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Pocket News

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ONE CHILD ONE HEN:
Faith Presbyterian Church to hold fundraiser for local non-profit

see page 12









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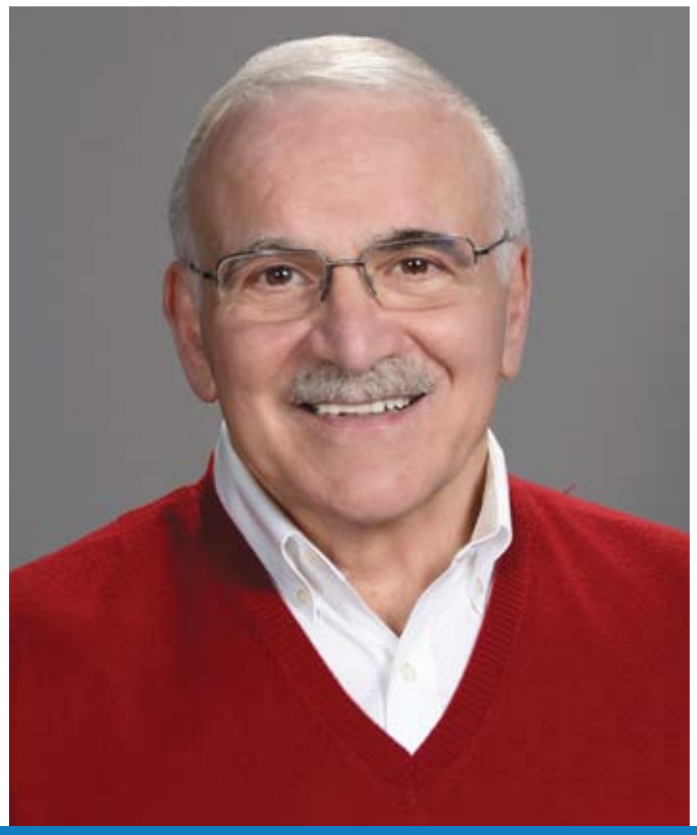

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Matsuyama Elementary to host "old school" spelling bee

By Sally King

Matsuyama Elementary School is hosting a spelling bee this year with many opportunities for participating students to win prizes.

This is the first spelling bee Matsuyama has hosted in nearly 20 years and the only public school in the Greenhaven Pocket area hosting a spelling bee. Sue Ping, a part-time teacher at Matsuyama said the principal, Mrs. Judy Farina, is excited about the spelling bee.

"We are so excited to offer our students the opportunity to participate in one of the longest standing traditions of education….the spelling bee! With the advent of spell check and intuitive spelling on computers and phones the thrill of being a great speller has fallen by the wayside. Our students do not know the excitement of competing for the bragging rights of being the best speller at school. It is many of these old school traditions that make great school memories. We are proud to bring this opportunity to our students and potentially to the Pocket community!"

The preliminary round is being held on Thursday, Nov. 29 at 1:15 p.m. and the winners of the preliminary round will attend the spelling bee on Friday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. Both events are taking place in Matsuyama's multi-purpose room.

The winner of the spelling bee will participate in the Sacramento Bee's California Central Spelling Bee that takes place in March 2019, in Rocklin, California. According to the Sacramento Bee, the winner of the oral spelling bee will represent the Central Valley region at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., expenses paid by sponsors of the event. The national spelling bee takes place almost an entire week in late May/early June.

Students in grades one through six can sign up for the preliminary round, which is a 25-word written test to determine the top spellers who will advance to compete at the spelling bee. Students who plan to participate, have the option to sign up in the office to pick up word lists and they can go online to www.spellingbee.com for more study lists and join word clubs for valuable spelling and vocabulary tips.

Matsuyama said 25 spellers plus two alternates from the preliminary round will participate in the spelling bee. These student's names will be posted on the front office window on Friday, November 30 and students who qualify will be sent invitations to the spelling bee.

Each participating speller will receive a brag tag, which is a tag that resembles military dog tags and the chance to compete for prize packages that include a new tablet, new bike, gift cards and Spirit Wear.

The gifts have been donated through PTA sponsorship. Ping, who is helping with this event, said if there are folks who would like to contribute as a sponsor this event to please let the school know. Each student will receive a ribbon for participating.

Ping said in talking with parents who have participated in spelling bees as students, they always remember the one word that knocked them out of the contest. Ping sees spelling bees as a viable way to improve on spelling, vocabulary and being able to handle pressure in public, all good tools for students.

"Students receive lots of life skills participating in spelling bees," Ping said and she hopes to see a lot of student participation.

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Cover photo by: Photos courtesy of Tammi Whitted

What is the Construction at Rush River and Greenhaven?





By Patricia A. Clark

Many Pocket residents have seen the construction at the corner of Greenhaven and Rush River Drives for months now but are not sure what the project is. Anyone driving through the intersection must notice the construction, as it requires a narrowed traffic lane on Rush River.

The project is called "Sump 137 Reconstruction" and provides important updates to a critical part of the City's sewer system infrastructure, which we all rely upon. While some of the details of this project are a bit technical, the background and need for the project illustrate the rapid growth the Pocket area has seen over the past decades and the city's effort to replace aging and unreliable infrastructure.

The May 2015 staff report to City Council provided a historical look at growth in the south Pocket area. Constructed about 1975, this sump facility was designed to serve the first 600 acres to develop in the South Pocket area, according to the report. In 1984, additional pumps were added to increase the capacity to serve another 540 acres. Additional development in the South Pocket area since 1984 has increased the service area of this sump to over 1,400 acres.

A sump is a pit or reservoir serving as a drain for liquids, frequently with a pump to move the material elsewhere, in this case to the Sacramento Regional Sanitation Facility in Elk Grove. Reconstruction will use the existing underground concrete shell and add new internal devices. New pumps, new electrical control equipment, improved access, new pipes on site and a new generator are included in the project scope. The project budget is $2.4 million dollars and the contract was awarded to T & S Construction Co., Inc. of Sacramento. The funding for the project comes from the city's wastewater fund.

