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Land Park Girl Scouts 'drive' no texting campaign

By **CORRIE PELC**
 Land Park News writer
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When deciding on a topic to focus on for their "advocacy journey" this year, Land Park-based Girl Scout Troop 864 decided to focus on a problem they see every day – texting and driving.

"We decided to pick texting and driving since all the girls in the troop are (high school) juniors, everyone is learning how to drive, and all our friends are driving now," explained 17-year-old troop member Christianna Louie. "We thought that it was a topic or issue that would really impact our lives and deal with some of the major things that people our age are facing."

"The journey (teaches) the girls to be advocates of whatever is close to their hearts and this is something they chose," added Troop Leader Terri Larkin. "Because all of my girls just recently got their licenses in the last year except for one of the girls – she's still too young – it opened their eyes to teen texting and driving and how it can really be harmful."

On the journey Through their journey, Troop 864 – which includes seven girls ages 15 to 17 – developed a bumper sticker with the phrase "Don't Look @ UR Phone! U Might Not Make It Home!" to hand out to classmates and community members



Photo courtesy, Girl Scout Troop 864
 JUST SAY NO to texting and driving. The members of Girl Scout Troop 864 want everyone who drives and has a cell phone to be aware of the deadly dangers of distracted driving. Left to right, top row: Corina Crary, Christianna Louie and Macy Webb. Bottom row: Spencer Trussell, Karly Webb and Mariah Ruiz. Not pictured: Mecca Evans.

to help bring awareness to the dangers of texting and driving.

Louie said she and her troop mates passed the stickers out to their respective high schools and other clubs and organizations they were involved with. Additionally, the troop had an opportunity to showcase their project at a Girl Scout Leaders meeting last month, as well the

See Girl Scouts, page 9

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Know your neighbor

Dona Pollacchi to retire from Holy Spirit School

By SALLY KING
Land Park News writer
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The little boy on the very first day of kindergarten was outside on the patio, painting. The teacher went out to see how he was doing, and noticed the whole piece of paper he was painting on was covered in black.

She thought, "Oh dear," so she said to him; "Jack, tell me about your painting."

His eyes lit up as he said, "It's my surprise birthday party before they turned on the lights."

That is one of many delightful stories Dona Pollacchi has stored away in her memory after teaching for 37 years. She is preparing to retire this year. For 27 of those years, she taught kindergarten at Holy Spirit School in Land Park.

"I have enjoyed my job and I think that is truly a blessing,"

Pollacchi said. "I have been able to do what I am passionate about, teaching and having a good time with children at school."

Pollacchi told of how her own first grade teacher and her grandmother influenced her love of education. The teacher divided the class into three reading groups: the bluebirds, the redbirds and the yellowbirds.

Pollacchi ended up in the redbirds. She knew right away that was not the group to be in and when she got home she told her grandmother how she wanted to be a bluebird because it was the advanced reading group.

Her grandmother told her she was smart and to ask the teacher if she could bring her book home. Pollacchi was allowed to bring the book home and her grandmother worked



Photo courtesy, Holy Spirit School
DONNA POLLACCHI enjoys a moment with some of her students at Holy Spirit School in Land Park. The much-beloved kindergarten teacher is retiring this year, after 27 years of teaching at Holy Spirit – and 37 years overall.

with her reading skills. Pollacchi was moved up to the bluebirds.

Pollacchi said, as a six-year-old, she didn't think she was aware that she wanted to become a teacher, but she remembers being proud that she had accomplished the

goal that her grandmother had helped her achieve. From that point, on she truly enjoyed school.

Pollacchi later learned that her grandmother, who was born in 1890 in New Jersey, had become a teacher at the age of 15. Her grandmother's first teaching assignment was at an Indian reservation in New Mexico. Pollacchi thought that was a brave thing to do at such a young age.

"I really think it was my destiny to become a teacher also," Pollacchi said. "Paths have aligned ever since then."

Besides teaching, Pollacchi's other passion is music. Music was her favorite class in the fourth grade. She took up the violin, then the flute in the eighth grade and continued with music in high school and at Sacramento State, where she met her husband, who

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Holy Spirit: Teacher followed her passion to share a love of learning

Continued from page 6

also studied music. They have been married for 38 years and have two sons.

Jane Dolcini, secretary at Holy Spirit, said the parents at Holy Spirit have many fond memories of Mrs. Pollacchi. Their fondest memories are of the music she brought to Holy Spirit. They remember her saying, "A day without music is like a day without sunshine."

"She always produced wonderful Christmas pageants and took our school choirs at Christmas time to sing at the State Capitol, Downtown Plaza and Arden Fair Mall," Dolcini said. "Her Kindergarten Arts Festival had a speaking and or singing part for every single kindergartner and they all knew their parts."

Dolcini said many of Pollacchi's classes would go on a field trip to Davis to the Explorist Science Museum and then returned to Sacramento by train. This was the first time most of the kids had been on a train and they all thought that was cool.

After teaching for so many years, Pollacchi has not lost her enthusiasm or her passion for teaching.

"The kindergartners are fresh and enthusiastic about school, which is how I feel, fresh and enthusiastic about school," Pollacchi said.

Pollacchi has seen some changes over the years. Children seem worldlier, more sophisticated and more academic. She said there is a lot of pressure on preschoolers to learn their ABCs and numbers. The one thing that hasn't changed is how much they can learn – they are like sponges.

"When I ask a question, I always get two hands raised," she laughed. "The curriculum is much more structured. I have the same state standards as public schools, but I can be more creative the way I teach and that suits me so well because I love singing and drawing and story books."

Pollacchi has always had anywhere from 36 to 37

kindergartners. This year, she has 33 children in her class. Early in the year Pollacchi sets classroom expectations, and she said she expects a lot from her students.

She has four simple rules:
1. You must be respectful and kind to everyone;
2. You must do your very best work at all times;
3. You must follow the teacher's directions; and
4. You must keep your school and environment clean and healthy.

Pollacchi prefers positive reinforcement and would spend six weeks teaching her expectations. All of the rules were taught in a positive framework.

"If I don't lay it out for them what I expect, how can I expect them to achieve it?" Pollacchi said.

Pollacchi has two positive reinforcements she uses in the classroom.

