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Sacramento City Council designates Sept. 16 as '916 Day'

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Elks 6 looking for students to apply for $50K scholarships by Nov. 14

By Stephen B. Clazie
Elks Lodge No. 6 past exalted ruler, scholarship chair

The 2023 Most Valuable Student (MVS) scholarship contest is open to any high school senior who is a U.S. citizen. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership and financial needs. They can apply for the MVS at enf.Elks.org/MVS.

The 2023 application deadline is Nov. 14 at 11:59 p.m. Elks Lodge No. 6 is looking for students who live in any zip code that starts with 958... to apply. It does not matter what school they attend; it is the home address that matters.

The Elks National Foundation (ENF) will award 500 four-year scholarships to the highest-rated applicants in the 2023 competition. Male and female students compete separately.

The ENF awards $2.44 million in college scholarships to a total of 500 high school seniors nationwide through its Most Valuable Student contest. The 20 top finalists will participate in an all-expenses paid Leadership Weekend in Chicago from April 13 through April 16, 2023, during which they will interview with the national judges.

These 20 finalists will be vying for two first-place awards of $50,000; two second-place awards of $40,000; and two third-place awards of $30,000. The remaining 14 finalists will receive awards of $20,000, and the 480 runners-up will receive fifth-place scholarships of $4,000.

All of these ENF scholars will also be eligible for the Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarships explained below.

The Most Valuable Student scholarships are for students pursuing a four-year degree, on a full-time basis – minimum of 12 semester hours – in a U.S. college or university. All scholarships are in the form of certificates of award conditional upon the full-time enrollment of the winner in an accredited U.S. college or university.

Decisions of the selection committees are final and are not subject to appeal. No application feedback will be given.

Current high school seniors, or the equivalent, who are citizens of the United States are eligible to apply. Applicants must be citizens of the United States on the date their applications are signed; permanent legal resident status does not qualify. If a student was naturalized under the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, they need to include their parent(s)' naturalization information in the citizenship section of the application. They must include the date, place and their naturalization number.

High school graduates are not eligible to apply. If however, you have not yet graduated from high school, but plan to take a gap year, you would be eligible, given you meet the other eligibility criteria.

Scholarships are available only to students who enroll in four-year undergraduate degree programs at accredited U.S. American colleges or universities. It is acceptable for a student to enroll in a two-year college for the first two years of the four-year program.

Applicants need not be related to a member of the Elks.

There is not a minimum income required in order to apply, nor is there a maximum income that the Elks would not consider. The financial information presented on the application is considered in full, including any extenuating financial circumstances explained on the application. Financial need, however, is a component and counts toward the total number of points an application can receive.

In addition, should the student reach the state finalist level of the competition, they will be required to upload their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) student aid report.

The Elks will not accept an applicant as an independent student unless the student is, or has been, a ward of the court or other extenuating circumstance. The Elks require a copy of a court document or a notarized letter from an appropriate court agency (Social Services) certifying such status.

Home-schooled students are eligible to apply for the scholarship. However, all aspects of the application must be filled out completely. When possible,

See SCHOLARSHIPS on page 5

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Sacramento City Council designates Sept. 16 as '916 Day'

Celebration to continue with volunteer opportunities at McKinley Park on Oct. 8

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

The Sacramento City Council on Sept. 13 declared "916 Day" as an official day to be celebrated by Sacramentans every Sept. 16.

This proclamation was initiated by the city's Parks and Community Enrichment Commission, which provides recommendations and advice to the City Council and the city's Department of Youth, Parks and Community Enrichment on policies, projects, programs, and other matters pertaining to parks and community enrichment affecting the city.

Through 916 Day, Sacramento residents are encouraged to collectively celebrate the city's parks and green spaces as the cornerstone of the community.

At the Sept. 13 meeting, Council Member Eric Guerra recalled that 916 Day was celebrated in Sacramento in an unofficial manner prior to this year.

"This was established in 2019, right before the (COVID-19) pandemic in an effort to really increase the amount of civic participation," he said.

Guerra stressed the importance of 916 Day.

