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Neighbors come together for Georgia Kukowski's cancer treatment

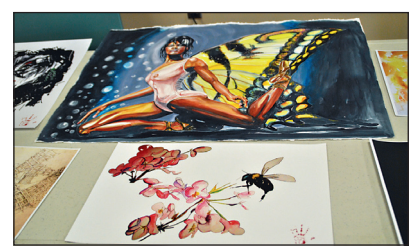
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Neighbors prepare for "The Block Party Off Broadway"

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Meet the artist: Christopher Williams paints live every Second Saturday at Comics Collectibles

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Over the Fence

with Greg Brown greg@valcomnews.com



Manning The Grill At Dooley Field

Life as a Little League Dad. The Land Park Pacific Little League is winding down and my son's t-ball team needed volunteers for the snack shack at Dooley Field.

It ain't no dinky shack. It's more like a small restaurant. With help from other parental volunteers on the Royals, I pitched in to help. I don't have a lot of food service experience, although I did work at Round Table Pizza in my youth. I made pizzas and worked the salad bar.

Luckily there is no kale, salad, or sneeze guard at the Dooley Field Snack Shack. It's all about the hotdogs and hamburgers.

Since I'm the backyard barbecue grill-master at home, I volunteered to start off grilling on the Dooley Field gas grill. It's a behemoth.

I even donned an apron to catch the juicy splatters of the meat. It would have been cool to wear one of those big white

chef hats the carvers at Sam's wear. That would make me look more official.

The best part of grilling hot dogs and hamburgers at Dooley Field is the picturesque view of the ballpark. While the hotdogs got plump and the hamburgers sizzled, I watched the Cubs take on the Phillies. There was a crack of the bat and I looked up to see the Cubs center fielder make a one-handed grab deep in center field. He got an appreciative cheer from the crowd in the bleachers. Nice catch!

Besides hotdogs, hamburgers and candy galore, the snack shack also offers deep fried tater tots and French fries. One of the parents was in charge of the fryer that was cooking up the tots and fries. The Krunch Bars and Big League Chew bubble gum were also big sellers.

Surprisingly, one of the most popular food items was Taco In A Bag.

We rang up quite a few orders for Taco In A Bag. Not sure where the idea for taco in a



Over the Fence columnist, Greg Brown, is also a chef at the little league snack shack. Nice hat.

bag came from but, it's got Little League Dad written all over it.

They're really quite simple to prepare. You open up the Doritos chip or Fritos bag. Then you pour chili, cheese, lettuce and salsa on top and that's what they call Taco In A Bag, an easy on-the-go snack for the kids. Or for Dad!

I'm waiting for the Taco In A Bag food truck!

Once the two ballgames were over the Little Leaguers came running to the snack shack. That's when the action

See Over the Fence, page 2

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Photo courtesy Georgia Kukowski, a mother of two, is undergoing cancer treatment not covered by her insurance.

Over the Fence:

Continued from page 2

really heated up. Tater tots, hotdogs, hamburgers, and yes, the Taco In A Bag were flying out the snack bar window.

Once the deluge of hungry little leaguers was over, it was time for the cleanup crew.

Love For Georgia Fundraiser

It was a special night of giving at New Helvetia Brewing Company. Friends, family, and the local community showed up in force for a fundraiser for Georgia Kukowski, a woman they love.

Pedro Tiago Ferrer was spinning cool tunes, the Culinerdy Cruzor was serving up the grub, and there was face painting for the kids. Not to mention a slew of awesome raffle prizes.

Parents were sipping a pint and socializing with each other while children weaved and snaked their way through the crowd.

The night was celebratory, but had a serious purpose – to raise a pint and some funds for Georgia.

Georgia has been fighting stage 4 breast Cancer for 2 and a half years. She recent-

See Love for Georgia, page 11



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CAMDEN PASSAGE

The lovely home features 4 bed & 4 baths. Formal living room & dining area, updated kitchen w island, granite counters & stainless appliances. Family room with fireplace, many decorator touches including crown mouldings, Venetian plaster walls, plantation shutters and custom valances. Backyard with built-in pool & spa.

8922 Blakemore Court \$525,000



CUTE COTTAGE

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Sacramento's post office has rich history

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

The Sacramento Post Office has a long history that dates back to the 19th century and includes the establishment of many post office locations.

A unique part of that history is that the capital city has the notoriety of having its first post office located in an abandoned ship known as the bark *Whiton*.

Moored along the riverfront, the on-water post office opened to the public in July 1849.

The Placer Times, in its July 28, 1849 edition, notes: "We learn that Henry E. Robinson, Esq. has been officially appointed postmaster for Sacramento City. The office is at present on J (Street), between Front and 2d (sic) streets."

Although the Placer Times recognized Robinson as having been "officially appointed postmaster for Sacramento City," The Sacramento Bee, in its June 10, 1941 edition, notes: "On July 4, 1849, Hen-

ry E. Robinson failed to appear at his own swearing in exercises as the first postmaster of Sacramento. And to this day, there is no official record of the absentee ever taking over the handling of the mails in this city."

The article also mentions that instead of attending his swearing-in ceremony, Robinson was instead seeking gold in the hills, an activity which apparently was more enticing to him than earning \$50 per month as postmaster.

According to information written by Gene E. Bigham, assistant postmaster of the Sacramento Post Office, in 1952, Robinson eventually died back East, and "left an estate of a million and a half dollars."

Bigham added, "Late in (1849), Stephen B. Freeland took the oath as postmaster. He had been serving since the impromptu leaving of Henry Robinson, on an informal basis."

The history of the 2nd and K streets post office site ex-



The Land Park Station at 5930 South Land Park Drive has been serving the community since the early 1970s.

Photo by Lance Armstrong

tends beyond being the location of the city's first on-land post office.



A portion of a plaque on a building at that site in present

day Old Sacramento reads: "Vernon-Brannon House. Sacramento's first post office was located on this lot in 1849. In 1853, Henry E. Robinson bought the lot

from Samuel Brannan and built this three-story, brick building, naming it the Jones Hotel. The

See Post Office, page 5

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Post Office:

Continued from page 4

Sacramento Pioneer Association first organized in this building in 1854. In 1855, it became a boarding house called the Vernon House, owned by Miss O.J. Clark. In 1865, Samuel Brannan bought the building, turned it back into a hotel and renamed it Brannan House."

The Sacramento Post Office has had various main offices during its history, including 2nd and K streets, 4th and K streets, 7th and K streets, 8th and I streets and the present office at 2000 Royal Oaks Drive.

In 1908, the first extension of the Sacramento Post Office was established with the opening of the Oak Park Station.

The city's post office continued its success, and an increase in its receipts for 1948 resulted in it being placed in a higher category.

During that year, the local post office surpassed the \$3 million mark in receipts for the first time in its history, as it totaled \$3,208,832.

With its placement in a higher category, the Sacramento Post Office joined Oakland and San Diego, as the highest class California post offices outside San Francisco and Los Angeles.

On Dec. 1, 1949, Sacramento's Broadway Station post office was opened at 2572 21st St.

That branch structure was built at a cost of \$20,000 during the era of Postmaster James R. Wilson by the Campbell Construction Co., which owned the property and leased the building to the post office.

With its opening, the Broadway Station became the city's fourth post office branch.

The other branches at that time were the Oak Park (2950 35th St.), Fort Sutter (2904 J St.) and North Sacramento (1719 Del Paso Blvd.) stations.

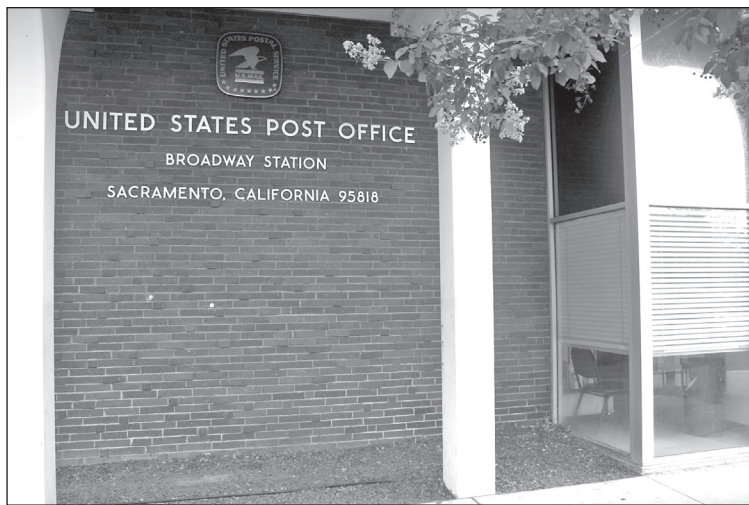
North Sacramento, which was once its own city, established a fourth class post office in 1915.