Notably, Sump 137 will have a new lower emissions generator that will power the station when a power outage occurs. This emergency component is critical when you consider that many of our large storms with excessive amounts of rainfall are also accompanied by a power outage.

The need for the reconstruction is attributed to the increasing age of the facility at 43 years, the critical nature of the facility, and the current difficult access for maintenance by City Department of Utilities (DOU) staff. DOU Project Manager Rosa Millino emphasized the critical nature of the facility for the Pocket area by noting the high capacity of pumping 10,000 gallons per minute.

Sump 137 is one of 41 sumps in the City. Most pump around 600 gallons per minute maximum whereas Sump 137 can pump 10,000 gallons per minute. With at least 15 times the capacity of other sumps in the Pocket, the critical nature of this facility is clear. Additionally, this facility serves the southern one-third of the Pocket area.

Currently, there is no bypass around the sump so staff cannot gain access to the "wetwell" and appurtenant structures that need periodic maintenance. The upgrade includes better access for city workers which will improve safety.

The impact to traffic on Rush River Drive is due to the need for a temporary bypass during the reconstruction period, as the service must be kept operational. That temporary bypass is located under Rush River Drive just off the intersection with Greenhaven Drive.

The project began in May 2018, and the expected finish date is March 2019 or 11 months. Becky Bell, who lives just off of Greenhaven Drive in the area, has been following the construction. While Becky is confident the project is needed and glad the infrastructure is getting an update, she questions whether it needed to take so long. "There were days no workers were there," Ms. Bell noted, commenting that since she works from home she goes through that intersection sometimes several times a day. "It does seem like it's more regular (with workers working) now," she added with an optimistic tone.

Park Place South Homeowners Association's President Dave LaManna has also been following the project since the spring start. Mr. LaManna thinks the project is necessary. His biggest concern is how the roadway will be finished at the end of the project. Are they going to use a patch or re-pave the entire intersection? Rosa Millino, the city's project manager, responded that the surface restoration will be accomplished by repaving the trenches and any damage due to construction.

Maintaining our infrastructure has a price but when infrastructure fails, the price can be much more difficult. When asked to place this project into perspective, City Department of Utilities' Engineering Division Manager Dan Sherry summed it up this way, "The City of Sacramento Department of Utilities is committed to maintaining a high level of service to its customers through preventive maintenance and replacing infrastructure (pipes and pump stations) that have reached the end of their useful life."

Sherry continued, "It's similar to your car, you perform preventive maintenance like changing the fluids and checking the tires, and then there comes a time when the car has reached the end of its useful life and you either invest in major repairs or purchase a new car. We take a similar approach with managing our assets by performing preventive maintenance to maximize the life of our facilities and when facilities reach the end of their useful life they require major rehabilitation work on the electrical, mechanical and structural components of the facility, similar to the work being performed at Sump 137."

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Know your Neighbor: Xai Lor







By Devin Lavelle

The Pocket Greenhaven Community Association's Featured Business is iYa Taekwondo, join us as we get to know its owner Xai Lor:

Devin: Thank you for taking the time to tell us about iYa Taekwondo. Can you tell us a little about the school?

Ms. Xai: iYa Taekwondo is the Greenhaven Pocket's Taekwondo School. There is a great sense of family with the students and parents because everyone knows everyone. The saying, "it takes a village to raise a child," well, we are doing that. I like to believe that iYa Taekwondo is one of the pillars of the foundation of discipline for some of our children in this area. My team and I are serious about our duties to our students and parents. We teach our students to be courteous, respectful, work hard, have self-discipline, be courageous in the face of oppression or obstacle and stay focus on one's goals. It's the iYa way of life. We live by it and we teach it.

Devin: That's incredibly important. We've been thrilled to enjoy your students' performances at the 4th of July festival and our Community BBQ. You seem to really care about the community!

Ms. Xai: Thank you, yes, we participate in the 4th of July Parade every year and it is fun to get everyone involved! I love to be involved in the community because I care about our children. I want to give our children a fair chance at life.

Devin: That's fantastic! How long have you been teaching here in the Pocket?

Ms. Xai: My family and I live, work and play in the Pocket. Everything is within 5 miles of each other. This makes it so easy for us to manage everyday life. The Pocket is our home. We have been open for seven years now. I used to teach Taekwondo at Lisbon Elementary. My contract was up but I had a large following. I couldn't leave my students so I decided to open up this location to stay close to my students. I am happy I didn't close back then.

Devin: We're so glad you were able to keep going! It must have been a challenging decision coming out of the recession. But I know that you're incredibly resilient.

Ms. Xai: Definitely. In 2015, I became a single parent of three young children while running a business by myself. Eleven months later, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. At first, it was stage 2 but grew to stage 4. At that same time, I was diagnosed with colon cancer, stage 3. In total, I underwent 4 surgeries, 12 months of chemo treatments, 28 days of radiation and LOTS of medication.

Devin: You have been through so much. It's really incredible – and it seems to just motivate you to continue to give back.

Ms. Xai: Yes! I try to live everyday as if it was my last day. My birthday is coming up in December. We will be hosting a birthday fundraiser on December 8th. The funds will go toward Martin Luther King Elementary's 450 computers. It's a goal Principal Sharpe envisioned that we want to help her with. This party is a celebration of life! Noodles and Company will cater. Other local businesses will donate drinks and other food. The party is for 18 years and older only. There will be dancing, drinking and lots of fun (adults only)! People can follow us on Facebook and my website to get more information. https://www.facebook.com/iyatkd/

www.iyatkd.com

Devin: That is truly fantastic. Thank you for doing that. My kids will be enrolling at MLK as soon as they are old enough so I'm personally grateful for everything you are doing! Where can interested parents go to learn more about enrolling kids in your program?

Ms. Xai: They can visit www.iyatkd.com for more information and to buy our internet special which comes with four weeks of classes and a free uniform.

Local businesses interested in being featured can visit featured.pocketgreenhaven.org.

