

# LAND PARK NEWS

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*Land Park artist's latest works dedicated to his late father* See page 20



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Land Park Farmers' Market to debut Nov. 23

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Mulligan's Cafe at William Land Golf course to get a makeover

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# Weekly Land Park Farmers' Market to debut Sunday, Nov. 23

After about a year of planning, BeMoneySmartUSA will be operating a weekly Sunday farmers' market in the southeast corner of William Land Park at the corner of Freeport Boulevard and Sutterville Road starting on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A special grand opening celebration whereby patrons can enter a free raffle for a chance to win more than \$250 of farmers' market products will be amongst the offerings. When patrons check in on Yelp, they will also earn a \$1 market dollar. In addition, there will be campaigns on Facebook in which patrons who like the page and check in on market day can earn 10 more free raffle tickets and increase their chances. For the kids, there will be a supervised craft table with some fun fall crafts and an opportunity to make some Christmas ornaments at no cost, but donations would be accepted.

In the winter, the market will consist of 12 to 15 farmers who are both certified and organically certified. Other items will include eggs, fish, cheese, meat, poultry, olive oil, honey, coffee, jams, fresh baked breads, tortillas, charcuterie-style sausages and condi-

ments, along with fresh pressed juices and at least six or seven other specialty gourmet food vendors.

On site edibles will include: Frenchy's Waffles, Siddivinayaka Catering with Indian style cuisine, specialty deli-style sandwiches by Fire & Ice, Kettle Cornucopia and some delicious street tacos by Hernandez Foods. Folks can expect to see about 10 to 12 specialty artisan crafters out there too for the holiday season. All in all, it will be about 50 vendors strong for the winter.

As the season gets better, all of the seasonal farmers will come out with their seasonal produce and the market will be filled with more produce. Like at the BeMoneySmart USA Carmichael Park Farmers' Market, folks can expect the Land Park market to accommodate up to 65-70 vendors come summer.

Year-round, the Land Park Farmers' Market will include all of the same products one can expect from a BeMoneySmartUSA run Farmers' Market, including specialty foods

## Grand Opening:

Continued from page 2

from vendors like the Pasta Queen with their homemade pastas and sauces, Hernandez Foods with their signature salsas and bean dips, Emma's Tamales in a variety of flavors, and Kouzounas Kitchen with their Greek Style Pastries to name a few. Vendors include: Rio De Parra's Organics, Loving Nature, Pleasant Grove School Road, Trinidad Oranges, Cipponeri Family Farms with their dried fruits and flavored nuts for the winter season and fresh seafood from Freshway Fish along with beef, poultry and lamb from Coffee Pot Ranch and more. There will be live music every week, and a holiday craft event from November through December.

Managed by BeMoneySmartUSA and sponsored by Pet Extreme, the market will be year round, rain or shine. BeMoneySmartUSA is a

local non-profit organization that specializes in financial and business education for youth to adult, offering free workshops, camps and inschool education programs and curriculum. BeMoneySmartUSA also provides jobs for ages 14 and older through the Rent A Teen job placement program. Students who take the classes become eligible to apply for part time and full time jobs with BeMoneySmartUSA at the farmers' markets.

BeMoneySmartUSA currently runs and operates eight other markets in the Sacramento area that includes both seasonal and year round markets. Land Park will be the sixth year-round market along with the Sacramento Midtown Farmers' Market, Sunrise Mall Farmers' Market, Carmichael Park Farmers' Market, Unity of Sacramento Farmers' Market and the Historic Folsom Farmers' Market. Seasonal markets include Fair Oaks Sunset Farm-

ers' Market, Veterans Mather Farmers' Market and the UC Davis Health System Farmers' Market. At present, BeMoneySmartUSA employs more than 85 students throughout the year in part time positions that includes sales, customer service, social media marketing, journalism, videography, event coordination and business administration, accounting and marketing. Students earn while they learn.

BeMoneySmart USA continues education with the students who work with us through weekly lessons and follow up on money matters and improving employability, communication and leadership skills. Currently, many of the markets are managed by youth who started in the program a few years ago. BeMoneySmartUSA will be celebrating their fifth year of service in 2015 and launching a "I Love My Farmers Market" Campaign that will include a lot of customer appreciation!

Marie Hall of BeMoneySmartUSA discussed the support from the community as the reason for the organization's growth.

"We owe our growth and success to community support and collaborations with local farms, businesses, patrons, schools, the chambers, parks and recs, and local churches and neighborhood associations. It has been through their support that we have been able to experience so much success in such a short period of time."

"All of the markets BMSUSA run includes a well-organized community event that has variety of local vendors to include certified and organically certified farmers' produce, meats and poultry, eggs and many specialty food vendors as well as live music and activities for the whole family like our fall pumpkin patch, spring fling fair, Annual Tomato Taste Off and Peach

See Farmers' Market, page 9

**Sindy Kirsch**

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# Over the Fence

with Greg Brown



By GREG BROWN  
greg@valcomnews.com

## Patio expansion at Land Park Golf Course

The Land Park Golf Course is planning to expand the clubhouse patio area outside Mulligan's Café. They'll add 10 tables with colorful sunshade umbrellas. The added tables would be used by golfers as well as soccer parents and other park users.

One park user, Hollywood Park resident Kerry Herd-Babich, was getting a hot cup of coffee at the café while her husband David practiced his short game on the putting green. She told me "Every morning we walk around the park, it's wonderful." Then they relax and hang out on the patio outside of Mulligan's Café.

The \$42,500 expansion is being done thanks to retiring County Supervisor Jimmie Yee. Jimmie has always been a huge supporter of The First Tee, their core values, and what they do for the kids.

Jimmie told me over the phone he likes to visit William Land to relax, sit around the clubhouse, and watch golfers enjoy

the putting green. Jimmie is also an avid golfer and hopes to play once a week in retirement.