One is for the whole class to follow and the other is based on the individual child. If the class follows the rules, Pollacchi drops a marble noisily into a glass jar. When it is full, the class is rewarded with a popcorn party. This teaches children how to cooperate and how to follow rules.

The other reinforcement is based on individual accomplishments of the child.

"With 33 children, if they become a little too noisy, sometimes I just tell them to close their eyes because I have noticed their eyes are connected to their tongues and this works when I can't get their attention," Pollacchi said. "It calms them down and pulls them out of the situation they are in."

Pollacchi's favorite activity, the Arts Festival, is coming up soon. She is putting on four musical plays. This way she has both of her passions, music and teaching, satisfied and fed.

Pollacchi said that, like Steve Jobs, she believes, "When you decide what you want to do with your life, choose something that

you're passionate about. You will be more successful at your job and you will feel like your life has been a success as well."

Pollacchi has a sense of humor too. She bought herself an Easy Button at Staples this year, so that at the end of every day she can push the button and it says, "That was easy."

Pollacchi said one of the many reasons she remained a kindergarten teacher is the gratification she received at the end of each year.

"When the children show up in August, they can't tie their shoes, they can't put their belt buckle together, they can't write their name the right way, they can't sit in a chair without falling out, sitting on the rug involves all fours and crawling and they can't sit on the rug and manage their hands and pay attention to the teacher," she said. "At the end of the year they are able to read, do math, draw, sing, listen to a story, use higher level thinking skills and answer questions about what they are learning, and write in their journals. It's an easy grade for a teacher to get her kudos, because you look out and say, 'Look what I have created in nine months.' They amaze me."

Dolcini said many parents say they are amazed at how Dona gets most of the kids reading at the first grade level by the time they leave her kindergarten.

"She has taught families that have sent three generations of kids to Holy Spirit School," Dolcini said. "We have grandparents that went here (she didn't teach them) but she taught their kids and now is teaching their kids."

Dolcini said Pollacchi is firm and can be stern at times but is always compassionate, encouraging, consistent, dedicated and devoted to the education of the children, music and to her religion. She always has a smile on her face.

Mrs. Pollacchi has definitely made her mark on Holy Spirit Parish School.

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'Zoo Troop' to celebrate 25 years of Scouting

Special to Land Park News

Current and former members of Boy Scout Troop 136, commonly known as "The Zoo Troop," will gather at Camp Pollock this June to celebrate the troop's 25th anniversary and its ongoing partnership with its Charter Organization, the Sacramento Zoological Society.

This unique relationship between the Boy Scouts and the Sacramento Zoo has allowed the troop to flourish, growing from just five scouts in 1987 to approximately 100 registered scouts in 2012. To date, over 500 scouts from throughout the Sacramento region have been a part of the troop, producing 70 Eagle Scouts and providing countless hours of service to the community.

Unique attire

Scouts from the "Zoo Troop" are easily recognizable by their unique leopard print neckerchiefs. The troop is also one of the few whose members continue to wear their collars turned inside, a tradition that dates back to the earliest days of Scouting.

How it all began

The troop was formed in the summer of 1987 when a group of adult leaders from Cub Scout



Photo courtesy, Boy Scout Troop 136

THEN...Boy Scout Troop 136 was established 25 years ago, in 1987. Sponsored by the Sacramento Zoological Society, it gained a memorable nickname: The Zoo Troop.

See Scouts, page 21

Girl Scouts: Troop members designed effective no-texting bumper sticker

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Girls Scouts 100th Anniversary event at Cal Expo in March.

Larkin said the bumper stickers were very well received by the California Highway Patrol at the 100th Anniversary event.

"(The troop) shared them with the Highway Patrol and they shared their thought was on why they did it," she explained. "The police officers were very impressed with

the girls at their ages and how they presented themselves."

Making an impact

Larkin feels Troop 864's advocacy journey has made an impact on the community.

"Even if we just touched one person's life, we made a difference," she said.

Larkin added other Girl Scout Troops were so impressed with their

project there is talk of the troop soliciting donations to make more bumper stickers for a broader distribution, and also for the girls to share their project with other troops.

"They do have upcoming girls that will be driving here in the next year or so and they would like to meet with some other troops and just share with them some of the knowledge that they've gotten," she

said. "It was an eye opener for the girls and they do want to carry this and share it with other troops."

And for Louie, the program has had a personal impact.

"I think personally it has made me more aware of the problem," she explained. "When we're at a stoplight or something (and) we see people on their phones, we're like 'Hey, you shouldn't do that.'"

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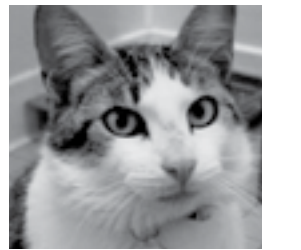
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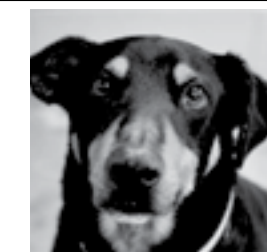
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Gender: Male Hair: Short

Age: 5 years 1 month
Cappuccino is beautiful and walks nicely on a leash, which is good because he could stand to lose a few pounds. That makes him a great exercise partner and motivator to get you moving on some nice long walks.

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Sally

Breed: American Staffordshire Mix Color: White & tan

Gender: female Hair: Short

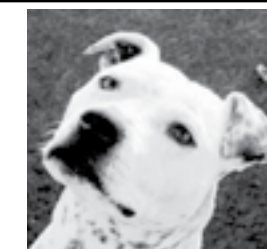
Age: 4 years 1 month
Sally is the sweetest of girls. She is happy, friendly dog who loves to get and give attention. A bright smile is always waiting for you and a cuddle is never turned away!

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Josie

Breed: Amer. Staffordshire Terrier Color: White & brown

Gender: Female Hair: Short

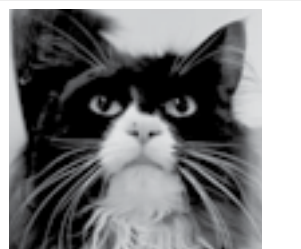
Age: 1 year 8 months
Josie is a happy, young girl. She's independent but enjoys going on walks where she loves to take in the sights to satisfy her curiosity about the world.

