

LAND PARK NEWS

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Happy 4th of July

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Over the Fence

with Greg Brown greg@valcomnews.com



Good deeds at Land Park Ranch Pony Rides

There are always interesting things happening in William Land Park. If you look around, you'll observe people doing stuff. I noticed a couple of

guys with hammers and saws doing stuff over by the pony rides. They were building a brand new storage shed at the Land Park Ranch.

The pony lady was thrilled! The ponies even seemed to notice.

Who are those guys? Those guys are Forrest Neff and John Salido who are part of the Land Park Volunteer Corp. The LPVC! You'll actually see their good deeds all over William Land Park. Just look for the LPVC signature. It's carved all over the park. "We like to put our signature on things," Forrest said.

The idea for the new pony shed got started when Forrest was taking one of his many walks through the park. "I walk the park a lot and I noticed their cashier stand was a total wreck. I thought I'd fix it up and build them a new one." Then, Forrest noticed the dilapidated

storage shed in the pony ride area.

The old storage shed was dilapidated, small and housed lots of black widows.

"I got a hold of the park guy and I told him if you buy the materials for the shack we'll build it," Forrest said. The park guy agreed and the city of Sacramento "ponied up the dough" for the shed rebuild.

All they had to do was push the little shack down because it was totally rotted out. His partner on the project, John Salcido, piped up, "The thing was held together with spider webs and rusty nails."

The shed looks really nice and sturdy. It's dugout green and has a sloped roof with a gutter in the back for when it rains. The new Land Park Ranch pony shed even has a skylight.

I told Forrest it looked really nice.

See Over the Fence, page 14

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File photo by Stephen Crowley

Shown here is a photograph from last year's California State Fair. This year's state fair will take place July 10-26 and is located at 1600 Exposition Blvd.

Neighbors gear up for the state fair

By MONICA STARK
 editor@valcomnews.com

Excitement surrounding the inaugural 2015 U.S. National Drone Racing Championship at the California State Fair on Bonney Field on July 16 and 17 is heating up for this first-of-its-kind competition officially sanctioned by the Academy of Model Aeronautics, the Congressionally mandated agency that oversees radio controlled and unmanned model aviation activities. With a rich heritage in agriculture, education, technology and entertainment, the California State Fair is set to become the per-

fect venue to host this competition, which is organized by Flying Grounds Inc.

For more than 160 years, the California State Fair has showcased the best of the Golden State and organizers hope the drone racing will showcase not only the best in the state, but the best in the country for the specialized sport. During the 2014 state fair more than 750,000 people attended, making memories that will last a lifetime. Cal Expo was dedicated as a place to celebrate California's achievements, industries, agriculture, diversi-

See State Fair, page 19

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Iconic Shakespeare Festival flips gender roles in 30th production year

The Sacramento Shakespeare Festival is shaking things up in its 30th year as an iconic local production by flipping gender roles in the classic plays, "Romeo and Juliet" and "As You Like It."

"Romeo and Juliet" will star an all-male cast, while "As You Like It" turns the concept on its head, adapting to modern times by tapping women to play all roles.

Recent headlines have provoked much discussion on the topic of gender identity, but Christine Nicholson, director of "Romeo and Juliet," points out that the practice of casting men for female roles in Shakespeare's plays dates back to the Elizabethan era (the practice, in general, has been around even longer and can be traced to Ancient Greece). She said the decision to cast the productions this way came from a desire to honor tradition, while also striving for equitable opportunities for the actors.

"We have wanted to approach a production in the original manner of Shakespeare for some time," Nicholson said. "We also are consistently trying to achieve gender equity in our productions. Shakespeare's plays that have 20 or more characters have roles for only three or four women at most because he wrote for all-male productions. Although we always try to cross-gender where possible, this year we felt that if we did an all-male production, an all-female production alongside it would be both equitable and artistically challenging and exciting."

It's an experience, actress Nina Damer, who plays Orlando in "As You Like It," could not pass up.

"It seems such a waste that I should only be able to play

the roles that are designated appropriate for my sex. I am more than my looks. I am more than my voice. I am more than my name," she said. "There are no emotions or behaviors in the realm of the human experience that are reserved exclusively for men, so why should more than half of the experiences in Shakespeare's repertoire be reserved for them?"

Julian Ortega, an English major at SCC, will portray Lady Capulet in "Romeo and Juliet."

"This may help people understand that gender does not have to be so defined," he said. "We're bringing attention to the fact that even though the character may be male or female, it can be played by someone else, as well or better."

Nicholson and "As You Like It" director Lori Ann DeLappe-Grondin waited until they saw auditions before deciding which gender to assign to each play.

Actress Shelby Saumier, who plays Audrey in "As You Like It," said it was a revelation to be able to audition for any role she wanted.

"For the first time in my life, my gender did not confine me in my art and I felt empowered and free as an artist," Saumier said.

Zac Scovel, who plays Juliet this summer, said this experience has broadened his experience as an actor.

"It was always part of my process to put myself in the shoes of the character, but this one has been a challenge," he said, "because I've never had the experience of being a 13-year-old girl."

Adding to the challenge is the desire of Scovel and the rest of the actors to play opposite gender roles in a respectful and realistic manner. "If we do our jobs right,

they will see women on stage," he said.

DeLappe-Grondin said she is thrilled to work with a stellar cast of hardworking, intelligent, funny and creative actresses, who often do not get many chances to shine in classical theater due to the lack of female roles.

"This is their chance, and they are shining gloriously," DeLappe-Grondin said. "We are working against caricature and for authenticity in all roles, not just the male roles. I'm inspired by the work they do and the spirit in which they do it. I think this will be a summer to remember, and hopefully not the last one of this nature."

"Romeo and Juliet" runs July 3 through Aug. 1. The cast includes Sean Olivares as Romeo, Scovel as Juliet, Bill Gilbert as the Nurse, Tom Block as Tybalt, Ryan Canfield as Mercutio, Vernon Lewis as Frail Lawrence, Roderick Hickman as Benvolio, Sean O'Brien as Lord Capulet, Julian Ortega as Lady Capulet, Andrew Zely as Paris, and Anthony Person as the Prince.

"As You Like It" runs July 10 through Aug. 2. The cast includes Dramer as Orlando, Tiffanie Mack as Rosalind, Denise Ivy as Duke Frederick, Natalie Jones as Touchstone, Christi Van Eyken as Celia, Emily Labowitch as Phebe, Shelby Saumier as Audrey, Theresa Vann-Stribling as Duke Senior, and Kathleen Poe as Jaques.

For dates, times and ticket information, visit www.sacramentoshakespeare.net. Performances are in the William A. Carroll Amphitheatre in William Land Park. Arrive early for best seats. Some concessions will be available, and picnics are welcome.