The golf course put a new cart barn near the putting green a few years ago and that got Jimmie thinking, "that's nice to have the cart barn there but they need something between the two...there's just nothing there."

He told this to Tom Morton, the head of Morton Golf, which operates quite a few golf courses in the Sacramento area. That's when they came up with the idea of expanding the plaza between the cart barn and Mulligan's Café.

Jimmie had some leftover tobacco litigation funds from the county and was able to use the money to help fund the new plaza expansion. Jimmie also generously donated money from his campaign fund to the Land Park Volunteer Corps that does a lot of work to keep Land Park clean.

The Land Park Volunteer Corp gets to have lunch on Jimmie!

Jimmie told me, "I'm winding down. The only way to donate my remain-



Photos by Greg Brown

The outside of Mulligan's Café before the plaza expansion.

ing funds is to give it to charitable organizations." Jimmie added, "That's the big story, in a little nutshell."

## Pinball at Phono Select

Phono Select Records in Hollywood Park recently had a fun pinball and toy event. The clacks and dings of the pinball machines wafted through the Phono Select building while music played in conjunction. Free pinball! The machines were some of the coolest, too. Metallica, AC/DC, Elvis and Medieval Madness were all lined up in a

See Over the Fence, page 6



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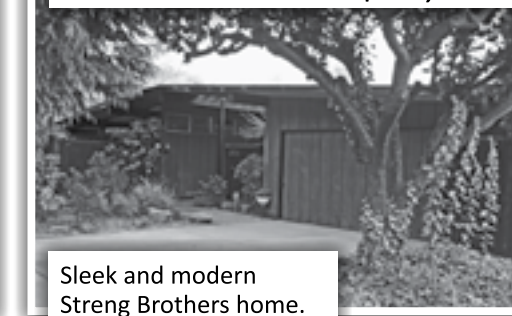
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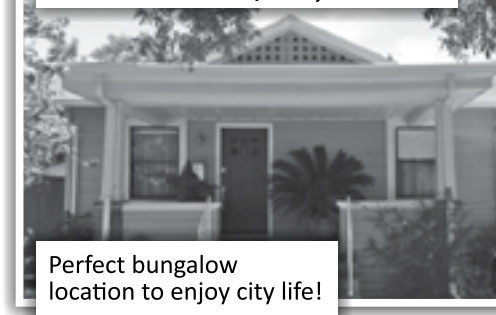
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## Over the Fence:

Continued from page 5

row for folks to "play the silver ball."

Phono Select Records plans on more pinball parties as well as having pinball and other video games permanently at the shop. And this should make your day...The Dirty Harry pinball machine is coming soon!

## Purple Fox takes over Trezher's

The Purple Fox is a new arts and crafts store on Riverside Boulevard in Land Park. It is taking over the old Trezher's Gift Shop location in the strip mall across from Vic's Ice Cream.

The Purple Fox features arts and crafts from a variety of local artists. The store is part consignment, part retail, according to the new owner Linda Cobarruvies. Linda told me, "I've been wanting to open a shop for a long time and I thought, now's the time."

Linda, a former teacher, was eager to show me around her little shop. There was a smorgasbord of hand-crafted decorative items, jewelry, and one-of-a-kind gifts. I mentioned I had a 5-year-old son and she went over to the display of hand-made animal plushies, chose the light blue kitty and said, "Please give this to your boy to cuddle with." He loved it when I brought it home and immediately squeezed and



(above) The Elvis and AC/DC pinball machines were getting a good workout at Phono Select Records. (right) New Porcelain Neon Sign at Freeport Bakery



cuddled with the soft Bell-zzi plush toy.

One of the products on display I noticed immediately were the Dammit Dolls. When you get frustrated or irritated instead of pounding the desk, you slam the doll against something and yell, "Dammit!" It's the perfect thing to own when the in-laws visit for the holidays.

The Purple Fox will be a convenient place for teachers in the area to pick up craft supplies for the classroom. They also offer classes on crafts, card-making, knitting, quilting and more.

I asked Linda where she came up with the name Purple Fox and she told me, "Purple is my favorite color, and a fox is very crafty. I sent the idea to my friends and they all loved it!"

The Purple Fox is located at 3214 Riverside Blvd. They're on the web at [www.purplefoxgifts.com](http://www.purplefoxgifts.com)

## Freeport Bakery gets neon signage

Next time you drive past Freeport Bakery in the evening take a look at the classic porcelain neon sign they just installed. It gives off a nice warmish glow. The sign with pink neon flowers is patterned after the decadent Freeport Bakery cakes.

Owner Marlene Goetzel said, "I've been wanting to do an iconic sign for a while. I wanted our logo, but with some style, old school signs with a modern flair."

Marlene talked to quite a few sign makers, even one from Austin, Texas, but couldn't find the right fit.

Then she met Ben Kenealey of "Light In The Night Neon." It was a perfect match. "From the minute we met, I knew he was the right person," Marlene said.

"That was a fun sign to do," Ben told me. "I started telling Marlene my ideas and she kept getting more and more

excited, even to the point to where she was giddy about it. She was a great person to work with."

They actually had to send the signs out of state for the porcelain work. No one really makes them much anymore because other materials are less expensive. Ben said, "The porcelain has an old nostalgic feel you're not gonna get anywhere else. If you watch American Pickers and that kind of thing they'll pull out these old porcelain signs they always rave about."

Ben, who is one of the few glass benders left in the Sacramento area, bent the glass used for the signs at his shop on Keifer Boulevard. It was then assembled at Pacific West Signs and installed on the north and south ends of the Freeport Bakery building.

Marlene said, "Finally after all these years Freeport Bakery has some great signage!"

