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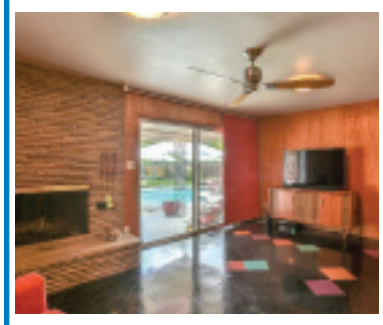





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Publisher ..... David Herburger
Editor ..... Monica Stark
Art Director ..... John Ochoa
Graphic Designer ..... Annin Greenhalgh
Advertising Director ..... Jim O'Donnell
Advertising Executives:
Melissa Andrews, Linda Pohl

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1109 Markham Way
Sacramento,
CA 95818
t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

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Other photos:
Monica Stark
Stephen Crowley



Turning the tide on increasing vacancies

Promenade's new leasing agent reveals big changes at the Pocket shopping center

Device Brewing looking to move into old Tuesday Morning building

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

The setting: The vacant Tuesday Morning building.
The announcement: New tenants signed leasing agreements inside troubled shopping center and Device Brewing Company considering the Tuesday Morning location for an expansion.

Especially with the Delta Shores on the horizon nearby, Pocket residents want to ensure the Promenade Shopping Center (Rush River and Windbridge drives) remains a viable place to shop. After all, in a neighborhood with a higher disposable income than most other Sacramento areas, it seems fitting that the idea of shopping local is supported. During his campaign for city council, Rick Jennings promised economic development and making sure shopping centers are 90 percent full—bringing in the type of businesses that were lacking in the neighborhood, including restaurants.

"What we don't want to happen is what happened on Mack Road with the Raley's -- where they went in and they're not there anymore," Vice Mayor Jennings said to a vested audience on Monday evening at a community meeting to discuss changes at the Promenade, a shopping center that, like many shopping centers around the country, have suffered growing vacancies during the recent economic downturn. Anchored by Bel Air (Raley's), the Promenade has lost businesses like Buckthorns coffee, El Faro Taqueria, the Dollar Tree, a local real estate business, a boba shop and a frozen yogurt shop.

"We want to make sure Raley's hears from all of us that they are an important anchor in our shopping center, in our community. We want this shopping center to be as full as the other shopping centers that we have in District 7," Jennings said. "We want more business. We want more walking traffic. We want more, more, more."

And with that, leasing agent Christina Snyder took the floor to discuss improvements made by current owners and potential businesses that are knocking on the door. About five months ago, she was brought onto this project because of the vacancy problem.

"My expertise is to take sites like these and reposition them. This is what I love to do," Snyder said.

"I like to take a center with a lot of vacancy and bring it back to life."

To "hopefully" commence next month, she said that includes a paint project for the dated-looking property.

See Promenade, page 3

Promenade:

Continued from page 2

Because of that, she's been able to market the shopping center to potential tenants. A burger joint will occupy the corner and a personal trainer will go in next door to the old Tuesday Morning. Three other leases are out now and are expected to be signed soon. "The burger tenant, hair salon, acupuncture/massage therapist, a local pet store operator – those are the kinds of things I got going on," she said, adding that she expects to have five leases signed by the end of the week.

Taking folks back to the good ol' days of the shopping center, one resident said she remembers going into Buckthorns everyday for coffee. "There was always a group of retired people sitting and talking about things. There were families there with their kids. It was really a nice coffee house." When she heard they were going to close, she asked them why: "They said because their rent had been increased so much and that the owner was hoping that something like Panera was going to come in."

She added the neighborhood lacks a "good quality bakery," and Snyder responded, "there is some potential interest from a bakery coming up from Los Angeles... to go into the building where the Bank of America building is."

Welcoming phone calls, Snyder said her cell phone number, 916-660-3377, is posted on "just about" every vacant window of the shopping center.

> "My expertise is to take sites like these and reposition them. This is what I love to do."
>
> **– Christina Snyder, Leasing agent**

Device Brewing Company

Now in his fifth year of business with wife Melissa, Ken Anthony told the audience that before they opened up Device Brewing Company in the Granite Park Complex on Power Inn Road, the Pocket residents looked in their neighborhood first. "We actually looked," he said. In addition to a fairly good size production facility at their location, they have a 800-square-foot taproom dedicated to community gatherings.

"It's a community place where people come together," he said.

They hold bingo and trivia nights and because of their alcohol license, kids are allowed. Parents to a 5-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter, having a safe place where they can hang out on the weekends is important. "On weekends, we love to go to breweries, typically not our own. We like to go to breweries with the kids."

Now, with Tuesday Morning gone, the Anthonys have revisited the Promenade. Full of potential, the space boasts large glass-in walls, inviting the outdoor scenery indoors filling the space with natural light. The adjacent outdoor atrium provides shade for comfortable seating and a light breeze often filters throughout. Imagining picnic tables and individual seating, Ken said the atrium could also provide space for fun taproom activities like cornhole and shuffleboard.

"It would be tasting, take-away, communal; we'd have games, wifi, private seating, outdoor seating," he said. He added that he would love to build a small riser to support live jazz or acoustic music.

Within the Tuesday Morning location, he added that he would love to build a closed-in kids area with glass windows to monitor the children. "When we go out somewhere, I want to put them in a safe place and be able to watch them from afar and know they're not going to get into trouble."

An extension of the Power Inn location, if the Anthonys do sign up to lease out the old Tuesday Morning location, it would be a satellite taproom, a tasting room. "We would not manufacture one drop of beer. We would store it cold and serve it cold," he said.

"If we could make a good deal, I would like to move aggressively (on the lease) because the way I look at it is, the best opportunities are the ones that you jump on when the getting is good, not when you're on the backside of a wave when it's already cresting and crashing. I try to be forward thinking."

He said they looked at the Promenade about two years ago, but at the time Device didn't have enough production to bolster a second facility. "Now, we are in that position. We've got the ability to support that and not run out of business," he said.

Meanwhile, he said the Power Inn location just finished a pizza oven build-out and inspections should happen next month. While that location has 12 faucets, over at the Promenade, he could have 24 pouring beer.

If the Anthonys do get the space at the Promenade, Ken said they would hire at least six 30-hour a week people.

(Editor's Note: The Device Brewing Company is pouring beer at Saturday's Best of California BrewFest at the California State Fair, which starts at 3 p.m. at the Miller Lite Racetrack Grandstand. The Anthonys won a medal for their Munich Helles, a low-alcohol lager. They will attend the medal ceremonies, Melissa told the Pocket News. For more information on that festival, visit: http://www.castatefair.org/best-california-brewfest/)

Shop local?

But will residents actually support the new businesses? That's what members of the Pocket-Greenhaven Community Association hope for. To ensure success, ideas about shopping local campaign has surfaced. Stay tuned for more details as they come.

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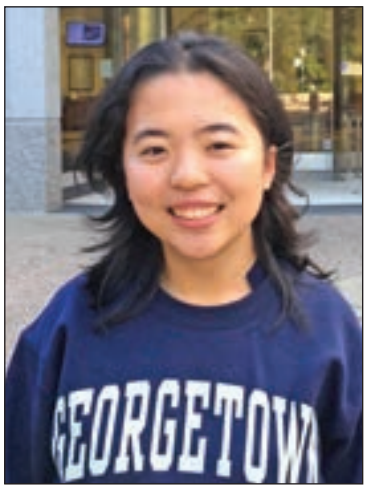
Kennedy HS Student selected for national Student Leaders Program

Bank of America announced that five high school juniors and seniors from the greater Sacramento area have been selected as Student Leaders. One of them is from John F. Kennedy High School. Part of the company's three-year $40 million commitment to connect youth and young adults to skills, training and jobs, the program offers high school students who are engaged community citizens - an opportunity to build their workforce and leadership skills through a paid summer internship at a local nonprofit and participation in a national leadership summit in Washington, D.C.

The student from Kennedy is Baoyi "May" Tan, a senior. She was chosen for her demonstrated leadership and commitment to the community, including as a field intern for Mayor Steinberg, a Sacramento Youth Commissioner, American Red Cross committee chair, JFK Green Catalyst Club President, and volunteer and board. Member of Sacramento Zoo Teen program. May says about civic and community engagement, "The lack of political efficacy and community involvement, especially among young adults, has plagued my community. There are an increasing amount of excuses not to be involved. My job is to create excuses to be involved."



Baoyi "May" Tan

She plans to run for office in the future, adding "If I am ever going to be a US Congresswoman, I will need to act like one. Which means I have to start meeting with like-minded leaders."

In a letter of recommendation, her teacher says, "Boayi "May" Tan is one of the most phenomenal students I have had the pleasure of working with during. My thirteen years as a school counselor. Her academic ability, coupled wither desire to help others sets her apart from her peers."

May came to the United States from China when she was just 7-years-old. She can recall how scared she felt. Her desire to help others stems from these early experiences.

May will attend Georgetown University in the fall.

In Sacramento County, according to the State of California Employment Development Department the youth unemployment rate was 24.8% in 2015. When young people can't access early employment opportunities that build their skills, they are at risk of being left behind and not finding a meaningful job that puts them on a path to success.