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Breed: Main Coon/Mix Color: Black & white

Gender: Female Hair: Long

Age: 6 years 1 month
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* For additional information on adoptions, call the SPCA at 383-7387. Adoptions occur daily and it is not guaranteed the above featured animals are still available. If they are not, the SPCA has many other loving pets available to suit you and your family. The SPCA is located at 6201 Florin-Perkins Road.

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Asch family tombstone dedication highlights special June 2 event

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Land Park News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Last summer, this paper published a two-part series regarding the history of the New Helvetia Cemetery, which was formerly located at the northeast corner of Alhambra Boulevard and J Street (these articles can be read at www.valcomnews.com). And since that time, news about the cemetery continues to find its way into this publication.

In February, for instance, an article appeared in this paper regarding three missing New Helvetia Cemetery markers that were recently discovered in the backyard of an East Sacramento home.

During the 1950s, the old cemetery property was sold and these flat markers were removed from the site in preparation for the construction of Sutter Junior High School – now Sutter Middle School – which had previously operated at 1816 K St.

The whereabouts of many of these markers became unknown during this transition.

In an even earlier moment in the cemetery's history, the historic tombstones of the cemetery were removed and replaced with the aforementioned flat markers as the cemetery site became known as Helvetia Park.

Until somewhat recently, only one of the original headstones from the cemetery – that of Switzerland native Ersiglio Bonetti (1865-1885) – was known to exist.

That status changed with the February 2010 discovery of an original New Helvetia Cemetery tombstone with the names of four members of the Asch or Ash family.

The journey of the discovery of this tombstone began with Susie (Hofmeister) O'Brien, who is a resident of Oceanside, N.Y.

O'Brien, who was born in Fresno and moved with her family to New York when she was one year of age, said that she had taken an interest in her family's history through her father's sister, Ruth (Hofmeister) Maysonaze, who O'Brien described as a "huge genealogy buff."

"She got me started on this," O'Brien said. "In (the spring of) 2009, my sisters [Barbara (Hofmeister) Caporaso and Cathy (Hofmeister) Mulqueen] and I came to California for a wedding and in that time, I said, 'As long as we are there, we have to do a little genealogy trip of Northern California, because both sides of the family are from Northern California.'"

As part of this genealogy trip, O'Brien, who was unaware that the New Helvetia Cemetery no longer existed, attempted to locate the old cemetery in hopes of finding the gravesite of her third great-great-grandparents, John and Barbara Asch.

Because she was unable to locate the cemetery, O'Brien contacted the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery to inquire about the New Helvetia Cemetery.

During her telephone conversation with Lois Dove of the Old City Cemetery Committee, O'Brien was informed by Dove that the cemetery had been closed down and that the remains of her ancestors were moved to the city cemetery in the 1950s.

O'Brien was later sent a brochure about the New Helvetia Cemetery, a copy of an historical photograph of her ancestors' tombstone and a map of the city cemetery that showed where her ancestors were buried.

Furthermore, the brochure featured the same photograph of the Asch family tombstone on its cover.

The stone includes the names of Baden, Germany immigrants John



REPAIRED. The Asch family tombstone is shown in its restored condition. Two of the names on the stone are Barbara and John Asch. The couple emigrated with their then-four children from Baden, Germany in the late 1840s and was residing in Sacramento by the mid-1850s. John and Barbara eventually had 10 children.

Asch (1816-1895) and Barbara Asch (1816-1901) and two of their children, the Pennsylvania-born Franz Louis, who died in 1877 at the age of 22, and the Sacramento-born Augusta, who passed away in 1860, when she was two years old.

Although the stone recognizes the spelling of the family's surname as

"Asch," O'Brien said that all of the other references to this name that she has seen have been spelled, "Ash."

After uploading a digital copy of the "Asch" tombstone photograph on her family's ancestry page on the Web site www.ancestry.com, O'Brien received

See Asch, page 11

Asch: Family tombstone, missing for over half a century, discovered in Auburn

Continued from page 10

an e-mail message from an Auburn (Placer County) resident, named Louise Pipher, who inquired about her relationship to the Asch family.

O'Brien explained that Pipher eventually told her that she believed that her ancestors' tombstone was located in Auburn.

"(Pipher) had lived in Auburn for 20 years and she and her husband were going out for dinner on Valentine's night in 2010," O'Brien said. "They were driving past this little rock garden circular driveway, right across the street from their house. She tells her husband to back up. She had never noticed in this rock garden this tombstone. She took a picture and sent it to me and it was the middle base (of the tombstone) with the names of the Asch family."

When asked what her reaction was to finding out about the discovery, O'Brien said, "Wow! They're talking to me. They wanted to be found."

O'Brien said that the house on the property with the tombstone was a rental and after attempting for some time to contact the home's owner, Barbara Clark, in 2011, she sent a letter to the Auburn Police Department and Auburn City Hall stating that she was a benefactor of the headstone.

As a result, Clark, as O'Brien explained, called her and agreed for her to have the stone removed from the property.

O'Brien said that she learned that the stone had been brought to the Auburn property from Sacramento in 1956 by Clark's stepfather, the late Victor Nation, who was a mason by trade and had a love for antiques. O'Brien added that Clark had no idea how her stepfather acquired the tombstone.

In preparation for the Asch tombstone's return to Sacramento, Ray Young, manager of the Fair Oaks



FOUND IN THE FOOTHILLS. The Asch family tombstone, shown in this February 2010 photograph, was located in a residential yard in Auburn for 55 years.

Cemetery, and Ron Clark, manager of the Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights, dug up the stone free of charge in June 2011.

The stone was then delivered to Ruhkala Monument Co. at 1001 Broadway, where it was restored.

Assisting with the payment of the restoration were O'Brien and a few of her cousins in California, the Old City Cemetery Committee, the Sacramento County Cemetery Advisory Commission and the Daughters of the American Revolution's Emigrant Trail Chapter (of Auburn), in which Pipher is a member.

O'Brien, who contributed the majority of the funds to have the stone restored, said, "To me, (having the Asch tombstone restored and rededicated) is the least that I could do to pay respect to this couple and their journey to California. And if you look at the stone, you see how important these monuments were. I would like to think they would be proud of me and my persistence to make this happen."