Got an item for Over The Fence? [Greg@Valcomnews.com](mailto:Greg@Valcomnews.com)



## What are you thankful for? Land Park preschoolers get into the spirit of the holidays

The following students in the Butterfly Class at the Land Park Infant Center and Preschool (5250 Riverside Blvd.) shared with the Land Park News what they are thankful for. What are you thankful for?

"For my Mommy because I love her." – Isabella

"I love my Mom! I am thankful for her." – Kai

"I am thankful for cousins in New York." – Emma

"I am thankful for Mom and Dad because they cook things for me." – Charlie

"For my Mommy and my cats, Hunter Pence and Snow White." – Peyton

"For my cat. I love him." – Vincent

"For my soccer ball." – Wyatt

"For my family and friends. Thankful is when you are happy to have something or someone." – Wyatt

"For my family." – Olive

"For my friends to be nice to me." – Madelyn

"Thankful for my Mommy." – Brooklyn

"I love trains. I'm thankful for that." – Michael

"I am thankful for this dress because someone gave it to me." – Karly

"I am thankful for my Mommy when she gets me my own dinner." – Allison

"I am thankful for caterpillars." – Amelie



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# Matías Bombal's Hollywood

## "Interstellar"

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Paramount Pictures and Warner Bros. bring us "Interstellar," an epic science fiction event movie that rivals the classic era of showmanship's great road shows in its IMAX and 70mm film presentations in the United States.

Under the direction of Christopher Nolan, "Interstellar" stars Matthew McConaughey, a farmer with two kids, once an engineer, pilot, and astronaut, uses technology to bring down a drone flying over his farm.

The information he finds will lead him to set his course for adventure. This future world is plagued by great climate change devastated by famine and drought. He's recruited by NASA into action to find hope for mankind's future in the stars.

Michael Caine, a key NASA scientist, offers the discovery of a rip in the space/time continuum as a chance to look for life on a planet in another solar system.

This is indeed a most handsome production, which even at a lengthy running time of 169 minutes without intermission, offers good performances from Jessica Chastain, Matt Damon, Anne Hathaway, John Lithgow, and one of my favorite young actors of today, Casey Affleck. In small scenes, you'll see Topher Grace and Ellen Burstyn.

The director's choice for IMAX film shots of incredible size give you the impression of the vastness of space much better than you saw in "Gravity," and in fact I liked this so much more than that movie for many reasons.

The best part: I felt like I was a kid again with the wonder of adventurous space travel, pushing the limits of science and imagination. The "2001: A Space Odyssey" influence may be felt here, as you get a sense of the unknown and mysterious with a longing to know more. It's a fun ride.

One of the notable aspects of this film release is the very fact that it is on film, and will be projected that way in IMAX theaters across the nation on IMAX 15 perf/70mm prints.

I found that "Interstellar's" musical score by Hans Zimmer offers a tip of the hat to the "2001: A Space Odyssey" score while remaining different than the standard action scores of today with that nasty boom crash sound that I find so detestable. This is a great way to spend time at the movies, it made science-fiction fun for me again. (Note for our readers: *Matias' online review for this movie shows the inside of the Esquire IMAX theater and just how the film print is assembled and shown for these special showings on actual IMAX film: <http://youtu.be/lbUHfMYyZP4>*)



## Farmers' Market:

Continued from page 3

Festival. For our patrons over 21 we offer wine and beer tastings from local wineries and micro-breweries that pair with some delicious foods prepared on site by local chefs."

The Land Park Farmers' Market has been in the works for over a year as organizers worked to establish a calendar that would both accommodate this community market all year long and the many other outside events hosted in the park which required it to be closed to specific dates that fell on the same day of the farmers' market.

Explaining the solution, Hall said she and her husband, Don Hall, kept

moving forward. "Not discouraged by this dilemma and with the cooperation of Sacramento City College, we were able to solve this problem by simply moving the market across the street into the Sacramento City College front parking lot on the dates the park needed to close down for these other annual events. It's right across the street from the park on Freeport (Boulevard) with great visibility from the street. We were hoping to open the market in July, but got delayed by this process.

"We decided to open this month rather than wait for next season because this was the best time to open where we could have at least six to eight consecutive weeks without in-

terruption to our Land Park location and allow us the time to alert our patrons of the calendar of dates they can expect us to be across the street. This helps us maintain a weekly market for our farmers, vendors and patrons alike. After January, patrons can expect the market to be moved every three to four weeks for one day to the Sac City College parking lot. We will have a calendar on our website and at the market indicating which dates. We plan to offer wine and beer tasting along with chef demos when at the Sac City College location, since no wine or beer tasting can be offered in the park."

To find out how people can be a part of the market in any capacity,

they can find out by going to [www.bemoneysmartusa.org](http://www.bemoneysmartusa.org) under the Get Involved Tab and they can inquire about being a crafter, food vendor, farmer, health vendor, student worker and even a volunteer. BeMoneySmartUSA can also be reached by phone 484-7000 or email [info@bemoneysmartusa.org](mailto:info@bemoneysmartusa.org). They can also find out specifically about Land Park under the Farmers Markets Tab under Land Park. A map pin points all of the market locations they currently own and operate.

"We are very excited to reaching out to our friends in the Land Park community. This has been a long time coming and it's finally here," said Marie Hall.



**Linda Pohl**  
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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.

Know your neighbor:

# Drewski's Hot Rod Kitchen owner hails from Land Park

By MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

Andrew "Drewski" Blaskovich's story has a bit of a rags-to-riches theme. When the Land Park native was just 9 years old, his father died leaving the mother of the household, Carol, busy with seven children. Essentially, that's how Drewski learned how to cook, by necessity.

During a successful SactoMoFo Sunday event at William Land Park, Blaskovich, the owner of Drewski's Hot Rod Kitchen (the popular local food truck that specializes in grilled sandwiches), chatted a bit about his upbringing and the success that continues to drive his business forward.