That post office was replaced by a contract branch of the U.S. Post Office Department five years later.

In 1944, that branch was made an official branch of the Sacramento Post Office.

The Fort Sutter Station dates back to 1926 when it opened at 2724 J St.

Around the same time that the Broadway Station began serving its first customers, a



The Broadway Station is located at 2121 Broadway.

Photo by Lance Armstrong

new location of the Fort Sutter Station opened at 3018 K St.

Fort Sutter Station is presently located at 1618 Alhambra Blvd.

A 1952 Sacramento Post Office list of locations recognizes the Broadway Station; the Fort Sutter Station; the Oak Park Station, 3540 4th Ave.; Colonial Station, 3749 Stockton Blvd.; the North Sacramento Branch, 1515 Del Paso Blvd.; and the Town & Country Village Branch, 2640 El Paso Lane.

Additionally, the post office's contract stations at that time were 3200 Riverside Blvd., 4868 Freeport Blvd., 5651 Stockton Blvd., 3511 La Brea Way, 2996 65th St. and 4747 J St.

A city building inspector's card, dated Nov. 24, 1970, recognizes a project to convert a 16,930-square-foot portion of the old Jumbo Market site at 5930 South Land Park Drive into a site for the Land Park Station post office at a cost of \$130,000.

The architect of that project was Sooky Lee and the contractor was John F. Otto, Inc.

The old Broadway Station building on 21st Street is no longer used as a post office and the present Broadway Station is located at 2121 Broadway.

Sacramento is presently home to various U.S. Postal Service locations, including: Land Park Station; Fort Sutter Station; Downtown Plaza Station, 660 J St.; Oak Park Station, 2929 35th St.; Camellia Station, 4750 J St.; Colonial Station, 6024 44th St.; Parkway Branch, 4301 Brookfield Drive; Centre Station, 3545 El Camino Ave.; Arden Station, 2801 Arden Way; Town & Country Station, 2929 Fulton Ave., Ste. 19; Del Paso Heights Station, 3817 Marysville Blvd.; Discovery Station, 4700 Northgate Blvd.; Foothill Farms Branch, 5420 Kohler Ave.; Florin Station, 7250 Elk Grove-Florin Road; and Perkins Branch, 9500 Kiefer Blvd.



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The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Barnyard baby
- 5 Brazilian port
- 10 Botch up
- 14 In ___ of flowers...
- 15 Thrill
- 16 Simpson sibling
- 17 Lump in one's throat
- 19 "You said it!"
- 20 Portray
- 21 Old-style window opener
- 23 Fancy party
- 25 "Vamoose!"
- 26 Agent of change
- 30 Highly decorative
- 34 Taper off
- 35 Terrier type
- 37 Go a few rounds
- 38 Hotel amenity
- 39 Search party
- 40 Fill up
- 41 Do a voice-over
- 42 Monopoly piece
- 43 Show-off
- 44 Confound
- 46 Danger signal
- 48 Crafts partner
- 50 Carryall bag
- 51 Talk radio callers
- 55 Assign new actors
- 59 Wholly absorbed
- 60 Newspaper ad unit
- 62 Evangelist Roberts
- 63 Greet the day
- 64 Celestial body

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- 65 Soccer legend
- 66 Biblical outcast
- 67 Remote button
- 11 Fancy ride, briefly
- 12 Computer operator
- 13 Boston or Chicago, e.g.
- 18 Justice symbol
- 22 Triceratops feature
- 24 Knotted neckwear
- 26 St. Louis team, familiarly
- 27 More or less
- 28 Certain housecat
- 29 Police weapon
- 31 Put down
- 32 Bellhop, often
- 33 Make an effort
- 36 Archipelago part
- 39 Like Byron's words
- 40 Grammatical slip
- 42 Bring on board
- 43 Eucharist plate
- 45 Yankees legend
- 47 Projecting window
- 49 Siesta sound
- 51 Stage item
- 52 Fabled loser
- 53 October birthstone
- 54 Lose traction
- 56 Pay to play
- 57 Peruse
- 58 Drive-___
- 61 Kind of tax

See Solution, page 20



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105-foot communications tower in Land Park? Residents voice opposition to the proposal

By **MONICA STARK**
 editor@valcomnews.com

Last week Land Park neighbors living within a 300-foot radius of the address of 3005 Freeport Blvd. received an "early notice" letter from the city of Sacramento Community Development Department that Epic Wireless has applied to construct a new telecommunications facility, which will consist of a 105-foot monopine with six antennas and equipment in a fenced compound on the ground with an approximately one-acre site. Located behind Round Table Pizza, the project requires a conditional use permit to establish the use for the telecommunications facility and a site plan and design review to develop the site with the facility.

Two similar pines exist in the Land Park area – one in William Land Park and one in the city cemetery. The proposed location has upset neighbors who say a monopine would not fit in with its surroundings. For one thing, there are no pine trees in that area and for another, there may be some elsewhere in Land Park, but they are not 105 feet

tall. Some of the oak trees are in the realm of 40 to 50 feet tall, a far cry from the height of the proposed monopine.

While there is no exact date of when the tower may be erected, it's early in the planning process and the city of Sacramento Community Development Department is accepting letters from neighbors.

David Hung, city of Sacramento associate planner and point of contact for the project, said he welcomes all input from neighbors and suggests questions and comments be in writing so that he can forward them to the members of the planning commission, which would be the body of government first to decide on the project. (Letters can be sent to dhung@cityofsacramento.org)

He said he's received "about four or five" letters of opposition and expects to see some more.

From the city's side, Hung agrees with neighbors that "105 feet is pretty tall and it's an issue for planning too. We like to see lower (heights) and we let the applicant know we'd like to see it lower. The reason for (the pro-

posed) height is that there are power lines nearby so they want to be above adjacent power lines."

While the neighbors in opposition don't have an official group name, the group's spokesperson Kathleen Brown said she has been joking that the group be called, Land Park Against the Cancer Tower. She has no doubt people will be protesting the proposal. "We're lawyers, doctors, scientists. We're not just a group that will sit back and let a cancer causing tower go up."

For Kathleen, an attorney and real estate broker, the lack of notice to residents was particularly unnerving. While she lives on Fourth Avenue and does not reside in the 300-foot radius of the proposed project, she owns a rental

property within the radius. Her tenants did not receive notice since they're not the property owners. And while Kathleen did in deed receive the notice, she felt that people who live, work and go to school in the area should know about the project.

Offended by the fact that her tenants live there but did not receive notice about the tower, Kathleen is waging her own mission to educate neighbors about

the proposal. "I figure this is just right thing to do."

"This is all very unnerving to me, the total lack of notice. This had been presented couple months ago to LPCA (Land Park Community Association) and the applicant said there was no opposition. They presented it, but never bothered to knock on the doors. If this was presented two months to

See Cell phone, page 16

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Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival celebrates heritage and culture

Celebrate National APA Heritage Month at the historic Guild Theater in Oak Park

The signature event of the Sacramento Asian Pacific Cultural Village, the Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival (SAPFF) serves alongside a continuum of events and programming in support of traditional and contemporary Asian and Pacific Islander artistic expression within the Sacramento Region.

The event will span two days and include five screenings, 27 films, and more than 15 hours of Asian Pacific film, talent, stories, cultural performances, and more.

