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Born to be an activist

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The Land Park News is published on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the area bounded by Broadway to the north, Interstate 5 on the west, Florin Road on the south and Freeport Boulevard/21st Street on the east.

Publisher..... George Macko
General Manager..... Kathleen Egan
Editor..... Monica Stark
Art Director..... John Ochoa
Graphic Designer..... Annin Greenhalgh
Advertising Executives..... Linda Pohl, Melissa Andrews

Distribution/Subscriptions..... George Macko

Vol. XXIV • No. 2
2709 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento,
CA 95818
t: (916) 429-9901
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Cover by:
Liorah Singerman

Other photos
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Over the Fence

with Greg Brown

By GREG BROWN
greg@valcomnews.com

Gem Auto Wash removes beloved neon sign



Photo by Greg Brown
Alpha Architectural recently removed the cool vintage neon sign, for the purposes of "re-branding."

Some might say I'm obsessed with signs. It probably started when I was a young boy in the backseat of a blue Buick Skylark. I'd always look out the window at the cool business signs as we'd drive down the road.

I was driving down the road a couple weeks ago gazing out the window when I noticed Gem Auto Wash had a big crane taking down the cool neon 1960s sign and replacing it with a new large run-of-the-mill sign. I panicked a little.

I made a quick u-turn, parked the car, and immediately started asking questions. I was able to speak to Reed Hollingshead, the owner of Gem Auto Wash, and he alleviated some of my panicky concerns about the iconic sign, although my hands are still a little clammy about it.

He and his brother Peter have taken over the family business their dad Richard started in 1974. Reed said, "He left a great legacy." Gem Auto Wash and the neon sign have been operating on Freeport Boulevard since 1962. In all that time, the sign has never had to be repaired, according to Peter. "The tubes have been taken care of nicely," he said.

I was assured by Mr. Hollingshead that they were going to preserve the sign. The plan is to strip, paint, and

See Over the Fence, page 4

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Over the Fence:

Continued from page 3

repair the old Gem Auto Wash sign and mount it in the middle of the façade above the car wash tunnel. It's currently in storage at the business.

The removal of the neon sign is part of a "re-branding of the business," Peter told me. He added, "Besides, nobody uses the term 'auto' anymore." Gem Auto Wash is now Gem Car Wash And Detail Center.

On Facebook, I posted a photo of the vintage sign being taken down and nobody was happy about it. Comments included, "Oh no," "Bummer," and "That's terrible. Why would they do that? At least the old 50s Raley's sign is still there."

One person drastically stated, "So sad, this destroys the character of the city and neighborhood."

Let's hope Mr. Hollingshead is a man of his word and the classic neon Gem Auto Wash sign glowingly reappears on Freepoint Boulevard.

Fairytale Town Looking to Expand

Fairytale Town wants to expand. Executive Director Kathy Fleming and board member Brian Crilly presented to the Land Park Community Association Board an impressive renovation project idea. Brian, who's an architect at Lionakis, gave the enthusiastic presentation to the Land

Park Community Association as well as those in attendance at the monthly board meeting.

The proposal calls for an expansion to the east near the soccer field and to the south, adding approximately half an acre to the current grounds (of 2 and a half acres). The current cost estimate for expansion and improvements is between \$5-8 million. The funds will all come from private donations. I spoke with Kathy Fleming as she said, "We're floating ideas out there and getting input from community members. We've talked conceptually about it with the Land Park soccer and the city parks department. This is a very long-term project if it goes forward and I think there will be a lot of conversations with the community, and the Land Park community in particular."

She added, "It's really embryonic right now."

Some in attendance at the meeting expressed concerns about more open park space being gobbled up and fenced in, diminishing the area available for free and open use.

Others pointed out it would diminish views and vistas in William Land Park. Another attendee mentioned how the neighborhood resisted the expansion of the Sacramento Zoo's footprint when it proposed an expansion. It definitely sparked a spirited conversation at the meeting. The Land Park Community Association did not take a stance on the proposed ex-

pansion and will address the topic at upcoming board meetings.

Fountainhead Brewing Almost Ready To Brew

Hollywood Park residents who enjoy tipping back a pint of local craft beer were giddy with excitement when they heard a new brewery was replacing an old auto repair shop on 24th Street a few doors down from Panama Pottery. Fountainhead Brewing Company was moving in! That was last year. Local folks recently started asking me, "What's the latest on Fountainhead?"

Fear not my lager-loving friends. I asked Fountainhead's brewer and owner and he told me, "Everything's all set with ABC and Fed and we'll be installing glycol next week," which means they'll be brewing soon. And for the brewing nerds, glycol, mixed with city water, enables them to operate their chiller systems in the 25-27 F temperature range that breweries require.