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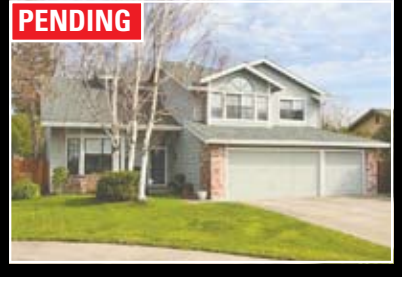
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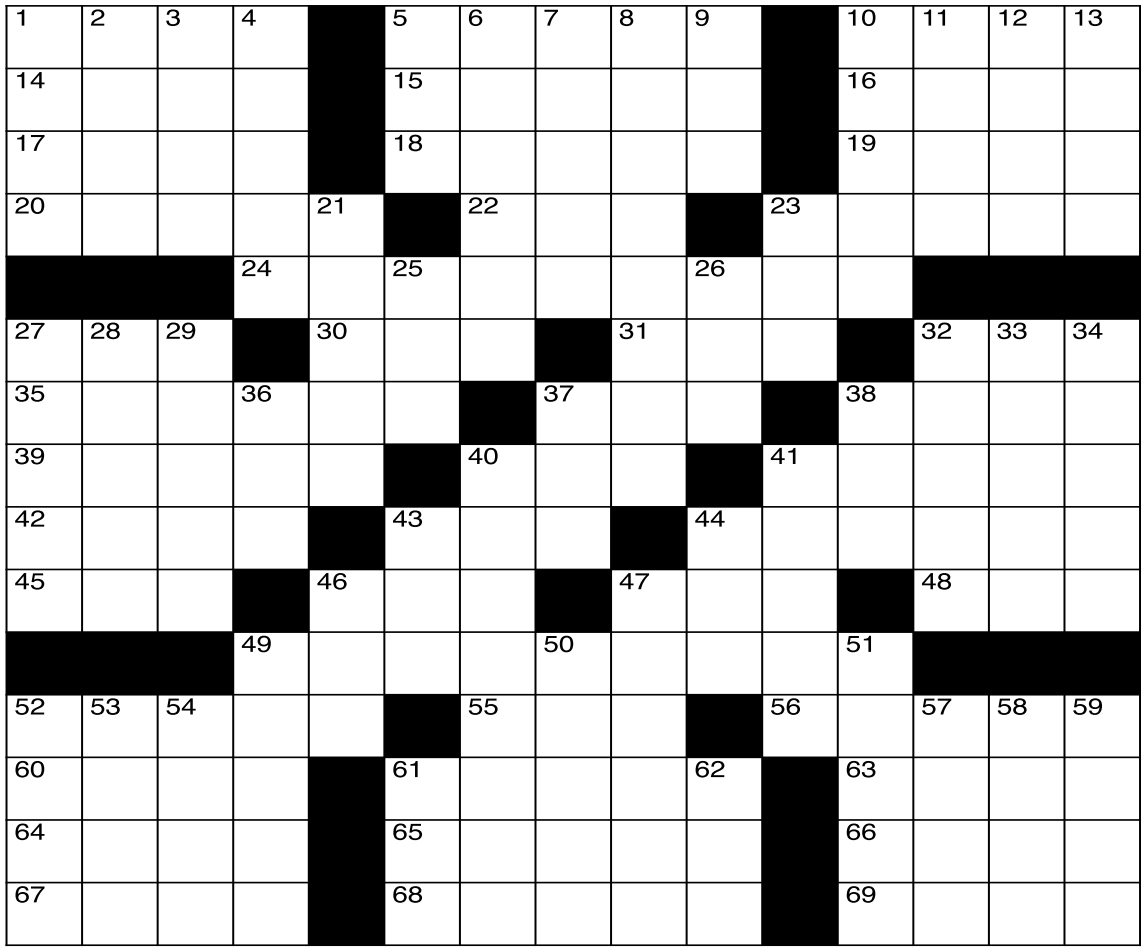

CLUES ACROSS
1. Boat structure
5. Affirmatives
10. From end to end
14. Ancient Syrian city
15. Plant parts
16. Anatomical feature of worms
17. Invests in little enterprises
18. Cuts the skin off
19. Noted child psychiatrist
20. Satisfies
22. Take by sips
23. Matched
24. It changed the world
27. U.S. Founding Father Adams
30. Father
31. Swiss river
32. They hold music
35. Spoke
37. Used to write
38. Cold wind
39. More competent
40. Test for high schoolers
41. Mild analgesic
42. Indian industrial city
43. Fellas
44. Short-tailed martens
45. No seats available
46. Golf score
47. A way to sink
48. Type of investment account
49. Songs
52. Type of sword
55. __ King Cole, musician
56. Type of vaccine
60. Site of the Taj Mahal
61. Languished
63. Ethnic group in South China
64. Prevent from seeing
65. Word of farewell
66. Charity given to the poor
67. Chops
68. Swiss capital
69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN
1. Type of hall
2. Swedish rock group
3. Long, narrow cut
4. Indicating silence
5. Talk at length
6. Wiped away
7. Sweet substance (alt. sp.)
8. Babar is one
9. Soviet Socialist Republic
10. French avant-garde composer
11. Commoner
12. Swiss river
13. A single-minded expert
21. Passover feast and ceremony
23. Indie record label (abbr.)
25. Fellow
26. Strong tree
27. Drenches
28. Spindle
29. North Dravidian language
32. Lounges about
33. Preamble
34. Essential for nachos
36. Afternoon beverage
37. 007's creator
38. Founder of Babism
40. Music played in open air
41. Profoundly wise men
43. Disfigure
44. Unhappy
46. Prefix denoting "in a"
47. Cotton fabric; satiny finish
49. Closes tightly
50. The lowest point
51. Semitic sun god
52. Grads wear one
53. Phil __, former CIA
54. Fermented rather than distilled
57. Aids digestion
58. Unstressed-stressed
59. Body part
61. Wonderful
62. Expected at a certain time



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solutions on page 18

Civil Air Patrol Roofing Project Scheduled at the Executive Airport



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Daily Mass: 8:00am Monday-Saturday

By Jan Dalske

The Civil Air Patrol was founded in 1941, and has 165,000 volunteer members. The local

Squadron 14 is based at Sacramento Executive Airport. They are a composite Squadron, with members made up of both Senior (adult) members and Cadets. Cadets are from age 12 to age 18. Members over 18 are considered to be senior members.

