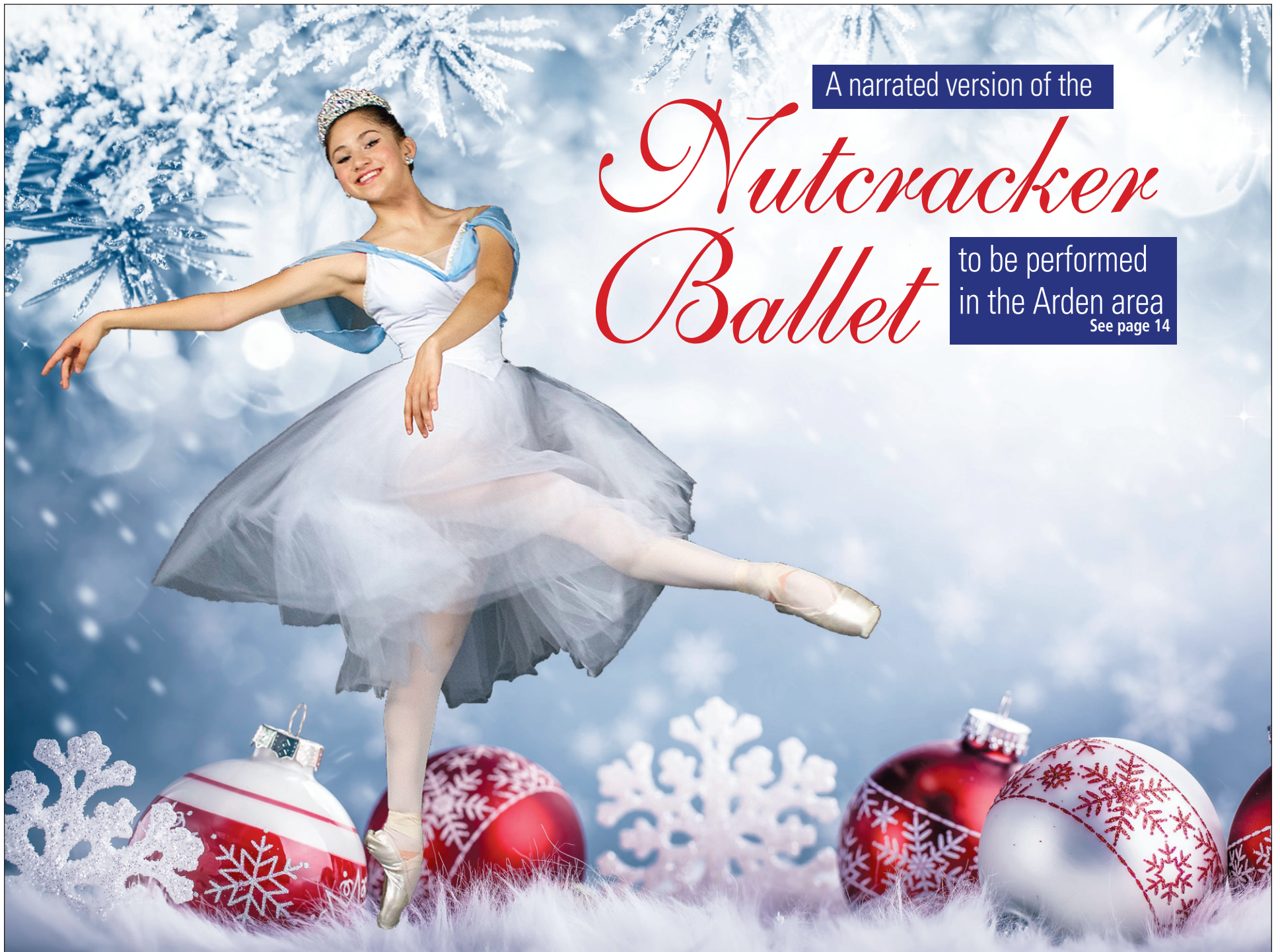


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A narrated version of the

Nutcracker Ballet

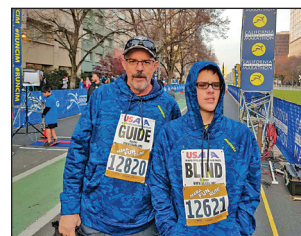
to be performed in the Arden area
See page 14

- Seniors..... 6
- Matias Bombal's Hollywood8
- Home Improvement Guide12
- Classifieds 13
- What's Happening 15



Chautauqua Playhouse presents 'Alice's Christmas Party in Wonderland'

■ See page 2



Blind Carmichael teen learns from Paralympians

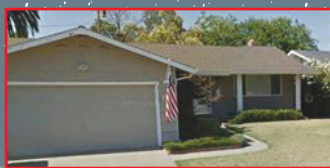
■ See page 5



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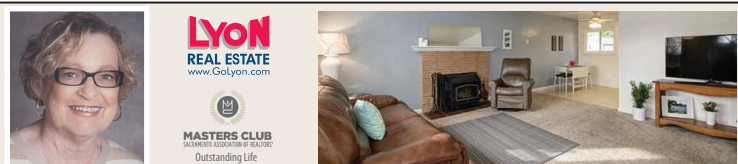


Chautauqua Playhouse presents "Alice's Christmas Party in Wonderland"

Chautauqua Playhouse now presents the comedy "Funny Little Thing Called Love" by Jones, Hope and Wooten at the Playhouse. The show will run on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Jan. 15 with an additional matinee at 2 p.m. on Jan. 14. The show will not play Christmas or New Year's Weekend. The performances will be held at the Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Road in the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Admission is \$20 general, \$18 seniors/students and SARTA members. Premium seating is an additional dollar. Under a full moon on this unpredictable night of romance, these four rollicking tales take you on an around-the-globe journey of unexpected and hilarious twists and turns! A slick, successful used-car-selling Romeo in Texas is set up by three fed up "Juliets", a group of fun-loving gals from Georgia, accidentally crash a Hawaiian honeymoon in progress, two strangers start to connect in a rooftop London Bistro only to be thwarted by an oddball tourist and an ancient, sou-saphone playing waitress and finally a man tries to battle his way out of a mid-life crisis with every possible comic distraction! Love conquers all and your sides will ache from laughter! The direction is by Diane Bartlett with the set design by Rodger Hoopman and lighting design by Andrew Fiffick. Costumes are by Salina Donek. The cast includes several local actors and Chautauqua favorites. Information and tickets are available through the Chautauqua Playhouse website: www.cplayhouse.org or call the box office at 489-7529, during business hours.

Chautauqua Playhouse Children's Theatre presents "Alice's Christmas Party in Wonderland"

Chautauqua Playhouse Children's Theatre will present the new Holiday Comedy "Alice's Christmas Party in Wonderland" by Warren Harrison (based on the characters of Lewis Carroll), beginning on December 3rd at the Playhouse. The show will run on Saturdays at 1:00 pm though December 17. The performances will be held at the Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Road in the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Admission is \$8.00 for all seats. Advance purchase of tickets is strongly recommended. Alice finds a mysterious invitation while decorating the Christmas Tree. She has been invited to the Mad Hatter's Christmas Party. She must travel back to Wonderland to see her friends, but can't be late, or the Queen of Hearts will have her head. Along the way, she is reunited with Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee, the White Queen, the Cheshire Cat, the Queen of Hearts and a new character, Beatrice Thesaurus, the Pathkeeper to Wonderland. Songs and riddles and some stolen tarts keep this fast paced story a delight for the Holiday Season! The direction is by Jill McMahon. The cast features Andrea Kersten, Gregory Smith, Lynnette Blaney, Lauren Cooper and a host of other well-known local actors. Information and tickets are available through the Chautauqua Playhouse website: www.cplayhouse.org or call the box office at (916) 489-7529, during business hours.



