

June 2015

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California Kids!

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Plastic, Ahoy! won the national Green Earth Book Award!

Plastic, Ahoy! Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, written by Patricia Newman, who has the monthly column, Who wrote that? in *California Kids!*, was selected the best in children's nonfiction literature that "...best inspire[s] young readers to appreciate and care for the environment." Give kids a great foundation for the challenge ahead by adding *Plastic, Ahoy!* to your collection. Patricia Newman visits schools! Visit her website at www.patriciamnewman.com for more information.



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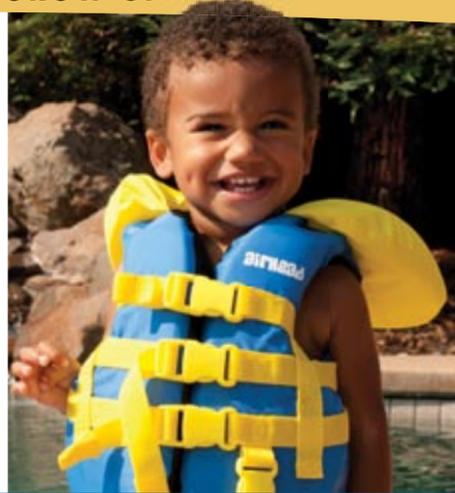
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Amtrak Train Days Make a Stop at the Railroad Museum

All aboard for rail-related fun! In a partnership with Amtrak, California State Parks and the California State Railroad Museum are proud to present a special Amtrak Train Days event at the Railroad Museum -- that includes FREE admission all weekend -- on June 6 and 7. Taking the place of National Train Day, this expanded and FREE two-day event is one of many happening across the country, all designed to celebrate the love of trains through a traveling, community-centric experience under the new name of Amtrak Train Days.

In addition to exploring North America's most popular rail museum, Amtrak Train Days visitors to the California State Railroad Museum will enjoy viewing a variety of special trains on display including the Amtrak Exhibit Train, a fun and interactive Chuggington Kids Depot, specialty merchandise, and much more. Amtrak will also showcase a "Reasons to Ride the Train" exhibit -- a dynamic experience that allows attendees to see, hear, and feel the benefits of train travel through interactive elements and informative graphics.

Visitors to Old Sacramento State Historic Park will also have the opportunity to enjoy excursion train rides behind the vintage steam locomotive Granite Rock No.10 that weekend on-the-hour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. (regular train ride ticket prices apply). Regular excursion train tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$6 for youths (ages 6-17), and ages five and under ride free. Train ride tickets are available to



Photo courtesy of the California State Railroad Museum

book online in advance at www.csrnf.org or can be purchased in-person starting at 10:30 a.m. the day of the train ride (based on availability) at the Sacramento Southern Railroad ticket office located on Front Street between J and Streets.

For more information about the California State Railroad Museum, call (916) 323-9280 or visit www.csrnf.org. For additional dates and details about the nationwide Exhibit Train Tour, please visit <http://www.amtrak.com/exhibit-train>.

ALL ABOARD!

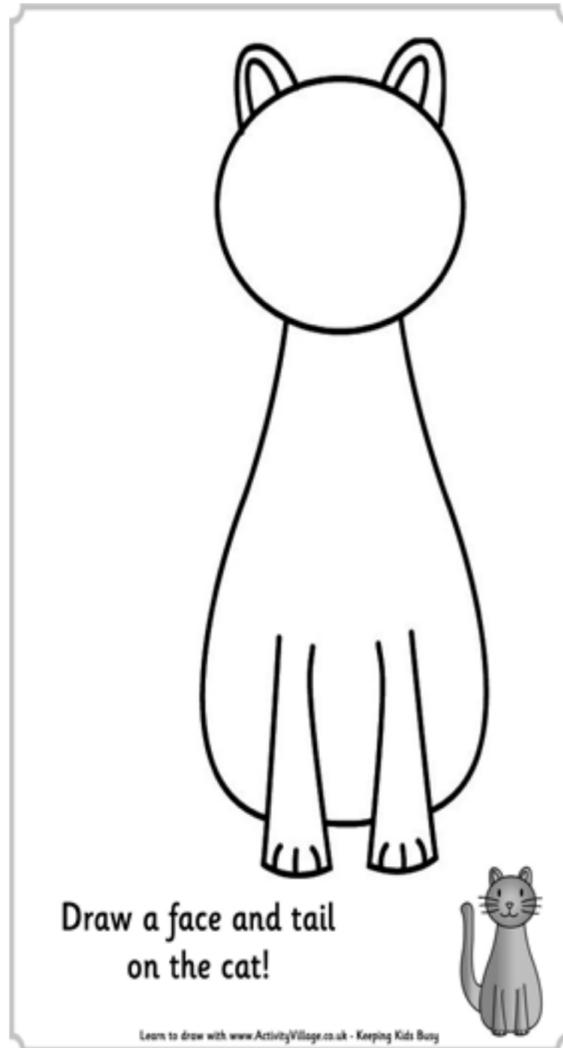
VISIT the California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento, open daily 10 am–5 pm and Thursday evenings through September 3 until 8 pm.

RIDE the Sacramento Southern Railroad, weekends April – September, hourly departures 11 am–4 pm.

SHOP at our fabulous Museum Store, a *Thomas & Friends*™ Official Specialty Station— one of 20 exclusive Logan and Sam retailers.

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The Maidu Museum and Historic Site Events

Continuing Exhibits:

The Great Basin Native Artists Group Show, through August 10

Art exhibit by the new art collective, Great Basin Native Artists. Some of the participating artists include: Ben Aleck, Melvin Brown, Phil Buckheart, David Dalasohya, Louinda Garity, Robert Hicks Jr., Linda Eben-Jones, Jean LaMarr, Jack Malotte, Melissa Melerio, Mack Nez Johnson, and Janice Stump.

Annual Native Youth Art Show, through June 15

Art from young artists ages 5 – 20 from the United Auburn Indian Community, California Indian Museum & Cultural Center, and the Sierra Native Alliance will be on display. The United Auburn Indian Community School has a hands-on learning philosophy that helps teach children in pre-K through 6th grades key aspects of Indian culture and foster critical thinking to prepare tribal members to face future challenges. The California Indian Museum & Cultural Center strives to provide educational resources and support through public lectures and youth events. The Sierra Native Alliance offers a variety of culturally-based youth services including Indian Education, Youth Council/Leadership Group, and a Youth Mentoring/Advocacy Program.

June Events

Campfire, Friday, June 19, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Sit under the stars at the outdoor amphitheater and enjoy native stories around the campfire. The staff will provide roasting sticks and marshmallows for a sweet program's end. Museum doors open at 7 p.m. Program starts at 7:30. \$5 per person, \$16 family of four, under 2 are FREE.

Night Out at the Museum

Join the staff for a Night Out at the Museum on Saturday, June 19, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Opening reception for a new exhibit of Contemporary California Indian Jewelry on display June 20 through July 11. Museum doors open at 6:30 p.m. Program starts at 7 p.m. Light refreshments will be available. FREE event.

The Maidu Museum is open: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3rd Saturdays 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Guided Tours Saturdays at 10a.m. Self-guided tours on weekdays. Admission Fees: \$4.50 Adults, \$4 Senior/Child, \$16/Family of Four, \$2 after 2 p.m. The Museum is located at 1970 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville. For more information, call (916) 774-5934 or visit www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center Activities

Free Weekend Activities

June 6, Saturday, Nature Tales, 10:30 a.m.

Members of the Sacramento Storytellers Guild will share their entertaining tales of animals and nature.

June 7, Sunday, Rattlesnakes, 1:30 p.m.

Warm weather is perfect weather for snakes, especially for rattlesnakes along the American River. Learn all about these snakes and their imposters, and how to enjoy the American River and keep your family safe during this season.

June 13, Saturday, Along the River Edge, 10:30 a.m.

Who lives at the river edge? Hike with a naturalist and explore the habitat where beaver, otter, herons and other wildlife live. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair from the staff. All ages welcome.

June 14, Sunday, Cold Blooded Creatures, 1:30 p.m.

Some have scaly skin, some have slimy skin, some have legs and some do not. Can you guess what they are? Meet a resident animal up close. All ages welcome.

June 20, Saturday, Birding for Families, 10:30 a.m.

Bring the family out for a birding and nature walk led by a Naturalist and special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed. Make sure to bring your binoculars, or the staff can loan you a pair.

June 21, Sunday, Fathers and Feathers, 1:30 p.m.

Bring Dad and meet some of the Natures Center's feathered residents. Learn all about what makes these birds so special and how they became educational ambassadors for the Nature Center.

June 27, Saturday, Solstice Stroll, 10:30 a.m.

Beat the heat and join a Naturalist for a hike through the preserve as the summer season arrives. See what changes are happening as the weather heats up!

June 28, Sunday, Tools and Tales, 1:30 p.m.

Join the staff inside and enjoy some tantalizing tales of creatures, people, and nature. Get a chance to view replica Maidu artifacts made from the gifts of the earth and learn about their many uses.

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located 2850 San Lorenzo Way, at California Avenue and Tarshes Drive, Carmichael. Donations are gratefully accepted. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee into Ancil Hoffman County Park (Free to members). For more information, call (916) 489-4918 or visit www.sacnaturecenter.net.

Send us your Photos!

California Kids! is looking for themed photos to use for our monthly publication.

This is your BIG chance to land a cover shot!

For more info please contact kathleen@valcomnews.com

Celebrate Father's Day and Summer!

Hey kids! Summer is the warmest of the four seasons, when schools typically take a break and you get to enjoy more outdoor fun! Can you find the words relating to Father's Day and summer? Here's a puzzle that will test your hunting skills. Those on the list below can be spelled forward, backward, vertically, horizontally and even diagonally.

