

November 2011

California Kids!

Free!

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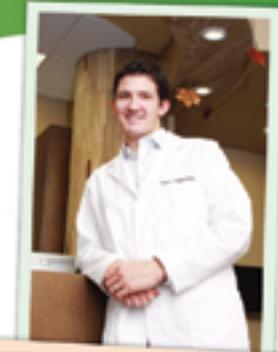
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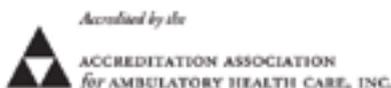
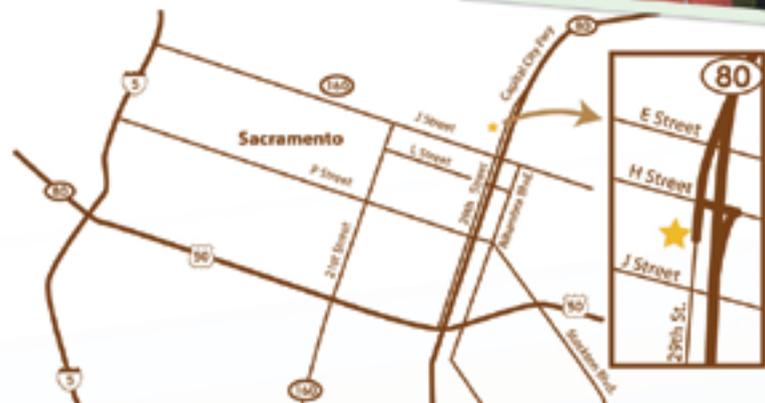
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Sacramento Zoo Biz

Food and Toy Drive

Bring a non-perishable food item or new and unwrapped toy to the Sacramento Zoo during the month of November and receive \$1 off the regular admission price. Local families and children in need will benefit from this food and toy drive that will continue through December 12. Food collected will be donated to the Sacramento Food Bank and toys will be donated to Toys for Tots. For more information, please call (916) 808-5888 or visit saczoo.org.

Sacramento Zoo's Winter Hours Return The Sacramento Zoo's winter operating hours begin November 1 and run through January 31, 2012. The Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more information, call (916) 808-5888 or visit saczoo.org.

Military Family Day - Friday, November 11, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In appreciation for our troops, military personal and their families receive a 50% discount with a valid military identification card on Friday, November 11.

Zoo Closed-Thanksgiving Day - November 25

Sacramento Zoo - Wildly Inspiring!
Open since 1927, the Sacramento Zoo is home to over 140 native, rare and endangered species and is one of over 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Located near the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in WilliamLandPark, the Zoo is wholly managed by the



non-profit Sacramento Zoological Society. This Sacramento treasure inspires conservation awareness through education and recreation. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., general admission is \$11; children ages 2 to 11 are \$7 and one and under are admitted free. Parking is free throughout the park or ride Regional Transit bus #6. For information, call (916) 808-5888 or visit saczoo.org.

California Kids!

www.valcomnews.com

Publisher: George Macko

General Manager: Kathleen Egan

Contributing Writers: Connie Goldsmith, Carmel L. Mooney, Patricia M. Newman

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Distribution/Subscriptions: George Macko

Cover Photo: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/26015375en06>

California Kids! is published monthly and distributed to more than 1,000 locations in the Sacramento Valley, including all of Sacramento County, and portions of Yolo (Davis and Woodland), Placer (Auburn, Newcastle, Rocklin and Roseville), El Dorado (Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, Placerville), and Nevada (Grass Valley, Nevada City) counties.

Subscriptions are available for \$30/year. Mail prepaid check or money order to California Kids!, 2709 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818. Make sure to specify the person and address to which you wish issues to be mailed.

Deadlines for advertising and calendar listings are the 25th of the month prior to publication. Calendar listings should be mailed to 2709 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818, faxed to (916) 429-9906, or e-mailed to kathleen@valcomnews.com.

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sacramentoZOO

Food & Toy Drive

November through December



Receive \$1 off Zoo admission when you donate a new unwrapped toy or a non-perishable food item.

sacZOO.org



Maidu Museum and Historic Site exhibit

Drop in Activities

Exhibit

The Indigenous Art Gallery at the Maidu Museum is pleased to announce a partnership with Pacific Western Traders (PWT). For 40 years PWT has been the showcase for California Native artists, basket weavers and cultural practitioners. A new permanent exhibit space will rotate important works of California Native art through the gallery. The Museum is proud to collaborate with Herb and Kathe' Puffer to display their world class collection of contemporary California Native art.

"The Americana Indian: American Indians in the American Imagination"

Through November 30 in the Zents Gallery. This exhibit features over 100 examples of the

use of Native American imagery in advertising and popular culture. But these fictionalized, commercial representations steal the identity and mock the cultures of Native Americans, replacing the historical with something that never existed.

Learn how these stereotypes relating to American Indians are imbedded everywhere. Examples include old time elixirs, soda bottles and toys to movies, sports teams and much more.

The Museum is located at 1970 Johnson Ranch Dr., Roseville. For museum and program information call (916) 774-5934 or visit www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum. Museum Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and free 3rd Saturday evenings of each month 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Harvest Festival Arrives in Time for the Holiday Shopping

There's no better place to get started on the daunting task of holiday shopping than the Sacramento Harvest Festival®, November 18 to 20, at Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Drive, Sacramento. The event showcases hundred of vendors, the latest in handcrafted gifts, entertainers and special features. Guests can browse jewelry, clothing, fine art and photography, pottery, toys, home décor and more, all while mingling with the artists that create each piece.

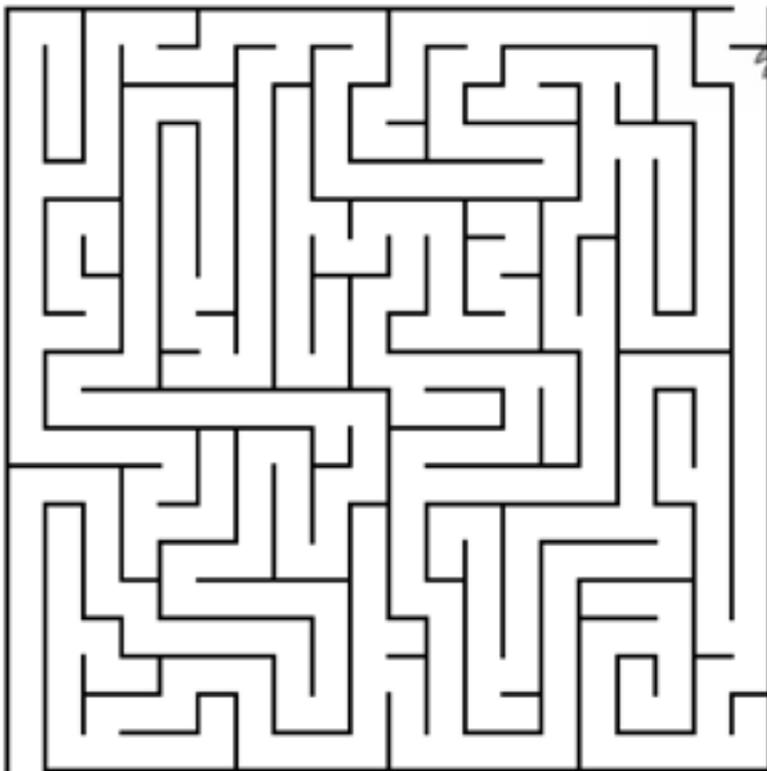


The official charity of the Sacramento Harvest Festival® are the AT&T Pioneers, a volunteer network that helps local communities by aiding educational programs, running local food drives, assisting after natural disasters, and much more. The AT&T Pioneers will receive half of the proceeds from shopping bag sales, as well as all the proceeds from the bag and parcel check. Elk Grove Food Bank Services will also be onsite and handing out \$2 off admission coupons to anyone who brings a non-perishable food donation to the show.

Hours for the festival are: Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are adults: \$9, seniors (62+): \$7, youth (13-17): \$4, kids 12 and under are admitted free. For tickets and more information, call (415) 447-3205 or visit www.harvestfestival.com

Hungry Scarecrow!

Can you help the scarecrow find his way to the pumpkin patch?



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

OPTIMIZING YOUR PENSION PLAN BENEFITS Lunch & Learn

Whether you're getting ready to retire or just want to learn more about your pension and retirement options, find out how you can increase your pension benefits and reward yourself in retirement!

Esther Aw, CLTC, and Mark J. Pratt, CLTC, invite you to join them for an informational seminar to learn how you can get the most from your pension plan and still provide income for your spouse or dependent.

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Noon to 1:00 pm

Pacific Business Centers

770 L Street, Downtown Sacramento

RSVP to Ruth at 916-646-0310 or ruth@estheraw.com

Lunch will be provided so please specify turkey, ham or vegetarian.

Can't Make It?