They still need to have some work done to the building, but they will have brew available in house and at a couple locations "within the next two months or so," according to Moffat.

So, stay giddy Hollywood Park. There will be something brewing soon on 24th Street.

Got an item for Over The Fence? Greg@valcomnews.com

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The Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Lackluster
- 5 Ladybug's lunch
- 10 Altar area
- 14 Etna output
- 15 Construction sight
- 16 Make tracks
- 17 Teletia's sign
- 18 Short and sweet
- 19 Small jazz combo
- 20 Casino supply
- 22 Cooking direction
- 23 Watermelon waste
- 24 Like some promises
- 26 Kindergarten adhesive
- 27 Climbing plant
- 30 Historic period
- 32 Vane direction
- 33 City map abbr.
- 35 Old-school phone
- 38 Party food
- 39 Hamlet, notably
- 41 Radley in Harper Lee's novel
- 42 Make possible
- 44 Hoover, for one
- 45 Campaign tactic
- 46 Drench, as a fire
- 48 Filled to the brim
- 50 Billiards bounce
- 52 Highland boy
- 54 Wading bird
- 55 Cob or drake
- 56 No way!
- 60 Electric unit
- 61 Do penance

DOWN

- 1 Political group
- 2 Dalai
- 3 Declare
- 4 Telephone part
- 5 False front
- 6 No-hunting area
- 7 Sultan's ladies
- 8 Ready for a commitment?
- 9 Forest dweller
- 10 Have some pull
- 11 Like most fridge items
- 12 New Orleans player
- 13 Whittle away
- 21 Sponge up
- 25 Fall collection?
- 26 Penniless
- 27 Hand over
- 28 Drought ender
- 29 Summer shoe
- 31 Future doc's major
- 34 Wrap up
- 36 Easy victory
- 37 Yesteryear
- 39 Reunion attendee
- 40 Corsage flower
- 43 Word before seat or shot
- 45 Unexpected success
- 47 On cloud nine
- 49 Sewing kit item
- 50 Type of engineering
- 51 "Humble" dwelling
- 53 Single-handedly
- 55 Wise Men
- 57 Bourly rival
- 58 Long story
- 59 Count (on)
- 62 Slithery swimmer

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Former Crest Theatre manager recalls previous management's success, importance during 28-year run

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Note: This is the third article in a series about Land Park resident Laura "Sid" Garcia-Heberger.

While sitting inside her Land Park home during a recent interview with this publication, Sid Garcia-Heberger reminisced a bit more about a place that she knows quite well: Sacramento's historic Crest Theatre.

As previously mentioned in this series, the Crest emerged from a literally and figuratively dark period, which ended in 1986 when the venue was reopened by CSLM, Inc. That corporation ran the Crest for the following 28 years and Sid was a part of the theater's operation for every one of those years.

Sid, who purchased stock in CSLM in 1988, fondly recalled the effect that the corporation's dedication had on the theater, its patrons and the community.

"You know, it was a dark theater," Sid said. "It had metal gates across the entrance. It was in disrepair. It hadn't been opened in some years and it was in a very challenged part of Sacramento there on the K Street Mall. And I believe our work there at the Crest brought the theater back into the hearts and minds of Sacramentans, and secured its future as a showplace in Sacramento."

Sid recalled that the Crest, under CSLM's operation, brought nightlife to an area that had basically become sort of an entertainment ghost town.

"Really, particularly in the evening until the IMAX (at 1211



Photo courtesy of Matias Bombal

The historic Crest Theatre is presently under new management.

K St.) opened (on July 8, 1999), the Crest was the only thing open in the evening on K Street for years and years and years," Sid said. "And it really wasn't until the (now defunct) Cosmopolitan Cabaret (at 1000 K St. opened in

2008) and the club (Marilyn's on K, which debuted on the K Street Mall in 1998 and closed late last year) opened that we really started to see some critical mass in

See Crest, page 7



Photo courtesy of Matias Bombal

A chandelier hangs over the interior portion of the entrance of the Crest Theatre.

Crest:

Continued from page 6

the evening down in that area. And that was really only a few years ago, so there were easily 10 years where we were the only thing open on K Street for blocks and blocks and blocks in the evening."

CSLM's present absence from the Crest undoubtedly warrants the question, "Why did the longtime management discontinue their operation of the Crest?"

In responding to that question, Sid said, "Well, we just couldn't come to what we felt was a fair deal for the lease terms and as much as we hated to go, sometimes you have to make decisions from the head and not the heart."

And as for the future of CSLM, Sid said, "We exist as a corporation now, but the corporation has no plans to do any additional projects. We are in the process of winding that corporation down."