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

Barbecue

Baseball

Beach ball

Boating

Camping

Dad

Fishing

Happy

Heat

Hugs

Ice cream

Mr. Fixit

Picnics

Play catch

Storyteller

Sunglasses

Swimming pool

TV remote

Vacation

Watermelon

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park

Hands on History: Sacramento's First Hospital

Saturday, June 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be demonstrations with "volunteers" laying on a table to gain an understanding of how 19th century medicine was practiced. There will also be butter-churning,

lassoing, and turning a millstone to grind wheat as well as black powder weaponry demonstrations.

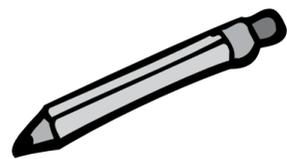
Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is located mid-town Sacramento between K and L Streets and 26th and 28th Streets. For more information, call (916) 445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org.

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MAKE IT YOURSELF!



Handprint Horse

Here's a fun handprint painting horse that younger children will enjoy. Why not paint a whole herd!

You will need:

Brown paint, paper, black pen

You will need to:

Print a brown handprint on the paper and leave to dry. The thumb is the head and neck and the fingers are the legs. Use the black pen to draw on the tail, mane, eye and nostril. Color the ends of the fingers to make hooves.



Horse Finger Puppet

This lovely horse finger puppet is a good craft for older children as it requires some sewing skills and the parts are reasonably small.

You will need:

Brown and black felt, black embroidery thread, needle, wiggle eyes, fabric glue

You will need to:

Cut two body shapes from brown felt. Cut two hooves from black felt.

Sew one set of the hooves to each body. Embroider a line of running stitch up the middle of each body to make the legs.

To make a tail, cut a short length of 6 strand embroidery thread and knot the end. Thread onto a needle and stitch through the body so the knot is on the back and the thread hangs where the tail should be. Separate out the strands and repeat until you are happy with the tail. Sew the body pieces together, making sure to leave the bottom open. Glue some lengths of thread onto the top of the front of the body, to form the mane. Now embroider two crosses for nostrils. Make the forelock the same way as the tail. Glue on wiggle eyes.

Now glue the face on top of the horse's body, so that the mane flows out to one side.

Crafts courtesy of: www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Make a key ring purse

Here is a very useful gift - a handy little purse in which to keep change for the car park.

You will need:

Rectangle of craft foam 3 inches by 6 inches, yarn (wool), self adhesive hook and eye fasteners, foam stickers, fabric paint, other embellishments, darning needle or single hole punch, key ring fitting (from craft shops)

You will need to:

Lay the foam rectangle in front of you with the long sides running up. Fold up the bottom edge until it is about 1 1/2 inches from the top, and then fold the top edge down over it. This is your purse shape. Sew up the sides, either directly with a darning needle, or first punching holes for for younger children so they can lace the sides up. Secure with a knot at either end. Fasten the top flap with a hook and eye fastener. Make two small holes in the top of the purse and thread a piece of yarn through. Knot and twist the ends together and tie to the key ring fitting. Decorate your purse.



Mini Chest of Drawers

This chest of drawers can be an excellent desk tidy, or very useful in the workroom as storage for screws and nails. This is a craft that involves a bit of adult preparation but when this is done even the youngest child can achieve an impressive result.

To make your mini chest of drawers you will need: 4 cartons (long-life fruit juice or milk cartons), scissors, paints, white glue, old magazines, acrylic varnish (optional)

You will need to: Remove any plastic fittings from the cartons. Rinse and let dry. Make a hole with the scissors in the side panel of one of the cartons and cut out. This will form the "chest" of the chest of drawers. To make the drawers; measure a distance from the base of one carton equal to the depth of the carton. Draw a line around the carton at this height and cut along it to make your drawer. From one end of the drawer cut out a piece about 1/2 an inch high so the drawer can be opened. Use this drawer to measure and cut out another two drawers. You now have a chest of drawers ready to decorate. Paint the drawers in different colors and leave to dry. Cover the outside of the "chest" with glue and cover with pictures ripped from old magazines. When completely covered paint with another coat of glue to seal any loose edges. If you wish, the chest of drawers can be made more hardwearing by painting with a coat of varnish.



Fairytale Town Presents Summer Funcamps

Fairytale Town offers 16 exciting and educational summer camps for children ages four through nine. Each weeklong FunCamp is designed for a specific age group and features a unique theme, including visual and theater arts, literature, puppetry, animals, gardening and more. Children can explore new areas of interest or dive deeper into their favorite topic.

Three new camps are offered this year for children ages seven to nine: "Bugging Out" introduces campers to the world of arthropods; "Superhero Summer Camp" explores what it takes to be a real superhero; and "RockSchool 2.0" is an expanded version of Fairytale Town's popular beginners' music camp.

FunCamps are \$140 per camp, and registration is open. Visit fairytaletown.org to register.

For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

Children Ages 4 - 6

Farmer Brown's Junior Farmers, Monday - Friday, July 15 - 19, August 10 - 14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Farmer Brown introduces campers to the daily regimens that keep Fairytale Town's friendly flock of farm animals fit and healthy. Campers will get to know these barnyard buddies while learning historical information and participating in related hands-on activities. Please note: Campers will have direct contact with Fairytale Town's animals and animal feed. Some children may be allergic to the natural oils found in animal fur/hair and feed. Instructor: Jim Hernandez.

RockSchool, Monday - Friday, June 22 - 26 and July 13 - 17, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Channel your inner rock star in this music FunCamp for beginners. This camp features hands-on experience with several instruments, including guitar, bass, drums and keyboard. Campers will also learn about popular mu-

sical artists and participate in rock-related art activities. At the end of the week, parents and loved ones are invited to a rock show put on by the campers. No previous experience is necessary. Please note: This FunCamp gets loud! Instructor: Jessie Abbey.

Earthworks Garden, Monday - Friday, July 6 - 10 and July 20 - 24, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Fairytale Town offers plenty of green-thumb fun in this gardening camp. This FunCamp covers the basic essentials of home gardening with a focus on environmentally "green" practices. Campers will also receive an up-close perspective on Fairytale Town's own unique gardens and plants. Instructor: Kayla Willett.

Puppet Palooza, Monday - Friday, July 27 - 31, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Every story can be told with puppets. This FunCamp teaches students the original nursery rhymes and fairytales that inspired the play sets at Fairytale Town. Campers are then encouraged and inspired to retell the classic tales using puppets they create. Campers will make a variety of puppets, including paper bag, sock and marionettes. Instructor: Kayla Willett.

Little Artists, Monday - Friday, August 3 - 7, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

This camp introduces the world of art and basic art concepts to budding artists. Campers participate in a wonderful week of art projects featuring drawing, cutting, pasting and painting in a relaxed and colorful environment. Topics include primary and secondary colors, drawing, sand art and patterns. Instructor: Elizabeth Vang.

Ages 7 - 9

Adventure Play, Monday - Friday, June 15 - 19, 1 - 4 p.m.

Adventure Play teaches children about the natural world through science-based experiments and discovery play. Concepts include basic survival skills, weather iden-

tification, plants and animals. Campers will take nature walks, make bird feeders, construct cardboard forts, use a solar oven and more. A different adventure awaits campers each day. Instructor: Wendy Her.

Curtains Up!, Monday - Friday, June 22 - 26, 1 - 4 p.m.

Fairytale Town presents a theater arts camp that emphasizes creative playmaking onstage and offstage. Curtains Up! covers all aspects of theater, from acting and scriptwriting to costume design and prop construction. Campers will write, design, produce and perform their own short play in one fast-paced, fun-filled week. Instructor: Elliot Herzer.

Zap! Boom! Pow! Comic Book Basics, Monday - Friday, July 6 - 10, 1 - 4 p.m.

This is the perfect FunCamp for budding artists who want to draw. A special emphasis is placed on dynamic anatomy, character development and sequential storytelling techniques. The primary focus is on classic silver and bronze age art styles as well as modern manga techniques. Campers will have the option to create their own comic book or a freestanding art piece to display in a "comic book convention" setting at the end of the week. Instructor: John Lee.

Write Now, Monday - Friday, July 13 - 17, 1 - 4 p.m.

In this creative writing FunCamp, aspiring authors who wish to strengthen their storytelling skills will find a happy haven of literary labor packed with plenty of artful advice, energetic exercises, art activities and freestyle fun. The camp will cover fiction, non-fiction, prose and poetry, plus art illustrations. Instructor: Karin Stevens.

RockSchool 2.0, Monday - Friday, July 20 - 24, 1 - 4 p.m.

Channel your inner rock star in this new music FunCamp for ages seven to nine. Campers will dive deeper into the



Photo courtesy Fairytale Town

rockin' world of music and have hands-on time and instruction with several musical instruments, including guitar, bass, drums and keyboard. Campers will also explore rock 'n' roll history and participate in rock related games and activities. At the end of the week, campers will put on a Rock Show for parents and loved ones. This camp is perfect for those who have previously participated in RockSchool for ages four to six, however no prior musical experience is required. Please note: This FunCamp gets loud! Instructor: Jessie Abbey.

Bugging Out, Monday - Friday, July 27 - 31, 1 - 4 p.m.

Farmer Brown presents a new camp for ages seven to nine. Campers will be introduced to the lesser known arthropods that call Fairytale Town home. Children will get up close with plenty of creepy crawlers, including tarantulas, bees, cockroaches, termites, lady bugs, earthworms and more. Campers will take daily surveys of the park to find and observe bugs in their natural environment and learn basic concepts including life cycles, entomology, pollination and decomposition. Please Note: Campers will have direct contact with Fairytale Town's arthropods; some children

may be allergic to tarantula hair, bees and/or other bugs. Instructor: Jim Hernandez.