And in showing his own enthusiasm for the discovery of the Ash tomb-



CAREFULLY RELOCATED. The Asch family tombstone was removed from a residential property in Auburn in June 2011.

stone, Dr. Bob LaPerriere, co-chair of the Sacramento County Cemetery Advisory Commission, said, "It was very rewarding, after two decades of being involved with the history of New Helvetia Cemetery, to locate the Asch monument and have relatives from the East Coast involved in its restoration and dedication. This certainly demonstrates what the significance of these memorials can be to the families."

The rededication of the Asch tombstone will be a significant part of an even larger event at the cemetery.

The June 2 event will begin at noon at the front of the cemetery at 1000 Broadway, where two memorials, which were recently placed at the site through the efforts of the Old City Cemetery Committee, will be dedicated. These memorials pay tribute to the Reeves and Jurgens families. Among these family members was John Wesley Reeves (1845-1926), a

former coroner and proprietor and superintendent of the New Helvetia Cemetery.

Following the dedication of these family memorials, those in attendance will then proceed to the second of three New Helvetia areas at the city cemetery for the rededications of the Asch and Bonetti monuments, as well as a rededication of the Jane Hall marker.

As presented in the April 5 edition of the *East Sacramento News*, Hall's marker was one of three flat grave-stones recently discovered in an East Sacramento backyard.

This event will conclude with a short ceremony to remember the other 100-plus people whose remains were relocated to the old city cemetery from the New Helvetia Cemetery.

A granite memorial recognizing these people is intended to be placed at the site in the near future.

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'Girls On the Run'

Local organization provides afterschool prevention program for young girls

By CORRIE PELC
Land Park News writer
corrie@valcomnews.com

More than 250 girls in the third through eighth grades in Sacramento area schools participated in the spring 2012 session of Girls On the Run – a nonprofit program that strives to educate and prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

"Girls On the Run is an afterschool prevention program for girls in the third through eighth grade and it addresses issues that pre-teen girls are just starting to think about and face, things like positive body image," explained Kristen Condie, council director of Girls On the Run of Greater Sacramento.

Condie said this is the time in a girl's life where they are beginning to feel self-conscious as they are beginning to be influenced by topics

they hear through the media, at school, or even from their parents. "We really focus a lot on how everybody is great just the way they are," she added.

"These are the grades that are merging into adolescence and they're starting to encounter changes in their bodies, in their relationships with their friends, they're encountering new social topics that they might not have thought about," added Corrie Buckmaster, principal of Theodore Judah Elementary in East Sacramento, which has been hosting Girls On the Run programs for the last three years.

"It gives them an arena to talk together, to work together on positive self-esteem, good social skills and those types of things so when they encounter these topics that are common in adolescence, they'll have some background and support."



WARMING UP. Participants for the Spring Girls On the Run 5K held April 28 warm up for their race. Photo courtesy, Girls On the Run

Ready...

According to Condie, Girls On the Run offers two programs – Girls On the Run for third through fifth grades, and Girls On Track for sixth through eighth grades. "The Girls On Track curriculum is a little more mature – they deal with things like boys, dating and internet safety," she explained.

Both programs consist of two 12-week sessions during the year – fall and spring – with three levels of curriculum. The first section teaches the girls to look inward and talks about values and being healthy. The second section addresses teamwork, while the final section has the girls take on a community service project. And the entire session ends with the girls running a 5K.

Darcy Foran Williams decided to bring Girls On Track to Sierra Oaks K-8 school in the Arden area as she saw the need for such a program for her two middle school-aged daughters and their classmates. "It's a difficult age for a lot of girls and I just saw a need that there would be some positive energy, and we had a very good experience with it," she said.

Set...

So where does running fit into the picture? Condie said the Girls On the Run program uses running as a tool to help build self-esteem and work on the lessons the girls are taught through the curriculum.

"And as you know when you're healthy and fit, and when you're outside moving around and being active, you just automatically feel better about

'I like that they encourage everyone to be part of it and it's not based on skill – it's just participation and really just motivating the girls to do their best...'

–Eric Duarte,
Sixth grade teacher, Pony Express Elementary

yourself," she added. "We try to combine all of that."

"I like that they encourage everyone to be part of it and it's not based on skill – it's just participation and really just motivating the girls to do their best," said Eric Duarte, a sixth grade teacher at Pony Express Elementary who coached Girls On the Run at her school for the first time this year. "I felt like the program really encouraged girls no matter what their size was or their skill level was."

Williams said the running portion of the program helps the girls channel their energy in a positive way.

"I saw girls that were kind of down, kind of tired, kind of negative throughout the day, but once we got there and got out running, their atmosphere would completely change," she explained. "It totally turned their mood around because it was a good, fun peer group, it was a positive experience they looked forward to."

Condie has seen the program have a positive influence on parents as well.

"We have so many amazing stories of parents who have decided to run their first 5K because their daughter was train-

ing for her first 5K," she said. "It's really neat to see them cross the finish line together and for the girls to feel like, 'Wow. Because of me, my mom did this and my dad did this, too.'"

Go!

Condie said Girls On the Run of Greater Sacramento is beginning to prepare for the fall 2012 session, which normally runs from September to December. They hope to provide the program in up to 25 schools in the Sacramento area next year, an increase over the 19 that participated this year.

If a parent would like to place his or her daughter in a Girls On the Run program but their daughter's school does not currently have one, they can register for a program at a different school, Condie said. She advises parents to visit www.gotrsac.org for the most up-to-date list of confirmed schools for the fall 2012 session.

For parents seeking to see a program started at their local school, Condie said once a parent or teacher receives a principal's approval, the organization will work with them to train volunteer coaches and give them all the tools they need.

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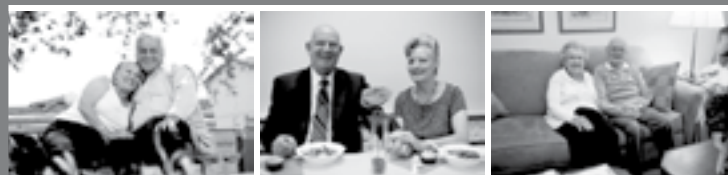
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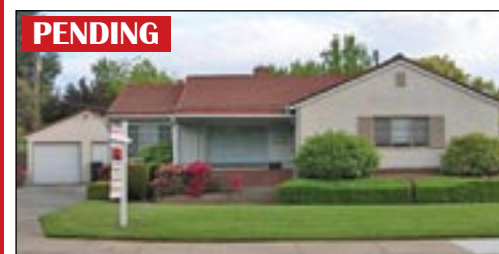
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Sacramento Public Libraries to close for three days due to staff furloughs

Special to Land Park News

All Sacramento Public Library locations will be closed Friday, June 15; and Friday, June 29, due to staff furloughs. The Library's telephone information service will be unavailable during these closures. The first furlough Friday was Friday, May 18.

