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CAR SHOW AT DEVICE BREWING IN THE POCKET BROUGHT THE COMMUNITY TOGETHER

see page 2

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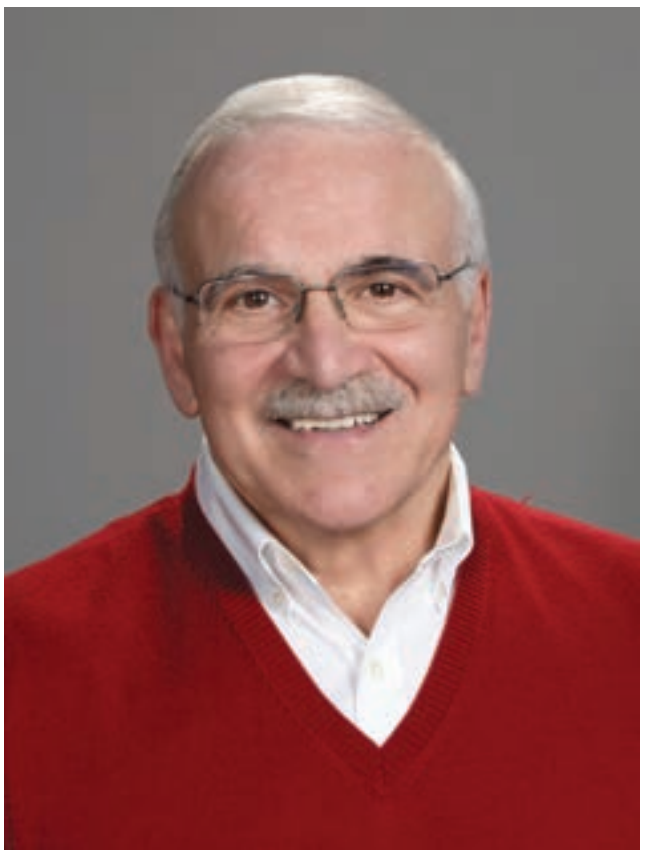

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Car show at Device Brewing in the Pocket brought the community together



By Devin Lavelle

On a sunny evening, a couple hundred gathered to enjoy the beauty of lovingly restored, and sometimes creatively updated cars, which were on display at the Device Brewing parking lot.

Locals showed dozens of classics, muscle cars, convertibles, trucks and some of the true vintage originals. Blue, yellow, red, green, purple, rust, even some indescribable combinations. A beautiful collection of cars and a beautiful collection of neighbors, enjoying shared passions and one another's company on a beautiful Pocket afternoon.

The car shows are held every first and third Friday for the spring and summer in the Device Brewing parking lot at the corner of Rush River and Windbridge.

Don't forget to pick up dinner at one of the amazing local restaurants!

see photos page 3

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Cover photo by:
Devin Lavelle







WORD SCRAMBLE

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Q T B U U O E

Answer: Bouquet

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Jennings and PGCA Call on Neighbors to Think Local!





By Will Cannady & Devin Lavelle

Walking along the canals, you may have noticed a series of signs, encouraging our Pocket-Greenhaven neighbors to Support Pocket-Greenhaven Businesses" and to "Think Local – Buy Local – Eat Local." They've also started popping up in the windows of local businesses and over the next few weeks, you should see even more!

But where did they come from you may ask?

Councilmember Rick Jennings developed the campaign and partnered with your Pocket Greenhaven Community Association to distribute them around the neighborhood. Your authors, Will Cannady and Devin Lavelle, PGCA President and Vice President, respectively, hung the banners last weekend.

"Local businesses are the lifeblood of the community. They allow for a more personal connection between customers, neighbors and merchants. They ensure that money is circulated and stays within the local community allowing us to support our schools, sports organizations and local community-based organizations," said Councilmember Jennings.