Young Picassos, Monday - Friday, August 3 - 7, 1 - 4 p.m.

This FunCamp covers the exciting variety found in the world of art. Campers will try their hand at different art media, including painting, printmaking, clay and 3-D art, plus an exploration into art history. This camp is specifically designed for the young artist who wants to try it all. Instructor: Andy Graham.

Superhero Summer Camp, Monday - Friday, August 10 - 14, 1 - 4 p.m.

This new FunCamp is a positive mashup of history, art, literature and fun, with an added emphasis on leadership skills, physical fitness, mental acuity and personal responsibility. Boys and girls will learn what it takes to be a real superhero, have the chance to design their own secret identities, and even create their own masks, capes, logos, and super costume essentials. Campers will also learn about real life superheroes from history and fictional superheroes from popular literature and comic books. Instructor: John Lee.

For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

Discovery Museum Science & Space Center Events

Each weekend the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center explores a new science topic through special displays, visiting exhibits, and guest presentations. These activities include craft activities for kids four to twelve years old and planetarium shows for ages four and older.

• **June 6 and 7, Saturday and Sunday, Space Stamp-a-rama, 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Get creative designing your own space stamp banner. This great souvenir reminds you of all the fun you had visiting our Space Quest! exhibit. Blast off in the rocket play space, learn about the elements that make up our solar system, and serve up some (pretend) food in our Cosmic Café! Planetarium shows at 1 and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and older only).

• **June 13 and 14, Saturday and Sunday, Amphibian Antics!, 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Have a hoppin' good time at the Discovery Museum this weekend as the staff highlights frogs and toads. View the live critters on display in the Nature Discovery Room, including a giant African bullfrog. Learn the differences between frogs and toads. Craft a silly frog mask to take home as a souvenir. Your admission includes visiting the Space Quest! exhibit and a planetarium show at 1 and 3 p.m. (ages 4 and older only).

• **June 20 and 21, Saturday and Sunday, International SUN-day, 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Welcome the summer season by taking part in International SUN-day. Special guests, the Sacramento Valley Astronomical Society, are outside with their solar telescopes. These hydrogen alpha scopes allow you to see the sun directly, showing sun spots and prominences. Talk to SVAS about telescopes, backyard astronomy, and community viewing opportunities. Make a sun medal decoration. This is an exciting opportunity for the entire family. Admission includes a sun-themed planetarium show at 1 and 3 p.m. for ages 4 and older.

• **June 27 and 28, UV Bracelets, Saturday and Sunday, 12:30 to 4 p.m.**

Be prepared for fun in the sun this summer by making your own UV indicator. Kids 12 and younger craft a bracelet that changes color when exposed to UV light. Learn about different types of light in our Space Quest! exhibit. Your admission includes visiting the Space Quest! exhibit, Nature Discovery Room, and planetarium show at 1 and 3 p.m. (ages 4 and older only).

The Discovery Museum Science and Space Center is located at 3615 Auburn Boulevard, Sacramento. Admission is: \$8 adults (18+), \$7 seniors (60+), \$7 teens (13-17), \$6 children (4-12), \$0 children (3 and younger). The exhibits are age appropriate for 4 to 12 years



Photos courtesy Discovery Museum

old. For more information, call (916) 808-3942 or visit www.thediscovery.org.

About the Powerhouse Science Center/Discovery Museum Science & Space Center Established in 1951, the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center is an exceptional science education and recreation

resource for students, families, and all members of the greater Sacramento community. In our current location, the Discovery Museum serves more than 80,000 visitors, provides on-site programming to more than 50,000 school children, and delivers more than 300 "Science on Wheels" outreach programs each year.

The Discovery Museum will soon significantly expand and transform to become the Powerhouse Science Center. This new campus will be eight times the current center's size and serve as "a dynamic regional hub that engages and inspires people of all ages to explore the wonders, possibilities, and responsibilities of science."

Who wrote that?

The Creators of Your Child's Favorite Books

With author Debbie Ridpath Ohi

By Patricia Newman

Debbie Ridpath Ohi's childhood dream was to someday read all the books in the library. "I grew up in the suburbs of Toronto in a lower-middle income family," she says. "We couldn't afford to purchase a lot of children's books so instead my father used to take the whole family to the library once a week. I so looked forward to that weekly visit! My parents trusted us to choose what we wanted. It was almost like being in a candy store."

Ohi has always considered herself a writer. "I wanted to create books for young people ever since I was a child. I wrote my first illustrated chapter book in a lined notebook when I was in grade school, and was thrilled when the teacher said she loved it." Her eighth grade teacher made a surprise appearance at her book launch for *I'm Bored*, and handed over several of her short stories that he'd saved. "I was touched that he had kept my writing all those years," Ohi says. "That's why people should not underestimate the importance of teachers. Just a few encouraging words from a teacher at the right time in your life can have a huge impact."

As a child, Ohi loved the physical comfort of picture books—holding them in her hands and cuddling up with her parents while they read to her. Consequently, she wanted to write a story about



Debbie Ridpath Ohi

a character who shared her feelings. In *Where Are My Books?*, Spencer's favorite stories begin to vanish one at a time. "I tried to get across how much I loved and continue to love the physical comfort of picture books," Ohi says, "plus the [special bond] that happens between a grown-up and [a] child during a read-aloud."

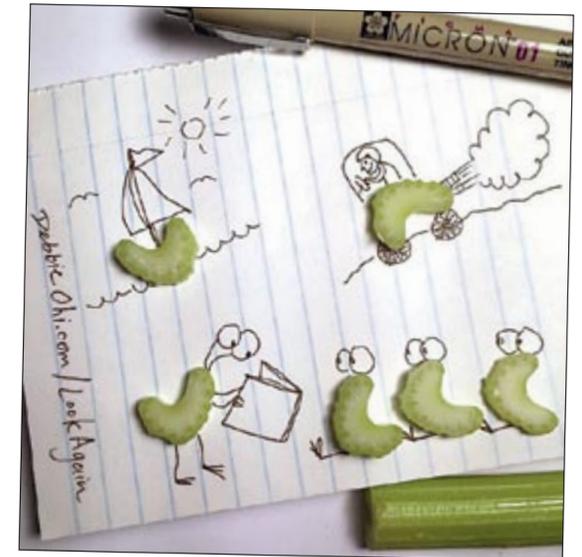
During the early stages of *Where Are My Books?*, Ohi knew she wanted to combine her love of reading with her love-hate relationship with squirrels. Although she thinks squirrels are cute, they've caused her more than a few headaches, and they seemed like the perfect nemesis for her main character. "[Squirrels] have cut off my Internet [and] they've killed my plants," Ohi says. As a result, friends are fond of sending her news of squirrel hijinks that fuel her imagination. But the book idea gelled

during a conversation Ohi had with her nephew about his reading preferences.

The creative process is filled with highs and lows, and inevitably Ohi says, "I feel inadequate at least one time during each project." She values her editor's input, and claims "he pushes me harder than I would have done on my own." The trick is to remember not to take his comments personally. "He wants exactly what I want," she says. "He wants as strong a story as possible."

Ohi's inspiration comes from observing people and the world around her. "Not just half-paying-attention observing, but really looking," she says. She keeps a small notebook in her purse to scribble the odd fragment of text or an idea that pops into her head, or to scrawl a rough sketch. Her found-object art is an attempt to train herself to appreciate color, line, texture, and open her eyes to new possibilities, such as a slice of celery that hides the hull of a sailboat or the body of a bird. She encourages children and adults to carve out time each day to create—something, anything—for the pure fun of it.

As with most authors, Ohi's daily schedule defies routine. Although she tries to start each morning with a free-writing exercise, she quickly moves into organizational and administrative tasks. Afternoons are usually reserved for creating new art and new text. "Sometimes I can work things out so that I'm able to focus on creative stuff all day, uninterrupted," she says. "Those days are heaven to me." Ohi experiments with many media for her illustra-



tions, such as digital drawing and painting, ink, watercolors, collage, and of course, found objects.

"I never imagined that I'd be lucky enough [to create children's books] for a living," Ohi says. But she bristles when people call her an overnight success. She was "discovered" at a Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (www.scbwi.org) portfolio showcase contest. "[People] don't realize how hard I've worked and how long I've

been trying to get my children's books published. Yes, I feel very lucky...but there were many lean years before then in terms of getting the attention of the children's book industry."

Patricia Newman visits schools! Her newest book Plastic, Ahoy! Investigating the Great Pacific Garbage Patch won the Green Earth Book Award and is now available. Visit her website at www.patriciannewman.com for more information.

Next Month: Jill Esbaum

LEARN MORE ABOUT DEBBIE RIDPATH OHI

Visit: <http://debbieohi.com/> or her blog at <http://inkygirl.com/>

DEBBIE RIDPATH OHI'S LIBRARY Author/Illustrator

Where Are My Books?, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2015.

Illustrator

Naked! by Michael Ian Black, Simon & Schuster BFYR, 2014.

Freckle Juice by Judy Blume (reissue), Atheneum, 2014.

The One in the Middle is the Green Kangaroo by Judy Blume (reissue), Atheneum, 2014.

The Pain and the Great One by Judy Blume (reissue), Atheneum, 2014.

I'm Bored by Michael Ian Black, Simon & Schuster BFYR, 2012.

Upcoming Illustration Credits

Ruby Rose On Her Toes by Rob Sanders, HarperCollins, January 2016.

Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective: What's That Smell? by Lauren McLaughlin, Random House Children's Books, July 2016.

Sea Monkey and Bob by Aaron Reynolds, Simon & Schuster BFYR, Fall 2016.