With a desire to provide readers of this article an understanding of the Crest's

ownership and operation history during the past 28 years, Sid said, "The building was owned by the McClatchy Family Trust, and CSLM, Inc. leased the Crest from the McClatchy family trust from (October) 1986 until (February) 2011, when it was purchased (for about \$2.8 million) by Robert Emerick, (a fifth generation Sacramentan). And then we leased the building from (Emerick) until such time when we couldn't come to an agreement."

"When we exited, Mr. Emerick needed somebody to operate the theater, so his fiancée, Yulya Borrum, took over the operation of the theater. That was Nov. 1. Our company, CSLM, Inc., made its final exit on Oct. 31, 2014."

Assuredly, the timing of CSLM's departure from the Crest can be considered poor for that corporation when considering that the upcoming opening of the sports and entertainment arena at the old Downtown Plaza site

See Sid, page 14

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Faces and Places: Ugly Sweater Run in William Land Park

Photos by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Thousands of runners and walkers donned their worst apparel in a holiday celebration like no other, flooding the streets on Saturday, Dec. 13. The merriest 5-kilometer event held in William Land Park was a fund-raising event for Save the Children, a children advocacy organization that helps children in 120 countries.



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Land Park Pacific Little League gears up for 2015 season, next up the gear swap

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

In a much anticipated season, the Land Park Pacific Little League will enter the 2015 season as defending District 7 Tournament of Champions (TOC) for both the Majors and AAA divisions. Additionally, the league's 2014 Majors Cardinals and AAA Bulls won their divisions.

With at least 40 baseball teams this year, and up to three softball teams, the league's player agent Terri McFarland said all players should be looking forward to continuing to improve and expand their baseball skills, and making new friends. "LPPLL drafts new teams every year. Our fields will be beautiful, and of course the snack shack will be stocked and ready for post-game revelry."

Opening day is set for Saturday, March 14 with the annual parade through William Land Park to Dooley Fields starting at 8 a.m. and the first games beginning at 10 a.m. The annual gear swap is set for Saturday, Jan. 31 inside the cafeteria at Sutterville Elementary from 9 to 11 a.m.

Last year was the 60th anniversary season for the LPPLL and board member Gina Stassi-Vanacore said that one thing that made the season really special was the presence of past players, also known as "Dooley alum," showing up at the opening day ceremonies and at vari-

ous events throughout the season. "They had so many memories to share and are a strong reminder that our little league really represents generations of youth in our community and that the memories made last a lifetime," she said.

From the outside looking in, much is the same for this year's league, however, Gina explained that the league not only now has a new president, Karen Leon, (who also is new to the board), the league has many other new board members. Gina said she recruited Karen and many of the other new board members in response to a genuine concern about the decrease in volunteering.

"It's always eye-opening for new board members to see how much goes into running a little league. Most of our departing board members had given countless hours to the league for many years and are not easily replaced. These individuals include: Kathleen Babin, David Enos, Bruce Reddick, Joe Scarpa, Sage Sengo, Kelley Taber and Alex Takanikos."

Excited about the gear swap, on Saturday, Jan. 31, event organizer Rory Tira said the event encourages trading and handing down outgrown gear to younger players. Speaking about this more generally, she said: "Sports can get expensive for families and this is one way to keep costs down. It makes all the sense in the world to share the gear once its life is done in one house-

hold. It also is an easy neighborhood event that builds community. Kids don't care if the pants they wear to practice are dusty or have a little grass stain. They love the game and they get excited because they walk out with a cap from a favorite team that belonged to an older boy. Parents love not opening their wallet."

Rory said all families registered in LPPLL are welcome to "shop the swap" for free. Organized like a store, the cafeteria at Sutterville will be set with "bats together, cleats on one table, pants on one table, baseball gloves together, etc. (It will be) first come, first served, all free. If you are new and starting out, we ask that you pay it forward and plan on donating in future years. It all comes full circle. We have volunteers at the swap to help new families get young kids outfitted in the right sizes and with appropriate gear for their ages and divisions. Last year, plenty of new players had personal shoppers helping them and walked out outfitted head to toe, ready for the season."

Pants, practice jerseys, socks, belts, gloves, batting gloves, bats, bat bags, catcher's gear, cleats, as and even baseball books or movies children have outgrown also will be welcome at the swap. "It would be fun to encourage young sports readers along the way," Rory added.

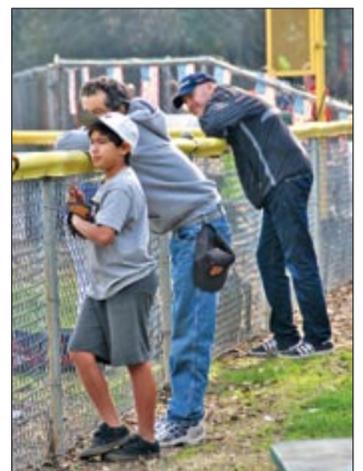


Photo by Monica Stark
Outlookers watched the Land Park Pacific Little League tryouts at Dooley Fields on Saturday, Jan. 10.

