street and Howe Avenue, during the 1990s.

The concert will be held at Harlow's Restaurant & Nightclub, 2708 J St., on Dec. 22, from 3 to 10 p.m.

The featured bands will be Kai Kln, Little Guilt Shrine, 99 Tales, Nothing But A Nightmare, The Trouble Makers and The Rosebuds.

The event will also include solo sets with Jonah Matranga, Kevin Seconds, Anton Barbeau, Gillian Underwood and Hannah Lingrell, as well as disc jockeys, Dennis Yudt ("The Master Bastard"), Larry Rodriguez ("Flower Vato"), and Grant Hudson.

Eric Bianchi, who worked as the sound man at the Cattle Club, will be the event's master of ceremonies.

Advance tickets are currently available for $25 through the website, ticketfly.com. Tickets will also be sold at the door for $30, if available.

Bianchi, who remains one of Jerry's best friends, said that the establishment of the upcoming benefit began with Marc Malakie, former manager of Kai Kln.

Working with Malakie to present the show is Brian McKenna, who assisted Perry in booking bands at the Cattle Club and is the owner of Abstract Entertainment, which promotes concerts in Sacramento and other cities.

John Rudgers, who played guitar in the Groovie Ghoulies and now lives in Detroit, said that he played at the Cattle Club.

John, who compared the Cattle Club to having been a sort of out-of-town "roadhouse," said that he was happy to hear that a benefit will be held for Jerry on Dec. 22.

"It shows a lot of love from the music community – the old school people, the newer school people," he said. "There are so many bands (he worked with) over the decades in Sacramento. It's what he loved to do and still loves to do and will get back to doing it."

Don Neil, a local tattoo artist who performed at the Cattle Club with the band, Dead Penny, said he was glad to hear that people are coming together to assist Jerry.

Neil also expressed appreciation for Jerry's dedication in keeping the doors of the Cattle Club open for so many years.

Neil shared his memories of that venue.

"It was a great place to go play and was a very cool place to go see a band, and they had all these great acts coming through there that were national acts," he said. "A lot of them were underground still. It was cool to see these underground giants. The mainstream hadn't gotten ahold of them yet. So, it was cool to see that and be able to play on the same stage."

Among the bigger name bands that played on that stage were Nirvana, Alice in Chains, Primus, the Cranberries, No Doubt, the Deftones and Cake, as well as a lot of legendary bands of the punk rock scene.

Dave Rudgers, who is John's son and the best friend of Jerry's son, Eli, said that he has admired Jerry for many years.

"Jerry is a walking dictionary," he said. "He knows so much about everything. It's kind of amazing. I can't believe he has so much information just banked up in his brain.

"He knows so much about bands, the musicians in the bands, movies, directors. Like, you name it, he knows like everyone in town."

Dave, who is 24 and works at Harlow's, said that he appreciates how committed Jerry has been to helping bring attention to local bands.

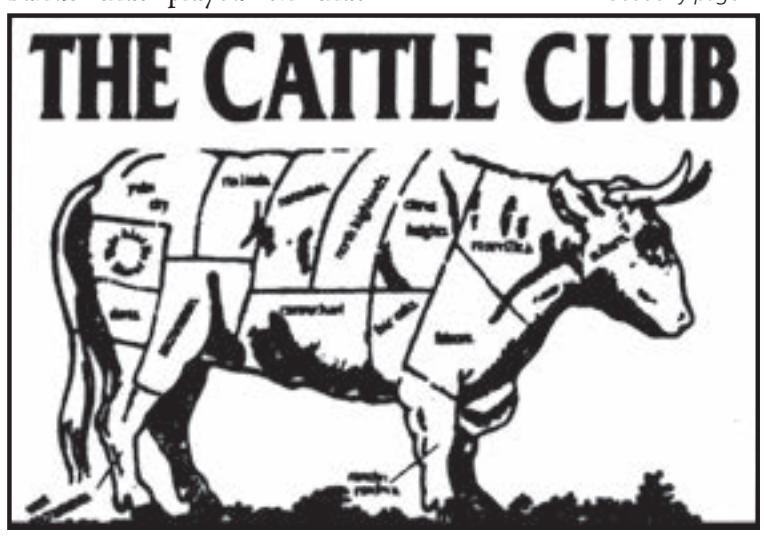
"I feel like that is basically Jerry's main goal is to give the smaller bands the spotlight, even for 15 minutes," he said.

Dave also described Jerry as a very likeable person.

"Everyone around him loves him," he said. "I've never really met anybody that doesn't like Jerry."

Eli, 26, said that he grew up around the Cattle Club.