The Library's governing board recently approved three furlough days between May 1 and June 30, as a cost saving measure due to shortfalls in County property tax revenues and funding reductions from the City of Sacramento.

Sacramento Public Library's website (www.saclibrary.org) is available 24/7. Call (916) 264-2920 with any additional questions.

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Alzheimer's Aid Society President Sheryl Ashby will present:

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Scouts: Zoo Troop boasts 500 past and present members, 70 Eagle Scouts

Continued from page 8

Pack #136 saw the need for a Boy Scout troop in the Land Park area of the city. In order to make that happen, an organization would be needed to charter the new troop. Initially, elementary schools and churches were considered. However, the group really wanted to find an organization and meeting place that would be more attractive to older boys. With that in mind, a proposal was made to the Sacramento Zoological Society, which enthusiastically embraced the idea and agreed to become the charter organization, thus making the troop quite possibly the only Boy Scout troop chartered to a zoo.

Leading the way

Initially the troop had only five members, Michael Boughton, Demik Boyden, Jason Hanaman, Tim McKinney and Aaron Thompson with Don Dean serving as the first Scoutmaster. Another scout, Pat Kreitzenbeck transferred into the troop during the first month and served as the first Sr. Patrol Leader.

From the beginning, the troop enjoyed strong community support with the principals from Crocker-Riverside, Sutterville, and Hollywood Park Elementary Schools serving on the Unit Committee alongside Bill Koontz and Maria Baker from the Sacramento Zoological Society, Pack 136 Cubmaster Dan Cole, and Sutterville Elementary teacher Ralph Hanaman. Dick Saldine volunteered as the first Committee Chair.

Today the troop is led by Sr. Patrol Leader Jordan Colby and Asst. Sr. Patrol Leader Christian Salmom with the assistance of Scoutmaster Steve Donaldson and Unit Committee Chair Michele Robb. The original Scoutmaster Don Dean continues to serve the troop as District Commissioner. And as it has from the beginning, the Zoological Society continues to provide guidance to the troop, with Bruce Kern serving as its current representative on the Unit Committee.

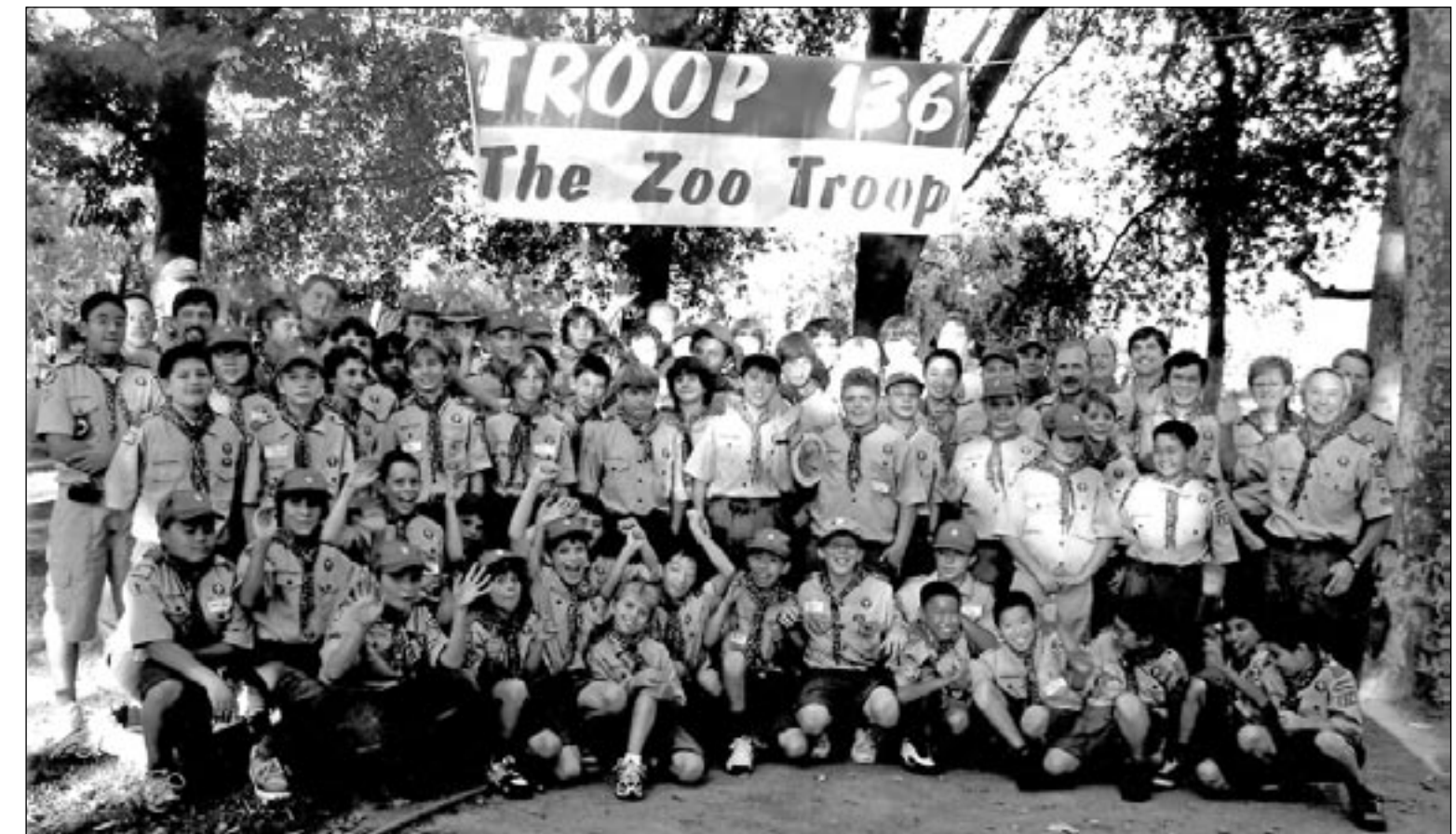


Photo courtesy, Boy Scout Troop 136

NOW... Over 500 young men – past and present – have matriculated through Boy Scout Troop 136, including 70 Eagle Scouts.

