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Pocket News

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A double life in art

Journey through creation with Pocket resident and artist Jim Piskoti

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Delta Shores shopping center open for business

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Know your neighbor:
Hoàng Chi Trương Smith, author of TigerFish

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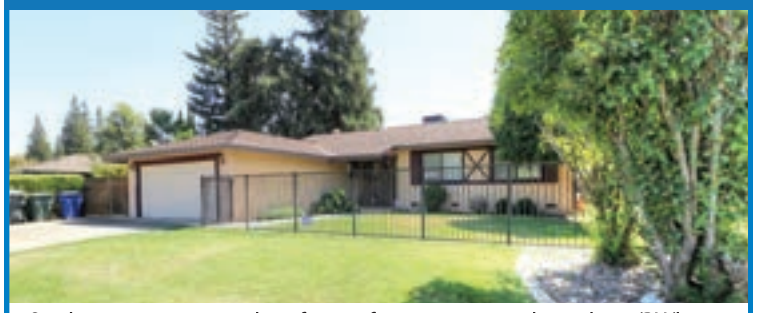

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From Your Vice Mayor, Rick Jennings



In my Pocket News article in August 2015, I noted that the Pocket/Greenhaven community is a unique community: treasured natural amenities, amazing schools, and incredibly engaged people. And, together, we have accomplished a lot of great things since I was elected in 2014 to serve as your Council Member. We've improved our parks, added the Lynn Robie Dog Park and created the canal maintenance plan. We've welcomed new businesses. We've taken great strides to complete the river parkway plan. Our family-friendly events are attended by thousands. And, so much more.

Together, we have accomplished so much and, together, we will continue to make this the best community to live, work and play. Yet, there is one concern that retmains as the most common among our community: traffic, that is speeding, failures to stop at stop signs, and conflicts with pedestrians and bicyclists.

Two years ago, I teamed up with our Sacramento Police Department to address these issues. Rather than simply burden our neighbors with traffic citations, we first focused on education. Using this approach, SPD increased traffic surveillance and stops and confirmed that the vast majority of the violations were from our fellow residents. We first focused on education to change behaviors, then shifted to increased enforcement as time progressed.

While we did experience some improvement using this educate to enforcement method with SPD, I realize that real and lasting improvement would require both behavioral and environmental changes. So, I partnered with the City's Public Works Department to improve traffic controls throughout our community. Our traffic engineers surveyed the design of our roadways and noted our community is both blessed and cursed with an abundance of unobstructed roadways. We have several long stretches of roadways that keep traffic flowing smoothly. However, these long stretches also lure drivers into a false sense that it is safe to drive above posted speed limits or ignore stop signs and traffic signals.

Following recommendations from the traffic engineers and feedback from our residents, we focused on first improving the traffic controls of the areas that we received the most complaints about. For example, at the interception of Florin Road and Greenhaven Drive traffic engineers modified the signal system to improve the flow of traffic and curb the temptation to double turn as drivers attempt to make U-turns to access the Lake Crest Village Shopping Center. We've added speed humps to high-traffic areas such as Havenside Drive, just south of Florin Road. And, we're adding improving traffic controls along Rush River Drive near the round-a-bout at Windbridge.

All of these efforts are in line with the City's new Vision Zero Action Plan that our Council adopted in January of this year. The Vision Zero traffic safety philosophy rejects the notion that traffic crashes are simply "accidents," but, rather, preventable incidents that can and must be systematically addressed. I am proud to say that Pocket/Greenhaven was a pilot community for this data-driven action plan to identify factors contributing to traffic deaths and severe injuries, and implement proven safety countermeasures to such factors integrating education, traffic engineering, enforcement, and evaluation.

As I have repeatedly said over the last three years, traffic safety is of particular concern to me. It is consistently the number one issue raised by our residents, and for good reason. The safety of our streets is vital to enjoyment of our community. We want our youth to feel safe on their way to school. We want to enjoy our many bike paths without fear of harm. We want to keep our roadways beautiful and free from the clutter of traffic accidents. So, I will continue to fight for the safety of our streets, finding new and innovative resources to improve the safety of our roadways. Meanwhile, I ask that you continue to keep me informed of areas where we can improve traffic safety. And, together, we will make Pocket/Greenhaven a model community for traffic safety.

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Jim Piskoti, a double life in art

By MARK HANZLIK

Many artists approach a blank canvas without any expectation or where the creative journey might take them. There are also those who seek immediate gratification, a desire to see their creation come to life quickly. Jim Piskoti, a longtime Pocket area resident, artist and print-maker is neither of those. His socially perceptive translations of people, places and objects through a unique form of kinetic art is something to behold. Jim's passion for art takes him on a long journey with the creation of each new multi-media piece. He also becomes an engineer and electrician as the work itself to his best description, often involves a lot of 'problem-solving'.

Jim says he produces a kind of contrived "scene-picture" that incorporates aspects of perspective, chiaroscuro and local color. I'm attracted to themes that are often tied to social issues, sometimes, purely celebratory depictions of modern genre situations."

Blue Line Arts in Roseville is currently showing a career-spanning retrospective of Jim Piskoti's work along with other artists inspired by his kinetic paintings through October 7. The artist will speak for the first hour of the opening reception held September 16, 5pm-8:30pm.

I met with Jim and his wife Carol in his River Oaks home studio located in the Pocket area of Sacramento while he anxiously prepared for the Blue Line show. He graciously shared details about his artistic process and inspirations that formed his life's work over the past 50 years. As we talked, Jim revealed his desire to be considered more of an 'outsider' despite his formal education, artistic training and lofty principals he promoted as a teacher himself. The coolest part of hanging with Jim for a few days was listening to him describe the narratives layered within each of his scene-pictures, peppered with his infectious laugh and revelatory self-discovery.



Justice Crocker

Double Life

.Jim's latest kinetic work, ***Convenience Store with Customers (2017)*** is in his own words, "a microcosm of the whole world of things that interest me in terms of people, vehicles, signs and the morality issues." It's his interpretation of the range of characters and actions you might see at a convenience store. A rotating 24-hour sign sits atop another "double life" structure where liquor and cigarettes are displayed on a dark side and food and soda dominate the bright side. Hidden in the back, an adult purchases beer for a minor, a ferocious dog barks off the back of an open bed truck at a frightened child, and nearby there's a guy with a walker filled with liquor. Meanwhile movement in the foreground shows a woman washing an auto windshield in a fuel station while another woman actively collects ice from a machine and a family carries supplies for their camping trip in a Volkswagen bus.

All of the aforementioned pieces are among Jim's favorites but ***Driven Man (2007)*** has a special place in Jim and Carol's family room. "It reminds me of Jim," adds Carol, "a man carrying a briefcase and Starbucks with clock hands moving very fast. You can see the gears and motors moving which you can't in his other pieces. It's very active and it makes me very jittery—that's why I like it."

As a young art student, Carol met Jim at California State University Stanislaus in Turlock where he was teaching printmaking, painting and drawing. "He looked like Andy Warhol, a head full of blonde hair, glasses, very skinny." The first decade or so of their relationship involved a lengthy commute after Carol took a job teaching art at J.F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento in 1973. Jim, an Emeritus Professor of Fine Art retired in 2005 after 36 years and Carol turned in her keys at Kennedy in 2010. For more than a dozen years now, Jim has committed himself to his home studio work which has been primarily kinetic.

Carol says their Pocket-area home was built in 1985 to accommodate Jim's studio work but as his kinetic projects

See Piskoti, page 10

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Delta Shores shopping center open for business

Few businesses operating, but many more to come

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
lance@valcomnews.com

Delta Shores, the 800-acre, mixed-use development project at Interstate 5 and Cosumnes River Boulevard, opened its retail section, with the first of its businesses being In-N-Out Burger and Dick's Sporting Goods.

The Pocket News visited the site, which is located south of the Pocket, on Sunday, Sept. 3, and found the majority of this shopping center still in various stages of construction. The project, which is to include more than 1 million square feet of commercial development and nearly 5,000 residential units, experienced major delays as a result of last winter's extreme rainfall.

The project is being developed by Merlone Geier Partners, a West Coast-based real estate and investment company.

In-N-Out Burger has the notoriety of having been the first Delta Shores business to open.

Although In-N-Out debuted at its Delta Shores location on Aug. 24, it was not until last weekend that the place began to attract a steady flow of customers.



Photos by Lance Armstrong

The Delta Shores shopping center is located at Interstate 5 and Cosumnes River Boulevard, south of the Pocket area.

The popularity of In-N-Out Burger is quite evident, considering that this new location is already well patronized without the aid of paid advertising.

But the company has had plenty of time to increase its notoriety.

In-N-Out Burger dates back to 1948, when Harry and Esther Snyder opened their first business location at the present day southwest corner of Interstate 10 and Francisquito Avenue in the Los Angeles suburb of Baldwin Park. The business is currently owned by Lynsi Snyder.

