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East Sacramento News

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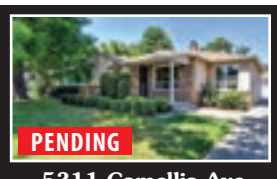
SEE FACES AND PLACES PAGE 7



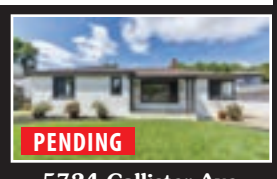
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Door to Door

with PAT LYNCH

Costco August 8 evacuation

Around 8 p.m. I met my friend, Marie, at Costco. She wanted a bulk purchase of Nearly Naked popcorn. If you munch this at night you won't puff up the next morning and have to sweat it off. Costco was crowded but in we went. I was at the back, eyeing the bags of coffee, when the thought arrived: this was a big store busy with basket traffic, chattering kids, adults conferring over purchases. It was ideal for him. Who was he? He was the killer who used his specialized war weapon to slaughter dozens at once. One blast, a dozen down. Another blast, another dozen.

I know what to do when the thought comes. Shake it out. Clear your head. Assess those coffees. Banish the thought.

I did. I picked a French Roast and pushed the basket down the aisle. I strolled by the books, slowly. Some anguished romances, so no temptations there. Down another aisle. Halloween stuff up already. Marie appeared and put bread, cheese, a precooked chicken and wine in the basket. "Meet me by the popcorn," she said. "Nearly Naked is way up high so a clerk is going to get a forklift to bring it down." A forklift for popcorn? But I said okay.

I wandered over to the pharmacy and idly surveyed the various potions that restore youth in thirty days. I thought I heard someone call my name, but it was noisy and I strolled on. Suddenly Marie was there, her expression weird. "I've been calling you," she said. "Two police with automatic weapons and padded vests came in and said, 'Where's the camping equipment?' and went over to it."

"You saw them?"

"Just now."

Uneasy, we considered what to do. We could go now but didn't like the prospect of walking past the camping aisle. And if we were scared enough to leave we'd have to warn others.

Marie said, "The girl at the front door said maybe the police were just shopping."

I laughed, and we finally decided to get our popcorn and go. The police were here already, there were no loud popping sounds, no signs of panic or even worry, we were at a good distance from the camping equipment, things felt under control.

When we returned to the popcorn aisle we met up with Cynthia, the pretty, young Costco employee who was making arrangements. I told her I intended to film the forklift process to show how degenerate Marie was about popcorn. We had a nice time chatting with her before Cynthia excused herself, saying she'd return soon. She did, but this time her smile was gone. "You need to leave," she said.

"Leave the store?" we said at once.

"Yes."

Marie pointed to the basket. "What about this?"

"Leave it," Cynthia said.

Other Costco employees had fanned out, made eye contact with customers, motioned them to come forward and quietly told them to abandon their baskets and evacuate.

"You take care of yourself, Cynthia," Marie said, and Cynthia nodded.

Marie and I joined a crowd forming a line behind the counters. I felt numb at first but weirdly observant. We're in it, I thought. This is it, and we're in it. A young woman, face pale, eyes sick with fear, pulled her toddler boy from the basket, fiercely grasped the hand of her other son who was about five.

People turned from nearly full baskets without a backward glance, gathered their kids, and walked in silence. Nobody ran, nobody pushed. Parents put their children between them. A group of Costco workers urged us along in our silent, sudden exodus. When we emerged from behind the line of cash registers we saw from eight to ten police officers, all facing into the store, while we headed to the doors. A white male was stopped, frisked, released.

The thought came: now is the time for him to shoot, when we're all in a row. But it dissipated instantly. We had a human shield of police facing every aisle. We had only to get outside.

We did. We went right to our cars. Most people did the same. I heard a man say, "Nobody wants to hang around and get shot."

Well, there was no killer, or if there was someone who intended to kill, he got out before the police came. But there was trauma, and dread, and a fatal certainty: this will happen elsewhere, and the killer will use his easily acquired weapons on a crowd as innocent as ours.