And supporting our local businesses is all the more important during COVID. "The pandemic has resulted in thousands of Sacramentans losing income, including small business owners. Unlike many major corporations, small local businesses often cannot afford even a short-term loss of revenue. During these times, it is more important than ever that we patronize these businesses so that they can survive the storm and continue to enrich our community for years to come," Jennings added.

see PGCA page 5

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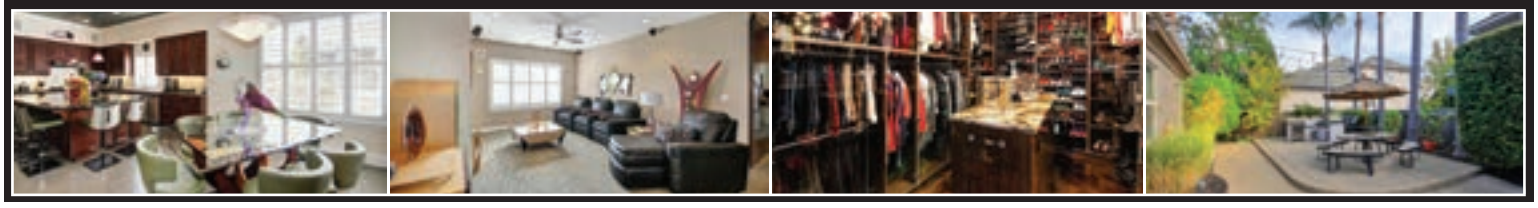





PGCA:

continued from page 4

In addition to working with the PGCA on banners around the Pocket, Jennings is working with the Mack Road Partnership to hang similar signs in Valley Hi. This project was made possible by funding from the CARES Act. Jennings worked with local businesses Citra Communications and the Delta Print Group to get the banners and signs designed and printed

Supporting small businesses is a personal cause for Councilmember Jennings. "My favorite experience with local businesses started as an 8-year-old child in Washington DC. My self-employed parents taught me the importance of taking care of the customer and making sure we met their every need. I learned early that the customer is always right and to do what was in the best interest of the customer, not myself. It makes me proud to shop local! I get to see neighbors and friends. I am buying great products and services. I can see that the money I am spending is supporting our local schools, community events and sports programs. Every day I see firsthand what was taught to me as a child taking place in our local business community. It makes me proud that I've committed to shopping and buying local."

At the PGCA, we're also proud to support our local businesses and encourage our neighbors to do the same. Supporting our local businesses leads to nicer amenities here in our community, it keeps money local, strengthens our economy, and ensures our shopping centers are vibrant and well-kept. So treat yourself to a local treat! You deserve it and you'll be doing good for our community at the same time!

And if you'd like a sign for your business or yard, shoot us an email at info@pocketgreenhaven.org. To learn more about the Pocket Greenhaven Community Association, visit pocketgreenhaven.org.

SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan will create a more sustainable living environment

By Gregg Fishman

By removing carbon from our power supply by 2030, SMUD is embarking on the most ambitious clean-energy path of any large utility in the United States.

Sacramento's poor air quality and the growing effects of climate change through drought and wildfires has prompted us to act as quickly as we can. Sacramento sits in one of the dirtiest air basins in the country. Our childhood asthma rates are off the charts. In the American Lung Association's "2020 State of the Air" report, Sacramento was ranked the fifth-most polluted city in the country based on days of unhealthy levels of air pollution in the ozone layer.

SMUD's 2030 Zero Carbon Plan will focus on proven and new clean technologies, new business models and partnerships, the repurposing and retirement of our natural gas plants, and regulatory and financial strategies. At the same time, we're committed to maintaining one of SMUD's greatest strengths – our affordability – by keeping rate increases below the consumer price index.

We recognize that we can't accomplish our goal by going it alone. We need the support of a wide range of players, including our residential and business customers, elected officials, local business groups, community leaders, technology companies, car manufacturers, solar companies, and more.

Please visit smud.org/zerocarbon to read both the executive summary and full plan and learn how customers can stay informed and be heard as we move forward. Together, we're going to create a more a healthier, more sustainable place to live.

Gregg Fishman is the Ward 3 Director for SMUD.



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Stephon A. Clark Playground dedicated

The unarmed black man was fatally shot by police in 2018

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Three years after 22-year-old African American Meadowview resident Stephon A. Clark was fatally shot by Sacramento police officers who allegedly mistook his cellphone for a gun, a playground was dedicated in his name.