The new, 3,750-square-foot In-N-Out location is managed by Brandon Sandoval, and is still in the process of hiring part-time employees at $12.50 per hour.

Also included among the company's locations are 2900 Del Paso Road, 4600 Madison Ave., 9188 East Stockton Blvd. in Elk Grove, 780 Ikea Court in West Sacramento and 2475 Sunrise Blvd. in Rancho Cordova.

Those interviewed about the new In-N-Out spoke highly about this establishment, with the exception of Adrienne Krefft, a traveler from Seattle.

"The lights went out on me while I was in the bathroom," she said.

Krefft acknowledged that the incident was a minor one, and dismissed the moment as that of a business site that is still working out its kinks.

At the time of the Pocket News' recent visit to Delta Shores, Dick's, a chain that has its next closest location to the Pocket in Elk Grove, was concluding its three-day grand opening celebration with sales and opportunities to win prizes. A soft opening for the store was held on Aug. 30.

The grand opening festivities also included appearances by former San Francisco Giants first baseman J.T. Snow and professional bass angler Skeet Reese, and recorded music played by the Eagle 96.9 FM. This Sacramento radio station had a booth in front of the store.

Kevin Yonto, Dick's community marketing coordinator for Northern California, commented on the community response to the opening of this 50,000-square-foot, Delta Shores sporting goods store.

"Let's just say that from Friday morning at 5:30 (a.m.), there was a line out the door wrapped around the whole entire building," he said. "It's been steady every day this weekend, so it's been great. I think the whole community that we've heard so far is real excited that they have a big sporting goods store in the area. That's all we keep hearing: 'Finally, finally, finally.'"

Like In-N-Out, Dick's Sporting Goods is a long-

See Delta Shores, page 5

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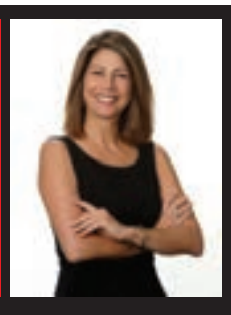

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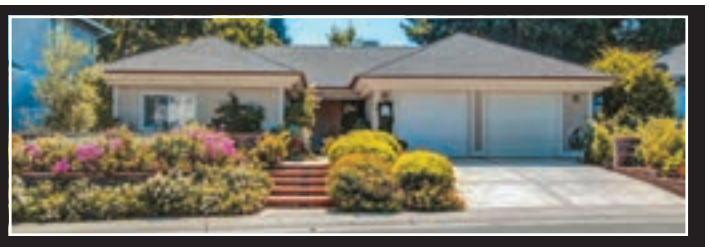

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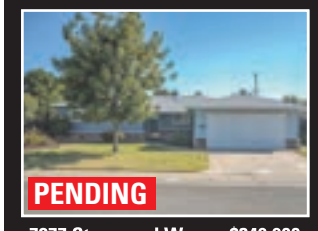

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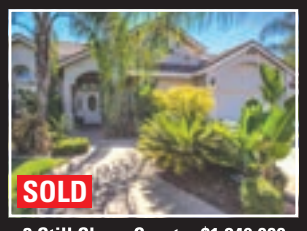
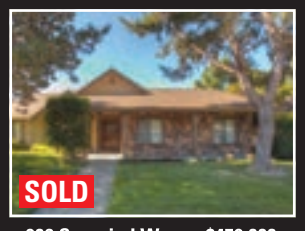
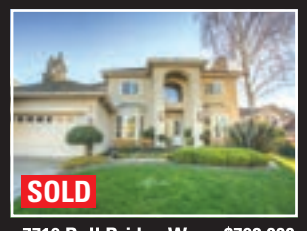


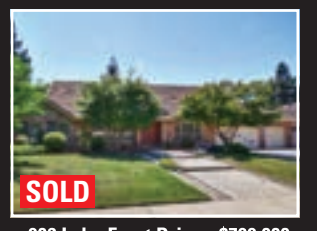
3 Still Shore Court - $1,249,000



906 Sunwind Way - $459,000



7719 Bell Bridge Way - $798,000



906 Lake Front Drive - $799,000



Delta Shores:

Continued from pagae 4

time business with many locations.

The business has roots dating back to 1948, when Dick Stack opened a bait and tackle shop in Binghamton, N.Y. And today, Dick's is one of the world's largest sporting goods retailers.

Yonto mentioned that the newest Dick's location is ideal.

"As you can see, as you're coming up or down the highway, we're the main thing you're seeing off the highway and people have been telling us that," he said. "They saw Dick's, got excited, and they strolled right in. We've just been generating traffic on this site, really."

Yonto added that he is already working with youth sports programs from the Pocket.

"I just got done meeting with two of the coaches of Pocket Little League, and the vice president of Pocket Girls Softball was just in the store today," he said. "Pocket sports (programs are) very excited that we're here and we're excited to work with them."

In addition to the local residents drawn to the new Dick's store, several people from outside the general area commented on that establishment.

Those people included Dixon residents and avid golfers Joe and Susan Hall, who said that the Delta Shores store is the closest Dick's store to their home. And even with the then-soon-to-be-opened Fairfield store, the Halls were not sure if that store would be any closer to their home.

Also among the businesses coming to the 775,000-square-foot first phase of Delta Shores at various times will be a Walmart Supercenter, RC Willey Home Furnishings, Ross Dress for Less, Hobby Lobby, Famous Footwear, Party City, Sleep Train, Bath & Body Works, Ulta Beauty, Verizon Wireless, Noodles & Company, Pieology Pizzeria, Fire Wings, Panda Express and Starbucks.

And one storefront to the south of the Party City building is PetSmart, which was preparing for its Labor Day grand opening on Sept. 4 The store is also advertising for special events with free coupons and giveaways of Sept. 9 and 23 and Oct. 7.

Delta Shores, which will feature as many as 70 stores and restaurants, also includes plans for the opening of its 150,000-square-foot second phase. A site plan for Delta Shores shows that the center has thus far been leased to 48 tenants.

Among the other people who visited Delta Shores this week was Pocket resident Elizabeth Crawford, who noted that she is pleased that a portion of this center is finally open.

"I'm glad they're open," she said. "Ever since they started building (Delta Shores, which had its groundbreaking in late 2015), we've been looking every time we pass it. We were (saying), 'OK, is it opened yet? Is it open?'"

Crawford added that she is looking forward to the opening of Chick-fil-A, Hokee Poke and the state-of-the-art, 14-screen Regal Cinemas theater at Delta Shores.

South Land Park resident Marty Eckhardt said that the shopping center is a welcomed site.

"Having a shopping center down here, I think we needed something in this area like this for a long time," he said. "But I'm kind of surprised to see a brick and mortar shopping center put up with so many (other shopping centers) going out of a business, and online shopping. A nod to Sacramento thinking they can do it."

Eckhardt also stated that he has a concern about this shopping center.

"I'm not so certain I'm looking forward to thousands of new homes out here," he said. "The traffic, I really like the way Cosumnes River Boulevard (provides) a nice shortcut through town, not having to go down Mack and Florin (roads)."

Pocket resident Ron Colton, who is a retired real estate developer, mentioned that he appreciates the use of the land for this project, which will ultimately create at least 1,000 retail and restaurant jobs.

"I probably have a slight bias toward filling in the infill, and I think that's what's important here," he said. "You have development all around and all this empty property, so you're making a good use of the infill, you're providing services and you're creating jobs.

"And what's highly unusual here is that they're building the commercial before the housing. Normally, you can't bring in the merchants until you have the rooftops around the development. But I think the fact that they have done that demonstrates the perceived need for this type of development within this general community."

Colton added that with the opening of Delta Shores, he plans to cut down on some of his previous driving to shopping areas in Elk Grove, the Arden area and Roseville.

On the flipside, many Elk Grove residents, including Jon Azzolini and Keith Eller, were present for the opening of Delta Shores.

For years, residents of that city have been awaiting the opening of their own mall at Highway 99 and Kammerer Road. The latest plan by the developer of that longtime, partially completed project, which has become known as the "ghost mall," is to have it open by the fall of 2018.

Also commenting on the Delta Shores project was Pocket resident Peggy Chan.

"I'm excited about (the project)," she said. "I used to (shop) downtown, avoid Arden Fair. And I'll go to Laguna (in Elk Grove). And (Delta Shores) will be much more convenient, almost too convenient."



Dick's Sporting Goods is shown during its grand opening last weekend.


Pocket residents James and Elizabeth Crawford hold In-N-Out Burger drink cups while enjoying a moment at the grand opening of Dick's Sporting Goods.



The new In-N-Burger fast food restaurant at 8200 Delta Shores Circle opened on Aug. 24.



Party City and PetSmart are shown on Sept. 3, prior to their openings.

Sacramento Zoo American flamingos now have names

A sixth American flamingo chick hatched the morning of July 30. The sixth flamingo is the last American flamingo chick hatch of the 2017 season.

The eggs were collected from the flock as they were laid and artificially incubated to ensure hatching success. Visitors can catch a glimpse of one or more of the flamingos daily at 10:30 a.m. at the Dr. Murray E. Fowler Veterinary Hospital.