Please RSVP for one of the following dates:

January 19, 2012 – Noon to 1pm

February 16, 2012 – Noon to 1pm

March 15, 2012 – Noon to 1pm

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(530) 753-4195

Mark@prattfinancial.com



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A Note from the Nurse

Flu and Flu Shots

By **Connie Goldsmith**
RN, BSN, MPA

Ideally, you and your family have received your influenza vaccinations by now. While there is plenty of time left to be vaccinated, experts recommend getting flu shots as soon as they are available each year for the most effective protection. Flu is a serious illness that is easily spread among people by coughs, sneezes, and dirty hands. Up to 20% of the U.S. population gets flu each year, while about one-quarter million people are hospitalized for flu-related complications.

Who should receive the flu vaccine? According to the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly everyone! The CDC recommends everybody over six months of age be vaccinated each season. People at especially high risk for complications from flu include pregnant women, children under two years old, adults over 65 years old, people with certain chronic medical conditions, and people living in nursing homes or other group facilities.

Who cannot be vaccinated? People who should not be vaccinated are those who have had a serious reaction to a previous vaccination (such as a neurological disorder called Guillian-Barré syndrome), and those who have a fever at the

time they are due for the vaccination. In the past, egg allergy was a contraindication to vaccination. Today, physicians believe many people with egg allergy can safely be vaccinated. Check with a physician for more information. Because babies under six months are too young to be vaccinated, it's imperative for their caregivers to be vaccinated.

Why do we need a new flu shot each year? Flu viruses mutate readily and different strains circulate the world each year. Health experts predict which strains of flu will be circulating in the coming season, and the vaccine is formulated to protect against the three most prevalent strains (two strains of influenza A and one of B). The strains in this year's flu season are: A/California (H1N1-like virus); A/Perth (H3N2-like virus); and B/Brisbane. This is the same formulation as last year, a very unusual occurrence. However, physicians recommend

people—especially children—still receive this year's vaccination because immunity wanes over time. It takes two weeks for a vaccinated person to become fully protected.

Vaccine choices: There are three types of vaccines available. First is the traditional intramuscular flu shot given by needle into the muscle of the upper arm. It's approved for everyone over six months old (including the elderly and those in poor health), and has been used for decades. It's made of killed flu viruses. The second type of flu vaccine is the nasal spray made of weakened flu viruses. It's used only in healthy people between 2 and 49 years of age who are not pregnant. New this year is an intradermal vaccine which is injected with a tiny needle under the skin. It's approved for adults between the ages of 18 to 64. And contrary to what a few die-hards believe, influenza vaccinations cannot give people flu.

Is it a cold or the flu? While a laboratory test is required to be certain a person has flu, it is often readily apparent. Colds come on gradually, over a couple of days. Fevers are mild, as are headaches, body aches, cough, and fatigue. Stuffy runny noses and coughs are common. Flu comes on quickly, often over a few hours. Fevers of 104° may be present. Fatigue, headaches, and body aches can be severe. Cough and chest pain are common, but nasal symptoms less so. Flu is a respiratory disease. While people with nausea, diarrhea, and stomach pain may say they have stomach flu, there is no such thing. Such symptoms are caused by viruses other than flu viruses or bacteria.

What should I do if I get sick? If you get the flu, stay home until

you're well, and keep your children home from school as well. Mothers and doctors have been saying it for years: get plenty of rest and drink a lot of fluids. Treat fever with ibuprofen or acetaminophen according to your doctor's recommendation. Never give aspirin to a child under 18 without your doctor's explicit instructions to do so because of the risk of a rare but potentially fatal disorder called Reye Syndrome associated with aspirin use in febrile children. If caught early enough, antiviral medications such as Tamiflu may help.

References: The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: 2011-2012 Flu Season: www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/; www.flu.gov; American Academy of Pediatrics, Recommendations for Prevention and Control of Influenza in Children, 2011-2012, at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2011/08/30/peds.2011-2295>; and Goldsmith, Connie, USA Today Health Reports: Influenza, Twenty-First Century Press/Lerner Publishing, 2011.

Coming in January: Choking Hazards in Young Children.

Connie Goldsmith writes health and science books for young people and continuing education courses for nurses. She has written two books and several articles about influenza, and has also worked as a triage nurse on a 24/7 nurse advice line. She maintains a health blog on her website at www.conniegoldsmith.com.

Note: Information contained in this article is not intended to replace medical advice. Parents and caregivers should always contact their child's doctor for guidance if they have any health concerns.



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Effie Yeaw Nature Center Events

NEW Interactive Exhibit: Wild About Wetlands
 Park entrance fee: \$5 per car or FREE to ARNHA members.
 Open Wednesday through Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Programs FREE unless stated otherwise (Donations welcome)

Autumn Birding, Saturday, November 5, 10:30 a.m.
 Discover why autumn is a great time of the year for bird watching. Join a naturalist for a guided walk to welcome back some feathered travelers. Bring your binoculars or borrow some from the nature center.

Wildlife of the Season, Sunday, November 6, 1:30 p.m.
 How do animals prepare for winter? Explore the changes that Fall brings to the oak woodland when you join a naturalist for this guided walk through the riparian habitat of the Nature Area.

Gifts from the Earth, Saturday, November 12, 10:30 a.m.
 Explore the ways Maidu Indians used plants for food, medicine, clothing and shelter. Join a naturalist for a guided tour of the village and Nature Area to see some of these plants growing in their natural habitat.

It's the Season for Salmon, Sunday, November 13, 1:30 p.m.
 Come learn about the challenges facing the amazing Chinook that travel thousands of miles in a cycle that has continued through millennia. Take a stroll to the American River with a naturalist to catch a glimpse of the migrating salmon. You may see some that remain in the riffles here to spawn.

Great Gobblers, Saturday, November 19, 10:30 a.m.
 Beards, wattles and snoods –what strange things to find on a bird! Look and listen for wild turkeys as you explore their world on this guided walk through the Nature Area.

Animal Tracks and Signs, Sunday, November 20, 1:30 p.m.
 There are many animal-made signs in the woods that reveal what has used the trail before you. Become a nature detective by playing tracks and scat games, then take a walk to find some animal signs in the Nature Area.

Beaks, Jaws and Claws, Saturday, November 26, 10:30 a.m.
 Discover and learn about the unique adaptations of birds, mammals, and reptiles. Participate in games and activities and get a close-up look at some of the Nature Center's animals.

Things That Slither, Sunday, November 27, 1:30 p.m.
 What has no arms or legs and smells with its tongue? Learn about the life-cycles, predators and prey, habitats, locomotion and defenses of reptiles and amphibians. Then "slither" up to meet our resident animals up close.

Fall Fun Days - Celebrate autumn with our exciting programs for children and families! Crafts, games, and nature walks from 9a.m. to Noon, November 21, 22 and 23. For class descriptions and prices please visit us online at www.sacnaturecenter.net. Pre-registration is required, space is limited.

Call (916) 489-4918. There is a discount for ARNHA members.

Support Nature Center programs by joining the American River Natural History Association! Join ARNHA at the Nature Center or at www.arnha.org.

CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING DAY
 The Nature Center is located in Ancil Hoffman County Park, California Avenue and Tarshes Drive, Carmichael. For more information, call (916)489-4918 or visit www.sacnaturecenter.net.

Elk Grove school earns top award! Congrats! Edna Batey Elementary School

The community surrounding Edna Batey Elementary united together to secure the school a top place in the nationwide Avery Give Back to Schools™ promotion, with nearly 42,000 online votes. With nearly 1,000,000 votes pouring in from across the country, and just five schools earning the grand-prize donations, this school's outstanding achievement has received recognition on a national level.
 Avery presented the school with \$10,000 in Avery school supplies, 10,000

Box Tops for Education® Coupons, and \$1,000 in gift cards for teachers to purchase additional school supplies.
 "To be one of five schools in the entire nation is a true testament to our students, parents, staff, and local PTA and I thank them for their relentless efforts," said Principal Michael Sompayrac.

For more information on Avery's participation in the program, visit www.avery.com/btfe and www.btfe.com.

Turkey Time!

Hey Kids! Thanksgiving is almost here and to help you get in the holiday spirit we've put together a word search just for you. How many words can you find that have to do with Thanksgiving? Be careful; words can appear vertically, horizontally, diagonally, upside down or backwards, so don't forget to gobble up every last one!

T	B	Y	V	A	R	G	F	H	A	M	R	C	L	M	T	C
H	O	D	Z	Y	I	D	O	S	G	A	E	R	L	A	O	R
A	O	R	Y	V	A	N	G	N	N	S	C	F	A	Y	C	I
N	N	L	A	S	E	O	M	A	I	H	I	A	B	F	O	S
K	S	M	I	Y	G	L	I	P	F	E	P	M	T	L	R	P
S	T	T	H	D	L	P	A	R	F	D	E	I	O	O	N	W
G	Z	A	F	E	A	S	T	E	U	P	S	L	O	W	U	E
I	M	P	T	U	R	K	E	Y	T	O	T	Y	F	E	C	A
V	W	I	S	H	B	O	N	E	S	T	N	F	F	R	O	T
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C	R	A	N	B	E	R	R	Y	S	A	U	C	E	Y	K	B

Blessings

- cornucopia
- cranberry Sauce
- crisp weather
- family
- feast
- football
- Gravy

Harvest

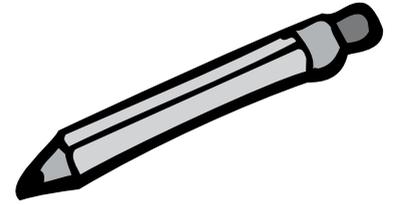
- Honey Ham
- Indian corn
- Mashed Potatoes
- Mayflower
- November

Pumpkin Pies

- Recipes
- Stuffing
- Thanksgiving
- Turkey
- Warm Dinner Rolls
- Wishbone
- Yams



MAKE IT YOURSELF!