The Sacramento Student Leaders will work at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento, Teichert Branch during the 8-week summer program, during which time they will participate in a variety of jobs in the areas of Human Resources, Board & Executive Leadership, and Resource Development, in addition to planning and facilitating youth activities and programs. They will attend weekly roundtable discussions with department leaders and board members, committee and management team meetings, and community partners meetings.

Joining Tan as a Sacramento Student Leader are: Shreya Balaji, a senior at Folsom High School, Folsom; Joseph Goulart, a recent graduate of Union Mine High School, Cameron Park; Diego Haro, a senior at Cosumnes Oaks High School, Elk Grove; and Calvin Wong, a senior at Franklin High School, Sacramento.

"We want to give young adults hands-on opportunities to build their careers and contribute to society," added Key. "It is truly the best way to build the talented and diverse workforce of our future here in the Sacramento region."

During the program, these five students joined the more than 200 other Student Leaders from around the country in Washington D.C. from July 9-14 for Bank of America's Student Leadership Summit. As part of this week-long convening, students helped build advocacy and inclusive leadership skills, met with members of Congress and participated in a service learning project. There are 80 student alumni from the Sacramento market, and nearly 3,000 Student Leaders across the country have gained skills and workforce experience through the program since 2004.

In her words:

Being a part of the Bank of America Student Leaders Program has been a great learning experience. From the first day of my internship at the Boys & Girls Club with the four other Student Leaders from my Sacramento market group, I knew that this experience wouldn't be like any other. During my time there so far, I was able to sit in on several hiring interview, learn about the day-to-day tasks of employees around the office and the club, and work with BGC members by assisting in its summer camp classroom. What I've learned there so far are all things that have allowed to be a well-rounded worker and understand what it takes to run a non-profit, something that I hope to do someday. The attention that my market group and I get there from the staff to ensure that we're getting the most out of this experience is exceptional, and quite frankly, something that I've never experienced to this level at any of my previous internships. Not to mention, the great food they feed us is a pretty awesome perk too. The other Student Leader interns and I often joke that this is the peak of our career and we'll never get a job better than this.

I'll admit, I'm not exactly aiming towards a career in child development, rather, I find myself leaning towards international affairs and politics (I'm going to college in the fall to study this field), but my participation in the Student Leaders Program has contributed to my interest in politics as well. A few days ago, I came back from a week-long leadership summit in

See Leadership, page 17

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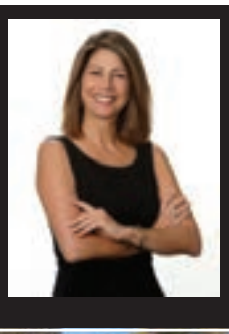

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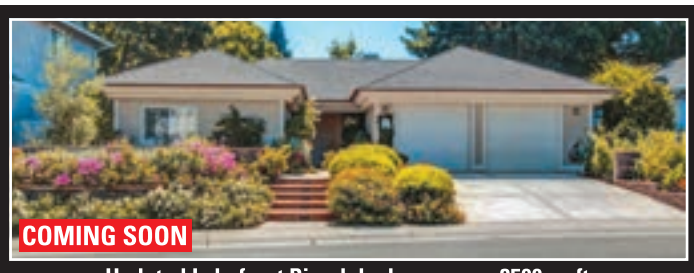

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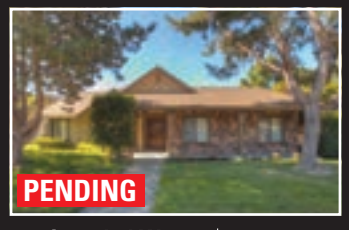
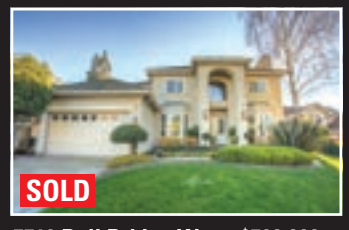
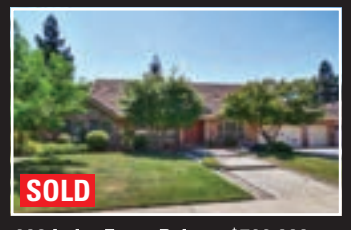


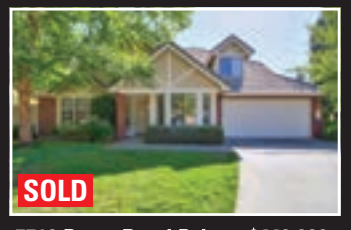
906 Sunwind Way - $459,000



7719 Bell Bridge Way - $798,000



906 Lake Front Drive - $799,000



7710 Dutra Bend Drive - $449,000

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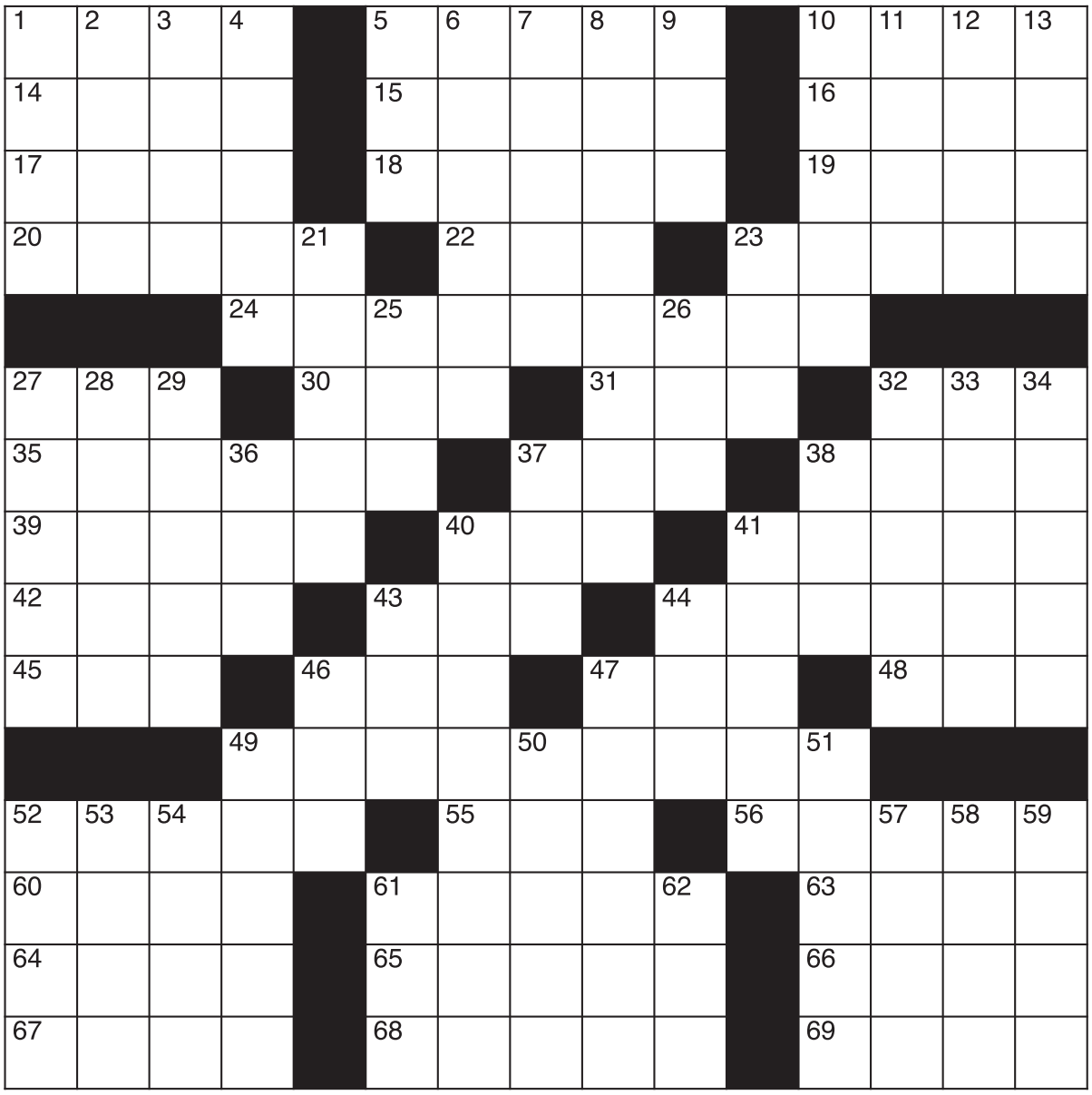

CLUES ACROSS

1. Type of ion
5. __ N' Bake
10. At all times
14. __ Triad: fictional cult
15. Spiked revolving disk
16. Swiss river
17. Bleat
18. Finnish lake
19. Spanish cubist Juan
20. Consumer
22. No seats available
23. Arrive
24. Upstate NY city
27. Team's best pitcher
30. Follows sigma
31. Consume
32. Congressman
35. Spider's territory
37. Conclusion
38. Female parent
39. Instruments
40. __-bo: exercise
41. Jewish spiritual leader
42. Oil cartel
43. In support of
44. More creepy
45. Color of blood
46. '__ death do us part
47. Radio finder (abbr.)
48. Promotions
49. Songs
52. Tony winner Daisy
55. Not just "play"
56. Affected with rabies
60. Formal group of like-minded people
61. Hold valuables
63. Male admirer
64. Actress Lucy
65. Prevents the fermentation of
66. Furniture
67. Long, winding ridge
68. Cover with drops
69. Major European river