Speaking about the tragedy during his youth, Blaskovich said his mother went from being a housewife to working two jobs to keep the family's finances above water. What that meant for the kids was there wasn't the same kind of home cooking and it also meant it was time for the kids to become resourceful and get creative. "We had to do a lot of our own cooking when Mom

was busy working and we didn't have a whole lot of ingredients to work with because we came from a not-so-well-off home in terms of finances and she was busy working two jobs. I was supposed to create everything based on what we had left in the cupboard. I started putting combinations together."

A local boy, Blaskovich attended California Middle School and, C.K. McClatchy High School for three years before graduating in 1992 from Argonaut High School (now Sacramento New Technology High School) on Dickson Street.

After graduation from Argonaut, Blaskovich worked at the Hyatt Regency Sacramento for 10 years while working a side catering job. Then, he said, he saw what direction food was going. He's launched two trucks since April 2011 as well as a brick and mortar restaurant in McClellan Park at 5504 Dudley Blvd. in North Highlands. Operating as a full scale restaurant, that location is also the production kitchen to alleviate cook time inside the trucks.

When Blaskovich first started his food truck business, he and his mighty staff did all



Andrew "Drewski" Blaskovich stands in front of his food truck in Land Park.

Photo by Monica Stark

the food preparation inside of the truck and that was just too small, he said. "There was nowhere to store anything. So we were cooking pork every day and that's three hours to do that. So I wasn't able to take on all the events. Now with the commercial kitchen, we pick up every event that we can."

With the ongoing success, Blaskovich has been featured in various publications and on

television more than once, he said making mom quite proud. Seen at many of the events, Carol enjoys driving and sitting in the truck, Blaskovich said. "People will yell, 'hey: Drewski what's up.' And she'll go, 'hey this is my son.' And then she sees us in the newspaper and it makes her happy. She DVRs all the TV stuff we do. She's really happy."

Nationally recognized, Drewski's currently has 15

employees and, Blaskovich said, they are always hiring, from cashier to line-cook to management. In fact, due to the growth of his business, he currently is searching for a general manager to help run the entire enterprise - someone who could help with the "more business related stuff."

Expanding on that topic, Blaskovich said, "I am managing everyone we have, but to take the next step in terms of franchising, different markets, I need someone that's just a savage."

In the works for Blaskovich is a new concept truck, he said. "It will be something different from our Drewski's brand. I don't know if the name will be the same or different, but it will be a spin-off of Drewski's."

# SactoMoFo celebrates Land Park community

At the third Food Truck Mania in William Land Park on Sunday, Oct. 19, SactoMoFo's managing partner Paul Somerhausen complimented the community that has embraced the event.

"We love (Land Park). We have been really well received. We have been given positive feedback. I think our best gauge of whether people like us or not is that people come and they stay and they bring their friends with them and they make a big deal about it. It's definitely part of our bigger picture of wanting to make sure our communities come out, sit together and eat and enjoy each other's company. This community, in particular, was very responsive to that. It's a real community type of event. It's neat, pretty much our underlying goal other than exposing food trucks to the masses," Somerhausen said.

Asked if he would change anything next year, he said they are always looking to add other components, particularly things for kids, like face painting, balloons artists and making sure there's entertainment for everybody. "We try to change the music every time that we are here, but ultimately the star of the show is the food trucks, so we bring a different lineup every month so that we see

See Food Trucks, page 17

# The lives we touch inspire us

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Faces and Places:

## Chinese Community Church fall fellowship and food festival

Photos by MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

The community enjoyed delicious Chinese barbecue chicken, pot stickers, live entertainment and fun and games at the 31st annual Fall Fellowship and Food Festival held at the Chinese Community Church on Saturday, Oct. 18. Here's to next year!



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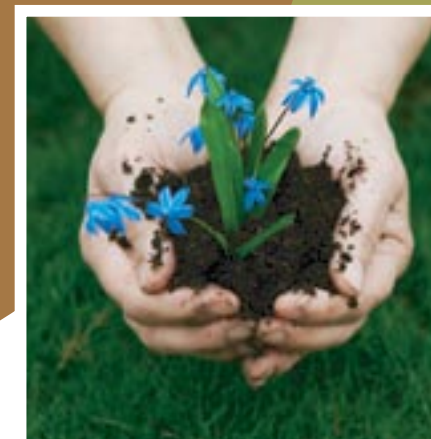
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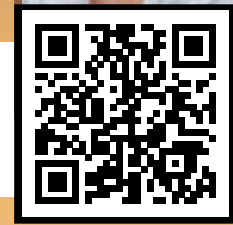
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## Food Trucks:

Continued from page 11

different things and (people can) try different foods if they are adventurous."

SactoMoFo works with about 35 trucks and about 12 come every month. The grand majority of the food trucks are local to the Sacramento area. The only exception on Sunday, Oct. 19 was Green Papaya, which is based out of Stockton.

Food Truck Mania hits about 30 spots per month and Somerhausen said they will be starting in Lodi next year. "Geographically, that's as far as Sacramento as we have now. Eventually we'll grab Stockton as well. We just keep working our way out."

While many parks started their "food truck season" earlier than Land Park, that's because "it took a little while for all the parties involved to get on the same

page," Somerhausen said. "I am glad we got at least three events this year and I'm hopeful we will continue them. We'll have discussions with the community association to see where we go from here."

If you go:

**What:** SactoMoFo Food Truck Mania courtesy of the Land Park Community Association. There will be a beer garden, lots of gourmet food trucks, great live music and plenty of kid-friendly entertainment like bounce houses and balloon artists.