Make a Pilgrim Bonnet

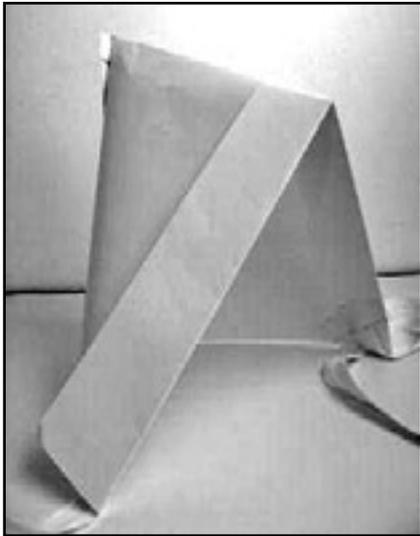
Why not dress up for Thanksgiving in your own pilgrim bonnet! Easy to make in any size, so that it fits your child - or the doll collection!

You will need:

A sheet of thick white paper/ thin card, glue stick, white ribbon, sticky tape (or strong glue)

You will need to:

Fold a strip about 2 inches wide along the length of the card, to form the front brim of your bonnet. Fold the card in half, with the fold on the outside. Fold the back of your bonnet over about 1/2 an inch and glue to secure. Tape or glue two pieces of ribbon to the front of your bonnet.



Make a Pilgrim Hat

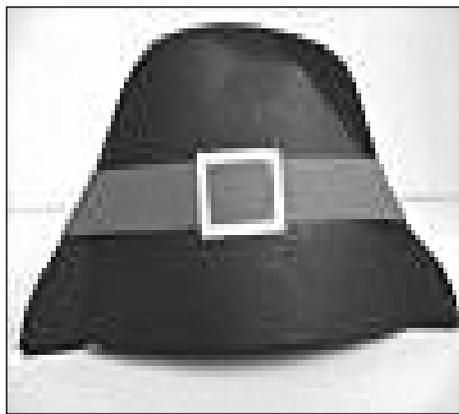
Here is a simple idea for making your own pilgrim hat for Thanksgiving. Make it the right size for your child - or dress up the teddies and dolls!

You will need:

Large sheet of black card, brown card, yellow card, spare card or paper for pattern, PVA/ White glue

You will need to:

Take your spare card and fold in half. Draw the curve of half a hat. You will need to size it to fit your child's head. Cut out and unfold. Use your pattern to cut two hats from the black card. Glue around the edge of one hat (making sure you leave the bottom free) and stick the two hats together. Cut a band from brown card and a buckle from yellow and glue these to the front of your card. Leave your hat to dry and then wear and enjoy!



Wooden Spoon Native American Puppet

Kids will be thrilled with this Native American puppet made out of a wooden spoon and craft cupboard supplies - perfect for Thanksgiving or any time the children feel like putting on a puppet show!

You will need:

A wooden spoon, pale brown paint, black wool, ribbon, brown felt, brown foam, scrap of colored foam, 3D paints, glue, beads, wiggle eyes, brown pen

You will need to:

Paint the spoon and leave to dry. Cut two dress shapes from felt. Trim the bottoms for a fringed effect. Sandwich the dresses together with the spoon handle in between and glue together. Tie a piece of ribbon around the waist of the dress. Glue 6 lengths of wool around the edge of the spoon bowl. Plait each side and finish with a bead. Cut a strip of brown foam to go around the head. Glue a scrap of foam to one side as a feather and decorate the other side with 3D paint. Glue around the head. Finally glue on two eyes and draw on a mouth and nose.



Paper Cup Indian Chief

This splendid Indian Chief is a fun craft for the kids to do at Thanksgiving. He is a little tricky to make, so is better tackled by older children.

You will need:

Polystyrene ball, paper cup, brown (two shades dark and pale) paint, black wool, wiggle eyes, brown foam, brown felt, 3d paint, scraps of colored foam, ribbon, brown pen, glue

You will need to:

Paint the ball pale brown and the cup dark brown and leave to dry. Glue the ball to the bottom of the cup. Make a collar by cutting a brown foam rectangle. Snip around three sides for a fringed effect and paint on a pattern with the 3d paint. Glue on to the cup. Cut a strip of ribbon and glue this around the middle of the cup. Cut two arms from brown foam and two hands from felt. Snip one end of each arm and glue the hands to this end of each arm and the other ends of the arms to the body. Glue on some wool as hair. Cut a strip of brown foam to go around the head. Glue scraps of foam to one side as feathers and decorate the other side with 3D paint. Finally, add two eyes and draw on a face.





The Theatre of Lights returns to Old Sacramento

Old Sacramento 'tis the location for visitors to get all their shopping done and more. With over 100 shops and 53 historic buildings, Old Sacramento has plenty of historic landmarks, museums, entertainment, and shopping, providing something for everyone.

This season's Theatre of Lights begins with the lighting of the City Christmas Tree on November 23. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the official tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. and first Theatre of Lights performance at 7 p.m. Theatre of Lights continues through the holiday season with two 20-minute light shows at 6:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. every Thursday through Sunday until December 18. By popular demand the shows will begin running every night from December 19 to 23 at the same times. The Christmas Eve show will only be at 6:15 p.m. New Year's Eve will feature Theatre of Lights as an important piece of the overall fireworks spectacular with shows running later in the evening at 8:15 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

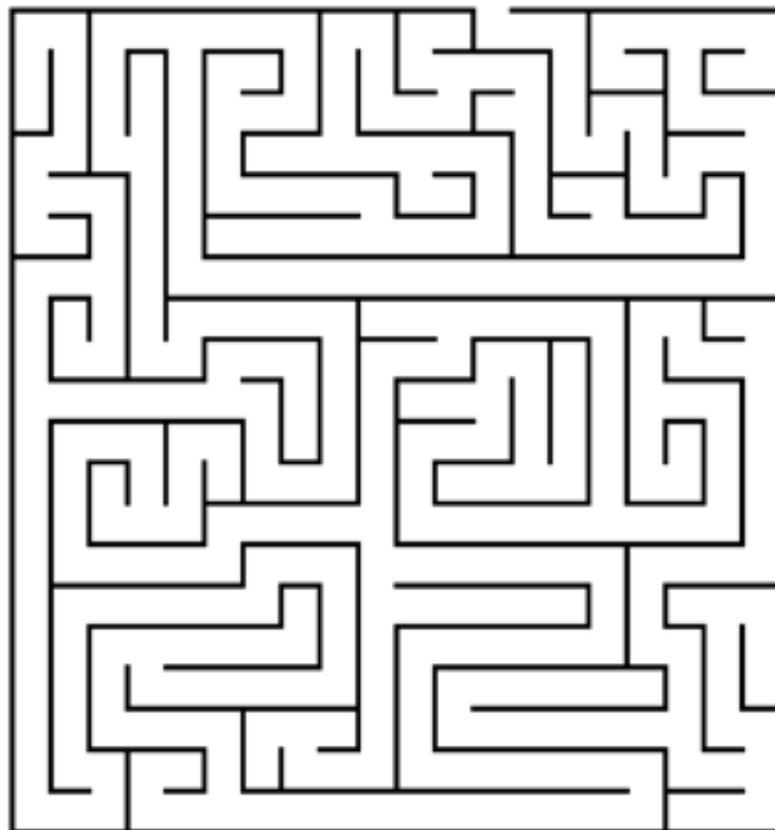
Old Sacramento's Theatre of Lights is a unique state-of-the-art live staging of the classic 'Twas The Night Before Christmas hosted by Mark Twain. The show blends a symphony of lights, sounds and visual effects which will take the audience back to a time when the beloved poem 'Twas The Night Before Christmas was first introduced in Sacramento in 1857. The beloved poem comes to life on the balconies and rooftops of Old Sacramento's historic buildings on K Street between Front and 2nd Street.

It runs through New Year's Eve. For more details on Old Sacramento's holiday festivities, visit www.oldsacramento.com.

Great Gobbler Program

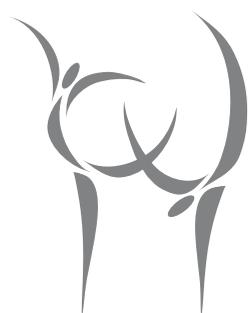
Join the fun at the Effie Yeaw Nature center, located at 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, in beautiful Ancil Hoffman Park. Saturday, November 10, at 10:30, a special program all about the wild turkey will be featured. Beards, wattles and snoods—what strange things to find on a bird! Look and listen for wild turkeys as you explore their world on this guided walk through the Effie Yeaw Nature Area. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Can you help the Mayflower find its way to America?