As for the leftovers, a few items may head to the trash that are generally unsafe or unusable, however good condition gear that is not swapped will be donated to neighboring Sacramento leagues in the little league district. "When dollars are stretched, family resources are limited, and kids want to play, a box of gear donated to a league can make a difference," Rory said.

If you have donations, you can email Rory at registrar@lppll.com.

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Starring your children:

Land Park children star in Young Actors Stage production of Mulan

Nearly 100 local Land Park students from Crocker-Riverside and Holy Spirit elementary schools will be performing in the Young Actors Stage productions of Mulan JR. the last weekend of February at the 24th Street Theater in Curtis Park.

It is a special experience for students at both schools to be working on the same play at the same time and then putting on their shows in same weekend. Many of these students from both schools know each other from various church and sports activities as well as having been cast in the same productions of other musicals.

Two casts from Crocker-Riverside Elementary School and one cast from Holy Spirit Parish School have been diligently practicing since December for the shows. The musical Mulan JR is based on the Story, "Fa Mulan," by Robert D. San Souci and the 1998 Disney film "Mulan" about a young girl in ancient China who takes up arms to defeat the Huns and disguises as a boy in order to spare her father from serving in the army again.

The role of Mulan is played by Lindsay Hatch and Miya Huffman from Crocker-Riverside Elementary School and Savvyl Bajar from Holy Spirit Parish School. The comedic role of Mushu is played by Rosie Sunseri and Colette Lonchar from Crocker-Riverside and Emma May Gordon from Holy Spirit. Joining the cast at Holy Spirit to play Captain Shang and Chi Fu are local brothers, Joe and Matt Solari. Joining Matthew Feniger at Crocker-Riverside to play Captain Shang is Pete Sunseri.

Liorah Singerman, the Artistic Director of Young Actors Stage, and her experienced staff spend two evenings a week at each school rehearsing for the upcoming shows.



Shown from the left: Miya Huffman, Savvyl Bajar, and Lindsay Hatch.

Photo by Liorah Singerman

ing shows. In the fall of 2014 Ms. Singerman and her group put on Mulan JR with students from Sutterville Elementary School and its Main Stage cast. She will be doing the same thing in the spring of 2015 at Shalom School and Genevieve Didion elementary schools.

Young Actors Stage also puts on Main Stage and summer productions every year, which gets its performers from all over the Sacramento area and often includes older children with more musical theater experience. Recent summer and Main Stage shows have included Mulan JR, Music Man JR,

Wizard of Oz, Beauty and the Beast JR and Little Mermaid JR. Ms. Singerman and her staff are also preparing for their upcoming spring performance of the Sound of Music in May, also at the 24th Street Theatre. Young Actors Stage has moved into its own studio near Sacramento City College and the Land Park neighborhood is fortunate to have a welcomed addition to the arts community so close by.

The upcoming show times for Mulan JR are Friday, Feb. 27 at 7; Saturday, Feb. 28 at 1, 4, and 7; and Sunday, March 1 at 1 and 4.



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Wally's Holiday Ride

By GREG BROWN
greg@valcomnews.com

It was a cold crisp evening in Hollywood Park and longtime HP resident Wally Clark warmed the hearts of many parents and children with his antique 1921 Graham Brother red fire truck during the holidays.

Welcome to Wally's World.

Wally's Christmas fire truck ride is good wholesome fun for the entire family. It spreads a lot of Christmas cheer. It also has a special small town feel to it, a cool, nerdy Christmas thing. Wally puts the "Ho! Ho! Ho!" in Hollywood Park.

I heard the bell ring faintly one night, just like when a child hears Santa's sleigh bells. A twinge of excitement, it was Wally's red fire truck chugging down the streets of Hol-

lywood Park. His trusty sidekick and neighbor for 42 years, Bill Dishman, is at his side tugging a pulley that rings the bell on the old red fire truck. Bill is also in charge of the horn blowing, "Ayyyuggga."

The classic horn echoes down the streets of the neighborhood. Neighbors look out their windows to catch a glimpse of the shiny red truck outside of their house. Some give a friendly wave; others dart out of their homes and shout, "Merry Christmas!"

Wally's Christmas fire truck is all decked out in blinky lights, bundled up children, and traditional Christmas tunes from Wally's special collection. "I don't know what I have on there," Wally said. What I heard was good Christmas stuff by The



Wally Clark and Bill Dishman head off for a holiday tour of the Hollywood Park neighborhood. Photo by Greg Brown

Beach Boys, Darlene Love, and Dean Martin. It's not just Wally's World. It's a Marshmallow World!