CLUES DOWN

1. Greek goddess of youth
2. Early kingdom in Syria
3. Fortifying ditch
4. Walk into
5. Island state __ Lanka
6. Japan's most populous island
7. Mindful of
8. Fuel
9. NY Giants' Manning
10. Very willing
11. Linear unit
12. Guitarist Clapton
13. Semitic letter
21. Habitual repetitions
23. Soak
25. Taxi
26. Small amount
27. A theatrical performer
28. 2-door car
29. ___ and flowed
32. Arabic female name
33. Implant within
34. Groups of two
36. College athletic conference
37. Body part
38. Disfigure
40. Accept
41. Allude to
43. Type of tree
44. Doctor of Education
46. Pearl Jam's first album
47. Flower cluster
49. Heavy cavalry sword
50. Arabian Peninsula desert
51. Marten
52. Type of sound
53. Expression of grief
54. Liberian tribal people
57. Wizards' shooting guard Bradley
58. Metrical foot
59. Mislead knowingly
61. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
62. Midway between south and southwest

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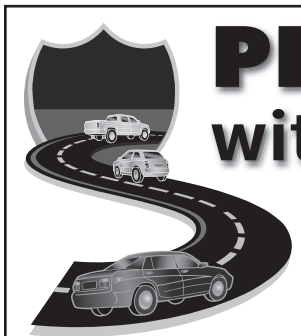

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Panama Art Factory tenants asked to vacate studios, retail yard to stay open for business



By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Ten days to vacate. Met with that message upon arrival to their artist studios at the Panama Art Factory on the afternoon of Friday, July 7, tenants spread shock waves across social media asking their legions of friends and supporters where might they house their art supplies.

The City of Sacramento Community Development Department posted a laundry list of building violations from shoddy electrical and building artist studios within the old factory without a permit.

Artist Sandy Whetstone said she received a call from her studio mate that tenants were being asked to vacate. Shortly thereafter, she arrived to her studio and witnessed city staff posting the notices.

Meanwhile, building owner Dave DeCamilla told Valley Community News artists would be smart if they do not vacate. DeCamilla put a call into Council Member Jay Schenirer's office asking him to stop the evictions and to take a closer look at the safety of the building. "No one is vacating, first of all. If they're smart. No one is five feet away from the door. If they're that timid, fine. They don't belong there. People can get spooked for a lot of reasons. That's not me. I would not have taken this project on."

But to artists like Whetstone who chose to vacate it's not really a choice. "Basically, we're getting evicted because there's no way (DeCamilla) can get those things done in 10 days." She spoke with the inspector who said that was unlikely to happen based on interactions with the owner. A tenant at Panama for many years, Whetstone said her space previously was the office for the past owner and had been renovated to an art gallery. "I've been here for a long, long time," she said.

Two separate entities, Panama Pottery and the Panama Art Factory, fill the space now at 4421 24th St. The retail yard, Panama Pottery, did not get an eviction notice, while artists inside the factory are being asked to leave. A haven for artists, the Panama Art Factory houses 30 studios that DeCamilla had built. Varying in size and rent prices, artists can pay anywhere between $150 to $350 a month for space. Previous tenants have included notable clay artists like Marsha Schindler. Fewer clay artists have filled the space since the branding of the Panama Art Factory, while more and varied artists work out of the space.

One of the requirements the city has asked DeCamilla is to change the usage of the building from factory to business mixed use. Such violations provided by the city, in part, include the following: that the "pottery factory has been converted and being used as an artist studio, retail art gallery and according to the complaint, has living quarters on site"; that it has "faulty equipment or wiring presenting a hazard to person or property"; that there are "inadequate exists — minimum exiting as required in building codes for second floor loft spaces"; that the landlord provide required ventilation fan.

To DeCamilla, the requirement of changing the property's usage is unfounded. "The city is alleging that I change the use. I haven't changed the use. It was a factory then; it's a factory now. We went from making hot dogs to hamburgers. Does the city want the building to stay, or doesn't it?" Regarding rumors that Panama Art Factory manager Dave Davis (aka "Dave Dave") was the "resident manager," DeCamilla responded: "No one lives there. No one ever lived there. No one will ever live there. Period."

A building permit to repair the violations is required and work completed prior to reoccupying the building. In order to do the work that was done, DeCamilla said permits wouldn't have been approved in the first place.

No newbie to rehabilitating historic buildings, DeCamilla said when he bought the Brickhouse, drug dealers surrounded the space and in went the artists. Former home of Soracco Sheet Metal Works, the Brickhouse has nine artist studios, and home to artists of various art media. "It seems strange that once you get successful, they start coming at you. When it was a dump, no one said a word. That's the story: What kind of city do we want? Do we want a city that's kind of interested? Or, do we want a city that's just a bunch of more franchises?"

While the city has its list of complaints of noncompliance, DeCamilla listed four issues he's had with the city, as follows: One, speeding up and down 24th Street. "The city has never addressed that," he said. Two, "the refusal of artists to police the right-of-way of light rail. There's vagrants. Vagrants are a big problem." Three, no weed control. "That's the fire hazard." Four, the break-in at the art factory hasn't been resolved.

Using the same licensed contractors as he has used on his 1924 home as well as those who helped with ArtStreet and ArtHotel, DeCamilla said the list goes "on and on."

"It's a shakedown. Everything's been done. We solved it. That place is 10,000 times safer than it's ever been, ever. It's nice, safe and clean. The rents are reasonable. It works. There are no complaints from anybody ever, except one anonymous tenant and they sent the city building department down."

"This is a matter of public policy. One that's based on fact, not emotion. What happened in Oakland (Ghost Ship fire) or some other place has nothing to do with us. You have code enforcement officers making public policy. It's not a good thing to do. I understand the building code and if you're starting from ground zero, but the fact is, we couldn't."

"Did I ask for permission to rescue a 100-year-old building 11 years ago? No, I didn't. In the meantime, I would have never gotten permission. I wouldn't have gotten the permits… As far as telling people it's a risk, they are categorically wrong. They're (code enforcement) nice people. They're doing their job, but this is a public policy thing. Yes, I did not apply for permits. But, we didn't do anything wrong. We didn't do anything below standards. I have my own studio there. I'm not going to compromise people I know… Our town is about rules and regulations. Fine: I'm all about that. I live in this town. I've been in business for 40 years. I'm chairman for the city pension funds. I have my own business. I have my own reputation to uphold and I'm not going to do anything that's unsafe," DeCamilla said.

"I'm not an absentee landlord down in Galt, no. I've been involved step for step.

See Panama, page 7

Community Worship

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www.recsac.org

Greenhaven Neighborhood Church
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Sunday School Bible Study: 9:15am • Sunday Worship: 10:30am
Weekly Bible Studies - Jr/Sr High Events

St. Anthony Catholic Church
660 Florin Road • 428-5678
stanthony-sacramento.org
Sunday Masses: 8:00am, 9:30am & 11:15am (Saturday vigil, 5:00pm)
Daily Mass: 8:00am Monday-Saturday

Greenhaven ceramicist details personal experience at the Panama Art Factory

By MIGUEL PAZ

"Panama Art Factory is closing due to a series of building code violations." That's what I heard from a friend as I was about to enter Panama key in hand, turning the dead bolt and then the door lock on 24th Street.

That morning, I looked forward to a meeting to discuss the making of an online sculpture and poetry page on Facebook. I had just remodeled my studio making it possible to sit comfortably on couch chairs that were given to me by another friend who didn't have room for them.

Did the news revealed to me that day surprise me? Not really.

People have rented where Dave DeCamilla has built a steady stream of studios capable of providing comfortable space for $350 a pop. Mine was $250 but it came without doors or ceiling. There were other similar studios spread throughout the property renting for about the same: $350 with air conditioning. To each their own. I was there to make art saving money, renting a place that met my needs just 12 minutes from Greenhaven where I presently live. It was great to find a place to rent so close to home. The bathrooms at Panama were spacious and clean with running hot and cold water plus patios and courtyards with places to show finished artwork in a gallery.

Being an artist has many interpretations for me. One clear definition is that we are very trusting people. This is a good thing. We want the best for everyone but if there is a chance of getting more for your buck, by all means, making it happen is a good thing.

I happily took the space DeCamilla offered and gradually built it into a place I've used to work on the art restoration of a major historic building in Sacramento: The Tower Building on 11th and J streets. It was built with architectural and artistic innovation in mind in the late 1800s. Without Panama Pottery as home base for the Edelman Expansion project, it could all have been a different ballgame, probably one I would not have done. Everything from the historical period of the building to the craftsmanship detail of modeling with clay making both plaster and silicone molds at Panama was possible to create due to the proximity to the site where once Gladding Mc Bean, the original designers of the sculpture once did their magic in Sacramento.

As an artist, more than ever I appreciate knowing how important it is being at the right place at the right time. The rest is hard work.

Working with me every step of the way was my brother. He helped get the commission done on time and to satisfaction. Throughout the process, Panama's manager, Dave Davis was very supportive thanks to artists like Shaun Burner and Franceska Julianna. Their positivity and monumental creative output is outstanding.