Highlights include:

• Sacramento hometown premiere of "Kung Phooey!",

hilarious 2003 martial arts spoof by Darryl Fong

• "Robotech: The Shadow Chronicles", epic animated sci-fi film

• "Sriracha", story of everyone's favorite new Asian cuisine staple

• "Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the World War II Internment Camps", with traditional Japanese music performances Sacramento biwa (Japanese lute) master Molly Kimura and Bay Area mother and son koto duo Shirley Muramoto-Wong and Brian Mitsuhiro Wong

• "Changing Season: On The Masumoto Family Farm", story of Central Valley family farmers and their journey to keep the family legacy thriving in challenging times

SAPFF's mission is to celebrate and explore our diverse experiences and advance the roles of Asian and Pacific Islanders in film and new media. Emcees include: Kathy Park (KCRA 3 News Anchor/Reporter) and Stephen Chun (Event Announcer) share the stage to bring you the 2015 Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival!



If you go:

What: 2015 Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival

When: Friday, May 29, 4:30-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 30, 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. (Animation, food, documentaries, open submissions)

Where: The Guild Theater, 2828 35th St.

Tickets: Purchase single tickets for any of the five screenings in the categories of comedy, animation, food, documentaries and open submissions.

A full festival pass includes access to the entire 2-day event - 27 films, Q/A sessions, and stellar cultural performances).

Single Screenings: General - Advanced \$12 (\$15 after May 22)

Students/Seniors are \$10.

Full Festival Pass:

General - Advanced \$50 (\$60 after 5/22)

Students/Seniors \$40

Current IDs for Student and Senior discount will be requested at the door. Online sales for single screening tickets ends 30 minutes prior to the screening.

All ticket purchases to the 2015 SAPFF include free admission to "SAPFF Pre-Launch at Pre-Flite!", Wednesday, May 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pre-Flite Lounge, and the "SAPFF Official After Party", Saturday, May 30 from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Chaise Lounge! Pre-Launch and after party are strictly 21 and older. Specialty cocktails available. Mention SAPFF at the door.

FULL EVENT SCHEDULE:

Day 1: Comedy

Friday, May 29, from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m.

At 6:20 p.m., there will be a special presentation: Kung Phooey!, followed by question and answer period with director Darryl Fong. Comedy screening schedule includes: My Hot Mom Gandhi, Love Arcadia, Kung Phooey! and Miss India America.

Day 2: Animation

Saturday, May 30 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., there will be a special presentation, fea-

See Film festival, page 9

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Film festival:

Continued from page 8

turing Robotech: The Shadow Chronicles, followed by a question and answer with director Tommy Yune. Animation screening schedule includes: Robotech: The Shadow Chronicles, Today's Headline, Fishing at Lethe, The Skinny Tree, Painter, Currency Affairs and Entrance Exam.

Day 3: Food

Saturday, May 30 from 1 to 3:45 p.m. There will be a special presentation of Sriracha. The food screening sched-

ule includes: Sriracha, Sweet Corn, Cambodian Doughnut Dreams, Off The Menu: Asian America, Vishal and The Flip.

(Also Day 3): Documentaries

On Saturday, May 30, from 4 to 6:45 p.m., there will be a special presentation: Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the World War II Internment Camps, with traditional Japanese music performances by Bay Area mother and son koto duo Shirley Muramoto-Wong and Brian Mitsuhiro Wong, and local biwa master Molly Kimura. The screen-

ing schedule for documentaries includes: Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the World War II Internment Camps, Phetmixay Means Fighter, Giap's Last Day at The Ironing Board Factory, Changing Season: On The Masumoto Family Farm.

(Also on Day 3) Open Submissions

On Saturday, May 30 from 7 to 9:30 p.m., there will be showings of The Other Side, South Paw, Jasmine, Wedlocked, I Dreamt of You and Live, Breathe, Hula.

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Love for Georgia:

Continued from page 3

ly found out the cancer has spread to her liver.

Shannon Tarter, a close friend and organizer of the fundraiser, said "Georgia is a very caring woman. She has a lot of courage." She added, "She feels great, she looks great. Which is not reflective of her battle."

The Love For Georgia fundraiser started on Mother's Day. Georgia has two school age children that attend Alice Birney Elementary and she hopes to begin treatment once the school year is over.

Nicole Oehmke, a friend of Georgia's, said, "When my children needed extra nurturing, she's been there. She is who I can't be for my kids. She loves them as they are. She loves them for who they are."

In 10 days, they've already raised an astounding \$60,000 for Georgia. And they're not done yet. All of the funds will go for Georgia's medical fund covering, and there's a lot of it. The immunotherapy treatment she would like to undergo next is not covered by her insurance.

On Georgia's Youcaring website she says, "Cancer



Photo by Greg Brown

Speeches were given in support of Georgia Kukowski at a recent fundraiser held at New Helvetia Brewery.

college is teaching me that some people are ashamed of their cancer. Some people try to hide it or isolate themselves. That is not me. I am not ashamed. I don't know why I have cancer, but I don't think it was something I did...or didn't do. It just is. And I will find my way through this. And so many of you are right by my side. My army of love and light. Thank you. Thank you. And one more time **THANK YOU!**"

If you want to donate, or learn more about Georgia and her fight:

<http://www.youcaring.com/medical-fundraiser/love-for-georgia-kukowski-help-give-this-mother-more-time-/351320>

Land Park Farmers' Market makes a move

The Land Park Farmers' Market is moving from William Land Park to Sacramento City College. It will now be located at the corner of Sutterville Road and 21st in the Sac City parking lot.

I spoke with Emily Lipson over the phone and she told me, "We'll be more visible and also we'll be able to add more vendors and beef up the market for the summer months. It's an easier and better location for us."

Summertime means more farmers and a bigger market for the Land Park neighborhood every Sunday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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Photo by Lance Armstrong

The original Broadway Station building, which was built in the late 1940s, still stands at 2572 21st St. and is currently operated as Capsity, a coworking space in Land Park.

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Neighbors prepare for "The Block Party Off Broadway"

On Saturday, June 6 from 3 to 11:30 p.m., a huge block party will take place at Capsity, 2572 21st St.

The Block Party Off-Broadway is being advertised by organizers as a "chance to come together as a community and celebrate YOU!" Bringing together all locally owned businesses, neighbors are taking over the sidewalk and turning it into an explosion of music, art, food, and culture for the entire family to enjoy. Whether you want to bring the kids and get your arts and craft on, or build your own piñata, or paint all of your faces — they have that for you. If you feel like coming out and shopping through a locally owned and curated vendor boutique, they have that too. At night, the block turns into a multiple-venue event filled with live music, local art, games, an adult treasure hunt, food, spirits, and many more surprises in store for the audience.

There will be featured performances by SpaceWalker, Eric Tagg, Erica Ambrin Burnett, Luke Tailor and more. There will be live art provided by Daniel Paniagua and Appria Negrete and skateboarding demos by local skate team The Mobbment, also known as Bentley Wulf Shine and Luisito Estevan Mendez. Additionally, there will be a photo booth, break dance demonstrations, live poetry and awesome raffle prizes.

In a question and answer with the Land Park News, organizer Liv Styler described the block party as a "product of random circumstances colliding with an amazing opportunity. About a month ago a dear friend of mine, Julie, came to me with a pretty simple request. To help her plan



Erica Ambrin



Paul Willis

out a party for her birthday coming up. I am by no means a party planner, but, I do help throw events here in Sacramento, so she thought I might be able to help. The one request she had was to make this

See Block Party, page 15



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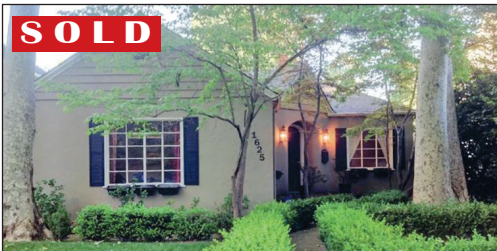
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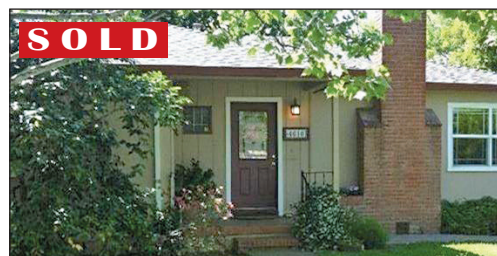
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The Age of Adeline

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

LIONSGATE and Lakeshore Entertainment bring us "The Age of Adeline" in which Adeline Bowman, (Blake Lively), remains 29 years of age for almost a century through a mystery trick of fate during an automobile accident on an unusually snowy night in Sonoma, California in 1933.