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Free Admission day at Fairytale Town

Fairytale Town is offering free admission to families who bring a canned or packaged good for donation on Friday, November 25, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the day after Thanksgiving. Fairytale Town is serving as a donation site for the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services: Holiday Spirit of Giving Food Drive.

Activities in the park will include a hands-on activity for children and puppet shows in the Children's Theater (for a nominal fee). Families can spend a few leisurely hours in the crisp winter air and let the hustle and bustle of the season pass them by. Let your imaginations run wild around the 25 oversized storybook playsets and exhibits. Say hello to Fairytale Town's newest residents the three little piglets, and the many other barnyard animals. Parents and children alike can explore the Crooked Mile, King Arthur's Castle, Cinderella's Pumpkin Coach, Sherwood Forest, or the Yellow Brick Road.

Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 808-7462 or visit www.fairytaletown.org.



Santa Paws scheduled at Sacramento SPCA

Get a jump on the holidays when Santa makes a special visit to the Sacramento SPCA on Saturday, November 5 and Sunday, November 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Don't miss "Santa Paws" at the Sacramento SPCA where you'll have the opportunity to have your holiday photos taken with your two- and four-legged family members and Santa himself. Photo packages start at just \$25.

Santa Paws will take place at the Sacramento SPCA in Maddie's Adoption Center, 6201 Florin-Perkins Road, Sacramento.

For additional information, call (916) 504-2802 or visit www.sspca.org.

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Who Wrote That?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

Featuring Gary Paulsen

By Patricia M. Newman

Three-time Newbery Honor winner Gary Paulsen believes that young people are our hope for the future, and that hope drives his writing. An Army brat, he remembers his father's last posting in the 1940s where he ran the streets of Manila in the Philippines to avoid his abusive alcoholic parents. The family returned to Minnesota after Paulsen's father was dismissed from General Patton's staff, and Paulsen began his slow migration to the Northern Forest at the edge of their small town. "I was never in the house when my parents were awake or conscious," he says. By the time he was twelve or thirteen, he gave up on school and either lived in the woods or hid in the basement of his parents' apartment building. He trapped animals for food, set pins in a bowling alley, and hustled the drunks at local bars to support himself. At 15 or 16 he jumped a truck to hoe sugar beets in the Dakotas with migrant farm workers and worked the Tilt-A-Whirl at a carnival. His real occupation, full-time survivor.

"I tried several times to fit in [at school], but it was always a disaster," he says. At his first and last Boy Scout meeting he received instruction in tying knots. Knots led to a merit badge and merit badges led to a camping trip. "I had a 25-mile trap line at that time," Paulsen says, and could teach knot-tying. "I was already camping. It seemed absurd."

Paulsen never dated in school and counted his friends on one hand, yet they would occasionally turn up in the woods.



"We'd kill a grouse and cook it on a stick," he says, "but it was a diluted version [of my life]. Fun for two days." His friends returned home; Paulsen returned to the business of surviving.

One freezing winter night, Paulsen stepped inside the library to warm up before hustling drunks for extra change. The librarian gave him a library card with his name on it. "For the first time I believed I was someone," he says. Then the librarian handed him a book. "I felt honor-bound to read the thing." It took him about a month because he was such a poor reader, but he returned the book and the librarian handed him another. In this way, Paulsen devoured mysteries, westerns, science fiction, and survival tales. "Everything I've become I owe that woman, and she never knew," he says. "Reading became a way to breathe."

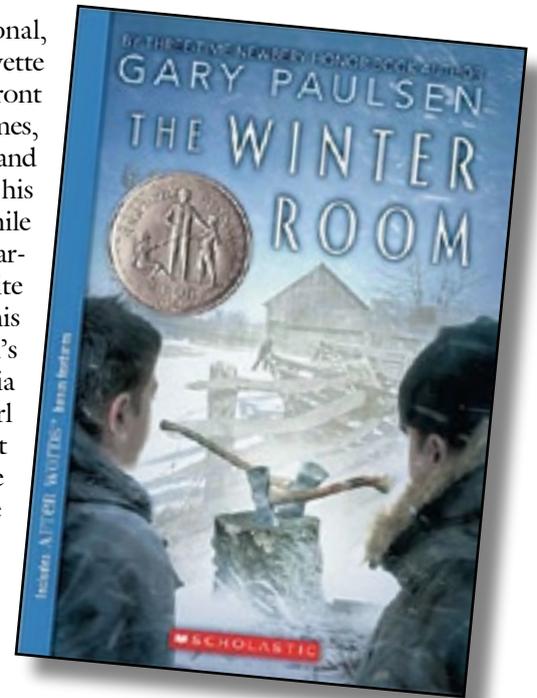
A stint in the Army led to a great job at a satellite tracking station for an aerospace firm in California. "I was getting \$500 a week in the 1960s," he says, yet he walked away from it all to be a writer. He embellished his resume and landed a job in Hollywood as a proof-reader for a company that published several magazines. In the evenings, his bosses taught him to write. "They were wonderfully vicious," Paulsen says. Every night they tasked him with writing a short story or a chapter in a book which they'd rip apart the next night.

Paulsen published several mysteries, westerns, and how-to titles before finding his way to children's literature. He believed no one understood young people and wanted to write for them.

Boys especially. Never conventional, Paulsen drove an old Chevy Chevette all over the U.S., sleeping on the front porch cots at countless teachers' homes, alternately visiting wealthy schools and poor schools. He showed children his slides of the Iditarod, the 1,180-mile Alaskan dog sled race in which he participated twice (see Paulsen's website for his Iditarod journal). During his travels, Paulsen studied children's rhythms by sitting in the cafeteria and observing. "I listened to the curl of their voice like when dogs talk at night alone when they forget you're there." A year later *Dogsong* won the Newbery Honor.

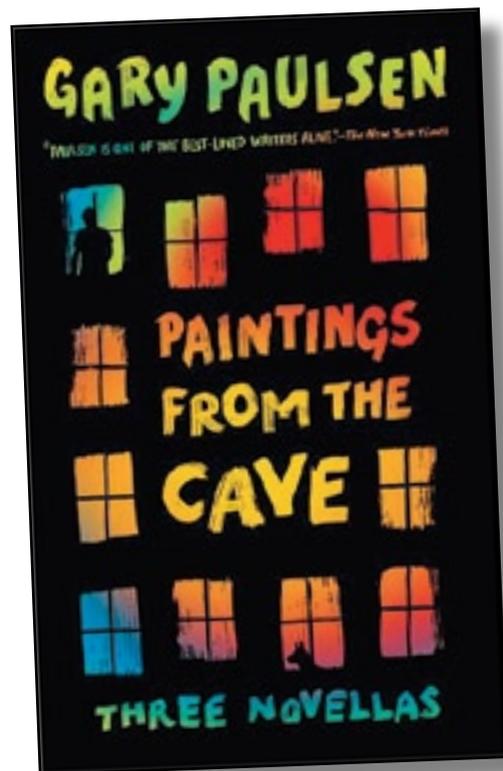
The idea for *Dogsong* came from an Inuit boy during Paulsen's first Iditarod. For centuries, Inuit culture had been tied to dogs, but young people lost that part of their culture when snow machines replaced dogs. The concept of a young boy trying to find his heritage appealed to Paulsen because he had hunted with the Inuit people and learned from them during the 15,000 miles he logged on dog sleds.

One of Paulsen's best known and best loved books, *Hatchet*, is based on his life. "I've done everything in that book," he says. He wrote the story in long-hand while camping with his dogs and training for the Iditarod. *Hatchet* received the Newbery Honor and generated thousands of letters from fans asking what happened to his main character, Brian Robeson. "They didn't want him to quit," Paulsen says, who also fielded a telephone call from a national magazine asking where Brian lived. Four additional spin-off titles complete Brian's journey.



The 72-year old Paulsen divides his time between his home in New Mexico, his dogs in Alaska, and a boat on the Pacific. He lives simply, spending a lot of time at a run-down shack in New Mexico. "I never wanted more," he says. "I have a pressure cooker, a garden, and a gun." The author of more than 200 books, he works furiously, constantly, every story worked out in his head before he begins the physical act of writing. "If I'm not writing, I'm researching...I love writing the way you fall in love. The hair goes up on my neck. I quicken. I get aroused like wolves when they smell blood when a story works for me...The stories to me are like a river that goes all the time. I'm at least 150 books behind. I'll write 'til I die."