Photo by Greg Brown / greg@valcomnews.com

Shown here is the William A. Carroll Amphitheatre as the stage was being transformed in preparation for this year's Sacramento Shakespeare Festival.

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Water policy protest hits Little Pocket:

Dozens demonstrate "2nd California Water Summit" outside the Westin Hotel

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Demonstrators from as far north as Lake Shasta and from as far south as the Los Angeles area converged on the sidewalk on Riverside Boulevard in front of the Westin Hotel on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Their cause: Water is a human right and it should not be controlled by those with money and power. Meanwhile, inside the hotel was the "2nd California Water Summit" in which government officials and private investors converged to talk about water policy. But the cost to get in was \$1,495 for the four-day summit and many of the demonstrators, who were from various Native American tribes, have been feeling left out of discussions such as these for too long.

"Fight, fight for your rights. Fight, fight for water rights," they chanted in the Little Pocket neighborhood, as inside the hotel investors and governmental officials discussed how \$7.5 billion can be distrib-

uted through the state due to the passage of the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Act of 2014. The Act, which signals "investments in water" and the "long-term sustainable supply and delivery of that water are critical to California's future," was a benchmark of success deemed by the Edmund Gerald "Jerry" Brown Jr. administration.

The supporting organization for the conference, West Coast Infrastructure Exchange, "was created by Governors and Treasurers of the West Coast states (California, Oregon, and Washington) and the Premier of British Columbia to promote the type of new thinking necessary to solve our infrastructure crisis. Its board consists of senior representatives of the Governors and Treasurers of the member states and the Executive Director of Partnerships British Columbia."

According to the event website, funding from the \$7.5 billion statewide water bond will "create a multitude of new project opportunities and redefine the way Califor-



Photos by Monica Stark

Shown here is a collection of photos from Monday morning outside the Westin Hotel. Demonstrators were protesting the "2nd California Water Summit," a water policy meeting that costs about \$1,500 to attend for the entire program. Demonstrators feel left out of important water policy discussions.

nia state and local governments use and invest in solutions to address the water crisis; and fund these new water infrastructure projects ... Only stakeholders intimately aware of the latest insights, lessons learned, and how to maximize project

fundability from successfully (public and privately) funded water projects will succeed in this climate."

Those very words of exclusivity and ownership surrounding every living thing's basic need - water - was the very thrust of the protestors' spirit.

Spokesperson Caleen Sisk, chief and spiritual leader of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, resides near Lake Shasta and discussed the purpose of the protest as follows:

"We feel that it's unfair to hold the water meetings and exclude most of the interested parties that invest in people. Especially the tribes, they have not talked about California tribal water rights. They are talking about senior water rights and rights before 1914 and they have excluded the talks about the native California people's water rights and to hold it here, at the Westin, is out of the way, excluded. It costs \$1,500 to get in there to attend the meetings and they had a limited number of people in there who could register, so it's not an open registration even if you had \$1,500. There was a cut-

off date you had to know about and they're going to be discussing the \$7.5 billion water programs for Prop. 1, which includes Shasta Dam raise, the tunnels. Most people want to restore the Delta, the fisheries, Golden Gate salmon, and the tribes should have a place on that agenda. Tribes or environmentalists should be heard about digging up the Delta."

At the protest, members from the Winnemem Wintu, Pomo, Wailaki tribes were present as well as Hawaiians who stood in solidarity with those concerned about the delivery of water. Living near Lake Shasta, a source of water for the Sacramento River, Caleen said she's particularly concerned about how water is distributed because of the salmon. "The salmon have to live in the Delta and if they are planning on diverting all the water from the Delta, which the tunnels can do, then the salmon can die."

"Lake Shasta is very low and hasn't recovered and it is still being drained. It was at 33 percent (of its capacity) earlier and it will probably

See Protest, page 7

Protest:

Continued from page 6

be a lot less. The river is full, the Sacramento River. That water comes from the north to fill that river and that water is going down south through the aqueducts to agribusiness farms.

"Our biggest message is that the California people, the good-hearted people, have to start paying attention to what's going on. They have to start relying on information that is outside the government and so far we've been trained to believe the government will take care of us and deliver the water the way they need to. I think people need to wake up and see this is not a fight between salmon and water. This is not a fight between L.A. and Northern California because the projection of the water that's going to be there is for five new communities in the desert, for two new fracking mines and the rest of it will be brokered."

"I think that (the general public) could wake up and they need to wake up, but I don't know if they will. We're just a little minion tribe. We're not considered scientists, but generations of our people have been here and we know what the weather is. We live in an artificial community. We know when the grass turns brown. We know when the flowers come up. We know that the flower is supposed



to be there and what the flower means in relation to the salmon that is coming up river. Most people don't know what water tastes like anymore."

Another one of the protestors, Dan Bacher, has been writing about water issues for many years for such websites as Daily Kos, Alternet, the California Progress Report, and for such print publications such as the Sacramento News and Review. He is also the editor of the Fish Sniffer magazine. He's currently working on a critical book about Governor Brown and his environmental policies, which is expected to be released within the next year. "It's going to be about his environmental policies. It will show a picture of the oil spill, and

right under it there will be a bunch of dead fish and a dried up lake."

As an environmentalist, a writer and a lover of fishing, Dan visits many lakes, which he says are currently full. "Rancho Seco lake is full. Lake Valley reservoir; Fuller Lake was brim full last Friday (June 26). I went to Union Reservoir on the Stanislaus River. It was the highest I've ever seen it. Rollins Lake on the Bear River is full. Water agencies that planned ahead - that practiced conservation - they were able to bump release the minimum stream flows to keep the fish going during the drought. The ones that squandered their water, sent it south in 2013, 2014, and again this year. I did an investigation

and found they were filling Southern California reservoirs with the water they stole from Folsom even though they knew we were in the worst-ever drought.

"The media talks like these are separate projects. The tunnels are not a separate project. The tunnels project is designed in conjunction with the Shasta Dam bridge. One facilitates the other. They're trying to build twin tunnels and send (water) to the agricultural folks in Southern California. They need storage, so they are going to raise the Shasta dam. Our argument is that it doesn't make a lot of sense because if you don't have any water, you don't have any water to store. You can build the tunnels, but it isn't going to create the wa-

ter. But Brown is committed to this anyway. I think he's betting on having wetter winters ahead and also hoping the people are stupid and don't wake up and don't realize you can't create something out of nothing."

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Restaurant site has served community for 63 years

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

For nearly a quarter century, Willie's Hamburgers and Chiliburgers has been serving its popular fare of burgers, hot dogs and fries at 2415 16th St. But the location of this business has a much lengthier history as a restaurant site.