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California Kids is an events and activities guide for active families and is published once a month by Valley Community Newspapers, publishers of the Arden Carmichael News, East Sacramento News, Land Park News and the Pocket News. View at: www.valcomnews.com

California Kids targets active families who get out and enjoy all the community has to offer. It also serves as a guide to families that are thinking of relocating to a new area. A perfect publication for real estate listings.

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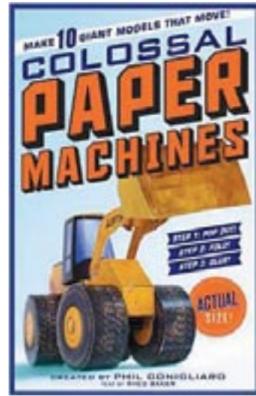
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Fun Gift Ideas!

Make 10 Giant Models That Move!

In ancient times, *colossus* was simply a word to describe a structure that was larger than life—something with no comparison; something that had never been seen before. Well, no one has ever seen a book quite like this. Packaged in a tryly whopping 11"x17" trim meant to celebrate the immense vehicles inside, **Colossal Paper Machines** (Workman; \$24.95; ages 9 and up).

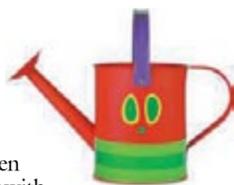


Colossal Paper Machines is a whopping over-sized book of interactive paper models to appeal to every kid who loves big machines—which pretty much covers all of them. These are the coolest big machines—each re-created in an oversize paper model that, once built, really moves (yes, you read that right, paper machines that roll, swivel, and spin!). The book has everything you need to pop out, fold, and create a full-color model of ten big machines. And perhaps best of all? This book was created by Workman's very own Production Assistant, Phil Conigliaro, who is also an incredible gifted paper engineer and artist!

Colossal Paper Machines is available for pre-order from any of the following online retailers: Amazon | Barnes & Noble | IndieBound | Workman.

Fun gardening product from kids Preferred!

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A little dirt never hurt anyone, and that's what Eric Carle is teaching with "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" Gardening product line. Kids and parents can enjoy gardening together! You can purchase The Very Hungry Caterpillar Garden Collection on Amazon.com. The watering can retails for \$13.

LightUp connected Toys That Teach

LightUp makes connected toys that teach kids about electronics and programming. Their debut STEM-focused toys combine the fun of magnetic building blocks with the magic of the LightUp Learning app. The Lightup Lens, the in-app augmented reality feature, helps kids out with personalized hints, and even gives them X-ray vision by letting them see electricity flow!



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THE BOOK REPORT
Reviewers Choice

By **Connie Goldsmith**

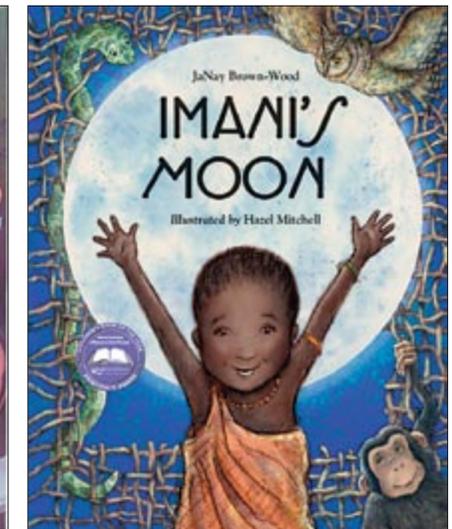
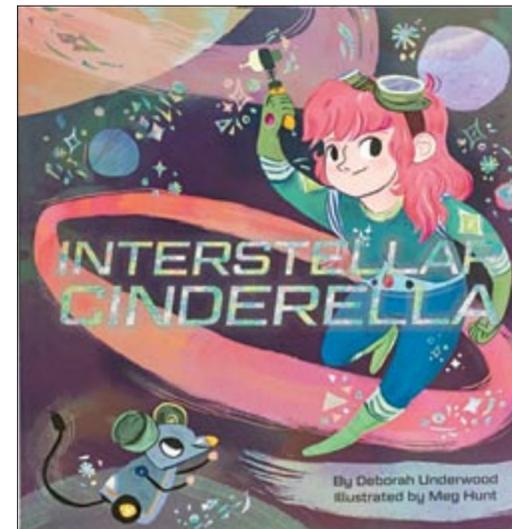
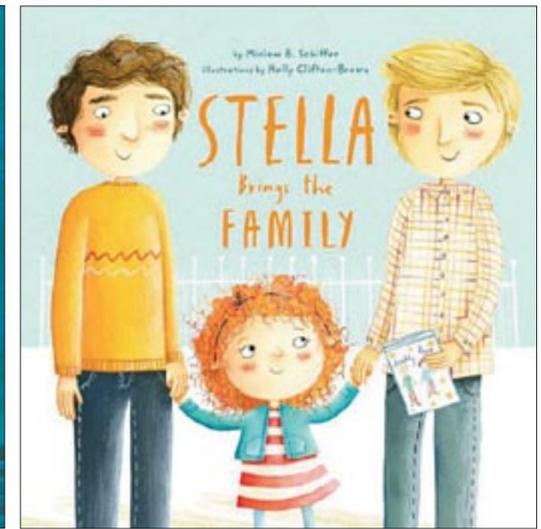
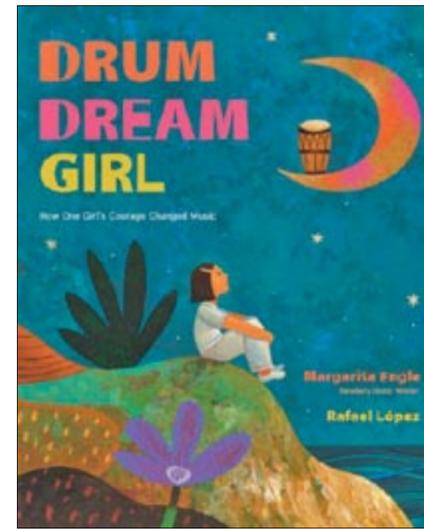
This column usually focuses on a theme, such as bedtime stories or ABC books. But sometimes there are wonderful books that don't fit into a theme. This month features a mix of books on a variety of topics. The first three are written by Northern California authors and feature strong female characters. Several promote the cultural diversity so important in children's literature today.

"*Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music*," by Margarita Engle, illustrated by Rafael Lopez. (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). This award-winning Cuban-American writer has been contributing to diversity in children's literature for years by introducing young readers to both famous and lesser-known Cubans. "On an island of music in a city of drumbeats the drum dream girl dreamed . . ." But only boys should play drums, her father says. Inspired by Millo Castro Zaldarriaga's childhood, we see how she started Cuba's first all-girl dance band in 1932 Havana. Engle's lyrical alliterative text melds perfectly with Lopez's spectacular art that's filled with fantasy and unique images worked in luminous acrylic on wood. At its heart, the story inspires anyone with a dream to keep on dreaming and to never give up. This is a book to keep and treasure. **** Reviewer's pick of the month****

"*Imani's Moon*," by JaNay Brown-Wood, illustrated by Hazel Mitchell. (Mackinac Island/ Charlesbridge). Meet Imani, the smallest child in her Maasai village. "She's no higher than a lion cub's knee!" one child teases, too little to accomplish anything, another says. Imani believes the children until Mama tells her a story that makes her determined to reach the moon! Imani climbs a tree. She tries to fly. Then she watches warriors perform the jumping dance. That's how she'll reach the moon! Higher and higher she jumps, right up to the moon. The message is clear: the way to make dreams come true is to keep on jumping! The lovely watercolor art shows the reader details of a culture unfamiliar to many: the beaded jewelry, bright clothing, straw huts, and the *adumu* jumping dance of Maasai life. An excellent first offering from a Sacramento author.

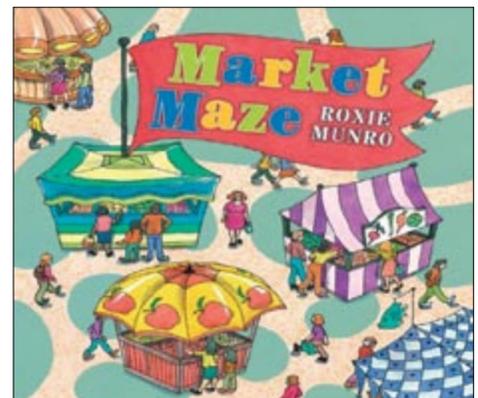
"*Interstellar Cinderella*," by Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Meg Hunt. (Chronicle Books). "Once upon a planetoid, amid her tools and sprockets, a girl named Cinderella dreamed of fixing fancy rockets." This is Cinderella as you've never seen her! She lives with her stepmother and stepsisters, but dreams of fixing space ships. When the Prince invites the family to his Royal Space Parade, Cinderella is left behind. But her robot mouse alerts her fairy godrobot, and off she goes to the Parade. But Cinderella doesn't dance, she fixes the Prince's broken spaceship. Instead of a glass slipper, the Prince searches for the owner of the sonic socket wrench Cinderella left behind. The modernized ending surprises and amuses! The cartoonish art is a fun match to the charming rhymes. Don't miss the end papers filled with high-tech space tools, such as the antimatter hammer.

"*Market Maze*," by Roxie Munro. (Holiday House). *Where's Waldo* meets the farmers' market in this lively



seek-and-find book that answers the question: how do all the wonderful things at the local farmers' market get there? Follow the farmer, the fisherman, and the flower grower as they move products from their source through town to the market. For example, follow the apple truck from the orchard, along the highway, and into the city. On route, "Find 5 deer, 1 fisherman, 1 squirrel, 1 picnic area . . ." The mazes of farms and orchards, highways and cities, teamed with the challenge of seek-and-find, makes this book good for hours of fun. Join the children on their field trip to a busy market. Delightful end material offers information about markets, eating right, and a key to the challenging mazes and hidden objects.