The playground is located on the campus of the soon-to-be-opened Tecoy Porter College Prep at 2801 Meadowview Road. This school is part of the Fortune School network, which was founded by Dr. Margaret Fortune to close the African American achievement gap by preparing students for college.

During the March 19 ceremony, which included a ribbon cutting and the unveiling of a plaque, Fortune spoke about the name of the new playground.

"It was my particular honor to be able to name and dedicate this playground to the memory of Stephon A. Clark," she said. "In this community, on this day, we are turning tragedy into triumph."



Photos by Lance Armstrong

Standing left to right near the playground are Dr. Margaret Fortune, president/CEO of Fortune School; Sequette Clark, Stephon Clark's mother; Dr. Tecoy Porter, a local community activist and pastor who has a Fortune school named after him; and Tamara Williams, principal of Tecoy Porter College Prep.

It was on March 18, 2018 that Clark was shot by Sacramento police who had responded to a 911 call of a man breaking car windows on 29th Street in the Meadowview neighborhood.

Clark was chased by the officers after a Sacramento County sheriff's deputy in a helicopter announced that he saw Clark break a neighbor's sliding glass door.

The officers chased him into his grandmother's backyard, where he was shot by two policemen.

Sacramento County District Attorney Anne Marie Schubert later announced that no criminal charges would be filed against the officers who shot and killed Clark.

During a March 2, 2019 press conference, Schubert explained the basis for her decision.

"Was a crime committed?" she asked. "There's no question that a human being died. But when we look at the facts and the law, and we follow our ethical responsibilities, the answer to that question is no. And as a result, we will not charge these officers."

Fortune mentioned that during Black History Month in February 2019, ground was broken for this new transitional kindergarten through second grade school and its accompanying playground.

Fortune called the school a "living monument to the memory of Stephon A. Clark."

"You may ask, 'How is that?'" she said. "Well, I had the honor and the privilege of walking to the top of the playground for the first time with (Clark's mother), Mama Sequette (Clark), and when we did that, we looked through the kindergarten corridor and saw, for the first time, how her mother's house – where Stephon Clark was shot and killed by the police, so unjustly – is right in the middle of the archway of the kindergarten wing, on purpose, by design.

"So, as we hear the playful noise of children on this playground, we know that they are playing in the midst of a civil rights movement, and that we are pro-

see Clark page 7

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Clark:

continued from page 6

tecting them in the memory of Stephon Clark."

In speaking to the event's attendees, Sequette mentioned that having a playground named after Stephon was very fitting.

"He played all the time," she said. "And so, there's so may ways to commemorate his life and legacy, but playgrounds, that was his spirit."

Sequette stressed that her son's legacy is strong.

"My son (Stevante Clark) always says, 'Stephon has done more in three years than most people do in a lifetime,'" she said. "And that's three years in his death, not in his life. He should be here. But he is here, and he's going to be here.

"He's planted, and how many kids are going to come through this school and play on his playground? Generation after generation after generation after generation after generation. They're going to know Stephon Alonzo Clark."

It was announced during the event that the first children who played on the playground were Stephon's children – Aiden and Cairo – who through a settlement between their family and the city of Sacramento, pertaining to their father's killing, were awarded $2.4 million. That money, excluding attorney fees, will be divided between them, and become accessible when they reach the age of 18.

see Clark page 11



A small group of family and supporters gather at the dedication of the Stephon A. Clark Playground on March 19. The playground is located on the campus of Tecoy Porter College Prep.

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Local artist Gregory Kondos dies at 97

Kondos was one of nation's premier landscape artists

By Lance Armstrong

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series about the renowned landscape artist Gregory Kondos, who grew up in East Sacramento.

Gregory Kondos, who grew up in East Sacramento, died on March 26 at the age of 97.

The Massachusetts-born Kondos, who moved to Sacramento with his family when he was 3 years old, gained fame for his landscape art that includes scenes of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, Yosemite, and coastal views.