See Jerry page 7



The Cattle Club logo was a very familiar sight for many music fans in Sacramento during the 1990s. - Photo courtesy of the Lance Armstrong Collection

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Jerry:

continued from page 6

"I was definitely at the Cattle Club," he said. "I have small memories of it, running around, standing on stage, hearing microphones. But I was only like 3 or 4 when it closed down."

Because Jerry was also the publisher and editor of Alive & Kicking newspaper, which was founded to promote bands at the Cattle Club, Eli recalled seeing many local band members at his home.

"They just did (the paper) in the front office," he said. "We always had local artists coming in to do interviews. We had Mickie Ratt from (the band) The Secretions all the time. Kepi, (lead singer of the Groovie Ghoulies) did his own newspaper and got help from my dad at one point."

Because of his father's condition, Eli booked bands for this year's edition of Chalk It Up, which is held annually on Labor Day weekend in Fremont Park at 16th and Q streets.

In addition to his work with the Cattle Club and Chalk It Up, Jerry has also booked bands and assisted with shows at various other local venues and events, including Friday Night Concerts at Cesar Chavez Plaza, Hot Italian Hot Lunch Concert Series at Fremont Park, and Luigi's Fun Garden in midtown Sacramento.

As funds continue to accumulate to assist with Jerry's medical bills, Linda Perry, Jerry's wife, expressed appreciation for the people who make those donations.

"Our community is coming together and we've been thankful about that," she said. "Jerry has done a lot for the music community in Sacramento, and they've definitely been generous in returning the favor and supporting Jerry."

Linda added that another live music benefit show was played for Jerry, but that she did not find out about it until she received funds from that show, which she was told featured only one band.

Linda told this publication that Jerry is showing "all the signs" of making a full recovery.

According to her Sept. 19 entry on CaringBridge.org, "Since Jerry's stroke July 27th, our lives have been a safe cocoon of caring professionals from doctors to rehab specialists, counselors that have been getting Jerry to the point of being home. There's been the whirlwind of things I needed to learn and adjust and cope with – the simple run to the store for milk is no longer simple. It requires planning and resources I would never have dreamed I needed for us."



Jerry Perry stands at a microphone at a show at Luigi's Fun Garden in 2013. A live music benefit featuring bands that played at the Cattle Club during the 1990s will raise funds for his medical expenses. The event will be held at Harlow's Restaurant and Nightclub on Dec. 22. Photo by Rich Hoffman

People can obtain updates on his recovery status through the website, CaringBridge.org. Those interested in contributing to the fundraising efforts to assist with Jerry's medical bills, can make a donation through the website, GoFundMe.com.

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Sacramento United Progressives Are Interested In Building a Local Coalition in California

By Jan Dalske

The California Progressive Alliance is an emerging corporate-free network of true progressives carrying on the values and the organizing work of California's 2018 primary election. They welcome your ideas, input, and participation as they invite more and more Californians into this big progressive tent. The organizers feel that there are many possible models for the creation of a Sacramento progressive coalition. They are not interested in replacing any existing groups, but in building something larger.

"There are dozens of progressive organizations in Sacramento. Some are political parties, or a part of one. Some are very narrowly focused on important issues like housing and healthcare, engaged in electoral politics a lot, or hardly at all. Some are associated with a particular ethnic, racial or religious constituency, and others are not." states David Mandel.

They seek to elevate progressive ideas, promote the creation of local political alliances and coalitions for political power, support corporate-free progressive candidates and issue based electoral campaigns, and expand the communication and dialogue among all of their progressive family in the state of California, respecting and supporting the work done by all. Working shoulder to shoulder, we will support the peoples' struggles, to organize progressive coalitions, promote new policies, and mobilize all Californians of good will, regardless of party affiliation, and who are willing to transform the state of California.

The Progressive Alliance is a multi-racial, multi-issue "rainbow coalition" dedicated to social justice, peace and building progressive power. Our key priorities include economic justice; equal rights and equal opportunities for all regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation; international solidarity; humanitarian service; eradicating poverty at home and abroad; environmental protection and sustainable development; and electing progressives to public office and then holding them accountable.

Founded in 2005, they have grown to more than 7,000 members and have emerged as one of the largest and most grassroots activist groups in California. The group is proud to serve as a local chapter of Our Revolution, the national movement inspired by Bernie Sanders' historic 2016 Presidential Campaign. They are also a local affiliate of United for Peace & Justice (UFPJ), a network of several hundred peace and justice groups from all over the world.

The group called the Wellstone Progressive Democrats of Sacramento and the Progressive Caucus of the California Democratic Party believe in the promotion of principle before politics and policy before unquestioning fealty to any individual or organization. They seek to build a movement within the current Democratic Party. Their goal is to one day see a government that is controlled but the citizens, not by oligarchic interests.

