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Centennial celebration of Sacramento's longest operating radio station

See Page 3

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Volunteers needed to assist local families for United Way's free tax preparation program

Volunteers are needed to help families across the region file their taxes and apply for tax credits as part of United Way California Capital Region's free, tax preparation program.

No experience is needed, as participants receive training to become IRS-certified volunteers. The training includes five full-day sessions and an open-book test at the end of training for certification.

Volunteers must be signed up by the end of November. Tax preparation certification training begins Nov. 5.



Photo courtesy of United Way California Capital Region

Volunteers from United Way's free, tax preparation program prepare to help local families in spring 2022. The program's organizers are seeking volunteers by the end of November for the upcoming tax season.

Dr. Dawnté Early, president and CEO of the United Way California Capital Region, spoke about the importance of this volunteerism opportunity.

"Our free, tax prep volunteers play a big role in ensuring local families receive help applying for the maximum tax benefits for which they are eligible," he said. "Many families in our region have earned these tax credits, but do not know they are eligible. These are important funds they can use to meet immediate needs and increase their household's financial stability."

Each year, United Way and hundreds of volunteers help families and individuals earning less than $66,000 annually file their taxes for free. Last tax season, this free, tax preparation program helped more than 4,000 families receive more than $9.5 million in tax refunds.

United Way California Capital Region has been working to fight poverty for nearly 100 years by creating stronger, healthier, more compassionate communities, now serving Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties.

The local United Way has found one place in each community to reach the most families in need.

See TAX PREPARATION on page 4

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Cover by: Lance Armstrong

Centennial celebration of Sacramento's longest operating radio station

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

Sacramento's Scottish Rite Masonic Center, on Oct. 21, was the scene of a grand celebration for the city's longest operating radio station: KFBK.

Along with a large crowd of guests, including many longtime listeners, current and past KFBK executives and employees paid tribute to the station's history, which officially made its formal debut on Sept. 17, 1922.

KFBK, which began as Sacramento's second commercial radio station, was originally jointly operated at 6th and K streets by The Sacramento Union newspaper and the Kimball-Upson Co., a vendor of such merchandise as sporting goods, automotive supplies, motorcycles, records and phonographs.

Nearly three years after its establishment, The Sacramento Bee replaced The Union in the ownership of KFBK, and in 1929, The Bee became the station's sole owner.

KFBK is currently owned by iHeart Media Sacramento, a subsidiary of iHeartMedia, a leading global media and entertainment company.

This station, which is physically headquartered in the Arden area and has its transmitter near Pleasant Grove in Sutter County, presents simulcast broadcasting on 1530 AM and 93.1 FM, and can be listened to online or downloaded to the iHeart app.

The Oct. 21 event celebrating this radio station's centennial featured attractions such as an on-stage program and opportunities to meet KFBK on-air personalities, including Cristina Mendonsa and Sam Shane of the KFBK Morning News, nationally syndicated and noon to 3 p.m. host Tom Sullivan, afternoon show hosts John McGinness, a former Sacramento County sheriff, and Kitty O'Neal, and night program host Pat Walsh.

As part of this celebration, the station broadcast live from this event's venue at 6151 H St. from 4 to 7 p.m. The special, on-air program, which featured guests speaking about the station's history, was hosted by O'Neal.

The gathering also showcased framed, KFBK photographs from the past and informational displays, as well as two antique microphones and an antique microphone stand that were on loan from the collection of Sacramento resident Matías Bombal.

In addition to serving its primary purpose of presenting a party in recognition of the station's 100-year history, this sold-out event was used to raise funds for the Women's Veteran Alliance Sacramento Region.

Sara McClure, market president of iHeartMedia Sacramento, shared her thoughts on this station's milestone of turning 100 years old.

"One hundred consecutive years of informing Northern California is a remarkable accomplishment, part of the enduring legacy that is KFBK," she said "I'm proud to be part of this organization at this point in time and grateful to be sharing it with the talented team of people who make KFBK News Radio what it is today."

KFBK News Radio Program Director Bill White mentioned that this station's operators have maintained traditions throughout the history of the station.

"The founding principle of KFBK News Radio remains the same today as it did in 1922, to provide relevant local news and information," he said. "Through the generations, KFBK's team of talented news anchors, reporters and talk (show) hosts continues to proudly uphold that mission, to serve the listeners of Sacramento and Northern California."