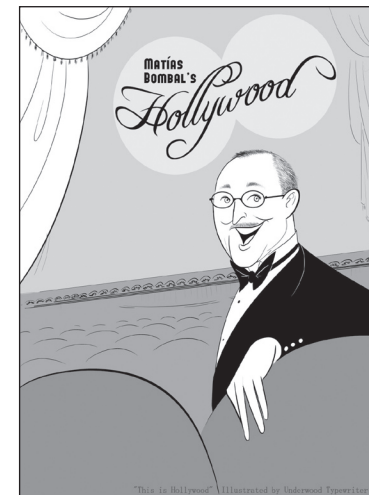
In this romantic fantasy that spans the best years of the last century to the present, the eternally young Adeline is constantly running from her agelessness.

That is until she descends one New Years Eve in an elevator with a handsome philanthropist played by Michiel Huisman. Twenty-seven floors later, and with some persistence from him, she agrees, with trepidation, to come over for a date.

Romance blossoms, yet she remains guarded with her secret, which is in danger of being exposed unexpectedly when Harrison Ford, playing the father of Huisman, happens to have known and loved Adeline in the 1960s and is certain that it is she, much to the concern of his wife, played by actress Kathy Baker.

If you take your own sweetie to this movie, you'll have wonderful results for this is a lively 107 years of romantic fantasy, handsomely made. The beginning of the movie unravels in a beautiful and clever way and is marvelously imagined and carried out.

The only matter that seemed a bit forced was the closing voice over narration in storyteller fashion, which is the way the movie opens. The narration, by Hugh Ross, was okay, somewhat reminiscent of "The Hudsucker Proxy" but was a bit much at the end. This movie was directed by Lee Toland Krieger.



Hot Pursuit

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Warner Bros. releases an M-G-M and New Line Cinema comedy which teams Reese Witherspoon and beautiful Sofia Vergara. This is in no way connected to the John Cusack movie of 1987 of the same name. This is more in the vein of a "Dukes of Hazzard" meets "Cannonball Run" and features Witherspoon as a tomboy cop assigned to protect the widow of a drug lord and bring her to trial as an informant.

Off to a shaky start, they must drive a long way to Dallas. The two are at opposite ends in every imaginable way, yet must bond together as they are chased by crooked cops and mad gunmen.

The director of this movie, Anne Fletcher, makes a Hitchcock cameo as a police dispatcher in one early scene. She's worked as an actress before turning to directing. Perhaps she should have stayed an actress.

This movie is unfunny. The chemistry between the two principals never develops, and no matter how charming Ms. Vergara may be, and she is that, she is the only redeeming aspect in this movie, which fails on many levels. Gaps in continuity and the prolonging what would have made a better television episode of 30 minutes is dragged out to 87 minutes. The preview audience laughed in many spots, however, to me, the entire production seemed trite and forced. Ms. Witherspoon has proved herself an excellent actress and comedienne in other movies, however, here her performance lacks the true ability of her talent, and seemed like she was playing dress-up for a TV skit.

Block Party:

Continued from page 12

party atypical. She wanted more than cake and drinks and music playing through bad speakers. She wanted an experience.

“So I figured being involved in my community, the arts, and the music scene here in Sacramento this would be a perfect time to exhaust my resources and make something amazing happen. Why not create a locally curated event that brings everything together; art, food, music, dance, community and culture, and truly celebrate everything that makes our city so amazing? Why not showcase local businesses with strong roots in our neighborhood? Why not make the most of it?”

“So thanks to Julie, and my incessant urge to make everything larger than life, the Off Broadway Block Party was born.”

The location Capsity was chosen Liv said for a trifecta of attributes. For one, the space is absolutely perfect for this type of event. It is open and inviting and has tons of wiggle room. Secondly, it's centrally located in the community that I wanted to highlight with this event. And, lastly and most importantly “I am in love with the mission of Capsity. As an urban cooperative workspace, they are striving to build a community through collaboration, as opposed to building a community of collaborators. I think that makes all the difference.”

Each artist, musician, dancer, or performer was

chosen based on their talent, and their talent alone. Liv said she has been lucky enough to have worked with all of them at one point or another and they are all people that she wants everyone to hear about.

As far as the skateboard demonstrations are concerned, Liv said she manages a long distance skateboarding team called MBMT (Making Brilliant Moves Together), that works with children giving one-on-one lessons to, as well as teaching the nuances of old school skate tricks. “They will be out there on Saturday to make the kids ‘oooh’ and ‘aaaah’ with their street-skating/trick demos, as well as to teach basic board techniques to anyone who wants to learn.”

While the street won't be closed, the sidewalk will be utilizing lots from the varying businesses participating for additional outdoor space. Asked about the involvement from neighboring businesses, Liv said, she couldn't have organized the event without any of them, “and honestly - would not have wanted to. The purpose of this block party has become more than just a party. It's to show off and support some of my favorite businesses, run by some of my favorite people, in my favorite neighborhood in Sacramento. Capsity, Sol Collective, This n That Thrift Store, Delta Workshop, and Buffalo Pizza and Ice Cream are all actively participating in the madness. “This is my love letter to Sacramento. I hope you like it.”



Edison




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Continued from page 7

LPCA it should be presented to the neighbors.”

Kathleen said her skeptical side says that right across the railroad tracks from the tower will be Curtis Park Village and said Epic Wireless probably wants “to rush this in before they have report it to Curtis Park Village.”

A real estate broker who specializes in older homes and the Land Park neighborhood, Kathleen said she cannot see “this monstrosity being beneficial to anyone’s property values, except maybe the

(property owners) for some additional rent.”

While lack of notice of the proposal and the unsightly view of it are concerns for Kathleen, she said her biggest concern is her understanding that they are cancerous. “There are a plethora of articles on cancer. I’m not sure how conclusive they are. Foreign governments said they are but here (in the United States) we have a huge (communications) lobby that says they are not cancerous.” Regardless, Kathleen is not going to risk the health of 2,500 students at C.K. McClatchy High School.

It’s curious whether another tower is even necessary in the Land Park

area. Every neighbor Kathleen has spoken to has said their cell phones operate without any problems. Within a 3-mile radius of the proposed location, there are 119 towers and 649 antenna locations, according to antennasearch.com, an online service that detects newly filed (or pending) tower applications.

At a city of Sacramento Planning Commission workshop on telecommunications facilities back on Feb. 24, 2011, guidelines for the construction of these towers were provided, listing in order of preference of the construction as follows:

- located completely within an existing constructed structure

- existing structures (public or private) that allow a facade mounted antenna

- existing structures (public or private) which require a modification of the structure architecturally or in height in order to mount antennas (includes roof mounts)

- Collocation on existing poles or light standards at a lower height

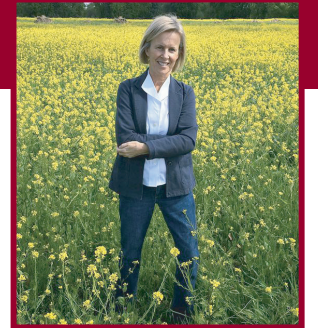
- new monopole (whether co-developed or single carrier)

Because the city’s own guidelines suggest that monopines be constructed as a last resort, neighbors feel they have more buying power in the process.

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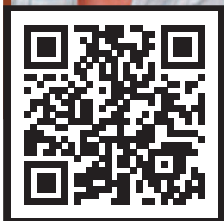
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Meet the artist:

Christopher Williams paints live every Second Saturday at Comics & Collectibles

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Sacramento artist Christopher Williams experienced a painful introduction to painting. When Christopher was just 12 years old, he was stabbed at church, protecting a girl that was being threatened with a knife. After the accident, which took place in his hometown of Stockton, Christopher couldn't use his left hand for several years. With sports out of the question and his hand in a sling for about four years, he ended up joining his mother, Ava, to her singing recitals at Modesto Junior College. Thinking he was bored during the recitals, Ava asked a colleague of hers if Christopher could join a pottery class that was otherwise filled with adults. Although Christopher could only mold the clay one-handed and "make awesome coasters," the experience got his hands to work again, leading him to draw cartoon characters for his mother's classmates and music professors.