By belonging to the Caucus, the group affirms its dedication to "work for a world where the rights of all people are recognized as equal and inalienable, and where social justice paves the way for true peace". They believe in the Constitution of the United States of America and the right of the People to self-government. They also support the restoration of an equal balance of powers between the branches of our Federal Government.

Their platform focuses on lifting all people above the poverty line. This includes the sick, the disabled, the homeless, the hungry, the elderly, and the unemployed. They want to reset our local, state, and national priorities to make available affordable housing and provide a living wage for everyone. They support the rights of workers to form and join unions that will protect their interests. Labor, commerce and profits which are obtained without respect for fair wages, decent working conditions and the dignity of workers is both unjust and immoral.

They would like to see a commitment to redirect resources from what they call "wasteful and unnecessary military spending" to programs which supply the basic needs to humans. As Dr. Martin Luther King observed over forty years ago, "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death".

Their platform includes the statement "that everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law and are therefore entitled to equal rights and treatment and that no one should be denied these rights because of economic status, class, race, color, creed, age, ethnic identity, ethnicity, national origin, language, culture, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, religion, or disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990". They support the complete separation of Church and State.

Three top priorities are: To encourage building local, diverse, inclusive, corporate-free progressive alliances in cities throughout California and facilitate a network of progressive groups and statewide unions to pressure the legislature to get their statewide issues passed. To fight for Single Payer "Medicare for all", Free Public College, Closing Prop 13 corporate loophole, a Progressive Millionaires Tax, an Oil Severance Tax, a CA Public Bank, affordable housing, defend unions, our public schools and immigrant rights. And, to keep a watchful eye on Sacramento backroom deals, denounce the corporate control of our statewide politics, and organize progressive organizations and leaders to implement a People's Agenda.



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FARM AND FLAVOR

EXTREME IS THE NEW NORMAL

By Kerin Gould

Is "extremely mild" too much of an oxymoron? Climate change has brought us an extremely mild late summer-early fall season, which is perfect for me, a born New Englander, and my dog Pumpkin, who loathes the heat. It's not great for eggplant and tomatoes. I usually enjoy a resurgence among some plants like beans and a last hurrah from tomatoes that goes well into late October and often makes me turn the field over later than I should. Is this it? Should my broccoli and garlic be in the ground already? Should I be getting ready to cover the citrus trees?

As a micro-farmer who plants for variety, I have built-in flexibility and resilience. Large producers, however, had a late spring, a slow start getting plants going, and now may see an early fall. Predictability affects their sale prices, contracts, soil amendments and labor, and the many variables that go into producing food for us. It's a big puzzle, and the parameters keep shifting around. The jet stream, that ribbon of wind that circles the globe, used to undulate gently, giving us our patterns of weather. It has gone haywire. Weather predictions, like the Old Farmers' almanac, use past decades' weather records to make predictions, but who could see these wild contortions coming? Even for myself, the lack of predictable weather means some of my seed choices and planting plans will be mocked by the weird weather. If you garden, and things didn't flourish as expected, don't feel bad – it's probably nothing that you did. But we should be aware that our food system is facing real challenges.

I am not complaining about the milder growing conditions, even if my late tomatoes and sweet potatoes are taking their time about maturing in the hoop house. This year has seen extreme fires all over California, the largest and most furious on record. Hawai'i is experiencing extreme flooding, and hurricane season isn't over yet. Death Valley, Australia and India broke heat records this year, while Russia and New England broke records for the coldest temperatures. Coral is bleaching away due to warmer and more acidic sea water, and Florida is seeing extremely toxic algae blooms and terrible aquatic animal die-offs. And the damage to wildlife populations…. extreme is the new normal.

I think we must admit that humans have a hand in these events and that recycling cans and ditching straws is too mild a response to undo this extreme mess. If for no other reason than to protect our own food supply and physical safety in the immediate future, we can't address this mess with tepid, baby-step remedies.

In addition to climate extremes, we are also facing social extremes. (Related?) Extreme inhumanity and an alarming lack of compassion in some cases, where a victim's otherness is used to justify violence and cruelty. We see extreme greed and selfishness, me-first-ism, and isolationism raised to near cult status. Materialism and economic disparity are reaching extreme levels too. We hear extremely, outrageously dishonest statements daily. Young people witness extreme acts of violence and injustice, enough that it affects their development. Will we accept this as normal?

Just as with climate change, our response to these extremes

See Extreme page 17

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Jessie Ryan
President, SCUSD Board of Education

"Ellen Cochrane's dedication and experience as a classroom teacher has been extremely valuable as we work to improve the academic achievement of all students in out district."

