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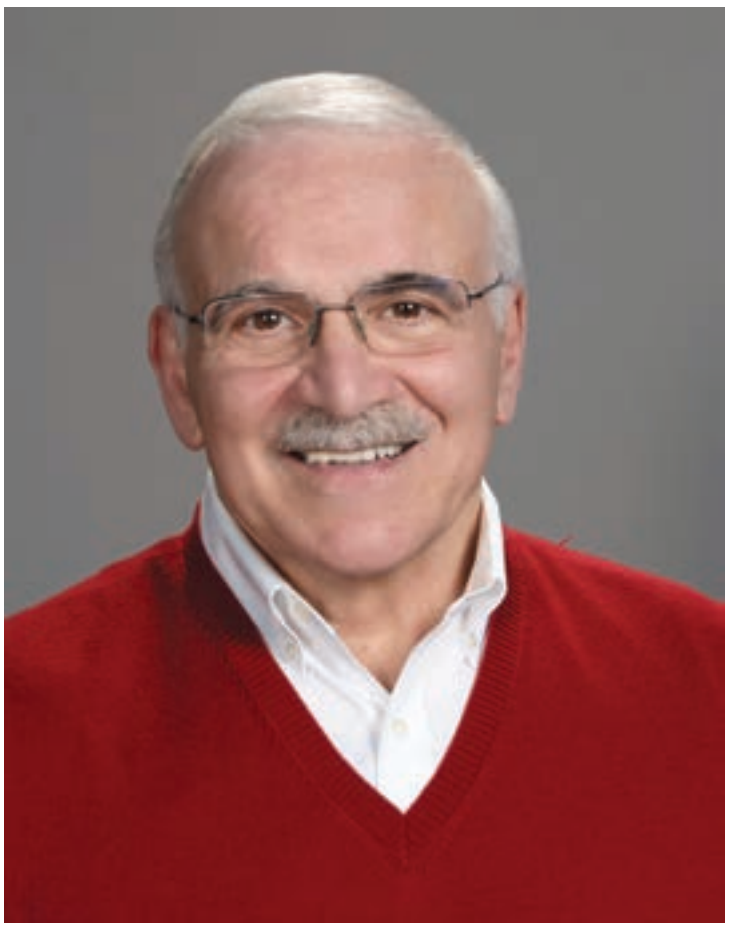

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A watershed year in the history of the world: JFK class of '69 to celebrate 50th reunion



Sure, in 1969 men walked on the moon for the first time (and a second successful visit before the end of the year) and there was the first AFL win in the Super Bowl when Joe Namath's Jets beat the Baltimore Colts. However, there were many other important events that took place that year. For example: the first flight tests of the Boeing 747 and the SST Concorde occurred; the first woman prime minister of Israel was elected and the first temporary artificial heart was implanted; the Stonewall Riots in NYC marked the start of the Gay Rights movement and the multi-day Woodstock concert attracted over 400,000 music lovers to a muddy field in upstate New York; the Beatles released their "Abbey Road" album and a half-million anti-Vietnam War protesters participated in the Washington DC Mortarium March; and in 1969 the very first nodes of computer hook-ups were established, permitting the development of the internet.

But all these historic milestones fade away when another major event is considered—the graduation of the John F. Kenney High School Class of '69!

The Pocket Area educational institution was open in 1967 and has been a major community influence ever since. Built to accommodate the crush of Baby Boomers who crowded the halls of McClatchy and Burbank High Schools, the Class of '69 was instrumental in organizing the initial student government and fielding a full slate of sports teams by the brand-new campus.

A half-century has now passed and the 470 graduates have continued their individual successes in the "post-high school real world." Many have served in the fields of law, medicine, the military and education. Many spent careers keeping the government responsive to its citizenry and others have advanced research and some found success in business and the entertainment world.

A significant 50th Reunion Celebration is planned for October 19, 2019 at the California Automobile Museum. Many years in the planning, it promises to produce a wonderful and memorable event for JFK Class of '69 members. The Reunion Committee is composed of (pictured top to bottom, left to right) Lynette (Greenslate) Bell, Judy (Phillips)Lemke, Mary (Renfree) Bartron, Ruth (Trubschenck) Lundsten, Mark Carlos, Julie (McLane) Dulany, , Kim (Johnson) DeHart, Debbie Martin.

All alumni of JFK Class of '69 are encouraged to get details and register to attend by going to www.jfk69.com. The event promises to provide good food, good fun, good entertainment, and great memories! A 50th high school reunion only comes along once in a lifetime and it would be very regrettable to look back and say you missed it. Go to www.jfk69.com today and register!

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E-mail stories & photos to: editor@valcomnews.com
Editorial questions: (916) 267-8992

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1109 Markham Way
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t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

Cover photo by:
Stephen Crowley

Pride of the Pocket set for Thursday, May 30



By Devin Lavelle

We live in an incredible neighborhood. With great schools; lots of neighborhood parks, the Sacramento River Parkway & the Greenbelt; friendly neighbors; the lowest crime rates in the city; family fun; great local businesses; and a strong and growing sense of community there is no place that we at the Pocket Greenhaven Community Association would ever want to live.

It's a blessing and a privilege to live in such a fantastic community so we hope you will celebrate it with us. We recognize that having such a terrific community to share did not happen on accident so on Thursday, May 30, we're hosting the Second Annual Pride of the Pocket to celebrate the tremendous people and groups who help to make this such a wonderful place to live, work and play. (**Free** tickets available at pride.pocketgreenhaven.org)

With samples from a bake-off and tasty treats from Riverside Sports Bar, Nugget Markets and A Taste Above, we'll all enjoy a taste of what our community has to offer.

Along with Senator Richard Pan, Assemblymember Jim Cooper, Supervisor Patrick Kennedy and Councilmember Rick Jennings, we will celebrate so many fantastic people and groups, including: Pocket-Greenhaven Moms Group; Friends of the Robbie Waters Library; ACC Senior Services; Matsuyama Principal Judy Farina & Kindergarten Teacher Stephanie Berry; Pocket Little League; Friends of the Sacramento River Parkway; Lieutenant Paul Freeman; and Lane Shapiro!

Between them all, we're celebrating literally hundreds of service to our neighborhood, advancing public safety, education, quality of life, inclusiveness and service to youth here in the Pocket Greenhaven neighborhood. We're grateful to them and we're grateful to you for being our neighbors and we hope you will come out on May 30th to join in the celebration! (pride.pocketgreenhaven.org)

We're also grateful to all of the sponsors who made this possible. In addition to Riverside Sports Bar, Nugget Markets and A Taste Above, Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, Councilmember Rick Jennings, Rotary Club of Pocket Greenhaven, SMUD and Cacio's generous donations and support made this event possible!