Recently, this local squadron was faced with the unanticipated cost of repairing and sealing their roof. After getting cost estimates, they became aware that the anticipated cost would exceed their total annual budget by 35%. They are a self-funded organization and rely on donations and dues to operate.

Platinum Roofing Co. of San Jose, with a local office in Rancho Cordova, has responded to their solicitation by offering them an exceptional donation.. They would install a high quality energy efficient silicone coated roofing system at a cost to the Squadron of just 15% of the normal contracting price. This offer is an example of a collaboration between a private industry, a non-profit organization and dedicated volunteers.

The mission of Sacramento Composite Squadron 14 is to conduct Emergency Services, Disaster Relief and Homeland Security missions in Northern California Their operational capabilities include well-trained aircrews who can conduct missions using CAP aircraft to search and locate downed aircraft and lost hikers, and silence false emergency signals We conduct photography missions of fire devastated area for FEMA . A critical mission is support of the Office of Emergency Services if and when disasters occur.

The Cadet Program provides a structured environment for youth to develop leadership skills, moral discipline, Community involvement, Aerospace education, and drug avoidance. They have an opportunity to take eight introductory flights in our CAP aircraft.

Senior members teach cadets urban direction finding, in a search and rescue exercise at the squadron's Thursday night meeting. In a practice exercise teams of adults and cadets use detectors to find a beacon hidden in the area. All the teams found the beacon in a plane at the Sacramento Executive Airport. Ground operations are also a critical function to CAP's mission operations. Without ground teams, there can be no rescue in search and rescue. The squadron tries to keep up this training at least once a month in case teams are called into action.

You can find out more about Civil Air Patrol on the National Website and at CAP Volunteer Now.

If you'd like to find out more about Squadron 14 you can send us an email or just drop by a meeting. Cadets meet every Thursday from 6:30 to 9:00 PM at Sacramento Executive Airport. Seniors meet on the first and third Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM, also at Sacramento Executive. Our building is located left and adjacent to the main Terminal building.

Platinum Roofing Co. can provide all roofing materials and systems for commercial and residential projects. Platinum provided quality materials and a skilled experienced crew for our Civil Air Patrol job. They can be contacted at www.platinumroofinginc.com.

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Musiclandria Unplugged: Land Park instrument-lending library to host unplugged performances



Photo courtesy
Shown in the front row: Mary Sand, Alexa Irvin; shown in the back row: Vanessa Villanueva, Dylan Dahlquist, and Buddy Hale

By Kerin Gould

In 1989, with the B52s, Madonna, Guns and Roses, Tom Jones, Tone-Loc and Bon Jovi on the radio, MTV broadcast its first Unplugged concert. Inspired by the earlier Secret Policemen's Ball and the enjoyment musicians share when playing together in more intimate settings, it contrasted with synth-pop and big-hair bands and the growing rap scene. On November 24th, Musiclandria, Land Park's instrument-lending library, will launch its own series of unplugged musical performances, the first featuring local singer Mary Sand.

While most of the musicians and staff at Musiclandria are too young to have watched the early sessions, founder Buddy Hale was inspired by these fresh performances.

Buddy: It was just the contrast that it created between bands that I knew in a certain way, sonically… My favorite MTV Unplugged was Nirvana's unplugged. That converted me. That really struck a chord, and I don't understand why it stopped, to be honest.

K: How does the current media/gadget-addiction era relate to an unplugged show?

Mary: It's so important for the audience members and performers to be present by unplugging and resisting the urge to bring out their phones and capture everything.

K: So if you unplug, they unplug – is that the deal?

Buddy: We hadn't thought about that, but that's maybe an invitation to turn the phones off. Disconnect, unplug… Can we use that?

Mary: Can we quote you on that?

Alexa Irvin (event/fundraising coordinator): Music is one of the few ways you have very organic connections with people nowadays… Singing with other people or just playing guitar – if you bring a guitar into a public place, people will flock to that…You don't want to look at your phone, because music is something that comes from in here and that just makes a genuine connection with other people.

K: Will Dylan, who helps with the social media, be allowed in to the event or be made to shoot video from outside the window?

Dylan Dahlquist: Hey, I'm doing my job! Actually, we could set up the camera and then just walk away. There's always a way to reduce the amount of time you're not being present, but that being said, going back to the general vibe here, a lot of times the instruments and equipment we get to show people is so intrinsically interesting that, whatever they were looking at on their phones, it just blows it out of the water.

K: Mary, what will you be bringing to this event that is unique, different from other shows that you do?

Mary: I'd like to bring in some instruments that [they have] in the library to have crowd interact with on certain songs…I have some stuff up my sleeve. But most of all, I think that Musiclandria provides a comfortable, nonjudgmental space for self-expression. My favorite kinds of performances are intimate, and I hope to show my most honest form of myself, because it'll be a welcoming space to bring that to…I'll be playing my Spanish guitar and I'll be singing originals. My songs are stories, so I like to share the influences before the songs…It's always hard to narrow down what genre you are, but I've been called Indie Rock.

Buddy: Aren't some of your songs inspired by your travels?

Mary: Some of them, yes. My songs either come from the experience of growing up, self-growth and identity, definitely traveling, and our relationship with the environment too…I've got influences from all over the place.

K: Is the event designed to get folks acquainted with Musiclandria?

Buddy: The concerts are all about community building, providing a space for people to express themselves again… The fact that venues are closing down in Sacramento pretty consistently is a big concern for people who create music and art…Part of this is just to make sure it continues, that people can make music and share it in a cool venue.