Initially, the property had a five-room, one-story house with a brick chimney.

The house, which was built in 1921 and 1922, was lived in by Agnes Roach from 1922 to about 1923, William Smearden from about 1925 to about 1927, and a widow named Alice L. Smith from about 1927 to about 1949.

A restaurant was the next place to occupy the site.

According to a building permit, dated Aug. 1, 1949, arrangements had been made to construct a restaurant building at 2415 16th St. at a cost of \$3,500. The proprietors of the eatery were listed as Gausman and Beachamp.

A permit for a sign for the restaurant is dated Oct. 4, 1949, and the permit recognizes the name of the restaurant as Frenchie's.

Frenchie's was a model restaurant that allowed potential buyers an opportunity to view this two-person operated metal sandwich stand.

An advertisement in the December 9, 1949 edition of The Sacramento Bee notes: "See model being operated. Terms can be arranged. Investigate now for quick action. Write or call at Frenchie's, 2415 16th St., Sacramento. Bill Gausman or Otto Allen."

Frenchie's was known for its "meal on a stick."

Various items such as hot dog slices, green peppers, cheese, pickles and tomatoes were placed on a wooden skewer and then dipped in egg, fried and served with a special sweet and sour barbecue sauce. The original cost of this "meal" was 35 cents, plus tax.

On Jan. 7, 1950, The Bee ran an advertisement for Frenchie's with the following words: "10,000 customers have already tried Frenchie's a meal on a stick. We want every person in Sacramento to try Frenchie's."

Another advertisement, which was published in the May 15, 1952 edition of The Bee, reads: "This is a steal! Small drive-in seats 100 (25 inside and 75 outside). Low overhead, long lease, fully equipped electrically. Will net over \$800. Must (sacrifice on) account of leaving city. Buyer can pay off busi-



Willie's Hamburgers and Chiliburgers at 2415 16th St. has been serving its popular fare of burgers, hot dogs and fries since 1991. Photo by Lance Armstrong

ness during summer months. Small down payments. Bal. terms. See owner now - this won't last. 2415 16th St."

The 1952 city directory lists Sterling G. Gausman, of 1813 N Street, as the proprietor of a restaurant at that site.

By September 1952, the location was home to Hay's Hamburger Stand.

During the following year, Leone Batesle and June Miller were operating a different hamburger stand, called J & B Hamburgers.

In about 1954, that business was replaced by J & H Hamburgers, which was owned by John and Helen M. Kuhlman, who resided at 1748 39th St. in East Sacramento. The couple was also the proprietors of Park Ice Cream at 2719 Riverside Blvd.

The next restaurant at this site was The Hitching Post, which opened in about 1957.

About a year later, Henry L. Woodbey and Helen G. Weaver established another eatery, Hank & Helen's restaurant, in the same location.

In 1959, Jimboy's Tacos opened its first Sacramento restaurant. The business's founders were J.R. "Jimboy" Knudson and his wife, Margo Knudson.

With a consistent flow of customers frequenting that location, the Knudsons were enjoying their early success in the capital city.

And despite losing their lease on the 16th Street building in about 1966, the prosperity of the business continued when J.R. Knudson purchased the former Richardson estate at 1420 29th St. for \$35,000 and had the then-existing house removed and had a permanent restaurant structure built in its place.

A reference to that lease in the Jan. 23, 1997 edition of The Bee reads: "The restaurant did so well, Jimboy's executives say, that the landlord refused to renew the lease and instead opened his own taco hut."

The eatery that replaced Jimboy's on 16th Street was actually named Taco Hut.

A building inspector's card, dated Aug. 2, 1966, mentions that West Coast Building Wreckers had

See Willies, page 9

100 percent of Dos Coyotes proceeds on July 16 will benefit Land Park schools

In an unusual way of kicking off the opening of the new downtown Dos Coyotes location, 100 percent of receipts from the evening of Thursday, July 16 from 5 to 9 p.m., will benefit the Land Park Schools Foundation. The restaurant, located in the R15 district at 1800 15th St., suite D, opened its doors on June 16, and the July 16 fundraiser will be the first fundraiser

out of this Dos Coyotes location. "(The owner) Trevor (Sanders) is really good about giving back to the community," says Whitney Wells, HR media coordinator for Dos Coyotes. "Trevor also owns five of the 12 Jack's (Urban Eats) and we do fundraisers there as well as a bunch at MOD Pizza." Wells said the menu at the R15 location is the same as at the oth-

er Dos Coyotes restaurants, however, because of music venue Ace of Spades across the street, Dos Coyotes will be offering "concert burritos" in the future for "pre-party" concert munchies. Customers will be able to phone in orders and get their burritos delivered to them while they wait in line for the entertainment of the night.

-Monica Stark

Willies:

Continued from page 8

been contracted to have the then-present restaurant building demolished. The project was signed off on Sept. 14, 1966.

A building permit for a new restaurant structure on the site was issued on Aug. 8, 1966, and the general contractor of the project was James Construction.

Taco Hut's first two owners were Charles H. O'Connell, from about 1967 to about 1970, and Margaret Woods, from about 1970 to about 1977.

Another Taco Hut owner was Pauline Starnes, who followed Woods in that role.

Taco Hut was replaced by Willie's Hamburgers and Chiliburgers, which made its debut in 1991.

It was during that year when William "Willie" Jay began offering his ver-

sions of the famous burgers served at such legendary, post-World War II Southern California diners as Tommy's and Pink's.

Original prices at Willie's included a single burger for \$1.25, a 16-ounce, real ice cream shake for \$1.35 and a double chili cheeseburger for \$2.50.

One of the longtime popular burgers offered at Willie's is the Slammer (\$4.20), a chilburger with a single patty, freshly made chili, tomato, onions, pickles and mustard.

The eatery, which also serves chiliburgers, french fries, onion rings, tamales, and a variety of crepes for the breakfast crowd, has a second location at 5050 Arden Way, at Fair Oaks Boulevard.

Jay also owns Iron restaurant - a steak, burgers, seafood, salad, bar, etc. establishment - at 2422 13th St.

As the Willie's on 16th Street continues to draw new

and regular customers on a consistent basis, its location's legacy as one of the area's longtime operating restaurant sites appears to have a bright future.