When I hitched a ride on the fire truck, it was full of local folks enjoying Wally's slow and steady Christmas ride through the neighbor-

hood. There were a lot of festive lights to see and lots of candy canes to pass out. Kristina Rios, who's lived in Hollywood Park all her life, likes to go out with her kids. She was sitting in the back of the truck on the comfy bench seats. She said, "It's fun. It gives us something to look forward to."

Nate Soloff, who's lived in Hollywood Park for eight years with his wife and kids, said: "It's the perfect way to see all the Christmas lights in the neighborhood as well as a nice chance to meet neighbors."

According to Wally and Bill, the tradition will continue, and they both added, "As long as it runs or as long as we run." Wally and Bill have been giving holiday rides on the fire truck for a couple of years. It all started when Wally started tooling around with his grandchildren a couple years ago.

Wally said, "Now we have some of the kids

who grew up with my kids back in the neighborhood with their kids. There's all these young families and the neatest thing about it is different families in the neighborhood meeting other different families who also live in the neighborhood." He added, "This is a wonderful neighborhood to raise kids."

Wally's fire truck was mentioned on the Hollywood Park Facebook group and word leaked out. On the second night, neighbors were lining up to get a ride on Wally's holiday fire truck. Wally told me on night two he had "about 44 people and three dogs." He made seven rounds trips meandering through the neighborhood.

Wally also got rave enthusiastic reviews on the HP Facebook group. One poster wrote, "Glad I got to wave as you drove past! Very cool!" Another neighbor wrote, "Our kids are

See Wally's Ride, page 13

Wally's Ride:

Continued from page 12

hunting the fire truck right now!"

One poster added, "Bummed we missed this! Do they do this every year, we are new to the neighborhood... Happening again tonight? My son would love this!!!"

She got her chance to ride on the red holiday fire truck the next night. Another satisfied neighbor.

Most of the time Wally uses the fire truck to publicize the Shriner's Hospital or his company, Associated Sound. His truck

was a part of the big California Automobile Museum Car Cruise & Show along Fulton Boulevard. I also saw Wally at the Downtown Christmas Parade driving his big red fire truck. He even leads the Independence Day Parade every year in Hollywood Park with the fire truck decked out in the red, white and blue.

Wally and Bill will be back next year tooting the horn and clanging the bell for Christmas. Wally added, "The whole thing is fun. It's just another thing of being a crazy old Shriner."



Wally Clark is shown in the driver's seat of his antique red fire truck. Photo by Greg Brown

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Sid:

Continued from page 7

is expected to infuse additional life into that area.

In commenting about the timing of that departure, Sid said, "Yeah, we've always lamented that our timing was off, that we were the early pioneers on K Street. But, you know, we can't change what happened and we can't second guess our decision. All we can really do is be proud of the work that we did and be confident that we did some very important work for not only the historic building itself, but for the culture of Sacramento."

After being asked to give her opinion about the future of the Crest, Sid said, "Oh, I don't think it's for me to say."

As for her own future, Sid said that she is presently seeking new employment.

"Well, I'm looking for something that will use my skills that I've honed over the decades at the Crest from venue management to ticketing, those sorts of things," Sid said. "I don't have anything on the horizon just yet. I've got a few (possibilities) that I've pursued, but so far, I'm still looking."

Certainly, Sid and others who were involved with CSLM have found themselves in a period of their lives that has caused them to reminisce a bit more about their longtime dedication to the Crest.

Although Sid and other CSLM partners are working on moving on to other activities in their lives, Sid said that there is a certain pride that they will always maintain about their time operating the Crest.

"We can take great pride in all that we did at the Crest and for the Crest and for the culture of Sacramento and that doesn't change even if we're no longer day to day in the building," Sid said.

Matías Bombal's Hollywood

Inherent Vice

The MPAA has rated this R

Warner Bros. brings us director Paul Thomas Anderson's movie version of Thomas Pynchon's novel "Inherent Vice" and in doing so, brings back the world of film noir in rich color advancing the world of private detective tales for the screen from the 1940s to 1970.

Joaquin Phoenix is Larry "Doc" Sportello, private eye. Like many noir movies, the story starts with a woman from the detective's past who shows up unexpectedly and shares her plot involving her current billionaire boyfriend, his wife and her lover. Moments later she disappears and the search for her is on, leading us through many convoluted rabbit holes in a visually stylish way that will keep your eyes on the screen.

The cast includes: Benicio Del Toro, Reese Witherspoon, Eric Roberts, Josh Brolin, Owen Wilson, Martin Short, and Joanna Newsom.

This movie's writing and visual style had me completely engaged from the first frame to the last, remarkable, since I actually detest the 1970s having grown up in that era, and care little for the seamy side of police and detective work. Replacing the classic '40s noir detective gumshoe's vice of alcohol is marijuana, a subject I do not enjoy in the movies.