Michael Minnick,
Second Vice President, SCUSD Board of Education

See more at EllenCochrane.com

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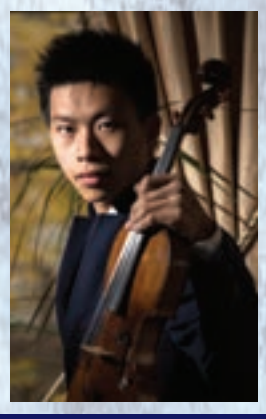
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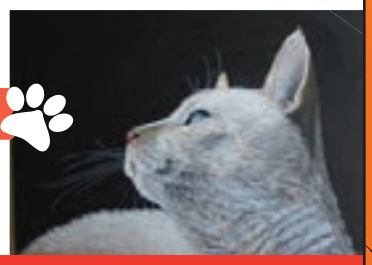
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Sacramento Waldorf School

Psychology, criminology student awarded police scholarship

Christian Brothers High School graduate Esperanza Razo has been awarded a $2,000 Law Enforcement Education Program Dream Scholarship. She is among eight top students who will receive the award to encourage their pursuit of law enforcement/public safety careers by the professional public safety officers of LEEP.

"I am looking to help offset the financial costs for my parents and it will help with me being able to focus on my studies without the worries of having to work more than just part-time," she wrote in her scholarship application.

Razo is planning to study Psychology with a minor in Criminology at Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York, where she plans to participate in Division 1 Water Polo and Division III Swimming. She is receiving a $30,000 scholarship from the Psychology Department at Hartwick. "My reason for choosing psychology is for when I am faced with situations in law enforcement and life, I can react and help appropriately to the situation so that I may come to a conclusion that is best fit for that situation," she wrote. Her career goal is to become a California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officer.

In high school, she was on the Varsity Water Polo team, Varsity Swim and Varsity Wrestling teams and a CBHS Choir member. She received All-City and All-League Water Polo athletic awards and numerous Coaches Awards for leadership and being a role model in swim, wrestling and water polo. "Esperanza serves as a Student Ambassador, as a representative of CB's inclusive community, participates in school choir and participates in a ride along program with California Highway Patrol. Esperanza does all of this while additionally committing to athletics on a daily basis," wrote Brian Peck, CBHS Varsity Water Polo and Swim Head Coach, in a letter of recommendation.

She volunteered for USA Boxing community events, CHP Explorers, directing traffic for community events, and CHP's for Kids – building bikes and participating in competitions. She volunteers with Napa Sheriff's Activities League and San Jose Police Activities League, which provide after school sports activities, tutoring and more. Razo is also becoming a USA Boxing official and helps care for her younger autistic brother. "Espy Razo has been involved in the East Sacramento CHP Explorer Post for two years and is in excellent standing," wrote S.N. Campbell, Explorer Advisor. "She brings many strong characteristics to our post, is a leader, extremely dedicated and is always willing to learn. Given her positive attitude, caring nature, strong work ethic and willingness to help, she is a 'go to' person not only for the newer explorers, but the senior explorers and advisors when the need arises."



Phoebe Hearst's Mr. Peter Goul wins outstanding educator award

By Sacramento City Unified School District

Congratulations to Peter Goul, 5th grade teacher at Phoebe Hearst Elementary who has been selected for the University of Chicago's Outstanding Educator Award.

Each year, first-year students at the University nominate a teacher who "has influenced them, challenged them or helped them along the path toward intellectual growth."

Hundreds of students send in letters to the University of Chicago Admissions Office about the educators who have inspired them, taught them to re-imagine texts, or think beyond the borders of the classroom in pursuit of their own education. The University of Chicago has administered the awards program for more than 30 years and commended the schools that "foster and support such outstanding individuals."

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The Dad Navigates Troubled Waters: Seven hours



By Steve DeBenedetti-Emanuel

I am not a stay-at-home dad! I am not a stay at home dad! Rinse and repeat: I am not an SAHD!

It's not like didn't spend a ton of time w/ KD when he was little. He was pretty sick as a little kid, so I decreased my work hours and was a semi-SAHD. We have those stories: cumin instead of cinnamon in his applesauce, chugging "go-go Juice" (a.k.a. a large Nalgene bottle of ice coffee,) and other stuff. But those days are memories…

Life has changed a bit, and we're moving backwards to the early days. Captain Mommy (my wife Stephanie) is way busier, and KD and I are hanging out again. And I am way out of shape.

545 this a.m. my alarm went off, and I needed to rush KD out of bed, because he had to do his physical therapy and spelling words before we were supposed to called UBER at 650, so he could go to his allergy shots. I don't drive, so we didn't have much time to space.

As KD always does, he dilly-dallied in his room and I had to ride him to saddle-up to get going. We busted out his spelling words. 17-20. 85%. We reviewed the ones I thought he got wrong and was done with it. Good enough.