The Pocket Greenhaven Community Association is devoted to protecting, promoting and informing an exceptional neighborhood. By coming together in celebration, we'll join with friends new and old to build a stronger community. But it won't be the same without you.

If you go:
What: Pride of the Pocket
When: Thursday, May 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Where: Didion School Gymnasium Amphitheater at Lewis Park, 6570 Park Riviera Way
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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the recent feature of the Sacramento Australian Football Club.

I am reaching out to answer questions regarding why our group has not hosted any events at Reichmuth Park.

We have been unable to use the fields due to the wet/poor field conditions. I have made our concerns known to the City of Sacramento and to the Reichmuth Park maintenance person, however it appears to be a larger issue.

Every spring the soccer and baseball fields flood due to improper drainage. The drainage issues are so extensive, that the fields are currently still too wet for the city maintenance person to complete the necessary field maintenance and mowing!

Unfortunately it is unsafe for any sporting groups to rent and use the fields throughout the entire spring season. I think this is a disgrace to the South Land Park Community. We are losing a big opportunity for community involvement whether it's sporting clubs or personal use (family birthdays, reunions, bbq's, etc). The lack of use is also allowing an unsavory crowd to hang out near the bathrooms, which can create an unsafe environment for families who'd like to use the playground.

I think the City of Sacramento should perform necessary repairs and update the fields drainage systems so that these public spaces can be better utilized in the future.

Sincerely,
Makenzie Seckora
Sacramento Australian Football Club President

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Be the Inspiration: Rotary Club annual speech contest

Judy Foote
Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven



Photo courtesy of Judy Foote

Shown from the left, Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven president-elect Bob Smith, Sara Faraj, Lebron Acklen, Bernadette Tropel and Club Speech Chair Judy Foote.

An amazing event, Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven's Annual Speech Contest, took place Thursday, March 21 at Aviator's Restaurant. With three prepared contestants, three competent judges and an attentive audience, the participants proceeded to WOW the audience with their focus on the topic, "Be the Inspiration"!

President-Elect Bob Smith presided over the session before the students had their opportunity to speak from the podium. Once the students began, the audience was mesmerized!

The first speaker, Bernadette Tropel, focused on her own inspiration, her Filipino Grandmother (Lola). Her Lola had a special "spunk" and beautiful smile that people around her enjoyed, young and old alike. Clever, smart, talented and driven to do-her-best are adjectives used to describe her "Lola". With such a role model in her life, this student wanted to be outstanding in those areas too – always with a smile! As a senior at J.F. Kennedy High School, she continues to reach for those goals she set for herself: trying to be an inspiration for others her "Lola" was for her.

Sara Faraj found her inspiration in another area of her life: her first soccer coach. Having started to play this sport at an early age, this student listened well as her coach laid out the groundwork for being a team member, a better person and of course, for playing the game of soccer by always trying your best! Today, she too encourages others to "to their best" through her own actions and encouragement in all she does so she can be an inspiration to others.

The third speaker, Lebron Acklen, found an inspiration in a close family member, his younger sister. After his sister was diagnosed with a difficult health issue, she was able to face the future with great personal strength. This made Labron realize he too could show strength for his younger siblings and himself. He uses this to encourage others through difficult times in their lives.

The audience responded enthusiastically to the three speakers from John F. Kennedy High School: Lebron Acklen, Sara Faraj and Bernadette Tropel. After introducing themselves to the audience, the students were presented certificates of participation as well as monetary awards. Speaker, Sara Faraj represented the Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven at the Rotary Area Speech Competition on April 15 at the City Council Chambers in Elk Grove where she placed second out of a group of nine outstanding high school students from various schools in our areas.

The judges, experienced adjudicators and educators, were Linda Whitney, Terry Thomas and Dr. Larry Chase.

The Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven meets regularly on Thursday mornings (7:30 a.m.) at Aviator's Restaurant (Executive Airport).

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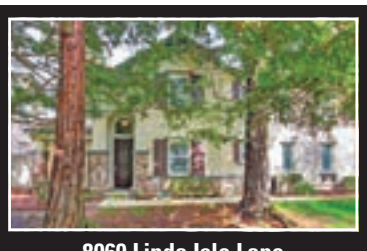
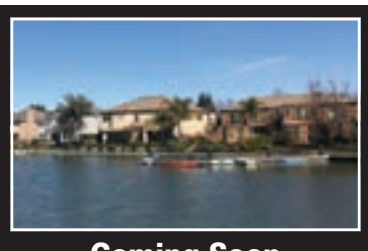


8060 Linda Isle Lane
$489,000



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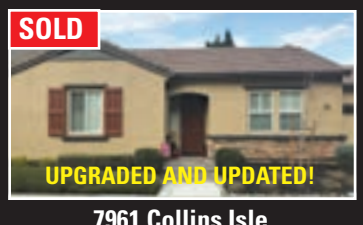
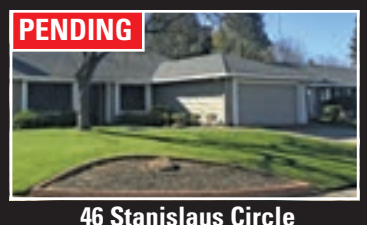
Gated Riverlake on the water with pool.