"*Stella Brings the Family*," by Miriam B. Schiffer, Illustrations by Holly Clifton-Brown. (Chronicle Books). It's time for Mother's Day at Elmwood Elementary and teacher tells her students to bring their moms for a special treat. But Stella doesn't have a mom—she has two daddies. What will she do? She worries and worries. Finally, the solution is clear. Stella will bring her entire family to school. Howie brings his two moms. Jonathan brings his grandmother. Stella has the most guests, with her two dads, cousins, uncle, aunt, and Nonna. Today's diverse families are all about acceptance and love. A sweet story to help children understand that families come in all sizes and shapes. The lively, yet simple art, shows a delightful school party, with adults and children alike portrayed in loving detail.



Connie Goldsmith (www.conniegoldsmith.com) lives in Carmichael where she writes for adults and children. Her newest nonfiction juvenile books, "Bombs over Bikini," and "Traumatic Brain Injury: from concussion to coma," are now available. Other books include: "Batting Malaria: on the Front Lines Against a Global Killer," and "Influenza," one of the USA Today Health Reports series. Her books can be found in school and public libraries, and at online booksellers.



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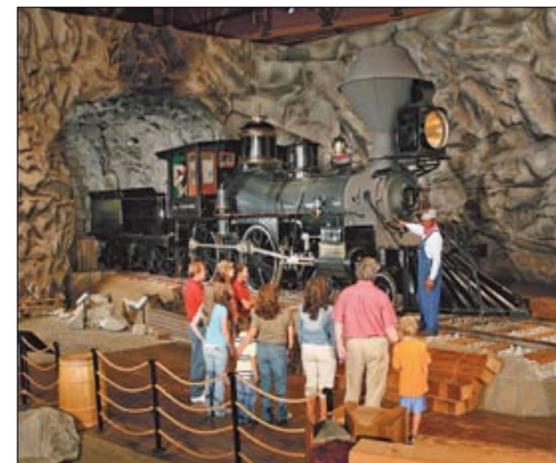


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Railroad Museum & History Museum open until 8 p.m.

Back by popular demand...California State Parks, the California State Railroad Museum and the Sacramento History Museum are proud to announce extended summer hours for the two museums on Thursday evenings as part of a special "Thursday Night at the Museums" program running through September 3. Both museums located in Old Sacramento State Historic Park will stay open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays this summer. In addition, the Sacramento History Museum is offering their popular Thursday evening Adult Underground Tours all summer long, and on Thursday, June 18, the California Railroad Museum will be open for extended hours and will also offer special evening excursion train rides at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. that evening only.



Courtesy of the California State Railroad Museum

All normal museum, train ride and Adult Only Underground Tour prices apply during the "Thursday Night at the Museums" extended hours program that was first launched last year. Railroad Museum admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths (ages 6-17), and children ages five and under are free. Evening excursion

train tickets cost \$12 for adults, \$6 for youths (ages 6-17), and ages five and under ride free. VIP train rides aboard a special first class car are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youths and free for children five and under. Sacramento History Museum admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for youth (ages 6-17), and children ages five and under are free. Adult Only Underground Tour tickets cost \$20 (for guests 21 and over) and are available for advance purchase online.

More information about the California State Railroad

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Photo courtesy Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Send your child into nature this summer

Effie Yeaw Nature Center's "Under the Oaks" Nature Camps give children the opportunity to experience, discover and explore the great outdoors. Your child will enjoy the summer along the American River Parkway, participating in outdoor activities, creating lasting memories, and gaining an appreciation for nature. Each camp is focused on different nature-related themes with hands-on explorations, hikes and games, with crafts and stories. Each week is filled with new discoveries and fun!

Summer Camp 5 (age 5), June 29-July 2

Their new CAMP 5 programs introduce 5 year-olds to the Effie Yeaw Camp experience. Special classes spark interest and passion for nature at an early age. Through trail walks, sensory activities, crafts, games, music and stories, the beginning student will discover the wonder of nature.

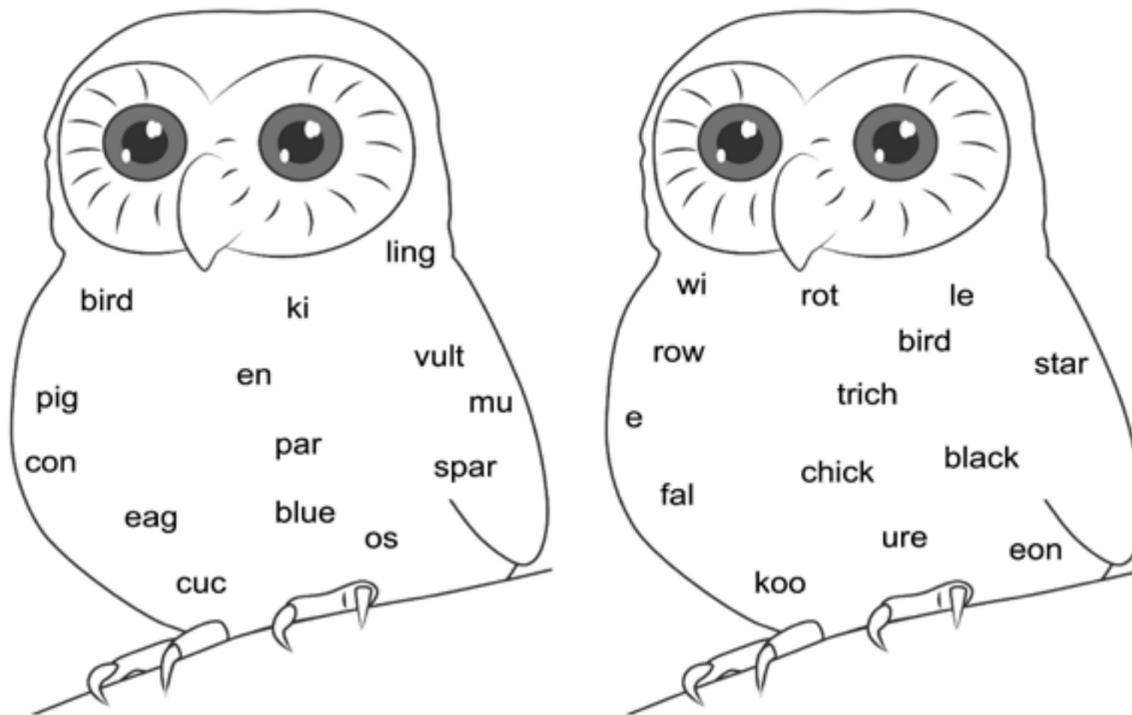
Nature Detectives Classes (ages 6-8)

Sun Seekers June 15-26
Summer Scientists June 22-26
Nature's Engineers July 6-10 & July 20-24
It's Elementary! July 13-17
Nature's Symphony July 27-31
Junior Rangers Classes (ages 8-11)
Outdoor Adventures (2 weeks), June 15-26
Outdoor Adventures (2 weeks), July 6-17
The Natural Artist Inside You (1 week), July 20-24
Sky Scouts (1 week), July 27-31

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located 2850 San Lorenzo Way, at California Avenue and Tarshes Drive, Carmichael. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee into Ancil Hoffman County Park (Free to members). For more information, call (916) 489-4918 or visit www.sacnaturecenter.net.

Bird Word Match Up

Can you match up the pairs of syllables, taking one from each owl in no particular order, to find the names of well-known birds from all over the world?



See answers, page 22

Easy Healthy Summer Recipes for Kids!

Cauliflower Sheep

Recipe by Allrecipes

You will need fo:

Make cute little sheep from cauliflower florets. All you need are black olives, fresh cauliflower florets, raisins, dry black-eyed peas, and toothpicks. Olives and black-eyed peas become the heads and eyes. The legs are raisins.

You will need for one cauliflower sheep:

2 black olives
2 dry black-eyed peas
1 cauliflower floret, stem removed
16 raisins
6 toothpicks

1. Hold 1 olive, pitted end facing up as the top of the head. Use a small paring knife to make 2 shallow holes the size of a black-eyed pea in the 'face' of the 'head'. Press each black-eyed pea into each hole, black eye facing outward.
2. Cut 2 slits from the top of the pitted hole of the 'head' to be placeholders for the 'ears'. Cut 2 small lengthwise strips from the remaining black olive, and discard the remaining olive piece. Slice olive flesh away from each strip to create sheep 'ears'. Slide the 'ears' into the slits on the 'head'.



3. Press 2 toothpicks close together into one end of the cauliflower floret and secure the olive 'head' onto the toothpicks.
4. Thread 3 raisins lengthwise onto each of the 4 remaining toothpicks. Skewer 1 final raisin, crosswise, at the base of each toothpick to create 'hooves'.
5. Secure the toothpick 'legs' into the bottom core of the cauliflower floret to create 4 equal-length 'legs'.

Apple Snack Mix

By www.tasteofhome.com

You will need:

2 packages (2-1/2 ounces each) dried apple chips
3 cups Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal
2 cups miniature pretzels
2 cups dry roasted peanuts
1-1/2 cups Frosted Cheerios
1-1/2 cups Apple Cinnamon Cheerios
1-1/2 cups yogurt-covered raisins
1-1/2 cups small apple-flavored green jelly beans
2/3 cup sunflower kernels
Ice cream waffle cones



You will need fo:

In a large bowl, combine the first nine ingredients. Store in an airtight container. Serve snack mix in waffle cones. Yield: 4 quarts/16 servings

Hof Dog Men

Allrecipes.com

Recipe by TRYPLM

"A quick and easy meal that kids love! My mom made them for me when I was a kid, now I make them for my daughter." Original recipe makes 8 servings



You will need:

8 hot dogs
8 slices bread
8 slices American cheese
Ketchup and mustard to taste

You will need fo:

Make a slit down the middle of one end of each hot dog; this will be the legs. At the other end, make a small slit each side; these will be the arms. Bring a saucepan of water to a boil, and add the hot dogs. Boil for about 5 minutes until the slits open up.
Place slices of cheese onto slices of bread. Set the hot dog men on top. Use ketchup and mustard to make a face, hair and clothes or buttons.