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A 'Winter Wonderland' returns to Fairytale Town

Celebrate the holiday season at Fairytale Town! Weather permitting, the annual event called Winter Wonderland will be held at Fairytale Town on Thursdays to Sundays, Dec. 8 to 11 and Dec. 15 to 18 from 1 to 7 p.m. Fairytale Town's storybook park will be open for play, trimmed with festive holiday décor and lit up with a dazzling display of lights, starting at dusk each night, with a flurry of snow falling nightly at 7 p.m. near the Mother Goose Stage. Children can enjoy making holiday themed crafts, and be able to visit the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle.

On the weekends, even more holiday fun awaits with hands-on activities, a holiday marketplace, Victorian carolers and more. Santa will also be making a special stop at Fairytale Town and will be available for visits and photos in his workshop, located in the Children's Theater, from 3 to 6 p.m. Photos will be available for purchase for an additional cost. Please Note: The Santa line closes at 6 p.m. promptly. Printed photos with Santa are \$5.

To note: During Winter Wonderland, Fairytale Town's operating hours are 1 to 7 p.m.

Winter Wonderland Tickets: Winter Wonderland is free with paid park admission. Weekday admission is \$4.75 per person. Weekend admission is \$5.75 per person. Children ages 1 and under are free. For faster entry, buy general admission tickets online and bring the printed tickets when you visit.

Fairytale Town members are free.

Entertainment Schedule

Friday, Dec. 9:

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle!

Make a holiday themed craft

FRIDAY ONLY: Watch a holiday themed puppet show! Puppet Art Theater Company will present a holiday version of Jack and the Beanstalk at 6 PM in the Children's Theater. Puppet show tickets are an additional \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Tick-



ets are available 15 minutes prior to each show time at the Children's Theater doors or at the box office.

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11:

Santa Claus will be in his workshop in the Children's Theater and available for visits and photos from 3 – 6 p.m. (line closes at 6 p.m.)

Meet two of Santa's reindeer from 1 to 7 p.m. in Pooh Corner

Enjoy holiday themed hands-on activities around town

Listen to a quartet of Victorian carolers as they stroll through the park from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Vendors will be selling holiday wares and treats

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle!

Thursday and Friday, Dec. 15 and 16:

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle!

Make a holiday themed craft

FRIDAY ONLY: Watch a holiday themed puppet show! Puppet Art Theater Company will present a holiday version of Jack and the Beanstalk at 6 p.m. in the Children's Theater. Puppet show tickets are an additional \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Tickets are available 15 minutes prior to each show time at the Children's Theater doors or at the box office.

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 17 and 18:

Santa Claus will be in his workshop in the Children's Theater and available for visits and photos from 3 – 6 p.m. (line closes at 6 p.m.)

Enjoy holiday themed hands-on activities around town

Listen to a quartet of Victorian carolers as they stroll through the park from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

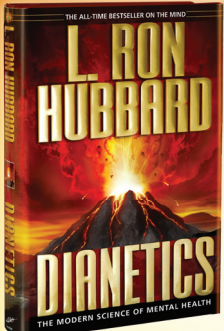
A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Vendors will be selling holiday wares and treats

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle

*Entertainment Schedule is subject to change


Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. For more information, call the main office at 808-7462, the 24-hour line at 808-5233, or email mail@fairytaletown.org.



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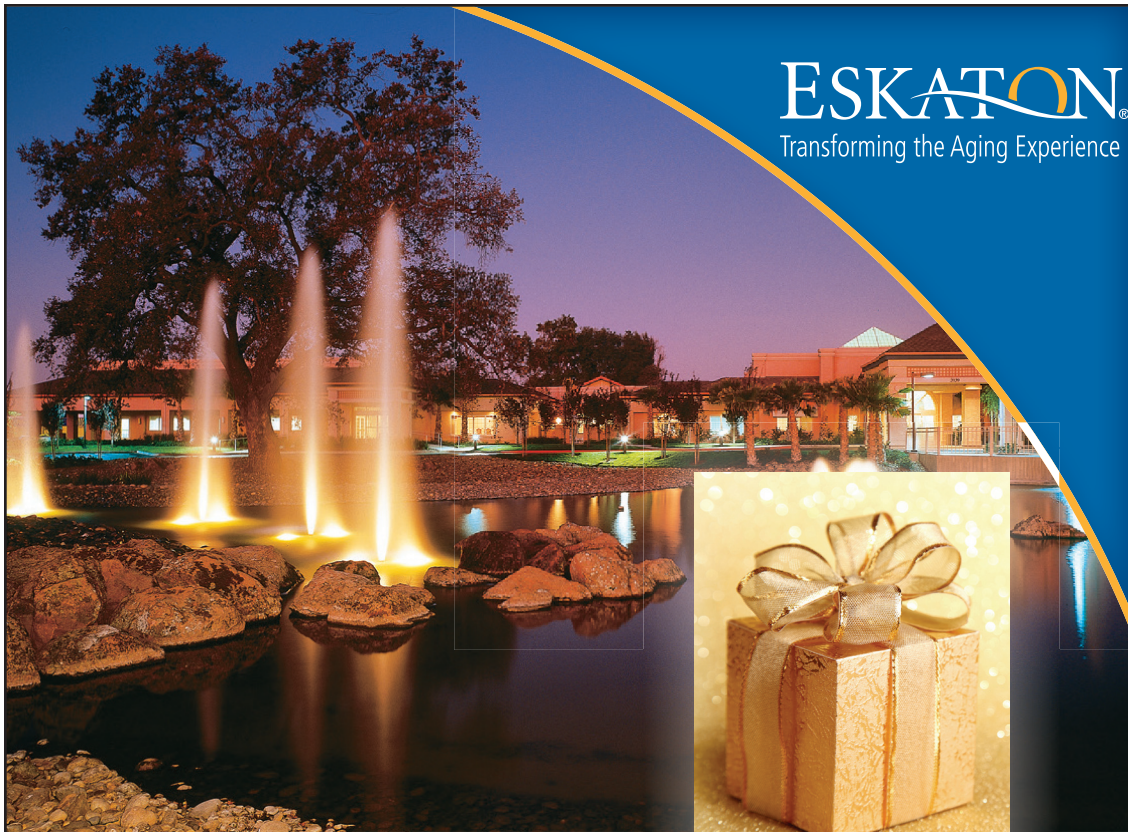
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Junior Tennis Fund Sacramento Awards 2016 grants announced

Junior Tennis Fund Sacramento (JTFS), in its third year, has awarded \$5,400 to three community groups who will provide tennis opportunities to under-served young players. Tennis programs will be funded in Carmichael, Mission Oaks and Woodland with funds provided by JTFS members and donors.

Updates for spring and/or summer tennis lessons will be posted at the following websites:

Carmichael: Carmichaelpark.com

Mission Oaks: Mopd.com

Woodland: Cityofwoodland.org

"We are excited that our contribution to youth tennis this year will be over 60% more than last year," said Carol Rose, member of the JTFS Board of Directors.

Most neighborhoods have tennis facilities in their public parks and schools but are in disrepair and rarely used. It is the mission of JTFS to encourage local communities to bring these courts back and start offering tennis lessons. Kids who have a sport to turn to are more likely to excel in school and less likely to be in trouble with the law.

Tennis is a relatively inexpensive sport and one that can be enjoyed for a lifetime.

For more information about JTFS and becoming a member or a sponsor, please visit juniortennisfund.org.

Great Sac Give Back Weekend of Service to kick off

Mayor-elect Darrell Steinberg's swearing-in celebration

Mayor-elect Darrell Steinberg's swearing-in celebration is set to begin this weekend with the Great Sac Give Back, a weekend of service projects designed to inspire civic engagement and camaraderie throughout all of Sacramento's neighborhoods.