7961 Collins Isle
$450,000



46 Stanislaus Circle
$399,950



1044 E Landing Way
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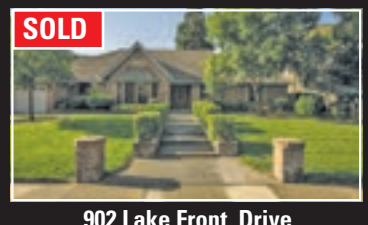

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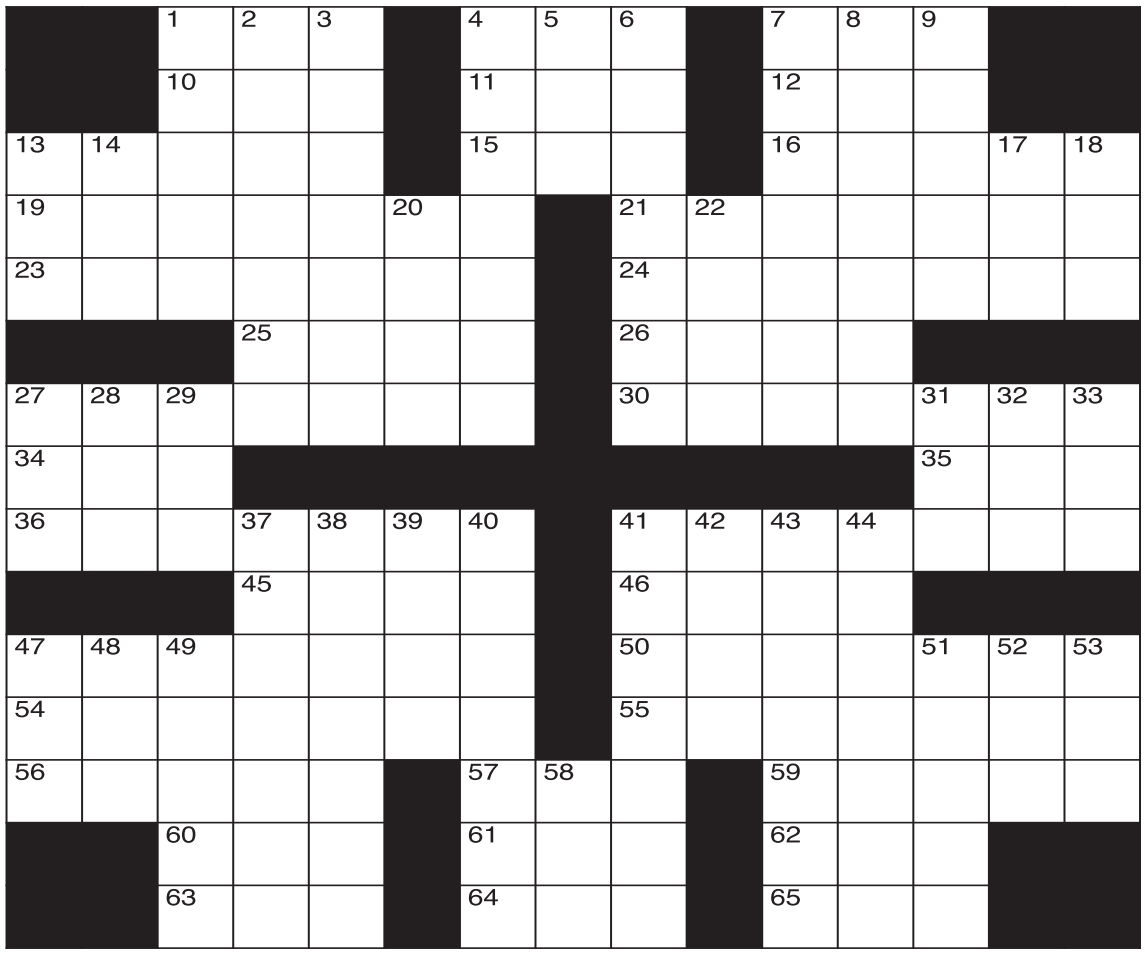

CLUES ACROSS

1. Mathematical term (abbr.)
4. Seaport (abbr.)
7. "Unforgettable" singer
10. The GOAT
11. Used to harvest agave cactus
12. Luke's mentor __-Wan
13. Muses
15. IBM operating system
16. Hungarian village
19. Popular conversation topic
21. N. Atlantic island
23. Fail to discern correctly
24. The President has one
25. Irish Gaelic language
26. Gasteyer and Ivanovic are two
27. Garnished
30. National capital
34. Basics
35. Initial public offering
36. Winged horse
41. English synthpop duo
45. Mars crater
46. A lot
47. Small organelles
50. By reason of
54. "Growing Pains" actor Kirk
55. Free from contamination
56. Genus in the mahogany family
57. Body part
59. A belief in a supreme being
60. Talk a lot
61. Actors' group
62. Unit of measurement
63. Slick
64. No seats available
65. A way to change color

CLUES DOWN

1. Belongs to the daughter of Chaos
2. Wardrobe
3. Derek and Jeff are two
4. Disfigured
5. Hawaiian dish
6. What a hack drives
7. Horse gear
8. Do away with
9. Narrow straits between Sinai and Arabian peninsulas
13. Corrie
14. Hawaiian flower necklace
17. Midway between northeast and east
18. Insecticide
20. Comfort
22. Town in Galilee
27. Informal greeting
28. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
29. Used to check the heart
31. Western India island
32. Credit card term
33. Female deer
37. British football team
38. Persian jurisdiction
39. Freshwater mussel genus
40. Opposite of happiness
41. Ban on trade
42. Bitterly regrets
43. Assented
44. Well-proportioned
47. Part of (abbr.)
48. Indigenous people of Thailand
49. A man of your stature (abbr.)
51. Advantageous
52. Female sibling
53. Electronic countermeasures
58. Swiss river

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Walk on the Wildside celebrates 25 years: Annual event set for Saturday



By Monica Stark

Hosted by Walk on the Wildside, Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, California Watchable Wildlife, Sacramento Audubon Society, Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This free family-oriented event includes hiking tours of local wetlands and forests, presentations, live animal shows by Wild Things, Inc. live music, children's hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more! Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian forest in search of migratory songbirds.

Visit numerous wetland and riparian forest restoration projects. Take one of the Bufferlands guided tours and enjoy a unique opportunity to see a rare heron and egret rookery—one of only four in Sacramento County. This rookery contains more than 120 active nests of great blue herons, great egrets, and double-crested cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds. Walk on the Wildside has grown to be one of Sacramento's favorite outdoor environmental events, and both the event and parking are free. The fun activities are held at the beautiful Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freeport. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., River Road, Sacramento.

There are few places you can go in the Central Valley where you can experience so much wildlife diversity in a relatively small area. WOW has recorded 241 different species of birds on the Bufferlands and the northern portion of the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. They have seen as many as 120 of those species in a single day. In a two-mile hike, you can: Travel under the canopy of a 400-year-old oak tree in a lush riparian forest with dense under and mid story species akin to tropical rainforests. You can scan seasonal wetland and emergent marsh habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, turtles, otter, beaver and mink. You can experience open grasslands that once supported vast herds of tule elk. You can appreciate the bounty of irrigated row crops springing from deep alluvial soils. Diversity is the hallmark of this area.

From Bryan Young is the Natural Resources Supervisor for the Sacramento County Regional San Bufferlands, described how the event has changed over the years. With several large habitat restoration projects being implemented on the Bufferlands and the northern portions of the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, the idea for Walk on the Wildside was born in 1995 as an opportunity to provide the public with a behind the scenes look at local efforts to conserve Central Valley habitat, he explained. Young said organizers decided to hold the event on a Saturday in October coinciding with National Wildlife Refuge Week. "Dozens of people turned out, parking along an abandoned I-5 frontage road. The appreciative crowd was treated to guided hikes of newly restored habitat. From the enthusiasm and interest of the participants, it was clearly evident that the Walk on the Wildside concept resonated with the public and had the potential to grow."