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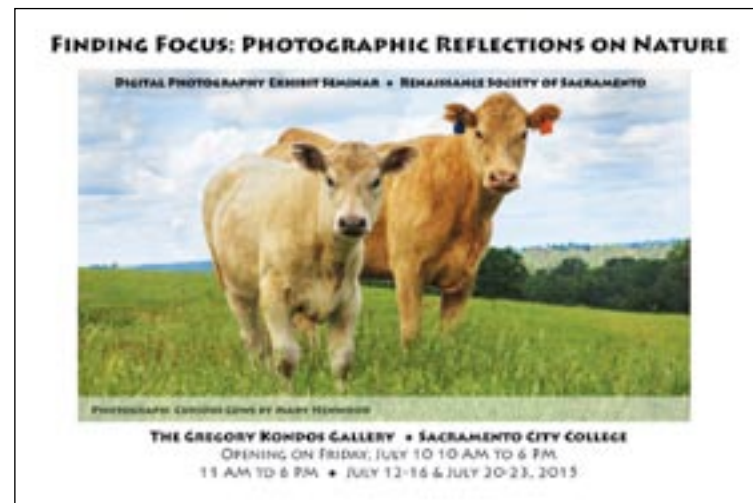


Photo exhibit to open at city college

By CRAIG MCCULLOCH

An exhibit, titled "Finding Focus: Photographic Reflections on Nature" of 54 photos will open at the Gregory Kondos Gallery at Sacramento City College campus starting on July 10 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. A reception with light snacks and beverages will be 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, July 10. The exhibit will be from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays, July 13 to July 23. There is no charge except for vehicle parking fee of \$2.

The exhibit was organized and developed as part of a class given by the Renaissance Society, a lifelong learning partnership for older adults in the Sacramento area at California State University, Sacramento. The Renaissance Society offers more than 80 seminars to more than 2,000 members. Seminar topics are wide ranging from ancient Egyptian history to Real Rock and Roll and are all taught by program volunteers in a participatory manner. Many classes feature arts, cultural trends, history, current issues, and literature. Most classes are on Fridays at the CSUS campus, although others are held on different days throughout the week.

The students have all taken, or taught several semesters of digital photography classes in the Renaissance Society programs. Their classes included basics in digital photography, computer editing of photos, and the preparation of this photo exhibit at City College. Any proceeds from sale of the photos will be donated to the City College Art Department.

Eleven students have their photographs displayed in the exhibit including: John Barry, Melissa Green, Pat Ryan, Stephen Alan Levine, Ron Anderson, Mary Henwood, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Jeff Hendy, Tom Monahan, Bonnie Darwin, and Craig McCulloch.

More information about the Renaissance Society educational programs can be found at, <http://www.csus.edu/org/rensoc/>

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Heating up the boulevard:

The Sacramento Taco Festival celebrated Mexican culture and paid tribute to the delicious taco

Story by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com
Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

The Sacramento Taco Festival brought added heat to Del Paso Boulevard on the 99-degree Saturday, June 20. Featuring Lucha Libre wrestlers, Chihuahuas and tacos, the event was expected to draw between 2,000 to 3,000 people to the day-long festival.

Held on Del Paso Boulevard between El Camino Avenue and Arden Way, The Sacramento Taco Festival was cohosted by Sacramento Vice Mayor Allen Warren and SacLatino Magazine. Two years ago when the festival was first held, organizers primarily attracted the crowd of about 1,000 taco lovers through social media marketing. Then, the winning taco was from El Michoacano (Franklin Boulevard) and the winner of the taco eating contest was a 5-foot, 20-year-old woman from Sacramento, who beat out a couple of very large guys. "She won \$75! She was very happy and made the event that much more fun. If we work things out as planned, we will be making this into an annual event," says Adrian Perez, event coordinator.

The tacos are made by the different taco makers at the event. Since the average person eats three tacos, several thousand tacos are made and consumed. From veg-

etarian, chicken, carnitas, adobada, and asada tacos to the more tacos, for those with iron stomachs, the taco festival also included tacos made from stomach, intestines and head.

The wrestlers are professional and can be seen on a variety of levels from World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc. to local wrestling events. From Los Angeles, the wrestlers specialize in Mexican wrestling, which includes masks and a lot of high flying maneuvers.

The idea of doing a Taco Festival came from the owner of a local taqueria, Taqueria Jalisco, on 16th Street.

Providing further background organizer Adrian Perez explained that Daniel, the owner of Taqueria Jalisco told him about National Taco Day. "So I looked it up and found that it's unofficial, but October 4th is known as National Taco Day. Knowing the fresh tacos a very nutritional, we talked about doing a festival. I discovered that several cities celebrate the taco, but at different times during the year...Chicago, Dallas, Phoenix, and now, San Jose. Knowing Sacramento is different than those cities, we decided to make ours into a street festival featuring a mascot that is native to Mexico, the chihuahua. We also wanted a fun look, so we opted to do a 60s throwback. As a result, we have a real 'hippie' poster with promotions using tie-dyed shirts."

Perez said he was originally going to hold this event in a park, but after a good discussion with Vice Mayor Warren, he agreed that Del Paso Boulevard has the look of a community lost in the 60s and some great businesses, existing and coming in. "Moreover, the layout makes it ideal for a real street festival. So, here we are. And,

the surrounding community loves it," he adds.

Because there was so much excitement leading up to this event, Perez didn't do any press releases until the day before because the media was already contacting the organizers even two weeks before that. "We also had two other large events contact us to see if we could

cross promote. We tied in with the Hello Kitty Festival at Sleep Train Arena, and a scholarship beauty contest being sponsored by D'Primera Mano Magazine. But, overall, Sacramento has never seen anything like this and we are the first to hold an event celebrating tacos in Northern California," Perez said.

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Faces and Places:
Hollywood Park Neighborhood 4th of July Parade

Photos by GREG BROWN
 greg@valcomnews.com

The annual 4th of July Hollywood Park Neighborhood Parade featured a vintage 1920s fire truck, which led the parade through the streets. Dressed in red, white and blue, some residents and their families marched the parade route, while neighbors cheered them on from their front yards. Along the parade route, there was a lemonade stand and World War II veterans. Like every year, snacks and refreshments were served at the end of the parade at Leonardo DaVinci School.



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Over the Fence:

Continued from page 2

"You like it huh? Well, we do things right," he said. Forrest is no nonsense.

The volunteers worked diligently on the new storage shed, although the pony lady told me they "like to take a long lunch" over at Mulligan's Café at William Land Park Golf Course.

Forrest sheepishly told me, "John said I gotta have a plan to see what you're building. I told him, 'John I don't have a plan.'" Then he went home and drew a picture of a two-seater outhouse.

It's a darn nice outhouse.

Forrest is an electrical contractor by trade. He didn't need to Google "How to build a shed." He just "learned by watching" over all these years. He told me, "anybody could do it."

I'd like to have one of those storage sheds in my

backyard. I got some bikes and lawn equipment taking up a lot of space in my garage.

The pony rides need reliable storage. They have to have somewhere to store the horsefly spray, Hooflex, and of course the tasty horse cookies.