Ants on a Log

Recipe by Michele O'Sullivan

"This is a fun snack that kids can make. It consists of artfully arranged celery, peanut butter, and raisins."

You will need fo:

Cut the celery stalks in half. Spread with peanut butter. Sprinkle with raisins.

Apple Ladybug Treats

Allrecipes.com
Recipe by VEROS01

"Red apples are decorated to look like lady bugs. This is a quick and fun snack that kids will enjoy making and eating. For once kids can play with their food."

Original recipe makes 4 servings

You will need:

2 red apples, 1/4 cup raisins, 1 tablespoon peanut butter, 8 thin pretzel sticks

You will need fo:

Slice apples in half from top to bottom and scoop out the cores using a knife or melon baller. If you have an apple corer, core them first, then slice. Place each apple half flat side down on a small plate. Dab peanut butter on to the back of the 'lady bug', then stick raisins onto the dabs for spots. Use this method to make eyes too. Stick one end of each pretzel stick into a raisin, then press the other end into the apples to make antennae.



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Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park

Located Off Hwy 9 in Felton (831) 335-7077

• Old-Growth Redwood Walks, Every Saturday and Sunday in June, at 1 p.m.

Meet at the Visitor Center via the Park's main entrance off Hwy 9 in Felton, at 101 Big Trees Park Road. Experience a guided forest adventure on a docent led walk through the magnificent old growth coast redwood forest. This 0.8 mile stroll lasts about 90 minutes. The trail is wheelchair and stroller accessible. Program is free, parking fee is \$10.

• Basket Making Workshop: Learn how to make a basket with local pine needles, Saturday, June 13 and 20, 10 a.m. to Noon

Meet at the Campfire Center in the Campground located at 2591 Graham Hill Road. Join docent Cheryl VanDeVeer for a fun, free, family workshop and learn how to make a basket from local pine needles. No experience necessary and all materials are supplied. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Program is free, parking fee \$10.

• Redwoods and the River, Friday, June 12, 2:30 p.m.

Join a Docent for a leisurely guided walk from the Old Growth Redwoods to the Riparian ecosystem. During this approximately 1 to 2 hour walk. Compare the two ecosystems and why they are important to each other. Meet at the Nature Store in the Day Use area of the park at 101 Big Trees Park Road in Felton, located off Hwy 9. Program is free, parking is \$10.

• Fall Creek Hike, Wednesday, June 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join Henry Cowell docent Dennis for a moderate hike throughout the Fall Creek Unit of the park. Fall Creek is full of natural beauty and rich history, both of which you will explore on this hike. Meet at the Fall Creek parking lot located about a quarter-mile up Felton-Empire Grade from the Hwy 9 traffic light in Felton. Make sure to bring

plenty of water and a lunch. Program and parking is free.

• Critter Safari, Friday, June 19, 2:30 p.m.

This activity is perfect for ages 4 and up. Join the staff and search for signs of animal life around the Park. Meet at the Nature Store in the Day Use area of the park at 101 Big Trees Park Road in Felton, located off Hwy 9. Program is free, parking is \$10. Program is approximately 1 hour.

• Exploring the Mysterious Sandhills, Tuesday, June 23, 9 a.m.

Do you know there are 5 endangered species in the Santa Cruz Sandhills? Or about the fragility of this rare and unique ecosystem? Enjoy a walk around the restoration area of the Henry Cowell Sandhills to find the answers to these questions and more. Meet at the Juvenile Hall Parking Lot located at 3650 Graham Hill Road, across from Henry Cowell. Dress in layers and bring water to drink. More information is available if you call (831) 335-7077.

• Search for other Giants & What Determines a Healthy River, Friday, June 26, 2:30 p.m.

Henry Cowell offers much more than beautiful Old Growth Redwoods. Come and explore other dynamic ecosystems of the park on this approximately 1 hour guided walk. Meet at the Nature Store in the Day Use area of the park at 101 Big Trees Park Road in Felton, located off Hwy 9. Program is free, parking is \$10.

• Full Moon Madness, Friday, June 26, 6 to 9 p.m.

This is a fun event for the whole family. There will be kids' crafts, live music and guided walks throughout the evening. The staff is also excited to host an astronomy specialist speaker and the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club. Come for some or this entire event, located in the Day Use area at 101 Big Trees Park Road in Felton, off Hwy 9. Event is free. Parking is \$10.

Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center

Located 17 miles north of Santa Cruz, at 3600 Highway One, Davenport, California 95017
Open Weekends Noon to 4 pm. Call (831) 427-2288.

• Wildflower Walk, Saturday June 13, 10 a.m.

Join docent Scott Peden and learn to identify many of Waddell Valley's flowering plants within Rancho del Oso's seven diverse habitats. This walk is a leisurely 4 mile, 4 hour amble that is great for those interested in the natural history of our local flora. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center.

• Snake Park Saturday, Saturday June 13, 2 p.m.

Why are snakes important to us? How do they see, smell, taste, and hear? What and how do they eat? What does a snake feel like? Meet at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center to join Docent Diane Shaw and learn about the fascinating world of snakes. Diane will give a talk about snakes and Naturalist Jeremy Lin will lead a short informative hike to find snakes and other reptiles.

• Nature Wander, Sunday, June 14, 1 p.m.

Find out what is growing and blooming right now in the Waddell Valley on this approximately 1 mile, 1.5 hour guided walk with docent naturalist Ann Garside. She will share information about the plants of Rancho del Oso as the group walks from coastal scrub through one of the last native stands of Monterey Pine left in the world. Hike starts at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center.

Año Nuevo State Park

Located off Highway 1 between Pescadero and Santa Cruz, CA (650) 879-2025

June is Steller Sea Lion Month
Every day in June

Did you know that there are more than just elephant seals at Año Nuevo? You can come and view the northern sea lion at its southernmost breeding colony, only one of five colonies in the lower 48 states. During the month of June the park will

be showcasing the Steller sea lions with special exhibits, natural history information, and wildlife viewing. Come on out for a hike in the park and discover some new friends.

Events made possible by California State Park Docents, California State Parks and Coastside State Parks Association. Visit us on the web at www.coastsidestateparks.org or www.parks.ca.gov/anonuevo



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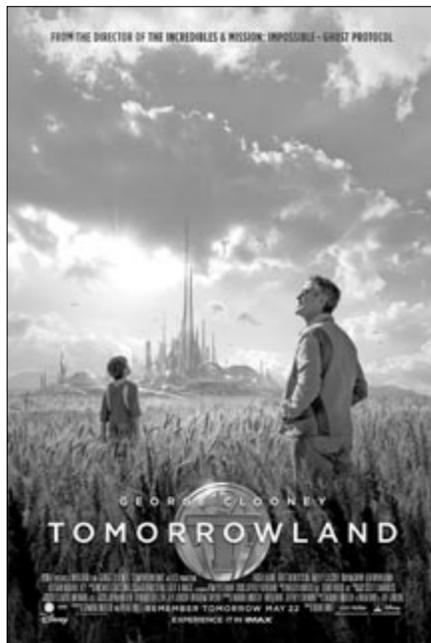


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Tomorrowland: An Imax 3d Experience

From Disney comes two-time Oscar winner Brad Bird's riveting, mystery adventure Tomorrowland: An IMAX 3D Experience, starring Academy Award winner George Clooney. Bound by a shared destiny, former boy-genius Frank (Clooney), jaded by disillusionment, and Casey (Britt Robertson), a bright, optimistic teen bursting with scientific curiosity, embark on a danger-filled mission to unearth the secrets of an enigmatic place somewhere in time and space known only as "Tomorrowland." What they must do there changes the world—and them—forever. Tomorrowland: An IMAX 3D Experience runs until June 12, 7 p.m., at the Esquire IMAX Theatre. Tickets are on sale at the theatre box office and online at www.imax.com/sacramento.



The Esquire IMAX Theatre is located at 1211 K Street in downtown Sacramento. For information on tickets and showtimes, call 916-443-IMAX (4629) or visit the website at www.imax.com/sacramento.

31st Annual Catfish Derby

San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation and the Delta Fly Fishers will host the 31st annual Catfish Derby, Saturday, June 6, beginning at 6:15 a.m. at Oak Grove Regional Park in Stockton.

Over 2,500 lbs. of catfish will be planted prior to the derby, which is open to everyone. Prizes will be awarded in youth and adult categories.

Kids age 15 years and younger fish for catfish FREE at Oak Grove's 10-acre lake during the event. There is no registration fee, however, a \$5 fishing permit fee and valid CA fishing license are required for those 16 years or over. A \$6 vehicle-parking fee will also apply. All State Fish and Game laws apply. Participants must supply their own fishing equipment.

Oak Grove Regional Park is located on Eight Mile Road and Interstate 5 in Stockton. Park gates will be open at 6:15 a.m., derby registration closes at 10 a.m. and the last weigh-in is at 12:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded shortly thereafter. For more information, call (209) 331-2050 or log onto www.sjparks.com.

Vacation Bible School and Performing Arts

This year Northminster is combining Vacation Bible School and Music Camp into one fun-filled program for kindergarten – 6th grade, June 8–11, 4:30 to 8 p.m.