"It's born out of the civic engagement of our citizens who want to increase the amount of volunteerism and set the example for our young kids about the value and importance of volunteerism," he said.

Council Member Rick Jennings noted that 916 Day accomplishes two things: beautifying parks and bringing people together.

Being that 916 Day is a celebration of Sacramento and volunteerism, Mayor Darrell Steinberg spoke about what volunteerism means in this capital city.

"Volunteerism is everything in this city, so I feel that enthusiasm," he said.

In celebration of 916 Day, city park commissioners are hosting a series of beautification and service events in all eight of the council districts across the city, on and around Sept. 16. Each of those eight parks is located in a separate council district.

The events were held at different times and separate days to allow people to attend as many of these events as they desired.

At each of the eight selected parks, "916 volunteers" from Sacramento and outlying areas joined or will join together to participate in tree plantings, park cleanup and/or a mulching event. The trees for these plantings were donated by the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

The first of those events was held on Sept. 10 at LeVar Burton Park in Council Member Mai Vang's District 8. At that kickoff event, 50 volunteers planted 20 trees at this park, which is located on Expedition Way, near Freeport Boulevard and Interstate 5.

There were two 916 Day celebrations held on Sept. 16, the first of which occurred during the morning at Argonaut Park in the Freeport Manor neighborhood in Council Member Jay Schenirer's District 5.

The latter Sept. 16 event for 916 Day began at 4 p.m. at Garcia Bend Park on Pocket Road, in Jennings' District 7.



Photos by Lance Armstrong

A group works on planting a tree at Garcia Bend Park.

At that afternoon and evening event, which also included seven SactoMoFo food trucks and an evening kids' movie shown on a large screen set up on a soccer field, Jennings summarized 916 Day.

"(It) is really about service, about volunteerism, about getting to know your neighbors and getting to know the community better, and taking that value in trying to make the area that you are living in or that you grew up in or that you love with all your heart and soul, making it better than we found it," he said. "So, it's about all those things."

Devin Lavelle, the city's District 7 parks commissioner, noted that he organized the 916 Day week of service with park commissioners from other districts.

"Nine-One-Six Day is about celebrating the city of Sacra-

See 916 DAY on page 4



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916 Day:

Continued from page 3

mento, and my fellow park commissioners, and I thought, 'What better way to do that then by investing in our parks and bringing out volunteers to celebrate volunteerism?' – because we all know that our parks are at the foundation of our neighborhoods."

Lavelle mentioned that 15 new trees were planted at Garcia Bend Park for 916 Day. Altogether, about 80 trees were planted at parks in Sacramento as part of 916 Day.

Pocket resident Kim Taniguchi, who was planting a tree with her daughter, Mia, and Pocket resident Andres Sanchez, explained why she decided to attend the event.

"Mia has volunteering (to perform) for her (Humanities and International Studies Program at C.K. McClatchy High School)," she said. "We are also Greenhaven Soccer Club people, and we're really able to see the fruits of the labors of these types of things, and making sure that we give back to our own community."

Pocket resident Alexander Velez, 7, told this paper that he plans on checking up on the health of the tree that he helped plant at Garcia Bend Park.

"After this Sunday, I will look at it," he said. "I'm going to bring a big bucket of water and dump it out (to water that tree)."

Natomas resident Nichole Lange told this paper that participating in a tree planting at Garcia Bend Park was part of her continued work volunteering for park projects and the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

Lange added that she was planning to name the tree she planted.

"We're going to name her Dolores," she said. "My grandmother (Dolores) pretty much raised me. She adopted my father. When I moved to Sacramento, I found my birth grandmother (through genetic testing).

"We matched (through the personal genomics and biotechnology company) 23andMe, and then this past March, my grandmother who raised me (and) adopted my father, she started going. I went to visit her (while she was dying) and I told her that I would name some trees after her."

After hearing about Lange's plan to name the tree she planted after her grandmother, Dolores, Jennings mentioned that he also plans to name a tree at the park.