CRAP, Captain Mommy was sick and then asked me if I'd sent in the order for the Raley's pick-up and Whole Foods drop-off. I'd put things on the list, but I didn't know I sending in the orders and arranging all the timing.

Whew, the Whole Foods went through, but the Raley's was screwed-up. And then KD popped-in to ask me to go outside to do his physical therapy stuff. And he was supposed to eat. And he was supposed to do his nose sprays and sunblock. And I melted down. The clock was moving double time, and things weren't going well. I told him to blow-off his P.T., because we had all these other things to do.

KD disappeared to talk to Captain Mommy and I melted down even more, since this wasn't on the time clock. Fortunately, she'd coached him on how to do the Raley's stuff on the computer, and he got it. Small victory.

But he still needed to pack his lunch and eat breakfast. Somewhere along the line, I'd washed his thermos and heated up his food. And he threw together some food for breakfast. I don't think he had any fruit, but he ate something, and it was time to call UBER to go get his allergy shots. Ok, we were a little behind schedule, but assuming everything went as planned, he'd be at school on-time.

Sadly, I think we had the lowest-rated UBER driver ever. Before we'd buckled-in, she burned rubber and wasn't happy when I asked her to slow down. KD and I hung on for dear life, but we made it in decent time and he got his shots.

Problem was that there were no UBER drivers and we had a wait. We were still ok. And it gave me time to text-back the Raley's clerk, because they didn't have something I'd ordered. Back-and-forth we went, and she was finally clear.

Of course, our driver had a cigarette right before he picked-us up, and he didn't provide a gas mask. Still, we made good time, and KD was at school 15 minutes early.

Crap, there were the groceries. Captain Mommy usually picks them up, but she was still down for the count. So, I hoofed it down to Raley's, thinking I'd be able to carry it all. We only live a 10 minute walk, so it's no big thing. But I couldn't dilly-dally much, because I knew I had to be home by 10 for the Whole Foods.

The clerk waddled to the front with 5 bags. There was no way I could carry it all. The parking lot has those systems that keep you from taking the carts. But I figured they had to have a cart I could use. After all we're regular customers, No dice.

So, I sprinted home, sprinted back, and sprinted home with the rest of the groceries. I was home by 10 and had everything put away whenever the Whole Foods came. I put it all away.

However, I couldn't leave, because I still had to clean the kitchen up and make breakfast for Captain Mommy. The kitchen was hit by a typhoon, and by the time I unloaded, put away, rinsed, and ran the dishwasher, it was 145. Honestly, I don't know what happened with those last couple of hours; they're a blur.

With a deep exhale, I was finished, seven hours after starting my day. And off I went to my easier job. And then my glasses broke. I threw them in my case and headed out the door to the train. Crap, did I put on deodorant?

Until next time.

Steve DeBenedetti-Emanuel is a licensed marriage and family therapist for River City Counseling, located at 1501 28th St., Suite 230. He can be reached at 916-919-0218 or by email at steve@rivercitycounseling.com. His website is www.rivercitycounseling.com

See Progress on Hiram Johnson High School's New Field

By Sacramento City Unified School District

We are happy to share progress on Hiram Johnson High School's new athletic field and facility that is expected to open around November 1st.

Construction crews have been working since June 2018 on the site and now are in progress of installing the new synthetic turf soccer/football field and all-weather surface 8-lane track.

Funding for the $5.3 million facility project comes from Measure Q, a $346 million bond measure passed in 2012 with 70 percent voter approval.

Thank you to our families and voters in the district for your support of this important project for our students and community!



This aerial photograph of Hiram Johnson High School, taken on Sept. 21, shows the all-weather track in progress. - Photo by Ryan Peterson

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First Christian Church Plans a "Blues for a Cause Concert" to Benefit Puerto Rico



By Jan Dalske

First Christian Church, which is located at 3901 Folsom Blvd in Sacramento, is sponsoring a Blues Concert. The local group, Red's Blues, will perform at 6 PM on Saturday, October 6th. The Suggested Donation is from $10 to $15. All proceeds will benefit Puerto Rico Hurricane Maria relief efforts.

Hurricane Maria was described as a "50 mile –wide tornado that made a direct hit on the Island". "It was as if a 50 to 60 mile-wide tornado raged across Puerto Rico like a buzz saw," Jeff Weber, a meteorologist with the National Center for Atmospheric Research, say. "It's almost as strong as a hurricane can get in a direct hit." The record books indicate that it was the fifth strongest storm ever to hit the United States.

This storm was the strongest storm to hit the island in eighty years. "The devastation is vast." Governor Rossello said in a statement. "Our infrastructure and energy distribution systems suffered great damages." Exact figures on the extent of the damage and the costs of repairs on the island are not yet known. This is due to the fact that communications on the island were nonexistent.