We think Costco made the right call: evacuate people who may be in harm's way.

The next day a motorcycle backfired in Times Square and panic erupted. People pounded on theater doors and begged to be let in. Sobbing tourists ran into restaurants and shops. Twelve people were injured in the panic and six had to be hospitalized. "This isn't a country I want to live in with anxiety and fear for my life in public areas. This isn't right and this isn't a way to live," tweeted P.J.@petrinajc. Many caught in the fright expressed kindred sentiments.

As I write three men in three states are in custody for expressing desire to commit mass shootings. One Florida man, Tristan Wix, said he had already chosen a location. "A good 100 kills would be nice," he said. Another, Brandon Wagshot from Connecticut, stated on Facebook that he wanted to commit a mass shooting and is being held for illegal possession of large capacity magazines. A third, James Reardon from Ohio, was arrested for threatening a Jewish community center. He identified as a white nationalist and had a cache of guns and ammunition. Intoxicated by the power of the gun, these men stockpiled. It was easy for them to get their guns, and it's easy for anyone, anywhere in America. The person who tweeted from Times Square tweeted for Marie and me, and for all of us. "This isn't right and this isn't a way to live."

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Friends of the Riverbanks upcoming events



Photo by Kathy Kayner

Dragons and damsels
SEPT 14 AT 9:30 A.M.

One of the best FORB events of the year, Dragons and Damsels, will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14, starting at 9:30 a.m. at the very end of 28th Street. Greg Kareofelas, dragon/damselfly expert, will give a short talk and introduce attendees to some live specimens, then lead them down to the river to see what's flying around. Butterfly nets will be available to share, or bring your own. Catching dragonflies is quite a challenge and is great fun for young and old alike. Bring water, sunblock/hat, binoculars, and snacks/clothes change for kids. All ages are welcome. Please leave your dogs at home and try to walk, bike, or carpool to minimize our collective carbon footprint. Please invite others who may enjoy a morning chasing dragonflies at the river.

Please RECYCLE this paper. Thank You

Help FOSL steward Sutter's Landing
SEPT 7 AT 9 A.M.

Help FOSL steward Sutter's Landing: Friends of Sutter's Landing (FOSL) was formed to advocate for our neighborhood stretch of the American River. FOSL recently got its 501c3 status and is ready for business. The nonprofit has been holding work parties to remove invasive plants. What else should FOSL do to make Sutter's Landing a fabulous native ecosystem? Come to a FOSL meeting on Saturday, Sept 7 at 9 a.m. at Sutter's Landing Park to share ideas.

Sacramento Historical Society:

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Addessing the misconceptions of coyotes in our neighorhoods

By Charlotte Sanchez-Kosa



Philip Hollenbach saw some coyote pups playing in his backyard. At night he can hear the coyotes walk on top of the tarp.

Concerns from residents over the apparent mutilation of cats in the Arden area of Sacramento have led to meetings with wildlife officials and the district attorney's office in an effort to find out just what exactly is going on.

According to posts on NextDoor, the social networking site for neighborhoods, several area pet cats have gone missing only to be found mutilated and in some cases beheaded. Others have found only the tails of cats on their lawns.

Pet owners are alarmed and some think the deaths could be caused by someone in the area, however, recent sightings of coyotes may be the answer to what has been going on.

Philip Hollenbach, who lives off of Jonas Avenue, has had his own run-ins with coyotes on his property. Hollenbach, who lives in a gated community of about 11 homes, said coyotes at times have appeared on a nightly basis.

"I happen to live on the largest property in the neighborhood," he said. "The creek kinda comes onto the road in front of my house and it goes under this bridge and then comes out on my property and follows along the side of my property."

Hollenbach said he and his family have been living in the home for about a year and soon after they moved in, they would leave their sliding windows open with just the screen. Every night between midnight and 4 a.m., the family dog, a Rhodesian Ridge Back, would start barking.