Panama Art Factory was at the beginning a potential major catalyst, an artistic vision in the art scene of Sacramento where routinely Sacramento art galleries have dedicated one day out of the

See Ceramicist, page 20



Panama:

Continued from page 6

That's why I know what's been done there."

The cost to fire up one of the beehive kilns isn't cheap, so pottery production slowed and by the early 2000s, 70 percent of the pots that were sold were made in the factory. The rest were imported from countries like Mexico and Italy.

In 2006, DeCamilla, the co-founder and president and chief investment officer of DeCamilla Capital Management, bought Panama Pottery with plans to continue traditional pottery making and to make artisan pottery, sculpture, and art.

Over time, the competition for cheaper products grew and Panama Pottery halted the sales of its pottery that they produced and eventually even the use of the small electric kilns in the factory has lessened. On the property sits a well and an anonymous artist said that there may be lead in the water. Water from Alhambra Water Delivery is brought for drinking water. DeCamilla said he disconnected the gas and stopped the electric presses and "made the building way more functional." The city's request that he hook up to city water seems too drastic, he said. "I'd have to bring in a plumber. What for? I bring in Alhambra water and we have some toilets to flush. That's it."

As for the other violations, he's willing to put in a push door and put up more emergency exit signs.

Notifying the building owner and "all other persons having an interest in said property", the city also posted a memo informing that an appeal hearing before the Housing Code Advisory and Appeals Board will be held in the Historic City Hall Commission Hearing Room at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 9.

According to further postings provided to tenants, the city notes that "any tenant who is displaced from a rental unit as a result of an order issued by an authorized city official due to unsafe or hazardous living conditions as specified in Chapter 8.96 or 8.100 of the city code shall by entitled to receive relocation benefits from the owner of the property. The relocation benefits paid by the property owner shall be a sum equal to twice the established monthly rental rate for the unit being vacated by the displaced tenant."

Maria Vargas, owner Panama Pottery, the retail arm of the property said she did a lower purchase of inventory than ever, preparing for the worst. "The word fire sale is not an uncommon word for me. If I have to have the biggest fire sale, I'll do it."

Despite what happens at the Panama Art Factory, Vargas remains optimistic for her business. "Right now I am clear of that with the city… Financially, oh yeah, I can have that sale, but I don't want to. I don't want that to be the reason why I am no longer involved with the business. I don't want somebody ignorant and thievery to take me down. When I close, I want it to be my choice. I'm not going to leave there in the middle of this act."

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When I met Shadoe Stevens

by JAMES PEYTON



When I was a kid, I would watch TV shows like Sledgehammer!, and The Incredible Hulk TV specials with Bill Bixby and Lou Ferrigno. Back then, sometimes there were shows between the shows. That's right. There was a five-minute astronomy show on Channel 6 between programs called "Star Hustler", years later renamed to "Star Gazer" to avoid sexy associations. It was wonderful.

And then during shows there was "Federated". These were commercials, and you actually wanted to watch them. They were electronics store commercials that were like a Monty Python television show. And now for something completely different.

Federated, or the Federated Group, was a chain of Home Electronics stores in California. They hired a famous Los Angeles radio personality named Shadoe Stevens to create their advertising campaign. He called himself "Fred Rated" - alliteration: Fred Rated for Federated - and along with his crew of characters made a series of comedic commercials, each one a barrage of what they called Bludgeon Advertising.

Shadoe also played several other characters in the commercials, such as Dr. Fred Rated, Dr. Frederick Rated, Fred E. Rated, Buzz Broccoli, Milton Oak, Fred "Slaughter" Rated, Sgt. Fred Rated, Freddy Raedair, Freddy Vegas, Fred Reggub and Psycho Fred. You can see a half hour video of the Best of Fred on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RTg9-Pz7BmU.

There was a Federated store on Florin Road in Sacramento. This was where the first Walmart was in the Southgate Shopping Center: 4440 Florin Road.

I loved the commercials. They were really wacky, zany, and funny. One day I saw an advertisement that "Fred Rated" (Shadoe Stevens) was going to appear at the Sacramento Federated store. He was signing autographs and you could get an autographed picture for free. I really wanted to go to that. It seemed like I mentioned it to my dad as we drove past the store but never went.

Over 25 years later, I met Shadoe in Los Angeles at an Art Exhibition of his work in Beverly Hills. I saw his "The Trans-Dimensional Symbolism of Rocky Waters" paintings. In the past, He also sent me a picture of the Federated Puppets used in the commercials showing how they are holding up today. Lil' Fred and Beverly are still out there. But before I ever met him, he agreed to do a long interview with me.

On April 8, 2005, I interviewed Shadoe over the phone. It took up two CDs. Although it has been on the Internet, the only time it was ever aired was on Public Access Sacramento.

If you are unfamiliar with Shadoe Stevens, he was the announcer for the "Late Late Show" with Craig Ferguson. He's currently the voice of "ANTENNA TV" Network, and "Join or Die" with Craig Ferguson on the History Channel. He also created a really funny podcast series and pilot for a television series called "Blackout Television." You can see it and hear all 85 episodes it at http://www.blackouttelevision.com

He was a permanent square and on-camera announcer "Hollywood Squares," and the host of "American Top 40" broadcasting to a billion people a week in 110 countries. He was one of the stars of the top 20 hit CBS sitcom "Dave's World," the series: "Max Monroe: Loose Cannon," was seen on "Baywatch", "Beverly Hills 90210", and did movies like "The Kentucky Fried Movie", "Mr. Saturday Night", "Traxx", and some others. However, Stevens is best known not for being seen, but heard. He created and launched World Famous KROQ-FM in Los Angeles and the most successful Album Oriented Rock station of the 1970s and '80s, KMET FM. You can check out his radio career and all of his amazing radio projects at shadoeradio.com

All this and more. I'm definitely a fan. It was fun to meet Shadoe Stevens, and he seems like a cool guy. He makes art relating to life and spirituality, he meditates, and tries to better himself. I respect that, and want to be like that. He's rather funny, too.

Back to the plethora of silly skits via commercials that was Federated.

There were more than 1,100 Federated commercials. They are currently being stored in the vaults of a museum in New York, which is great. They are not being put out on DVD or streaming online, but I think they should. If you feel the same way, write to:

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Re-Connect with your inner wild child at the Sacramento Zoo

By BIA RIAZ
bia@valcomnews.com

A day at the zoo is a time tested and true way to spend a fun day with the kids in Land Park. From the roaming majestic lions, the cool curiosities of the reptile house, to the quick fennec fox, and the pretty pink flamingos at the pond by Kampala Cafe,´ the zoo is a land of wonder and amazement perfect for all ages.

Closing time is always a challenge as you fend off sad eyes and tear filled-pleas of "one more visit to the giraffe!" or, "I didn't see the sloth!," and reassure them with a promise of "next time." As you make your way past the gates and head home, you can't help but wonder what it would be like to frolic the fourteen acre park after-hours without having to chaperone the kids. You could visit with all those magical wild things, ride the carousel, enjoy something other than a shared kids meal at the cafe, and really explore to your heart's content.

After all, you are sure the snow leopard still had some secrets to share and the lemurs had party plans for the evening. Admit it, sometimes you feel the tiniest bit envious of all the fun kids have at the zoo, while you as the responsible adult, makes sure they stay with the group, eat something healthy, don't lose their favorite souvenir, and get to visit with the critters they love best. Luckily, the folks at Sacramento Zoo, for the first time ever, have created a very special and unique event designed for you to play like a kid, and party like an adult.

Reimagining the "Little Zoo in the Park"

On Saturday, July 29, the Sacramento Zoo will close at 1:30 p.m. to set up for the 21and over Wild Games event. It's an evening dedicated to celebrating everything we loved as kids in an all new grown up way. At 5 p.m., the gates will reopen and guests will have access to the grounds. You can visit all the animals and explore a variety of activities and games designed to tempt and entertain your inner child. You can dive into an adult size bounce house, get your face painted, enjoy a giant game of beer pong, race your friends on the classic carousel, try on inflatable sumo wrestler costumes, and challenge your foes to a battle. Your inner dancer can let loose as the deejay spins some tunes, or grab a hula hoop and enjoy the performance art moves of the Resolute Circles hoop dance troupe. All that dancing and bouncing and wrestling is sure to make you hungry and thirsty.

Have no fear, The Kampala Cafe´ will be open and the chef will be serving delicious food to appease your wild appetite. Admission to the event will include one adult beverage. Food, beer and wine will also be available for purchase.

From its humble early beginnings in 1927 as a small neighborhood zoo in Land Park with 40 animals, the Sacramento Zoo has transformed into a remarkable organization inspiring appreciation, respect and a connection with wildlife and nature through education, recreation and conservation. According to Tonja Candelaria, public relations coordinator, "It's an exciting year for the Sacramento Zoo as we celebrate our 90th birthday in 2017. The Wild Games event, along with the strategic plan for rebranding, highlights the efforts to reinvent the space and habitat for visitors of all ages to explore and enjoy." Tonja also noted that guests of the Wild Games event will notice many of the crepuscular animals will be more active and visible during the dusk hours and reasonable temperatures.