Many of the roads are damaged, which makes travel difficult. Moody's Analytics, a financial services firm, estimated that the storm could cost Puerto Rico $45 to $90 Billion. The hurricane knocked out 80% of the island's power transmission lines, according to the Associated Press.

Close to one million electricity customers had been without power. Some residents have generators, but many more still need them. Even without hurricanes, power outages are frequent on the island. When there is no electricity, there is no power to pump water into the homes. Water is needed for bathing and to flush toilets. And, many people have been drinking from contaminated streams.

Members of the First Christian Church will be going as guests of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Puerto Rico. They will be working with local families to help with repairs, construction, and rebuilding of homes and community buildings that were damaged in last year's hurricane. The majority of the fifteen church members that are planning to go on the trip have prior experience.

They traveled to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit that area of our country in 2005. The First Christian Church is in need of financial donations as well as prayers for their efforts to be successful. They are encouraging you to join their parishioners and their families for a great night of "feel Good Blues" on Saturday, October 6th. Performing will be the well-known band, Red's Blues.

You can check out the group on their Facebook page, www.facebook.com/redsbluessac, for lots of info, music, photos and more. Red's Blues are a blues revue, keeping the blues alive with lots of traditional, Chicago shuffles, New Orleans-delta, West Coast blues, acoustic and electric, as well as original Americana/roots music. They perform as a trio, four or five-piece band. Beth, and her husband, Richard (RW) Grigsby, an award winning bass player started Red's Blues in 2012. Red's Blues' focus is on original and traditional blues.The group was aptly named because Beth is a redhead and she is the lead singer. The couple wanted a project to work on together. RW is also bass player for touring group Golden State Lone Star Blues Revue, and Mark Hummel and the Blues Harmonica Blowouts. RW is being inducted into the Sacramento Blues Hall of Fame on September 30th at Harlow's. Check out the Sacramento Blues Society website: http://www.sacblues.com/portfolio/reds-blues/

Pastor Ted Firch wants all of you to know this: "When Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, I was greatly saddened, as I have many friends from the island. We, the mainland citizens of the United States, have fallen way short of our responsibility to help them to rebuild. This mission trip will be a people to people mission to help restore hope to the people there. It will be our way to say 'we are with you, you are not forgotten'. For we human beings, despair can be the worst disaster, and hope can be the most powerful remedy."

Extreme:

continued from page 9

cannot be mild or wishy-washy. We have to take a solid stand both for the planet and for our fellow beings. We need to say a firm "No!" to extreme toxicity, whether that is between humans or between humans and the planet.

As I have said before, eating mostly produce from small, non-toxic, earth-friendly farms is one way to push back firmly against climate change. Eating that delicious food with other people may help revive our humanity and give us a break from the extremes.

Tomatillos are resilient plants and seem to thrive no matter the weather shifts. And they make a stupendous salsa you can share alongside some (healthy) chips. Use it again the next morning to make Huevos Rancheros! You can make it extremely mild, if you like, or extremely hot!

Green Salsa:
1 pound of tomatillos in the husk
1-3 jalapeños
2-4 cloves of garlic
1 tbsp minced cilantro
salt

Wash the ingredients and pat dry. On a flat griddle set on medium heat lay out the tomatillos, garlic and jalapeños. Toast, moving them around, flipping them every few minutes until they are browned on the outside and soft on the inside.

Peel garlic and tomatillos and put them in a blender or food processor. Remove the stem and seeds from the peppers and add them to the blender. Add cilantro and salt to taste, and blend to the desired consistency (chunky vs smooth).

For Huevos Rancheros toast yellow corn tortillas with a little oil on a griddle. Fry an egg or two per person. When tortillas are golden and crisped on the griddle side but soft on the other, serve them with an egg on top of each tortilla and warmed up salsa over the top.





What's happening East Sacramento?

FRIDAY, OCT. 5-SUNDAY, OCT. 7

SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL:
For more than 50 years, the Sacramento Greek Festival has shared the vibrant culture, rich food and traditions of Greece with our local community. The authentic cuisine is homemade by our volunteers with recipes from all corners of the Greek Mediterranean. The village-style atmosphere of the festival perfectly represents the historical and epic Greek passion for life, food, drink and dance. There will nearby offsite parking, a shuttle service, an Uber promotion, and a monitored bike corral area on the 30th street side of the block. We will post details online closer to the event!
Friday, Oct 5th from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m
Saturday, Oct 6th from 12:00 p.m. to 10 p.m
Sunday, Oct 7th from 12:00 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Admission is $5
Children ages 12 and under are free.
Free admission on Friday from 11-3!
Come and join us for this family-friendly festival experience - OPA! The festival will be held at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, 616 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento, California 95816

FRIDAY, OCT. 12

PAWS TO PARTY: The 6th Annual Paws to Party will take place Friday, Oct. 12 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the California Automobile Museum to benefit the animals of Front Street. Highlights include regional restaurants, breweries, wineries, distilleries, bands, and more. The California Automobile Museum is located at 2200 Front St. Tickets are available at www.eventbrite.com.