Currently, the flamingo chicks are being hand-reared behind-the-scenes by the zoo's dedicated veterinary and animal care teams. Around-the-clock care for the chicks includes feedings, health checks, growth monitoring and regular exercise such as daily walks to strengthen their delicate legs. Once the chicks are large enough to thrive on their own, they will be introduced to the flock and live on the lake.

As staff has been busy caring for the growing flock and learning their individual personalities, test results have also come in revealing their genders. With all of that information in-hand zookeepers were ready to name the chicks (after cocktails)!

The Sacramento Zoo is home to 36 adult American flamingos. The last time a flamingo egg was laid and then successfully hatched at the zoo was in 1999. Prior to the recent hatchings, the zoo has hatched 28 flamingos in its 90-year history and has housed American flamingos since 1966. One of the original eight flamingos that arrived in 1966 still resides on the zoo's lake.

American flamingos, also known as Caribbean flamingos, are tall, large-bodied birds with long necks and small heads. The American flamingo is the brightest-colored and one of the largest of six species of flamingos and is native to South America and the Caribbean with a small population in the Galapagos. Flamingos lay their eggs on a muddy mound that the pair builds, and both parents care for the chick. Although adult flamingos are pink, the chicks hatch with white down that change to grey feathering prior to their adult coloration coming in. The birds' pink coloration comes from pigments in the aquatic organisms that they eat.



















Door to Door

with PAT LYNCH

We put a sign in our front yard. It says, "*In Our America, LOVE WINS, All People are Equal, Back Lives Matter, Immigrants and Refugees are Welcome, Disabilities are Respected, Women are In Charge of Their Bodies, People and Planet are Valued Over Profit.*" I know, it's a chatty sign, garrulous even, but that's how free speech works. You don't have to like the sign, but you have to leave it alone. It's our sign and we freely planted it in the lawn. Did we do it to provoke people? No. We did it to take a small but determined stand against the verbal bullying we're starting to see everywhere: on the news, on the street. Yes, here in sunny, serenely blue California.

Do you remember Milosevek who died in prison for war crimes? He used local media to revive ancient hatreds among Bosnians and Serbs. He ordered inflammatory commercials made. The ads reopened long dormant ethnic wounds. Influenced by the ad bombardment, friendly neighbors(people who barbequed together) became political opponents, then outright enemies. They ended up fighting and killing one another. That's how tyrants manipulate people. Remembering this, and aware of the resurgence of immigrant bashing and racial abuse in our country, we put out our sign.

Many people on 43rd street said they liked it. So there it stood, out in the open and under the sun—a reaffirmation of humane and civic values. But early one morning a woman walking her dogs paused, angrily pulled out the sign out and threw it on the grass. Another neighbor watched her do it. "I let her know I was watching," our neighbor said.

We came home and replanted the sign in the same space. Days later it went down again. We put it back up. The woman (we assume it was the same woman) tore it out again. We replanted it. This went on for some time.

Then she, or somebody, broke it. Whoever it was stepped hard on the bottom rung, snapped it, left it bent and crooked on the grass. We stuck it back in the ground, and there it stood, brave and tilted: Refugees welcome, Black lives matter, Planet over profit. Really, what was not to like?

The next day (or night) the sign stalker/breaker ripped it from the ground and threw it in the gutter. Another neighbor happened by, retrieved the sign and placed it carefully behind our wheelbarrow. Some neighbors now took a kind of custodial regard for it. They weren't sign people themselves, but they protected ours.

I peered out the window one morning, fantasizing what I'd do if I caught the woman in the act. Maybe I'd yank her hair, good and hard, and bring the sign down on her head. She'd scrunch up in shame and I'd whack her. 'You never heard of the First Amendment?' *Whack*. 'A lawn sign is freedom of speech, you dumb thug.' *Whack*. 'You stupid (*whack*) authoritarian (*whack*) tyrannical (*whack*) two-bit, mob-minded, sleazy, spineless twit (*whack! whack! whack!*). It was an immensely satisfying reverie.

I told my friend, Joan, about the fantasy.

"What about LOVE WINS?" Joan said.

"Oh."

Joan's fantasy was that she'd stop the woman and say, "The Constitution protects free speech. This is in the Bill of Rights." She'd explain that what the woman did repudiated America's highest ideals.

It turned out that a few people had been thinking about this. Ray said he'd holler at her, "Hey! This is private property! Hands off!"

Ellen's fantasy was that she'd film and photograph the culprit in the act, then tell her: "We have evidence. Keep away or I'll report you, post your picture on Next Door, and file a legal complaint against you.

Eileen said simply, "I'd call the police."

So, Joan would try to educate the woman, Ray would invoke the sacrament of Private Property, Ellen would threaten to bust her legally, Eileen would call the cops, and I…well, I would have to delve a little deeper to find a few drops of that LOVE WINS juice.

Then another neighbor said she knew who the sign stalker was and where she lived. Enter fantasy number two: I'd sneak over to the stalker's house at 3 a.m. and plant a sign in *her* front lawn. Wouldn't that be delicious? Imagine when she got up to make her venom tea or whatever, glanced out and saw it. Better yet, I'd plant it where she wouldn't notice it from her window. Then when she went out to walk her dogs she'd see it and realize she'd been promoting black lives, refugees and birth control all morning.

But of course nobody would accompany me on this mission and I was too chicken to go alone.

Then another neighbor said she'd put up a sign too. Fantasy three: the sign crusher turns on our block and sees thirty identical signs sparkling under the sun. That ought to throw her into a conniption so epic you'd pay to see it.

One Saturday afternoon I came home to see the sign standing neat and straight, no more screwy tilt. "It's the gardeners," a neighbor said. "I watch them. They take it out to mow, and they put it back so carefully."

It's been two weeks now since the woman has been seen on our block. The sign still stands. Unmolested by multiple strangers walking to medical offices on the corner, Amazon delivery drivers, neighbors' visitors, salespeople, other dog walkers and random strollers; it's become part of the fabric of the street.

This morning I read in the Bee about the Durstons from Gold River. They displayed the same sign, and got a letter from Homeowners Association Board of Directors. The Board doesn't want the area to be "littered with signs" which could cause a "negative impact to the value of our homes." Here's the typical clash of values with which we always have to contend: monetary value vs. moral value. The Durstons made the moral choice and got flack for it. (What if they'd put up a sign saying, *God Bless the Almighty Dollar?*)

Here in East Sac we don't have a Homeowners Association, just the occasional crazed dog-walker. But we know what's happening in the world beyond our block, and it matters to us. Some neighbors don't approve the import of our sign, but they respect our right to display it. In turn, we appreciate their tolerance. If they put up a contrary sign, we won't like it, but we'll let it stand. Democracy is hard, and messy, but it's all we've got. We believe: use it or lose it.

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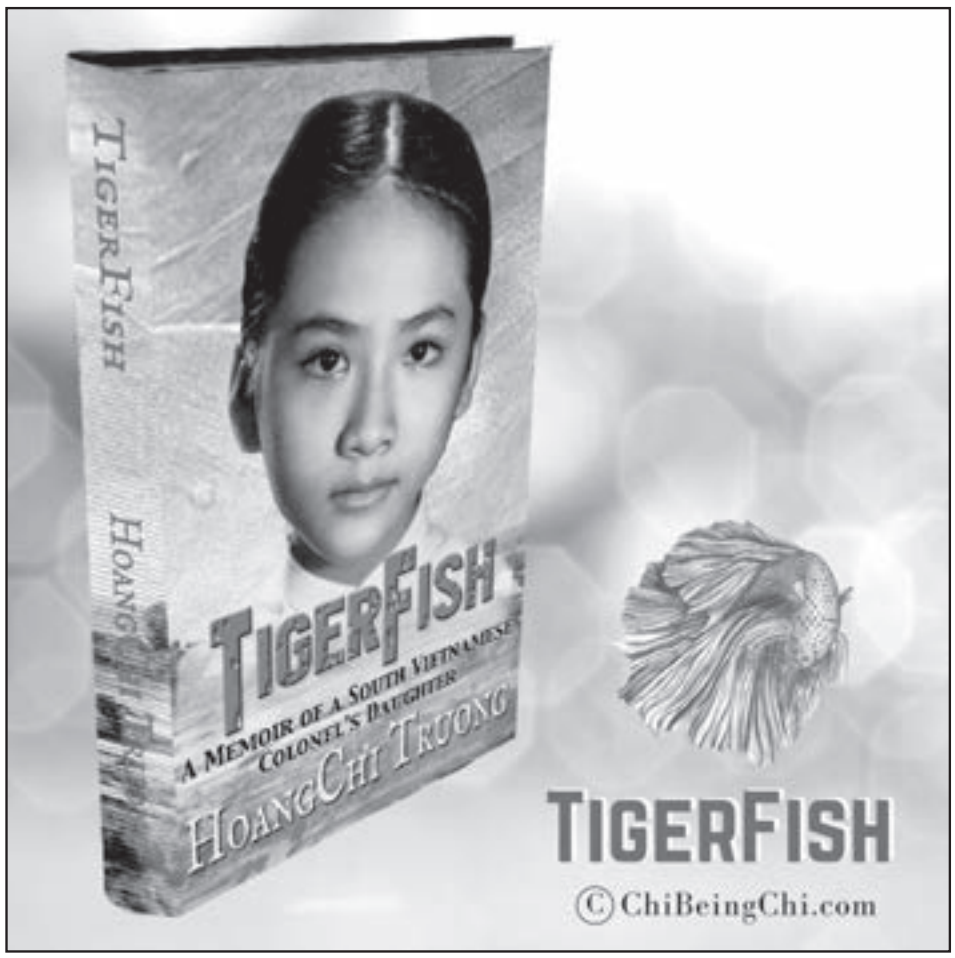
Know your neighbor:

Hoàng Chi Trương Smith, author of TigerFish

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com



In her memoir TigerFish, Pocket author Hoàng Chi Trương Smith chronicles the tumultuous years growing up in war-torn Vietnam and the abrupt and brutal regime change that forced the disruptive and disorienting coming of age between two vastly different cultures.