Service to others

Community service is one of Scouting's core values. Keeping that in mind, the troop wasted no time finding ways to give back to the community. Just a few short weeks after its formation, the scouts participated in the annual Ice Cream Safari to benefit the Sacramento Zoo, an event the troop continues to support every year. In addition to the Ice Cream Safari and the annual Zoo Zoom that support the Zoo, over the years the troop has assisted with numerous events throughout the city, such as charity walks/runs, food drives and flag ceremonies.

Monthly outings

The troop has become known for keeping its scouts busy with monthly outings and attendance at annual Capital City District Camporees and Klondike derbies, culminating with a week at a Boy Scout camp every summer. Recent activities have included snow camping in the Sierras, canoeing on the Russian River and an overnight on the USS Hornet to name just a few.

The troop's very first campout was held at the Zoo

on Aug. 22-23, 1987 with the scouts camping near the cheetah area and participating in games, skill events and service projects. This tradition continues with the annual "Zoo Safari" overnight campout held each fall which serves as an introduction to the Zoo Troop for Webelos Scouts from the surrounding Cub Scout Packs.

At national events

In addition to local troop-sponsored activities, Zoo Troop scouts have attended all three of the Boy Scouts of America high adventure camps (Philmont, Sea Base, and Northern Tier) as well as the National and World Scout Jamborees. Most recently, three scouts from the troop travelled to Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia to join over 40,000 Scouts from across the country at the National Jamboree celebrating the Boy Scouts of America's 100th birthday in 2010.

Capturing hearts

Although there have been many memorable moments over the past 25 years, one in particular stands out. In August 1988, the troop hosted a group of Boy Scouts from

Sacramento's sister city, Matsuyama, Japan. The scouts were escorted on a special tour of the Zoo followed by a barbecue and a spirited game of Capture the Flag (still a Zoo Troop favorite). Although none of the Japanese scouts spoke English, the rules of the game were translated into Japanese, and the area sketched out and marked with colored flags allowing both sides to have a great time. At the end of the day, both groups exchanged tokens and patches

plus every scout was presented with the BSA International Activity Patch.

All current and former members of the Zoo Troop are welcome to participate in the 25th Anniversary Celebration. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Don or Tricia Nevis at (916) 391-8495. Also visit: www.troop136.com.

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Former Land Park resident, John Kanelos to participate in McClellan Airfield aviation event

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Land Park News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

It has been nearly seven decades since former Land Park resident John Kanelos served as the lead radio operator aboard a Consolidated B-24J Liberator warplane. But he will soon be at the radio controls of one of these classic American heavy bombers once again.

During World War II, John, 88, was a member of the 15th Air Force, 450th Bombardment Group, which flew out of southern Italy. Altogether he flew with the group in 57 missions.

Because of his experience aboard this bomber, John, who presently lives in Elk Grove, was selected to participate in a liv-

ing history event on Friday, June 1.

On that date, John will be traveling aboard an original B-24J that will leave Stockton at noon, fly above McClellan Airfield, then land at McClellan at 1 p.m.

This flight is part of the Wings of Freedom Tour, which will also feature a North American P-51 Mustang and a Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress.

And as a special, previously unannounced bonus, a German Messerschmitt will also be on display at McClellan.

John said that his cousin, Jack Stavros, a 90-year-old, former flight instructor, will be a passenger aboard the P-51.

Considering that John is the only member of his crew who resides in the

greater Sacramento area, his presence at the event is one of both convenience and honor.

Vanishing breed

Certainly John's firsthand stories of his wartime involvement aboard these bombers are of increasing value as the number of living World War II veterans continues to diminish.

Evidence of this fact was well presented last week during John's meeting with this publication.

While holding a 1943 photograph of his bomber crew, John said, "The only two (people) alive out of the whole crew are (the pilot Fred "Pick") Pickering and me."

Continuing, he ran his finger along the old, faded photograph, stopping at various faces to provide commentary.

"(Pickering) is a Sacramento boy," John said. "This is my pilot right here, Fred Pickering."

And moving his finger to other faces, he said, "This is the guy who got blown up in the plane. He's gone. This guy is dead. This guy is (dead), too. And so is this guy."

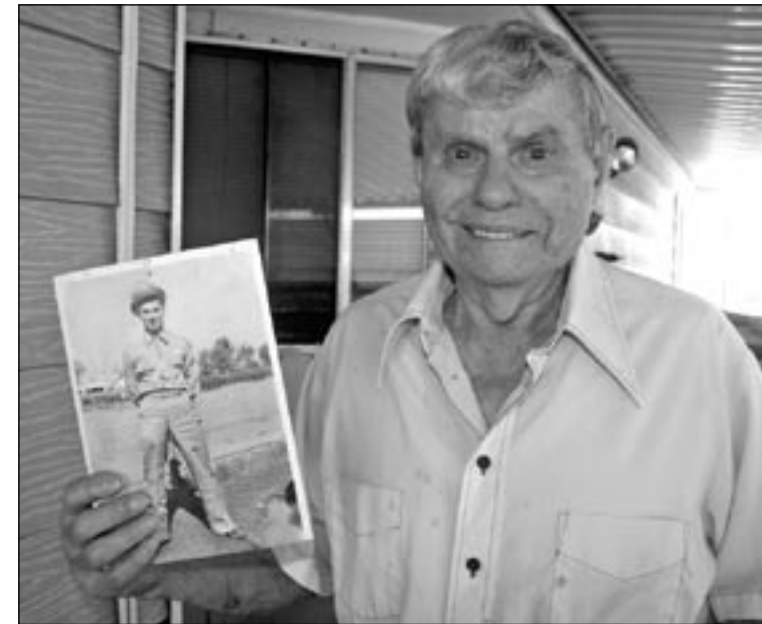
With his crew, John was stationed in southern Italy from 1943 to 1945 and participated in missions in Romania, Greece, Italy, Germany, Yugoslavia and North Africa.

John, who grew up in the old town of Florin and graduated from Elk Grove High School in 1943, acknowledged that he was one of the fortunate military men to return home alive.