"I didn't name a tree today, but I am going to name a tree (at Garcia Bend Park) after my father," he said. "My dad passed away, 96 and a half years of age, in the last 30 days. I was there with him as he went on to heaven.

"The reason we want to name a tree after Pops is his legacy has to go on forever. And so, the values that he taught me, I have to teach my children and they have to teach theirs."

Joining Lange in planting a tree was another Natomas resident, A.J. Albayalde, who mentioned that he appreciates that Sacramento has 916 Day.

"I think it's awesome," he said. "I think it's a great way to get



Natomas residents Nichole Lange and A.J. Albayalde were among the volunteers who planted trees at Garcia Bend Park for 916 Day.

the community involved, doing something for the community, giving back for the future. I think it's awesome."

The following morning after the event at Garcia Bend Park, a park cleanup and tree planting event was held at North Natomas Regional Park in Vice Mayor Angelique Ashby's District 1.

Ashby spoke to this paper about that event.

"It was a cleanup, tree planting and mulching event, and it was led by my Youth Action Corps," she said. "They all know their way around those tools and they do a lot of work with our parks department. And then we had a bunch of volunteers show up, too, in addition to our kids."

Since the 916 area code extends to areas outside of Sacramento, Ashby shared her thoughts about the potential to extend 916 Day to other areas.

"I think it would be great to have it become a regional event in the future where all the neighborhoods and communities inside of the 916 could participate," she said. "I know there's lots of (people in places like) Elk Grove and Carmichael that have our area code. But it would be nice to have everybody in the area code kind of working together on some of these events."

Other 916 Day celebrations included volunteer opportunities at Triangle Park in Council Member Sean Loloee's District 2 on Sept. 16, at the George Sim Community Center in Guerra's District 6 on Sept. 17, and at John Muir Park in Council Member Katie Valenzuela's District 4 on Sept. 17.

The final 916 Day community volunteerism event will be held at East Sacramento's McKinley Park on Oct. 8 at 9 a.m. in Council Member Jeff Harris' District 3.





Scholarships:

Continued from page 2

a third party should complete the counselor's report for the applicant.

Applications must advance through local, district and state levels to reach the national competition.

A student can apply for, but cannot accept, more than one Elks National Foundation scholarship or grant in any one academic year. Legacy Awards and Emergency Educational Grants are the other scholarships offered by the ENF. For details and eligibility, visit Elks.org/Scholars.

Notifications are sent to recipients, and applicants not selected to receive an Elks Most Valuable Student scholarship will be notified via email throughout the various levels of the contest.

Additionally, notifications are sent to applicants advancing from lodge selection in early January 2023, and notifications are sent to applicants advancing from district selection in mid-January 2023.

In late January, state finalists will be required to upload transcripts, test scores and the FAFSA student aid report.

Notifications are sent to applicants advancing from state selection to the national semifinals in early March 2023.

The 500 national semifinalists will be notified by email in early March 2023.

National semifinalists are required to submit updated application information, along with an essay and teacher's evaluation. Following the national semifinalist application deadline, the top 20 national finalists will be selected to attend a mandatory Leadership Weekend with an interview component in Chicago from April 13 to 16, 2023. All expenses will be covered.

In order to be considered for a top award, the applicant must be able to attend the Leadership Weekend.

Future doctors should apply for ENF scholarships. The Elks National Foundation is pleased to offer an exclusive scholarship opportunity just for Elks scholars entering their first year of medical school. The scholarship was established through the generosity of the late Lee Weigel, widow of Gunther Weigel.

Lee lost her husband of 51 years in November 2009. Gunther was a longtime member of Elks Lodge No. 948 in Miami. He was passionate about the Foundation's scholarship programs. Lee established these scholarships to help Elks scholars pursue a career in medicine.

Elks scholars planning to attend an accredited U.S. medical school to pursue a medical degree or osteopathic medicine degree should consider applying before they begin their first year of medical school.

The number of scholarships offered and amounts vary from year to year. For the 2022 contest, 20 $22,000 scholarships were offered exclusively to Elks scholars* entering their first year of medical school in fall 2022. ENF scholars should request an application for the Gunther & Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarships from the ENF scholarship office by email at Scholarship@Elks.org or calling (773) 755-4732.