As part of the new plan, unveiled at the 90th birthday celebration in June and detailed on their website, the feline and great apes habitats will be upgraded, a new shade structure will be created for the aardvarks and the fennec fox, and two new aviaries will be constructed. Additionally, "The first major Master Plan project will be a Biodiversity Center, where the zoo plans to completely transform the current Reptile House into a unique Center where the secret worlds of reptiles and amphibians will be revealed alongside other animal groups, including fish, invertebrates and perhaps even the tiniest of mammals and birds. Other equally innovative projects will follow in phases over the next 20 years."

Wild Games is a 21 and over only event. Discounted tickets are available through July 23rd. A portion of the proceeds from Wild Games will go directly to the SAFE - Saving Animals From Extinction's Western Pond Turtle Conservation program.

For more details & ticket purchase see https://www.saczoo.org/visit/event-calendar/wild-games/

If you go:

What: Wild Games, a 21 and older event geared to bring out the wild child in you
When: Saturday, July 29 at 5 p.m.
Cost: Early Bird Ticket Prices, through July 23, $25. Sacramento Zoo members receive $2 off per ticket. General prices from July 24 until the event, $30
Address: 3930 West Land Park Drive, Sacramento
Info: 808-5888; saczoo.org





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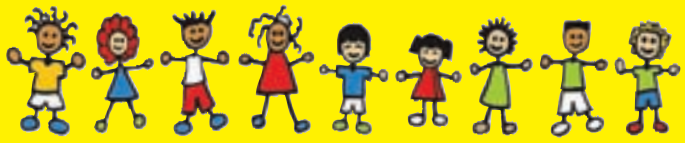
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Faces and Places:

Summer fun at Garcia Bend

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

Residents take to Garcia Bend daily for fun and frivolity whether to enjoy the playground, the Sacramento River, or good old fashioned barbecues. Here's to the folks having a good time. See more photos, page 11.













Summer fun at Garcia Bend













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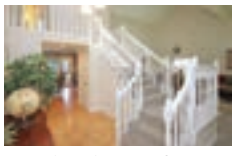

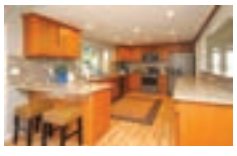



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Contact us for more information:
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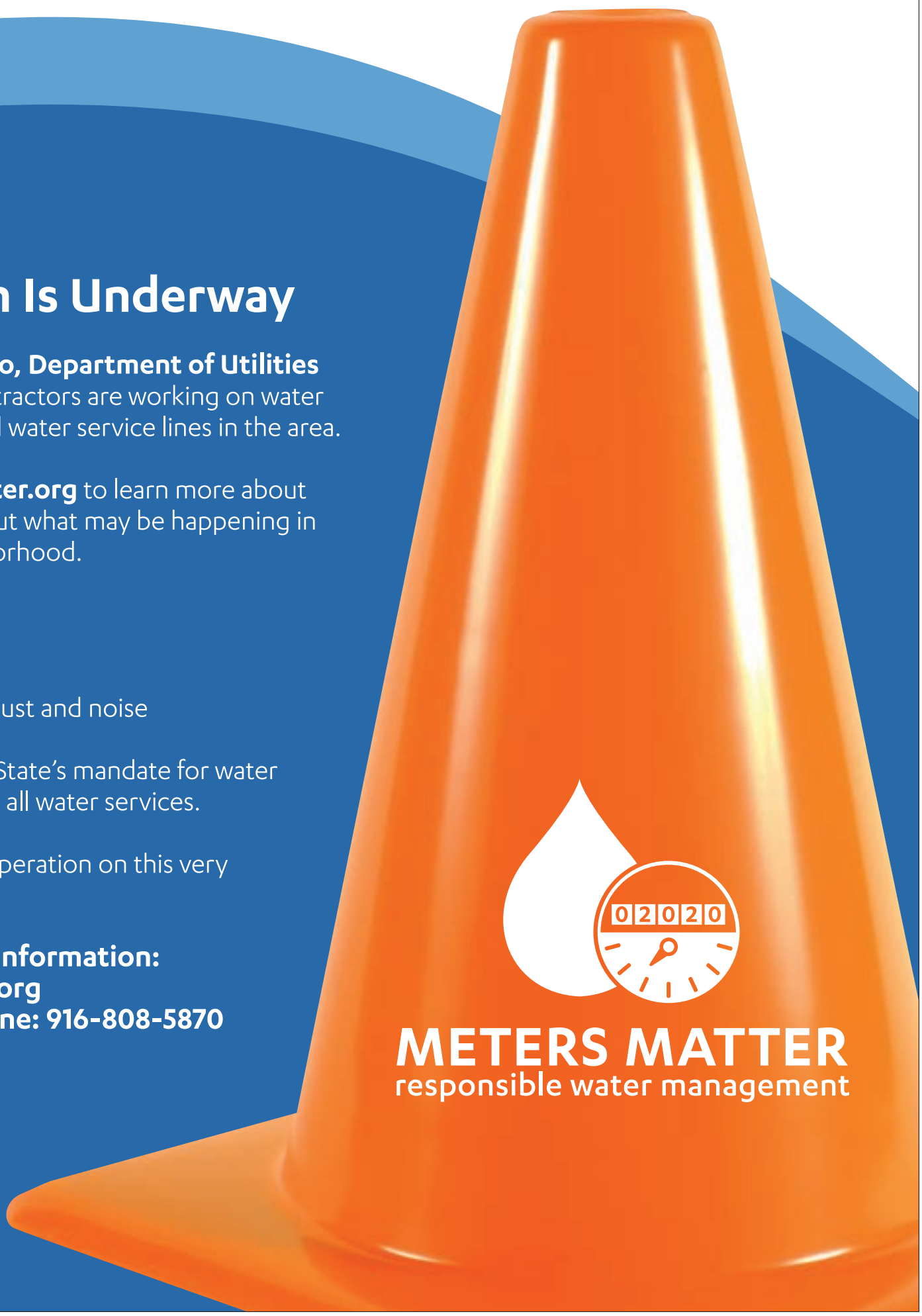



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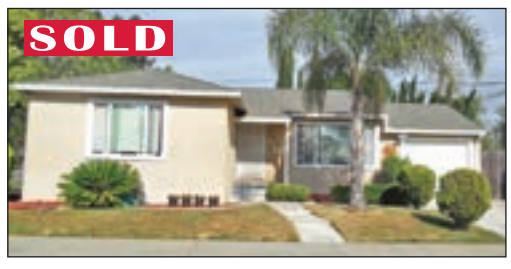

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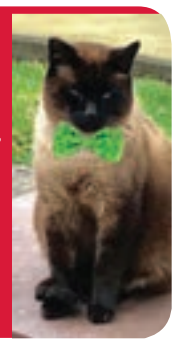

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Jazz in the Pocket

The annual Jazz in July continues today with Jose Hernandez and the Mo' Better Jazz Band at Garcia Bend Park (7654 Pocket Road) and next Saturday, July 29 at Marriott Park (1235 Grand River Drive) with smooth guitarist Doug Martin. Presented by the office of the vice mayor, both events go from 6 to 8 p.m. and you're welcome to bring a blanket and a lawn chair and hang out with your neighbors. At today's event, dinner will be served, that is SactoMoFo will be on site at Garcia Bend providing a variety of food truck fare.

About the musicians

Jose Hernandez



According to CD Baby, innovative and distinctive saxophonist **Jose Hernandez** provides a "mesmerizing, gospel, jazz experience."

He interprets selections by artists including Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Al Green, and a tasteful potpourri of other artists in the Blues, Jazz, and Rhythm and Blues genres.

Doug Martin



According to his biography found on his website, dougmartinmusic.weebly.com/bio.html, Doug has produced music products in a variety of music genres including smooth jazz, rock, pop, classical, high energy exercise, and ambient sounds. Doug coordinates with clients to design CD cover graphics and packaging using online graphic design tools; Doug also manages vendor relationships for CD cover design, production turnaround and timely delivery.

RECYCLE
PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER



Door to Door

with PAT LYNCH

Summer reading

When we were kids books were vital in summer, that three-month glut of liberty that allowed you to read what you wanted. We had the library, dispenser of riches. Sheila Redd remembers checking out *The Five Little Peppers*, *Beverly of Graustark*, and *A Tree grows in Brooklyn*. I remember those too, and *Little Women* and all of Louisa Alcott's books, *Tom Sawyer* and thereafter all of Mark Twain's. Today we binge-watch TV series, but then we binge read-authors. Another big fave: Charles Dickens.

I recall my sister, Eileen, saying once that she thought her daughter, Mary, would become a lifelong reader once she fell "in love with a writer." She was right. Like us, Mary fell for Alcott and L. M. Montgomery, author of *Anne of Green Gables*, and entered into a perpetual fling with summer reading and, later, literature itself. Now an architect, she kicks back with novelist Edith Wharton.

Ray Brankline wears a shirt emblazoned with this Thomas Jefferson quote: "I cannot live without books." His current passions sit in short stacks on his tables, in the back seat of his car, and he carries a couple with him when he heads out for appointments. One of the abiding terrors of his life is "being stuck somewhere without a book." One boyhood favorite was *Vince Gironda, Legend and Myth*, a utilitarian how-to-beef-up book. He didn't seek out fic-

See Lynch, page 16

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Young Actors Stage presents Miss Saigon Student Edition July 28-August 6

By CLINT SWETT

Experience the epic love story of our time as the award-winning musical theater group Young Actors Stage performs the smash Broadway musical Miss Saigon School Edition in 10 performances July 28-August 6 at the 24th Street Theatre in Curtis Park. *Miss Saigon* is the second massively successful offering from the creators of *Les Misérables*: Claude-Michel Schonberg and Alain Boublil.