He explained that the following year, they moved the event to the historic Beach Lake Park. "You won't find this park on a Google map. It is actually a private grassy meadow dotted with majestic Valley Oaks and it served as gathering place for family and friends of the historic Beach family for generations," he explained. The new venue provided ample parking and allowed us to grow the event adding a main stage, music, wildlife shows, conservation exhibits and activities for the kids. "Still, the emphasis has always remained on encouraging people to get out and explore the wildlife habitat of our region."

The dozens of guests, grew to hundreds and the hundreds grew to as many as 2,000, Young explained. In 2001, they moved the event from the fall to the spring. Holding the event on each third Saturday of May allows them to pair the event with International Migratory Bird Day, also helping to avoid the occasional cold, wind and rain that were experienced on some of the October events prior to 2001. Since 2001, there have been few major changes to the event.

"It is refreshed from time to time with new exhibitors, new entertainment, new trails, and new activities, but the basic recipe remains the same. We are very aware that we could blow this event up to twice or three times its current size, but some of the most common positive feedback I hear from guests and exhibitors is regarding how much they appreciate the intimate, rural, festival look and feel of the event. An escape from crowds, lines, and traffic. So, please come to Walk on the Wildside, but shhhhh… don't tell too many people about it," he said.

Young has been involved with every Walk on the Wildside dating back to 1995. The event has been visited by dignitaries including Teddy Roosevelt (impersonator) and John Muir (impersonator). The Wild Things show has introduced attendees up close to mountain lions, alligators, beaver, an elk calf, a bear cub, a kangaroo, and Madagascar hissing cockroaches. However, the WOW memory that sticks out most to him was meeting a young couple visiting the Bufferlands exhibit at the park. They had a toddler of 2 or 3 years old and an infant in a jogging stroller. "They told me that it was their kid's first visit to WOW, but they both remember attending the event when they were kids. Yes, it made me feel old but it was incredibly rewarding to realize the legacy of the event and I am proud to have been a part of it throughout its history," he said.

Asked if there is anything he'd like to add, Young said, "We have been fortunate to have so many return visitors to Walk on the Wildside each year, but we are equally fortunate to have so many exhibitors, sponsors, and partners return to support this event each year. We could not put on a free event of this size and intricacy without the teamwork of these supporters."

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Home tour to feature mid-20th century contemporary homes

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

The Sacramento-based building firm, Streng Bros. Homes, developed, constructed and sold more than 3,500 homes during a three-decade period. About five of those homes will be featured in a special tour on June 1.

This all-new, self-guided driving tour will be presented by Sacramento Mid-Century Modern (SacMod), a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the region's modern art, architecture and design through tours, film screenings, writing publications, preservation campaigns and educating the public on modernism.

As a celebratory event, this "north of the river" tour recognizes six decades since Jim and Bill Streng founded Streng Bros.

Born in Scranton, Pa., these brothers came to Sacramento in 1957 to establish their home building company after attending Dartmouth College and serving in the Army.

This business's first home building project, which began during that year, was Evergreen Estates at Auburn Boulevard and Winding Way.

By March 1958, Streng Bros. was advertising for opportunities for people to view completed model homes in "one of California's most beautiful subdivisions – on exclusive Winding Way."

The original price of homes in that subdivision began at $18,950. The homes, which were built on wooded lots, were constructed with two to four bedrooms, a family room and built-in appliances.

Streng Bros. built homes in Sacramento, Yolo and Placer counties.

The homes featured in the upcoming tour are located along an 18-mile route in the Homewood neighborhood in Carmichael, the Evergreen Commons and Overbrook neighborhoods of Sacramento and the Eastridge neighborhood of Citrus Heights, as well as a home in Fair Oaks.

The Fair Oaks home is a rare, 1959, custom-built structure designed by architect Carter Sparks, but not built by Streng Bros. Homes. Sparks was the architect who was primarily used by this company.

Sacramento homes on the tour are located in the area of American River College.

All of the homes on the tour represent the mid-20th century aesthetics and lifestyle.

SacMod board member Justin Wood, a local artist, said that he is quite familiar with Streng Bros. houses, considering that he and his wife, Laura, have owned two of them.

Justin, who currently lives in Carmichael, said that he and Laura moved from the Bay Area to Sacramento after purchasing their first Streng Bros. home in 2007.

Both Justin and his wife quickly gained an interest in Streng Bros. homes, he recalled.

"We found out about these wonderful Streng Bros. homes," he said. "These are contemporary-designed homes. They've got lots of glass. Instead of a wall to the outside, you would have a wall of glass, or open beam ceilings, so you can see the structural component of how the house is assembled.

"(The homes) are designed to be oriented to the sunlight in that the overhangs of the house protect the house from getting beat down by heat."

Justin described Streng Bros. houses as homes that were both contemporary and affordable.

"They were marketed toward young professionals, teachers, architects, artists, school administrators, general business people," he said. "(The Strengs) really insisted on trying to make affordable product for normal families. So, they would always be cutting corners, having small arguments with Carter Sparks."



Photo by Jeanette Steed
This home, located at 5220 Overbrook Way, will be featured in this year's Sacramento Mid-Century Modern home tour on June 1.



Photo by Travis Pacheco - Pacheco Photography
This Park Green home will be featured in this year's Sacramento Mid-Century Modern home tour on June 1.

Because Justin and Laura's first Streng Bros. home was in need of a lot of care when they purchased it, Justin began to learn a lot about his house through researching it and asking neighbors questions.

"I kind of gained and gathered reference about what the old kitchens used to look like, what the old bathrooms used to look like or what the woodwork (looked like)," he said. "Pretty soon I started a repository of all that was online (about Streng Bros. houses)."

Justin recalled learning that the Streng Bros. came to Sacramento to take over the business of their uncle, who was a home builder.

see HOME page 10

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New Tech students win California Forestry Challenge Championship

Congratulations to David Candia, Michael Rafanan, and Joshua Williams of Sacramento New Technology High School for taking first place at the California Forestry Challenge Championship. This is the second year in a row that the New Tech team has won the championship.

The students wrote a silvicultural prescription for the Kinland Forest, a privately owned tract of land. The proposal aims to help control growth, composition, health and quality of the forest. Their recommendations were practical, economically sound, and in compliance with the California Forest Practice Rules.

The Forestry Challenge is an academic event for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry topics. Since its inception in 2003, the program has grown from one event to five, a complete buildout of the program in California.

Participants spend four days in the forest learning about the ecology and management of the forested landscapes that provide communities with water, recreational opportunities, wood products, and wildlife habitat. Youth benefit by better understanding the relationship of the forested environment to their community, by exposure to natural resource management as a potential career option, and by undertaking a rigorous critical thinking exercise which is timely and addresses current forestry topics such as wildfire, insects, and forest health.