** This award is only open to current and former scholarship recipients of the Elks National Foundation.*



1. Name the group that had a No. 1 R&B hit with "Just to Be Close to You" in 1976.
2. Who released "Sorry Seems to Be the Hardest Word"?
3. The title of which song was a phone number that prompted thousands of prank calls across the country?
4. Who released "Every Breath You Take"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "I love every movement, And there's nothing I would change, She doesn't need improvement, She's much too nice to rearrange."

Answers

1. The Commodores. The song, written by Lionel Richie, topped the R&B charts and stayed there for two weeks.
2. Elton John, in 1976. John and his writing partner Bernie Taupin wrote the song in minutes after John had fiddled briefly with a melody and lyrics.
3. "867-5309/Jenny," by Tommy Tutone in 1981. Callers only needed to add in any area code to the number. Years later many people were still receiving prank calls.
4. The Police, in 1983.
5. "Poetry in Motion," by Johnny Tillotson in 1960. This chart topper has been covered widely around the globe, including releases by artists in Sweden, Germany, Finland, Chile and Czechoslovakia.

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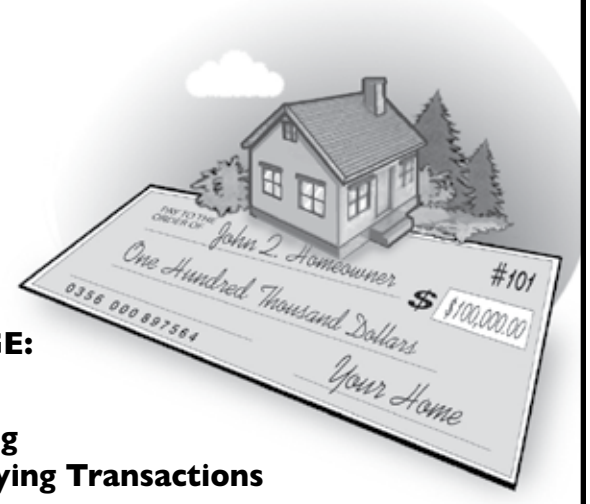
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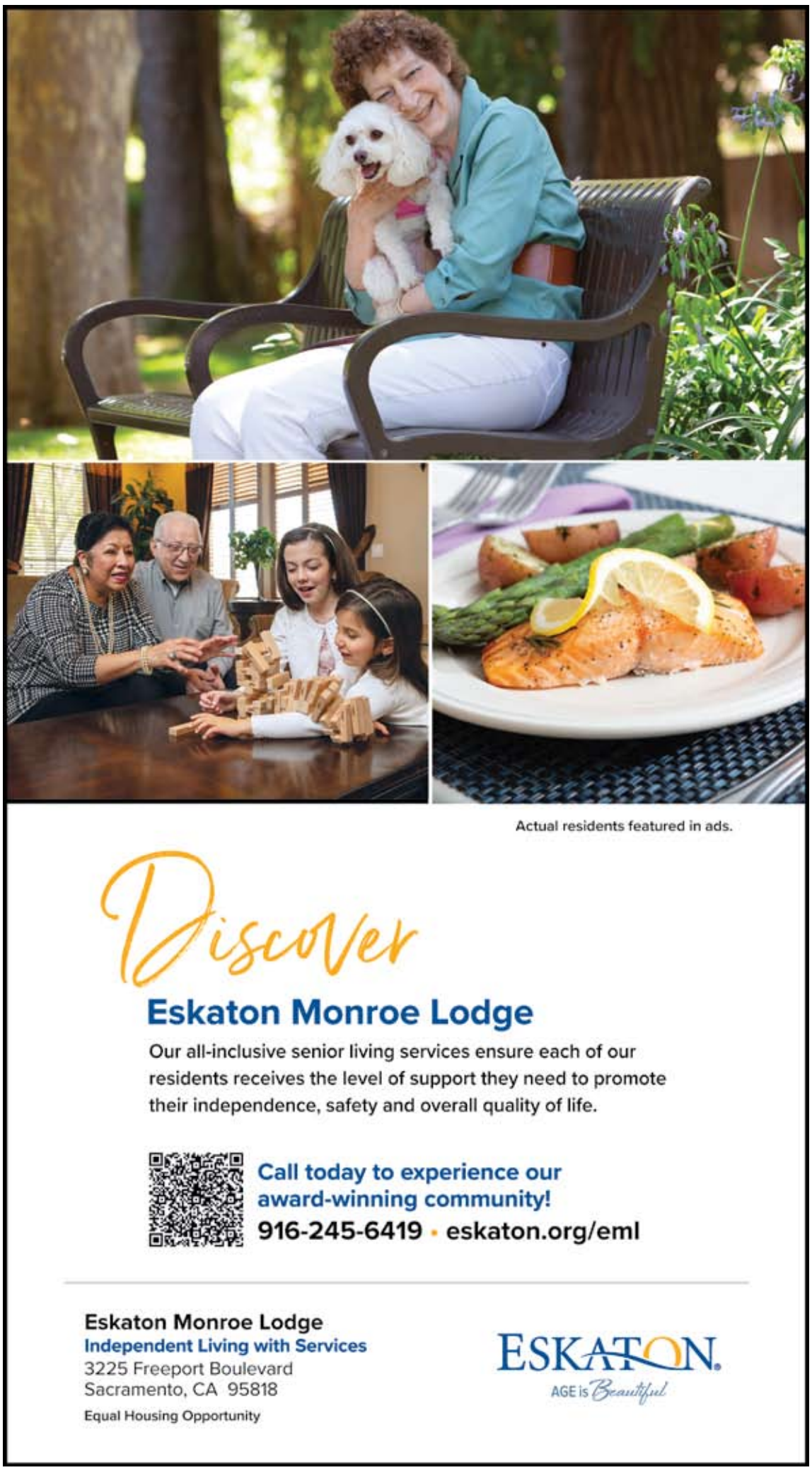
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Dia de los Miles to be held in Elk Grove on Oct. 16