Trương Smith witnessed abject poverty, war veterans with missing limbs, orphans having to sell trinkets on the street to make a living, young girls and ladies driven from their bombed out villages to the cities and loured into lucrative business of being "bar girls". As a child, her parents taught her to be aware of her surroundings. Kidnapping and assassination attempts were real fears that the young girl and her family faced. These social ills and injustices were set against the backdrop of a heavy Vietnamese and U.S. military presence, as she listened to the same American music and watched the same television shows most Americans watched overseas by way of the GIs' television sets.

The daughter of Col. Thuc Tan Trương, Trương Smith describes life away from her father for the protection of his family.

In an interview with the Pocket News, Trương Smith explained that her father lived away from home most of her life in Vietnam as he stationed in battle zones since it was unsafe for the family to live with him. "He only made unannounced visits home to avoid snipers attempts, and when my parents talked on the phones, they didn't talk about anything of importance or of many details for fear of being intercepted. He kept us safe and protected from the danger of war, especially after the failed assassination attempt on my mom, sister and me," she said.

At times, Thuc Tan Trương encountered disagreements on the winning tactics and strategies to minimize the U.S. and Vietnamese casualties, as the U.S. military training and experience were unfamiliar with the Vietnamese culture, the environment, and the cunning guerrilla tactics of the North Vietnamese. And yet, stories about him hail the colonel as a well-respected, honest and effective leader of the South Vietnamese Army by the Vietnamese as well as the U.S. One of his U.S. counterparts, Lieutenant Colonel W. Ray Bradley, son of General Bradley, commented in several interviews that he was one of the best Vietnamese officers he had the privilege of working with. Bradley credited Thuc with "turning around" the 51st and responsible for much of the progress in the South Vietnamese Development Program in the Danang area.

Meanwhile, as a young child, Thuc's daughter felt the safety he provided. As Trương Smith states today: "As a child, I absolutely felt safe and protected from the war by the way my parents sheltered us behind the fence and gates of our home, bomb shelter bedrooms, guards, and drivers to prevent another assassination attempt on our lives." Her father paid infrequent visits home and he stressed discipline and education, hiring tutors and providing extra English lessons. "Although he was strict, he left the disciplining to my stay-at-home mom, who instilled values of hard work and family loyalty," she explained.

Born in 1962, Trương Smith never knew what peace time would be like. "That was the norm for us," she says. During the supposed ceasefire and truce, there were still bombardment and casualties from both sides, the North Communist and the South Republic, while her family slept in a bomb shelter bedroom and had around-the-clock guard protection and a driver. To that extent, she says, "We lived in a well-protected cocoon."

One of the most vivid images she remembers occurred on the date her family left their home in Danang on March 28, 1975 for the United States where California would become home. That day was when she first witnessed chaos, anarchy, and the every-man-for-himself survival mode. It was the day after Hue fell. "There was a collective fear of impending doom and fear of the Fall of South Vietnam since the strategic stronghold of Hue took place. Refugees from this area north of us fled and funneled through our city, escaping southward from the communist's strong advance. The streets were crammed with people with their worldly belongings seen by what they could carry with them by bikes, motorcycles, on foot, buses or cars. I had never seen traffic jams quite like this and ironically, a child stood in the traffic light booth, playing with the signal lights which nobody paid attention to as they turned red and green like Christmas tree lights."

Trương Smith started writing her memoir as a family documentation in 1992 when her firstborn – her daughter – was 2 years old. A stay-at-home mom in Clarksburg, Trương Smith's original intent for TigerFish was only as a family document and history. "I wanted my children to know about their heritage and how I came to America and why. I also wanted them to know the details of what life was like for me as a child, and as a teenager with my sets of challenges in Vietnam versus America."

Finishing the first draft in 1997, Trương Smith then took a writing

See TigerFish, page 9



TigerFish:

Continued from page 8

class at the Cosumnes River College to improve her writing. She wanted to "make it more compelling for my children to read someday because I didn't like how it read like a genealogy document." From this class, she changed her writing style of chronology of dates and facts into vignettes of important moments of her life. At this point, this book was still intended for her family exclusively and stayed on her desktop with no intention of publishing.

However, as the Syrian refugee crisis started in 2011 and continued to escalate, Trương Smith felt an increased urgency and a need to share her story and humanize the refugee experience. "The major deciding moment for me to publish my book for public consumption was in January 2017 when the first Executive Order that banned refugees from legally entering the U.S. I felt a moral obligation to share my story to connect the word "Refugee" to a face and person who shares the same thirst for life, dignity, and liberty, whom otherwise would be persecuted for their political and religious beliefs."

She began to work full-time, devoting all her attention to publishing the book in nine months, working with editors, book cover designers, formatters. She built a website and developed a social media following for TigerFish, leading to the successful launch of TigerFish at the end of April 2017. It's available on Amazon, as well as some local indie bookstores.

Trương Smith self published TigerFish on April 24, 2017 via CreateSpace, a print-on-demand publisher. Trương Smith ordered 50 for a private book launch and 30 copies from Sacramento Public Library's I Street Press. Besides buying TigerFish on Amazon, the book is also available on paperback and Kindle.

You can meet Trương Smith at the following local author events where copies of the book will be sold for $20 (including signing):

My Sister's House Book Read Night at Belle Cooledge Library on **Wednesday, Sept. 27** from 6:15 to 8 p.m. A large portion of the book sales proceed will be donated to MSH by the author.

CSU- Fresno Henry Madden Library Alumni Reception & Author Event on **Oct. 6** from 6 to 8 p.m.

Bogle Winery Author Event; Clarksburg, **Saturday, Oct. 14** from 6 to 9 p.m.

Arthur Turner Library. West Sacramento. **Wednesday, November 1st.** 6 to 7pm

Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive on **Nov. 4** from 2 to 3 p.m.

Davis Branch Library Author Event on **Thursday, Nov. 9** from 7 to 8 p.m.

Tea and Talk Book Club at Belle Cooledge Library on **Jan. 3, 2018** from 10 to 11 a.m. and from noon to 1 p.m.

Trương Smith said it's an honor to share her memoir TigerFish with its message and advocacy for refugees and human rights against indentured servitude, a situation in which her family found them in Wyoming. "Additionally, MSH's mission resonates with mine as an advocate for refugees, women, and children of domestic violence and human trafficking. I'm currently working with Dr. Jenny Banh of CSU Fresno Anthropology and Asian American Studies, contributing to interviews for her research project, 'Successful SE Asian Americans in Central Valley.' I will also speak to her classes, as well as other students at the Henry Madden Library Author Event on October 6th to encourage and advise students to overcome adversity, and ultimately raise the dismally low 4-year graduation rate for SE Asian students. My oral recording for her project will be available to everyone and is resource for K-12 teachers, to gain an understanding of this underrepresented population in the Central Valley."

You can find copies of TigerFish at the following bookstores:

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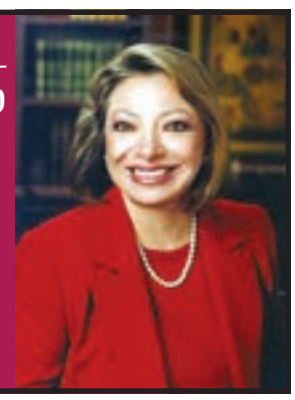

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Piskoti:

Continued from page 3

began to take shape and fill the home after 2002, he outgrew his studio. "If I could do it again, I would have built a shed for him!" Carol prefers Jim's kinetic paintings over his earlier two-dimensional work. Her favorite is ***Tunnel of Love (2010),*** an appropriately heart-shaped piece with more of his nuanced "double life" imagery and an oldies audio track titled *Sea of Love*. "The couple under L.O.V.E. letters are supposed to be us which is kinda sweet," Carol continues, "There's some lovebirds, different couples, genders, ages, and sexual orientation coming out of the tunnel. Another couple is crying, so, you never can tell what's gonna happen in your love life."