Next month: Bruce Hale



MORE ABOUT GARY PAULSEN

How to Contact Gary Paulsen

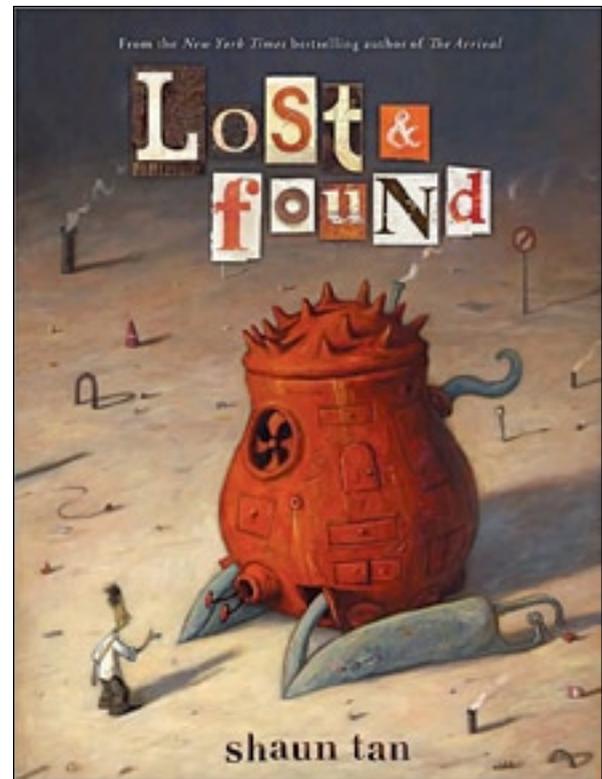
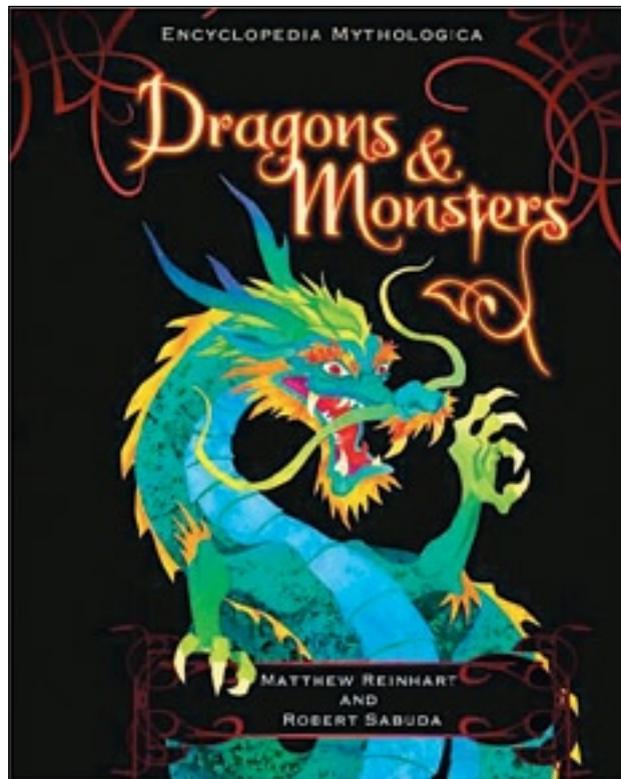
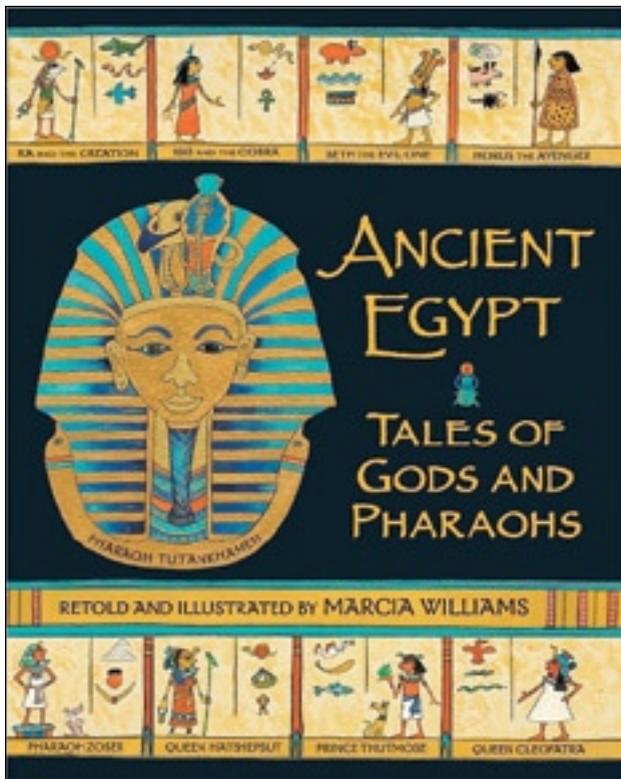
Website: <http://www.randomhouse.com/features/garypaulsen/>

GARY PAULSEN'S LIBRARY

- Paintings From the Cave*, Random House, 2011.
- Woods Runner*, Random House, 2010.
- Nightjohn*, Random House, 1993.
- Winter Room*, Scholastic, 1989.
- Dogsong*, Atheneum, 1985.
- Brian's Saga:
- Hatchet*, Simon & Schuster, 1987.
- The River*, Random House, 1991.
- Brian's Winter*, Random House, 1996.
- Brian's Return*, Random House, 1999.
- Brian's Hunt*, Random House, 2003.

UPCOMING

Crush, Random House, May 2012.



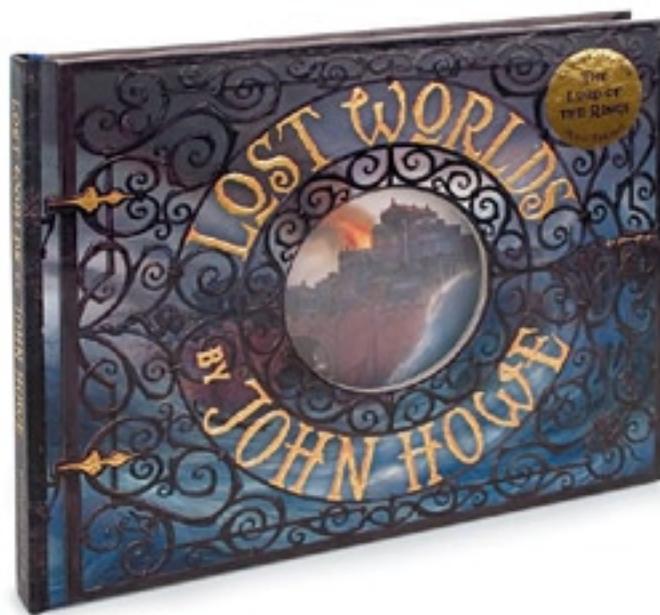
The Book Report Keep Them Busy at Thanksgiving

By Connie Goldsmith

Children's publishing is not immune to the economic crisis. Fewer Thanksgiving books are published these days because of their short "shelf life." Think about giving your children another type of book for Thanksgiving – a book to keep them busy while you prepare a Thanksgiving feast fit for a king. In spite of living in an often troubling world, most of us have much to be grateful for. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to show appreciation for the good things in our lives – the love of family and joy of friends.

"Lost & Found," by Shaun Tan. (Arthur A. Levine Books). The author won this year's Oscar for best animated short film for, *"The Lost Thing,"* one of three stories collected in this amazing book. Tan's work has been seldom seen in the U.S. until now. In the *Red Tree*, a sad little girl finds a bright spot in her gloomy world. A little boy brings home a bizarre creature of indeterminate species in *The Lost Thing*. And in *The Rabbits*, a peaceful society is lost to inexplicable invading rabbits. It literally could take days to fully explore this book. While the stories are told with deceptively simple words, the surreal art is a magnificent feast for the eyes waiting to be discovered (a giant fish bursting through a brick wall; the lost thing sitting in the living room with the little boy and his oblivious parents). On some pages, images are layered atop one another with details that defy discovery. This is absolutely one of the most astonishing books of the year.

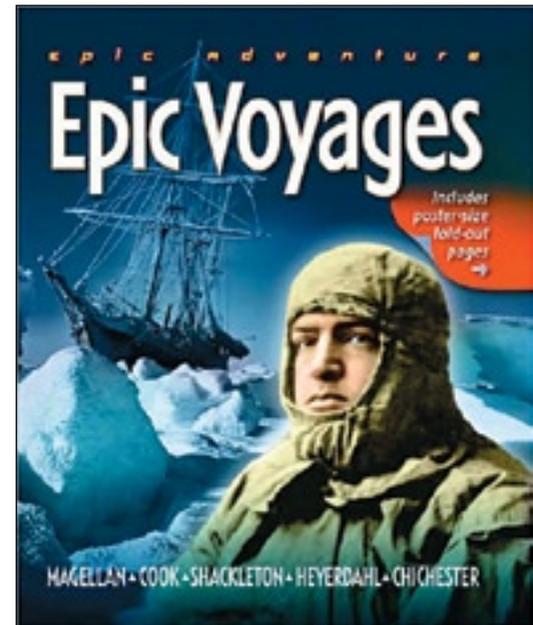
"Dragons & Monsters," by Matthew Reinhart and Robert Sabuda. (Candlewick). This is another spectacular book in the "Encyclopedia Mythologica" series suitable for readers of all ages interested in dragon and monster lore. Six magnificent double page spreads with giant pop-up figures depict mythological creatures. First is the serpent-haired Medusa. The second spread features dragons of the west, while the third is dragons of the east, followed by the kraken, vampires, and the terrible



abominable snowman. Each page has smaller booklets or pop-outs, filling in fascinating details of the main characters or introducing new ones. The quality of the paper art is superb. Supervise younger readers to protect the intricate pop-ups from damage.