Despite KFBK's ability to carry on traditions, Sullivan,

See RADIO STATION on page 7



Photos by Lance Armstrong

While sitting alongside KFBK afternoon news anchor Kitty O'Neal, Tom Sullivan, host of 'The Tom Sullivan Show', speaks to attendees of the event.

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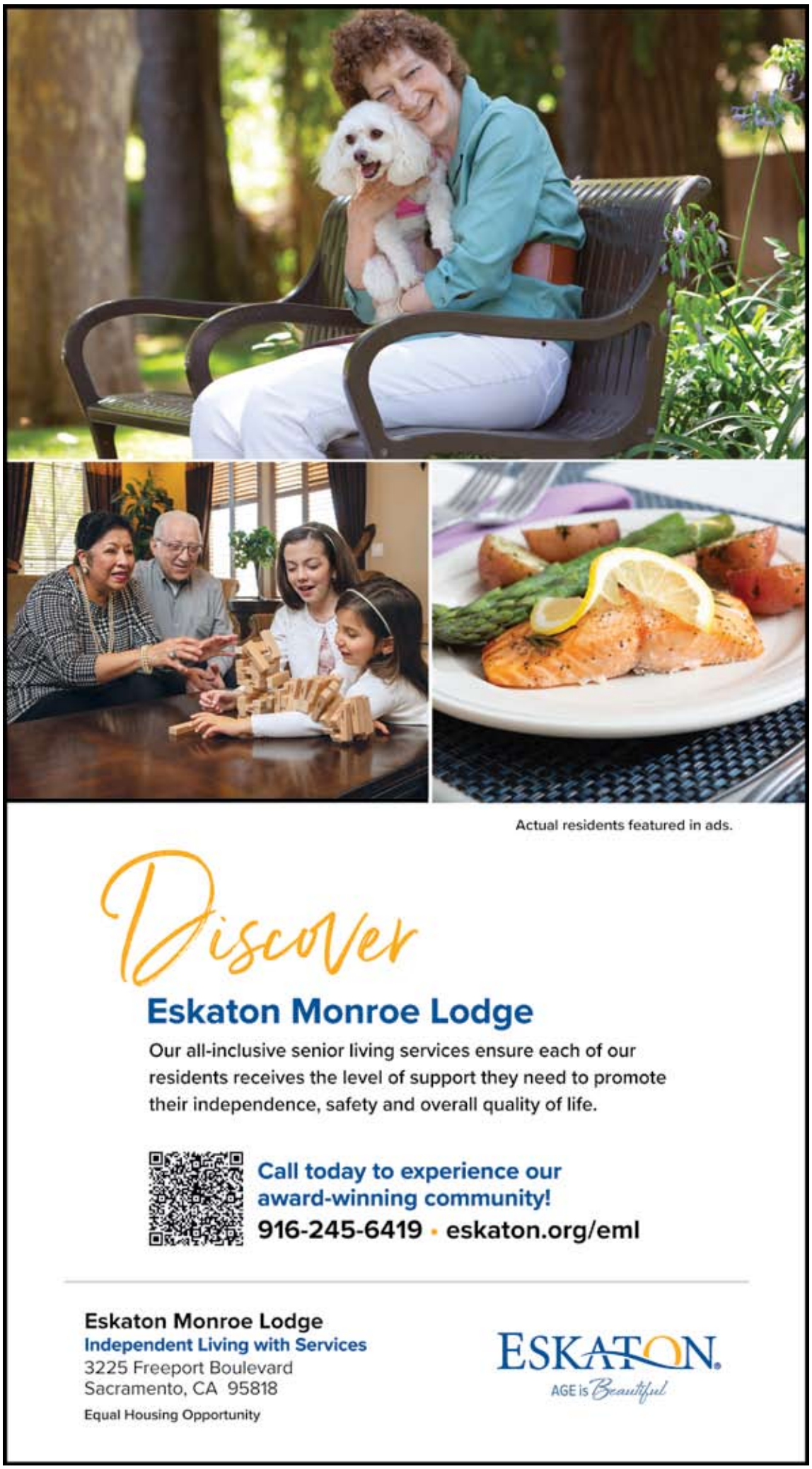


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Upcoming Events

Let's Read Oak Park – A free reading and exploration event for children, ages 5 to 12, will be held at Underground Books, 2814 35th St., on Nov. 12 from 10 to 11 a.m.