Set in the tumultuous, waning days of the Vietnam war, Miss Saigon tells the story of, Kim, a 17-year-old bar maid, who meets and falls in love with Chris, an American GI. The musical follows Kim's tortured three-year journey to find Chris, who has no idea he has fathered a child.

The cast is led by Alexi Ishida as Kim, who earned raves for her portrayal of Eponine in last summer's Young Actors Stage production of Les Miserables. Chris is played by Alex Greenlee, who won an Elly Award for leading male in his role as Jean Valjean in the same Les Miserables production. That production won seven Elly Awards, which honor outstanding achievement in regional theatre in the Sacramento area.

Ishida, 19, studies drama at UC Irvine and has had featured roles in numerous musicals including White Christmas and Bye Bye Birdie. She was a finalist for the $15,000 Beach Blanket Babylon vocal scholarship in 2016 as well as a finalist at American Idol auditions at Disney World in Orlando, FL. She is also performing in this summer's Music Circus production of Sister Act. She can be seen performing "On My Own" from Les Miz on Good Day Sacramento here.

Greenlee, 19, who studies filmmaking at Chapman College, is known for his expressive acting and extraordinary vocal range, and has been performing and making films since age 5. An award-winning tap dancer, he earned a National Young Arts Award in 2016. His stage credits include The Me Nobody Knows (Broadway), Sound of Music, Camelot, Legally Blonde, and Catch Me If You Can. He can be seen singing "Bring Him Home" from the 2016 production of Les Miz here.

Other teenage cast members, all with extensive musical theatre experience, include Yahmonee Hendrick as the Engineer; Milan Williams as Ellen; Mitch Worrell-Olson as John; Jimin Moon as Thuy, Madeline Perez as Gigi.

Now in its 9th season, Young Actors Stage is open to performers ages 6 through young adult, and allows children to experience all aspects of musical theatre, from singing and dancing to costume design and set construction.

Young Actors Stage was founded by Liorah Singerman, a Pocket neighborhood resident, and her mother, Ann Singerman, a former Sacramento public school teacher. Liorah Singerman is the group's artistic director, and Ann Singerman its educational director.

"I am in awe of the talent of our cast members, many of whom are within reach of professional careers," Singerman said. "We have several kids coming back from college theater programs to do this production. Every member of this cast is top notch. I feel so lucky to have the chance to work with them, and bring them all together for this incredible show."

Schedule and tickets for Miss Saigon are available at youngactorsstage.com

Friday, July 28, 8pm
Saturday, July 29, 2pm
Saturday, July 29, 8pm
Sunday, July 30, 2pm
Tuesday, August 1, 7pm
Wednesday, August 2, 7pm
Thursday, August 3, 7pm
Saturday, August 5, 2pm
Saturday, August 5, 8pm
Sunday, August 6, 4pm





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Life on Two Rivers: Bee Nation, Bee City, Bee Neighborhood

By ELLEN COCHRANE

For me it was on the lower lip. A honeybee crawled into my grape soda can and seemed to think that my looming teeth and lips were a threat. Poor bee, poor me. I had a fat lower lip and an odd story, but the bee gave up her life. (Honeybees die soon after they sting.) Shrugs and smiles greet me when I ask beekeepers about their first stings, but most of us non-apiarists can remember our first pique. Despite stings, most of us also know the bee is our friend.

It's been two years since Sacramento was officially declared a Honeybee Haven by a City Council resolution. What was once the arena of the infrequent hobbyist now has mainstream interest and hives are popping up all over back yards in the city. (The city allows two per lot.)



Photo by Sara Foust

Two years ago, Sacramento was officially declared a Honeybee Haven by a city council resolution. Interest in bees has become more mainstream.

In East Sacramento we have a new store for bee education, honey and supplies. The Bee Box is run by longtime beekeeper Jeff Becker who holds a family pedigree of deep bee knowledge and experience. His grandfather started working bees in 1919 and Jeff is a fourth generation beekeeper. The Becker family currently works 4,000 colonies from Stockton to West Sacramento, which means they have about 160,000,000 bees on the job.

On the corner of 48th and J streets, the Beckers found their East Sacramento home. They bought the building several years ago and now own and operate the Allstate business in the building, and brother Mark Becker runs the Becker Group financial planning firm.

"We wanted to bring our products directly to our customers. We've been selling honey and pollen in large amounts to middlemen for years, but we want people to experience our pure natural products," said Becker.

The Becker vision is to slowly build out the Bee Box into more square footage at the 48th Street location. "This is just an extension of what we do. We will be here for years. Starting next year we'll offer courses on beekeeping, sell bees and hives and all the necessary supplies. We're staying put in East Sacramento."

Becker lived for years next to McKinley Park, but now lives in Clarksburg with some of his bees. He is hands on and works the honey house and runs the hive side of the business. But be prepared to see

See Cochrane, page 22

Lynch:

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tion until he picked up the book that changed his life: *Martin Eden* by Jack London. Inspired by this one novel, he put himself through college and earned a Masters in Literature.

School Board trustee Ellen Cochrane recalls an unforgettable teenage summer experience with *Shogun*, as a "delicious, fun read." When younger, seven or eight, she read *The Happy Hollisters*,"a family who solved mysteries in a moral way. Every chapter ended with a cliff-hanger," she recalls. "I'll never forget this one: a long-legged, hairy tarantula slowly crawled from the bunch of bananas." She also read and re-read a horse book named, *King of the Wind*, a dog book called, *Big Red*, and *Where the Red Fern Grows*. "I can't read that book today without sobbing at the end," she says.

"*Anne of Green Gables* and *Caddy Woodlawn* were my childhood favorites (and pretty much anything about redheaded girls)," says Suzi Byrd, still a natural red-head. "I used to watch *Reading Rainbow* in the 70s (long before LaVar Burton took over) and would run to the library to get whatever *Reading Rainbow* recommended."

Barbara Ruona read the *Nancy Drew Mysteries*, a popular girl detective series written by the famed Carolyn Keene, who was, in fact, a conglomerate of ghost writers hired to appeal to girls who wanted to identify with a clever, active female protagonist.

Joan Cochrane recalls reading "*The Five Little Peppers*, anything by Alcott, short stories from *Seventeen Magazine*, and even classics from the lists the schools handed out." However she adds that the books from the school list were "always a last resort."

Owner of The Plant Foundry, Angela Pratt, read *Anne of Green Gables, The Wind in the Willows. The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, and, Are You There, God? It's me, Margaret*, by Judy Bloom. For the current adult summer she anticipates reading, *Give a Girl a Knife*, David Sedaris's *Theft by Finding*, and Sue Grafton's, *Y is for Yesterday*.

Growing up, I remember chronic chatter and giggling, running feet, slamming doors, a fair number of shrieks, and sometimes through it all, our brother Michael, serenely cloistered in a chair, reading. Though he often participated in the mayhem, he could retreat like a monk and sink into his book. Our mother observed this once and said, "Michael is deep, like his grandfather." The very next evening I sat with a book amid the hubbub, and tried to be deep. No use. The chaos was irresistible.

Michael's book choices were an intriguing mix: history and science fiction or fantasy. When he was around 14 he read Winston Churchill's four volume, Nobel Prize winning, *Second World War*. Later he became addicted to the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, an epic, high fantasy novel which he says "everyone should read at least once a year."

Recent college graduate, Elliot Minner, recalls childhood favorites, *The Eragon Series*, *Lemony Snicket*, *Artemis Fowl* and *Inkletter*. No *Anne*

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Leadership:

Continued from page 4

Washington D.C. with Student Leaders from around the country. In addition to sitting in on panels with non-profit leaders and meeting like-minded youth from across the country, we were able to learn about American democracy and citizenship utilizing our country's capital as a living classroom. To ensure that we get the full experience of our democracy at work, we also spent a day on Capitol Hill meeting with staffers from our representatives' offices discussing issues that we care about. Oh, and it was pretty cool to bump into my inspiration Senator Kamala Harris in the elevator lobby of the Hart Senate Building and meet Representative John Lewis on the steps of the U.S. Capitol as well! Having taken AP government earlier this year at school, I know from first hand experience that there are some things you can't quite learn in the classroom, and my time in D.C. fills the gap.

This program has been one of the greatest learning opportunities I've ever come across and I feel extremely fortunate to be able to be selected as a Student Leader out of a competitive pool and gain so much from it. To me, being in this program is so much more than an addition to my résumé, but rather, it is the skills I got to learn, the friends I got to meet, and the human connections that I got to make that made it an irreplaceable and memorable experience.

-John F. Kennedy graduate Baoyi "May" Tan, class of 2017



Summer Reading:

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of Green Gables for this millennial who took his degree in computer science. But narrative matters to Minner who plans to pursue computer game development. And even in the most advanced of these, everything fundamentally comes back to story and the choices characters make.