"Lost Worlds," by John Howe. (Kingfisher). The large lens on the book's cover invites you to enter this hefty volume to see what's going on inside. The author/illustrator was a concept artist for the *Lord of the Rings* movies, an experience apparent in his artistic style. Atlantis, Babylon, Troy, Pompeii, Mount Olympus – real civilizations mixed with mythical – are described and depicted. Each chapter opens with a tantalizing description of a place, followed by two pages of details. Kids will enjoy the paintings, drawings, and snippets of artifacts shown in photos, but may find the text a bit difficult without an interpretative adult reader. Older children and teens could spend hours poring over the pages to learn about the remarkable worlds and civilizations that have come and gone throughout history.

"Ancient Egypt: Tales of Gods and Pharaohs" by Marcia Williams. (Candlewick). This engaging book tells how Egypt was formed and ruled over the centuries by its many gods and pharaohs. The colorful comic-strip style illustrations are filled with facts that bring ancient Egypt to life for readers of all ages. At the bottom of each page is a separate story line starring Ra's favorite cat, Rami. The nine stories feature Isis, Seth, Horus,



Prince Thutmose, Tutankhamen, and Cleopatra, all told in a most accessible way, making the complex history of Egypt easier to understand. Several fold-out pages add to the visual beauty of this dynamic book, as does the final cartoon map. Don't miss this one if you've got a budding Egyptologist in your family. ** Reviewer's pick of the month**

"Epic Adventure: Epic Voyages," by Robyn Mundy and Nigel Rigby. (Kingfisher). The history-making adventures of Magellan, Cook, Shackleton, Heyerdahl, and Chichester are presented in an amazing montage of full-color paintings, engravings, maps, and archival photos. Magellan set sail around the world in 1519 with five ships and 277 men; only one ship and 18 men survived. Two hundred years later Cook undertook several similar voyages, discovering and mapping new lands. Shackleton is trapped in the Antarctic ice; Heyerdahl sails the *Kon-Tiki* across the south Pacific, and Chichester sets out on the first solo sail around the world. With multiple fold-out pages (one is six panels in size), this exciting and captivating book could hold a reader's interest for two days.

Connie Goldsmith (www.conniegoldsmith.com) lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. Her newest nonfiction juvenile books, and *"Leukemia,"* one of the new *USA Today Health Reports* series, and *"Battling Malaria: on the Front Lines Against a Global Killer,"* are now available in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.



Books and Boutique to Help Homeless Animals

Ready to curl up with a good book? Looking for unique holiday decorations or that special gift? Don't miss the Sacramento SPCA's Annual Fall Book Sale and Holiday Boutique.

The Book Sale will be held from November 10 to 13, at 7975-C Greenback Lane (next door to Marshalls). The sale will feature hundreds of gently-used books in a variety of popular categories including fiction, games and puzzles, children's books, romance, mystery, tabletop, adventure, biographies, science fiction, cookbooks and more.

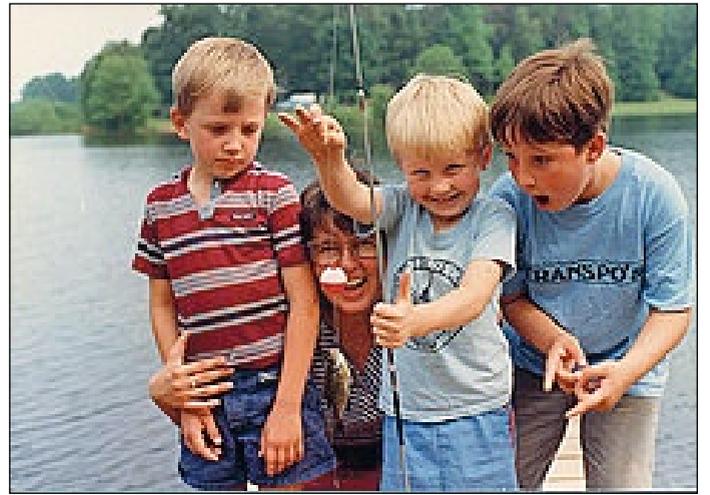
Book sale hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday to Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. For more information on the SPCA Book Sale call (916) 504-2802.

As a special holiday bonus, this year's sale will also feature a boutique with specially selected items from the Sacramento SPCA Thrift Store. Shop the SPCA Thrift Store Boutique for unique holiday decorations and crafts, special gifts, clothing and more.



Holiday Boutique hours are as follows: November 5 to 20 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For more information on the SPCA Boutique, call (916) 442-8118.

All proceeds from both sales benefit the Sacramento SPCA. The SPCA will care for more than 13,500 homeless animals this year.



27th Annual Trout Bout

San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation and the Delta Fly Fishers will welcome anglers to Oak Grove Regional Park for the 27th Annual Trout Bout on Saturday, November 19.

Approximately 1,700 lbs. of Rainbow trout, including trophy-size, will be planted for the tournament. Kids 15 years of age and under fish free; however, a \$5 fishing permit fee and valid CA. fishing license are required for those sixteen (16) years of age or over. A \$5 vehicle-parking fee will also apply. All State Fish and Game laws apply. Participants must supply their own fishing equipment.

The Youth competition, open to youth age fifteen (15) years or younger, is for children to compete with other youths for the individual heaviest weight of one (1) trout caught by a child. Children compete individually in one of three age categories (eight and under, 9 to 12 and 13 to 15). Adult supervision is required. The Adult competition, open to ages 16 and over, will measure the individual heaviest weight of one (1) trout caught by the contestant.

Prizes will be awarded in all categories and participation is limited to one (1) type of competition. Park gates will be open at 6:15 a.m., registration closes at 10 a.m. and the last weigh-in is at 12:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded shortly thereafter.

Oak Grove Regional Park is located on Eight Mile Road and Interstate 5 in Stockton. For more information, call (209) 331-2050 or log onto www.mgzoo.com.

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Three Little Pig-lets! New Baby Pigs Make Debut at Fairytale Town

"I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow your house down!" said the Big Bad Wolf in the children's story "The Three Little Pigs." That story has become even more popular as Fairytale Town debuts the latest addition to their barnyard family - three little piglets!

The 10-week old baby pigs, are Vietnamese Potbellied Pigs and are affectionately known as Wynken', Blynken', and Nod. The baby pigs will be on display at the pigs' straw, wood, and brick homes inside Fairytale Town. On Tuesdays through Saturdays, the trio will be brought onto grassy areas to be introduced and acquainted with their new fans under supervision from Fairytale Town staff.

The new baby pigs are a complement to the 19 other barnyard animals living at Fairytale Town. Fairytale Town farm animals teach children how domestic animals contribute to society. It also gives children a chance to see and interact with live animals and see their favorite animal characters from children's literature come to life.

Fairytale Town is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Admission is \$4 on weekdays, \$4.50 on weekends, and children 1 and under are free. For more information about Fairytale Town visit www.fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

What happened to the other pigs? The previous pigs have retired from the limelight to enjoy several years of relaxation and green pastures at the private ranch of a Fairytale Town supporter. The pigs'

daily job of entertaining and educating children brought millions of visitors joy and delight. After six years of service to Fairytale Town, it was time for the pigs to retire from the stage. Vietnamese Potbellied pigs have a life span of 12 to 16 years.

FUN PIG FACTS

- * Vietnamese Potbellied pigs generally grow to be 50-150 pounds.
- * Pigs have an excellent sense of smell. Their sense of smell is better than that of dogs.
 - Pigs are often used to seek out truffles growing in the wild.
- * Pigs are omnivores; they consume both plants and animals. Wild pigs primarily eat leaves, grasses, roots, fruits, and flowers.
- * Pigs are very clean animals and can even be house trained.
- * Pigs are intelligent animals and can be trained to perform numerous tasks and tricks (Just like another famous pig, Wilbur, from "Charlotte's Web").
- * Famous pig stories in literature: "The Three Little Pigs", "Charlotte's Web", "Dream Big, Little Pig".
- * Famous pig roles in film: Miss Piggy from The Muppets; Babe in the movie "Babe", Homer's Spider Pig from "The Simpson's, The Movie"; Porky Pig from "Looney Tunes"; Hammy the piggy bank from "Toy Story"; Pumbaa the Warthog from "The Lion King."



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Program hours vary at each location. You may be eligible for Subsidized/low-cost care, part day state preschool or one of our community fee based programs.

Contact one of our Child Development Centers for more information or an application, Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm.



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HARVEST GIFT GUIDE

'Tis the season to start your holiday shopping. Why not avoid the crowds at the malls and shop locally at your neighborhood specialty shops. Need a little help this holiday season? Check out the retailers in California Kids! They have fabulous ideas!

COUNTRY CHRISTMAS FAIRE

Mark your calendar for the 27th annual Country Christmas Faire at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley on November 25, 26, and 27. Rated as one of the top handcrafted shows in Northern California, the Country Christmas Faire features unique gifts and crafts from top artisans from across the state.

Exhibit buildings will be filled during the Thanksgiving weekend, giving shoppers a chance to start their holiday shopping with quality hand-made holiday items, ornaments, jewelry, wooden crafts, soaps and lotions, hand-woven baskets, stained glass, candles, beadwork, and dozens of other unique gifts.