His works have been exhibited in such museums and galleries as the Crocker Art Museum, the Rives Arches Museum in France, the National Academy of Design in New York, and the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Sacramento artist Gregory Kondos, who grew up in East Sacramento, is shown in his home studio in downtown Sacramento.

Among Kondos' more noticeable, locally displayed works is his 510-foot-long glass mural, "River's Edge," at the Sacramento International Airport's Terminal A, and "Sutter's Gold," his 12-foot-long oil on canvas painting of the gold country at the same airport's Terminal B.

Those familiar with Kondos' artworks recognize that one of this artist's greatest talents as a painter was his mastery of the color blue, which dominantly appears in many of his paintings.

A graduate of local schools, including Sacramento High School, Kondos grew up attending the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, when it was located at 620 N St. The current church, just west of McKinley Park, was completed in 1951.

Eventually becoming a skilled artist, Kondos won many awards, and he was also one of only 11 California artists to be elected to the National Academy of Design.

Kondos was recently praised by California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) President Robert Nelsen.

"He's been very close to the university and we gave him an honorary doctorate of fine arts (in 2016) to celebrate everything he's done for painting, for the community, for always being there," Nelsen told the Pocket Sacramento News. "He had a big soul and a big heart and a great eye."

Kondos' connection to the university began many decades ago.

After serving in the Navy during World War II, he attended Sacramento State College (SCC), as CSUS was known at that time.

He earned a bachelor's degree in art at that institution in 1951, the same year of his first marriage – to Rosie Thalas.

Six years later, Kondos earned his master's degree in art from the same university.

The path to Kondos' recognition as a highly respected artist included his many years as an art instructor.

From 1953 to 1956, Kondos served as chairman of the art department at Elk Grove High School, and he later spent nearly 30 years teaching art at Sacramento City College, and serving as that college's chairman of the art department.

SCC's art gallery has been known as the Gregory Kondos Gallery since 1982.

Kondos began the first of his many years as an exhibitor at Gump's Gallery in San Francisco in 1962. During the same year, he exhibited his works at museums in Southern California.

In 1963, Kondos spent time as a guest art instructor at the University of California, Berkeley.

It was also during the 1960s that his works were part of a group exhibition at London's Piccadilly Gallery, and an exhibition at the Allan Stone Gallery in New York.

Kondos' works were exhibited at a show in Athens in 1975, and he traveled in France on a painting trip two years later.

His time in France also included creating sketches in the studio of the famous French artist Paul Cézanne.

While in France again in the early 1980s, Kondos experienced the loss of his wife, Rosie Thalas, who died of cancer.

see Kondos page 9

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Photo courtesy of Moni Van Camp

This painting by Gregory Kondos features Yosemite's Half Dome and the Merced River.

Kondos:

continued from page 8

Kondos was married to his second wife, Moni Van Camp, for the past 25 years.

From 1990 to 1993 and again in 2007, Kondos was an artist-in-residence painter at Yosemite National Park.

He also enjoyed a home that he purchased in Puylaurens, France.

In 2010, Kondos joined Wayne Thieubaud and Fred Dalkey in a group exhibition at Sacramento City College.

During the same year, Kondos traveled in China with the Chinese-born Sacramento artist Shimo.

Returning to China two years later, Kondos became the only non-Chinese artist to have his art accepted into the permanent collection of the then-new art museum in Shanghai.

Two years ago, with his wife, Kondos donated his giclée on canvas art piece, titled "River's Edge #3," to the city of Elk Grove for its new community center.

During the Sept. 25, 2019 presentation of that artwork, Kondos described his continued dedication and love for art at the age of 96.

"I ask my wife, Moni, I don't know what day it is or what time it is," he said. "I just work through the day. My savior is my art."