More than 20 years later, Christopher has produced roughly 200 paintings, including commissioned pieces. At a recent Friends of the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library after hours celebration, he showed a wide assortment of pieces, including two from his Mama Fonju jazz series, a master copy of John singer sergeants Madam X, and Soul of a woman. Additionally, he had 11x17-inch prints of his past paintings. On the spot, at the event, Christopher drew a pencil sketch of Otterby Reading, the Sacramento Public Library's mascot.

Upcoming shows include the Sacramento Comic Con in August and Sac Anime in September. He also paints live every Second Saturday at Comics & Collectibles, located at the corner of Freeport Boulevard and Fruitridge Road.

After he graduated from Plaza Robles High School in his hometown, his family moved to Sacramento. And now a Pocket resident for the past 10 years and employee at Apple Inc. in Elk Grove, The Black da Vinci, as he calls himself, is now making a try at art as a full time career.

You see, his father, Donald, one of Christopher's main sources of inspiration and encouragement, passed away earlier this year with the last words said to his son as "I'm very

proud of you, son" on Jan. 5. Those words, spoken to Christopher over the phone after the artist was interviewed by FOX 40 at Sac Anime, resonated in the budding artist whose work varies tremendously in style from piece to piece.

"My dad was a great man. I always tried to paint a picture to make him smile. Unfortunately, he passed away early this year, but I know he is watching over me."

Christopher described the surreal nature of the timing of his father's passing as surprisingly quick and unexpected. Just four hours after he spoke with his dad on the phone, he got a knock on his door. "It was heartfelt. It was so weird," he said. Donald had a stroke 30 days before he passed. "(Donald) was fine on Christmas. We had a barbecue on Christmas. He cut up the meat. It was one of the best barbecues I ever had, so I think he knew he wasn't going to be around that long, but I didn't think it was going to be that soon."

Also a main source of inspiration to Christopher is his mother who has always stood behind her son and pushed him to pursue his passion. "Her home is filled with my earlier works. Without my parents, I would not have pursued art," he says.

Asked how he got the nickname The Black da Vinci, Christopher said it's because he lost a bet at his job at Apple Inc. "It was either The Black da Vinci or buy 15 coworkers lunch. So I gladly took the name." Despite the nickname, he's been told by several different art teachers that he doesn't draw black. "Instead of taking offense, I think of it as a blessing because most black artists are stereotyped in a particular genre. So the name The Black da Vinci worked out because it is a title that disclaims, 'Hey, I'm a black artist,' but I can paint a fresco style painting, then pick up a pencil and draw a comic character or design a business logo. I believe as a black culture we love color because we are people of color. But I never use the color black on any of the paintings (watercolor or oil). If I'm drawing a portrait I found that mixing my own dark colors brings a more realistic feel to the painting and certain cases I want to go to the extreme and bring out the most subtle highlights to draw you into the painting. I always try to bring out the colors we overlook or don't necessarily see."



Elephant Magnifique

Image courtesy of Christopher Williams

One of Christopher's favorite pieces he's created is a watercolor titled Elephant Magnifique, a masterpiece that only took four hours to finish at the Raw art show held at Ace of Spades. "I wanted to paint my version of the elephant Dumbo, but with butterfly ears to bring out the beauty and imagination of flight. Also, in my imagination (is that) if elephants could fly, they would have a better chance to avoid poachers."

Besides his fascination with elephants, Christopher has produced multiple pieces showcasing bumble bees and is planning on producing a watercolor series. "I don't know why. I just love bumble bees. I don't like wasps. Wasps are angry and sting, but bumble bees – they are more about nature, pollination, love."

At the art show, Christopher had two large paintings he drew of his wife, Brenda. Wearing a stylish pink dress, Brenda is depicted as a jazz musician. Also, one of the paintings Christopher showcased at the library was a black and white portrait of Frida Kahlo, which was based on a photograph he saw in an art book. Adding in skeleton jewelry into his version of the portrait, Christopher showed a Gothic side to a woman artist he deeply admires. "The pain she went through and she still drew. She's just admirable. She is a woman painter and that was controversial, too. And, she was always in the shadow of Diego Rivera. I just like her style. I just love Frida." Jokingly, he added, "If she was here, I'd ask her for her number and ask her out."

After 11 years working at Apple, he's a little nervous to leave to pursue art full time, but he is excited about the venture and hopes to work with children in the future. "I like seeing them happy when they are drawing. I want to see their imagination run wild and want to help them accomplish something."

Additionally, Christopher is looking to work with his friend Gene to create a comic book with characters, each from different ethnic backgrounds. "I want to make them shine in a book, so I am going to paint these for him. I love Spiderman. There's different types of superheroes from different origins, so they can have superheroes. My wife's nephew was really excited to see a comic book character called Black Panther that was from Africa and he's from Africa; my wife is from Africa. He said, 'who's that Black Panther character? I want to be like him. He's real smart. He wears a Black Panther outfit and he fights crime. That got me to think hey, we need more (superheroes from different backgrounds). We need a superhero from the Philippines. We need a superhero from South America and maybe try to put them all together."

A shining star in our community, Christopher has undergone so much in his life, but it is those experiences that have made his work so beautiful and unique and he is definitely someone to watch as he continues to bring joy to others through his art.

Christopher has set up a Go Fund Me page, which has been set up to tell the story of how a knife carved his destiny into art and of my late father's work. So, he's asking for help in publishing a book titled, "The Black da Vinci and Donald Williams' 12 Seasons." The book will feature Christopher's paintings and drawings, as well as his late father's stories. Much will be packed into this nearly 250 page book and each person who donates will receive a special edition 11x17 inch print. If you donate \$20 or more you will receive a signed copy of the book and an 11x17 inch special edition print. Proceeds will help Ava recover from funeral costs. As he writes on the site: "This book was supposed to be a surprise for my father. I love you and miss you, dad."

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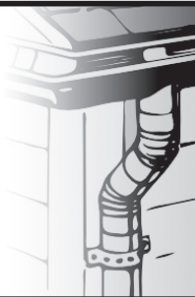
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ONGOING

Los Ninos Service League volunteer opportunities

Combine community service with fun as a volunteer with the Los Ninos Service League by working in the dining room, kitchen or garden at the Casa Garden Restaurant. Since 1974 the Casa, located in the Curtis Park neighborhood, has been raising funds to help support the Sacramento Children's Home. For more information on becoming a volunteer, please join us for an information and recruitment coffee on Tuesday, May 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Casa, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. RSVP at 452-2809.

Free Hawaiian language workgroup

Every Monday at 5:30 p.m., a free Hawaiian language workgroup meets at 6235 Belleau Wood Lane Suite 1B in South Land Park to learn about the Hawaiian language. Everyone is welcome. Call 808-782-2483 to sign up.

Gray Eagles monthly meeting

Gray Eagles- For 25 years, a male/female group sharing history of military/civilian aviation. Former air, ground, or carrier crew, or anyone interested will enjoy monthly speakers. Topics include airshows, warbirds, Reno races. Drop by to visit- FREE. We meet on second Mondays, each month at Hometown Buffet, 4300 Florin Road (private dining room), 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. See www.grayeagles.net. Lou, 421- 0844.

Preschool storytime at Ella K. McClatchy Library(Early Childhood (0-5))

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m. there will be time for books, songs, stories and fun. Miss Lindsey and her guitar always make this story time a fun event. Everyone is welcome to "stay and play" after with the library's toys. Ella K. McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St.

Advanced ESL Class at Ella K. McClatchy Library (Adult)

This advanced English as a Second Language class is taught by Toni Chapralis to enhance conversational skills. All teens and adults are welcome to join this weekly class held on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Ella K. McClatchy Library is located at 2112 22nd St.

E-Reader Help at Ella K. McClatchy Library (Technology Instruction)

E-reader help is available every week on Thursdays from 2 to 3 p.m. Bring your device with you. Sign up at the service desk or stop by for the first available appointment. Ella K. McClatchy Library is located at 2112 22nd St.