The first, monthly Musiclandria Unplugged session will open on November 24th at 6pm at 2181 6th Ave., Sacramento. Tickets can be bought through the Library of Musiclandria events page on Facebook, but only 25 tickets are available due to the intimate space. For more information contact alexa@musiclandria.com



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Faces and Places: Annual Elks Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair



Photos by Stephen Crowley

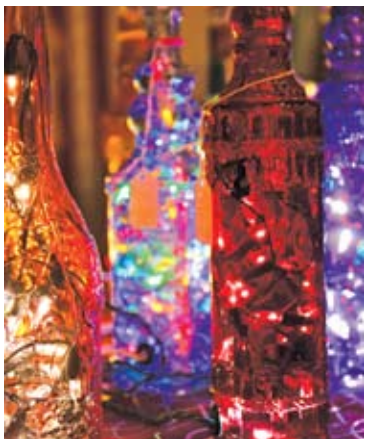
The annual Elks Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair brought hundreds of holiday shoppers and vendors to the Elks Lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd., on Saturday, Oct. 27. The perfect place to find quality, artisan gifts from local artists, the fair featured photography, ceramics, plant gifts, and other unique items for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Custom jewelry is always a big attraction and this year's designs were highlights. Visitors were encouraged to "shop til they drop" before taking a break at the Elks Bistro.

see Elks page 9















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continued from page 8











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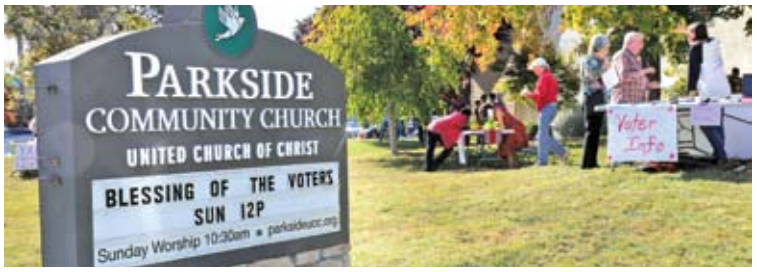
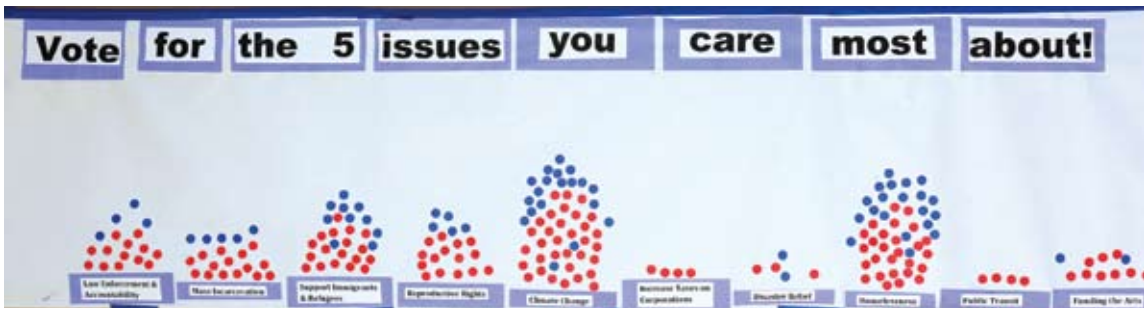
Parkside Community Church blessed voters before Election Day



Photos by Stephen Crowley

In the midst of political turmoil when it's easy to become hopeless or complacent when faced with scandals and hostility in government, Parkside Community Church hoped to lift up the notion of voting as one thing we can all to do make a difference. On Sunday, Nov. 4 the church (located at 5700 South Land Park Drive) held a fun outreach event that included kids activities, a multicultural buffet, social justice volunteer opportunities, voter education booth and a blessing booth.











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NorCal Resist is Sponsoring a Pozole Feed to Raise Money



By Jan Dalske

NorCal Resist is sponsoring a Pozole Feed to raise money for the migrant caravan, as well as NorCal Resist's immigration defense and community fix-it programs. This event will take place on December 1st from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Arden Church of Nazarene located at 3337 Arden Way, in Sacramento.

The meal choices are vegan, chicken or pork pozole. Tickets are $10.. If you cannot make it to this event, you can make a donation. "It's an event to raise funds for folks seeking asylum, fleeing incredibly difficult conditions, and a way to connect with the community over a meal. It's a comfort meal that we want to share, and we hope that we can raise some funds to bring a little comfort to these asylum seekers," says Ruth Ibarra, NorCal of Resist.

Nor Cal Resist is made up of community members who are organizing for a better world. They are inviting you to join them. They are building infrastructure against oppression and empowering our communities through shared resources and support.

They protect against ICE with Migra Watch, which is a rapid response network that provides undocumented immigrants with support and protection against ICE. Directly impacted community members and allies can respond to ICE raids in our own neighborhoods in real time.

When ICE targets someone in our community, they will respond, document and offer support and resources. There will be no more ICE raids in the shadows. Immigrants in the Sacramento area can access their 24 hour Migra Watch Hotline in the event of an ICE raid.

Hotline dispatchers will assess the situation and guide the impacted community member(s) on their rights during the raid. Simultaneously, a text-alert will go out based on zip-codes to all trained volunteer legal observers within the vicinity of the ICE raid.

Available volunteer teams will deploy to the site of the raid to document the raid with their phones, hold space, and be a presence for the family. Afterwards, volunteers connect impacted community members and their families with legal resources and movement support.

There is strength in numbers. The more volunteers that they have, the better able they will be to support undocumented neighbors. They hold observer trainings in Sacramento and the surrounding area regularly to build their base of support. They conduct these trainings in conjunction with National Lawyers Guild Sacramento Chapter as part of the Sacramento Immigration Coalition.

If you would like to support the efforts of the NorCal Resist, support their Pozole Feed. Their best chefs are cooking up some delicious pozole. They are asking folks to buy tickets in advance so that they know how much pozole to make. They do not want to run out of their supporter's favorite kind.

If you want to support this organization in another way, they are gladly accepting donations for auction and raffle prizes. You can email them at norcalresist@gmail.com and let them know that you are interested in donating.

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One Child One Hen: Faith Presbyterian Church to hold fundraiser for local non-profit

A craft event will be held at Faith Presbyterian Church, 625 Florin Road from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1. The event benefits the non-profit organization, "One Child, One Hen" which provides chickens and an egg laying business source of food and income for families in Kenya.

The organizer of the fundraiser, church-goer Tammi Whitted, said the event was inspired by fellow members of Faith Presbyterian, Moses and Emily Osoro, who came to the United States from Kenya to pursue the American Dream. Since they shared their story a few years ago and requested members bring their recyclable bottles and cans to the church, Tammi was happy to support their vision in that small way. The movement has grown and now that they are an official nonprofit, the story from the One Child One Hen website is one to share with the Pocket community where Moses and Emily have made their home. One Child One Hen is working to eradicate poverty through empowering women and children by raising hens in Kenya Africa.