For more information, call (916) 737-3333.

CBS Neighborhood Concert Series – Congregation Beth Shalom is offering three concerts for all ages, beginning Nov. 13. Michael Neumann, artistic director emeritus of the Sacramento Youth Symphony and music director emeritus of the Folsom Lake Symphony is the host of this series.

Come and see world-class musicians perform live works from Mozart, Philip Glass, opera and Broadway.

Neumann will be facilitating a question-and-answer session after each performance, and a reception will be held after the performances with refreshments.

The event will be held at Congregation Beth Shalom at 4746 El Camino Ave. in Carmichael on Nov. 13, Jan. 8 and March 12, from 4 to 5 p.m.

Ticket prices are $18 for families, $10 for adults and $5 for students.

Tickets can be purchased through the website, www.cbshalom.org.

For more information, call (916) 485-4478 or write to the email address, lorinalangan@yahoo.com.

Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus holiday concerts – "Holiday Hits with a Splash of Sass," a funny, family-friendly concert, will be presented by this group on Friday, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday evenings, December 9, 10, 12, and 13 at Pioneer Congregational United Church of Christ at 2700 L St. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the curtain will go up at 7 p.m.

A matinee show will be presented on Sunday, Dec. 11, with doors opening at 2:30 p.m. and the curtain will be raised at 3 p.m.

General admission tickets are $30 each. VIP-seating tickets are $45. Students with a valid student ID can purchase tickets for just $15.

Tickets are available through the website, www.SacGayMensChorus.org or in person at Rocket Records, 1002 24th St.

Jack Gallagher comedy shows – This local comedian will perform two comedy shows in the Sutter Theater, the big room at The Sofia, 2700 Capitol Ave., on Dec. 10. The shows are scheduled for 4 and 7 p.m.

With a 45-year career that includes appearances on "The Tonight Show" with both Johnny Carson and Jay Leno, a role as Larry David's doctor on "Curb Your Enthusiasm," various film roles, and comedic performances on stages across the country, Gallagher will be back onstage with two stand-up shows at The Sofia.

Tickets can be purchased for $30 each through the website, www.bstreettheatre.org.

'Winter Wonderland' at Fairytale Town – Celebrate the holiday season at Fairytale Town with holiday lights, festive décor and vendors, snow, Santa, arts and crafts and more at Fairytale Town's Winter Wonderland event.

This fun-filled, family celebration is set for four days, Dec. 10-11 and 17-18. Fairytale Town will be have special hours for the event, from 1 to 7 p.m.

For more information, call (916) 808-5233 or write to mail.fairytaletown.org.

Tax Preparation:

Continued from page 2

School is square one for ending family poverty. United Way uses its Square One approach to help in the goal of ending poverty for local families by helping children excel in school, investing in families, and strengthening schools with resources to address increased poverty and deep roots of racial inequality.

For more information about the United Way's free, tax preparation program or to sign up to volunteer, visit the website, YourLocalUnitedWay-FreeTaxPrep.org.

Chinese American WWII medal replica gifted to California Museum

Six medal recipients honored in special ceremony

By Lance Armstrong
vcneditor@gmail.com

The California Museum, on Oct. 2, was gifted a Chinese American World War II congressional gold medal replica by retired U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Jonathan Yuen, on behalf of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance and the Chinese American WWII Veterans Recognition Project.

The medal will be incorporated into the museum's "Gold Mountain: Chinese Californian Stories" exhibit.

This gold medal award is a fairly new honor, as it was created through bipartisan legislation with the passage of the Chinese American World War II Veteran Congressional Gold Medal Act, on Dec. 12, 2018. It was signed into law by President Donald Trump eight days later.

As part of the event, Dr. David Yee, commissioner on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, presented a Senate resolution from Sen. Richard Pan, D-Sacramento, to Amanda Meeker, the museum's executive director.

While standing on the museum's auditorium stage next to six Chinese American World War II veterans, Yee described his participation in this ceremony as an honor.