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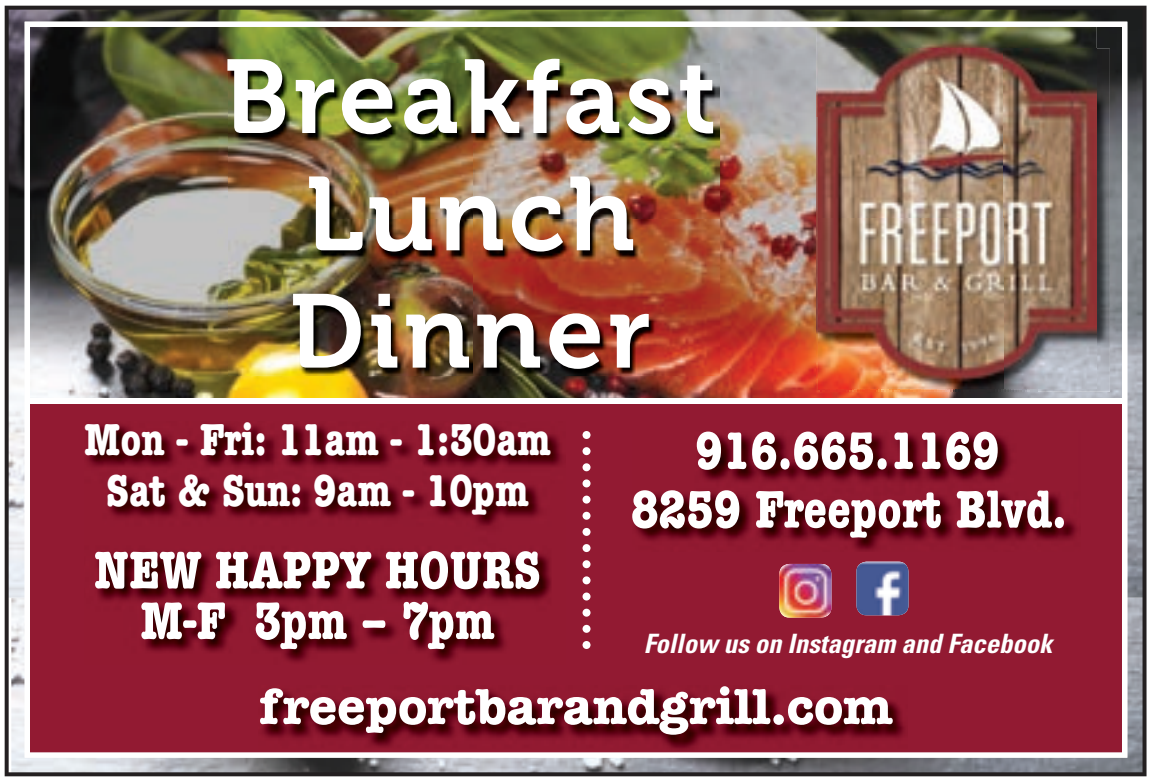

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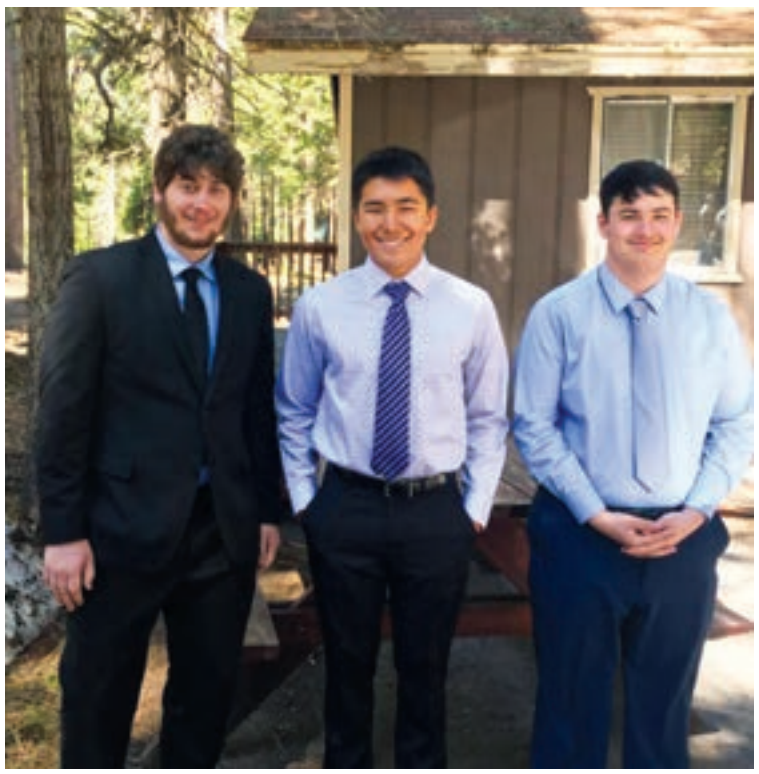

Faces and Places: Earth Day Sacramento River Parkway Volunteer Day

Photos by Stephen Crowley

Neighbors celebrated Earth Day with a volunteer day along the beautiful Sacramento River parkway and Garcia Bend Park on April 27. Organized by the Pocket Greenhaven Community Association and the Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven, the group picked up trash along the Parkway and Garcia Bend Park. Equipment was provided by the Sacramento Parks and Recreation. Snacks were provided by Sacramento District 7 Parks Commissioner Devin Lavelle.















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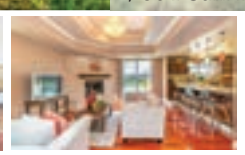

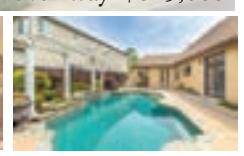

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HOME:

continued from page 7



Photo by Justin Wood

Shown here is the interior of 5045 Overbrook Way, a home which will be featured in this year's Sacramento Mid-Century Modern home tour on June 1.

Although the earliest Streng Bros. houses were ranch-style structures, the tour focuses on the business's contemporary homes that were built from about 1960 to about 1985.

Wood noted that SacMod is excited to have the opportunity to present a tour featuring Streng Bros.-built, contemporary homes.

"We're thrilled to (present these homes)," he said. "Typically in the home tour, we are highlighting exceptional homes, usually by architects who built custom houses for more wealthy clients, and bigger lots. We're really excited to highlight contemporary houses for the common people.

"These are affordable houses. Middle class, working people can still afford these homes for the most part, and they offer a lot in terms of enriching (the) diverse living experience. We're really proud to be sharing (these homes)."

Wood said that in addition to having opportunities to view various Streng Bros. houses up-close, guests of the tour can also meet the homeowners.

"The homeowners will be in their homes to take questions and take compliments," he said.