FRIDAY, OCT. 12-SATURDAY, OCT. 13

ECLECTIC PHOENIX & ARABETH ART EXHIBIT IN EAST SAC AT LION'S ROAR DHARMA CENTER:
To kick off its new arts program, Lion's Roar Dharma Center will present "The Art of Phoenix & Arabeth" on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 12 and 13. The works on display include Buddhist dharma designs, fantastic and visionary works, plus body art and tattoo designs. Exhibit viewing times are noon to 8 p.m. both days at the Lion's Roar Dharma Center, located at 3240 B St. in East Sacramento. For nearly 50 years Phoenix & Arabeth has produced works in diverse media, including acrylic paintings, ink and pencil drawings, collage and digital works. Phoenix & Arabeth's favorite themes (such as the Earth, ancient cultures and deities, dance, tattoos, shamans, mermaids, UFOs and the human figure) are all represented here.

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 Sutter's 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 20

A NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL IN EAST SACRAMENTO:
Performances by Sacramento Civic Ballet and demo, Andy Alexis performing on the hammer dulcimer, Twist n Shout Balloonist, drawing for prizes throughout the day, vendor sales, wine and beer tastings, games. Special meal of the day at Willy's Cafe and 50% of these sales goes to the charity.Festival goes from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Compton's Market is located at 4065 McKinley Blvd.

SUNDAY, OCT 21

SACRAMENTO VIDEO GAME ENSEMBLE CONCERT AT PIONEER CHURCH: The Sacramento Video Game Ensemble will perform a concert, Sunday, October 21, at 3:00 p.m. at the Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 L Street, across from Sutter's Fort. The Sacramento Video Game Music Ensemble, is a chamber orchestra made up of players of various ages, teens to retirees from the Sacramento region. Their purpose is the present the intricate and beautiful music of well-known video games on traditional instruments in a concert setting. They will be performing music from The Legend of Zelda, The Witcher Series, Undertale, Final Fantasy, Pokemon, and the Super Mario series. For information, call 916-443-3727

SATURDAY, OCT 27

TRUNK OR TREAT: On Saturday, October 27, Sacramento First Christian Church will have a Trunk or Treat. Free. Bring children of all ages in costume to play games and for trick or treat in the church parking lot. The event will be from 5 until 6:30 p.m. so that folks can get home before it gets dark. The Church is located at 3901 Folsom Blvd. in Sacramento. They will also be offering gluten free, and casein free treats for children who need those. Pumpkin decorating too!

THE ANNUAL ELKS HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR will take place on Saturday, October 27, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. It's never too early to start your holiday shopping; and this annual craft fair is the perfect place to find quality, artisan gifts from local artists. Over 100 vendors will be displaying handmade crafts such as photography, ceramics, plant gifts, and other unique items for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Custom jewelry is always a big attraction and this year's designs should be a highlight. Visitors are encouraged to "shop til they drop" and then take a break at the Elks Bistro. Admission is free to shoppers. The Elks Lodge No. 6 is located at 6446 Riverside Blvd., near the intersection of Florin Road. For more information, contact Joyce Breen at 916-421-3601 or visit www.elks6.com.

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 Sutter's 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 Sutter's 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.

2019

JAN. 1

NEW YEAR'S GATHERING: 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 Sutter's 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, FEB. 2

DREAM VARIATIONS: A SYMPHONIC CELEBRATION OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE: The Sacramento Youth Symphony presents a major community concert event celebrating the ongoing contributions by African-Americans to our country's artistic landscape. Musical selections will include celebrated works by Duke Ellington, William Grant Still, Emmy Award-winning composer John Wineglass, and much more. An impressive roster of special guests will join the orchestra on-stage for this special event. Some of our guests include: Emcee-Omari Tau; Speaker-Courtney Dempsey; Guest Artists-Jay Mason, Chase Spruill 4th, Indigo Moore, Julian Dixon, Leslie Sandefur, & Sheryl Counter. Tickets: General $25, Students/Children/Seniors $20. For more information, visit www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org

ONGOING

WOMEN WITH GOOD SPIRITS·MONTHLY MEETING:
Women With Good Spirits is a women's social group that meets once a month. A local non-profit or charity is invited to speak. Currently, monthly meetings are held at Selland's Market Café (915 Broadway, Sacramento) on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. There is a requested minimum donation of $5 -- 100% of the donations go to the non-profit or charity. Past groups have included the Sacramento Ballet, 916INK, Chako Pit Bull Rescue, Soil Born Farms, Front Street Animal Shelter. Questions, email Monica Stark at editor@valcomnews.com.