On December 10 and 11, hundreds of Sacramentans will join their neighbors in giving back to their community through service projects, one in each of the city's eight City Council districts.

"There is no more appropriate way to celebrate our vision for our city than to join our neighbors and give back to the community," said Mayor-elect Steinberg. "We must continue this Sacramento spirit and momentum to ensure this weekend of service continues as a commitment to service to one another year round."

Steinberg has said that as Mayor of Sacramento, he will focus the energy of the city's neighborhoods to build a great future based upon civic action, strong communities and youth. The Mayor-elect will travel to each of Saturday's community events, which are anticipated to draw over 500 volunteers and attendees. The service projects range in theme, from neighborhood beautification projects to donation drives and neighborhood feeds.

A full list of each district's service project details, as well as a form to sign up to volunteer, can be found at allaboutsac.com/giveback.php.

The All About Sacramento Committee will soon release additional information on the swearing-in ceremony itself, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the California State Railroad Museum.

For questions about how to volunteer, contact Maritza Davis at maritza@unseen-heroes.com.

Blind Carmichael teen learns from Paralympians

Caleb Hutchens, 14, of Carmichael looks forward to his annual chance to learn judo when Society for the Blind in Sacramento hosts the Blind Youth Paralympic Sport Experience in early December each year on the day of the California International Marathon.

"Caleb really gets a kick out of the judo workshop," said Sam Hutchens, his father. "I like that it's an event we can experience together."

20 Sacramento-area kids and teens with visual impairment, along with their parents, descended on Society for the Blind on Dec. 4 to learn judo, archery, golf and goalball from top blind athletes. Greg DeWalt, 2008 Beijing Paralympics Bronze medalist and staff member at Society for the Blind, hosted the judo clinic. Janice Walth, Women's Gold Medalist at the 2015 World Archery Championships and a Society for the Blind board member, hosted the archery clinic. The event also included Bill Davis, who holds the world record as a blind golfer, and Joe Hamilton, Silver Medalist in goalball at the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

Some of the kids and parents, including Caleb and Sam Hutchens, also partici-

pated in the California International Marathon fun run before the event.

"We like running the fun run and then spending the afternoon at the Blind Youth Paralympic Sport Experience," said Sam Hutchens. "I'm always interested in learning how blind athletes are able to do the same things sighted people do."

The event, which is hosted by Society for the Blind, United States Association of Blind Athletes, and Paralympic Sport Club of Sacramento and sponsored by Hanson McClain, also included lunch sponsored by the Senator Lions Club and a keynote address by Shawn Cheshire, ranked sixth in the world for tandem cycling racing. At the end of the event, participants were presented with certificates and swag bags donated by the Sacramento Kings Foundation and the Northern Nevada Delta Gamma Alumnae Chapter.

"It's great to be able to put opportunities in front of Caleb that he can choose from," said Sam Hutchens. "Being visually impaired, Caleb doesn't have a lot of opportunity to participate in sports."

For more than 60 years, Society for the Blind has creat-

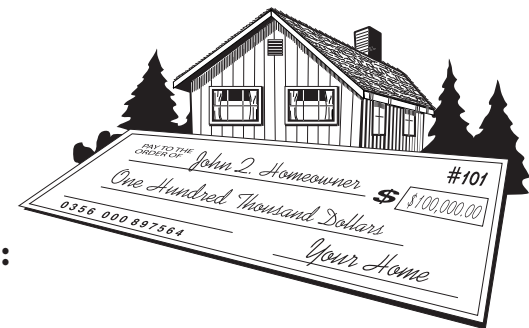
ed innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers that included the Lions Clubs of America to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 26-county region of northern California. The nonprofit provides low-vision eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship, and access to tools to maintain independence for 6,000 youth, adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. For more information, visit www.SocietyfortheBlind.org.



Sam Hutchens of Carmichael and his son Caleb participate in the California International Marathon fun run before joining the Blind Youth Paralympic Sport Experience at Society for the Blind that afternoon.

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The community says goodbye to Bodie at Sierra Hills Cemetery

As many in the Sacramento area will remember, the Sacramento Police Department's K9 Officer Bodie was shot in the line of duty four years ago. He became a local celebrity as people from all over followed his story on Facebook on the Sacramento Police Canine Association page. He recovered but never returned to active duty as a patrol K9 officer. Instead, he became a police K9 ambassador visiting thousands of people and dozens of locations and schools in and around Northern California.

On November 8, 2016 Bodie died unexpectedly from an infection. He was only 8 years old. Many in the community came out to pay their final respects to this K9 warrior. K9 Officer Bodie's obituary can be found by clicking on the link below. He was buried in East Lawn Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery beside 51 other K9 Officers. East Lawn is proud to have been chosen as the final resting place for K9 Officer Bodie and many other K9 heroes including retired K9 Officer Bandit who died just one day after Bodie.

Bodie's obituary

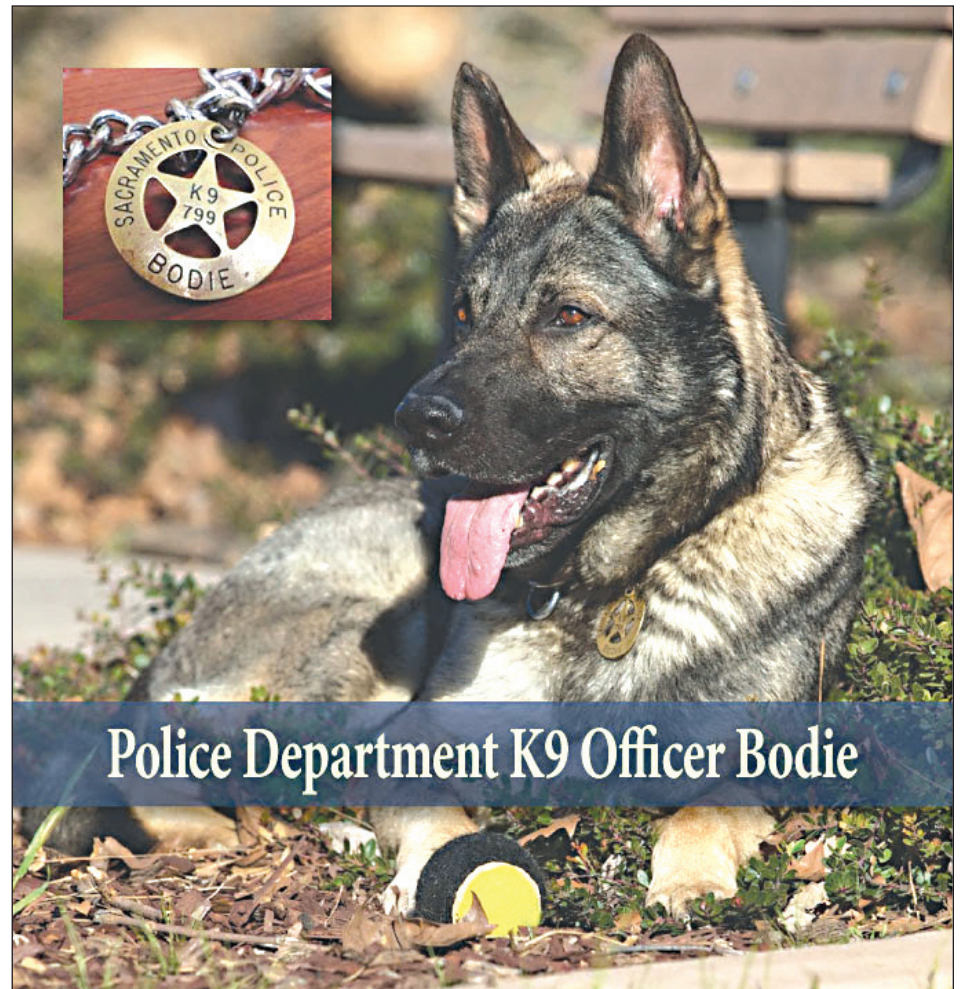
K9 Bodie was born March 27th, 2008 in Bergen, Germany as Ibo an der Langen Furt. In 2010, he came to the United States and was partnered with Officer Randy Van Dusen to become a police dog for the Sacramento Police Department. He quickly certified as a patrol and narcotics detection K9 and made a name for himself on the streets as a hard-

working and loving police dog. After a short time on patrol Bodie became a trusted and reliable SWAT K9 and earned the respect of all who worked with him.