Per board member Paul Phileo, over the past year the emphasis has been to bring hen production within the project, thus eliminating the need to purchase hens. Toward that end they purchased and installed a hatchery/incubator, and constructed three large chicken coops. "This has been tremendously successful, resulting in the project now having a total of 2,400 birds; 560 are currently laying eggs, and within about three weeks another 860 will begin laying eggs. With this stock the project is poised to begin to train and bring additional families into the program. We have continued to serve 60 families throughout this period. Other priorities moving forward are bringing feed production into the project, to reduce feed costs, and pursuing a grant with Rotary International," Phileo said. The current revenue streams remain cash donations and redemption of recyclables delivered to Faith Presbyterian church.

see Fudraiser page 13



Back by popular demand, Toni Schulz will offer her famous homemade English toffee. She'll offer you a sample and you will discover how delicious it is. They make a great gift, but he sure to buy a bag for the family and one for just you!



Sheri makes all forms of kiln formed glass. Sheet glass allows her the opportunity to work in vivid and bold colors while recycled glass (broken windows, old bottles and jars and so on) allows me to create new and beautiful things from otherwise trash. She has been working on glass for over five years and has a deep love of the craft and the science of glass.

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Fundraiser:

continued from page 12



Dream catchers were originally made by Native Americans, and are believed to filter out bad dreams and "catch" good dreams. Each one of these dream catchers is unique and interesting.



Sherry Oldenburg of "Hot Metal Petal' takes old rusty metal things and then cuts, grinds and welds them into one of a kind cool metal art.



One Child One Hen is working to eradicate hunger in Kenya



Amanda is the youngest vendor, raising funds for a trip to Washington DC.



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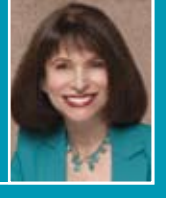

Faces and Places: Run for a Safe Haven

Photos by George Young

On Oct. 27, My Sister's House held the annual Run for a Safe Haven 5k fun run/walk in William Land Park. My Sister's House supports survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.My Sister's House Run for a Safe Haven has been a primary fundraiser for the past 14 years. Beginning in 2003 with only a few hundred runners, My Sister's House Run for a Safe Haven is quickly becoming an annual tradition for many living in the Central Valley. This year is the 15th Anniversary of The Run for a Safe Haven. My Sister's House serves Asian and Pacific Islander women and children who have been affected by domestic violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking by providing a culturally appropriate and responsive safe haven, job training, and community services.













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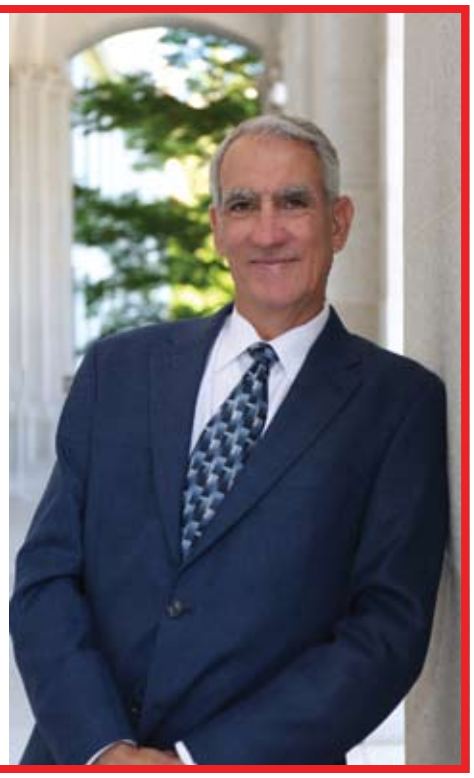



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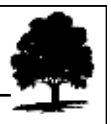

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Local artist unveils new mural at 16th Street, Broadway

His future works to include mural of Tower Records founder

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Bryan Valenzuela, the artist whose works include a large-scale public art piece in the Golden 1 Center, recently completed a mural on the northeast corner of 16th Street and Broadway.

The mural, titled "Cool Water," is a simplified variation of a larger, six-panel mural that he had intended to create for another area.

Valenzuela described the meaning behind this mural, which he completed on Oct. 18.

"That mural had to do with our connection to the land and our connection to each other through cultivating land into food," he said.

"When I pitched it, it was in the summer, and so I picked the (panel) that was reflective of summer, of the element, water."

Featured in the work are two hands that are filtering energy into the water.

As a very active, professional artist, Valenzuela is continuously involved with artistic projects and has plans for several future art projects.

One of his most anticipated works is a mural of Tower Records founder Russ Solomon, who died last March.

Valenzuela said that project experienced a delay due to efforts to secure a site for the mural.

Although Valenzuela desired to paint his Solomon mural on a wall of the Tower Theatre building, he said that idea seemed to not "jive" with its owners.

Also considered was the wall of the building that includes his newly unveiled mural at 16th Street and Broadway.

Valenzuela said that it was ultimately decided that wall was not large enough for the Solomon mural.

"It's only 14 feet by 12 feet, and so, the developer asked if I would make something else (for that wall)," he said. "I know (the Solomon mural will be) at least two stories high and maybe 40 feet wide."

Valenzuela mentioned that an undisclosed location for the mural has been secured "near the Broadway corridor."

"An appropriate site to put that mural has been found and it has historic significance to Russ's life," he said. "But they're redeveloping that area and so the people who are involved with (the building) haven't started, and so the mural will be executed at the end of the construction, so it doesn't get marred or ruined."

Valenzuela said that plans to create a mural that would pay tribute to Solomon began shortly after Solomon's death.

While working with Solomon's widow, Patty Drosins, Valenzuela obtained a photograph that he would use as a source photograph for his mural.

"(The photograph) was one of Russ's favorite photos of himself," Valenzuela said. "All of my artwork utilizes text. My initial concept is to crowdsource the text to make sure that the drawing is composed entirely of words of how Russ's life and his life's work affected other people's lives."