**When:** Sunday, Nov. 16 from 4 to 8 p.m.

**Where:** 3800 Land Park Dr. at the corner of Freepoint Boulevard and Sutterville Road in William Land Park.

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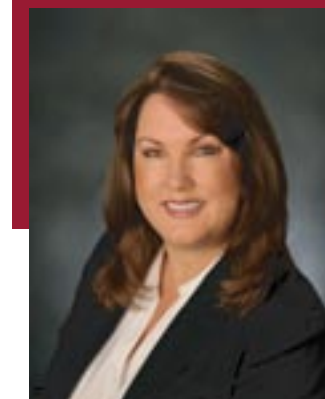
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## Faces and Places: Crocker-Riverside Elementary students get in the Halloween spirit

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY  
stephen@valcomnews.com

Crocker-Riverside Elementary students got in the Halloween spirit. Here is a collection of photographs taken after school on Friday, Oct. 31.



## Woman Warrior: Sacramentan General Mary J. Kight talks about her career and veterans' issues

By LEIGH STEPHENS

What led a little girl from Monterey, California to a career in the military where she reached heights few women have ever attained? General Mary J. Kight would say life happens while you do your job well, persevere, and serve others.

Since 1775, courageous women have served in our country's military and but originally as nurses, aides, cooks or in other domestic duties. Yet, few know that in Revolutionary times women bound their breasts, wore men's clothing, and took men's names; all this to fight along with men. Not until 1976 were women admitted to a military academy. Since the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and now other parts of the Middle East, women have been allowed to serve in combat.

Why would a woman want to enter the military? The service provides equal pay for equal work as well as medical care, living quarters, and education. Many women join to support their families with benefits as well as for career advancement.

General Kight says, "Education is one of the reasons I enlisted in the Air Force." I went to a job fair while attending California State University, Chico and discovered opportunities the military offers. My family could not afford to send me to college although they were always supportive of me."

In 2010, then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Mary J. Kight, the first female Adjutant General of The California Military Department. She is also the first African-American woman to attain this position in the nation.

Mary Kight has received many awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. When she retired in 2011, she was awarded The Order of California. In part it reads, "Under her leadership, the California National Guard quickly and effectively responded to every request to support citizens of California during emergencies." It added that General Kight's "...warrior-statesman approach proved effective in ensuring collaboration with the California Legislature."

With a completed BA from Chico State, in 1974, Mary Kight says she wanted to put her skills to work so she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in Spokane, Washington. At each place she was stationed around the country, she continued her education completing several higher degrees and attending various military colleges. She eventually returned to

California and moved from active service to reserve.

General Kight has continued to break barriers throughout her career and champion veterans' rights. Her co-workers say she has great leadership style, concentrating on getting the job done and helping others succeed. She is focused, demanding, a consensus builder, and knows how to get things done with a smile.

Today, General Mary J. Kight is a retired hero who after 37 years of active service spends her time working with military and civilian organizations mentoring others and working on veterans' issues. Her work includes Women in Military Service for America, the American Red Cross, the American Legion, and the Air Force Association. Her current passion is working with the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Civilian and military people go to the program where food, clothing, and job referrals help those in need.

Veterans' issues are at the top of the news today: promises made to thousands and promises not kept by our country. General Kight says, "There certainly have been problems in the past, but I believe we are on the right road to providing the entitlements veterans need and deserve."

Four major problems face veterans returning home after years of service to this country.

### Mental and Physical Issues

Nearly three in 10 Gulf War II-era veterans have mental and physical problems related to service. Post Traumatic Stress is rampant among vets. One in three Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTS. Psychiatric issues range from depression and nightmares to violent behavior and suicide. It is difficult to pick up relationships when returning to civilian life. Divorce and social alienation are common.

For example, recently a disturbed veteran with a knife stormed the White House saying, "The atmosphere is collapsing." He is a veteran with multiple tours of duty in Iraq. With luck, no one was injured, but dozens have not been so lucky in numerous incidents involving weapons.

Physical problems involve loss of limbs, disfigurement, and devastating, long-lasting wounds. Both mental and physical issues many times create rejection from the family, the job market and from the community.

Sexual harassment has also been a devastating issue.

### Lack and Timing of Medical Services

This year, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Chief Bob McDonald said before Congress, "Tens of thousands more medical staff are needed."

Military medical facilities and hospitals cannot keep up with the backlog of vet claims, both mental and physical. A recent scandal in the Phoenix, Arizona system, 35 veterans died while waiting for appointments and care. This spurred a criminal investigation where a Veterans Affairs audit nationwide revealed that 120,000 veterans are waiting for or never got care.

Veterans Affairs has now laid out a 90-day mandate to fix the problems. One positive is a pending bill, HR4810, the *Veteran's Access to Care Act of 2014* stating that the VA can enter into civilian contracts for hospitals and other medical facilities to provide timely care if the military cannot provide. Another provision in the bill states that if veterans do not live within 40 miles of a military facility they can get civilian care.

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York) says, "While we can never truly repay the debt we owe our brave veterans is to ensure that the government takes a proactive approach to delivering the services and benefits they have earned, so they can access the care they need and so richly deserve."

As of this writing, the bill is still in committee and with the stalemate in Washington, it's anyone's guess as to when and if it might make it through to reality.

### Homelessness

Veterans make up 13 percent of the country's homeless where many are living on the streets. The majority of that number are women. About 900,000 vets nationwide rely on food stamps to survive. These include the homeless but also those living on the fringe trying to support themselves and their families.

According to the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness & Poverty, "Nearly 60,000 veterans experience homelessness on any given night in our country."

Even though the U.S. economy has gone through a recession, General Kight encourages veterans not to give up. At one Working World job fair in the Bay Area she advised, "Look for opportunities. Transition to civilian life even at an entry level if you have to. Highlight all the skills you learned in the military. You are a valuable resource to the civilian job market. Veterans are highly skilled and disciplined. Given the opportunity, time and effort you can rise in the civilian work world."



Mary Kight.