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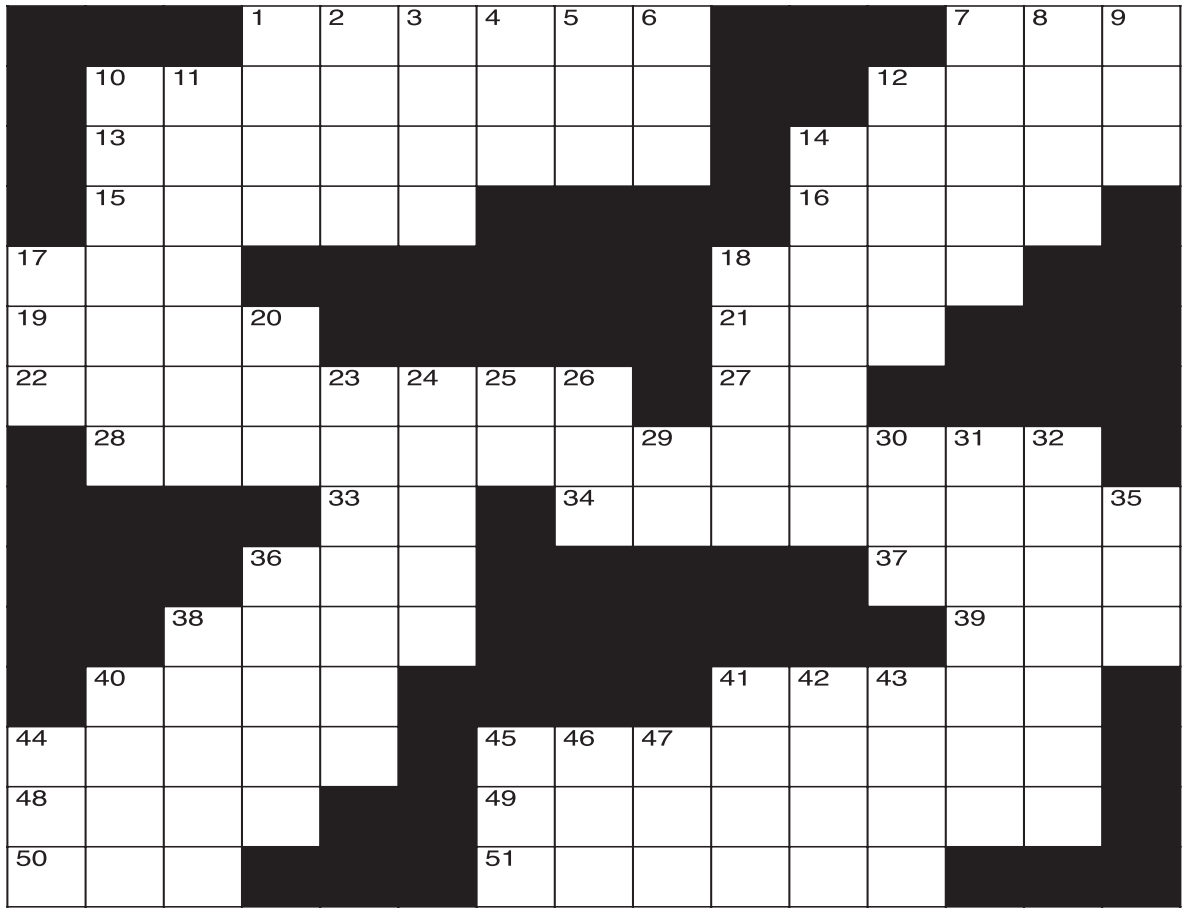