"During World War II, Chinese Americans displayed their patriotism, loyalty and courage, despite the inequity of the Chinese Exclusion Act, which was in place at the time," he said. "In World War II, approximately 20,000 Chinese Americans, nearly one in five, served in the U.S. armed forces.

"An estimated 40% percent of those who served were not U.S. citizens due to laws that denied citizenship to people of Chinese descent. These veterans served with distinction and received citations for heroism."

Yee mentioned that of the 20,000 Chinese Americans who served in World War II, less than 200 of those service members are alive today.

He also told the attendees that the California Museum – which opened as the Golden State Museum in 1998 – holds a "special place" in his heart.

"My (paternal) grandfather, Dr. Herbert Yee, (who was a dentist in Sacramento), served on the (museum's) founding board of trustees," he said. "It was spearheaded by my grandfather's dear friend, Secretary of State March Fong Eu."

Yee mentioned that both his paternal grandfather and maternal grandfather, Curtis Joe Wong, received a Chinese American World War II congressional gold medal.

Yee additionally participated in a special ceremony, as he presented Senate certificates of recognition to the Chinese American World War II veterans. Each of the certificates have Pan's signature.

Yuen, who is a native Californian, noted that he had four uncles who served in the U.S. Army and Merchant Marines during World War II, leading to

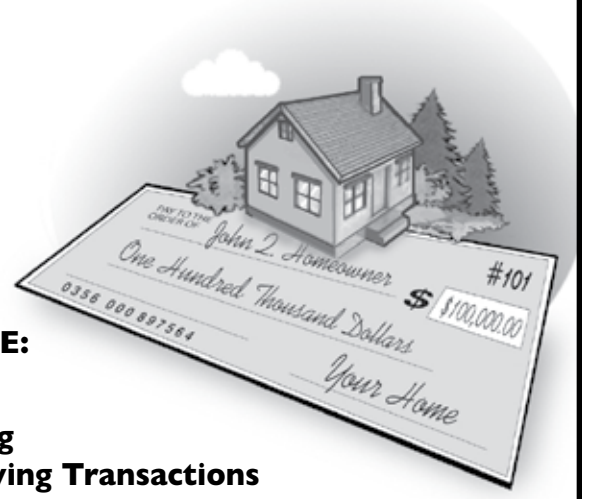
See MEDAL REPLICA on page 6



Photos by Lance Armstrong
This Chinese American World War II veterans congressional medal replica was gifted to the California Museum in downtown Sacramento on Oct. 2.

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Medal Replica:

Continued from page 5

a U.S. military service tradition in his family.

"I now know that it was with 20,000 other proud Chinese Americans veterans of World War II," he said. "My father and uncles served in the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Their service inspired me and then my son (Drew) to attend (the) U.S. Naval academy."

Yuen, who retired after 35 years of service in the Navy, spoke about the congressional gold medal.

"This congressional gold medal right here acknowledges (Chinese American World War II veterans') deserved place in history for their courage to step forward to serve, their dedication to duty and undeniable loyalty for our country," he said.

Meeker told this paper that the event was organized by one of the museum's docents, Doreen Wong, who served as the master of ceremonies.

"(Wong) approached me about the possibility of the museum being presented a Chinese American World War II congressional gold medal replica as a gift," she said. "The idea was initiated by Maj. Gen. William S. Chen, U.S. Army, retired, as part of the project's objectives to place this congressional gold medal into public venues, so more become aware of Chinese American World War II veterans' efforts in defense of our country".

"Chen obtained the approval from Ed Gor, national director of the Chinese American WW II Veterans Recognition Project. Wong asked me (if) I would accept it. I said, 'Of course, we would love to.' Having the gold medal here will really help us. It's a tangible way of demonstrating to our visitors the heroism of the World War II (Chinese American) service members."

Meeker added that she was honored to share the stage with the six Chinese American World War II veterans.



Dr. David Yee, commissioner on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, presents a California State Senate resolution to California Museum Executive Director Amanda Meeker.

"It is such an honor having those veterans here," she said. "What? They have to be in their 90s, and they have taken time out of their day to come be with us today and share their stories, and we couldn't be more grateful."

See more photos on page 9



Chinese American World War II veteran Kenneth Mar is shown at the event with his daughter, Sheri.

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KFBK listeners, Adevia (Bangs) Mackes, left, and Aluvia (Bangs) Costello, stand in front of large, lighted KFBK letters at the event. These Sacramento-born twins have been listening to the station since their childhoods.