Photo courtesy of Kight

### Education

The G.I. Bill was the most successful government education program in the country's history. Thousands of World War II veterans earned college credits and degrees under the program. Yet, when the government shut down in 2013, Tuition Assistance was suspended in the military. This left thousands of veterans without funds to begin or continue their educations.

Tied to homelessness is a reduction of federal funds for veteran education. A recent \$85 billion in government cuts were in the veterans' education programs. All branches of the military have had to make cuts in their Tuition Assistance programs.

According to a recent *Stars and Stripes* report, some funding has been restored but with more stringent requirements applying. The Army Tuition Assistance Benefits in place from Oct. 1, 2014 through Sept. 30, 2015 are: funds will be granted for 100 percent of the tuition up to 16 hours credit; not to exceed \$250 per credit hours or a \$4,000 cap per fiscal year. This is a reduction in previous funding.

The Air Force has made changes similar to the Army. The Coast Guard had the most drastic changes in that it reduced its benefits to 75 percent tuition while members must pay the remaining 25 percent. The Guard also reduced the total number of credit hours per year.

General Mary J. Kight continues to fight fearlessly for the members of the military; her weapons: encouragement, mentoring, and support.

When speaking to the members of the 146th Airlift Wing at Channel Islands, she said, "As airmen we need to understand our capabilities as individuals and the impact those have. Our people coming up through the ranks are tomorrow's leaders. We owe them our greatest assets, and they are essential to meeting current and future challenges. We owe them our unwavering commitment, encouragement, and support."

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# Land Park artist's latest works dedicated to his late father

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Lance@valcomnews.com

Sacramento artist Jeff Myers, whose studio is located in Land Park, is presently presenting a solo art exhibition, titled "The Nature of Droids & Machines." The works of the show are dedicated to his late father, Tom Myers, who was a national level photographer.

The oil on canvas and oil on wood exhibition, which debuted last week at the Alex Bult Gallery at 1114 21st St., with preview and opening night receptions, continues through Dec. 6. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Jeff will make various appearances at the gallery on Fridays and Saturdays.

In an interview with this publication last week, Jeff spoke about the relationship he had with his father and the impact that he made on his life.

"(Tom was) the most dominant character in my life in a positive way, and I spent just hundreds and hundreds of hours with him going all over the West on different photography assignments," Jeff said. "And, of course, he built this remarkable photo library of the West from politics (to) animals. And together, he would take me on these photo journeys. One day would be for photographing like the tallest redwood for National Geographic and then next, we would be photographing (in) Salt Lake City in a helicopter for some magazine or for our own files. So, his adventuresome (personality), his curiosity, his humor (and) his love for people in life, just absolutely sustained my own life with those aspects. And that is just invaluable, and I can't believe he's gone. It was just an awesome relationship. (Tom was a) remarkable human being. I know that relationship has ended, but I feel like I lived twice because of him. I painted this entire body of work after his passing. He passed on April 7 and I painted this body of work between April 7 and now."

Jeff, who attended Crocker (elementary) School (at 1616 Vallejo Way) and graduated from C.K. McClatchy High School in 1986, also spoke about his early involvement with art.

"I kind of grew up in a family environment that revolved around visual creativity," Jeff said. "I can't remember a certain starting point. Growing up with them, I had a camera in my hand very early on. Before that (part of his life), I had probably a paint brush in my hand. But I started very seriously (with painting) about 30 years ago. I had my first one-person show (in 1984), when I was 15 years old, (at DeVille's Desserts at 2416 16th St.). I started very young, very serious. That's all I did after school was paint."



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Sacramento artist Jeff Myers stands near one of the 21 paintings of his solo art exhibition, The Nature of Droids & Machines. The show continues at the Alex Bult Gallery in midtown Sacramento through Dec. 6.

Another one of Jeff's early Sacramento shows was held in 1988 at the Michael Himovitz Gallery at 1020 10th St.

Since his first single artist show at DeVille's, Jeff has had more than 30 one-person shows and many group shows.

After attending Sacramento City College and the University of California, Davis, Jeff continued to show his art in the area, and he later expanded his notoriety with shows in such places as Los Angeles, New York, Denver and San Francisco.

Jeff explained that he experienced a period of much growth after he moved to New York in 1995.

"I moved to New York and lived there for five years," Jeff said. "It's the place to go. It was the center of the art world universe back then. It was just the place to be, and it extended my education."

"At the same time, I started to work on a big project back there. The idea behind that (project) was I started off doing a series of portraits on three-dimensional aluminum. And they hung on the wall. It was about the people who were kind of behind the scenes in the art and fashion world. And so, I did a series of portraits of their work spaces. And the projects grew and grew and grew, and before I knew it, I was painting people who were not from just behind the scenes, but also at the front of the scenes. Kind of stuff like Polly Mellen, the great, legendary fashion critic, and then people like Donna Karan

and stuff like that. There were different designers, publicists, gallery owners, (etc.). It was just this whole area of aesthetics that New York has tremendous power with, and I just thought it would be interesting to do a series of paintings that communicated more of the intimate back story."

Although Jeff was residing in New York at that time, he would return to Sacramento to visit his family every summer.

During those summers, he would become involved in art projects that varied from his work in New York.

In speaking about the art that he created in Sacramento during that part of his life, Jeff said, "I felt like doing something completely (different), you know the antithesis of what I was doing out there (in New York). So, instead of doing this big project in New York, I would come out here and spend a couple weeks just painting out in the countryside, you know small paintings of landscapes. And then slowly, different pieces of farm equipment seemed to come to the forefront. And they were like sentinels, kind of dotting the landscapes. And I slowly started to center on them. Every time I came back from New York, I would do a small series."

Jeff mentioned that his artistic experiences have included visiting some of the world's most renowned art museums.