Visitors to the Faire will enjoy strolling live entertainment, festival foods, the magical Gingerbread House exhibit, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, errand elves, and a community bon-fire. Wagon rides around the Fairgrounds will be offered; and Vic-

torian singers, the bell ringing RiverBells, and the Sierra Symphony quartet will perform throughout the event.

Free babysitting will be offered, so parents can drop off their children while they enjoy holiday shopping.

The Country Christmas Faire begins Friday, November 25, and runs through Sunday,

November 27. Admission is \$4 for adults, and children 12 and under are free. Parking is \$5; however, Faire-goers will receive one free admission for each paid parking pass. The hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The Nevada County Fairgrounds is located at 11228 McCourtney Road in Grass Valley, 50 miles northeast of Sacramento, off Highway 49. For more information, visit the Fair's web site at www.NevadaCountyFair.com or call (530) 273-6217.



A magical gingerbread house display is one of the many features at the Country Christmas Faire at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in Grass Valley.

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HARVEST GIFT GUIDE

'Tis the season to start your holiday shopping. Why not avoid the crowds at the malls and shop locally at your neighborhood specialty shops. Need a little help this holiday season? Check out the retailers in California Kids! They have fabulous ideas!



Leaf Rub Art

www.notjustcute.com

This is an easy and fun art project for any age. And it gets you outdoors on an autumn walk looking for leaves to rub.

On your walk, gather a collection of all sizes of leaves. Set up a nice space on your table for your workplace. On the workplace, place all different colors of crayons or chalk and sheets of paper. You might want to use some tape to secure your paper in place.

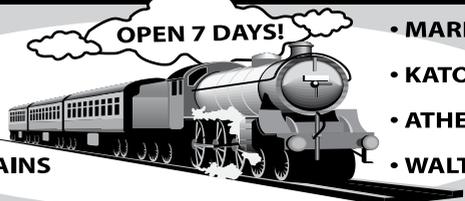
Lay your leaf on the workspace, then cover your leaf with another piece of paper. Now carefully rub the leaf by using the side of your crayon. (you might want to take some of the paper off the crayon for easier rubbing) Magic! Soon you will see your leaf appear on the paper, veins and stems and outline.

Remember to keep changing your colors and make a Fall picture to frame or put on the refrigerator. This is a fun art project to share at school, too.

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Programs at the Crocker Art Museum

Sunday, November 6, 11:30 a.m. - Kids and Company Tour

Wildly amusing and surprisingly educational, this brief tour is the perfect way to introduce art to children ages five and older (and the adults that tag along with them) in a fun and playful manner. Free with Museum admission.

Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, 11 a.m. - Wee Wednesday

Bring your little one and yourself to this gallery-based activity for children ages three to five. Space is limited and is first-come, first-served. Visitors are encouraged to arrive when sign up begins at 10 AM. Free with Museum admission.

Saturday, November 12, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. - Drop, Yak, Splat! A Museum Adventure for Families

Each month a new work of art provides the inspiration for a memorable gallery activity for families and children of all ages. Sign up begins one hour before the start time at the Museum Admission Desk. Free with Museum admission.

Tuesday, November 8, 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. - Tour + Performance: Baroque Art and Opera

School and family groups are invited to visit the Museum regularly for thematic Museum adventures designed to support various aspects of the California standards and are sure to intrigue children ages four and older. On November 8, view Baroque paintings from Florence, Italy, and gain musical insight into the same period and place through an educational performance by the Sacramento Opera. One chaperone is required for every five students and receives complimentary admission. \$8 per student. Additional chaperones are \$4 per person. Advance registration is required. To register, visit crockerartmuseum.org or call (916) 808-1182.

Friday, November 11, 6 p.m. and Saturday, November 12, 8 a.m. - Girl Scout Sleepover

Spend the night at the Crocker Art Museum and earn a Participation Badge. Go on a



CROCKER
Art Museum

"Myths and Legends" treasure hunt, and paint vases in the style of ancient Greek potters. Late night snacks and a continental breakfast will be provided. \$40 per participant. Advance registration is required by or before November 4. Contact Emma Moore at emoore@crockerartmuseum.org for registration and information.

Tuesday, November 15, 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - Baby Loves Art

Children will sing, move, groove, touch, and play while building key cognitive and motor skills. This program is for children from infancy to 36 months old and their caregivers. For registration and schedule details, call (916) 808-5499. Registration begins at 9 a.m. on the first day of the month. This registration process ensures equitable access to this very popular program. Free with Museum admission.

The Crocker Art Museum is located at 216 O Street in Downtown Sacramento. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday. Every Third Sunday of the month is "Pay What You Wish Sunday" sponsored by Bank of America. For more information, call (916) 808-7000 or visit crockerartmuseum.org.



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south 30 miles. The gate to Rancho del Oso is located along Highway 1 just south of Año Nuevo State Reserve.

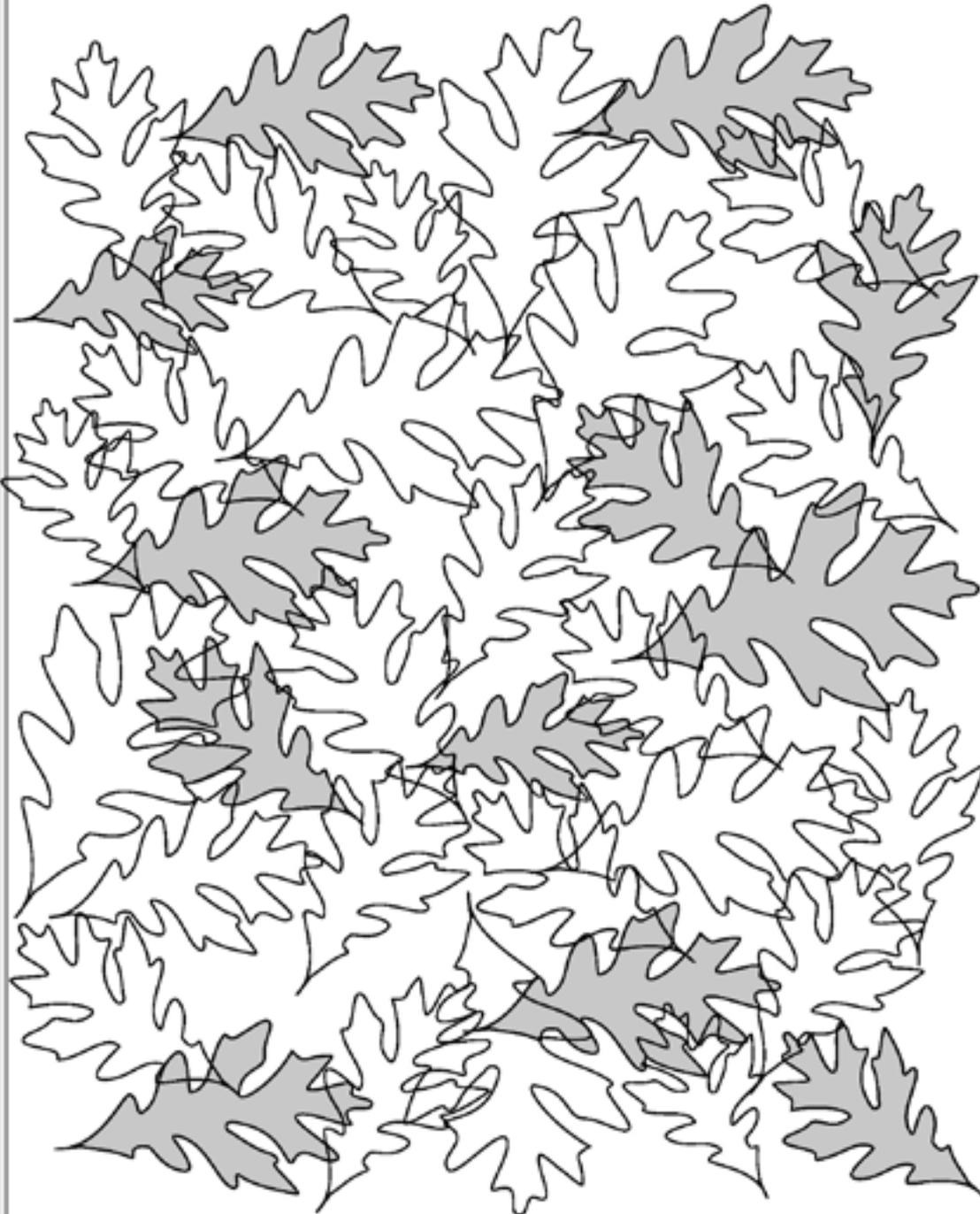
Wildflower Hikes - Sunday, November 13 at 10 a.m.

Meet at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center to take a hike among wildflowers in Rancho del Oso's Waddell Valley! Docent Scott Peden will lead a 3-mile hike to view a variety of wildflowers-there's always something exciting in bloom! The hike starts at the Rancho del Oso gate. Photographers are easily accommodated. For more information or to sign up, call the nature and history center at (831) 427-2288, or just show up with lunch and energy to hike! The park is located 17 miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway One. From Half Moon Bay take Highway One

The Hidden Lives of Native Animals - Sunday, November 20 at 1 p.m.