Wood added that these homes' current owners are not the original owners, but are people who appreciate and love these classic residential structures.

"I think (these are) people that have probably owned them less than five years," he said. "So, people have gotten on the bandwagon relatively recently and done great work for restoring their houses, bringing out the (mid-)century modern charm to them."

The upcoming June 1 home tour will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A preview map showing the Streng Bros. neighborhoods where the tour will take place, and other Streng Bros. neighborhoods, can be viewed on the website, SacMod.org. The precise location of where the tour will begin will be sent via email to the people who purchase tickets for this event.

Those interested in participating in this fundraising tour can purchase tickets through that website.

Tickets are $25/members and $40/nonmembers. The cost for a one-year (calendar year) membership is $25 per household and includes a discount to this and other SacMod events.

The deadline to purchase tickets is May 31. However, space is limited and the event can sell out at any time.

Special Olympics hosted unified track and field day at Kennedy

By Monica Stark
Photos by Stephen Crowley

About 150 students in special education and general education programs converged for the Special Olympics Schools Track & Field Event on Friday, May 3, at John F. Kennedy High School.

Special education students had the opportunity to compete in Special Olympics track and field events and earned medals for their accomplishments. General education students joined in as volunteers and Unified Partners, competed with their special education peers on the same relays.

Events included meter runs, jumps and throws. Special education students received medals and worked with general education teammates and volunteers. Opening Ceremony included a parade of athletes, athlete oath and national anthem.

Students hailed from schools from Sac City Unified School District and San Juan Unified School District, including

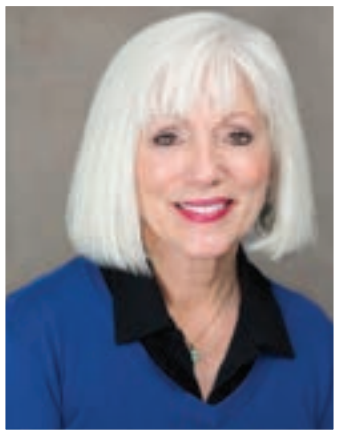
see OLYMPICS page 12











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Olympics:

continued from page 11

John F. Kennedy, Bowling Green, Rosa Parks, Burbank, Burbank Transition Program, Mira Loma, and Laurel Ruff.

Some top athletes this year are Colin Bell, Albert Stuckey, and Natalie. Albert ran the mile, Colin, the 50m and 100m dash and Natalie competed in the assisted walk and wheel chair race. Past athletes have competed in many of the same events and many came and watched the event to support the next wave of runners.

Chloe Stidger, a teacher at JFK, explained that in the past Burbank has hosted the event, and this year Kennedy was chosen because the field was available. While this was the first year Kennedy hosted the track and field event, this was not their first Special Olympics Partnership event. Kennedy hosts the soccer event in the fall and will share hosting the track and field event. Many of the students ride a school bus to school, and so having the event during

see TRACK page 13









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Track:

continued from page12

the school day, enabling the students' attendance.

Stidger explained that staff go above and beyond for this event. Volunteers on campus included Kennedy students from Link Crew, Student Government, Color Guard, Band, the Cheer Team, Police, and seniors who have helped with soccer and who wanted to continue to help. Adapted PE coach George Zinner reaches out to all the schools, goes to each campus to help train, puts the students in their heats, and helps with day-of responsibilities. Greg Polo, the teacher at Burbank who has hosted this event in the past, also provided with much needed help. Cathy Stidger reached out to Special Olympics and got all the paperwork together for this event, while Chloe Stidger did all the set up and break down and coordinated the student volunteers. "Without this team, these events would never happen and our students would not have access," Chloe Stidger said.









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Food closet celebrates 50 years, gala to be held on Saturday at St. Anthony's

By Elizabeth Griswold

Did you know there is an amazing food pantry right here in our own backyard that for 50 years has been serving those in need in this community? If you have been looking for a quality place to volunteer, donate, or find food when supplies are low, then look no further than the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership Food Closet! This is the place for you—whether you want to make a difference, make new friends, or make ends meet.

SSIP was founded in 1969 when seven local congregations decided they wanted to team up to see what they could do to serve their neighbors. They came together on the campus of Bethany Presbyterian Church, and for the past 50 years, have provided nutritious, emergency food to those in need in South Sacramento. That's right—it's been 50 years! The organization has grown over the years, and moved to its own building on Bethany's grounds in 2011. From the original founders, to the many folks who have served in leadership roles, to every individual who has volunteered time or donated food or money, over these many years every step of the way has truly been a community-wide effort!

From the beginning, the primary mission of the SSIP Food Closet has been to maintain and operate an emergency food distribution program to help alleviate food insecurity for South Sacramento area residents. Partner faith-based organizations, with assistance from local businesses and other community members, provide the support and resources necessary for this vital endeavor. Here's a snapshot of some of the organization's basic stats:

Each year, SSIP helps to feed over 50,000 individuals.

A team of 150 volunteers provide over 11,000 hours of service a year.

SSIP employs four part-time staff.

The Food Closet is open five days a week (except major holidays).

The hours of SSIP Food Distribution are 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM

The Service Area includes the following South Sacramento zip codes: 95817,95818, 95820, 95822, 95823, 95824, 95826, 95828, 95831, 95832.

No one in need will be turned away.

Donations can be mailed or made on-line at www.ssipfoodcloset.org.

SSIP Food Closet is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

SSIP Food Closet Location/Contact Information: 5625 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95822 (near the Fruitridge light rail), 916-428-5290, ssipfoodcloset.org.

And since SSIP is celebrating 50 years of service this year, they want to invite everyone to 2019's extra-special annual fundraising dinner. It will be a Golden Gala Celebration! Hopefully there will be a big crowd on hand to celebrate and support this community gem doing so much to serve folks in need right here in South Sacramento.

SSIP Food Closet Golden Gala Celebration

Saturday, May 18, 5pm

Saint Anthony Parish, 660 Florin Road

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See you at the Gala! If the need persists, let's make sure the SSIP Food Closet is here to assist people however they can for the next 50 years.

Elizabeth Griswold is the pastor at Parkside Community Church. She is the pastor-at-large on the SSIP board.

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Zoo relocation, expansion plan to be presented to City Council May 28

Proposed move to Natomas, future re-use of current zoo site discussed

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

The Sacramento Zoo's future continues to be a topic of much interest for many people throughout the Sacramento region.

Last spring, the board of this city-owned zoo unanimously voted to relocate the zoo from its current, 14-acre site on the west end of William Land Park to a 50- to 60-acre site in an undetermined, different location in Sacramento.

The purpose of the move would be to house the zoo's current animals, as well as larger animals, and provide bigger living spaces for those residents.