Monthly tours of Sacramento Children's Home

Find out about the Sacramento Children's Home mission, programs, and how you can get involved on the fourth Thursday of each month, starting at 10:30 a.m., 2750 Sutterville Road. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.kidshome.org/tour-sch.

Riverside Wesleyan Church offers older adult fitness class

Oasis, a fitness class for older adults, is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Wesleyan Church, 6449 Riverside Blvd., in the Pocket/Greenhaven

area. The charge for each class is \$2. Participants do not have to be affiliated with the church. The class has about 40 regular members, but the area used to exercise is large and can accommodate more.

Tai Chi Ch'uan & Qi Gong at Parkside Community Church

This introduction to Yang style Tai Chi is to learn the world's most popular exercise routine, improve your personal health, in a relaxing and enjoyable setting, and garnish new friendships with a common goal. Empowering you to take care of yourself, and doing something for yourself.

Classes are \$5 per session every Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. all year round. New students are always welcome and no prior experience is necessary. No special equipment needed. The goal is to teach an exercise routine that can be practiced anywhere at any time, by anyone, of any age. First visit, participation or observation always free. Parkside Community Church 5700 S. Land Park Dr. For information call George Bonilla at 730-1704 or Valen Lee at 505-1996.

Taiko for fun at ACC

Learn the history and basics of Taiko which refer to the various Japanese drums. Wear comfortable clothing. \$16 per month or \$5 drop-in class. For schedule call 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org. ACC is located at 7375 Park City Dr.

Tai Chi/CQ Gong

Learn the simplified 24-forms of Tai Chi, plus Qi gong exercises, a healing art combining movement, meditation, and visualization. Ideal for students new to Tai Chi. 9:00-10:00am, Thursdays at ACC Greenhaven Terrace, 1180 Corporate Way. Pre-registration is preferred but drop-ins are welcome. For detail, call (916) 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org

Free Young Adult Bereavement Counseling:

The UC Davis Hospice Program and UC Davis Children's Hospital Bereavement Program will offer an eight-week Young Adult Bereavement Art Group for individuals 17 to 24 who are coping with the recent loss of a loved one. The sessions will be held on eight consecutive Monday evenings from Sept. 29 through Nov. 17. Each session will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the UC Davis Home Care Services Building, 3630 Business Dr., Suite F.

Sunday Jazz with the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society at the Elks Lodge

Every second Sunday of the month from noon to 5 p.m., enjoy Jazz bands in the Main Ballroom (nominal fee), Emblem Room (free) & Lounge (free) at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. There's always plenty of food available for purchase.

Sunday breakfast at the Elks Lodge No. 6

Come and enjoy a great breakfast with your family and friends every Sunday morning from 8:30 to 11 a.m. for a cost of \$9. Specials include: Eggs Benedict & Corned Beef Hash. In addition, eggs as you like them, pancakes, waffles, biscuits & gravy, juice & coffee.

Stretch, Strengthen, and Thrive!

This class is designed for the needs and abilities of active older adults, who are interested in gaining or maintaining mobility. The class consists of a mix of full body stretches, body weight exercises, strength training, and active stretching. 5:00-6:00 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. \$5

per class if pre-paid. Pre-registration and pre-payment is preferred, but drop-ins are welcome at a rate of \$6 per class. Held at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., Sacramento, 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org.

Sacramento Zoo needs wheelchairs

The Sacramento Zoo is looking for a few "gently used" wheelchairs, 808-5888. Your wheelchair can be a tax deductible donation, and four zoo tickets will be offered as a thank you.

Support group for alienated grandparents

Meeting is the last Friday of each month at 2717 Cottage Way, suite 4. Meeting is at noon. 761-9121.

Emotions Anonymous

Meets regularly Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Meeting information is available at www.emotionsanonymous.org. Free 12-step program/support group for those who desire to become well emotionally healthy. Acquire a new way of life, sharing experiences, and learning to live with unsolved emotional problems. Meets Tuesday 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Parkside Community Church 5700 South Land Park Dr.; Tuesday 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Sierra Arden Church of Christ, 890 Morse Ave (at Northrup), Room F-4. Thursday 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd, 1615 Morse Ave. (at Arden Way) left of choir room. An optional newcomer orientation occurs on Saturdays from 1 to 1:30 p.m. at Wellness Recovery Center, 9719 Lincoln Dr. Ste. 300. Also on Saturday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., there will be a topic for discussion at WRC, 9719 Lincoln Dr., Ste. 300.

Mahogany Urban Poetry Series - Queen Sheba - poetry readings

Each Wednesday from 8-11 p.m. at Queen Sheba in Sacramento, local talent makes it way to the restaurant for weekly open-mic events. \$3-\$5. 1704 Broadway.

Brain Gymnasium

Exercise your mind and have some fun at this on-going Brain Gymnasium class! Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Boulevard, 9:20 a.m. Thursdays. \$6 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

Women with Good Spirits monthly meeting

Each second Tuesday of the month at Revolution Wines at 6:30 p.m., Women With Good Spirits invites a community non-profit to present on its mission work. The presenter will start their presentation promptly at 7:15 p.m. and will last 15-20 minutes with an open question and answer forum after. RSVP is appreciated as well as a \$5+ donation per person that will go directly to the non-profit presenting that month. 2831 S St. Visit www.womenwithgoodspirits.com or find the group on Facebook.

The Community Housing and Services Coalition monthly meetings

Originally created by the Sacramento Community Services Planning Council, the Community Housing Coalition (CHC) was created as a vehicle to provide information and educate community leaders and decision makers regarding housing for low income, disabled and older adults. CHSC monthly meetings are free and open to the public; they are held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Sacramento Sheriff's South Area Office Community Room at 7000 65th Street, Sacramento (the Sac-

ramento County Voters Registrar Building). At each meeting a guest speaker is invited to attend and give a 30-minute presentation with 10 minutes for Q&A. Speakers are selected for their expertise and knowledge in their respective fields, and agencies/organizations. The speakers are encouraged to provide handouts, fliers, and other informational materials to the 15 to 30 attendees. If you have any questions, please contact either: Alex Eng at 424-1374; email xeng916@sbc-global.net; or Cindy Gabriel at 916/732-6189; email cynthia.gabriel@smud.org.

Your social security questions answered at Hart Senior Center

Meet with a Social Security Administration representative every third Thursday of each month at the Hart Senior Center and learn general information about Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (S.S.I) as well as retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. Make an appointment at the Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street (J and 27th streets) or call 808-5462. Cost: Free.

'Meditation and More' at Eskaton

Every second Monday of the month starting at 1:30 p.m. (session begins), enjoy a meditation session at Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Blvd. Studies consistently show that even a semi-regular practice of meditation increases immunity, while lowering blood pressure and cholesterol, risks of heart disease and stroke. Meditation and More sessions are non-denominational and all ages are welcome. Participants sit comfortably in chairs and no special poses are required. FREE for residents and their families, \$4 for guests. Call 441-1015 or email scott.okamoto@eskaton.org to reserve your space today!

Health and Wellness TAI CHI With

Chuck Malone at Eskaton

Every Thursday starting at 2:30 p.m., enjoy Tai Chi with Chuck Malone at Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Blvd. Tai chi is often described as "meditation in motion," but it might well be called "meditation in motion." There is growing evidence that this mind-body practice, which originated in China as a martial art, has value in treating or preventing many health problems. And you can get started even if you aren't in top shape or the best of health. FREE for residents and their families - \$4 for guests. Call 441-1015 or email scott.okamoto@eskaton.org to reserve your space today!

MAY

Fire Station 8 Open House

May 30: Fire Station 8, located at 5990 H St., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

JUNE

Career fair

June 2: There will be a job fair from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 100 Capitol Mall. Bring 10-15 resumes, dress business professional. This is a free event for job seekers. Job opportunities include: Inside sales representatives, outside sales representatives, account executives, retail managers, account managers, insurance sales, customer service, technical sales, sales managers, pharmaceutical sales, tele-sales, sales trainer, merchandiser, mortgage brokers, financial planner, route sales, retail sales, retail management, human resources and much more! Many of the companies we work with offer some of the following: Base

See Calendar, page 21

SACRAMENTO ANNUAL NICHIREN BAZAAR

Chicken Teriyaki, Tempura, Noodles, Sushi & more!