On May 18th 2012, K9 Bodie was shot in his face by a car theft suspect during a foot pursuit in the Land Park area of Sacramento. Bodie was immediately rushed to VCA Veterinary Referral Center where they saved his life. K9 Bodie showed a warrior spirit and the will to live. One week later he walked out the front door of the vet and into his patrol car to start his recovery at home with his family. After numerous hours of physical rehab and 5 major surgeries to repair damage to his jaw, paw, and later his spinal column, Bodie retired to live out his days with his family. Bodie went on to become an ambassador of the police department and educated school children and the public about the important role police dogs play in society.

Bodie also went on to sire several puppies who have already followed in his paw prints by certifying as police and search and rescue K9s. Bodie's amazing life of public service will carry on with them.

K9 Bodie lived an amazing life and was able to accomplish things in his short eight years that most dogs and humans only dream about. Flying in helicopters, riding in boats, rappelling from towers, scaling fences, searching for bad guys, visiting school children, receiving numerous awards, being a loving family dog, siring puppies,



and being recognized at the California State Capitol as a hero were just a handful of Bodie's accomplishments. Even with all that he got to do and see, Bodie's favorite thing in the world was chewing on his Kong toy and leaning against anyone who would give him ear rubs or would scratch his chin. Bodie was an amazing partner, loving

family member, and fierce protector. He will forever be in our hearts and memories.

K9 Officer Bodie was interred in the Garden of Valor section of Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery on Nov. 14 and his graveside service was attended by many in law enforcement and the community.

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'TIS THE SEASON FOR TAMALE MAKING

Here are some tips from from a Sacramento favorite

By **MONICA STARK**
editor@valcomnews.com

My mother grew up in Gonzales, a tiny migrant town south of Salinas. Every year, mi abuelita (my grandmother) Socorro Martinez would make tamales and sell them out of her home. Lines of people would crowd the sidewalk waiting to greet mi abuelita who took their orders in advance. From carnitas, to chicken, and of course the cinnamon and sugar varieties, the little town loved her cooking. Sadly, my mother didn't carry on the tradition but my uncle, Juan Martinez, still lives in the area, and over our "Second Thanksgiving" shared with me his reason for his tardiness to dinner:

"We were making tamales! I looked at the time - 2:30 p.m. - shoot. I didn't get to stick around for the tamales to get done, but here I am. We were all there working away. It was an assembly line. A lot of us worked in assembly lines before, so it's easy for us," he said, laughing in an "it's-so-funny-it's-sad kind-of-way."

Former farmworkers who became activists in order to give back and help "la causa" Juan (aka Johnny to me) and his friends get together to share their stories of "those days". They weren't quite good ol' days, but they were good ol' days. The trouble they'd get into! Johnny has always been my favorite uncle with his stories and humor -- always in attendance at Thanksgiving (whether it's Thanksgiving One or Two) and at Christmas. Tamale making is a favorite tradition, especial-

ly during Christmastime to share stories whilst slaving away with la familia, trying to get the masa just right. Because who likes a tamale that falls apart?

Because the traditions of tamale making weren't passed down to me, I have been curious: What makes a perfect tamale.

"You want to make sure you don't want to overcook them," says Lalo Tinoco of Lalo's Restaurant in Hollywood Park. "They will continue to cook even after you turn the fire off. It's kind of like an egg. When you are cooking an egg, you want to take it off of the fire and heat because the heat that's already in it will continue to cook it. So you want to make sure you don't want to (keep them on the heat), because then they will be fully dry. Also, when we are cooking our tamales, we like to boil a little bit of rice and you add them in there and add it into the masa because it will not let your masa dry out. They won't stick to the husk. Everything you have to be a little curious."

At Lalo's they don't add mole or sauces on top of their tamales. "We want to make sure the filling is very flavorful so that you don't have to add extra condiments to it, so that you can enjoy the tamale for what it is. But one day, we put sour cream on top and said, 'wow, this is good, so we continue to do that.'"

Asked where the restaurant gets its masa, Lalo said, "If you don't get your masa from La Esperanza, you should. They're the



By Ray Bouknight

OGs (original gangster) of tamales." Lalo's parents Cecilia and Wenceslao Tinoco joined their powers in creating the perfect tamale recipe at the restaurant."Every Hispanic family has a tamale recipe and hers has been very successful at the restaurant," Lalo said.

Tamale-making is a staple for the Tinocos, not just at Christmastime or Thanksgiving, but, as Lalo puts it: "Not even every holiday, but every birthday, every American holiday, every Hispanic holiday, every anniversary. It's always the family, the family of the family, people that work here, their family. We all get together. At Thanksgiving, we never ate turkey. We always ate tamales ... We always bought a 20-pound bag of masa and everyone joins together. One person

puts the husks together. One person builds them. Then, you just wait till they're done and then dig in."

Lalo's is now taking orders for holiday parties up to a week in advance. But, they don't want to say no. "We'll make extra." Lalo's Restaurant is located at 5063 24th St. (down the street from Panama Pottery) in Hollywood Park.

Besides Lalo's, a personal favorite place to pick up tamales has been the cafeteria at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (711 T St.) across the street from Southside Park. Every Sunday from morning to evening, the cafeteria is open. Churchgoers and visitors (like myself) go in and order lunch, be it two carne asada tacos or a cheese and pepper tamale (a perfect combination for those who like some spice but not a

lot, as the cheese brings down the heat). The kitchen is all-volunteer run and the proceeds benefit the church.

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ALLIED

The MPAA has rated this R

Paramount Pictures has had a good year with movies that echo that studio's past greatness. Their new release "Allied" is yet another example of the studio returning with force as a provider of outstanding movies. Directed by Robert Zemeckis, a man who has had many movie hits, "Allied" stars Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard and is set in 1942.

The story begins in North Africa, where Pitt, playing Max Vatan, a Canadian Air Force intelligence officer assisting the RAF, encounters a female French Resistance officer, Cotillard, playing Marianne Beausejour. Whilst on a deadly secret mission playing a happily married husband and wife they find themselves attracted to each other, but must not act on those feelings during the mission, which involves "removing" a high ranking Nazi officer in Casablanca.

Max and Marianne make their way back to England as he waits for another assignment. Much to the strong resistance of his superior officer, Frank Heslop, played by Jared Harris, the two are married and have a lovely baby daughter. The baby's birth is of one of the most spectacular of scenes, it happens during the London blitz. She begins, only to be carted out of the hospital and into the streets under the light of incendiary tracer bullets, searchlights beaming across the sky and falling bombs. Although this movie is in wide-screen, it captures the feel of classic Hollywood with many moments that remind you of great classic films, yet does not get campy in any way with its tip of the hat to tinseltown.

Doubt manifests in the movie's third act where Max gets the very bad news that it may be possible that his wife and mother of their new born baby may be a spy working with the Nazis. His difficulty believing the possibility and

how the idea begins to slowly poison him brings out one of Brad Pitt's best performances in years; stoic, in love and forced with impossible choices that make espionage seem like child's play by comparison. Jared Harris, one of my favorite actors working today, who you may remember from "Mad Men" has a role that reminded me much of Trevor Howard in "The Third Man". He is outstanding here.