And in addressing the topic of great paintings, he said, "You're standing in front of (such a painting) and it comes out into your body. Great paintings echo out into the body and (they take) you on this journey. You can see a painting right at first when you walk into a room, but it takes a little while to enter a painting. It can just tow you along. The really great paintings – Rembrandt's self portrait (and others) – if you're standing in front of something really truly great like that, it teaches you something about your own life, it teaches you something about consciousness and it teaches you something about just the landscape of the universe and the secrets of the universe. It can take you wherever you want to go, I believe, in its own specific way."

Jeff also shared details regarding his own approach to painting.

"It usually starts off in the sketchbooks," Jeff said. "There are all sorts of radical ideas I have in the sketchbooks. "One of the things that makes my work unique is they look like studio paintings, but they're all painted outdoors. I paint outside, because I like the sunlight. But they're not plein air paintings or anything like that. They're actually studio paintings painted outside. It's unusual."

"Another unusual part is I don't paint from photographs. I start off with drawings and then one of the drawings is usually selected and from that, I work off that drawing. But there is another area in there, of course, where the painting itself can change. Well,

frequency into the paint. It's like dragging two little lines of paint onto paint that's already on the canvas. It's called wet into wet technique. I call it the broken brush method."

Among Jeff's many completed creative, artistic projects is a unique series of large photographic prints that he began to produce in about 1999.

In explaining that project, Jeff said, "I take live models into this very darkened room and I project these different aerial patterns of humanity, whether it's a freeway network or a rail network or urban grid, and I project it onto the figure and paint it onto a live nude and take a very long exposure. And the figures itself becomes the screen, and so the flesh relates a kind of remarkable image actually of different freeway networks or agricultural patterns, whatever it is on the body itself. The body itself becomes the landscape or the cityscape."

Jeff, who resides in midtown Sacramento with his wife, Sonja, noted that his current exhibition, which features 21 works ranging in size from 16 inches by 16 inches to 66 inches by 59 inches, represents "the relationship between land, technology and humans."

The subjects of these works are motorcycles, tractors and droids.

In discussing his interest in painting images of machines, Jeff said, "I enjoy painting different types of machines, and I paint them in a beautiful way. I started with tractors and I thought, 'Wouldn't it be interesting to go ahead and paint them in the large format. And as I started to do that, they really started in a sense, at least to me, to become figurative paintings. They took on a real person, so they seemed to be a holder of secrets. As the work de-



(above left) The exhibit includes this 60-inch by 50-inch oil on canvas painting, entitled "Alexander."



Photo by Lance Armstrong

(above right) Sacramento artist Bob Miller, shown with his wife, Anita, admires Jeff Myers' 48-inch by 58-inch oil on canvas painting, "Night Rider." Bob said that the central image reminds him of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle that his father, Pierce Miller, once owned.

## Myers:

Continued from page 20

photographs can be early examples. I (could) say, 'Oh, I like the lighting there,' or something like that. But it makes it only as far as the sketchbook, and from the sketchbook, it goes to the painting level. So, all the paintings are reimagined and a lot of them are just completely imagined."

Jeff also spoke about his use of color and a variety of different kinds of brushes that he uses to create his art.

"Color is one of those things that my work is known for," Jeff said. "The coloration is another one of those unique things. The coloration is always changing. A 72 (inch) by 60-inch canvas, if you took a square inch of that anywhere, you would see the coloration change within that square inch. So, the color is very complex and robust. I spend a lot of time working on this area with the color. It makes the overall painting much more sensuous. And if you're lucky to get to live with one, you can see something different in it every day."

"And then another thing I use in my process is I use different kinds of brushes. Sometimes I use house painting brushes. Sometimes I use very small brushes. And I go ahead and age some of my brushes on purpose. And I'm really rough on some of the brushes and sometimes I never clean them. In other words, I use a special formula that I dip them into, and then I lay them out in the sun. And then I'll take a hammer to them, literally, and break them apart, because they're so stiff from the formula. The result is you have this wire-like brush stroke frequency, so it has this beautiful fre-



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Among the paintings featured in Jeff Myers' current exhibit is "Tractor Patterns," a 60-inch by 50-inch oil on canvas painting.

veloped, whether it was a tractor or a large plane, a ship, they really took on their own consciousness. They kind of related to me as if I was painting a figure. And so, I was getting that sensation through the experience of painting this theme dramatically.

"So, there's that side of it and the other side is I like exploring contrasts, you know the isolated, beautiful, old farm tractor that's lived its life and now it's out in the field. And then underneath it or above it, sometimes I'll layer in reverse perspective a very dense, urban scene. You know, on a cell phone through Grand Central Station or the skylight of New York

or Tokyo. So, I like contrast, that photonic, almost noisy congestive atmosphere of the big cities and the quiet spaciousness."

In encouraging the public to view his current exhibit, Jeff said, "It's been a long journey and I believe the work is worth coming down to see. I paint full time and when you paint full time, your work is going to be more layered and robust. I believe if (people) come and see the show, I think they will enjoy it. It's visually authentic, especially in person. And with something as authentic, it can expand your life and the joy in your life. And I think my work does that."

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Mail or drop off:  
Valley Community Newspapers  
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2709 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818  
**NO CALLS PLEASE**

**- EVENT LISTING SECTION -**  
Advertise your craft fairs, holiday bazaars, school fundraises, church events, etc. in your Community Newspapers.  
Call (916) 429-9901 for rates.

**December Show**  
Craft Fair at Casa Event Center

Handmade Only • Dec. 1-5 11am-3pm

**Casa Gardens**  
2760 Sutterville Rd., Sacramento, CA  
Also visit Casa Garden Restaurant!  
(916) 453-0226

(916) 452-2809 • Reservations Recommended

Crockett-Deane Ballet & Deane Dance Center present

*Nutcracker & Christmas Angels*  
Saturday, Dec. 20 - 7 p.m.  
Sunday, Dec. 21 - 2 p.m.