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A neighborhood festival to benefit Sac Civic Ballet to be held Oct. 20

A neighborhood festival to benefit the Sac Civic Ballet will be held on Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Compton's Market, 4065 McKinley Blvd. There will be performances by dancers from Sac Civic Ballet and musician Andy Alexis will play songs on his hammer dulcimer. There will also be demonstration dance classes for all levels. You are welcome to bring your tutu. Additionally, a regular performer for Arts in River Park, balloon artist Barry Magee will entertain children of all ages all day long. The festival will also include vendors, prizes, food, beer and wine tastings. Half of the sales at the grocery store during the festival benefit the Sacramento Civic Ballet. There will also be three food specials of the day.

Asked what the currents needs of the ballet include, Don Schwennesen wrote in a statement, "Sac Civic Ballet needs funds to further the training of dancers through performances and outreach. In that the arts help all young people with discipline, focus and time management, funds are always needed to help with scholarships for all those who wish to participate in dance."

Sponsors include Compton's Market, KMG Real Estate Finance, and Arts in River Park.



Photo courtesy Brenda Jew Waters
Richard Vincent is a vocalist and has played the penny whistle for 10 years. He will be wandering around the grocery store from 11-noon and again from 1-2 pm performing 49er songs, Americana music and Irish tunes.

Measure U:

continued from page 5

opportunity to address some of our most challenging needs, from homelessness to affordable housing, with real capital to invest in job creation, youth and neighborhoods."

If the new Measure U passes, how much would you expect it to generate annually? How much does it generate now?

"Measure U currently generates $46.5 million dollars and we anticipate that it will generate close to $100 million after its renewal."

Why is there a need to raise the tax from half a cent to a whole cent now?

"As measure U expires, this is our opportunity to go back to the voters, show how we have responsibly used the resources provided and ask them to continue to invest in essential city services, while providing resources for us to expand our economy and address the challenges that our growing city faces."

Why is there a need to make this measure permanent?

"Like any measure, Measure U is not permanent. Measure U will be passed by the voters and the voters can repeal the Measure if they decided to do so in the future."

What would not be possible if it weren't for Measure U?

"Measure U has allowed us to restore vital city services that were cut during the recession. We have eliminated fire company brownouts, invested in gang violence prevention and reducing crime, funded 137 positions in Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment (YPCE), and 90 firefighter positions.

Without Measure U, our funding would still be lagging behind pre-recession levels and many of these services would still be cut."

Since Measure U was voted on in 2012, has it been successful? Have there been noticeable changes?

"Yes! Voters overwhelmingly passed Measure U to restore cuts that were made during the deep recession and it has worked. With the funding from Measure U, the city currently pays for, 90 positions in the fire department, ending brownouts affecting nine fire stations, 190 staff to prevent crime and fight gang violence, 137 staff in the parks and youth department.

Our 911 call times are vastly improved, pools, parks and community centers are open, and library hours have been maintained across the city."

What do you say to the people who are against the Measure that claim, "A 1% sales tax hike will hurt modest-income families, the poor and seniors on fixed income."?

"Revenues from Measure U have been invested in all communities across Sacramento, ensuring we have adequate emergency response, clean parks and maintained library hours. It has allowed us to reopen community centers in lower income neighborhoods with expanded hours and free programming for youth, families and seniors.

Funds from Measure U will be used to benefit disadvantaged communities, addressing homeless, investing in business corridors and attracting high wage jobs. We can provide youth with skills training and workforce development to ensure they are first in line for new economy jobs. Measure U also will allow us to increase the supply of affordable housing that young people, seniors and middle-class families can afford."

The opposing side said the city officials claimed the tax increase would stop after the city revenues recovered from the recession. "Since 2013, other city revenues have more than recovered, increasing by nearly $120 million annually, more than twice as much as the $50 million the ½% tax hike brings in (over $223 million since 2012)." What are your thoughts on that?

"Without Measure U, our current General Fund Revenues would still be 5% below the pre-recession General Fund Revenues in the 2007/08 budget when adjusted for inflation. And we have over 40,000 more residents today than we did in 2007.

As one of the fastest growing cities in California, we need Measure U to keep up with increasing demands for public safety, emergency response and other vital city services. Measure U will provide critical resources to address some of our greatest challenges, from homelessness and affordable housing, to inclusive economic development and workforce development for our youth.

We are respectfully asking voters to renew Measure U. It's up to the voters to decide what level of services they want from their city government."



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