On May 28, the zoo board will present their case for a new and expanded zoo to the Sacramento City Council. The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, 915 I St., first floor, at 5 p.m.

A current page on the zoo's website includes the following words: "Are you a Sac Zoo champion? We need your support more than ever. In order to stay relevant and become a 21st century zoo, we must relocate.

"Write a letter/email (message) of support to your council member today. If you don't live within the city limits, we urge you to write to the mayor."

With the zoo board's desire to create a larger, 21st century-type zoo, one of the locations they are considering is the site of Sleep Train Arena, the closed North Natomas entertainment facility that was known for the majority of its years as ARCO Arena.

Attractive to the board is the arena site's ample parking and convenient freeway access.

Jason Jacobs, the zoo's director, told the Land Park News last November that limited parking availability is the number one complaint of the zoo's visitors.

The board set its goal to open at a new site by 2027, when the zoo celebrates its 100th anniversary.

Natomas resident Brandy Tuzon Boyd, who owns and operates the online news website, The Natomas Buzz, said that she organized a grassroots group that supports the relocation of the zoo to the former Sleep Train Arena site.

Boyd, who is also a member of the zoo, mentioned that she used social media to form her group, which is known as We Want a Zoo.

"When the Natomas site was identified by the news, I shared that information with my community via social media and there was a lot of support for (that proposal)," she said.

Boyd added that she is not interested in having the old Sleep Train Arena property used for the construction of housing and business spaces.

"The (Sacramento) Kings' proposal is to take the old arena site and build high-density housing and retail-commercial warehouse space," she said.

The group held its first public meeting last March and has since held another meeting, and provided presentations for community organizations.

Additionally, the group has an online petition with signatures of more than 1,200 people who support the proposal to relocate the zoo to the old arena site.

Boyd said that she and other members of her group plan to submit an updated list of signatures and make comments regarding the arena site proposal at the May 28 City Council meeting.

In advance of this meeting, the We Want a Zoo group posted a message on the social media site, Nextdoor.

The message invites the community to join them at the meeting.

"Please feel free to bring your family, friends and neighbors," the message reads. "Wear your WWAZ shirts."

The group also posted the following words on their Facebook page: "WWAZ will be in attendance to support the zoo and the feasibility studies, which have shown more than once that the best location for an expanded zoo within the city's limits is in Natomas."

Boyd said that the group will prepare their part in the May 28 meeting during their own public meeting, which will be held at the Sacramento Public Library's North Natomas branch, 4660 Via Ingoglia, on May 21 at 7:30 p.m.

With the zoo board's plan to relocate and expand the city's zoo, Mitch Rohrer, president of the Land Park Community Association, commented on the zoo's possible relocation and how the current zoo site could be used if the property becomes available for a re-use project.

"The (association's) board has not spent a lot of time, at the moment, evaluating the pros and cons of the zoo's move to another location, but we understand they're not able to have this robust of a zoo, including some of the larger animals today as they would be able to do in another location," he said.

"I'm not exactly sure at the moment what our position would be if the zoo were to leave or necessarily the pros and cons of the zoo leaving.

"However, I feel that if the zoo were to leave that we would want the land that they occupy now returned to open space as the remainder of the park is, unless, of course, the city or the zoo were to present an alternative idea that might be more appealing to our neighbors and our community in the area."

One re-use idea for the zoo site that the association supports is the placement of a botanical garden on the property.

Rohrer mentioned that some of the association's members and neighbors are concerned that the park's open space would be "eroded," if the zoo, Fairytale Town or Funderland were to further expand.

"One of our goals is to make sure that we have open space," he said. "If there was a way to do a botanical garden or some other smaller zoo or amenity that would preserve the nature of the park, and still provide access and open space, we would likely consider that, as well."

Rohrer added that the Land Park Community Association supports Fairytale Town's current, $6 million, half-acre expansion on property just east of its original footprint.

"We studied it carefully and feel that the impact of their expansion is not going to take away much in terms of the open space of the park," he said.

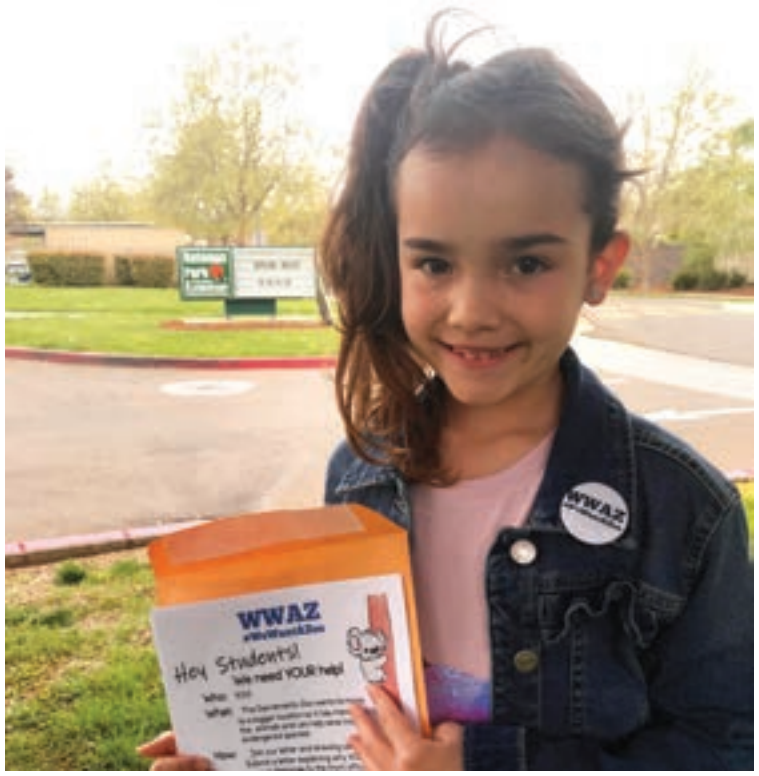

Photo courtesy of Brandy Tuzon Boyd

Ashley, a 9-year-old ambassador for the We Want a Zoo group, is leading a pro-Natomas zoo letter and picture drawing campaign at several Natomas area schools.

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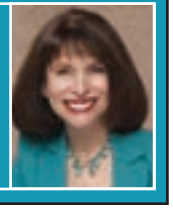

Jazzercise celebrates 50 years, and leads warm-up to Race for the Cure

For many years, Sacramento Jazzercise led the "warm up" before the Susan G. Komen Sacramento Race for the Cure, so it was only fitting during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Sacramento Jazzercise made their Grand Opening Gala a benefit for this wonderful cause.