The beautiful Miss Cotillard is stunning in this period setting. Don't think of this as a World War II film as much as a World War II drama, in the vein of the classic M-G-M wartime films like William Wyler's "Mrs. Miniver" with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon. Perhaps with a little more spice, such as in one of the most inventive of love making scenes; the principals are inside a car in a sandstorm; it was a memorable way to handle and cleverly photograph such a moment, my kudos to Don Burgess, the cinematographer in realizing such a scene with cleverness and good taste. "Allied" offers a great production, photography and performances. Don't miss it! It's the way movies used to be.

RULES DON'T APPLY

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Set in Hollywood in 1958, Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation brings us "Rules Don't Apply" director Warren Beatty's labor of love in which a young starlet has been placed under contract by movie mogul and aviation giant Howard Hughes. The small-town beauty queen, Marla Mabry, played by Lily Collins, arrives in the movie capital with her mother Lucy Mabry in tow. She's played by the radiant Annette Benning.

As was typical in Hollywood of that era, starlets under contract received a weekly salary, but often had to wait and wait before they were asked to do anything at all, always hoping for the phone to ring to report to the studio for a screen test or wardrobe fitting. Miss Mabry has been assigned two drivers, working in shifts to take her where



Moana sets to sea with demigod Maui in Disney's "Moana" Photo: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures.

she desires and to work if so called; Levar Mathis, played by Matthew Broderick and Frank Forbes, played by Alden Ehrenreich.

Frank's background is similar to Marla's, he, a Methodist with a girlfriend back home set on marrying him. During their many drives they get to know each other and she chats on and on whilst he becomes interested, but of course, fully knowing that he'll lose his job if an impropriety occurs.

This movie is beautifully lit as films of that era were, defining the look of what we now consider classic films. I find it the most beautifully photographed movie I have seen this year. This is the sensational work of cinematographer Caleb Deschanel, who was delighted that Beatty wanted much in darkness.

This is a highly entertaining picture and the years of planning have paid off in a fun and wonderful movie experience you will truly enjoy. Warren Beatty plays Howard Hughes and in the great tradition of showmanship, does not appear on screen until the movie is well on its way. Even then, it is in the dark, as he brings the complex Hughes to life.

Beatty is in the remarkable place to have lived this era in his youngest days as a contract player himself at the very end of the Golden Age of the movies, its tumultuous changes of the 1960s through to the present. He gives us a phenomenal cast of actors that enrich any movie they appear in, including Paul Sorvino, Candice Bergen, Martin Sheen, Ed Harris, Amy Madigan, Oliver Platt and the ever-working Alec Baldwin, who had also appeared in a similar role as an airline executive locking horns with Howard Hughes in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator" in 2004. A nice

touch in the movie is a new song, which gives the movie its title, "Rules Don't Apply" written by Lorraine Feather and Eddie Arkin. Go see the movie! It's absolutely beautiful, I loved it!

MOANA

The MPAA has rated this PG

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures offers their winter-time big feature with a princess. In this case, the Disney Princess is not actually a princess, but the daughter of the chief of her south sea island tribe, who longs to travel by sea. Her feckless father, shocked by past danger at sea will not let her go, but the lure is too strong in young Moana Waialiki (voiced by Auli'i Cravalho).

Adventure she must, so with guidance from an elder, slightly tetchd tribeswoman she sets out to sea to find the demigod Maui (Voiced by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson). She's in luck, they meet and he guides her, when not extolling his own virtues, by giving her tips so that she may become an excellent wayfinder. They encounter monsters and many tribulations, completing the classic hero (in this case heroine) cycle.

Simply put, the film is too long for adults and children at almost 2 hours running time. The jokes for adults and the consistently brilliant animation of Disney make you watch to the end, but the characters are not as likable as past Disney favorites. The musical score and pop tunes, penned by the team of Broadway's sensation, "Hamilton", seem repetitive and uninspired. Director Ron Clements seems not to know when to end the story. Unless you have a child begging you to go, save your money. Here's hoping Disney's next is better.

NOCTURNAL ANIMALS

The MPAA has rated this R

Amy Adams thrills and is thrilled in Nocturnal Animals. Photo:Credit: Merrick Morton/Focus Features

Focus Features releases Tom Ford's latest directorial offering with "Nocturnal Animals" for which he also adapted the screenplay from Austin Wright's novel, "Tony and Susan". This movie is not for children or those sensitive to violence. However, it is one of the most stylish and elegant movies in the way it moves between three story lines; That of Susan Morrow's present day life as an art gallery owner with a trophy husband, both at loose ends and broke; Her ex-husbands recently sent novel, a ghastly tale of roadside abduction, rape and murder that grips Susan's attention whilst she sees herself and her ex in the novel's story line; the reuniting of Susan and her ex after she finishes reading the novel, to close unfinished business of many years.

Susan Morrow is played by Amy Adams, fresh from her success in "Arrival". She is excellent in this thriller. Her ex-husband, Tom Hastings is played by Jake Gyllenhaal, who is also "Edward Sheffield" in the novel's story-line. Michael Shannon steals the picture as Bobby Andes in the novel's dramatization. He is so consistently fascinating to watch. Fantastic editing and cinematographer's Seamus McGarvey's lighting design is so different in each storyline, but perfectly fitting in bringing mood and contrast to the story as it unfolds in sections before your eyes. Not for everyone, but outstanding gripping thrills and stylishly told.

More than \$150,275 raised for the food bank at this year's Run to Feed the Hungry

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

The weather couldn't be better for the 29,002 participants in the annual Run to Feed the Hungry who on Thanksgiving morning collectively raised more than \$150,275 for the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Made possible by dedicated volunteers and title sponsor Western Health Advantage, the annual event has become a holiday tradition for countless families and individuals.

"People want to give back and do something for the less fortunate and the beneficiary is the best non profit in town, the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services," race director Rich Hanna said. "We're in East Sacramento, the best neighborhood, in my opinion. I live in East Sac, the most beautiful neighborhood in town. And (Thanksgiving) is the perfect day to do it."

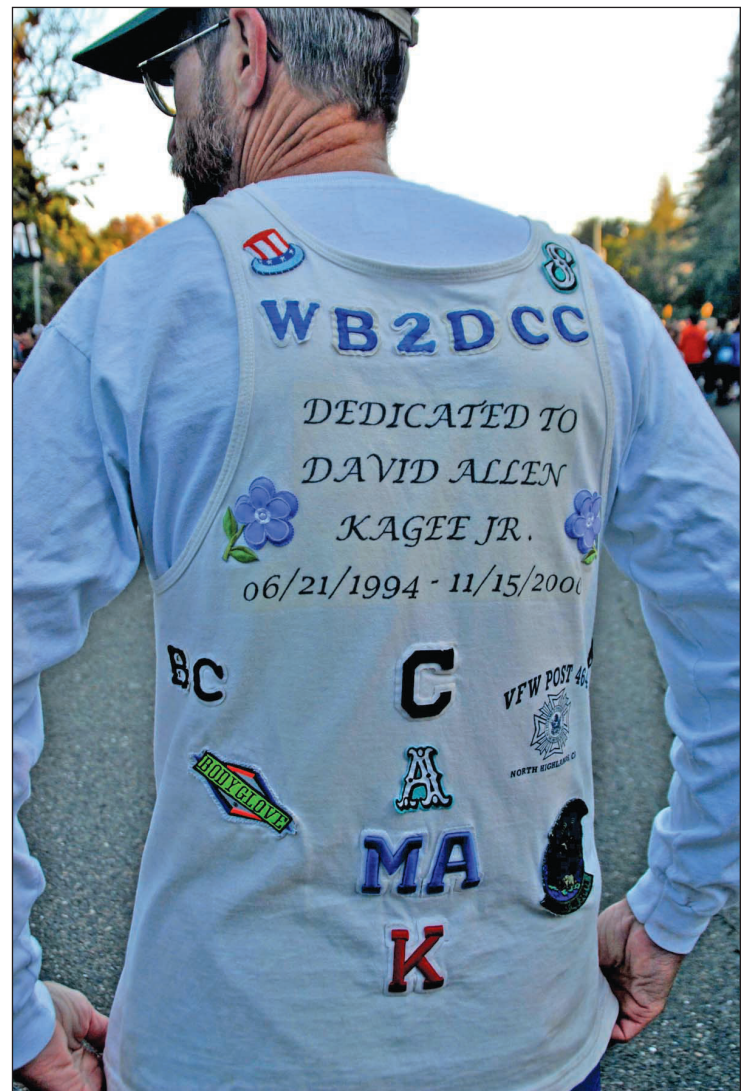
The East Sacramento News caught up with runners prior to the 10-kilometer and 5-kilometer races to talk about their reasons for running this year.