"I'd end up shining a flashlight from our upstairs balcony into the yard area and I would usually pick up anywhere from one to three sets of eyes," he said. "Eventually they'd move out and I wouldn't see them in the daylight."

He's also seen them playing in his yard and said that they seemed to keep pretty much to themselves and were not to much of a problem. He added the sightings tapered off, but in May, the family started to hear and see them again and it was while taking care of a neighbor's small dog that Hollenbach had an encounter he will never forget.

"I let my dog and the little dog out at about 6:15 a.m.," he said. "I believe it was at the very end of May or the beginning of June. I let the dogs out. They had their food and I was in the kitchen making my wife a sandwich before she went to work, and all of a sudden, I heard a commotion out in the yard."

Hollenbach said he ran out and there were two large coyotes. His dog ran back to where he was standing but a coyote was biting the little dog on the back. They backed off when they saw Hollanbach but went to the back of he property and stood watching him.

He also said that his neighbor has three dogs that are fenced in and two are small and bark. The coyotes started running along the fence line trying to figure out how to get to the two barking dogs.

"I was watching and they started trying to dig under the fence to try and get to them," he said. "I went over and chased them away."

Hollenbach said the activity continued, and later in the day, one of the coyotes sat in the middle of his property as if waiting for something.

"At some point we left our house and when we came back, we found that the screen door on our patio had actually been pulled off," he said. "The sliders were locked. You can tell that it wasn't a burglar because the sliding door wasn't locked and you could slide it open. The screen door was actually pulled off. I'm guessing a coyote came up around here and the little dog started barking and they were trying to get into my house. So I had to have my screen replaced."

Coyote sightings in the area have been taking place for many years. Although the area is chock-full of houses and is a couple of miles from the American River, the land was originally fields and river bottom.

Guy Galante, Intercinnection Mentor with Project Coyote, said in the last couple of years coyote sightings in urban areas in Sacramento have raised the concerns of residents about safety and the safety of pets.

"Mainly the issue that seems to arise with the coyotes in the neighborhoods is that are taking pet cats and killing them," he said. "So that obliviously is a cause for concern among the pet owners and the neighbors."

He added he feels there is a general misconception about coyotes that happens when they are seen wandering down the street. The public's level of fear rises.

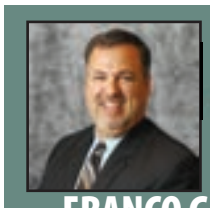
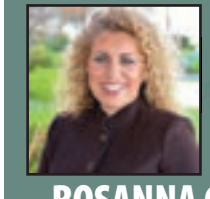
"So what I've observed during personal communications and on social media is that people are reacting versus responding to the situation, and there's a lot of misinformation going around," he said.

Galante, a Carmichael resident, works with Project Coyote, which is based in Mill Valley. Project Coyote has a program called Coyote Friendly Communities that teaches the public basic coyote ecology and understanding of why coyotes are entering residential areas. The group also teaches the public how to deal with them humanely.

Galante said the program suggestions won't work overnight but they do help with the situation and it takes the community as a whole to implement the strategy.

"What we need to do is get entire communities together to be speaking the same language of using terminology of how to talk about and respond to coyotes," he said. "Everyone needs to be on the same page to gradual-

see COYOTES page 5


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Coyotes:

continued from page 4

ly, over time, get the coyotes to move on. Now the question is, 'Where will they go?' So, that's why we need community by community to do this. Basically what people want in Sacramento County, particularly those who live near American River Parkway and some of the creek corridors, is they want the coyotes to stay in that tight little box. But there are other pressures happening in our parks that are essentially forcing the coyotes out into urban and suburban areas where food is abundant."

He added people want agencies to deal with the issue but what really needs to happen is people need to work together to take action and audit their own homes and understand that the way they live in communities is actually creating the problem. If someone has a fruit tree that's dropping fruit, it's attracting rodents, coyotes eat rodents, coyotes also eat the fruit. If someone has a bird feeder, that brings squirrels and birds and coyotes eat those too.