Yet, so engaging and detail rich is every frame you can't look away. The film's music is fantastic on two levels- the choice of popular tunes in the background, evocative of the period and the truly classic film score which tips a noir fedora to film composers like Franz Waxman with his beautiful violin passages. Don't miss it!

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CALENDAR

Send your event announcement for consideration to: editor@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

JANUARY

ACC presents "One Man's Trash is Another Man's Treasure"

Jan. 22: The presentation covers the mental health diagnosis of Hoarding Disorder, including psychological theories about the origin of the disorder, current treatment options, the risks faced by those with the disorder, the value of community-based Hoarding task forces, and practical suggestions for intervention. Free of charge; class will be held 11 a.m. to noon at ACC Senior Services Center, 7334 Park City Dr. Pre-registration is required. For detail, call 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org.

"Telling Our Story to End the Stigma of Mental Illness"

Jan. 24: From 2 to 4 p.m. at the Guild Theatre, the event titled "Telling Our Story to End the Stigma of Mental Illness" is intended to increase awareness about mental illness and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness among a diverse array of cultures. The event consist of skits, poetry, short plays, and other forms of culturally and linguistically appropriate expressions all presented by locals affected by mental illness. Seating is limited to the first 200 RSVPs. RSVP to infor@stopstigmiasacramento.org with the requested number of seats and names of attendees.

Monster Jam at Sleep Train

Jan. 24 and Jan. 25: Sacramento motor sports fans are revving up to experience the world's official monster truck series featuring the best monster trucks battling it out in the ultimate event of intense speed, racing and destruction as Monster Jam returns to Sacramento's Sleep Train Arena. This year's truck line-up is headlined by Monster Jam World Finals Champion powerhouse Grave Digger plus five Sacramento debut truck appearances, including Fox Sports 1 Cleatus, Doomsday, Obsession, Obsessed and the gruesome looking Zombie (first ever truck design selected by MonsterJam.com fans) coming "back from the underworld" to wreak havoc in Sacramento. Other trucks returning to electrify crowds at the Sleep Train Arena will be Destroyer and Playing for Keeps. There will be a pit party both days from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Saturday, Jan. 24, there will be two shows, one at 2 p.m., the other at 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, Jan. 25, there will only be one show, at 2 p.m. Ticket prices start as low as \$20 for adults; kids tickets (ages 2-12) are only \$10 each for select seating (limit four kids tickets per adult ticket purchase.) Pit Passes are available to purchase for \$10 adults / \$5 kids (ages 2-12) —FREE Pit Passes can be picked up at participating Neighborhood California Ford Dealers starting Dec. 29 (while supplies last). Tickets on sale now at Ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster retail outlets, charge by phone at 800-745-3000 or at the Sleep Train Arena Box Office. Above ticket prices are advance purchase only; all tickets are \$2 more day of show.

Author Ann Ralph will give you the secrets to growing food even in the smallest backyards

Jan. 24: Join author Ann Ralph as she discusses methods from her book "Grow a Little Fruit Tree." She'll share the secrets to: Maintaining a fruit tree in even the smallest backyard, keeping a tree small while growing delicious, full-sized fruit, deciding when to prune and when to harvest and controlling pests and diseases. This discussion is part of the Sacramento Public Library's "Grow a Little Fruit Tree Author" program. The discussion takes place at 2 p.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr.

South Sacramento Rotary's 33rd Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser

Jan. 24: South Sacramento Rotary's 33rd Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser at the Scottish Rite Hall located at 6151 H St., Sacramento at 6 p.m. The event will include a raffle and silent auction. A majority of the funds raised this year will go to the YMCA Health Kids Program that promotes and educates healthy eating and physical activities to at-risk youth. Remaining funds will be donated to local charities within Sacramento. The South Sacramento Rotary

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Friday, January 16 • Thursday, March 19th
 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
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 Tel 916.732.2011

Thursday, January 29 • Friday, March 27th
 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
 Sierra Hills Memorial Park & East Lawn Mortuary
 5757 Greenback Lane, Sacramento, CA 95841
 Tel 916.732.2020

Friday, February 6, 2015
 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
 East Lawn Memorial Park & Crematory
 4300 Filson Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95819
 Tel 916.732.2060

Wednesday, February 18 (Spanish & English)
 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
 Andrews & Greilich Funeral Home
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L	A	V	A	C	R	A	N	E	T	E	A	R	
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C	A	R	D	S	S	E	A	R	R	I	N	D	
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CALENDAR

Continued from page 17

Foundation is a 501(c)3 non profit organization. Tickets are \$45 each, and can be purchased by contacting Michael DiGrazia at 396-7244 (michaeldigrazia@sbcglobal.net) or on line through the South Sacramento Rotary website (southsacrotary.org).