Ana Lacasta was born and grew up in Spain. Her childhood reading memories include: *The Adventures of Tintin*, *The Three Musketeers*, *King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table*, *Treasure Island*, *Anne Frank*, and, in a bow to the USA where she is now a citizen, *Little Women*.

Though this is an admittedly skimpy, unscientific sampling, books like these fueled imaginations and made life royal in those long summers. We revered McKinley Library as a temple of adventure and lore. Would it ever run out of books? No, our mother said, because people were always writing new ones. And there were hundreds of old ones that we had yet to read. Hundreds? So our wealth was limitless. As we grew up books became good Christmas and birthday gifts. Much later we got Kindles and peered at small bright screens on long flights, absorbed, entranced perhaps, and carried into other worlds faster and farther than any plane could fly.

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Thurs., Oct. 12
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Memorial Park
& Mortuary

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FRIDAY, JULY 21

DEBT PRESENTATION: Having debt is a stressful and expensive fact of life but with the right knowledge you can manage your debt without having to file for bankruptcy or paying for debt relief services. This seminar will outline seniors' rights and obligations when they owe money and what options are available to manage debt. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

SATURDAY, JULY 22

DIY PET TOYS AT THE POCKET LIBRARY: Visitors will learn how to make simple toys for pets from items commonly found around the house. Kids, teens, and adults are welcome. The library will provide supplies but if you can bring any old (clean) t-shirts, and/or spare PVC pipe pieces and connectors, that would be very helpful. The event starts at 1 p.m. and runs until 2:30 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26

ALL IN! SENIOR GAMING AND SOCIAL HOUR AT THE POCKET LIBRARY: Calling all card sharks, chess champions, Scrabble enthusiasts, and table top game players you are welcome to join the library for a new gaming and social program for adults/seniors, All In! The library will provide the games and refreshments; you bring the conversation and the fun. Games available for play will include: Poker, chess, Scrabble, Checkers, Dominos, Mahjong, Cribbage and more. You're invited to come out and meet new friends and enjoy conversation, games and a cup of tea from 1 to 3 p.m.

THE CROCKER ART GALLERY'S ASIAN ART COLLECTION AT THE POCKET LIBRARY: Paul Lee, an art docent with the Crocker Art Museum who specializes in the Asian Art Collection, will show images of selected objects from the Crocker's Asian Collection to tell the story of connections between Asia and other cultures since ancient times. Paul will share several stories including the story of Hinduism and its influence on American pop culture; why the first Buddha images resemble Greco-Roman mythological gods; the story of Japanese woodcut prints and its influence on one of the most popular art movements in Western art history. He will present at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 27

MANDALA- THE ART OF MEDITATION (BEGINNING 1): For centuries, people have created mandalas to focus attention, quiet the mind and state of meditation and prayer. Learn how to create original designs for quits, artwork, stained glass and more. Based on simple geometric shapes, no art experience is required. Beginning 1 is based on the 45/90 degree mandala. Various tools are required. Bring your own or purchase a kit for $10. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $40.required. Class will be held Thursdays beginning July 6- 27, 2017 from 10 to 11:30a.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information and list of tools, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

FRIDAY, JULY 28

SELF DEFENSE FOR WOMEN: FUNDAMENTALS EVERY WOMAN NEEDS TO AVOID VIOLENCE: Escape to Safety. This informative workshop will teach women how to avoid being a victim. It is not a martial arts class and no previous knowledge of self-defense is necessary. Information and techniques will be shared on how to avoid dangerous situations and simple escape techniques will be utilized. Pre-payment and pre-registration required. Class will be begin Friday July 28, 2017 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For information on schedule and payment, call 393-9026 ext. 330, www.accsv.org

SATURDAY, JULY 29

GARDEN TOUR – WHAT'S BLOOMING? The Old City Cemetery Committee presents a free one-hour tour of the cemetery's Hamilton Square Garden in the beautiful Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway, starting at 10 a.m.. With 800 plus unusual Mediterranean perennial plants the garden has drought tolerant color all year long. Meet at the 10th Street gate. There is ample free street parking on surrounding streets. For more information, call 448-0811.

SATURDAY, AUG. 5

WESTERN NIGHT & SILENT AUCTION: The Cabrillo Civic Club No.5, Sacramento, will have the annual Western Night, featuring a silent auction and no-host cocktails starting at 5:30 p.m., followed by a barbecue dinner at 7 p.m., including tri-tip or chicken, salad, vegetables, beans, baked potato and dessert. Live music will be provided by the Spare Parts Band. Tickets are $20 per person. Proceeds benefit the scholarship program and upkeep of the clubhouse. A civic club providing volunteer hours and donations to community organizations, the club has awarded 10 $500 and three $250 scholarships to high school students of Portuguese descent within the greater Sacramento region. The clubhouse on Karbet Way celebrated 100 years of existence last year initially as Sutter School and in 1957 was purchased by the Cabrillo Club. The Western Night proceeds go to scholarship program and improving and maintaining the Hall/Clubhouse. Order Tickets by July 31. No tickets will be sold at door. Include the following information with a check made out to Cabrillo Club #5 Sacramento- Western Night: Your name, address, phone number, number of tickets and dollar amount included with your order. Mail to Cabrillo Club #5 Sacramento- Western Night, P.O. Box 189241, Sacramento, CA, 95818. Or, call R. Tatro at 916-396-3182.

SATURDAY, AUG. 5 to MONDAY, AUG. 14

MARTIN LUTHER KING BOOK SALE: The Friends of the MLK Library are sponsoring a book sale from August 5th to August 14th during the hours that the library is open. The proceeds are used to fund special programs for the library. Find fiction, nonfiction, children's books, also books written in other languages. CD's and DVD's are also available. Most adult books are 50 cents, children's 25 cents.

TUESDAY, AUG. 8

STEPPING ON: Stepping On is a community program proven to reduce falls in older adults. It consist of a workshop that meets two hours a week for seven weeks led by a health professional and a wellness instructor. Guest expert will provide information on exercises, vision, safety and medications. Pre-registration and a suggested $25 donation for materials. Class will be held Tuesdays beginning July 11- August 22, 2017 from 10 a.m. to noon at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330. www.accsv.org

DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT: Diabetes Empowerment Education Program (DEEP) is a self-management educational program for people with pre-diabetes, diabetes, or caregiver of a loved one that has diabetes. It consist of a workshop that meets two hours a week for six weeks. The workshop consists of demonstration, role play, games and other engaging activities for group learning, health management and life style choice. Pre-registration required and free of charge. Class will be held Tuesday beginning July 11- August 15, 2017 from 1:00-3:00pm at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

FRIDAY, AUG. 11

SUMMER FOOD TRUCK EVENT AT BELLE COOLEDGE PARK: Enjoy food truck fare and live music at this community SactoMoFo event from 5 to 8 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive.

TUESDAY, AUG. 15

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TUESDAY, AUG. 22

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ONGOING

IN CREATIVE COMPANY MEET UP AT ROBBIE WATERS POCKET-GREENHAVEN LIBRARY: Held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 1 to 3 p.m, this meetup was started to allow participants from past and current "In Creative Company" classes to continue meeting. Any artists or crafters who are interested in this social group are welcome to join--just bring whatever you're working on and come on in! 7335 Gloria Drive.

Ceramicist:

Continued from page 7

month to boost creative originality and vigor. Visual artists, poets, writers, performance artists, musicians came to Panama true to themselves. It was a fast change from what Panama Pottery offered as a collective of ceramic artists dedicated exclusively to clay. Panama Art Factory was becoming innovative challenging convention.

Life can be a roller coaster ride when artists making statements, transcend normal expectations. Art becomes fully engaged with life. Like a heartbeat, its rhythmic course must be guided well or else it may run into complications. This is what happened as quickly as it all started.

Unfortunately, Panama was broken into by burglars looking for electronics they could quickly fence. It was mean and vicious what they managed to accomplish by destroying the confidence in people once determined to make Panama Art Factory thrive in the community. They broke down doors to get to what they were after. Afterward, it didn't take long for a different attitude to start casting a wall of doubt around Panama. We all felt violated. Our human integrity as artists became fragile and it felt awful. Everyone was affected directly or indirectly by the theft. I had a computer and three valuable electronic work tools stolen from my open studio. Other artists lost their entire art portfolios embedded in hard drives in their stolen computers. An entire collection of photography equipment, gone. Mainly tools and electronic equipment were taken with impunity probably to satisfy the urge of a drug addict or simply a coward.

No one is exempt from making mistakes. Sacramento is a city where some artists, having known each other since high school, will act from the heart and support friends out of compassion. Financial contributions, tools and equipment quickly arrived as donations to Panama. However, during this critical down time, a cohesive recovery strategy to help restore confidence was ignored by management. A sudden collapse of confidence in security at Panama got progressively worse when garbage pickup by the city was no longer available and tenants had to deal with it. In addition, our rent went up.

We just have to face it: Artists in Sacramento are no different than artists anywhere in the world. Our inability to affect change will continue because of a shortage of low rent studios in the high cost manipulation of real estate. Most artists like myself work day jobs, randomly selling artwork in local galleries. There's a great need for soul searching these days. Artists must establish confidence and it seems there are other pressing problems facing the city of Sacramento with 3,000 homeless people without roofs over their heads sleeping under freeways or near the banks of the Sacramento and American rivers.