The LPVC has done quite a few things Forrest and the crew are proud of. They put barbecue pits all over the park. They installed stone benches over by Swanson's Pond, as well as the pergola over by the WPA Rock Garden. Just look for their autograph!

Over the saws and drills Forrest and John were listening to the soothing sounds of classical music. "It soothes our souls as we work," Forrest said. The ponies didn't seem to mind.

Chalk Talk In Land Park

Lets talk chalk. Chalktalk 916 is a new phenom-

enon sweeping Wentworth Avenue in Land Park. It even has its own hashtag, #Chalktalk916

What is Chalktalk?

Chalktalk is a daily message billboard for the neighborhood. Local talk with chalk. It covers pop culture, sports, inspirational messages, goofy sayings, holidays, music lyrics, topical stuff, the works!

The chalkboard greets you in front of the home of Rory Tira. She's in charge of the chalkboard. The board sits on a chair next to a tomato plant, a white picket fence and a brick walkway that leads to the front door of the home. There's even a cowbell to clang! This time of year there are American flags surrounding the chalkboard. It's a free speech Americana thing.

Rory likes to keep the messages short and simple.

See Chalk Talk, page 15



Forrest and John pose for the paparazzi in front of the new Land Park Ranch shed. Photo by Greg Brown

Chalk Talk:

Continued from page 14

Rory said, "The best messages are short and tight."

Some messages give sage advice, "Never leave your wingman." Another stated, "Time Cools All Jets." Others are somber, "Oh Charleston, Oh America." Quite a few are celebratory, "CKM Ladies all the way!"

On the day I dropped by Chalktalk it was all about USA Women's soccer. "USA 4pm vs DEU #BELIEVE"

Chalktalk doesn't delve into the "controversy of the week." Chalktalk did, however, celebrate the recent Supreme Court decision over gay marriage. And why not? The deciding vote and majority decision was written by C.K. McClatchy Justice Anthony Kennedy. Chalktalk read,

"SCOTUS Justice Kennedy McClatchy '54 Go Lions"

The idea for Chalktalk was born at Track 7 Brewery, where a lot of good ideas spring to life. Last spring, Rory and a couple friends of hers came up with the idea. It's been gaining momentum ever since.

And people are noticing. Chalktalk has become a celebrity of sorts. Local residents are slowly driv-

ing by to read what the daily message is. Others have had their picture taken with the chalkboard.

Chalktalk recently celebrated its one year birthday. There have been three incarnations of the chalkboard. A friend of Rory's actually made her a new big yellow board as a gift.

Another gift the chalkboard received was on Christmas Eve. A box of new chalk. I guess Santa likes Chalktalk.

Rory told me Chalktalk has three types of followers. Drive-by readers, walkers, and online followers as well. Rory said, "We have fans from London to Israel." Chalktalk is International!

One woman told Rory that she "used to drive a different way to school and one day she went down Wentworth." Now she always drives down Wentworth past the chalkboard to see what the message will be.

Chalktalk has stalkers!

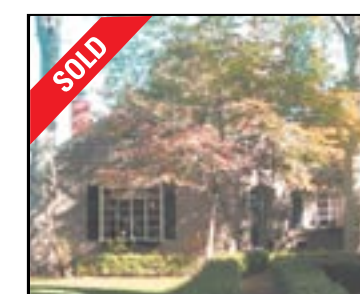
And with good reason. Chalktalk has a feel-good vibe to it. Fun, lyrical quotes regularly pop up on the chalkboard.

Beach Boys, Journey, and Bruce Springsteen are just some of the musical artists whose songs are quoted on the board.

Rory told me most of the ideas for Chalktalk pop into her head while driving around



Rory Tira of Land Park poses in front of the chalkboard with a daily message. It's Chalktalk on Wentworth. Photo by Greg Brown



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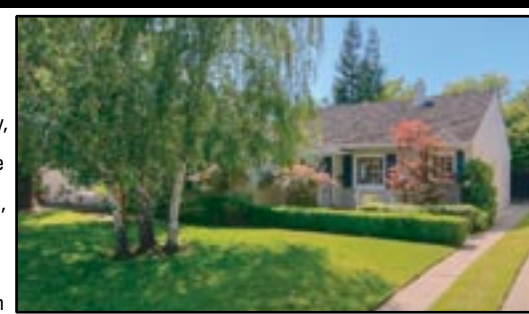


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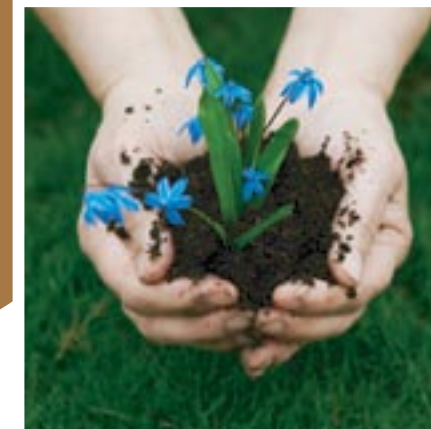
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INSIDE OUT

The MPAA has rated this PG

You'll love meeting the windmills in your mind in "Inside Out". Walt Disney/Pixar Animation Studios.

Disney's Pixar Animation Studios are a world unto themselves, and in a way so NOT like the modern Disney of today, that they make for interesting bedfellows. "Inside Out" is a sheer delight from start to finish. It is witty, fresh, and even cerebral. Writers Pete Docter (who also directs), Ronaldo Del Carmen, Meg LeFauve and Josh Cooley have an introspective gem that gets inside your mind, literally, or at least inside each of the wonderful characters that you'll meet in this smart kids movie that will have plenty of great moments for adults, too.

Just what may be found in everyone's mind?

In this picture, there are animated characters that represent emotions that reside in the brain area of our cartoon heroine, a girl named Riley. Each of them is voiced by some contemporary voices that you may know: Joy (Amy Pollard), Fear (Bill Hader), Anger (Lewis Black), Dis-

gust (Mindy Kaling), and Sadness (Phyllis Smith).

Riley is a young girl who has traveled with her parents from Minnesota to San Francisco, where her father (Kyle MacLachlan) has moved for work. Mom (Diane Lane) is concerned that their moving van has not appeared and the family has no clothes or furnishings. Compound this with Riley's first day at school, and we see how all of her emotions come to play within her head, where we spend much of the picture. Our group of emotions chronicle core memories and other impulses and react to events as they unfold outside Riley's head. Taking the lead is the super positive and almost manic emotion of Joy, and as things become more glum for Riley, Joy embarks on an adventure through the deep recesses of Riley's mind to save her from total depressive shut-down.