A runner of the 10K, Wayne Watts donned a homemade jersey with the slogan: "This one is for you Little David." In memory of his grandson who died from leukemia in 2000, Wayne said he created the jersey for him and over the years, he's added a name or initials of someone he's lost to cancer "or something. I run to remember all of them. This is my 13th year now," he said, adding that he enjoys this "well-organized" event. "I like the charity that it takes care of - the food bank. I see a lot of hungry on the streets all the time. It's just basic. People gotta eat. It's a great charity."

Runner Stacy Fat, of the locally-known Frank Fat's family, ran the race for the second time this year. Looking forward to it after running it last year, Stacy said her sister and her mother have participated in the event every year since the event began 23 years ago and have dragged her into it. After the race, she said about 30 members of the Fat family come together for a traditional Thanksgiving meal at home.

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services is a local, non-profit agency committed to serving individuals and families in need. With a staff of 83 and a volunteer force close to 6,000 annually, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services provides free emergency goods and services to 150,000 men, women and children each month.

After December 1, please donate online at www.sacramentofoodbank.org. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible. Once your donation has been processed, you will receive a thank you letter with our organization's Tax ID on it.



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By CANDY TUTT

Christmas is funny. Why else do you think Santa goes, 'Ho, ho, ho!?' Here's an example.

About 15 years ago my son lived in Sonoma county, a long mostly-scenic drive winding past pastures and vineyards. Once into the suburbs the view from the freeway consisted of back yards, cinder block walls and rooftops.

One December when we drove by, I glanced over to look for Christmas decorations and guffawed.

"What?"

I could only laugh and point, but my husband didn't get it until I explained. One of the houses had a plastic four-foot tall Santa Claus on their roof, poised with his sack of loot.

But from the back, the way Santa was bent over, it looked LIKE HE WAS TAKING A WIZZ DOWN THE CHIMNEY.

We verified it on the way home, and the next year we actually craned our necks on the outskirts of Petaluma, watching for Santa.

"There he is!" Sure enough, the Jolly Old Elf was relieving himself on the bricks again.

'Up on the housetop, quick quick quick - peeing down the chimney, it's good Saint Nick...' Sigh.

Our neighborhood is eclectic; a Latino influence is noted around Halloween when skeletons of all

shapes and sizes pop up in windows, where they remain through the first week of November in observance of El Dia de Los Muertos and El Dia de Los Santos.

Halloween decorations get a bit bizarre as well. , perched on the steps of one house, alongside a ghost and a scarecrow, was a lighted bright green alien. Well, okay, that's scary, especially if you live in Area 51.

A month later my husband came home one night in early December, laughing. "You gotta see this," he said, "get in the car."

We cruised up and turned to the next street over, and in the middle of the block he slowed down.

"Check it out."

There on a crowded concrete porch was The Nativity, complete with all three Wise Men, two shepherds and a sheep; Mickey Mouse in an Ebenezer Scrooge outfit, and...the Alien.

Wearing a Santa Hat. It's a holly-jolly Christmas.

My husband's aunt had a humungous plaster Nativity Set. Every year it took over the top of the stereo, laid out on a sheet of cotton batting that I think she bought during the Eisenhower Administration. Hail, hail the gang's all here: the angel, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, wise men, camels [both standing and seated] [the camels, not the wise men], and a supporting cast of candles among which were little kids in

choir robes, a couple of snowmen, and a pink bunny that snuck in from the Easter decorations but was allowed to remain. Hey, it's the joy of Christmas, why not? A smaller more portable Nativity usually sat on a coffee table or bookcase; the stable portion was made of brown plastic and the participants were separate plastic pieces glued into place. Time took its toll on the little town of Bethlehem, and by the 1990s all that was left was Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and one sheep.

About five years ago Tony had a job driving cars for an auto auction out in Rio Linda, which is sort of Sacramento County's version of the Ozarks. One December night Tony arrived home laughing about a display of life-size Christmas figures he'd seen on a lawn.

"They had everything: Joseph, Mary, the baby, Wise Men, shepherds..." then he started laughing again.

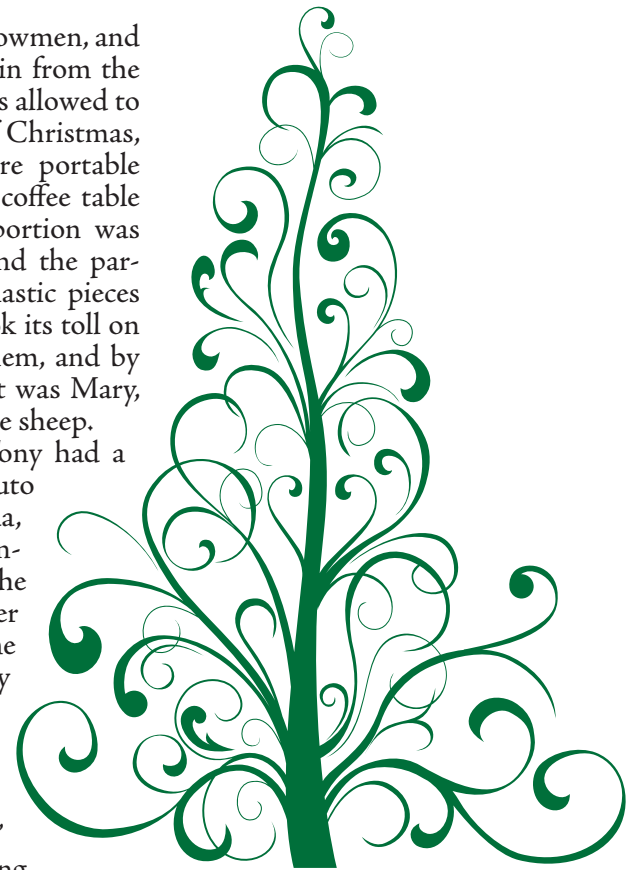
"What?"

"...and Snoopy. A great big inflatable Snoopy..."

Okaaaaay... that gave me an idea. The next day I rooted around in a box of art supplies, and when he got home I pointed to the bookcase.

"Oh, hon, it's Aunt Marie's little Nativity!"

"Look closer."



There, just outside the stable, next to the lone remaining sheep, I glued a little plastic Snoopy.

"Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown."

I still have the little Nativity thingy and it goes on the bookcase every year. Christmas is fun, whether it's Santa peeing in your chimney, an alien on the doorstep, or Snoopy in the manger.

God Bless Us Everyone.

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San Juan Unified's new high school to open in 2017-18 school year

The UnSchool, a new high school in the San Juan Unified School District, will be opening the fall of 2017 for freshmen and sophomores, with limited space for 100 students.

The UnSchool offers personalized, hands-on learning leading to college and career readiness. At the UnSchool, students have the flexibility to design their daily learning schedule, in collaboration with teachers and mentors.