Much of Jim's work can be found online at his website: jimpiskoti.com



Inside Jim Piskoti's home studio in the Pocket

Artistic Development

Jim was always drawing as a child. He was born in Logan, West Virginia but moved to Flint, Michigan at age 12. His attraction to trucks began early in his life and can still be found in much of his current work, and in his studio one can see a large collection of toy trucks displayed well out of reach of children. But it was Jim's fascination with hearses as a teenager in Michigan that laid the groundwork for what would eventually get him accepted at Yale University. "I wrote to these companies that did conversions of Cadillac sedans to hearses, and they sent me really nice catalogues."

After two years at Flint Junior College studying commercial art, Jim headed to the University of Michigan where he was to complete his B.S. in Design. It was while at U of M he produced a series of photo-realist paintings of funeral hearses, ***Cortage Series Crown Royal Rear Servicing Coach (1966)*** in acrylic. "I used an opaque projector and projected the image on canvas, and just filled in the colors," Jim laughs, "people are so impressed." Apparently, Yale was impressed enough to accept him into the graduate program of the School of Art & Architecture. "I'm still doing hearses but in a more personalized way. I distort and exaggerate them now."

Jim absorbed the striking images of Appalachia early in his life and later in Michigan in the shadow of the booming auto industry, developed his artistic sensibility and desire to include social commentary in his work.

At Yale, Jim grew as an artist as he was exposed to con-

See Development, page 11



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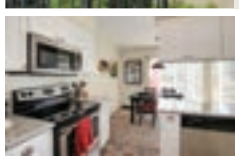
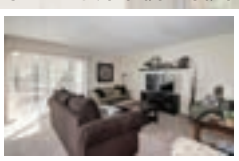
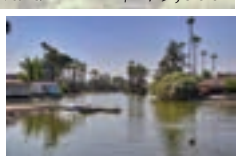

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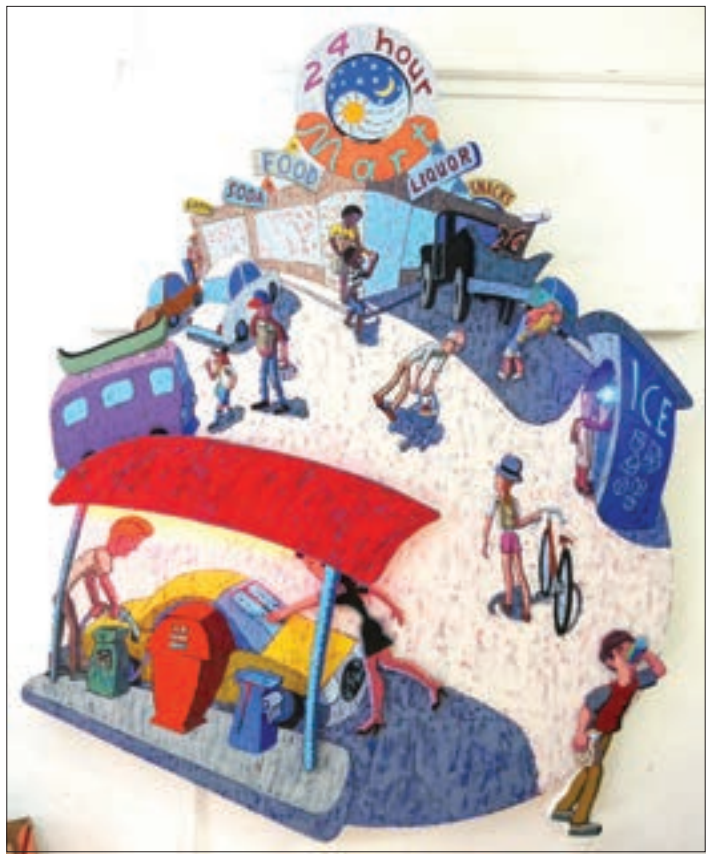
Development:

Continued from page 10

temporary art in New York galleries and museums. ***New York Traffic, No. 1 (1969)*** painted in oil was part of a series Jim produced after drawing inspiration from sketches made during his weekend jaunts into Manhattan. He also was doing a lot of printmaking which would later become a focal point in his own teaching career. "At that time, printmaking had a much higher respectability in the art world. Digital has completely killed it off."

At Yale, Jim experimented with bold, gestural moving qualities in his oil paintings during this period. His interest in vehicles, cities and scale, he refers to as "huge trucks and tiny women" were to become recurring images in his work throughout the next five decades.

After Jim was hired in 1969 to teach in Stanislaus County, he continued to paint impressionistic views of traffic, mostly scenes in the small town of Turlock. In the 1980's, Jim produced a large volume of work, acrylic and oil paintings of a variety of scenes, many of them awarded prizes and exhibited throughout Northern California and beyond. ***Figure in a Yellow Dress (1980)*** caught the eye of a feminist art critic at *Ann Arbor News* when Jim's piece was shown in an Alumni Art Annual in 1984. Peggy Page wrote, " I just don't like Piskoti's definition of women – as sexpots who dress for, and enjoy leers from men. That image of women went out with go-go boots." Jim proudly shares a clipping of the opinion piece and a hearty laugh with anyone who wants to join him.



Convenience Store



4-Figure in Yellow Dress, 1980

Another two-dimensional piece from this period, ***On the Sunnyside of the Street (1984)***, an acrylic painting served as an early indicator of Jim's Double-Life. "Carol's father was telling me it's always better to have your business on the side of the street that gets the sun. People are in a more optimistic mood." In the painting, Jim shows a porno theater, lowlife characters on the dark side, and an old woman looking toward the brighter side of the street at a younger woman where there's plenty of money and high fashion.

You can also view Jim's public art in several locations:

Figures in a Park (2010) located in Hampton Park, Sacramento; Four Interactive Paintings (2010) North Natomas Library, Sacramento; Capitol Box Art Projects (2014) Downtown Sacramento; Bull Dozer with Passengers (2014) Art of the Dumpster Project, Sacramento; and Wild Life on a Ferris Wheel (2017) Metal Sculpture located in McKinley Village, Sacramento

Although Jim has concentrated primarily on kinetic works over the past 15 years, he has returned to acrylic works on paper. After seeing a Bosch show in 2016, Jim produced a number of two-dimensional paintings on paper including ***Side Show (2016)***, of a Trump-like scene where a woman is groped, a wall is erected, red-capped supporters raise weapons, and mortally-wounded statue of liberty is wheeled away on a stretcher.

When I asked Jim about this idea of a double life, he suggested in his paintings he's simply introducing a capacity for a double life, a richer variety, a different experience for the viewer. "It's opening a new direction or another way to capture life in the 21st Century. That's why I'm doing them I guess."

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LIFE IN THE VILLAGE

By JAN DALSKE
Pocket News

School was getting to be more interesting and I was even having fun, both in the classroom and on the playground. My two brothers were there with me, And, I was feeling more comfortable and not like a stranger any more. I had met some of the girls that lived on my street and in the houses on the next street.

I was joining the Brownies. My mom planned to call Sue's mom, Fern, to find out where she could get the uniform, belt, socks and cap that I would need to be a Brownie. My uniform and cap would be brown, and when I got older I could be a Girl Scout and I would wear a green uniform. Brownies and Girl Scouts learned how to make potholders, and how to do embroidery on pillow cases and doilies. I could do some fancy stitches on our pillow cases. I think mom would like that.

Rodney was going to join the Cub Scouts. He was very excited because he would be learning how to make things with a knife. He would be wearing a blue uniform with a blue cap. Cub Scouts went camping and hiking and their leader would show them how to start a fire, and the right way to put the fire out when you left your camp. Rodney wanted to learn how to catch a fish and cook it over a fire. Boys who were in first grade could join the Cub Scouts and when they were in sixth grade they could become a Boy Scout.

Halloween was coming soon. The end of October was the day that kids got to put on costumes and bring along an empty pillow case or paper bag as they walked around the neighborhood and rang all of the neighbors' doorbells. When the neighbors answered their door, the kids would yell "Trick or Treat" and whoever answered the door would pretend they were scared and give the kids candy to go away. We did not get to go out for "Trick or Treating". My mom said we were too young, and she could not take the little ones out in the cool air just so we could get candy. We did not have candy very often. Our parents told us it was bad for our teeth and would give us something they called "cavities". We did not know what that was, but we were glad that our parents were keeping us from getting them in our mouths.

Wayne was afraid of the scary costumes. Every time the neighborhood kids rang the doorbell, and mom opened the door to give them some candy, he started crying. It was a relief when mom finally put him to bed. We opened the front curtains to see when the kids were coming to our house. Rodney and Timothy tried to scare them when they came to the door by opening the door before they could ring the bell. They were pretty good at doing that. The kids screamed, but then they usually started laughing.