Close calls

His most notable near-death experience occurred when he came within inches of being killed.

"I caught a 50-millimeter bomb," John said. "We were flying at 28,000 feet and I saw the shell leave the plane



JOHN KANELOS, former Land Park resident of 15 years, shows off a photograph of himself from his war days in 1943.

— I was in the radio room, sitting right behind the copilot — and that 50 millimeter came up right through the bottom of the plane between my legs and left a (large) hole (in the top of the plane) when it went out. It was a dud. It didn't explode. We were lucky. I think about it today and I shudder."

Of the 20 planes that participated in that mission, John said that 15 planes returned.

During a separate mission, John survived another dramatic incident, in which his plane was hit by a 50-millimeter bomb that knocked out its number three engine and caught on fire above the Adriatic Sea.

Both John and Pickering said that, of their 57 missions, there were only five missions in which they were never hit by enemy fire.

Deadly mission

An incident that has vividly remained in John's mind since his war days was witnessing the death of a new squadron member during the bombing of the Ploesti (spelled Ploiești in Romanian) oil fields.

"We made some (bomb) runs over Ploiești, Romania and I was the only one who could break radio silence, because my pilot was a full bird colonel," John said. "And when we were heading toward the target, we had 40 planes on the squadron and in Proesti, we lost six planes over the target. And we lost a

(squadron) member. He was 18 years old and on his first mission. And I saw him get a direct hit right over the target. The 24 is a good-sized plane. When they got hit, we had three 2,000 pounders on it and that plane went up just like you'd light a firecracker. That plane disappeared and he lost his life on his very first mission."

John said that the possibility of death was always evident through the presence of a chaplain on every flight.

Stateside adventure

In addition to his overseas wartime experiences, John shared details about his pre-European military days, including a crucial moment that could have prevented him from ever making it to Europe.

"We were out at (Edwards Air Force Base on the border of Los Angeles and Kern counties) and they said, 'Okay, you guys are flying out tomorrow and you're going overseas, but you cannot call your parents or anything,'" John recalled. "So, that night, we flew from Hamilton Field (near Novato) to Amarillo, Tex. When we got into Amarillo at about six in the evening, it was dark and it was raining, drizzling. We landed there and I and a buddy of mine, we got out and I called my folks (Andrew and Thomasina Kanelos) and I said, 'I'm not supposed to tell you, but we're going overseas.'"

See Kanelos, page 23



WAR PRIZE. John Kanelos poses on the wing of an Italian fighter plane, which was captured in 1943. The photograph was taken in the Italian city of Manduria.

Kanelos: WWII pilot flew 57 bombing missions over Europe, North Africa

Continued from page 22

The next morning, we got up and headed for Stewart Field in New York to the military academy. It was about five or six in the evening when we ran out of fuel over Wilkes-Barre, Pa. We made an emergency landing. My pilot, who was a colonel, he said, 'Look around and see if we have a small base here that you can contact.' So, I picked up a base there and I told them, 'This is Army, B-24 and we're headed overseas and we're out of fuel and we want to make an emergency landing.' And the guy said, 'Man, you're crazy. The biggest thing we've had land here was a Piper Cub. You can't land on this field.' I said, 'We're coming in. I remember coming in over some cornfields and there were some people picking corn

and it was drizzling. Well, when we hit the runway, our wheels were on the outer edge of the runway. The only thing that stayed on the runway was the nose wheel. We came in at about 200 miles an hour and the whole front end dug down, nose into the canal. So, we were lucky we got out of there all right. People from the town came out. I think there were about 200 or 300 people there."

Portuguese connection

John added that shortly after leaving to the United States, his crew lost a generator and had to make another emergency landing in the island of Faial in the Azores Islands of Portugal.

The crew soon afterward made another emergency landing in South Africa.

During a telephone interview last week, Pickering, 90, who grew up in Fair Oaks, attended San Juan High School and now resides in the state of Washington, was asked to comment about John's work as a radio operator.

"He was a damn good radio operator," Pickering said. "He didn't cause me a bit of trouble. He knew what to do all the time."

Fear of flight

Pickering noted, however, that when it came to flying, John never felt comfortable in any of the missions.

"He told me that he was scared all the time," Pickering

said. "I said, 'Okay, I'll protect you.'"

In discussing his fear of flying, John, who was married four times in his life, but had no children, said, "I never did care to fly. I later flew to Hawaii with my wife at the time on four occasions and I never liked any of (the flying)."

Nonetheless, as he did during his military days, John

will ignore his fear of flying and board a B-24J, and land at McClellan Airfield, where he is expected to be greeted by a crowd of friends, aviation enthusiasts and other spectators.

For additional information regarding the Wings of Freedom Tour, call (800) 568-8924 or visit the Web site www.cfdn.org.



ONE HUNDRED MISSIONS. The 15th Air Force, 450th Bombardment Group pose in front of a Consolidated B-24J Liberator warplane.

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Faces and places

Opening day at Sunflower Farmers Market

By STEPHEN CROWLEY
Land Park News photographer
stephen@valcomnews.com

Hundreds of shoppers lined up for the grand opening of the new Sunflower Farmers Market in Land Park Center on May 16. Some shoppers arrived as early as 3:30 a.m. to be among the first 50 customers to tour the store, purchase items and receive a bag of free groceries.



Community rallies to support of wounded Sacramento K9

By SUSAN LAIRD
Land Park News editor
susan@valcomnews.com

The Land Park neighborhood and the Sacramento community at large are rallying to the side of a Sacramento K9 that was seriously wounded in the line of duty on Friday, May 18.

K9 Bodie suffered one gunshot wound to the jaw and another to the right front paw when pursuing a car theft suspect.

The incident was the result of an earlier stolen car pursuit by the Sacramento Police Department. Soon, the abandoned vehicle was found off Riverside Boulevard and police surrounded the area. K9 Officer Randy Van Dusen and K9 Bodie came upon the fleeing couple.

"A short foot pursuit ensued and the male suspect fired rounds at the canine, striking the canine," said Sgt. Andrew Pettit with the Sacramento Police. "Fearing for the safety of himself and the other people around, the canine handler fired rounds at the suspect."

The incident ended with the death of the male suspect, 33-year old Lucas J. Webb of Chico. The female suspect, 28-year old Leslie McCulley, taken into custody.