There will be three upcoming information nights for interested students and families:

Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Annex, Room 11
10700 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks

Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Will Rogers Middle School library
4924 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks

Thursday, Jan. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Arden Middle School gym
1640 Watt Ave., Sacramento

If you're interested in enrolling your student, priority enrollment for district residents is Dec. 5, 2016 through Jan. 20, 2017. Per district policy, if space is not available for all applicants, acceptance will be made through a random computerized lottery which is not on a first come, first serve basis.

If you're interested in receiving additional information about the UnSchool but are unable to make it to an information night, please complete an interest form, which can be found online at: <http://www.sanjuan.edu//cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=436>.

Open enrollment period for district residents has begun

The period to enter San Juan Unified's open enrollment lottery for the 2017-18 school year began Monday and continues until 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 20.

Open enrollment is a process that allows district residents to request a school other than their neighborhood school or to return to their neighborhood school following a transfer. A random computerized lottery is used to determine whether a request is granted; open enrollment is not granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additionally, schools across the district are hosting information nights for interested families. Visitations and tours give parents an opportunity to explore the school and classrooms. Some schools combine information and visitation events, and we highly encourage you to visit and learn more about what San Juan Unified has to offer. Visit www.sanjuan.edu/visitsanjuan to learn more.

Families who reside in San Juan Unified's boundaries have the opportunity to en-

roll students in any of the district's schools providing:

Space is available in the appropriate program. (Available space is determined by defined physical and program capacity of the school after placement of enrolled resident students) AND Families are willing to provide transportation.

If you are successful in the random open enrollment lottery, you will be assigned to your school of choice, which becomes your residence school. You might also be placed on a waiting list for that site. Parents will be notified of the open enrollment results by letter the first week of February 2017.

San Juan Unified residents may apply online if they have access to the Parent Portal or they may submit an open enrollment application to the San Juan Central office, located at 3700 Garfield Ave. in Carmichael. Applications will be available at every school site, on our website and at San Juan Central.

For more information, visit the *Open Enrollment website* or call San Juan Central at (916) 726-5826.

Public invited to Community Forum on English Learners

The community is invited to attend the Community Forum on English Learners on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Howe Avenue Elementary, located at 2404 Howe Ave.

Come hear about current work supporting English Learners and share your thoughts on increasing student success at your school. This is the second in a series of discussions on how the San Juan Unified School District uses resources to ensure all students succeed.

For questions, contact Tia Taylor at tia.taylor@sanjuan.edu or 979-8567. Click here for a flier with additional information.

Diverse juniors and seniors invited to U-CAN coaching program

Graduate Diverse juniors and seniors at all San Juan Unified high schools are invited to participate in a coaching program hosted by the United College Action Network (U-CAN).

Get recruited by Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority-

serving institutions and get help with:

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- Career paths
- Personal and educational goals
- Financial aid
- Preparation of application forms

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The program will support 150 students across the district. Students will meet at Del Campo High School on the second and third Thursday in January from 2:30- 4:30 p.m., and on the first and third Thursday of each month thereafter. Transportation will be provided for students who need assistance getting to and from Del Campo.

An initial information session will be held at Del Campo on Thursday, Dec. 15. Students can sign up online at www.sanjuan.edu/ucan by Dec. 10.

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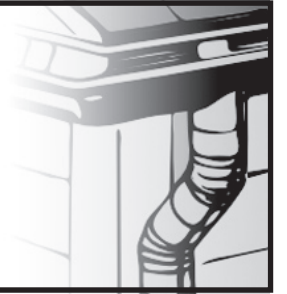
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POLICE LOG

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

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30
(POD Arrest: Stolen Vehicle): 1600 block of Arden Way at 11:45 p.m.

Officers responded to a Police Observation Device (POD) alert of a stolen vehicle in the area. Officers quickly located the vehicle and detained the driver and passenger. The driver was arrested for possession of stolen property.

FRIDAY, DEC. 2
(Vehicle Pursuit): 1600 block of W El Camino Avenue at 11:58 p.m.

Officers responded to the call of a fight in the area. When officers arrived on scene, they were advised of a subject who struck a building with her vehicle and was leaving the area. Officers attempted to stop the suspect vehicle and a pursuit ensued. The suspect stopped at an apartment complex and was taken into custody. As officers were placing the suspect

into the patrol vehicle, the suspect assaulted the officer. She was arrested for multiple charges including suspicion of driving under the influence, evading, and assault.

SATURDAY, DEC. 3
(Domestic Violence): 600 block of W El Camino Avenue at 1:50 p.m.

Officers were patrolling the area when they were hailed regarding a domestic disturbance occurring inside a nearby vehicle. Officers located the involved parties in the disturbance and contacted the man and the woman. While contacting the couple, the female attempted to exit the vehicle and was physically restrained by the male suspect. Officers issued commands to the man who pushed the woman to the ground and then charged towards the officer. The officer deployed his CED and was able to detain the man who was arrested for domestic battery, false imprisonment, and resisting arrest.

MONDAY, DEC. 5
(Robbery): 1500 block of West El Camino Avenue at 8:12 p.m.

Officers responded to a robbery at the business. The suspects brandished a handgun and stole and undisclosed amount of cash from the register. The suspects fled on foot into a nearby apartment complex. A report was generated, the investigation remains active.

One-act version of the Nutcracker to be performed at "The Center" in the Arden area

Crockett-Deane Ballet Company, in conjunction with the Deane Dance Center will present its annual holiday shows December 16-December 18 at the The Center at Twenty-Three Hundred in Sacramento. Friday evening, December 16 at 8 pm, a special preview of selected scenes from the Nutcracker will be presented. Saturday, December 17 at 7 pm and Sunday, December 18 at 2 pm, the original production of "Christmas Angels," as well as a one-act narrated version of the Nutcracker will be presented. "Christmas Angels" tells the familiar story of Christmas, set to traditional Christmas carols. The Nutcracker is especially suited for families, with its narration, beautiful music and many fun and lively characters. The production features beautiful choreography, wonderful sets and costumes, and many tal-



ented dancers. The role of the Snow Queen will be danced by Gabriela Smith. Dancing the role of the Sugar Plumb Fairy will be Quinn Francis. Virginia Rattan will take on the role of Marie (often referred to as "Clara" in some productions). Tickets are \$10-\$15 and are available at the door or deanedancecenter.com; 453-0226. The Center is located at 2300 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento.



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Crockett-Deane Ballet & Deane Dance Center present...

Nutcracker & Christmas Angels
Friday, Dec. 16, 8 p.m. - Preview
Saturday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 18, 2 p.m.

"The Center" 2300 Sierra Blvd.
Preview only - \$7; adults \$15
\$12 Seniors/Students; \$10 Children

(916) 453-0226 • Tickets at door or
www.DeaneDanceCenter.com

**CALL AND PLACE YOUR
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WHAT'S HAPPENING, ARDEN-CARMICHAEL?

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

TEEN LGBTQ+ ALLIES GROUP – Teen member of the LGBTQ+ community? The library is your safe space! Join us for snacks, talking, movies, crafts and more. Teen allies welcome. Open to ages 12-19. Dec. 9 from 4 to 5 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

TREE PRUNING CLINIC – This pruning class will focus on how to prune young shade trees for structure and form. Quick, simple steps you take now to help your young shade trees grow healthy, strong, and beautiful will save you time and money in the future. Presented by Sacramento Tree Foundation. Dec. 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Ave., Carmichael.