Join a state park docent on this leisurely 2-hour walk to search for tracks and other "signs" that animals leave. We'll search for clues and evidence of how predator and prey, from deer and bobcats to hawks and lizards, survive in our streams, forests and fields. Bring walking shoes, water and a snack. Park and meet at 1:00 PM at the Highway 1 gate to Rancho del Oso/Big Basin State Park - approximately 17 miles north of Santa Cruz / 30 miles south of Half Moon Bay. Heavy rain cancels the walk. For more information or questions call (831) 425-1218.

How many Leaves? Have fun coloring!



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

The Discovery Museum Science & Space Center Calendar

Superbugs- Not Your Ordinary Germs, Saturday and Sunday, November 5 and 6 In the last ten years, superbugs have appeared with greater frequency than even before. These dangerous critters evade modern medicine and are a hot topic in the medical community. Visit the Museum to learn about these dangerous microscopic germs. Kids build a superbug of their own to take home as a souvenir. Planetarium shows are at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only).

Poor Pluto, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 11, 12 and 13 The Discovery Museum Science and Space Center is celebrating 60 years of sensational science milestones. In 2006, Pluto was declassified as a planet. Pluto then became known as a plutoid in 2008. Although it was "demoted", Pluto is still an amazing part of our galaxy. Discover more about Pluto and craft a fun project to take home. Planetarium shows are at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only).

Getting to Know You, the Human Genome Project, Saturday and Sunday, November 19 and 20 The Discovery Museum Science and Space Center is celebrating 60 years of sensational science milestones. The Human Genome Project (HGP) is an international 13-year effort formally begun in October 1990. The project was planned to last 15 years, but rapid technological advances accelerated the completion to 2003. Project goals were to determine the complete sequence of the 3 billion DNA subunits (bases), identify all human genes, and make them accessible for further biological study. Each family completes a DNA lab together. Planetarium shows at 1:00pm and 3:00pm are included with admission (ages 4 and above only).

Ramblin' Reindeer, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 25, 26 and 27 Kick off the holiday season with hooves and antlers, learning about the infamous reindeer that pull Santa's sleigh. Mixing science with legend, this is a fun weekend for the whole family. Touch an actual reindeer pelt and study the hoof impressions they leave behind. Children craft a cute reindeer souvenir to start the holiday decorating at home. Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only).

The Museum is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Science Discovery activities are 12:30 to 4 p.m. The Discovery Museum Science and Space Center is located at 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Admission is \$6 adults (18+), \$5 seniors (60+), \$5 teens (13-17), \$4 children (4-12), \$0 children (3 and under) and is ages appropriate for children 4 to 12 years old. For more information, call (916) 808-3942 or visit www.thediscovery.org.



The Importance of Fatherhood

A Relationship with Dad Can Change a Child's Life

A message brought to you by First 5 Sacramento

Fathers today are spending more time with their children compared to three decades ago, according to the Families and Work Institute, a leading nonprofit that studies workforce and family issues. They are also taking on more nurturing and caregiving roles. Research shows that the role a father plays in a young child's life is extremely important to a child's healthy development, and there are many positive outcomes for children whose fathers are more involved in their daily lives.

First 5 Sacramento offers the following tips to encourage dads to become more involved and supportive parents:

- Get involved early. Taking an active role in caring for a newborn helps dads and babies bond from the start. You might consider taking a few days off from work after the baby is born to spend quality time together. In California, new parents, including dads, are eligible for up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to be with their newborn.

- Be informed and connect with other dads. Participate in community programs, take local parenting workshops, and talk with other fathers at daycare or preschool to build a network of support.
- Put in the time. Make it a priority to spend quality time with your child. This helps you build a strong relationship that includes regular communication. Find activities that you and your child enjoy doing to make your time together special, like reading or spending time playing outdoors.
- Create a strong bond. A great way to create and maintain a bond with young children is by being actively involved in their daily lives. Help your children take a bath, get ready for bed, or even do chores together to show that you are a consistent part of their lives.
- Make it memorable. Everyday activities can provide opportunities to learn and listen to your child. For example, when riding in the car or on the bus, ask your children to describe shapes and colors they see.
- Be a role-model. Practice appropriate discipline, considering your child's age



and personality. Disciplining with respect and love allows you to interact in positive ways with your child.

A Learning Tool Just for Dads

Included in the Kit for New Parents is a DVD called the Daddy's Tool Bag. The 45-minute instructional hands-on DVD covers the important basics for taking care of a new baby from a dad's perspective. Set in a workshop setting, the DVD delivers meaningful instruction to help eliminate the intimidation that most men have when taking care of babies resulting in strengthening the bond between new fathers and their children through educational and hands-on experiences. The Kit for New Parents is free and is available at www.first5sacramento.net.

For more information on connecting to free parenting services call 2-1-1.

About First 5 Sacramento

Research shows that a child's brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child's growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on tobacco products to support programs for expectant parents and children ages zero to five. In the last year, First 5 Sacramento distributed approximately \$14 million a year in Prop 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs. Each county has a First 5 Children and Families Commission providing unique local services for that county. Surrounding First 5's include: First 5 Yolo: 530-669-2475; First 5 Placer: 530-745-1304; and First 5 El Dorado: 530-672-8298.

Have fun coloring!



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy



Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties! Parties!

Autumn Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters L E A F.
Don't guess - use logic



F			
			A
L			
			E

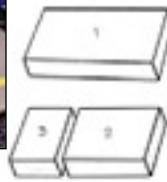
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Car Birthday Cake

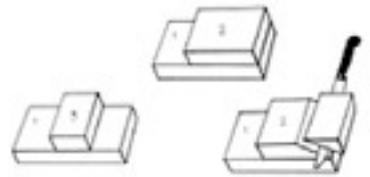
1 package pound cake mix
3/4 cup water or milk
2 eggs
1-1/2 tubs vanilla ready-to-spread frosting
Food colors
Tray or cardboard, 13x9 1/2 inches, covered
4 creme-filled chocolate sandwich cookies
1 tube (0.68 ounce) black or brown decorating gel
Black and yellow licorice beans
1 white gum ball



Cutting and Assembling Automobile Cake



Cut and remove 3 inches from end of one loaf. Leave piece 2 as is for van, or trim 2 inches off one end for sedan or 2 inches diagonally for hatchback.



Place piece 1 on tray, front top. Place piece 2 on top and position for van, sedan or hatchback.

2 red gum balls
Silver nonpareils

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour 2 loaf pans, 8 1/2x4 1/2x2 1/2 inches. Make cake mix as directed on package, using water or milk and eggs. Pour into pans.

Bake 33 to 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pans to wire rack. Cool completely, about 1 hour.

Cut and remove 3 inches from end of 1 loaf. Position pieces as shown in diagram for desired automobile. Freeze cut pieces uncovered about 1 hour for easier frosting if desired.

Reserve 1/2 cup of the frosting. Tint remaining frosting with food color. Place whole loaf on tray. Frost top with 1/3 cup tinted frosting. Top with cut layer, positioning for desired car. Trim corners

for more rounded look if desired. Attach cookies for wheels, using small amount of frosting. Draw outline of windows with sharp knife. Frost windows and hubcaps with reserved white frosting. Frost sides and top of car with remaining tinted frosting, building up around wheels for fenders.

Outline windows, hood, doors and bumpers with decorating gel. Use licorice beans for grill, door handles and signal lights. Cut gum balls in half; use for headlights and taillights. Make spoke markings on wheel with knife. Press 1 silver nonpareil in center of each wheel. Use silver nonpareils for hood ornament if desired. Silver nonpareils are not edible; remove them before eating cake. Makes 14 servings

For more fun ideas visit www.vazzledazzlerecipes.com

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www.sspca.org

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MERRYHILL Elementary & Middle School



You're invited to an OPEN HOUSE!

Visit one of our Open Houses in November at the school nearest you. Dates, times and locations are listed below.

MerryhillSchool.com

Merryhill School November Open Houses All Welcome!

Merryhill School, Pre K-3rd - Natomas
2565 Millcreek Drive • Sacramento, CA 95833
916-564-7343

OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, November 3, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Merryhill School, K-3rd - Pocket
7450 Pocket Road • Sacramento, CA 95831
916-429-6044

OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, November 3, 5:00-7:00 pm

Merryhill School, Pre K-6th - Roseville
1622 Sierra Gardens Drive • Roseville, CA 95661
916-783-3010

OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, November 3, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Merryhill School, 4th-8th - Park City
7334 Park City Drive • Sacramento, CA 95831
916-429-6055

OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, November 10, 5:30-7:30 pm

Merryhill School, K-8th - Stockton
4811 Riverbrook Drive • Stockton, CA 95219
209-477-9005

OPEN HOUSE: Wednesday, November 9, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Merryhill School, K-6th - Elk Grove
9036 Calvine Road • Sacramento, CA 95829
916-689-7236

OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, November 3, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Merryhill School, Junior K-6th - Davis
2650 Lillard Drive • Davis, CA 95618
530-297-5100

OPEN HOUSE: Thursday, November 17, 5:30 - 7:00 pm