Rita was not sure if she liked the costumes. We could tell that the masks scared her. That night she was going to start sleeping in the back bedroom with Linda and me. We did not want her to cry all night when she thought about the scary things she had seen. So, after our mom got her ready for bed, we took her into the bedroom and I read her a bedtime story. She fell asleep before I had finished reading the story. Linda and I tucked her in tightly. We put up a rail to keep her from falling out of the little single bed that just barely fit in our room. Linda and I could not talk at night anymore. Our voices might wake Rita up.

I was wondering what the kids at school would tell me about their night of "Trick or Treating". I had recognized some of my classmates, even though they were dressed up in costumes and wearing masks. I wondered when my brothers and sisters and I would be able to go out on Halloween. I guess we would have to wait for the time when the little ones were bigger and mom could come with us. Or, maybe she would let the older kids go out with their friends from school next year. We already walked to school by ourselves, so I am sure we could walk around the neighborhood. We would promise to stay on our own block and only be gone for an hour or so. Rodney and I agreed that we would talk to our parents about this plan when Halloween came around again next year. We were the oldest kids. It was our job to ask our parents when we wanted to do something new. And they usually gave us their permission.

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Linda Paris revised in blue



By DEBBIE ETO

When you first enter Linda Paris' art studio, you are greeted by a tall, slender, beautiful woman with short red hair, paint on her sleeves and an infectious smile. Going forward and looking at the walls, makes you feel like a kid entering Disneyland for the first time. Paintings, sculptures, art circles and other pieces of mixed media abound. I was first drawn to a piece called a "Bird Circle". "I found these compressed cardboard circles in a recycle pile down the hall from my studio. Every week I would pick up what the business left out. I had no idea what I was going to make from them, but I have a fascination with multiples. The cardboard circles hung on my studio wall for years. I would look at them everyday and wonder what can I make with these? One day, I decided they needed painting. While I was painting the circle, the birds outside were making a fuss about something. I looked up to see what the fuss was about and it came to me. The circles, they could be about birds and all their antics!"

Born in Washington State, her parents were scientists. "My mom, a dietician and my dad, a chemical engineer." Linda describes herself as "average as most and as unique as everyone else." This is far from the truth, unless everyone lives next door to an accomplished, professional artist. "I was desperate to learn how to draw. When I was young my parents smoked cigarettes. They would use matches when the lighter wasn't around. I would look at the matchbook because there would be an ad for learning how to draw. It would say something like "draw me" or draw some cute little cartoon character. Once, I sent in one of my drawings in hopes of winning the prize. I didn't win, of course. I suppose my talent or strength is in painting and mixed media rather than drawing. I love color and trying out new methods for making things."

Linda had a late start creating art. "Although I loved art I knew it was not a profession that I could support myself in. It wasn't until later, after I took a couple of drawing and painting classes that I decided to put the newly learned skills to work. I painted widows during the holiday season. I made good money doing this and got to a point that I needed an assistant. However, it is hard work, in horrible weather and the season is short. During the rest of the year I worked for an interior designer photographing her work as well as doing commission work, but all that was spotty. I also taught piano lessons as well as gave art lessons to children." It wasn't until a job at Tower Books turned into being the store artist. "This was a once in a lifetime opportunity to actually make artwork full time. I was scared but excited. It was a great job. I learned more about materials and alternate uses than I could have in a classroom situation. I learned about merchandising and how to take an idea, expand it, and make it eye-catching." After having a few shows of her own she felt something missing in her personal work. It was then she decided to go to Grad School, "It gave me words to understand what I saw."

As a multimedia artist, Linda works in numerous mediums: Oils, pastels, pen and ink, and other materials and techniques to numerous to mention. Dioramas, paintings, and handmade books adorn her East Sac Studio. When I asked about her 3 D work she said "With my 3 D pieces I start with materials and the idea evolves from there. Some works start with a story or poem and evolve from that." Regarding her paintings she is a little more traditional, the paintings start with a sketch, she then redraws the sketch on the substrate (wood panel), then she starts painting.

Her White Tree paintings started because of a love for trees, "I always feel peaceful around a tree. When they, the tree sketches, started to become a painting with color I did not want them to be representational, in other words have tree color. They are pure, they are otherworldly, they are not the trees that we know as "tree"… my trees are constantly communicating with each other, the limbs are communicating with other limbs, they have their own world even though it looks very much like our world."

Oil painting is where she feels most at home. "It brings a calmness, it's intuitive. Mixed media is challenging because so much of it is experimenting with new materials and coming up with a technique to achieve the result I sort of see…it's unpredictable, challenging and exciting. Sometimes I have to be a chemist so everything is archival."

Her goal for what she creates is for that piece to convey exactly as she perceived it. "If a piece is whimsical then I hope the whimsy comes though, if it is meant to be contemplative then I hope that it achieves that. My goal is to know that I have paid enough attention to what the piece was saying as I was making it. Overall, I want my work to be collected. I want it to be loved and enjoyed."

"Art takes a lot of time. It is having the stamina to maintain a constant dialog with the work. After a while the artwork has control and I must observe and pay attention to what it is saying to me. I must release control. To be an artist is about giving in."

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said,"*In art, the hand can never execute anything higher than the heart can imagine."* The art of Linda Paris is boundless as is her heart.

Linda's artwork is in public and private collections throughout the US. Linda is having an Open Studio on Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at: 388 36th Way, Sacramento, Ca. 95816. To view her work online, go to: www.parisartwork.com or email her (to see her work in person) directly: parisartwork@gmail.com.


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Faces and Places:

South Land Park National Night Out

Photos by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

In celebration of community, South Land Park neighbors gathered at Alice Birney Waldorf Methods K-8 School on National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug.1. With entertainment inside the gym provided by the Ohana Dance Group and iYa Taekwondo, folks got out of the heat and enjoyed the local talent. Outside, Barrio Cafe gave out free cookies and Scott's Seafood provided appetizers. The deejay handed out coupons for free 7-11 Slurpees and pizza slices. Folks at the Alice Birney table provided watercolor paint and paper for budding artists. Volunteers from the Del Rio Trail project shared details with the community about that. And staff from Sacramento New Technology High School promoted the school's achievements.

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Women's Empowerment named California nonprofit of the year

100 nonprofits honored at second annual California Nonprofits Day celebration

Women's Empowerment, along with 100 nonprofits from across the state, was honored recently at the second annual California Nonprofits Day celebration. Assemblymember Kevin McCarty (D-Sacramento) named Women's Empowerment Nonprofit of the Year. The award recipients were honored at a luncheon at Sacramento's Convention Center.

"Women's Empowerment is thrilled to receive this award from Assemblymember Kevin McCarty, who truly supports our vision of breaking the cycle of homelessness for women and children in Sacramento," said Lisa Culp, executive director, Women's Empowerment. "We also are proud to receive this award with other nonprofits across the state that are working hard to improve the lives of Californians. Partnership is vital in this sector, and we were honored to stand with so many valuable organizations."

The annual California Nonprofits Day event was formally recognized by Assembly Concurrent Resolution 54, authored by the chair of the new Assembly Select Committee on the Nonprofit Sector Assemblywoman Monique Limon (D-Santa Barbara).

Women's Empowerment was featured on NBC's The TODAY Show in 2015 for offering the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically for women who are homeless and their children. The award-winning organization has graduated 1,437 homeless women and their 3,500 children since 2001. Last year, 92 percent of graduates found homes, and 81 percent found jobs or enrolled in school or training. The program combines self-esteem courses, job training, health classes and support services to help homeless women across diverse ages, races and cultures. Women's Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community. To make a donation: www.womens-empowerment.org.

Police Logs

The information provided allows for a timely snapshot of significant events in our community. The crimes reported here are preliminary investigations, taken in the field by patrol officers, and may or may not be assigned to a detective for further investigation. The information provided may be found after further investigation to be incorrect or false. Certain details of these incidents have been removed due to potential follow up investigation into the incident and/or for privacy rights. https://www.sacpd.org/

FRIDAY, AUG. 18

(Robbery): 1100 block of 43rd Avenue at 7:38 p.m.: The suspect entered the store and took an item without paying. A clerk confronted the suspect outside and that's when the suspect grabbed a dull machete and golf club out of his car and began assaulting the clerk. The clerk had his own golf club and hit the suspect several times. The fight went back into the store and the clerk retrieved a board. The suspect got into his vehicle parked outside the front doors. The clerk broke out the front driver's side window of the vehicle with the golf club. The clerk only received minor injuries from the assault. The suspect fled before officers arrived. A report was generated and the investigation remains ongoing.

(Attempted Robbery): 1400 block of Shirley Drive at 9:50 p.m.: The victim was walking home when three male juveniles began following her. The suspects began demanding the victim's money, covering their faces with their shirts. The victim refused, turned around and the suspects were gone. The victim was uninjured and nothing was taken. A report was generated and the investigation remains active.