Hoping to restore value found in the heart of every individual. This make take some time in the Sanctuary City of Sacramento.

What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH SACRAMENTO: The friendliest club in Sacramento, the Rotary Club of South Sacramento meets every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Casa Garden, 2760 Sutterville Road.

VINTAGE HOT RODS AND CLASSIC CARS AT LAKE CREST VILLAGE: Starting May 12 through Oct. 13, 2017, cars will be displayed on the 2nd Friday of each month from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Lake Crest Village Shopping Center corner of Florin Road and Greenhaven Drive. The June and August events will be held on the first Friday of those months. Come take a look, many of these cars participate in special events in the area. For more information you can contact Tony Antonucci at 916-606-5459.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET AT THE ELKS LODGE, NO. 6: From 8:30 to 11 a.m., enjoy eggs, omelets, corn beef hash, bacon or sausage. 6446 Riverside Blvd.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SACRAMENTO SOUTH: Meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Aviators Restaurant, Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd. For more information, call Dee at 341-7852.

JOB COACH APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE AT POCKET LIBRARY – Make an appointment to meet one-on-one with a volunteer job coach and get help with online job searching, using library databases, interviewing tips, resume writing, and more. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please ask at the library service desk or call 916-264-2920 during open hours. Appointment times are available for most Wednesdays between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

TECH HELP APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE AT POCKET LIBRARY – Have a technology question or problem? Sign up for a one-on-one technology help session with our staff. We can help with basic computer, Internet or e-mail questions, and/or get you started with library services like e-books or e-magazines! Stop by the service desk or call 916-264-2920 during open hours to make an appointment. Appointment times are available for most Wednesdays between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m., Thursdays between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., and Saturdays between 10 a.m. and noon, at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

BABY/TODDLER STORYTIME AT POCKET LIBRARY – Babies and toddlers (ages 0 to 3 years) and their caretakers are invited to join us for songs and rhymes. Arrive extra early or stay later for extra social time with other children and parents. Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

KNIT TOGETHER AT POCKET LIBRARY – Love to knit? Want to learn? Join us for expert advice, great conversation and more. All crafters are welcome, not just knitters! Every Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

BABY STORYTIME AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY –Nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. For children up to about 18 months old. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive.

TODDLER STORYTIME BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY – Toddlers ages one to three and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. After the storytime, there will be a stay and play group. Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY – Preschoolers ages three and older and their caregivers are invited for fun songs, stories, fingerplays and a play activity. Thursdays at 11 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

SING ALONG WITH MISTER COOPER- Join neighborhood favorite Mister Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for families. Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

HOMEWORK ZONE AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY – Teen and adult volunteer homework coaches will be available to assist students in grades K-8 with homework assignments. Please note: Homework Zone ends on June 8, 2016. Space is available with coaches on a first-come, first-served basis. Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Thursdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

YOGA CLASSES AT PARKSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH: **Svaroopa ©/Restorative Yoga** classes are a journey into yourself. Beginning by walking through the door, settling in a relaxation pose, guided through self awareness, breathing and poses. The poses are propped to meet your deepest muscular tension. As the support of props, specific alignments and the weight of your body gently reach into these deep tender areas, your spinal muscles release and let go. Side effects of this deep release are Bliss, resolving stress and fear, and a deep appreciation of yourself. Physical effects that have been reported are pain relief, improved respiratory, circulatory, immune, neurological systems and more. Walking out of the class you feel a greater sense of wellbeing. This is a body, mind and spirit filled experience. Thursdays 7:15-9:00pm advanced. Questions 916-833-9444. **Hatha Yoga** – breath, meditation, and postures with various forms of movement to help release tension throughout the entire mind and body. You'll sweat a little, relax a lot, and leave feeling strong, calm and connected. *Hatha Flow is Level 1-2 class and is suitable for active beginner and intermediate students. Wear comfortable, form-fitting clothes. Questions, Call (718) 578-5258 or email: eva@evacollins.com
Hatha Flow Classes Thursdays 5:45-7:00pm. All Classes held at Parkside Community Church Fellowship Hall 5700 South Land Park Drive; 916-428-7927.

DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING OR MONTHLY EVENT?
Let us know.
e-mail Monica: editor@valcomnews.com





Cochrane:

Continued from page 16

one of his hives when you enter the Bee Box. Becker set up a demonstration hive with a viewing panel in the store. You can see the masters at work building, feeding and dancing. "I placed it here for customers to see and I'll give the honey harvest away to food banks," he said.

The honeybee is the preeminent nectar insect. Many types of bees gather nectar and produce honey in small amounts but it's the multigenerational European honeybee that pounds out the honey and keeps our California crops bountiful.

One person sure to visit the Bee Box will be Sacramento's best bee diplomat, city council member Jeff Harris.

Many keepers suit up like the Michelin tire man, which was what I was expecting when I met Harris out at Capital Public Radio where he tends four productive hives, but Harris told me to come in a white long-sleeved shirt and slacks. Once on site, we suited up only in the hats and veils.

His relaxed, steady movements revealed his skill and experience. "I've worked bees for more than 40 years." He stoked the smoker, pulled out and examined hive slats and inspected the health of the colonies, all the while keeping up a steady stream of bee information and lore.





Photos by Ellen Cochrane

(above left) Sacramento City Council Member Jeff Harris tends to four hives at Capital Public Radio.
(above right) Sacramento City Council Member Jeff Harris, of River Park, examines a honeycomb super rich with honey at Capital Public Radio.

"Smell the honey but also look at the beauty of the pollen. You can see the different colors from the different flowers," he said. I inspected a rack with purple, brown and umber hues. We talked bee reproduction and challenges and in one of the racks we saw a little red mite, the Varroa destructor. These parasitic arachnids glom onto bees and weaken them. They can only reproduce in a honeybee colony and it's speculated that these creatures along with environmental pollutants are the possible cause of the bee apocalypse known as colony collapse disorder that threatens our bee population and by extension our crops.

Harris is famous in the River Park neighborhood for his love of nature, beautiful garden and bees. But he didn't start out that way. "I grew up in Los Angeles, but I knew I was a country boy. After high school I wrote a letter to the Soil Association (the United Kingdom's leading food and farming charity and organic certification body). A local paper printed my letter and a dairy farmer in East Sussex, England offered me a job in the country. I spent the next year working the cows on a British farm."



Photo by Chelsea Bray
Shown here is a display of beeswax products sold at The Bee Box, a new bee education, honey and supply store in East Sacramento.

While in England he watched a local beekeeper retrieve a swarm and when Harris came back to the states he learned beekeeping. "I worked hives in the fields, but working bees is a very tough job. The pay was very low and the 1976-'77 drought was very hard on the bees and there was no profit. After about four years, I moved on."

I watched Harris get stung on the thumb. "I squashed her by mistake and she reacted." He casually flicked off the stinger with his thumbnail and kept working. "When I started out I was once stung on both eyebrows, which caused the eyes to swell shut for 24 hours, but now my body doesn't swell at all. I almost like the feeling. And the girls only sting defensively."

Many of us have growing concerns about food and ecology. With all our backyard gardens, chickens and fruit trees, hives seem the perfect addition. The number of hives in East Sacramento is unclear but there are hundreds of backyard hives throughout the city. Some municipalities allow hive hosting. This is for people who have the space in their yard, but don't have the time or knowledge to tend the bees. Experienced beekeepers maintain the hive and share the honey with the host family. These healthy hives help support the overall bee population.

For now, you can learn about the hobby and see if it's for you. You can petition Harris to allow hive hosting in the city. And you can take classes and get your supplies from Becker. One thing both the Jeffs have contributed and shared is an educated love for the inhabitors of these hives, the honeybee.

The Bee Box, located at 4765 J St., is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday. For more information, call 475-1828 or visit www.thebeebx.com.

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Pocket residents participating in the California State Fair

By MONICA STARK

With a variety of events offered at the California State Fair, which continues through Sunday, July 30 at CalExpo, it's fitting that Pocket residents get some recognition for their achievements. After all, the State Fair promotes itself as offering the "Best of the Best." And, what an honor some of those "bests" hail from the Greenhaven and Pocket neighborhoods.

This past Wednesday, 11-year-old Cara Ford performed improv, taking suggestions from the audience and making scenes with them. "We play games and the object is so that we think on our feet. Everything is made up on the spot," Cara says. Involved with local improvisational group, On Stage Sac for two years, Cara said she enjoys making friends with the group and of course acting in front of the audience. Rachel Berelson, Cara's improv teacher told the Pocket News that On Stage Sac has weekly summer camps all summer long at the Coloma Community Center in Elmhurst (T Street), as well as the Washington Neighborhood Center on 16th Street and the Kenesset Torah Center off Morse Avenue.



Photo courtesy

Cara Ford is shown at the right with her improv pals.



The Device Brewing Company is pouring beer at Saturday's Best of California BrewFest at the California State Fair, which starts at 3 p.m. at the Miller Lite Racetrack Grandstand. Pocket residents Ken and Melissa Anthony won a medal for their Munich Helles, a low-alcohol lager. They will attend the medal ceremonies, Melissa told the Pocket News. For more information on that festival, visit: http://www.castatefair.org/best-california-brewfest/)

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