"We're actually creating a pretty healthy food and water source in neighborhoods which are easy for coyotes to get," Galante said. "That's why they are getting really comfortable coming into neighborhoods. That's why I'm working on this. There is not one central agency in Sacramento County that says, 'Here's the problem and here's how to deal with it.'"

He added, when people have a problem, they really don't know who to call.

"Wildlife services in California, Fish and Wildlife, will only respond to calls if there is a human, coyote conflict. They will not respond to the loss of a pet," Galante said. "So people feel that they aren't getting any help and what I'm saying is, 'Here's how you can help yourself. You can be part of the solution.'"

Peter Tira of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife echoed Galante's statement.

"Coyotes are managed locally by local governments," Tira said. "We provide governments with education. We have resources on our Website. Our roll is really education. We do provide local agencies with maximum flexibility in terms of managing their coyote populations. Coyotes have very little protections under state law. Where we see the most success is where communities get together and develop a good strategy. They don't represent a public safety threat at all. We want to keep those animals in the wild. We want to keep them doing their job eating all the rodents and keeping those populations down."

He added if a coyote bites a human, Fish and Wildlife will become involved.

Galante sees increasing development in Natomas, El Dorado, Folsom and other areas as a reason why coyote sightings are more numerous. Add to that, people are utilizing parks and trails more.

He suggests that residents be more aware of the situation and take preventative measures that include not leaving pet food bowls outside, pick up dropped food, don't over water lawns because that water that runs down the gutter is an easy water source for coyotes. He also said to put small pets in at night and check to see is you have anything in your yard that would be attractive to wildlife.

"People need to look at their home first to see what they are doing that might be contributing to the problem and then look around their neighborhoods to see if that's happening too," he said. "They need to understand what is the closest water source-a natural waterway. Whether its a controlled irrigation canal or a creek-just to get a better knowledge of the place. They have to understand that they live in a very bio rich area."

He added that education is the key and emphasized that everyone has to work together.

"What I've learned through research is coyotes perceive cats as competition so when a coyote is in the neighborhood, they are not going in to find cats, they are going in to find all the easy foods," he said. "There are other things that kill cats. Hopefully not some deranged human but people do do that. Depending on the size of the cat, there are raptors, great horned owls that can take cats and sometimes a cat may have been hit by a car. What people see is that a coyote may be carrying the carcass off and they assume the coyote killed the cat when coyotes eat dead things too."

For more information on what you can do to help with the coyote issue, visit http://www.projectcoyote.org/ or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Living-with-Wildlife.



Philip Hollenbach points at the creek which runs right next to his property. He believes the coyotes walk along this area.

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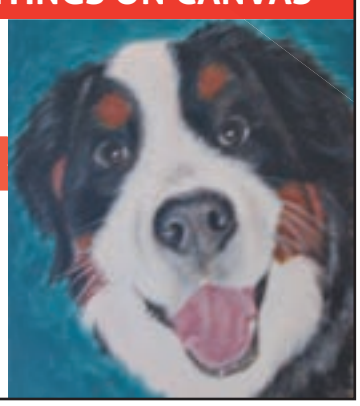
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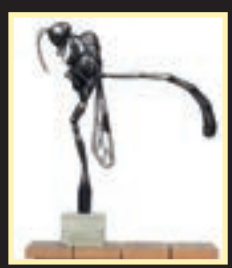


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Faces and Places: CHALK IT UP 2019

Photos by Monica Stark

Chalk-It-Up! to Sacrament a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization created to benefit children's arts education programs, which raises money through various events held its annual Art & Music Festival at Fremont Park over Labor Day Weekend.Proceeds fund grants in support of Youth Arts Programs throughout the Sacramento region. Chalk-It-Up! is led by a volunteer Board of Directors, supported by hundreds of dedicated volunteers and funded through the generosity of our extraordinary community. Shown here is a collection of photos from the weekend's festivities.