Writing with the Great 19th Century American Poets (featuring Edgar Allen Poe)

Jan. 28: In this module-based class, participants will hear a brief lecture about Love, Obsession & Death: Edgar Allan Poe. They will read works by Poe together in class and

write their own poems. Critiques are offered by the instructor and fellow classmates in a friendly and supportive workshop style environment. This is the first of six sessions. Each session is its own entity, so that a participant may choose to attend one class or all six (or any number in between) and never feel lost. Writers at any level are welcome. The classes are free and held in the lovely Reagan room of the Clunie Community Center at 601 Alhambra Blvd. All sessions are taught by editor and published poet Frank Dixon Graham and sponsored by the McKinley Library. Class will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Contact Frank at Frank.Graham@Goddard.edu for more information.

One-on-One Technology Help

Feb. 5: Starting at 2 p.m., get some help navigating email, the internet, various applications, tablets or eReader at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr. Registration is required.

Homework Zone

Feb. 5: Starting at 3:30 p.m., free drop-in homework help is available for students in grades 1-8 with trained teen volunteers at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr. Help is available in all subject areas, including support to develop reading skills.

River City Bee

Feb. 6: Starting at 10 a.m., join the Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr., for an open sewing time for quilters, sewers, and embroiderers. Get together with fellow needlework enthusiasts to sew, work on any project you choose, meet some new people, and share ideas. Bring your own equipment

and supplies and work on your own projects. We provide irons and ironing boards and extension cords. This program is offered in collaboration with the River City Quilters Guild.

Show Way Freedom Quilts with ArtBeast (School Age (6-12))

Feb. 6: Show Way tells the story of Sooni, a young enslaved girl who uses quilts to show the way to freedom. After a reading of this powerful story, children will use swatches of scrapbook paper to make their own paper quilts using the symbols that point to freedom. This is a Black History Month event. Registration is required. Program starts at 4 p.m. at the Colonial Heights Library 4799 Stockton Blvd.

Mosaics at Belle Cooledge

Feb. 6: Learn mosaics basics with Art Beast during our February Art for All! Join us for another crafty Art for All and learn about composition, color choice and more in this fun

introduction to mosaics! You'll have their pick of various materials (eg: pebbles, buttons or construction paper cut into various shapes) in order to make your very own mosaic artwork! Three different skill levels will be offered, depending on your age and/or art experience. Class starts at 3:30 p.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr.

Sing N' Serve Crab Feed to benefit Sierra 2 Center

Feb. 6: "Sacramento's first ever Sing N' Serve Crab Feed" will be held at Sierra 1 Center, located at 2791 24th St. From 6 to 8 p.m., enjoy a mixed green salad, pasta with marinara sauce, garlic bread, fresh Dungeness crab and one beverage. Additional beer, wine and soft drinks are available for purchase. This event is designed to create a new and exciting way to experience a crab feed, all while raising funds that support the arts in our community. Tickets are \$50 for an individual, or for a table, the price is \$450.

SES Robotics E-Waste and Clothing Recycle Event

Feb. 7: The School of Engineering and Sciences which is located in the heart of the Pocket-Greenhaven area will be hosting an E-Waste and Clothing Recycle event on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our address is 7345 Gloria Dr. There will be a convenient drop off area located in the school parking lot. The students and parents will also have their snack shack goodies for sale. All proceeds will help support the SES Robotics Program, Sports and Graduating Class of 2015. For more information, visit SESRobotics.org or email Info@SESRobotics.org for what can and cannot be donated.

SAC Prep crab feed fundraiser at the Elks

Feb. 7: SAC Prep's (Sol Aureus College) 2nd Annual Ragin' Cajun Crab Feed at the Elks Lodge, 6446 Riverside Blvd. will be held on Mardi Gras weekend. Tickets are \$40 or \$50 at the door. It's all you can eat. Adult beverages will be available for purchase, and there will be raffle prizes. Tickets can be purchased at SAC Prep (the old Bear Flag school 6620 Gloria Dr.), or online (<http://mkt.com/sacprep/ticket>).

Friends of Sacramento Public Library Warehouse Sale

Feb. 7: Sheet music will be added to the more than 100,000 "gently used" books, videos, and audio books offered for prices from 50 cents to \$2 at the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library sale. The warehouse is at the rear of the Friends' Book Den at Suite E, 8250 Belvedere Ave., just south of 14th Avenue between Power Inn Road and Florin-Perkins Road. Plenty of parking is available, but be careful not to park between the "No Parking" signs on the south side of Belvedere. Sale hours will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will also be a preview for Friends members only on Friday, Feb. 6 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (You can join at the door for \$15). Income from the sale helps pay for programs, equipment, and materials local libraries need but can't afford. With most items priced individually from \$3 up, the Book Den will be open throughout the sale as well as weekly on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 731-8493 or go to bookden@saclibfriends.org

SF Squared Book Club at McKinley Library

Feb. 7: Join the library for a discussion of this month's science fiction novel, starting at 1 p.m. 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Jessie Ryan: Born to be an activist

By KAREN DEVANEY

Editor's Note: This is the first part in a two-part series about newly elected school board member, Jessie Ryan.