CLUES ACROSS

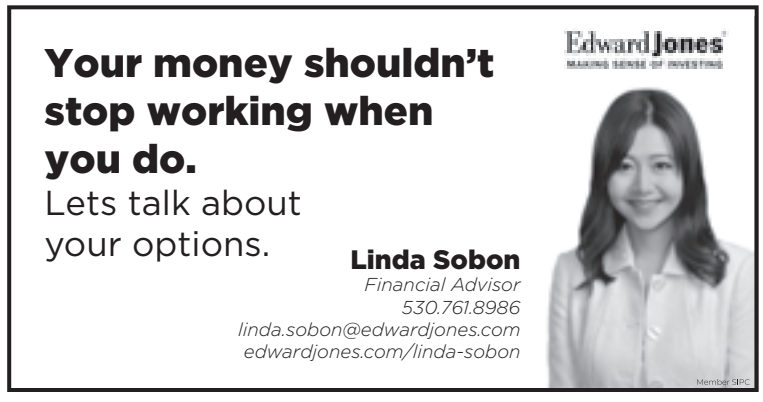
1. Switches
7. Legal financial term (abbr.)
10. Sweeties
12. Competition
13. Measures electrical resistance
14. Psychotherapy researcher
15. Causes injury to
16. Open
17. Polish peninsula
18. Hebrew calendar month
19. Whale ship captain
21. ChildrenÕs accessory
22. Unknown point
27. Exists
28. Extremely confident
33. Expression of disgust
34. The government has many
36. Small constellation
37. Northern Indian city
38. The best pitchers
39. Naturally occurring solid
40. Apple computers
41. Portuguese city
44. Ancient Greek war dance
45. More reliable
48. Sailboat
49. Newspapers
50. Frequently flooded area
51. They dig for coal

CLUES DOWN

1. Partial
2. ÒMad MenÓ leading man
3. The __ of March
4. Healthy
5. Where golfers begin
6. Soviet Socialist Republic (abbr.)
7. Of the cheek
8. Injury reminder
9. Statesman Franklin
10. For an unknown reason
11. Brain parts
12. Islamic calendar month
14. Avenue where ad men work
17. Possesses
18. Accept
20. Stake
23. Former British PM May
24. US battleships circa 1939
25. Greek alphabet letter
26. When you hope to get there
29. Top lawyer
30. Fiddler crabs
31. Intolerant
32. Persons that cause extreme fear
35. Car mechanics group
36. Capital of Ghana
38. Famed ballplayer Hank
40. Emphasizes insignificance
41. Light-colored
42. Distinctive smell
43. Muckraking journalist Jacob
44. Sunscreen rating
45. Short-term memory
46. Japanese delicacy
47. One point north of due east

Puzzle Solutions page 14







Immediately after unveiling the playground's memorial plaque with Dr. Margaret Fortune, Sequette Clark, right, takes her first look at the plaque.



Sequette Clark, Stephon Clark's mother, speaks at the dedication event. Joining her in support to the right are her son, Stevante Clark, and Dr. Tecoy Porter.

Clark:

continued from page 7

Tecoy Porter College Prep, which opened virtually through the COVID-19 pandemic-related "distance learning" last August, will hold its in-person opening on April 5, at which time the school's original 150 students will be introduced to Stephon's playground.

The dedication event additionally included the unveiling of a memorial plaque, which includes details about Clark, and notes that he was "loved" and that "his life mattered."

The plaque also notes that Clark's death unified the community and "influenced policymakers to take action."

Assembly Bill 392, which was enacted in response to Clark's death, and is commonly referred to as the "Stephon Clark Law," limits police officers' use of deadly force. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Aug. 19, 2019.

The plaque also includes artwork of artist Ten Blair, who created an image of Clark, with a butterfly resting on his hand, as a symbol of transformation.

Blair won a $1,000 prize through a community, artist-selection contest. However, she opted to donate the money to the I Am SAC Foundation, an organization that is self-described as a "movement unified by social, transformative and restorative justice birthed from the death and legacy of Clark."

Following the unveiling of the plaque, Sequette cut a short, yellow ribbon that was tied to play equipment railings to officially open the new playground dedicated to the memory and legacy of her son.

In celebration of that grand opening, she climbed small stairs between those railings and slid down the playground's slide.

Among Stephon's other family members who attended the dedication event was Curtis Gordon, uncle of Stephon and brother of Sequette.

He told the Pocket News that through the death of his nephew, his family is "turning their pain into purpose, this tragedy into a triumph."

Gordon also expressed his appreciation for those in Meadowview, the Pocket and beyond who fight for social justice.

"Sacramento spoke loudly, the nation spoke loudly for justice," he said. "Unfortunately, it has continued to happen, but we remain solid grounded and even more willing to fight for the greater good.