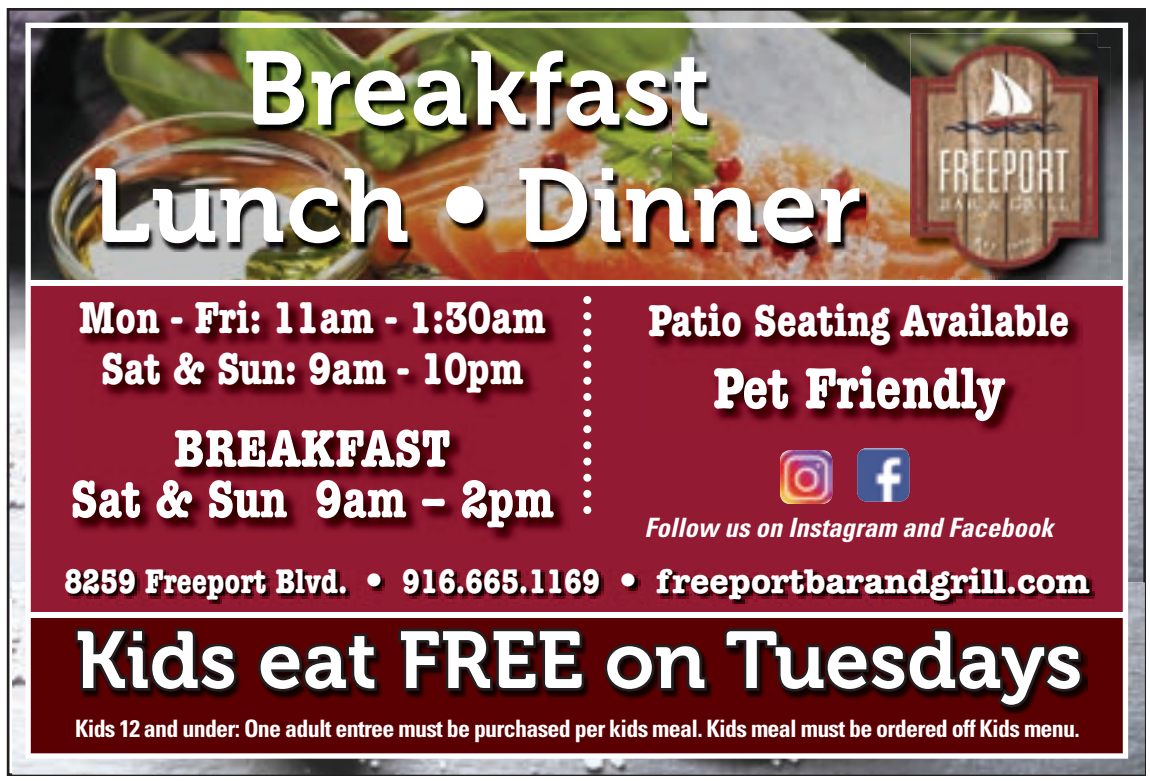












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Life on Two Rivers: Cold, Deep and Fast

By Ellen Cochrane

On the first day of each school year, I would pull out a laminated story from the local daily. The picture shows a boy in a life vest and the story covers safety on the river. My tanned students, fresh from summer, eyed the paper and passed it around. Then I told my stories.

Many years ago my father took me aside to show me a small clipping from the paper. A young girl drowned in the American River. Her last name was Brown, and I sat behind her the prior year in school. She tripped into an underwater hole and was overcome by the currents. She died on a beautiful July day playing with her family and friends.

My parents drilled river safety into us with one rule: Don't swim in the rivers. They were lifelong Sacramentans and had their own stories of river death.

Years later, one of my students died in the Sacramento River. He was being chased by a group of boys who were angry that he'd flirted with one of their girlfriends. He jumped into the river to evade them and drowned.

I taught immigrants – children from Laos, Vietnam, Mexico and other warmer climates. Equally dangerous rivers flow in these countries, but they are often not as cold, as deep or as fast moving as ours. Many of my students don't know how to swim, let alone understand icy mountain water. Pushed by blazing summer heat, the young and invincible will wade into the rivers. But in my silent classroom, wide-eyed students listened to my stories of dangerous undertows, snags and Sierra snow runoff.