Valenzuela stressed that his preliminary work for his Solomon mural will include significant research in order to capture the essence of Solomon, who he noted was "such a public persona."

Asked to speak about his life prior to becoming an artist, Valenzuela mentioned that he spent his earliest years in Orange County before moving with his family to Northern California.

After graduating from Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills in 1996, he moved to Sacramento.

While attending California State University, Sacramento, Valenzuela played guitar and keyboards in the band, Call Me Ishmael.

After initially majoring in music, Valenzuela changed his major to studio art. He earned a bachelor's degree in the latter field in 2003.

Valenzuela stated that he is considered a late bloomer as an artist.

"I literally didn't pick up a pen to draw anything until I was in college," he said.

Following his graduation from college, Valenzuela acquired work at the Crocker Art Museum as an art preparator.

Valenzuela describes the year 2014 as a turning point in his career.

"I won a grant, and that's sort of what has propelled me into not having to have a day job," he said. "It was leading up to that and I was showing more, and I was really like honing my craft and really just like carving out where I was going.

"Winning that grant was sort of a boon to what I was doing and that obviously kind of snowballed into other things."

During the following year, Valenzuela won Best in Show for his artwork at the California State Fair. This award-winning, medium-sized piece, "Bitter Sweet Sanctuary," was recently sold to a private collector.

In 2016, Valenzuela received a $350,000 commission to create a large-scale artwork consisting of 400 blown-glass spheres above the escalator on the west side of the Golden 1 Center.

Known as "Multitudes Converge," the work represents the confluence of the Sacramento and American rivers.



Photo courtesy of David Wakely Photography

Bryan Valenzuela's mural, "Cool Water," was completed at 1601 Broadway on Oct. 18.

Valenzuela explained that an odd part about working on that project was that it was his first professional sculpture.

"It's kind of amazing to have the first (professional) sculpture that you ever do be like gigantic," he said. "It's filling up a whole cavernous room.

"I was put on the short list of five other artists for that particular site. I got on that based on all the two-dimensional work that I do, but the space sort of called for something different. I didn't feel like I could put a bunch of drawings on the wall."

Valenzuela spoke about the symbolism of that work.

"For me, at least, it was reminiscent of the idea of what was happening in the city at that point, which was a lot of people were coming together to create this really large arena in order to boost the economy (and) boost the culture of our city," he said.

As part of the Wide Open Walls mural festival in 2017, Valenzuela painted a mural on 28th Street, between R and S streets, near the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op.

Valenzuela described the mural – which is titled "Kumbaya Moment" – as making a statement regarding the political struggle facing America.

"Basically, there's a tug-of-war between two sides where the rope is fraying in the middle," he said. "In the background, there's a magnetic field of blue on the left side and a magnetic field of red on the right side. They're sort of clashing into each other."

He added that this action is basically tearing America's culture apart.

"To the detriment of both sides, no side is going to win at this point," he said. "So, I feel like that's sort of a call for unity or like a recognizing of what we're doing to each other, and trying to get back on the page of being not only a whole country, but a whole like human race.

"We have such differing ideas, but none of those things are going to take us into the future, if we keep pulling each other apart."

Valenzuela said that his efforts to continuously excel in art and complete projects in his field keeps him extremely busy.

"People ask you what you do, and then I say, 'Oh, I'm an artist,'" he said. "People give me those responses like, 'Oh, man, you've got a fancy-free life. You can do whatever you want.' But that's not true. I work so hard.

"I probably work harder than most people who have a legit day job. I've been known to work anywhere from 12 to 18 hours a day, and sleep little for long periods of time in order to get a certain project done."

But Valenzuela stressed that he is not complaining.

"It's great," he said. "I love it. That's what keeps me going."

What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?

VCA GREENHAVEN POCKET ANIMAL HOSPITAL WINTER PET CARE DRIVE:
Loaves & Fishes and VCA Animal Hospitals announce the kickoff of our 5th Annual Winter Pet Care Drive focused on helping some of the neediest people in our community and their pets. During the month of October, donations may be brought to any one of the VCA Animal Hospitals in the Sacramento area and all items will go directly to the individuals served at Loaves & Fishes in downtown Sacramento. This winter drive is dedicated to supporting the power of the human-animal bond across all members of our community and is an extension of an ongoing bimonthly Pet Food Pantry program in partnership between Loaves & Fishes, VCA Animal Hospitals and Hill's Pet Nutrition. Last year's drive was very successful: 16 VCA hospitals in the Sacramento Valley mobilized employees and clients in a winter drive that collected more crates, blanket, leashes, pet sweaters, and toys than we could even count. They hope, with your help, for more of the same this year. You are welcome to join in the effort to collect pet sweaters, blankets, collars, leashes, pet carriers and pet toys for those in need in our community. Loaves & Fishes provides a variety of shelter, food and support services to the Sacramento homeless community. For more information about Loaves & Fishes, visit sacloaves.org. VCA Greenhaven Pocket Animal Hospital is located at 1 Valine Court, Sacramento, CA 95831. For more information, call 916-391-3677 or visit www.VCAgreenhaven.com

JFK HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME:
The John F. Kennedy High School Athletics Department will induct its first Hall of Fame class this spring in May, 2019. The school is looking for nominations of Cougar graduates, coaches, teams and athletic department contributors. The John F. Kennedy High School Athletics Hall of Fame is intended to recognize and honor those who have made a significant impact on the athletic community with their athletic achievements during high school or with exceptional effort and service to the John F. Kennedy High School athletic department. The Hall of Fame looks to reflect the proud history of John F. Kennedy High School, highlight the long-standing athletic success of the institution and recognize the importance of developing well-rounded individuals. Please contact Athletic Director, David Parsh at: david-parsh@scusd.edu for more information. To submit an nomination, visit https://jfk.scusd.edu/post/hall-fame-nomination-form

FRIDAY, NOV. 16

MEDICARE AND YOU: UNDERSTANDING MEDICARE PART II:
This workshop will provide you with an understanding of the Medicare system and how to navigate your way to success with focus on updates for 2019. This workshop is for any medicare beneficiary or anyone representing a Medicare beneficiary. Pre-registration required. Free of charge. Class will be held Friday November 16, 2018 from 1:00-2:30pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916) 393-9026 ext 330 or www.acssv.org.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28

HEALTH BENEFITS OF TEA:
This is an introduction of incorporating the healthy benefits of tea into your life. Handouts on the benefits of the various types of tea will be provided to you. Pre-registration required and pre-payment of $20 required. $25 drop-in fee at the door. Class will be held Wednesday November 28, 2018 from 1:30-3:00pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916) 393-9026 ext 330 or www.acssv.org.