FREE YOGA CLASS – Come to the library for a free yoga lesson and experience its grounding, calming effects, while increasing your strength, flexibility and balance. Please wear loose clothing and bring a yoga mat. Instructor Joan Howell has been teaching yoga for 20 years. Adults of all skill levels, beginner to advanced, are welcome. Dec. 10 from 1 to 2 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: Starting at 10 a.m. with special music, celebration, and God's word. At 3 p.m., there will be a special family event. A charming mini-musical fantasy for all ages about a monk and his donkey who celebrate Christmas in a special way; followed by a Christmas carol sing-along. 3235 Pope Ave. For more information, call 487-5192.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 14

MUSICAL ROBOT-IF YOU'RE A ROBOT AND YOU KNOW IT – Join the fun for this special musical holiday show. Musical Robot is a ukulele and drum combo that is engineered to get kids singing, dancing and reading. The duo worked with pop-up artist David Carter to create a new robot twist on the classic song that pops to life in the book, *If You're a Robot and You Know It*. Books available for sale and signing at the program. All ages are welcome. Dec. 14 from 4 to 5 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16

ANIME CLUB FOR TEENS – Join us for Anime, manga, gaming and crafts for 6th-12th grades. Dec. 16 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sacramento.

FRIDAY, DEC. 16-SUNDAY, DEC. 18

ONE-ACT VERSION OF THE NUTCRACKER TO BE PERFORMED AT "THE CENTER": Crockett-Deane Ballet Company, in conjunction with the Deane Dance Center will present its annual holiday shows December 16-December 18 at the The Center at Twenty-Three Hundred in Sacramento. Friday evening, December 16 at 8 pm, a special preview of selected scenes from the Nutcracker will be presented. Saturday, December 17 at 7 pm and Sunday, December 18 at 2 pm, the original production of "Christmas Angels," as well as a one-act narrated version of the Nutcracker will be presented. "Christmas Angels" tells the familiar story of Christmas, set to traditional Christmas carols. The Nutcracker is

especially suited for families, with its narration, beautiful music and many fun and lively characters. The production features beautiful choreography, wonderful sets and costumes, and many talented dancers. The role of the Snow Queen will be danced by Gabriela Smith. Dancing the role of the Sugar Plumb Fairy will be Quinn Francis. Virginia Rattan will take on the role of Marie (often referred to as "Clara" in some productions). Tickets are \$10-\$15 and are available at the door or deanedancecenter.com; 453-0226. The Center is located at 2300 Sierra Blvd, Sacramento.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AT CARMICHAEL LIBRARY – Panicking because you don't have the perfect card or gift for a Dad or Grandma? This family craft program will solve your problem! Your child can create a handmade craft or card to keep or gift. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Dec. 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Ave., Carmichael.

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION: Starting at 10 a.m. with special music, celebration, and God's word. There will be a Bel Tempo Handbell Christmas Concert, benefiting St. John's Program for Real Change. 3235 Pope Ave. For more information, call 487-5192.

RECURRING

CHAUTAUQUA PLAYHOUSE presents "Funny Little Thing Called Love"

Chautauqua Playhouse will present the comedy "Funny Little Thing Called Love" by Jones, Hope and Wooten beginning on December 2nd at the Playhouse. The show will run on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through Jan. 15 with an additional matinee at 2 p.m. on Jan. 14. The show will not play Christmas or New Year's Weekend. The performances will be held at the Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Road in the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Admission is \$20 general, \$18 seniors/students and SARTA members. Premium seating is an additional dollar. The cast includes several local actors and Chautauqua favorites. Information and tickets are available through the Chautauqua Playhouse website: www.cplayhouse.org or call the box office at (916) 489-7529, during business hours.

CHAUTAUQUA PLAYHOUSE CHILDREN'S THEATRE presents "Alice's Christmas Party in Wonderland"

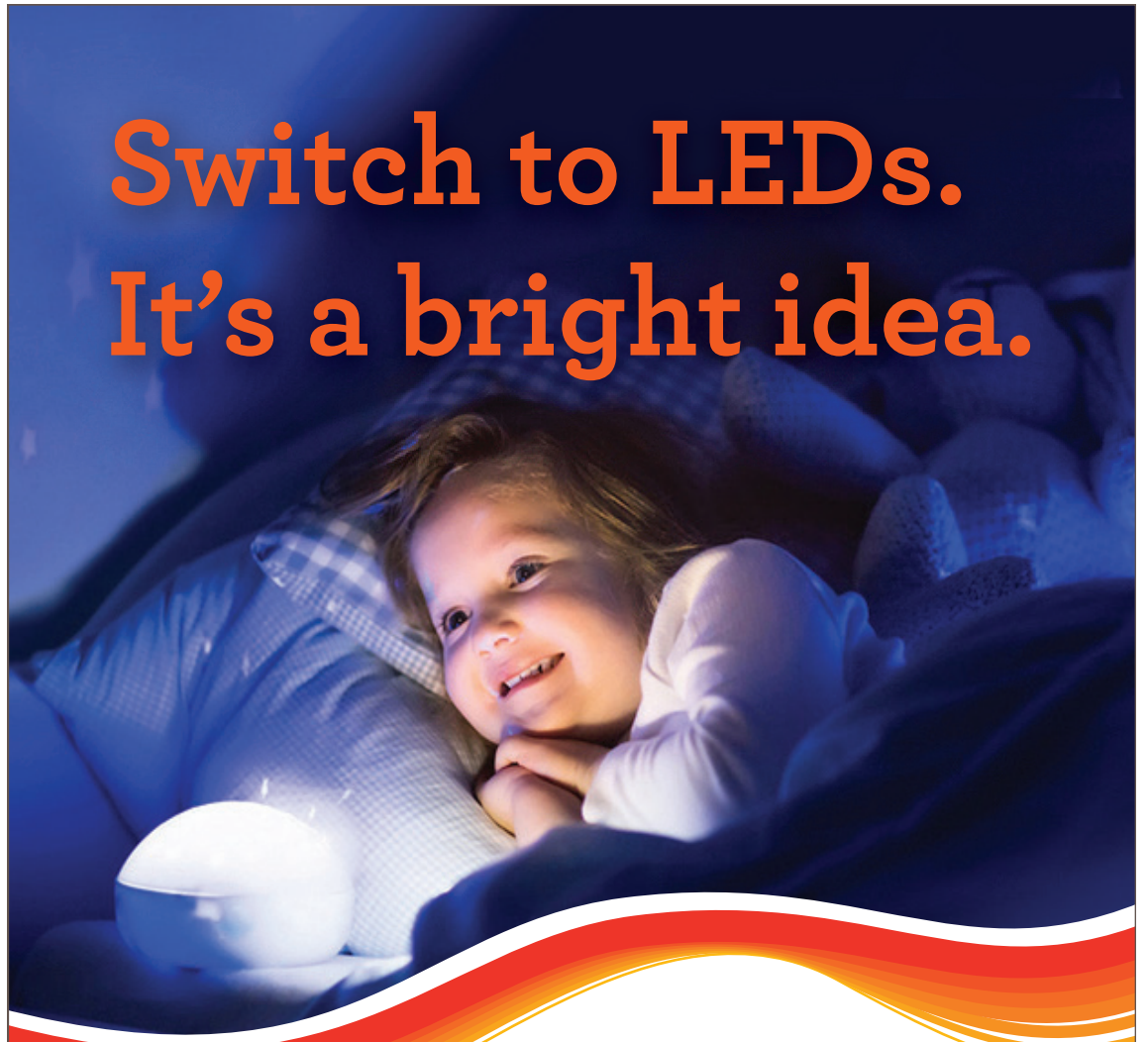
Chautauqua Playhouse Children's Theatre will present the new Holiday Comedy "Alice's Christmas Party in Wonderland" by Warren Harrison (based on the characters of Lewis Carroll), beginning on December 3rd at the Playhouse. The show will run on Saturdays at 1:00 pm through December 17. The performances will be held at the Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Road in the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Admission is \$8.00 for all seats. Advance purchase of tickets is strongly recommended. Information and tickets are available through the Chautauqua Playhouse website: www.cplayhouse.org or call the box office at (916) 489-7529, during business hours.

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