Regional running event to celebrate Hispanic heritage

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

Dia de los Miles, a regional running event featuring 5K, 1-mile and kids' runs, will be held at Elk Grove Regional Park, 9950 Elk Grove-Florin Road in Elk Grove, on Sunday, Oct. 16.

As a themed event, Dia de los Miles serves as an extension of National Hispanic Heritage Month, which will end on Oct. 15.

This family-friendly running event was organized by the running-focused business, Fleet Feet, which began in Sacramento in 1976 and now has several local stores, including stores in midtown Sacramento and Elk Grove.

Race day activities will begin at the park at 7 a.m. with the packet pickup for registered runners. Packets will also be available for pickup at Elk Grove's Fleet Feet store, 8238 Laguna Blvd. #200, on Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Beginning at 8 a.m. the next day will be the start of the 5K and 1-mile races, which will be followed by an awards ceremony for those events.

The quarter-mile and half-mile kids' runs will begin at 9 a.m. Those runs will be supported by a cheer section with people playing maracas.

Each race participant and staff member will receive an event T-shirt, and all 5K and 1-mile registrants will receive a medal, which features colorful, Dia de los Muertos-related artwork. A different medal will be given to participants in the kids' races.

People pushing strollers and arriving with well-behaved dogs will be "welcome to join in the fun," notes an announcement for the event.

In addition to the featured running events, Dia de los Miles will include a "mercado" (Spanish for market).

The mercado, which will close at 11 a.m., will present the works of local artisans who will offer Latino arts and crafts for sale, and some of the merchants will be Sacramento business operators.

Among the offerings at the mercado will be jewelry, clothes, bags and plants.

Also adding to the attractions will be music provided by a disc jockey, and post-race burritos made by the Sacramento area business, Oscar's Very Mexican Food.

There will also be the "Kids' Corner," with children's activities, including arts and crafts, and nail decorating and temporary tattoos.

Another feature of the event will be a Dia de los Muertos booth where attendees can learn a variety of things, including how to build an altar.