SUNDAY, AUG. 20

(Vandalism): Quay Court at 6:09 p.m.: Officers were called to the area regarding the report of vandalism. Officers arrived on scene and determined the owner was attempting to sell his vehicle online. The victim had left his residence for a short time. When he returned he discovered the vehicle had vandalized. The report was forwarded to detectives for further investigation. No one was arrested.

SATURDAY, AUG. 26

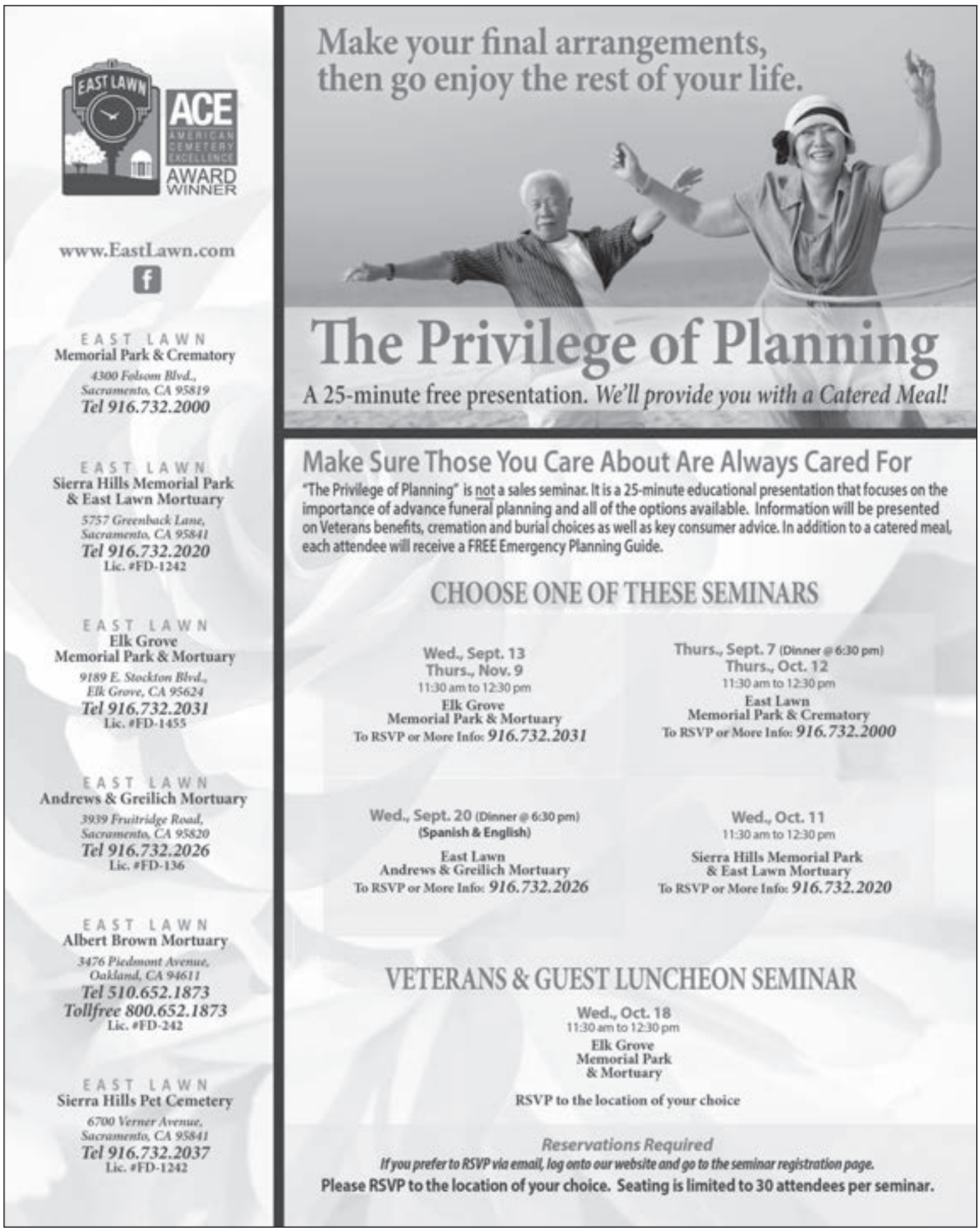
(Fatal Vehicle Accident): Cosumnes River Blvd / Delta Shores Circle at 3:04 a.m.: Officers responded to a single vehicle motorcycle accident on Cosumnes River Boulevard near Delta Shores Circle. Officers arrived and located the rider unconscious with major life-threatening injuries. Fire department personnel arrived and declared the rider deceased. The Major Collision Investigation Unit responded and took over the report due to the fatality.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 1

(Suspicious circumstances): 4000 block of Florin Road at 12:21 a.m.: Officers responded to the location after a citizen called to report a suspicious object wrapped in a sheet behind the business. Officers arrived and could not determine what the object was therefore the Homicide Team responded for precaution. After further investigation, it was determined that a large deceased sheep was wrapped in the sheet. Animal control responded and took over the investigation.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 3

(Robbery) : 2400 block of 16th Street at 3:0 p.m.: Officers responded to a robbery call at a gas station. The suspect eluded that he had a gun and took an undisclosed amount of cash and merchandise before fleeing. Officers and SSD Star checked the area for the suspect initially with negative results. At about 5:00 p.m., officers were advised by citizens that a subject similar to the description was near Broadway. Officers located the subject who was found to have the cash on his person. He was identified as the suspect in the robbery and was subsequently booked at jail.



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What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?



File photo by Monica Stark

Oto's Fall Festival from 2014. This year, the Japanese market be celebrating their 50th Anniversary with a special sale and fall festival on Saturday, Sept. -Sunday, Sept. 10, 4990 Freeport Blvd.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8

DIABETES 101 EDUCATIONAL SERIES: Diabetes 101 is a series of classes dealing with diabetes. In this class, you will learn how to manage better office visits, avoiding complications and psycho-social aspects of diabetes. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Friday, Sept. 8 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9

"HOT LITERARY NIGHTS": 916 Ink is excited to announce the first "Hot Literary Nights" showcase to support their mission of transforming Sacramento youth into confident writers and published authors. On Saturday, Sept. 9, the nonprofit will bring together community members, business supporters, and local political leaders for an evening of words, whimsy, and wine to highlight our work and make more of it possible. The doors of the magical creative writing space, The Imaginarium at The Maple Neighborhood Center, 3301 37th Ave., will open at 6:30 p.m. for cocktail hour and entertainment will begin at 7:30 p.m. Guests should prepare for a fun and entertaining show, kicked off by a reading from Sacramento's Poet Laureate, Indigo Moor, followed by readings from own published youth authors and performances by local musicians combining jazz and poetry into a one of-a-kind "moetry" experience. Drinks and appetizers will be served and local performance artists will open the show and there will be opportunities to tour our new outdoor creative space, The Writer's Garden, or participate in a Literary Cake Walk, where local bakers compete to produce the best literary themed cake and participants can bid for the chance to take home their favorite cake. Tickets are $45 and are available for purchase online at https://www.916ink.org/hotliterarynights or at the door. 916 Ink, Sacramento's only art-based literacy nonprofit that transforms Sacramento youth into published authors. Why? Because empowered students equipped with amazing literacy skills lead healthier lives. 916 Ink dispatches teams of trained volunteers to work in schools, libraries, nonprofits, and detention facilities. Learn more about us at www.916ink.org.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9-SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

OTO'S MARKETPLACE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Oto's Marketplace celebrates 50 Years on Freeport (1967 - 2017) plus 10th year anniversary at current location, 4990 Freeport Blvd. There will be food tastings and demonstrations, Asian food booths, Osaka-Ya Shaved Ice. The schedule is, as follows: Saturday, Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On the "Sapporo Beer" Stage on Saturday, Sept. 9, The Bay Area's own "Rendezvous" will entertain the lunch crowd from noon to 2 p.m., followed by Sacramento's Island Sunset Band which takes the stage starting at 3 p.m. On Sunday, Sept. 10, Sacramento Taiko Dan will perform from noon to 1 p.m., followed by the Otahi Marama Hawaiian Dance Group from 2 to 3 p.m. On Saturday, visitors can "Spin The Wheel" for free prizes. Free popcorn will be given on both days to paying customers. An anniversary sale starts Wednesday, Sept. 6 will there will be a "special sale" on Sunday only. Parking lot will be closed for this event. Parking available at the "Church of the Masters", 1900 Potrero Way, Parking lot directly behind Rite-Aid.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 10