Line & Square Dancing, a Western Challenge Course, (includes horseshoes, cow roping, a shooting gallery and gold panning) and a Trading Post will be part of the fun. There will be Bible skits and songs and a life changing mission project. Children will have an opportunity to learn to play an instrument from the following: violin, guitar, ukulele, chimes, and recorders. The church will provide the chimes and recorders. Student supplies his/her own instrument or can rent one at any local music store. One can also participate in fun jam sessions (percussion). There will be raffle prizes and a light supper will be provided every night. The week concludes with a special worship performance on June 14 at 10 a.m. that features the children's newly acquired skills.

Northminster Presbyterian Church is located at 3235 Pope Avenue, Sacramento. To register call (916) 487-5192; visit at northminsteronline.org; or join them on Facebook.



Arts & Crafts

June 9, 16, 23, 30, Summer of Scratch, Tuesday, 4 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento This program at the Arden-Dimick Library for kids 9-12 is designed to teach basic programming and making skills. The staff will work with MIT's Scratch program and various physical objects to make musical instruments. At the end of the summer these instruments will be set up in stations throughout the library for families to play. Registration required and space is limited. Please plan to attend all Tuesdays between June 2 and July 28.

Critter Events

June 7, Sunday, Rattlesnakes, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Warm weather is perfect weather for snakes, especially for rattlesnakes along the American River. Learn all about these snakes and their impostors, and how to enjoy the American River and keep your family safe during this season. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

June 14, Sunday, cold Blooded Creatures, 1:30 p.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Some have scaly skin, some have slimy skin, some have legs and some do not. Can you guess what they are? Meet a resident animal up close. All ages welcome. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

June 20, Saturday, Birding for Families, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Bring the family out for a birding and nature walk led by a Naturalist and special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed. Make sure to bring your binoculars, or the staff can loan you a pair. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

Calendar of Events

Special Events

June 5 and 6, Book Sale, June 5 1 to 6 p.m., June 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. The Friends of Arden-Dimick Library will hold a book sale in the Community Room. Several thousand books will be offered at the sale with low prices that make this an excellent, affordable opportunity for adults and children to stock up on summer reading.

June 13, Family Safety & Health Expo, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., 3909 Bradshaw Road, Sacramento. The 17th Annual Family Safety and Health Expo will be held at Safetyville USA. This is a free event. Over 80 booths providing information focusing on health, safety and youth recreation resources available to families in the Sacramento region. There will be safety demonstrations, giveaways, food, raffles and entertainment. For more information, visit www.safetycenter.org.

June 18, Thursday, DIY Music Makers, 3 p.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento In this program featuring ArtBeast participants will make their very own instrument from recycled and common everyday items that can really be played. A lively picture book about the joys of music will be shared as well as dancing to some music to get everyone in a music-making mood. Each program will feature a different homemade instrument project—the possibilities include shakers, drums, rain sticks, wind instruments, and more. Come make some art and noise with the staff at the Arcade Library and get a preview of the Library of Things instruments you can check out from the library.

June 25, Thursday, Eat your Beats with Penney the Clown, 4 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento 2-4-6-8 Eat Your Beats with a Roller Skate! A hilarious and beat-filled show at Arden-Dimick Library with comedy magic and fun rhythmic chants that you can

follow along with and repeat. This is a "Read to the Rhythm" Summer Reading program.

June 27, Kids K9 Fun Run, 6:30 a.m., 5757 Greenback Way, Sacramento. Kids come and run for our K9 Officers. The Kids K9 run for kids 15 and under is \$18. The fee includes a run tee shirt, kids breakfast and medal for each participant. Fee increases to \$25 after June 20. K9 Officers will be on site to pass out trading cards and there will be a demonstration by the K9 Officers after the run. Run begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Garden of Valor at Sierra Hills Pet Cemetery where 48 retired K9 Officers are memorialized. For more information, visit www.kidsk9funrun.org.

Storytime & Puppet Events

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Tuesday, Read to a Dog, 3:30 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael Specially trained therapy dogs are waiting for children to come read to them at the Carmichael Library. For kids ages 5 to 10 years old that are reading. Earn credit for the time spent reading and earn a book, too.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Tuesday, Baby Lapsit, 10:30 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento Come to this program at the Arcade Library designed for you and your baby (0-18 months). The staff encourages early literacy development and parent/child interaction through stories, songs, rhymes, finger

plays, and more. Stay afterwards (until 11:20 a.m.) for play time with age-appropriate toys and a chance for caregivers to socialize.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Tuesday, Toddler Storytime, 11:20 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes, and fingerplays, designed for children ages 18 months to 3 years at the Arcade Library. Join the staff for play time before the program (at 10:50) which gives toddlers a chance to play with age-appropriate toys and caregivers a chance to socialize.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Tuesday, Baby Storytime, 12 p.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Looking for a fun, and educational program for you and your baby? Join library staff at the Elk Grove Library for an interactive experience focused on babies from birth through 18 months. This program encourages early literacy development through movement, songs, and shared reading, followed by stay and play activities.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Tuesday, Baby/Toddler Stay & Play, 10:15 a.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento "Stay and Play" is an unstructured social time for babies and toddlers (ages 0 and up)—older siblings are welcome to the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library as long as everyone can play nicely together) and their caretakers. Developmental toys and board books will be available. These informal play sessions will be immediately followed by a storytime for babies and toddlers (ages 0-3 years) and their caretakers/families, except on the last Tuesday of each month, when there is a special performance by Mister Cooper instead.

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Calendar of Events

Continued from page 23

June 3, Wednesday, Tween Book Club, 4:30 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento Kids, ages 6 to 12, are invited to the Arden-Dimick Library to talk about the book, play games, and have fun. This month the staff will be reading "The Egypt Game" by Zilpha Keatley Snyder.

June 3, 10, Wednesday, Toddler Storytime, 11:15 a.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Listen, sing, play, create, and have fun at the Toddler storytime program at the Arden-Dimick Library. Each week features either a craft activity or "stay and play" time featuring developmentally appropriate toys and sensory materials.

June 3, 10, 17, 24, Wednesday, Baby Storytime, 10:30 a.m., 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento Babies from birth to 18 months old and their parents/caregivers can enjoy great books, lively songs, and rhymes, and meet other babies in the neighborhood at the McKinley Library.

June 3, 10, 17, 24, Wednesday, Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Toddlers are invited to enjoy stories, music, and more at the Elk Grove Library. Additional parking is available south of the library at Journey Church, located at 9645 Elk Grove Florin Road.

June 4, 11, 18, 25, Thursday, Baby/Toddler Stay & Play, 10:15 a.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento "Stay and Play" is an unstructured social time for babies and toddlers (ages 0 and up!-older siblings are welcome as long as everyone can play nicely together) and their caretakers. Developmental toys and board books will be available. These informal play sessions will be immediately followed by a storytime for babies and toddlers (ages 0-3 years) and their caretakers/families except on the last Tuesday of each month when we have a special

performance by Mister Cooper instead. Partially funded by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

June 4, 11, 18, 25, Thursday, Baby/Toddler Storytime, 11 a.m., 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento A combined toddler and baby storytime in which babies and toddlers (ages 0 to 3 years) and their caretakers are invited to join the staff at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library for songs and rhymes in this language enrichment program designed to boost brain development. Please also note that on the last Tuesday of each month they have a special musical performance by Mr. Cooper instead of storytime.

June 4, 11, 18, 25, Thursday, Preschool Storytime, 11 a.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Children are invited to enjoy stories, music, and more at the Elk Grove Library. Additional parking is available south of the library at Journey Church, located at 9645 Elk Grove Florin Road.

June 4, 11, 18, 25, Thursday, Toddler/Pre-School Storytime, 10:30 a.m. 601 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento Songs, fingerplays, and stories, especially for ages 18 months to 5 years, followed by playtime at the McKinley Library. Make new friends and play with toys.

June 4, 11, 18, 25, Thursday, Stay and Play, 11:45 a.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael Parents and caregivers are invited to bring in their babies, toddlers, and other children to "stay and play" at the Carmichael Library. The staff will put out toys for the children to play with while their parents socialize.

June 4, 11, 18, 25, Thursday, Pre-School Storytime, 10 a.m., 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento Children ages 3-5 along with their favorite adults will enjoy stories, finger plays, and songs, at the Arcade Library.

Book Sale

The Friends of Arden-Dimick Library will hold its next Premium Book Sale, on Friday, June 5, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Community Room at the Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Avenue. Funds from this sale will be used for local library programs.

Mr. Frank Rose, a library patron and supporter, recently donated his collection of approximately 15,000 books to

the Friends of the Arden-Dimick Library. After months of processing this large donation, this Premium Sale will consist primarily of books from Mr. Rose's collection. These are like-new books and others that have never been read. The remaining books from this wonderful donation will be included in the many book sales planned later this year.

Several thousand books will be offered at the sale with low prices that make this an excellent, affordable opportunity for adults and children to stock up on summer reading materials.

June 4, 11, Thursday, Preschool Storytime, 10:15 a.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento Listen, sing, play, create, at the Arden-Dimick Library Preschool storytime program. Each week features either a craft activity or "stay and play" time featuring developmentally appropriate toys and sensory materials.

June 5, Friday, Read to a Dog!, 2 p.m., 8900 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove Looking for a fun way to boost reading skills while making new friends? Then join the staff at the Elk Grove Library for a Read to a Dog program. Kids are invited to bring their own books or borrow one from our fabulous collection then read aloud to a furry friend. Sign up inside the library for 10-15 minute sessions. Additional parking is available south of the library at Journey Church located at 9645 Elk Grove Florin Rd.

June 6, Saturday, Nature Tales, 10:30 a.m., 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Members of the Sacramento Storytellers Guild will be sharing their entertaining tales of animals and nature at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. For more information, call (916) 489-4918.