"Receiving the support of the community as we move forward is helping us heal and helping us contribute to find a value in our lives, and the importance of people coming together from this Meadowview section, even into the Pocket section."

While speaking to this publication, a tearful Nasha Myart, a cousin of Stephon who traveled from Las Vegas for the playground dedication, mentioned that social justice begins with a person's heart.

"It doesn't matter your background, it doesn't matter where you come from, it's right here (in the heart)," he said. "And that's the only way we're going to get through this and that's the only way we're going to make it better. That's the only way we're going to change it."

While standing near the playground of the new Tecoy Porter College Prep, Porter summarized his feelings on the playground's name.

"This allows us to change the narrative of what occurred three years ago," he said to the Pocket News. "By placing this playground here and dedicating it to Stephon Clark, we get to put a positive light on his name and on his legacy. It's an uplift for the community, it's an uplift for his family. And for those kids who are going to come and play on his playground, that's going to give them a hope and a future that says everything is possible."

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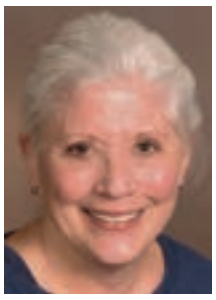
PHOTO COURTESY OF USFWS

A Galapagos tortoise hatchling saved from wildlife trafficking.



THIS 'n' THAT

by Carol Bogart

The Bad News Blues

I feel compelled to write about this. I don't want to. I hate this story and wish I hadn't seen the pictures. So forewarned, if you Google it, the photos are disturbing.

Late last month, Ecuadoran Customs checked a suspicious suitcase and found 185 little tortoises, no more than 3 months old, packed inside. Each tightly bound in clingwrap. Suffocating. Suffering. Ten had already died.

Galapagos tortoises. You know. The big ones. Had the trafficker delivered ANY to his black market buyer, the going rate PER baby Galapagos starts at $5,000.

Full grown, these tortoises are huuuuuuuuge. And, anymore, there aren't that many of them. The U.S. lists them as endangered.

Many such endangered species are teetering on extinction.

Trafficking would stop if there were no buyers.

California tries to protect endangered and native species. Example: Right now a solo gray wolf from Oregon is making its way across California (likely in search of mate, say those who track it). Each time there's a new sighting of OR-93, the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife gray wolf team exhales, relieved this wolf hasn't yet been killed by a vehicle or hunter.

Some years back, a different collared gray wolf from Oregon, OR-19, was found dead by the side of a California road. The official verdict: Parvo virus. (There's a vaccine for that, isn't there? Seems as though a wolf would be vaccinated for everything, including rabies, when it gets its tracking collar?)

The current collared wolf has made it at least as far as Fresno, reports the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW). A Montana wolf at Yellowstone had a collar, too. That state's governor trapped and shot it. He was cited. Perhaps he won't be re-elected.

The deceased OR-19 was a young female. OR-93's a male. He's been roaming without mishap since last year in June. Made it to Yosemite – no female wolves – and kept on going.

California wolves were exterminated in the early 1900s for killing livestock. Not until 2011 was a gray wolf seen here again. Today in California, it's illegal to catch, harm, harass or kill them, the Trump era's gutting of the federal Endangered Species Act notwithstanding.

Not so in Wisconsin. In February at the start of 'wolf season' more than 200 wolves were slaughtered in just three days. About a fifth of the state's total wolf population. And nearly twice the legal limit. (Hunters complained the wolves killed more deer than they did.)

There's been an uproar about the overkill. Wisconsin's tribes are outraged. The state's department of Natural Resources says, "The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service removed gray wolves from the federal endangered species list on Jan. 4, 2021, returning management authority to state agencies." Since Montana's governor likes to trap them, maybe he'd give a few females to California before he's out of office.

Wolves are of little threat to people, says the CDFW. Our state is working with ranchers on ways to protect their livestock. In Africa, painting big eyes on the butts of cattle protects them from lions. (Scientists paint eyes on cow butts (for the animals' own good, really) - CNET). Fluorescent paint for 'butt eyes' that glow might scare off predators that hunt at night.