To date, the event Saturday, May 4 at the new Promenade Jazzercise Center, in the Bel Air shopping center, 7485 Rush River Dr. has collected $450 for this local organization. The day began with free Jazzercise classes, yoga and line dancing before the ballroom dance class and gala that evening. Jazzercise excitedly opened the doors at this new location in January (formerly at the South Land Park Jazzercise Center), celebrating Jazzercise's 50th anniversary and has been holding 29 classes a week since. Aileen Van Noland and Louanne Hensley, owners, invite everyone to come by and see the newly renovated space and stay for a great workout. Visit them at http://www.jazzercise.com for class days/times







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What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?

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

REGISTRATION FOR GREENHAVEN SOCCER'S FALL SEASON IS OPEN! All children age 4-18 are welcome! No experience necessary. Practices begin July 29; Games run September – November. For more information and to register, visit https://greenhavensoccer.com/registration/registration-information/

FRIDAY, MAY 17

BOOK SALE – Find books and media bargains at the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library Book Sale. 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

FRIDAY NIGHT HOT SPOT: Come out to this FREE event for basketball, snacks and MORE! This event is for teens 13-19. Be prepared to show a valid school ID or CDL. Backpacks are required to be checked in and a registration form must be filled out to participate (forms are available at program site). For more information, call 916-584-4301 or 916-591-6917. School of Engineering and Sciences, 7345 Gloria Dr., Sacramento

SATURDAY, MAY 18

WALK ON THE WILDSIDE: Hosted by Walk on the Wildside, Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, California Watchable Wildlife, Sacramento Audubon Society, Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This FREE family-oriented event includes hiking tours of local wetlands and forests, presentations, live animal shows by Wild Things, Inc. live music, children's hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more! Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian forest in search of migratory songbirds. Visit numerous wetland and riparian forest restoration projects. Take one of the Bufferlands guided tours and enjoy a unique opportunity to see a rare heron and egret rookery—one of only four in Sacramento County. This rookery contains more than 120 active nests of great blue herons, great egrets, and double-crested cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds. Walk on the Wildside has grown to be one of Sacramento's favorite outdoor environmental events, and both the event and parking are FREE! The fun activities are held at the beautiful Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freeport.
Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., River Road, Sacramento, CA 95832, United States

LOCKE ASIAN PACIFIC STREET FESTIVAL: Gala event featuring lion dance and martial arts, cultural entertainment, arts and crafts, vendor booths, food, raffle prizes. Come visit the only surviving rural Chinese town in the U.S. Suitable for families and children. Free admission and free parking. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival will be held in historic Locke, 13916 Main St. Walnut Grove. Sponsored by the Locke Foundation. www.locke-foundation.org. For more information, contact (916) 776-1684 or email lockefoundation@frontier-net.net.

READ TO A DOG - Looking for a way to boost school-age reading skills? Join us in the library's Reading Tower area and practice reading out loud to a registered therapy dog. Kids are invited to bring their own books or borrow one from our collection. First and third Saturdays May 4 and 18, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., and second and fourth Saturdays, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

GAME DAY – Join us for an afternoon of family-friendly, old-fashioned board games. All ages and abilities are welcome. Saturday, May 18, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

TUESDAY, MAY 21

"ALL IN" GAMING AND SOCIAL HOUR FOR ADULTS AND SENIORS – Join us for games, refreshments, conversation, and fun! Available games will include poker, chess, Scrabble, checkers, dominos, Mahjong, cribbage, and more! 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, May 7 and 21, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

FRIDAY, MAY 24

FRIDAY NIGHT HOT SPOT: Come out to this FREE event for basketball, snacks and MORE! This event is for teens 13-19. Be prepared to show a valid school ID or CDL. Backpacks are required to be checked in and a registration form must be filled out to participate (forms are available at program site). For more information, call 916-584-4301 or 916-591-6917. School of Engineering and Sciences, 7345 Gloria Dr., Sacramento

SATURDAY, MAY 25

RELEVANT READS BOOK CLUB: DOPESICK – This nonfiction book discussion group will be discussing Dopesick by Beth Macy. Saturday, May 25, 1 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

PRIDE OF THE POCKET: Pocket Greenhaven Community Association annual awards ceremony, celebrating the folks who make our community such a wonderful place to live, work and play from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Didion School Park.

ONGOING

ROTARY CLUB OF POCKET-GREENHAVEN MEETINGS: You're invited! Come join the Rotary Club of Pocket-Greenhaven on Thursday mornings, 7:30 at Aviator's Restaurant at Executive Airport. You are welcome as our guest to learn more about our leadership organization and meet with business, civic, and professional leaders who are making a difference in our neighborhood! Contact Bob Smith, at 916-215-1332 or visit https://pgr.rocks/ to find out more.

PARKINSON ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA South Sacramento Support Group: Every second Thursday of the month from 1 to 2:15 p.m., Location: Asian Community Center (ACC), 7334 Park City Drive, Sacramento, CA 95831. This support group is free to those who are living with Parkinson's Disease, their family and caregivers. The group shares information to help each other and provide guest speakers who can assist with physical and mental challenges in daily living.

SIRS BRANCH 93 meets every third Monday of each month. Lunch is at 11:30 in the Elks Club, 6446 Riverside Blvd.
If you are retired or close to retirement and looking to join a men's group, we are Sons In Retirement. A group of men with a wide variety of backgrounds that love to socialize, play golf, bowl, pinochle, hike, bike ride or maybe you would like to form an activity that you are interested in, join us. The first lunch is on the group. Give Jack a call, there is always room at our meetings. Interesting speakers and a great buffet are included at each meeting. Jack Reefer 916-424-1303 or email me: jreefer@sbcglobal.net

ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP: The Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library hosts an English Conversation Group every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

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.

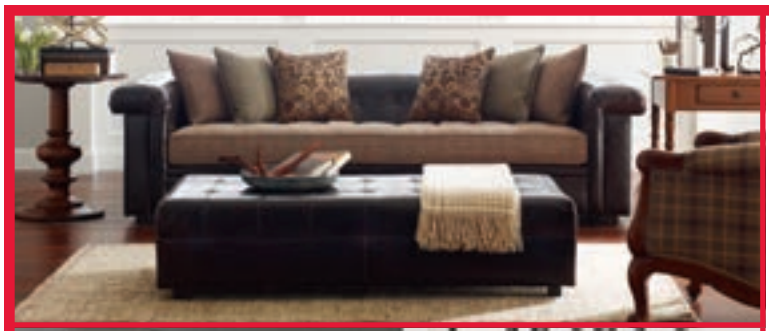
MUSIC AND MOTION AT BELLE COOLEDGE COMMUNITY CENTER: Rowena Alverto brings exercise classes for seniors with a combination of yoga, tai chi, zumba, for seniors on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. $3. 5699 South Land Park Drive.

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 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.















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