There are people in the world born pre-ordained with destinies like Cesar Chavez, Margaret Sanger, and Harriet Tubman. They are people fated for a particular post in life achieving extraordinary feats out of ordinary or oppressive circumstances; those silent heroes that rise from the rubble of injustice daring to make a difference. In today's blizzard of I-ism, these types might seem fictional or non-existent in modern culture.

Thankfully, there are still people who are willing to tread the tenuous trails of democracy. Recently elected Sacramento City Unified School District board member, Jessie Ryan is one such champion rendered from an impoverished past that now fuels her fire to make a difference.

Being of Caucasian decent, Ryan's blue-eyes and blonde hair (all natural) masks her commonality with the marginalized communities of Sacramento. Raised by a single mother, Ryan and her step brother endured a hollowed out existence. The family clawed through the chaos of social services, living on food stamps and waiting in lines for government cheese. Ryan recalls the frequent moves, in order "to keep a roof over our heads." Despite the nomadic existence, which honed an adept ability to read the climate of a community, Ryan's mother, the most definitive influence in her life, instilled a conviction that "your income level does not determine your destiny."

Armed with this shield of confidence, Ryan believed from a young girl, that she, like Scruffy the Tugboat, was meant for better things. Her mother reiterated time and time again, that Ryan would be the first in the family to graduate from college, pulverizing a vicious cycle of poverty. Frequent visits to the library fed Ryan's imagination. Being incurably curious, she read ferociously as literature served as a reprieve from a grim reality while glimpsing a plethora of possibility. Ryan recalls outings to the Capitol Building where her mother told her that she would not only graduate college but would be a force for equality; a mantra that Ryan tucked deep in her psychic.

Despite the poverty, Ryan grew rich in character, listening to traditional fairy tales that ended with a feminist twist. "My mother would say, 'and then Cinderella went to college and graduate school.' I only



Shown here is newly elected school board member Jessie Ryan with husband Arsenio Mataka and children Tristan Mateo and Brooklynn Rose. Photos courtesy

learned the real story after I learned to read. The message was clear-- I didn't need a man to validate me, I only needed an education."

Ryan recalls a remarkable event that she relishes to this day. Her mother bundled the family up announcing with great enthusiasm that they were to go to listen to a woman who would change the face of history; Geraldine Ferraro, the first female candidate nominated for Vice President. "I was only 4 years old at the time. My mother said that if a woman could run for Vice President of the United States that I could do anything I wanted in the world."

The accomplishments, Ryan's mother spoke of, were prefaced with a purpose; to strike a dent in the inequities of society.

Ryan's deep alliance with communities living on the fringe, African Americans and Latino people, is a direct result of her experiences growing up. When her mother campaigned for Jesse Jackson, the family won a lottery (a marketing tool to raise money) and young Jessie was bestowed a puffy pink coat that she proudly wore for over a year.

While young women of the day donned their bedrooms with posters of rock stars, Ryan plastered her walls with images and quotes

from Martin Luther King, and Cesar Chavez. She attributes her allegiance to change to her mother that insisted her family was made up of artists and free thinkers. But Ryan's proclivity to make audible the silenced voices of the under-represented came from her keen awareness and personal experience of the hardships low-income people suffer.

When Ryan was about to enter high school her mother relocated yet again to a small space that allowed her daughter to go to El Camino, one of the better schools in Sacramento. After bouncing through eight different school districts, Ryan's mother was determined to have Jessie graduate prepared for college. But her freshman year proved to be an enormous hurdle. At that time, if you were a "free-lunch student" everyone knew it. There were no discretionary practices in place and amid the already awkwardness of teen years, being labeled a poor kid was devastating. Ryan coped by skipping lunch that entire year, often spending the hour curled up in a stall in order to avoid embarrassing questions.

Being savvy at assessing "the lay of the land" Ryan sought out a place to fit in and gravitated to the theater. It was El Camino's theater department that embedded a sense of belonging



Shown here is Jessie Ryan being sworn into office standing with her two children.

and like fertile ground, encouraged her to blossom. Growing up in financial dearth meant that outside activities were out of the question. But the theater arts program was free. Showing up early and leaving late to the theater became Ryan's trademark and a precursor to her staunch dedication to activist work. The encouraging words of her mother mantled with her own deep convictions, Ryan was ready to rise above the limitations of low income living and embark in a future where there would be no looking back.

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