Shaken parents picked up their children at Crocker Elementary on Friday afternoon, grateful to Bodie, his partner and the Sacramento Police Department that their children were kept safe from danger.

Bodie's handler/partner immediately took the dog to a vet in Rancho Cordova, where Bodie underwent two surgeries – the second one was to stop bleeding. He was listed in serious condition, but by Tuesday, May 22, Bodie was upgraded to "fair" condition. The dog underwent multiple blood transfusions over the weekend, but his blood count is now near normal, so he should not require any further transfusions, according to the Sacramento Police Canine Association's Facebook Webpage. Bodie faces future surgeries to deal with shrapnel and bone fragments in his face and paw, as well as significant repair to his damaged tongue.

Bodie was able to get out into the sunshine for a brief period of time on Sunday. With the support of his handler, who has not left his side, the dog is rallying.

Bodie's medical expenses may run between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Offers to help with the K9's medical



Photo courtesy, Sacramento Police Canine Association
WOUNDED SACRAMENTO POLICE K9 BODIE is steadily improving. He is now listed in fair condition at a Rancho Cordova veterinary hospital.

expenses are coming in from the community, as are offers to purchase a new K9 for the department. A trained dog, K9 Echo, was purchased for the Sacramento Police Department by the Rotary Club of East Sacramento for \$10,000 earlier this year.

Those who wish to make a donation for Bodie's care can do so by visiting www.spdk9.org. Donations can also be mailed to Sacramento Police K9 Association, 550 Bercut Drive, Sacramento, CA 95811. Checks should be made out to the Sacramento Police K9 Association.

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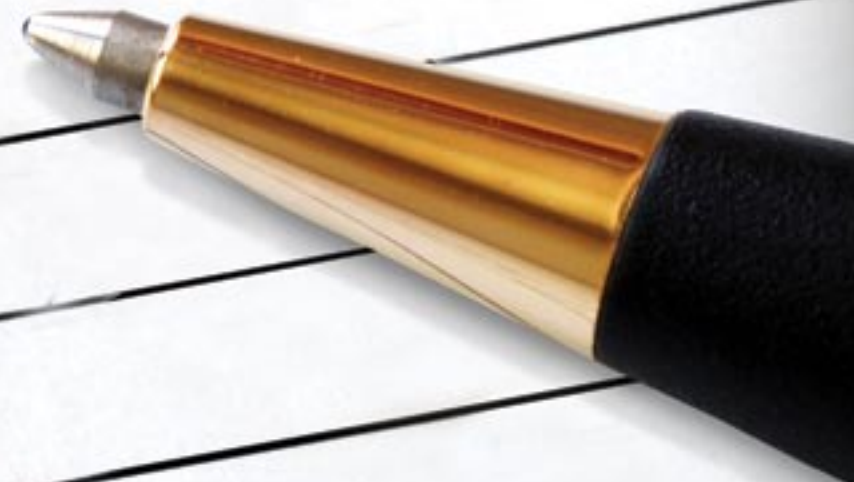
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Land Park News

Home Improvement Guide

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¹Ratings according to Bauer Financial Reports, Veribanc and Institutional Risk Analytics.

CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
www.valcomnews.com

Continued from page 28

JUNE

Best Friend Fridays

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Enjoy a fun, no-pressure, no-risk networking environment that benefits the local community non-profits. Hors d'oeuvres, wine & beer, games, raffle drawings, door prizes. Bring your best friend and make new ones. \$5 admission. Each Friday is hosted by a different non-profit group with all proceeds from the raffle donated. Garden Room and Courtyard, Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St., Sac. (916) 452-3005 www.sierra2.org

Sacramento Kaiser Farmer's Market

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Sacramento Kaiser Farmer's Market. Every Friday, June-Nov. 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2025 Morse Ave., Sac. www.sierrafresh.com

Saint Rose of Lima Park Farmer's Market

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: St. Rose of Lima Park Farmer's Market. Every Friday, June-Sept. 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 7th & K streets, Sac. www.MarketLocations.com

Art Fiesta

June 2, 3: The Sacramento Suburban Kiwanis Club warmly invites you to this year's 54th annual Art Fiesta. Spacious indoor venue with fine art, paintings, pottery, photography, metal, glass, jewelry and more. Free admission. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Town & Country Village, Fulton & Marconi, Sac. (916) 972-7337 www.townandcountryartfiesta.org

'European Traditions'

June 2: Join the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra as they perform works by Vivaldi, Rheinberger, Mozart, Haydn and folk music from Europe. \$35-\$55. Pre-talk at 7 p.m., concert at 8 p.m. Sacramento Community Center Theater, 1301 L St., Sac. www.tickets.com (916) 808-5181

Fire Station 5 open house

June 2: Come visit Fire Station 5 at 731 Broadway, Sac. Free. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Presentations at 3 p.m. (916) 808-1347

Express Yourself Festival and Film cast & crew call

June 2: Access Sacramento invites the public to its Express Yourself Festival and "PCS" cast and crew call. Filmmakers, artists, musicians, actors, major media organizers, nonprofit groups all welcome to participate. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. 4623 T St. St. Ron Cooper (916) 456-8600

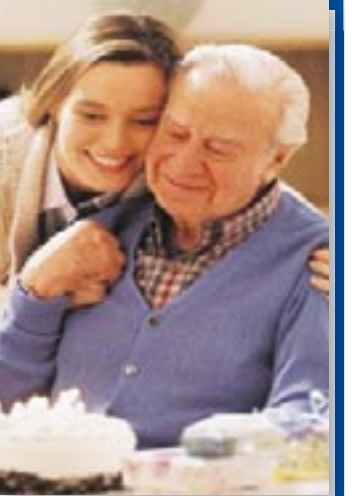
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Fri, 5/25: Wine in the Park Ticket Package, \$25	Sat, 5/26: Showdown Hoedown Pre-game Block Party @ 4 p.m.	Sun, 5/27: Run, Bike, Swim Night Collapsible Water Bottle Giveaway (at 2,500 fans)	Mon, 5/28: Military Appreciation Day presented by U.S. Army

Mr. Dunnigan, who is 98, still stops by every day. An office is kept for him as a sign of respect and affection. Although operation of the firm has long since transitioned, the firm he founded in 1951 continues to bear the imprint of his simple approach: 'We are in the people business.'



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