Sadly, these stories are not new to some students. To keep their interest, one of my fall assignments was making a game. Students experiment with writing rules, and planning paths and strategies. Xiong turned in a two-sided paper, handmade dice with pencil point dots and simple instructions. The paper was covered with dozens of numbered spaces, arrows, ladders and pictures. The setting was Laos and the drawings depicted each of the perils he lived through before coming to America. There were villages with huts and gardens, men with guns, burning houses, mountains, rivers and an airplane that could go either to happy California with sun and dancing children or to a camp with barbed wire. You rolled the dice to begin your journey. The river square showed a person drowning.

Quickly I changed the tone from healthy fear to education: Learn how to swim. I smile and pass out papers that cheerfully announce swim lessons at the local pools.

Look at these free life-jacket stations. I flash pictures of the jackets from Howe Avenue and Discovery Park. Tell your folks my stories, and don't swim in the rivers. Swim in pools.

I'll never know if I have saved a life. Teachers never really know how lessons will follow students. They might be instantly forgotten or resurrected much later. But if a child brings lessons home, parents listen and information is passed on.

Fall is around the corner and teachers will be thinking of their new lesson plans. In the flurry of the first school days, teach a lesson that might save a life. Tell the stories you know, and then, come May, tell the stories again. Act flustered. Did I tell you this at the beginning of school? Yes, well, it must have been so important I have to repeat it.

Ellen Cochrane is a Certified California Naturalist and science writer living in Sacramento, California.





What's happening East Sacramento?

14th ANNUAL SAC OPEN STUDIOS RETURNS FOR TWO WEEKENDS IN SEPTEMBER The 14 Annual Sac Open Studios tour is hosted by Verge Center for the Arts. Emerging and established artists in Sacramento County and West Sacramento will participate in this community-driven art event taking place over two weekends. The tour generates a direct connection between art patrons, gallery owners, and designers.

Weekend One (Sept. 14 and Sept. 15) features studios west of Business 80/Highway 99m while Weekend Two (Sept. 21 and Sept. 22) features studios east of Business 80/Highway 99 plus all of Elk Grove and areas south of Elk Grove regardless of the which side of the freeway they are situated on.

Special events Include:

SEPT. 12: Sac Open Studios Launch Party and Preview Exhibition from 6 to 9 p.m.

Join the Verge center for the Arts for the Sac Open Studios 2019 Launch Party and the reception of the Preview Exhibition! Meet participating Sac Open Studios artists and supporters, enjoy music from a staple of the Sacramento music scene, DJ Shaun Slaughter, and grab some delicious barbecue from Daddio's Food Trailer. To keep you cool and hydrated, Verge will have a bar stocked with plenty of cold alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages available to purchase. The Sac Open Studios Preview Exhibition will feature artworks from participating artists from both tour weekends. This is a great place to find artworks you love and start planning your tour. In conjunction with the Sac Open Studios Launch Party and Preview Exhibition, the exhibit, Slant Step Forward, will open in Verge's main gallery that same night. Verge is located at 625 S St.

SEPT. 14 AND SEPT. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.: The Art Garage

As part of the Verge Center for the Arts 14th annual Sac Open Studios Tour, four award-winning artists are joining together to display and sell their art at The Art Garage, 2116 19th St.

Participating Artists:

-Judy Knott (oil paintings, mixed media, greeting cards)

-Patricia Prendergast (pastel landscapes)

-Anna Skacel (watercolor, photography, pastel)

-Allison Spreadborough (watercolor, art cards, jewelry)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14

DRAGONS & DAMSELS: Join Friends of the Riverbanks for one of the best FORB events of the year--Dragons and Damsels--on Saturday, September 14. The group will meet at 9:30 am to let the dragonflies warm up but before it gets too hot for us humans. Greg Kareofelas, dragon/damselfly expert, will give a short talk and introduce us to some live specimens, then lead us down to the river to see what's flying around. We'll have butterfly nets to share or bring your own. Catching dragonflies is quite a challenge and is great fun for young and old alike. Meet at the Sutter's Landing parking lot at 9:30 a.m. at the very end of 28th Street. Bring water, sunblock/hat, binoculars, and snacks/clothes change for kids. All ages are welcome. Please leave your dogs at home and try to walk, bike, or carpool to minimize our collective carbon footprint. Please invite others who may enjoy a morning chasing dragonflies at the river.