Dia de los Muertos, which is translated as Day of the Dead, is a holiday that originated in Mexico and is designed for people to celebrate and honor their deceased friends and family members.

This year, Dia de los Muertos will be celebrated in the United States on Nov. 1-2.

East Sacramento resident Liz Saenz, a spokesperson and organizer for Dia de los Miles,

See DIA DE LOS MILES on page 7

Dia de los Miles:

Continued from page 6



Photos courtesy of Fleet Feet Elk Grove

Dia de los Miles will be held at Elk Grove Regional Park on Oct. 16.

mentioned that the organizers are hopeful that this running event will become an annual attraction.

"We're super excited to see how this first one turns out," she said.

Saenz mentioned that the event is a benefit for Latino Outdoors Sacramento-Central Valley.

"They're an organization that ensures that all diversity is met through outdoor opportunities," she said. "So, whether that's hikes or nature walks or like (all-terrain vehicle) rides, anything that's outdoors, they want to bring it to the table and (make such activities) accessible for everyone."

The excitement for this event has been great, Saenz noted.

"We're nearing 900 (registered race participants)," she said. "Every time someone signs up in the store, they're always super excited. They go, 'Oh, my goodness, like a Dia de los Muertos run.' They've never seen something that's in the running community that's represented that way."

In providing another example of the public's excitement for this event, Saenz recalled a time when the race's website was inactive for a week due to a scheduling issue regarding the date that the event would be held. She said that Fleet Feet's Sacramento, Elk Grove and Davis stores were receiving about five calls per day from people concerned about the status of this event.

"There were calls from Chico, from Nevada, nearby, of course, too," she said. "They all wanted to know what happened. People (would ask questions) like, 'Do we need to call anybody?,' 'Do we need to call the city of Elk Grove, and ask them to put this race on?'"

Saenz told the Citizen that it is important to Dia de los Miles' organizers to create a "bright and vibrant (event) – just like our people and our culture."

She added that because of her own Hispanic heritage, she has an additional reason to personally be excited about this event.

"I'm Mexican, I'm a Latina woman, (and) I'm really proud of it," Saenz said. "I grew up in probably mostly Caucasian areas, so I think it was always important for my grandparents and parents to make sure I was equally represented.

"(Through Hispanic-themed events), it's always worth bringing people out and showing them your side of your culture."

Saenz mentioned that the event's organizers are hoping for about 1,000 participants.

"We aren't cutting off (registration) yet, so people still have plenty of time to sign up," she said. "We really want to give the people of Elk Grove the next 21 days to sign (up to participate in the event)."

She noted that there are still a lot of openings for the kids' races, "and a lot of medals for them."

Those who are unable to attend this event will be given the virtual option of paying for the event and receiving a medal and a T-shirt in the mail. Virtual participants can run their 5K or 1-mile race on their own, anytime that is convenient for their own schedules.

Saenz mentioned that Dia de los Miles is an event for people of a wide range of athletic abilities.

"Even if you don't think you can complete the 5K, we'll be cheering you on the whole time," she said.

Registration fees for this event are $52 for the 5K and 1-mile runs, and $20 for the kids' runs.

To register for Dia de los Miles or to obtain other information about this event, visit the website, www.DiadelosMiles.com.



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St. Francis pioneering ethnic studies course for Catholic schools

By Samantha Rickards
St. Francis High School student

Editor's note: This article was made available through the Sacramento Student Reporter Program.

St. Francis Catholic High School is developing an ethnic studies course that could inspire other Catholic schools in the area to do the same.

The main goal of this ethnic studies course will be to educate students on cultural sensitivity, and in doing so, school officials said, St. Francis can become a more inclusive campus to everyone, past, present and future.

"Ultimately, the ethnic studies class is not going to be what fixes everything, but it's another way for students to learn about different cultures so that when they leave this institution and go on to other institutions of higher education, they will be prepared for other diversities that are going to come," St. Francis Principal Elias Mendoza said.