SATURDAY, DEC. 1

2ND ANNUAL DANDELION ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW
(formerly the APCC Dragon Arts and Crafts Fair)
Sponsored by the Sacramento Senator Lions Club, 9 a.m. to p.m. Sacramento Buddhist Church 2401 Riverside Blvd Sacramento, CA 95818. Free parking and admission. All profits from this event will support various community projects. For information about how the organization serves the community, visit, www.SacramentoSenatorLions.org, and for event information, email SenatorLionsEvents@gmail.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 8

BETTER TIME TO BE A HOMEBUYER:
Home prices are dropping and interest rates are still at historic lows. Come to the monthly (second Saturdays) real estate clinic with Lyon Realtor, Julie Scheff, #01815983. TO RSVP, or with questions, please call 916.508-7350. Explore ways to improve your home buying experience, discover great neighborhoods with price tags starting at $300k. Saturday, December 8, 10:30 am to noon at Crawford's Books, 5801 Freeport Blvd (enter on Oregon next to the Hollywood Park Hardware store).

2019

JAN. 1

NEW YEARS GATHERING:
Friends of the Riverbanks invites you to this monthly event, which generally meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. (note there are exceptions so check the calendar), at Sutter's Landing Park at the VERY end of 28th Street in Sacramento. Bring water and sunblock, and a change of clothes for young ones who are sure to get sandy, muddy, and wet. Children under 13 must wear life jackets if they go into the water, per law. Leave your dogs at home and please bike, walk, or carpool if you can to keep our carbon footprint as small as possible. Directions: Head north on 28th Street, cross C Street and then the railroad tracks. Continue to the last parking lot where the park abuts the American River Parkway.

SATURDAY, FEB. 2

DREAM VARIATIONS: A SYMPHONIC CELEBRATION OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE:
The Sacramento Youth Symphony presents a major community concert event celebrating the ongoing contributions by African-Americans to our country's artistic landscape. Musical selections will include celebrated works by Duke Ellington, William Grant Still, Emmy Award-winning composer John Wineglass, and much more. An impressive roster of special guests will join the orchestra on-stage for this special event. Some of our guests include: Emcee-Omari Tau; Speaker-Courtney Dempsey; Guest Artists-Jay Mason, Chase Spruill 4th, Indigo Moore, Julian Dixon, Leslie Sandefur, & Sheryl Counter. Tickets: General $25, Students/Children/Seniors $20. For more information, visit www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org

ONGOING

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

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

MUSIC AND MOTION AT BELLE COOLEDGE COMMUNITY CENTER:
Rowena Alverto brings exercise classes for seniors with a combination of yoga, tai chi, zumba, for seniors on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. $3. 5699 South Land Park Drive.

LOW-COST VACCINATION CLINICS AT THE SSPCA: Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for vaccines; no appointments necessary. Vaccines include:
1) DAPP vaccine ($20) — DAPP stands for Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus. While important for dogs of every age, puppies are susceptible to the Parovirus.
2) Bordetella ($20) -- often referred to as the kennel cough vaccine, this helps protect





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What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?

against a strain of bacteria that can cause kennel cough. Many boarding kennels and groomers require this vaccine for services,
3) FVRCP vaccination ($20) prevents three potentially deadly airborne viruses: rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia in cats,
4) Rabies shot ($6) -- this vaccine is required by animal control or to license your dog. The first vaccine is valid for one year, subsequent vaccines if given on time will last 3 years.
If you are 65 or older, vaccinations are free! The Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is located at 6201 Florin Perkins Road, Sacramento.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER: This class is designed for beginner or students with limited or no experience with computer. Learn about computer hardware, system components, software and more. Pre-payment of $30 and pre-registration required. Class will start from January 16 thru 25, 2018 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

ARTISTS' AND CRAFTERS' GROUP – Held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, this meet-up 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--just bring whatever you're working on and join us! 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

THE CLARKSBURG COMMUNITY BAND INVITES YOU TO JOIN: How about dusting off that horn and getting involved! The band is a group of musicians that enjoys sharing a love of music with each other and our communities. The band is looking to expand the ensemble and wants to welcome those who are interested and who play a standard concert band instrument. The band meets Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Delta High School, 52810 Netherlands Ave., Clarksburg. For more information contact Randall Veirs, Delta High School Band Director at rveirs@rdusd.org

FREE LINE DANCE CLASS: Every Thursday from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. "Two Left Feet" dance class for beginners. If you think you have "two left feet" this class is for you. Anyone can participate in this fun activity. Friendly group of people. Drop-ins welcome. Sponsored by ACC Senior Services. Class held every Thursday at ACC Greenhaven Terrace, 1180 Corporate Way. First class is always free. For more information call (916) 393-9026 ext 330. www.accsv.org

WEDNESDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION GATHERING: Every Wednesday morning from 7 to 10 am., join neighbors at Cafe Latte, 7600 Greenhaven Drive, for conversation and fun. Find the group back near the piano.

"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.

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.

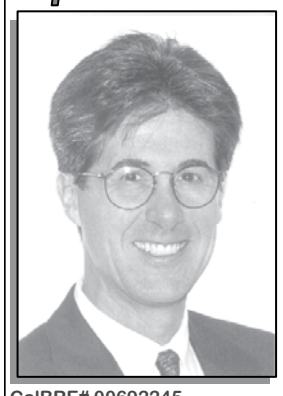
TODDLER STORYTIME BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY– Toddlers ages one to three and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. After the storytime, there will be a stay and play group. Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

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.

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

Experience doesn't cost you more... It Pays!



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