THE 35TH ANNUAL ELLY AWARD CEREMONY –YOUTH DIVISION: The Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance (SARTA) presents the 35th annual Youth Elly Award Ceremony on Sunday, September 10 at 7:00pm (Doors open at 6pm) at the Cosumnes Oaks High School Performing Arts Center located at 8350 Lotz Parkway in Elk Grove. This annual Youth Elly Award ceremony focuses entirely on young people and will distribute over 50 awards for outstanding performances in the following divisions; Education - Plays; Education - Musicals, Youth Theatre Productions; Children's Theatre Productions and Original Script – Young People's. Entertainment will be provided by the nominees from the Overall Production of a Musical in the Education or Youth categories and may include selections from Sweeney Todd, Sweet Charity, The 25th annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, Guys and Dolls, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Spamalot – School Edition; Seussical the Musical; Godspell, or Alice in Wonderland. This year's theme is A Black and White Ball and will feature a black and white decoration theme. Attendees are encouraged to wear formal attire. The Cosumnes Oaks High School Performing Arts Center located in Elk Grove is used by both Cosumnes Oaks High School and Elizabeth Pinkerton Middle School. This venue holds just over 700 seats and has plenty of free parking. It is conveniently located off Elk Grove Blvd just west of Hwy 99. Tickets are now on sale at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3065383. This event has SOLD OUT for the past five years so please purchase tickets early to avoid disappointment. For more information, please visit www.sarta.com or call SARTA at 916-443-8229. SARTA is a 501©3 nonprofit arts service organization.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 12

SAVE MONEY ON YOUR PHONE AND PG&E BILLS: Knowing about your phone service options can save you money, help you avoid telephone fraud and ensure that you get the service that is right for you. Also, were your PG&E bills extremely high this winter? Learn what you can do to help reduce your PG&E this winter. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 2 to 3 p.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 15

YOUR GUIDE TO MEDICARE'S COVERED PREVENTIVE SERVICES: This workshop provides an overview of the Medicare program including eligibility cost benefits and any recent changes to Medicare Part B covered preventive services, tests and general descriptions. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Friday, Sept. 15 from 10 to 11 a.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

MONDAY, SEPT. 18

INHERITANCE MYTH BUSTERS: Is it myth or fact that the best way to pass your property to your children is by placing them on title to your assets while you are alive? Come to our free legal workshop to find out! This is one example of the misconceptions that people have about planning for the distribution of their assets after they pass away. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Monday, Sept. 18 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22

***HEALTHY AGING AND FALL PREVENTION FAIR*: F**ree risk fitness test, shoe assessments, medication reviews, blood pressure screening, home modification consultation and more. Co-sponsored by UC Davis. Free of charge. Fair will be held Friday, Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 22-SATURDAY, SEPT. 23

VOLUNTEER FOR UNITED WAY'S DAY OF CARING– More than 1,000 local residents are needed to spend a day caring for the community Sept. 22-23 by signing up for one of dozens of volunteer projects happening at nonprofits, schools and community parks across the region during United Way's Day of Caring. The event, sponsored by Nationwide, will begin with a kickoff breakfast and rally at Cal Expo. To sign up for Day of Caring: http://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/day-caring. As part of Day of Caring, United Way is holding its Stuff the Bus campaign to collect school supplies for Robla School District in Sacramento through Sept 22. All donated school supplies will be placed in a school bus and driven to Robla School District at the end of the day. To donate to Stuff the Bus: http://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/StufftheBus2017. Day of Caring and Stuff the Bus are part of United Way California Capital Region's Square One Project, a 20-year promise to significantly increase the number of local students who graduate from high school ready for success in college and beyond. Through nine decades of work and research across Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento, Placer and Yolo counties, United Way believes ending poverty starts in school and is working to ensure kids meet important milestones for success in college or career. To donate or volunteer: www.yourlocalunitedway.org.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 26

GENEALOGY PART 2: This class will cover how to conduct genealogical research using online and off-line resources, what to look for in the various type of records, and how to find them. Recommended for those who wants to begin working on genealogy as well as those already working on it and wanting to learn more. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $3 required. $5 drop-in at the door. Class will be held Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2017 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.



What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 27

PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE INEVITABLE: A 25-minute presentation on why everyone should pre-plan funeral arrangements. You can eliminate stress, relieve your family of the burden, know all available choices, get what you want, ensuring all detail is covered and save money. Free lunch provided. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Wednesday, Sept. 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: RESOURCES AND SERVICES: This presentation will cover what domestic violence is and the different types of violence. We will also focus on restraining orders, the Victims Bill of Rights (also known as Marsy's law), and the resources available to victims. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Thursday, Sept. 28 from 10 to 11 a.m. at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs

SATURDAY, DEC. 2

FIFTH ANNUAL DANDELION ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW: The Sacramento Senator Lions Club presents this free admission and free parking event at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All sales profits go to support various community projects. Visit sacramentosenatorlions.org to see how the Sacramento Senator Lions Club serves the community. For event information, email senatorlionsevents@gmail.com

ONGOING

WEDNESDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION GATHERING: Every Wednesday morning from 7 to 11 am., join neighbors at Cafe Latte, 7600 Greenhaven Drive, for conversation and fun. Find the group back near the piano.

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.

"ALL IN" SENIOR SOCIAL HOUR – The Pocket Library will provide games, refreshments, conversation, and fun on the last Wednesday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m.! Games available to play include poker, chess, Scrabble, checkers, Dominos, Mahjong, cribbage, and more! Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

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:
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acc SENIOR SERVICES

What's New in September?

Save on Your Phone & PG&E Bills – Tuesday, September 12, 2:00-3:00pm; Free

Guide to Medicare's Covered Services - Friday, September 15, 10:00-11:00am; Free

Inheritance Myth Busters - Monday, September 18, 3:30-4:30pm; Free

ABCs of Balance - Wednesday, September 20, 1:00-2:30pm; $8 prepaid/$10 drop-in

Healthy Aging & Fall Prevention Fair - Friday, September 22, 10:00am-1:00pm; Free

For more information or to register, contact Anna Su at (916) 393-9026 or classes@accsv.org.
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Rotary of South Sacramento branches out to Burbank High School, starting local Interact Club

The local Rotary Club of South Sacramento announced the launch of a new Interact club at Luther Burbank High School. A high school version of Rotary with the same goal —to make a positive difference in our community and the world, Interact started within a program at the school, namely NJROTC, rather than as a whole school effort. As the program becomes more widely known and interest develops, RCSS representative JR Springer said they will add students not in the NJROTC program, thus making it a total school program. JR attends the Interact Club meetings, participate in their activities, and provide input and suggestions when appropriate. The RCSS also purchased a gavel, bell, large banner, and shirts for all the Interact Club members to get them started.

Along the way rotarians model and hope the kids adopt the 4-Way Test that Rotarians live by --the "Four-Way Test" -- to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings and consist of four simple questions: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The Rotary Club of South Sacramento had been working with and supporting the NJROTC program at Burbank for a couple years and during that time Commander Tom Jones and Springer started talking and realized that some of the goals—specifically community service, the Four Way Test, leadership development, and core values) for NJROTC were the same as Rotary. A natural fit, the rotary opted to start within the NJROTC and add students who are not part of NJROTC as the program develops.

In late April, the RCSS participated with the Interact Club and another other NJROTC students who were interested in a Florin Road Clean-up. Club members picked up trash along Florin Road from Highway 99 to 24th Street. The Club is planning to do a Purple Pinkie Project once school gets going in the fall. Students will raise dollars on campus to support Rotary's effort (PolioPlus) to eradicate polio from the face of the Earth. Any student who donates to the effort will have the little finger of their left hand "painted" purple which is what is done when children are vaccinated in developing countries so that those who are part of the immunization effort know which children have already been vaccinated. This project is a good way to get the club's name out there and participate in the polio eradication effort. Members of the Interact Club will also be helping at RCSS' fundraisers next year. They serve meals and bus tables.

Burbank's Interact club began with 38 members, but a few more students have joined since then, and may add more in the fall. Springer expects to see the Burbank and Kennedy Interact clubs collaborate in some way this coming year. "The Rotary Club representatives that support both clubs know each other quite well and have worked together on many projects in the past," he said.

Asked about collaboration with other Interact clubs in the area, such the club at John F. Kennedy High School, Springer said the officers will participate in a Rotary District 5180 (greater Sacramento area) IPOTS (Interact Presidents and Officers' Training Seminar) in August which will allow them to connect with other clubs and share ideas. "There will also be an Interact one-day conference at CSUS in latter October or early November which is open to all Interact members within District 5180 so I would expect some nice connections to be made there. There are 47 Interact Clubs and 42 Rotary clubs in District 5180 which stretches from Oroville to Walnut Grove and West Sacramento to El Dorado Hills."

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3:30 pm: Ukulele & Hula
4:30 pm: IYa Taekwondo
5:00 pm: Music
6:00 pm: Surprise Singer
6:30 pm: Polynesian IKA Dance Group
7:00 pm: Bryon Keith & The Stone Rose Band

















Faces and Places:

Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library 7th birthday

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

The Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library celebrated its 7th birthday on Saturday, Aug. 26, featuring art lessons from JFK freshman Evan Fukuhara. The birthday's celebration at the library also included carnival games, a story walk, Moustache Mike's Italian Ice, and an appearance with the Sacramento Police Department mascot Safe T. Bear. Organized by the Teen Advisory Board volunteers, this free event was sponsored by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

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