The ethnic studies curriculum at St. Francis will primarily focus on the ethnicities and cultures of the greater Sacramento region. Nevertheless, there will be opportunities to expand the program into more fields of study.

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill, in October 2021, requiring ethnic studies to be taught in all California public and charter high schools beginning in the 2025-26 school year. By 2030, high school students will have to complete a semester of ethnic studies in order to graduate.

"A number of studies have shown that these courses boost student achievement over the long run," Newsom wrote in a statement.

Unlike public schools, Catholic high schools are not required by law to offer ethnic studies; however, this does not mean they are uninterested.

"I think it's an important course to add to our current curriculum here at St. Francis," Memdoza said. "It benefits all students regardless of what region of Sacramento they're living in."

Recently, St. Francis has made it a priority to promote more diversity and inclusion on campus.

"We, like any other organization, have had some missteps along the way, but we're doing the work and encouraging others to be a part of the process so we can do better," Mendoza said.

Mendoza and the school's diversity coordinator, Valerie Ramos, said plans to institute an ethnic studies course began early last year. Under the guidance of the University of California, Davis, St. Francis will create its own curriculum based on the needs of its students.

See STUDIES on page 9



Studies:

Continued from page 8

"There is no cookie cutter approach to teaching ethnic studies," Mendoza said. "I think it will depend on the strengths of the teachers teaching, as well as the interests of the students. This should be a course that grows over time, so that it doesn't become static."

Presently, St. Francis is in the beginning stages of creating this course but, once the curriculum's foundation is set and instructors are chosen to teach, there will be room for additional embellishments that can help shape the program.

"Step one is to get teachers trained and get input from parents and students as far as their hopes and dreams," Ramos said. "Then, we want to alleviate any concerns they may have because some people don't understand what ethnic studies is."

Every department at St. Francis will partake in formal training, whether they are chosen to lead the course or not.

"We will have the whole staff participate by getting trained and coming up with ways to incorporate these ideas into their departments," Ramos said.

When speaking with various teachers on campus, all agreed that they would be open to training for an ethnic studies course.

"I think ethnic studies encompasses the bigger picture that it is talking about the history and experiences of all types of people," said Maribel Tostado, a language teacher at St. Francis. "I think understanding other people is really important for our community."

Tostado also mentioned how she participates in The Ethnic Studies Committee, a group of teachers and staff interested in the ethnic studies program. Roughly every month, the committee meets with Ramos to address any questions or concerns they may have about the course.

"Just that we're talking about it is a huge opportunity for growth in our school," Tostado said.

Another contributing factor to the ethnic studies program will be the input of students.

"Because the students here are so talented and so broad in their perspective, I imagine they're going to help create the curriculum," Ramos said. "They are going to contribute so much of how this program will look in the future."

Students around campus expressed substantially positive views about the ethnic studies course.

"I would love to take an ethnic studies course and be more educated on this subject St. Francis sophomore Kinnera Tirumala said. "Literally, everything about this course would interest me."

Furthermore, students are interested in the benefits this course could bring to the school community.

"I hope this class will make people on campus feel safer and help them better understand their beliefs and cultures," St. Francis junior Chidera Okoye said.



Photo courtesy of Pixabay

This course is set to roll out during the fall semester of 2023, that is, depending on limitations due to budget and the individuals writing the curriculum. Additionally, it will only be required for incoming freshmen, but other grades are welcome to enroll, if their schedules allow.

"We initially talked about having a ninth-grade course, because it's especially important for our youngest students on campus who haven't been educated about ethnic studies, cultural awareness and insensitivity to be exposed early," Mendoza said.





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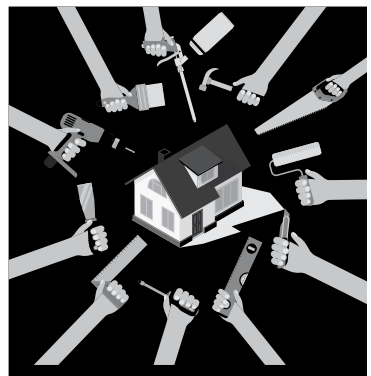
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