"The Center" 2300 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento  
\$15 adults; \$12 Seniors/Students; \$10 Children  
(916) 453-0226  
DeaneDanceCenter.com

**Lunch and "Scarf It Up"**  
seatings at the Casa Garden Restaurant  
benefiting the Sacramento Children's Home

Thursday, November 13, 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m.

Entree choices:  
*Chicken Sonora served with Spring Salad Mix or Thai Noodle Salad with Shrimp*; Dessert: English Toffee Cake

\$24 per person, includes tax and gratuity AND a free scarf  
First-come, first-served, group reservations by one person, one check.  
Reservations a must - call (916) 452-2809.  
Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento

Genevieve Didion Middle School  
INFO NIGHT

Thursday, Dec. 11 - 6:30 p.m.  
Visitation Days -  
Dec. 15th & 16th  
& Jan. 13th & 15th

Please call to schedule  
(916) 433-5039  
6490 Harmon Dr., Sacto. 95831

**36th Annual Holiday Show of Hands Craft Fair**

Early Bird Sale, Friday, Dec 5th, 5-9 pm (\$3)  
Saturday, Dec 6th, 9 am-7pm  
Sunday Dec 7th, 9 am-3pm

Over 150 vendors!  
Unique, Hand-crafted gifts, decorator items, collectibles,  
Silent Auction, Hot Lunch - Served from ER's Club

St. John the Evangelist • 5701 Locust Avenue, Carmichael

**HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIRE**

Friday, Dec. 5th  
11 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Sierra 2 Senior Center  
2791 24th Street  
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www.sierra2.org

**CALL AND PLACE YOUR EVENT TODAY!**  
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## Found photo on 2nd Avenue and Riverside Boulevard

On Monday, Oct. 27 this photograph was found underneath a car parked on 2nd Avenue near Riverside Boulevard, near Valley Community Newspapers' office. While rather crumpled, the photograph has the following description on the back, "Doug + his buddy Cheif (sic) Depoe; Aug 1993."

Until someone claims the photograph, it will be held here in the office, 2709 Riverside Blvd.

After researching Chief Depoe, a rather interesting storyline unfolds. According to the City of Depoe Bay website, <http://www.cityofdepoebay.org/pages/history.html>, Chief William Hauser Depoe Sr., who was born on Dec. 14, 1929, to Robert Charles and Mary Houser Depoe "was the fourth of five children: Reggie, Chuck, Peter, then William, and Roberta. He was a World War II veteran, a National Indian Basketball All

Star, and a professional musician who played with Lionel Hampton and Tommy Dorsey. He spent his last 15 years in Depoe Bay, where he appeared in regalia at community events and devoted much of his time to Native American cultural development.

"Chief W. H. DePoe Sr. died in 1997, and his son, Chief William 'Chewesela' DePoe, holds his now-hereditary title. He is the second oldest of five children: Charlotte, then William, Ronald, Ilene, and Peter. Chief Chewesela has participated in athletics all his life, and still actively participates in many events, including basketball tournaments, jogging, the tribe's annual Run to the Rogue, and dancing at the annual Gathering of Nations Pow-wow in New Mexico. He also attends the annual Fleet of Flowers held in Depoe Bay on Memorial Day."

## JOB OPENING!

### ADVERTISING SALES

Email résumé to:  
[kathleen@valcomnews.com](mailto:kathleen@valcomnews.com)

Mail or drop off:  
Valley Community Newspapers  
Attn: Kathleen  
2709 Riverside Boulevard  
Sacramento, CA 95818

**NO CALLS PLEASE**

Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus begins 30th year with Holiday Spirit! Dec. 5-9

## Holiday Concert to feature 'Gay-Mation' play on 1960s-70s animated holidayspecials

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus will kick off "30 Years of Singing Our Own Song" (its 30th anniversary year) with their "Holiday Spirit!" concerts Dec. 5-9 at First United Methodist Church in Midtown, featuring a playful take on the classic stop-motion and animated holiday TV specials of the 1960s and '70s entitled "A Gay-Mation Special."

The scripted tale will put a new spin on the animated TV specials many of us have watched every year for decades: 1964's stop-motion Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer, based on the song of the same title and narrated by the iconic Burl Ives; 1970's Santa Claus is Comin' to Town; 1974's The Year Without A Santa Claus, that introduces Snow Miser and Heat Miser (you may remember them as brothers... but not so, according to SGMC), and more. The message to the music: the transformative power of the Holiday Spirit!

Performances will be at 8 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5; 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6; 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 7; and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, all at First United Methodist Church, 2199 J St.

The show also will include a variety of traditional and contemporary holiday classics, including a "mash-up" arrangement of "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "Little Drummer Boy" by acclaimed composer/arranger David Maddux.

The Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus was founded in 1984 as a singing group to foster a sense of community and support for local gay and lesbian people. The GLBT chorus movement dates its origins to Philadelphia's Anna Crusis Women's Choir, founded in 1975, according to the international group GALA Choruses. The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus was established in 1978 and was the first chorus to include the word "gay" in its name, according to the GALA website. The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles formed in 1979.

For more information about the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, visit [sacgaymenschorus.org](http://sacgaymenschorus.org).

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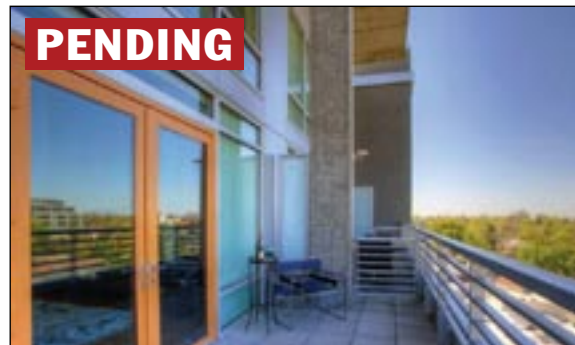
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**WONDERFUL S. LAND PARK**

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