I could imagine a pitch meeting of this storyline in Hollywood: "Fantastic Voyage" meets "The Phantom Tollbooth" for kids. Like the great Chuck Jones animated "Tollbooth" of 1970, this movie is clever, imaginative and fun. You don't have to be a kid to enjoy it. The voices are so perfectly meld-



You'll love meeting the windmills in your mind in "Inside Out". Walt Disney/Pixar Animation Studios

ed to the characters that it is sheer delight and I laughed out loud numerous times.

I am somewhat old fashioned in a modern world, and the only element that bothered me in the movie was the nonstop pace of Joy as voiced by Amy Pollard. It was at times much too fast, manic and breathless, and that irritat-

ed me. When she does eventually slow down later in the movie for just a few moments, it is only temporary, for she returns to non-stop positivity-plus in short order. This is a great and entertaining way to spend 94 minutes at the movies, and might be the kind of picture you'd not mind watching twice.

American-Portuguese veteran's memorial poker tournament set for Saturday

On Saturday, July 11, the Sacramento Portuguese Holy Spirit Society Hall, 6676 Pocket Road, will have a tournament to help fund the placement of a memorial at the State Capitol to honor American-Portuguese that served this country. Please take part in this event because it is the starting point for other ethnic groups to be honored in the future.

Table sponsors: There is an opportunity to have local businesses sponsor the event. 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 (five hours).

There will be a table set up where you can display brochures and/or business cards, and there will be an announcement during the event to let people know to stop by and pick them up.

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State Fair:

Continued from page 4

ty of its people, traditions and trends that shape the Golden State's future. This year's California State Fair will take place July 10-26 at Cal Expo, located at 1600 Exposition Blvd.

Valley Community Newspapers sought out local participants in various areas of fair entertainment and is featuring them as follows:

Former Pocket News writer, Jeff Dominguez was appointed outreach and special projects coordinator of the California Exposition and State Fair. He spoke to this publication about many different topics to explore, including the drone racing, which he has been instrumental in recommending the venue, Bonney Field.

"One of the things (the state fair) highlighted was the assembly line when it was developed. Over the course of past couple of years, it's been revealed to us by our contacts in Ag that drone technology will pretty much revolutionize the way people farm, and mainly with regard to their role in agriculture, we decided we wanted to have some sort of com-

petition. So as far as the research surrounding drone competitions, we found a circuit of drone racing. We got connected with a guy who does drone racing," Dominguez said.

"(Scot Ressler from Flying Grounds Inc.) is from Berkeley and has a PhD in virtual reality. We brought him in, talked to him and about him staging a drone race. We thought we'd do (the drone races) in the rodeo, but it was too dusty, then we thought about having it in a race track. Then, on a whim, we drove him to Bonney Field and it's the field of dreams for drones. That became the focus of our goal and we came up with a course. It's gaining momentum. (Ressler) started developing a lovely proposal of what he wanted to do," he said.

While some readers might think that this drone racing is basically radio controlled airplane racing, Dominguez begs to differ. "The thing on drones is when you think of piloting or see kids with remote control airplanes, this is different. This kind of piloting is FPV - first person view. How these guys fly these drones - they don't sit in a chair; they are equipped on board with cameras that shoot out of the drones and

the pilots wear goggles that are covered with TV monitors. When you look at these guys, they look like a bunch of Stevie Wonders."

That's not to say that every drone pilot wears said goggles; in fact, Dominguez explained that covering one's eyes can be a divisive topic in the subculture of drone racing. "Some don't wear goggles. They look at the TV monitors instead. The TV monitor guys think the goggle guys are stupid and the goggle guys think the TV monitor guys are stupid. I've been with them on test days, and they're talking (expletive) about each other. It's really funny; the braggadocio in mind games is a huge part of this," he said.

The drone competition will feature California style high speed racing with 250 class multirotor air frames, typically with four or six motors. California style racing is a slightly smaller course, but a much more challenging design as pilots must possess both speed and fast-twitch agility skills. The average size of these drones is approximately the size of two shoe boxes, weigh no more than 600 grams, and their racing altitude is no more than 50 feet in a safe self-

contained area. The competition will attract 200 of the best pilots in the U.S. to compete for a total cash prize of \$25,000 provided by Flying Grounds Inc. along with trophies, ribbons, and bragging rights for the participating pilots.

Pre-qualifying rounds and time trials will take place on the first day of the event followed by the high-speed agility style racing on Friday. All races will take place on a professionally designed course with features including under/over obstacles, slalom, hairpin turns and challenging gates. An invitational freestyle acrobatic competition will also be included to showcase the best first person view (FPV) pilots. Friday evening will showcase the championship rounds, awards and closing ceremonies.

Free public events (with paid fair admission) include "Drone Planet" pavilion that showcases companies and organizations in the drone agriculture and racing industries, and the "Drone Hangar" featuring inventors, air frame makers, with the latest drone racing inventions. VIP Pit passes can be purchased for an addi-

See Drone races, page 22

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Upcoming events at the Belle Cooledge Library

The hours for Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, are as follows: Sunday and Monday: Closed; Tuesday: noon to 8 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday: 1 to 6 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, telephone the Sacramento Public Library at 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Family Blanket-Fort Storytime @ Belle Cooledge (Early Childhood (0-5))
Saturday, July 11 at 11 a.m.: Families are welcome to the library to join in the comfy confines of a blanket-fort, complete with flashlights. Children will hear stories, songs, finger plays and are welcome to "stay and play" afterward. A limited number of flashlights will be on hand -- if you have one bring one! This program is designed for ages 2-7.

Saturday Sleuths Book Club @ Belle Cooledge (Book Club)
Saturday, July 11 at 2 p.m.: Join the library popular and classic mysteries are discussed. The July selection is "The Girl on the Train" by Paula Hawkins. Light refreshments will be served.

Baby Storytime @ Belle Cooledge (Early Childhood (0-5))
Tuesday, July 14 at 12:30 p.m.: Join the library for nursery rhymes, finger-

plays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program, babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys.

Noni's Knit-Wits (Adult)
Tuesday, July 14 at 1:30 p.m.: On Tuesdays, enjoy a relaxing afternoon of knitting with fellow yarn enthusiasts. Anyone interested in knitting and crocheting, even beginners, are welcome to join in. This is not an instructional class, but assistance is available. Bring your own supplies and a project to work on.

Sing Along with Mister Cooper @ Belle Cooledge (Early Childhood (0-5))
Wednesday, July 15 at 4 p.m.: Join neighborhood favorite Mr. Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years.