Tom Sullivan, second from left, is joined by Greg Padilla, furthest right, and Topo Padilla, furthest left, of Greg Padilla Bail Bonds, and Sacramento County Sheriff Scott Jones.

Radio Station:

Continued from page 3

who hosts "The Tom Sullivan Show", a longtime running program on KFBK, told this paper that the station, and radio, in general, is much different than it was a century ago.

"Somebody who was in radio 100 years ago would not recognize it today, but we still call it radio," he said. "There's a couple companies that are trying to change it and call it audio. They're getting a lot of pushback, because, no, it's radio. (Radio) has changed, but you should keep the label."

Although KFBK is commonly known today as a politically conservative radio station, Sullivan recalled a time when it was owned and operated by the McClatchy family – then-owners of the liberal-leaning Sacramento Bee newspaper – under their McClatchy Broadcasting Co. subsidiary.

"When I first started (working) at KFBK (in 1980), there was like an unofficial (political) war, and at the time I started, KFBK was owned by McClatchy," he said. "And I think the McClatchy executives, they didn't know quite what to do, so they sold it (in October 1987)."

The station's then-new operators were the Westinghouse Electric Corporation's Group W Radio unit.

Sullivan recalled leaving Sacramento to work for the FOX Business Network in 2007.

"I went to work for FOX," he said. "They were launching FOX Business (Network), and they heard that I was a financial person, and had broadcasting experience, so they said, 'Do you want to help us launch the FOX Business Network?' And I said, 'Sure, sounds interesting.' So, that's how I went to FOX.

"And so, I go there and they said, 'We would like to make you an offer to be an anchor on our network.' I said, 'Great.' And they said, 'Oh, by the way, we would also like you to bring your radio show over here. So, that's what happened is FOX picked it up, and that's what pushed it out nationwide."

Sacramento native Dave Williams, who spent the first 32 years of his radio career in this capital city, 15 of which he worked as a talk show host for KFBK, told this paper that he believes the station has remained strong for decades because of the people involved with it.

"KFBK has just always had fun, outgoing people who like each other and like what they do, and that's contagious," he said.

Also attending the event was former KCRA-TV news anchor Kellie DeMarko, who is currently a fill-in radio show host for McGinness and O'Neal.

DeMarko marveled at the milestone of the station reaching its 100th year of existence.

"I can't believe that they've been around for 100 years," she said. "First of all, I'm so honored that I even get to be a small part of this team. They're legendary and they just get it. They do it right. And as you just met these people here tonight, the voices that you hear on the radio, they're even better in person."

Among the longtime KFBK listeners who attended the event were the Sacramento-born twin sisters, Adevia (Bangs) Mackes and Aluvia (Bangs) Costello, who recall listening to this station since their childhoods growing up in the Colonial Heights neighborhood.

"We were raised with KFBK," said Mackes, who lives in Elk Grove. "As young as 4 years old, (when) it was time to take a nap, (their parents, Phil and Kathy Bangs), would turn on KFBK and we would hear the little jingle (coming from) the radio in the hall closet."

Costello mentioned that she was excited to see the people who she regularly listens to on KFBK in person at the event.