Saturday, June 13th: 11am-5pm
Sunday, June 14th: 11am-5pm

SACRAMENTO NICHIREN BUDDHIST CHURCH
5191 24th St (2 blocks north of Fruitridge Rd)

Solution to Crossword:

C	A	L	F		N	A	T	A	L		F	L	U	B
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A	D	A	M	S	A	P	P	L	E		A	M	E	N
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Calendar:

Continued from page 20

and uncapped commission pay structure, flexible work schedule, full benefits, 401K, stock options, company car or gas allowances, president club trips and other incentives and opportunity for immense growth. Make \$70,000-plus your first year. (Note: parking is \$1.50 per half hour.)

Free! Riverside Concert Series at

Camp Pollock

June 4: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket. Bring your leashed dog. Enjoy S'mores compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

Fire Station 5 Open House

June 6: Fire Station 5, located at 731 Broadway, will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

The Folsom Symphony presents:

Sport Night at the Symphony

June 6 and 7: Narrated as a sports event, the symphony presents a Monday Night Football theme, featuring Bizet's "March of the Toreadors" (Carmen), Reineke's "Casey at the Bat", themes from Rocky, Chariots of Fire, and Brian's Song, Williams' "Olympic Fanfare and Theme", Peter Schickele/PDQ Bach's hilarious version of the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway. The Saturday, June 6 show starts at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday, June 7 starts at 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.folsomsymphony.com or call 608-6888. Tickets range from \$20 to \$55 depending on location.

A theater performance "Anansi, The Spider" to be held at Fairytale Town

June: 6 and 7: Show times are 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. In the jungles of Africa lives a tiny spider known as Anansi. Believing the children of Earth need stories to tell each other, he begins a quest to get the golden box of stories from Nyami, the sky god. This story is presented by The Puppet Company using hand and rod puppets with authentic African music, colorful costuming and classical African design. Tickets are \$2 for nonmembers in addition to park admission, and \$1 for members. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call 808-7462. Sponsored by ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

Film showing about Sutter's birth place, Kander

June 12: At 7 p.m., Peter Volker from Kander will be in Sacramento at the Turn Verein to show a film about Kander, which is not only the birthplace of General Sutter, but in 1848 there was a fight at Kander where the first "Republicans" (i.e. students etc.) were demanding and fighting for establishing a "Republic of Baden." When they were defeated many of them fled across the Rhine-river and then to the USA. They founded many "Turnvereine" in America. After the film, Peter will have a discussion and answer questions. This is a project of a partnership between Sacramento and Kan-

der. Those interested in this project are invited to join the meeting at the www.sacramentoturnverein.com

Fire Station 12 Open House

June 13: Fire Station 12, located at 4500 24th St., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Free! Riverside Concert Series at

Camp Pollock

June 18: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket. Bring your leashed dog. Enjoy S'mores compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

Planning for seniors workshop

June 18: Tom Nakashima, along with Deborah Short and Eddie Fong of Planning for Seniors, LLC, will be hosting an informational get-together for Boomer with Aging Parents. They will be talking about important issues such as funding option for elder care and asset protection in California, so bring your questions. Free of charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be starting at 7 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Dr. For details, call 530-671-3308.

Family Campout at Fairytale Town

Friday, June 19 5:30 p.m. through Saturday, June 20 at 7 a.m.: Spend the night in Fairytale Town's storybook park. This exciting overnight adventure includes a theater performance, arts and crafts activities, a scavenger hunt, bedtime stories and a sing-along. Wake up the next morning under Fairytale Town's canopy of trees to a light continental breakfast. Prices range from \$25-\$30 per person and include all activities. Member discounts are available. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call 808-7462. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

Fire Station 7 Open House

June 20: Fire Station 7, located at 6500 Wyndham Dr., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Learn summer safety at ACC

June 25: Increase your awareness so that common occurrences don't leave you vulnerable to crime. This training addresses simple things you can do to make yourself less of a target. We will also talk about scams that are directed toward seniors. Free of charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Dr. For details, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

Learn how to plan ahead for the inevitable

June 25: A 25-minute presentation on why everyone should pre-plan funeral arrangements. Eliminate stress and relieve your family of the burden, know all available choices, get what you want, ensure every detail is covered and save money! Free lunch and free of charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on June 25, 2015 at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Dr. For details, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

Learn tips for telephone use in an emergency

June 26: Your telephone can be a life saver. You can use it to call for help, to receive emergency announcements and check on loved ones. When there is an emergency, do you have a backup plan if cell towers or telephone lines are disabled? In this FREE workshop, we will provide some things for you to think about in the event of an emergency. In addition, we will review basic safety tips for Natural Gas and Electricity. Free of charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held from 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Dr. For details, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

Fire Station 10 Open House

June 27: Fire Station 10, located at 5642 66th St., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

A Midsummer Night's Dream & Crystal Ice Cream Fantasy at

Fairytale Town

June 27: From 5 to 9 p.m., celebrate William Shakespeare's popular fairy-themed play while enjoying all-you-can-eat Crystal ice cream! This magical midsummer's evening features multiple ice cream tasting stations, live entertainment, hands-on activities, an olde worlde marketplace and more. Celtic rock band Tempest will perform throughout the evening. Costumes for the whole family are encouraged. No host food and bar. Mix 96's Dan & Michelle will emcee the evening as this year's Honorary King and Queen. Tickets go on sale May 1 at fairytaletown.org. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children ages 2-12. Members receive \$2 off per ticket on advance tickets. Day-of tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 2-12. No member discount on day-of tickets. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call 808-7462. Sponsored by Crystal Creamery. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

JULY

Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock

July 2: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket. Bring your leashed dog. Enjoy S'mores compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

Fire Station 11 Open House

July 11: Fire Station 11, located 785 Florin Road, will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

American-Portuguese Veteran's Memorial Poker Tournament

July 11: There will be a poker tournament on July 11 at SPHSS Portuguese Hall, 6676 Pocket Road. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; the tournament starts at 6:30 p.m. While this tournament will help fund the placement of a monument at the State Capitol to honor American-Portuguese that served the United States, it is also a template for other ethnic groups to have a similar monument. If the time comes for Chinese-American, Greek-American, Irish-American, Italian-American, Mexican-American or any other ethnic groups to place a monument, they will already have a blueprint for placement, which is required. For those who wish to buy tickets or sponsor the event can contact Eddia Maria at 314-757-0474. In regard to sponsorship, for \$250 you will receive two entries into the tournament (\$100 value) along with your business name and logo shown on a big screen in front of the room on a continuous loop for the duration of the event.

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Women's Wisdom Art: Empowerment through art

By LEIGH STEPHENS

Why art for healing: Art demands the involvement of the whole person; body, mind, emotions, imagination, spirit and, it requires unrelenting self-reflection and self-discipline.

Women's Wisdom Art is celebrating its 25th year as a Sacramento non-profit organization that holds classes in the arts and writing for low income women. The women are referred by friends and various social agencies. They come from diverse cultural backgrounds, from all walks of life.

Several thousand women come through WWA's door to take part in art that rewards them with hope and community. Many continue their education to help them have a better life. They have experienced poor health, mental illness, learning disabilities, military service, abuse; some struggle with drug addiction and homelessness. Through the program many are able to lead productive, stable lives.

The agency has had a number of sponsors throughout these years. The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, Sisters of Mercy of Auburn, the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services and private donors are among those who have contributed funds. When the Food Bank changed priorities about three years ago, WWA's budget dropped from about \$100,000 to \$20,000.

The organization leaders, teachers and women participants vowed to keep the program going. It was a struggle to pay rent and keep the program going so now it shares space with the Poetry Center in an old warehouse at 1719 25th St. Bob Stanley, president of the Sacramento Poetry Center invited WWA to use their space for a modest rent... poetry at night; art classes in the day.

WWA has just received a Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission Cultural Award for artistic quality. The funding is for three years, 2015-17. It will support about 20 percent of WWA annual costs.