We could try that here to protect stock from mountain lions, and maybe wolves – if there's ever more than one in California.

Gray wolves are sometimes mistaken for coyotes, but the wolf is bigger, plus OR-93 has that purple collar. If you think you've seen any wolf, wolf tracks or a dead wolf, please report the sighting to CDFW, Gray Wolf Sighting Report (ca.gov), or call 1-(530) 225-2300. Questions, comments? Contact Carol at carol@bogartonline.com.

Guess Who?

I am an actor and wrestler born in California on May 2, 1972. I initially gained fame through wrestling in both the WWF and WWE — you could say I was a rock. I then became a wildly popular actor. I set an all-time world record when I earned the highest income for a first-time starring role.

Answer: Dwayne Johnson

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Local author releases collection of humorous stories about raising her two sons





Author and educator Kim Griffin has published her light-hearted and humorous collection of stories about her and her husband Patrick's experiences raising their sons, Brien and Matt. In #Curious Connections, Griffin reflects on unforgettable teaching moments, misadventures in learning new words, and sentimental memories to chronicle her boys' journey from childhood to adulthood.

"I wanted to share funny stories that occurred while raising sons," she said. "I captured the stories as they occurred and then ultimately started outing them in chapter form. I hope that readers will share laughter based on the relatable stories shared. My hope is that it will lighten the reader's day."

#Curious Connections explores the gamut of joys and challenges that parenting brings, especially when raising boys. Griffin lovingly retells how her experiences with her sons – often comical, and sometimes X-rated – brought happiness, laughter, and a welcome respite into daily life. Through #Curious Connections, Griffin also shares her boys' experiences traveling, growing in their independence, and becoming passionate about wanting to make a difference in the world.

"The curious connections that children make as they acquire language and journey through their teenage years into adulthood are central to this book," Griffin wrote in #Curious Connections. "Patrick and I have been blessed with raising two sons, Brien and Matt, both adults now. … As they grew, they amazed us with the innocent, and at times curious, connections that they made with language that brought belly laughs to family and friends. I hope these stories bring joy to you as well."

Ultimately, "#Curious Connections" is a testament to the power of parental love that documents the exhilarating experience of seeing one's child grow into the person they are meant to become. Readers will be warmed by Griffin's relatable perspective on parenting and observations of her kids' silliness, intuitiveness, and intelligence.

When she initially wrote the book she used the boys' middle names to save them from potential embarrassment. "As they grew from boys to men, I switched from their middle names back to their first names with their permission. When the book went up for sale on Amazon they shared the news with friends on Facebook. They are proud that their mom completed the book," Kim Griffins said.

Not just for parents, the lighthearted stories are meant to bring laughter to all readers.

"As a mom of girls, I found this book to be an intriguing look into life with boys," a reader wrote in a five-star review of the book on Amazon. "It was delightful and engaging. I read it all in one sitting. I think parents will find the stories relatable no matter if you have girls or boys."

"I happened upon this book by happy accident and it is just delightful," another reader wrote in a five-star Amazon review. "Stories of a mom raising two boys with her husband, the love this mom has for her family jumps off of each page. The author's writing style is so natural and engaging that you almost feel as if you're reading a letter from a good friend or family. Highly recommend this sweet book."

A writer and former faculty member at Sacramento State University in the communications and journalism departments, Griffin also worked for Dignity Health for more than two decades in a variety of roles including director of communications. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English with a minor in communications and emphasis in journalism from Santa Clara University and a Master of Arts degree in communication studies from Sac State.

Griffin began writing #Curious Connections after she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 2013. All proceeds from the sale of Griffin's book will benefit the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and Dignity Health's MS Achievement Center to go toward research to find a cure for multiple sclerosis.

#Curious Connections is available through Archway Publishing, Barnes & Noble, and Amazon. For more information, visit www.archwaypublishing.com or call 888-242-5904.

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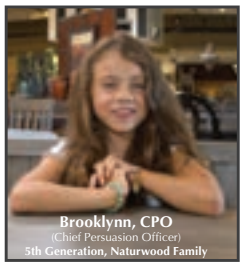

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