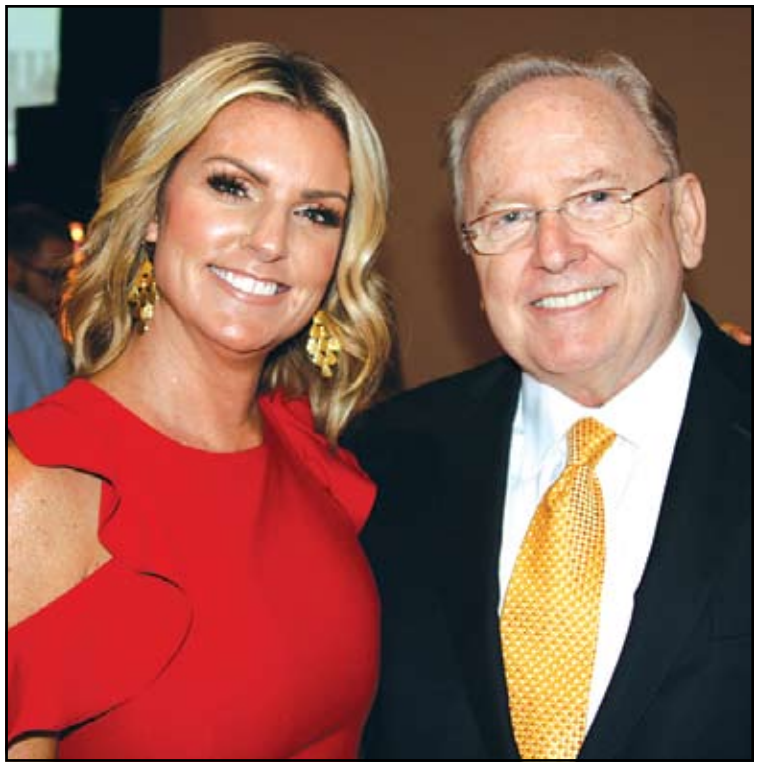
"I like KFBK and I like the people that are on (that station)," she said. "I was really glad to see these people. Every morning, I (regularly) listen to Christina Mendonsa and Sam Shane. We travel out of state and when I'm in the shower, I have to turn on iHeart Radio, because I listen to KFBK and that's my routine.

"And then when I get off

See RADIO STATION on page 8









Top left: The Scottish Rite Masonic Center's stage had a festive appearance for KFBK's centennial celebration event. Top right: Kellie DeMarko, a former KCRA Channel 3 news anchor and a fill-in KFBK radio host, and Tom Sullivan are shown at KFBK's centennial celebration on Oct. 21. Bottom left: Pictured is vintage KFBK artwork of the station's then-mascot, Gaby. The mascot was originally drawn for the station at the famous Walt Disney Studios.

Radio Station:

Continued from page 7

work, I get to hear Kitty O'Neal (on) my drive home. (Also), I knew Tom Sullivan was coming (to the event from New York), and we all know that if Rush Limbaugh was still alive, he would come. That would have been amazing."

Like Sullivan, Limbaugh also had a syndicated radio program that could be heard on KFBK.

Limbaugh began his time at KFBK on Oct. 15, 1984 and his program continued until June 18, 2021, four months after his death.

O'Neal shared her personal thoughts about Limbaugh.

"I met people who think he was the worst thing that ever happened to radio," she said. "I understand. Not everybody thinks (the same). But what they don't know about him is he was a very gentle human being who was extremely magnanimous, cheerful and full of thoughtfulness."

In addition to Limbaugh, other former KFBK talk radio show hosts who were mentioned on multiple occasions during the evening were Commander Bill Eveland and Amy Lewis.

KFBK listener Chris Duckett told this paper that he has been listening to this station since 1984.

"It was about the time Rush came on," he said. "It's been our main go-to station every morning and every evening when we're in the car. It's all we listen to. We don't listen to music, and we've just kind of grown up with all the people that are here.

"It was just an awesome time (at the event). I'm so glad I came."


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More scenes from Chinese American World War II event Oct. 2









Pictured clockwise from top left: World War II veteran M. Ruth Yang shows off her Senate resolution from Sen. Richard Pan, D-Sacramento. • Pictured from left to right are Jonathan Yuen, a retired U.S. Navy admiral, Helen Yee, California Museum board member, and Ken Ming Sou, president of the Sacramento Chapter of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance.• Kan Chiu Chun, a Chinese American World War II veteran, is handed a Senate certificate of recognition by Dr. David Yee, commissioner on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs• Army veteran Fook T. 'Jimmy' Mah holds his Senate certificate of recognition on Oct. 2. • A member of Gung Ho American Legion Post No. 696 observes the Oct. 2 event. • Six Chinese American World War II veterans sit on the stage in the California Museum auditorium on Oct. 2.







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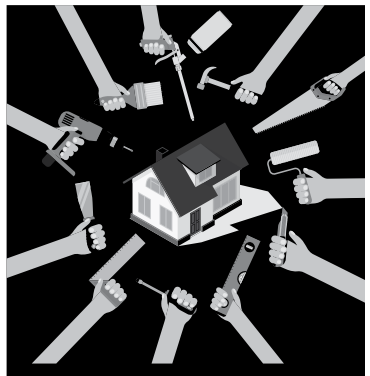
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