Rhythm in Film Series @ Belle Cooledge (Adult)
Thursday, July 16 at 1 p.m.: Join the library for the Rhythm in Film series, presenting great documentary films on the third Thursday of each month in

June, July and August. July's film is "Mad Hot Ballroom" (PG): A charming film that follows three groups of fifth graders from public schools in New York City as they practice and compete in a ballroom dancing tournament. This program is part of the Sacramento Public Library's Summer Reading program.

Join the library for nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys.

Noni's Knit-Wits (Adult)
Tuesday, July 21 at 1:30 p.m.: On Tuesdays, enjoy a relaxing afternoon of knitting with fellow yarn enthusiasts. Anyone interested in knitting and crocheting, even beginners are welcome to join in. This is not an instructional class but assistance is available. Bring your own supplies and a project to work on.

Sing Along with Mister Cooper @ Belle Cooledge (Early Childhood (0-5))
Wednesday, July 22 at 4 p.m.: Join neighborhood favorite Mr. Cooper for

30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years.

Tween Book Club @ Belle Cooledge (School Age (6-12))
Thursday, July 23 at 4 p.m.: If you enjoy reading, eating, doing activities and discussing books with other readers and you are around 9 to 12 years old, the Tween Book Club at Belle Cooledge Library is just right for you! At the July meeting, "The Fourteenth Goldfish" by Jennifer Holm will be discussed. Stop by the branch today and pick up a copy to read! Snacks will be provided.

Baby Storytime @ Belle Cooledge (Early Childhood (0-5))
Tuesday, July 28 at 12:30 p.m.: Join the library for nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program, babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys.

CALENDAR

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

JULY

Mission Oaks Computer Club meeting
July 9: The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive. The meeting will include a problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information visit our website at www.missionoakscomputerclub.org or send an email to moccc@missionoakscomputerclub.org.

Better choices, better health workshop
July 10 (start date): Better Choices is a series of two and a half hour held once a week for six weeks. Learn strategies to take control of your chronic conditions, lower your stress levels, and communicate better with your doctor. The workshop, developed by the Stanford University Patient Education Research Center, is for people with chronic conditions like diabetes, high blood pressures, etc. Free pf charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For details, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

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 Edda 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.

Medicare fraud workshop
July 15: This workshop will discuss forms of Medicare fraud, how to protect yourself from becoming a victim, and how to report suspected fraud. The instructor will also explain the services available through the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy program. Free pf charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive.

Drive. For details, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org.

MLK Spelling Bee
July 15-16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Friends announce the 13th Annual MLK Spelling Bee to be held on Wednesday, July 15 and Thursday, July 16 from 1-5 p.m. The bee is open for first through 8th graders. There will be contests for grades 1,2,4, and 5 on Wednesday; contests for grades 3,6,7,8 will be held on Thursday. Pick up spelling lists at Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 7340 24th St. Bypass, Sacramento 95822.

Fire Station 13 Open House
July 18: Fire Station 13, located at 1100 43rd Ave., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Fire Station 15 Open House
July 25: Fire Station 15, located at 1591 Newborough Dr., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Fire Station 18 Open House
Aug. 1: Fire Station 18, located at 746 North Market Blvd., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

AUGUST

Fire Station 18 Open House
Aug. 1: Fire Station 18, located at 746 North Market Blvd., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

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Photo courtesy of Patty Colmer

Drone races:

Continued from page 4

tional fee of \$15 and includes field-level viewing and access to the flyers prep area.

FPV drone racing has become a wildly popular hobby in the past 12 months, yet the use of drones remains an issue for public debate with respect to commercial use. In addition to the racing excitement at the National Championships, industry experts from organizations such as the AMA, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plan to attend and share the latest information about drone technology, policies and regulations.

Aside from Jeff's involvement with the fair, there are many other Sacramento neighborhood highlights, which include (but are in no way limited to the following):

The announcement of Sacramentan Keith Breedlove as the official chef for the state fair. This is the first time the California State Fair has had an official chef to represent and share the fair's mission and goals for sustainable and healthy ways of cultivating and preparing California specialties from the farm to the plate. The knowledge and passion "Culinerdy" Breedlove has for food will amaze California cuisine lovers with #TheBest culinary delights, picked fresh from the Save Mart 3-acre farm, which is run most entirely by Sacramento State University graduate Alicia Kot.

Breedlove gained an interest for food at an early age, learning cooking techniques and how to barbecue from his greatest mentor, his grandfather, Papa Dale Breedlove. In 1987, he entered the culinary profession and his dream of becoming a chef became reality with a farm-to-fork style of cuisine.

Breedlove will be available each day of the fair to give live, educational cooking demonstrations. Breedlove will also represent the state fair at various events leading up to and during the fair.

"My passion lies in bringing you flavorful international inspired California cuisine reinterpreted using a combination of modern and traditional techniques, assuring every meal is prepared with an ingenious, nerdy and slightly crazy approach," says Breedlove.

Out in the world of beer winners, Arden resident Matt Johnson and Ador Brewing Company were the winners for their "British Dark Mild" beer, beating out more than 1,000 entries, stated Dominguez.

In the world of arts and entertainment, much can be said about the vast amount of talent hailing from Sacramento. It appears the final results for the Youth Arts competition are in, and there are a number of first place winners from St. Francis High School.

Over on the Groupon Stage, there is a mix of music and entertainment but this stage tends to have more in the way of music. This year, The Cheeseballs and Wonderbread 5, which are well

known bands, will entertain crowds.

On the PG&E Center Stage, local Jazzercise classes will be performing on Sunday, July 12; gymnasts from Land Park's Planet Gymnastics will take the stage on Tuesday, July 14, East Sacramento dancers from Fancy Feet will be performing on July 24 and 26. East Sacramento mom, Melissa Jeffers Russell, said her daughter Emma is "very excited to perform at the fair. She will be doing ballet to Part of Your World with other girls from her class (at Fancy Feet)."

Land Park children's author Kate David will be in the California Author Exhibit on the ground floor in Building A/B on Tuesday, July 14, Saturday, July 18 and Tuesday, July 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kate is the author of "Murphy and the Magical Hat" (2012) and "McKay and the Magical Hat" (2014).

Pocket artist Christopher Williams will be showing his art July 18-21 in Building 7 of the Expo Center. 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 Otter-

by 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 Freepoint 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.

Pocket resident David Chin won first place in the toy category for his display of a 2-foot-tall wooden Ferris wheel, which will be shown in Building 8 during the course of the entire fair. Made of pine, the Ferris wheel's materials came from Home Depot, which means the wood is "bottom end. I hate to say that," jokes David.