In February 2015, WWA with the Community for Peace exhibited art at the Crocker Art Museum, titled "Peace and Hope." The show consisted of a mixture of paintings: oil, watercolors, acrylics. It also displayed hand crafted art and ceramic pieces. Those women artists beamed with pride as they discussed how they created each piece. The women's art has also been displayed at SMUD art gallery, at the California Capitol, at local galleries and businesses.

In addition to art and writing classes, WWA holds a show twice a year where the public can view the women's work and purchase pieces. The money goes back to the artist, and the artists pay a fee of \$25 each month to help pay for art supplies: brushes, easels, journals, etc. With this monthly fee, women can attend any type of class during the month.

WWA empowers women through tapping their inner self through expression in painting, fabric art, mosaics, and writing. Roberta Beach, board member says, "WWA provides a safe place for women to build self-esteem, to develop confidence and the courage to take the next step to a fuller life through their art."

In a recent acrylic class, five women gathered with volunteer instructor Susan Kelly-DeWitt (who was also WWA's first program director) at the studio in a small room staged in a U shape. The women were working on various art pieces. Susan moved quietly from student-to-student offering suggestions and encouraging the women in their inspirations.

Student voices and lives:

Mallory, says she has been attending classes for about ten years. She says she values the community of women where they become part of her family. The program offers a structure for the women's lives. She says, "It feeds my spirit so I have the freedom to express myself."

Jen, says the art makes her optimistic about her future, "I thought art was a talent you were born with but discovered it also involves skills you can learn."

Consuelo says, "I feel strong about my Apache background. Wisdom has opened many doors for me. We are not just black & white...we come from many different cultures...I no longer have to be alone."

Catie is a military vet who suffers from a debilitating illness that makes her hands shake when she works. It took a long time for Catie to grasp the ideas that in spite of her difficulties, she could draw and paint. She is now an art major.

Sandy says, "I'm recovering from drug addiction & alcoholism. I'm also on a journey to recover from sexual, physical and emotional abuse. I'm learning to like the one I see in the mirror."

Founder Laura Ann Walton says, "Women's Wisdom Art not only 'helps' the women, but can bring about a transformation of life - it is a spiritual experience." Walton is a native of Sacramento who taught



Photos by Leigh Stephens

Shown here are Laura Ann Walton, Susan Kelly-DeWitt, Helen Plenert.



Shown here are two pieces of student art.

English in Catholic schools for 13 years and worked two years as principal of Mercy High School in Carmichael. She was one of the founding members of Loaves & Fishes, a non-profit agency serving the homeless. She was the founding Director of Maryhouse which serves homeless women and children, and she is the founder of Women's Wisdom Art in 1990.

From a published booklet by the poets of Women's Wisdom Art, 2014, *When the Light Changes*, Jana writes in her poem, "Beauty of the Mind," "...The mind holds a hidden stillness containing the secret to life's mystery. As days go by our most precious memories await us in an inkling of time. They await us patiently to be called forth, Beauty, mind, remembrance."

Helen Plenert is the program manager for WWA who graduated from CSUS Art Department and moved to San Francisco where

she held a number of professional theater positions in art design. Returning to Sacramento, she received a California State general contractor's license which qualifies her to work on building projects such as murals. Her other art includes acrylics, water colors, and oil pastels. She says one of her teachers was well-known Sacramento artist Wayne Thiebaud.

Women's Wisdom Art accepts donations of money, art supplies, yardage, sewing supplies, and volunteer services to the program. (See list of needs on www.womenswisdom.org) For more information contact Helen Plenert at her office 916-482-2608 or her cell 916-599-2608.

Leigh Stephens is a retired journalism professor from CSUS Department of Journalism and Communications and the author of more than 500 articles and the books, *12 Steps to Clear Writing and Covering the Community*.

Faces and Places:
Gunther's Ice Cream 75th anniversary celebration

Photos by MONICA STARK

Gunther's Ice Cream hosted a celebration of its 75th anniversary with a variety of attractions on Saturday, May 16. The event included meals of a grilled hot dog, drink, chips and dessert for \$5. And a complimentary raffle ticket was given to each person who purchased a each meal.

Raffle ticketholders had opportunities to win one of four bicycles (two adult and two kids' bikes) donated by Mike's Bikes at 1411 I St., as well as various \$25 gift cards throughout the day. Disc jockey music, face painters, balloon art, temporary tattoos, bubbles, a magician and a photo booth, including an image of "Jugglin' Joe," were all included in the celebratory event.

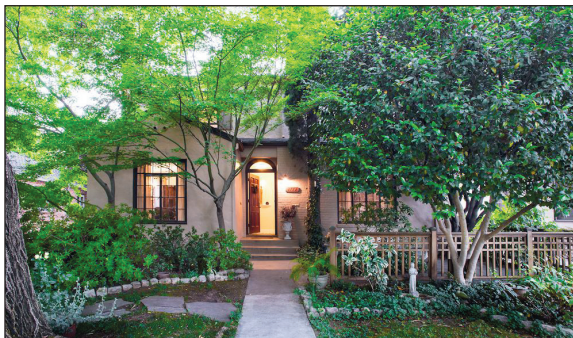




CURTIS PARK VILLAGE – THE COTTAGES

This charming home is built by BlackPines Communities, and includes \$19,468 in options!!! Cozy gas log fireplace; loft area upstairs would be perfect for a home office or exercise area. Also includes imperfect smooth walls, 5 1/4 inch baseboards, and GE Stainless Steel Appliances! \$499,990

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



HIDDEN GEM!

This 4 bedroom 2 1/2 bath will remind you of a European villa with a beautiful backyard garden! Fantastic kitchen plus casual and formal eating areas. A master suite, family room and home office. A pleasure to see and a treasure to own. \$775,000

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



THE COTTAGES AT CURTIS PARK VILLAGE

Old World charm with modern amenities - includes \$20,622 in options! Beautiful new BlackPines Communities home, 3 bedrooms 2 1/2 baths; open space for entertaining with wet bar, plus GE Profile beverage center. Features imperfect smooth walls. Close to 2 parks! \$584,990

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



GORGEOUS IN THE RIVERS

Prestigious West Sacramento community, 5 bedroom 3 1/2 bath home is an entertainer's dream with lots of space, beautiful floors, high ceilings and a beautiful contemporary kitchen. It's conveniently located close to downtown Sacramento and Raley Field. \$549,900

ALEXIS JONES 715-0237



NEW CURTIS PARK VILLAGE

Quality, BlackPines Communities built 3bedroom 2 1/2 bath home lets in an abundance of natural light with great open floor plan. Large master suite with grand shower area! Other features include imperfect smooth walls, 5 1/4 inch baseboards, GE stainless steel appliances! \$574,990

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



SOUTH LAND PARK TERRACE

Laugh, play, live! Great family home, 3 bedrooms 1 1/2 baths, with deep yard and windows looking out to your own personal paradise. Light and bright. Super spacious living room and family room. Close to transportation, Land Park, midtown restaurants & culture. Enjoy! \$399,500 PENDING

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



HOLLYWOOD PARK GEM

Curb appeal galore for this 3 bedroom home on a great sized lot. Features include original hardwood floors, a fantastic kitchen with stone counters, and a dreamy backyard oasis! Newer roof, AC, and mature landscaping. Summer-ready to relax on the patio next to the sparkling pool and waterfall! \$330,000

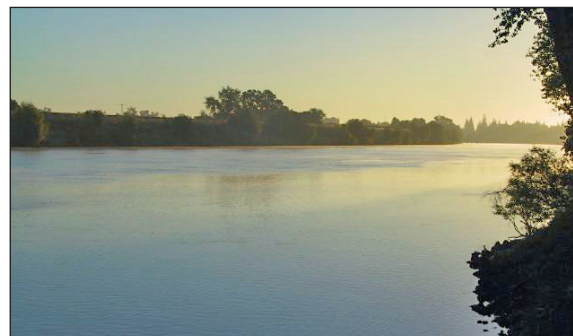
JAMIE RICH 612-4000



ADORABLE LAND PARK

This 2 bedroom home needs some TLC but will shine again with a little work. You spacious layout, formal living room with coved ceilings and fireplace, built-ins, large formal dining room, cozy kitchen with nook, wood floors, covered patio and cute pergola in side yard. \$384,000

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