June 11, 18, 25, Thursday, Preschool Storytime, 10:15 a.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael Join Miss Kathy at the Carmichael Library for stories, songs, and a craft.

June 11, 18, 25, Thursday, Toddler Storytime, 11:15 a.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael Join Miss Kathy for stories, songs, and just plain fun, at the Carmichael Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 12, Friday, After School Book Club, 4 p.m., 5605 Marconi Avenue, Carmichael Join the staff at the Carmichael Library on the Second Friday of every month to talk about the book, play trivia games, and fun. This month's book is *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine. For ages 6-12.

June 16, 23, 30, Tuesday, Baby Storytime, 12:30 p.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento Join the staff at the Belle Coolege Library for nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys.

June 17, 24, Wednesday, Sing Along with Mister Cooper, 4 p.m. 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento Join neighborhood favorite Mr. Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years at the Belle Coolege

Library. For more information, call (916) 264-2920.

June 18, Peter Pan's Pirate Adventure, Thursday, 4 p.m., 891 Watt Avenue, Sacramento Tony Borders Puppets presents: *Peter Pan's Pirate Adventure!* at Arden-Dimick Library. Captain Book needs the help of Peter Pan, Wendy, and you to battle the pirates who try to steal our reading time. This is a "Read to the Rhythm" Summer Reading program.

June 18, Storytime in the Park for Toddlers and Preschoolers, Thursday, 10 a.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento Kick off your summer with a sunny storytime under the trees of Belle Coolege Park. Both toddlers and preschoolers as well as their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. The event will be followed immediately by a storywalk feature Ezra Jack Keats's classic picture book *Whistle for Willie!* This is a Summer Reading Challenge event.

June 18, Storywalk in the Park for Toddlers and Preschoolers, Thursday, 11 a.m., 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento Both toddlers and preschoolers are encouraged to take a "storywalk" with their caregivers through Belle Coolege Park (located across from the library). Follow the colorful pages of Ezra Jack Keats's classic picture book *Whistle for Willie* and experience the story and the nature walk together.

Programs at Fairytale Town

• **June 6 and 7, Saturday and Sunday, Theater Performance: "Anansi, The Spider," 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.**

In the jungles of Africa lives a tiny spider known as Anansi. Believing the children of Earth need stories to tell each other, he begins a quest to get the golden box of stories from Nyami, the sky god. This story is presented by The Puppet Company using hand and rod puppets with authentic African music, colorful costuming and classical African design. Tickets are \$2 for nonmembers in addition to park admission, and \$1 for members

• **June 19, Friday, June 20, Saturday, Family Campout at Fairytale Town, 5:30 p.m. to 7 a.m.**

Spend the night in Fairytale Town's storybook park. This exciting overnight adventure includes a theater performance, arts and crafts activities, a scavenger hunt, bedtime stories and a sing-along. Wake up the next morning under Fairytale Town's canopy of trees to a light continental breakfast. Prices range from \$25-\$30 per person and include all activities. Member discounts are available. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-7462.

• **June 27, Saturday, A Midsummer Night's Dream & Crystal Ice Cream Fantasy, 5 to 9 p.m.**

Celebrate William Shakespeare's popular fairy-themed play while enjoying all-you-can-eat Crystal ice cream. This magical midsummer's evening features multiple ice cream tasting stations, live entertainment, hands-on activities, an olde worlde marketplace and more. Celtic rock band Tempest will perform throughout the evening. Costumes for the whole family are encouraged. No host food and bar. Mix 96's Dan & Michelle will emcee the evening as this



Photo courtesy Fairytale Town

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Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm July 13th to July 24th

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Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm July 27th to August 7th

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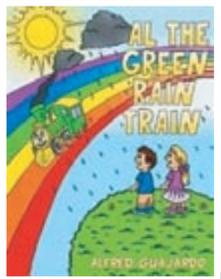
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July 26: 10am-noon - Celebration Sunday

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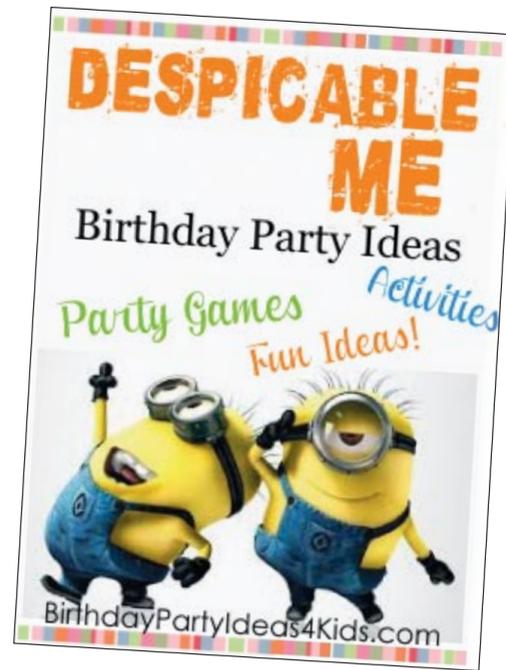
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Despicable Me party

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Despicable Me Party Decorations

- Blow up yellow balloons and attach printouts of minion's glasses. Use a sharpie to give your minions a mouth and hair.
- Gluing googly eyes onto yellow cups makes minion cups! Use a sharpie to give them hair, a mouth, and other characteristics. If you do this on sturdy plastic cups, the guests can take them home as a fun party favor.
- A yellow and blue tablecloth can transform your front door and get guests excited before they even enter. Cover the top 2/3 of your front door with a yellow tablecloth, and the bottom 1/3 with the blue. Using black construction paper, cut out a mouth, a strap for the goggles, and the blacks of the eyes. Use white construction paper cut into a circle for the outside of the eyes. Glue these onto the yellow tablecloth,



and you have yourself a giant minion! Make sure you cut out a slit for the door-knob so that guests can enter.

- Post some funny guest rules for everyone to follow: In the first movie, Gru tells the girls that there will be no crying, whining, laughing, giggling, sneezing, burping, or making annoying sounds. Print these rules out and paste them around the party.
- For a creative backdrop, tape up a blue or yellow tablecloth to the wall. Blow up balloons in opposite color of the tablecloth and attach them in a line at the top of the tablecloth. Next, take blue and yellow streamers and hang them down from the balloons, in alternating order. Twist each streamer and secure them at the bottom of the backdrop. This works well for the food station, present station, or for photos.

Party Invitations

Use blue and yellow paper to make a minion on the front, complete with googly eyes. Write all of the party information on the

See *Despicable Me Party*, page 27



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Despicable me Party:

Continued from page 26

back. On the front of the invitation, write all of Gru's rules for the girls in the first movie (no crying, whining, laughing, giggling, sneezing, burping, or making annoying sounds) and write all of the information on the back.

Despicable Me Party Games

- **Freeze Dance** - Play rounds of freeze dance. Have all the kids dance to music, but whenever the music stops the kids have to freeze. Any kid that doesn't freeze gets (pretend) blasted by a freeze ray and is out. Last kid still dancing wins!
- **Minion Toss** - Decorate eggs to look like minions. Have the guests pair off with a partner. Each pair takes turns tossing their minion to their partner. After each successful toss, both partners take a step backwards. The last team left tossing their minion wins.
- **Get the Moon** - Have one of the guests be Gru and give them a white ball. Gru must run around and try to get away from the other players. The other players try to catch Gru and tag him. If a player is successful, he/she gets the ball and becomes the new Gru.
- **'Is This Annoying?' Contest** - Have all of the participants stand in a line. One by one, each of them much make the most annoying sounds that he/she can (much like Agnes in the movie). If you have family/friends/other parents present at the party, have some of them guest judge and decide who makes the most annoying sound.
- **Do What I Say** - This is the Despicable Me version of Simon Says. Tell all the kids that you are Gru and they are minions. Give them a simple command by telling them "Gru says....(pat your head, hop on one foot, rub your stomach, sit down, etc.). They can only follow the command

IF you say "Gru says". If you give them a command but do not say "Gru says", any kid that follows the command is out. Continue playing until you only have one kid left.

- **Pin the Goggles on the Minion** - Draw a minion onto a large posterboard or create one with colored paper. Print several sets of minion goggles off of the internet and cut them out. One at a time, blindfold each child and give them a set of goggles. The child then tries to pin the goggles on the minion where they are supposed to go. The child that gets the closest wins.

Despicable Me Party Activities

- Hide white pingpong balls around the party area. Have the kids search and find all of the 'shrunk moons'.
- Set up a 'create your own minion' station. Supply kids with minion bodies cut out of yellow paper, blue paper for the pants, googly eyes, markers, glue, and anything else you can think to use as decoration (feathers, beads, pom-poms, etc.) This doubles as a party favor.

Party Food

- Make a yellow and blue candy jar. Put items like yellow and blue M&Ms, gumballs, and jellybeans

into decorative jars. This can double as a party favor when the guests leave.

- Make cupcakes with yellow and blue frosting to fit in with your color scheme.
- Designate white cake balls as 'shrunk moons', juice/lemonade/punch as 'anti-gravity serum', cotton candy as 'unicorn fur', and chips and salsa or a taco bar as El Macho's salsa or taco bar.
- Make minions out of Twinkies! Use blue frosting for the clothing, black for the goggles, and white for the eyes. These are sure to be a big hit!

Party Favors

Give the guests a small orange water gun to represent the shrink ray in the movie and a bottle of bubbles as anti-gravity serum. Use Despicable Me bandaids, stickers, and pencils as easy party favors.

Goody Bags

Glue printouts of Minion glasses onto yellow gift bags for an easy goody bag. Print out or hand write a card that says 'thanks a minion!' and attach to blue or yellow gift bags.

Fun Idea

If you have a projector, you could show one of the Despicable Me movies either in the background of the party or as one of the activities.



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