ONGOING

KNIT AND CRAFT – A morning of fiber arts fun! Participants can learn to knit or crochet, get help with projects, and chat with new friends. Don't forget to bring your craft supplies! Adult. Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – noon at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO AREA ENGLISH COUNTRY DANCE: Great news for those who live relatively close to central Sacramento! The Sacramento Country Dance Society is adding a second monthly English Country Dance, on the third Sunday afternoon of each month. Lovely hall and floor, easy parking, and on the American River Bike Trail. Come join us at Camp Pollock, just 5 minutes from downtown/midtown Sacramento, from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Each dance is preceded at 1:30 pm by an Introductory Workshop for newcomers. This is in addition to our long-running dance in Roseville that continues on the first Sunday afternoon of each month. Beginners welcome, no partners necessary, always live music. Details about both dances, including callers, music, locations, and date changes, can be found on our Web site: sactocds.org/english-country-dance/

TOWER BREWING MONDAY OPEN MIC: Mondays from 630 to 10 p.m. at Sactown Union Brewery 1210 66th Street, Unit B, Sacramento, California 95819. Host Autumn Sky brings you a weekly open-mic night to express yourself and be apart of a unique, supportive community! Sign ups at 6:30 p.m., open mic begins at 7 p.m. and it's all ages until 8 p.m. A house guitar is provided (Autumn's own!) to play if bringing yours is difficult. There's beer, pizza next door that delivers to the open mic, and they welcome well behaved dogs. Comedy, DJing, spoken word, poetry, instrumental performance, songwriters, cover heroes and rappers are all welcome.

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FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP: Every first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: Is your friend or family member in a domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking situation? This free, drop-in group is for you. Learn how to support your loved one, and receive some support yourself among people who are in the same situation. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

#METOO SUPPORT GROUP: Every third Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: This drop-in support group is free, confidential, open to all genders, and available to sexual assault survivors at any point in their healing. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

STATE FAIR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ANNOUNCED: The Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2018 - 2019 academic year. The program offers 14 categories of scholarships ranging from $1,000 - $2,500 each with varying eligibility requirements. Categories include: agriculture, art, academic excellence, business, culinary/hospitality/event management, education, international relations, trade school, viticulture and enology. Applicants may apply for one scholarship category of their choice per year and will be evaluated based on academics, community service, quality of essay and recommendation. Top scholarship winners in select categories may be invited to compete for the $5,000 Ironstone Concours Foundation Scholarship Scholarships are not renewable; however, students may reapply each year as long as they continue to meet the eligibility criteria. The Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program is a collaboration between the Friends of the California State Fair, the California Exposition & State Fair, the California State Fair Agricultural Advisory Council, the Ironstone Concours Foundation, Blue Diamond Growers and Western Fairs Association. International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS), an independent scholarship management company, hosts the online application process and disburses awards for the program. The deadline to apply is March 2, 2018. Learn more at CAStateFair.org/scholarship. For questions about the Friends of the California State Fair Scholarship Program, please email scholarship@calexpo.com.



SATURDAY, OCT. 19 - SUNDAY, OCT. 20

BONSAI & SUISEKI SHOW: From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day this is the Capital City's 20th Anniversary collaborative fundraiser show. Organizers have planned a full day of activities: Bonsai tree exhibition, mini demos (10-noon), main demo (1-3:30 p.m.), benefit drawings, member sales, vendor sales, and silent auction. Free parking available. The event will be held at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento, 95816 and will benefit the GSBF Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt.

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