About him entering his work into the fair, David recalled, "I said put it in a category where you think it belongs; (on the display), there are 31 little people and one dog." Last fall, David won first place in a wood show contest at Woodcraft on Folsom Boulevard for a wood train he carved. David belongs to the Capital Woodcarvers Association, which meets at the Arden Park Recreation Center, 1000 La Sierra Drive from 7 to 9 p.m. every second Tuesday for business, guest speaker and show and tell. The group also meets at that time on the fourth Tuesday for informal carving and class project carving.

Former Land Park resident Ashley Fajardo, 31, an award-winning equestrian vaulter, will be performing every night at the state fair at 8 p.m.

Equestrian vaulting, which can be explained as gymnastics and dancing on horses,

has been a part of Ashley's life since she was 9 years old. After the death of her parents, she was taken in by her father's friend, Michelle Solorzano, the owner of Crown Capall, a spawn of Nu Balance Vaulters. According to the business's website, entertainment has always had a special place within the club, then in 2001 Crown Capall split away from the competitive Nu Balance team to focus specifically on entertaining. With endless tricks that can be choreographed, Ashley's favorite trick consists of "ground jumps," which she explains as sliding down the side of a horse, landing on the ground and then jumping back onto it, all whilst the animal is in movement. "I used to compete all over. I was on a traveling team, and competed in Europe a lot. That was when I was younger. In junior high, I spent a lot of time traveling. When I stopped that team, I still competed here in the U.S., then I started doing performance stuff, big shows that were not so much on the competitive side. I still coach and help out with the horses."

A local gal, Ashley attended C.K. McClatchy High School, California Middle School, Crocker-Riverside Elementary, and for nine years, she worked at the Riverside Clubhouse. Having lived in the city and being a "horse person," she had friends ask, "Who is this crazy girl who likes horses?" No one liked horses in Land Park," she said. Ashley recently moved to Newcastle where she has 2 and a half acres of land and just bought the first horse of her own, which she named Ben and is of a gaited horse variety called a Tennessee Walking Horse. "(Ben) is not going to be for vaulting, but will be for riding purposes," she says.

While a student at California Middle School, Ashley was on an international traveling team, whose owner was part of the Hearst family. "It was a very highly competitive team," Ashley said. "Everything was given to us, the best of everything. We even had horses that were stationed in Europe to vault on. One coach has a team in Holland." Ashley said she was going to apply for McClatchy's competitive Humanities and International Studies

Program, but decided against it due to her demanding schedule, though most of her teachers were understanding of her extracurricular activities. She recalls taking school work home on Thursday and traveling to Woodside (Bay Area) to practice. "I did homework on planes there and back. We practiced with the club here and we'd go there on the weekends."

Horse dancing:

Continued from page 22

With regard to the fair, Ashley said it has always been a part of her life. And, as a long-time fair entertainer, she has experienced much change at the fairgrounds. "Things were different when I was younger. It was family there; we got to camp out. They don't let people camp anymore. We used to share food and things (with other campers). It was a different generation that was super cool. We still get to see people you don't get to see (through out the rest of the year). It's always nice because the fair is not our biggest show, but it is easier for people to come see you."

Amongst her most memorable fair experiences, was one that occurred 10 years ago when her then-boyfriend, Fernando proposed to her on horseback at the end of one of her shows. This year will be their 9-year wedding anniversary! "He was going to take me to Disneyland, but he knew that wasn't going to happen because we were getting ready for the fair. It was a Sunday night. We were performing 'Chicago' on horseback. Afterward, we (the performers) were saying thank you (to the audience) and to have a nice night. Then, all of a sudden, music from the (Adam Sandler movie) 'Wedding Singer' started playing. It was 'Grow Old With You.' I was totally shocked and (him) being on a horse threw me off." Asked if she was completely taken aback by the unique proposal, Ashley laughed saying she thought Fernando was breaking up with her "because he wasn't around. He disappeared, but he just couldn't keep a secret."

Ashley said equestrian vaulting has brought so much joy and opportunity in her life. "I got to pair up with super cool acts like with Clay Meirs who double rides horses. He invited us to do show

linked to the EOPS program. The video can be seen at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRpOpjRVfDQ.

"Our students in the Flagship Design Studio are trained to be design professionals. They are introduced to "real world" experiences and scenarios working in our studio. Each semester we accept between 5-9 clients from the Sacramento Community and SCC campus departments. Primarily we design work for nonprofits, start ups, and financially strapped entities at low costs. The money we raise supports student portfolios, buys supplies and professional equipment that students do not normally have access to, and pays for the Flagship Design Studio swag that design students wear with pride. The

Flagship Design Studio typically takes two to three awards each year in the California State Fair for the professional quality work they design. The process includes client meetings, heavy art direction, and many revisions so the work is molded into something students include in their professional portfolios and clients are able to use for a long time afterward. The students this year have never won an award like this before, so they are thrilled to receive an honor for the studio that they can include on their resumes and talk about at future job interviews, said Waxman.

Flagship Design Studio Designers Cyrus Maglente, Carlos Vasquez, Johnnesper Pimentel and Ethan Powell won Outstanding Group Project and the California Graphic Arts Association Education Award. "This project included the materials to promote our Year End Show in Graphic Communication, a student-showcase exhibit featuring the best work this school year in the Graphic Communication Department. This year's show used the theme of 'Board Games' and work included four posters, a large interactive board game, post cards, and 'Best of Class' awards," said Waxman.

Additionally, Flagship Design Studio Designers Cyrus Maglente, Andreana Schudy, Carlos Vasquez and Johnnesper Pimentel won honorable mention for their 5-minute video that introduces the EOPS program at Sacramento City College, interviewing counselors, students, and alumni whose successes were

with him. We got to do the Friesian Extravaganza. Friesians are the big black horses. We've done a show with The Riata Ranch Cowboy Girls (a group that performs at various events across the country and globe). They've been around a long time. We go to real big shows. I've definitely been blessed by that and do so many things."

Sacramento City College art professor Robyn Waxman wrote this publication describing her students' achievements and their participation in the state fair.

All of her students are student-designers of Flagship Design Studio, the Graphic Communication Studio class (GCOM 490).

Asked if he was surprised by the award, Cyrus said, "yes, and at the same time, no. When I say 'no,' I'm not saying that I expected to win, but I knew that our group had done good work. Our team at Flagship Studio worked real-

well together and we generally enjoyed working on the project. So, when I say 'yes,' it's to say that I had no idea how well pour project would do against the many potential candidates we may have had to compete against."

Cyrus' long term goal is to be a video game designer, creating 3D art and UI assets. "At least, that's how I began when I first started taking classes from the GCOM department at SCC," he said. "However, as my studies have expanded, I have also become interested in information architecture and web design."

Finally, in the world of politics, Sacramentan Darrow Sprague, will be coordinating the scheduling of volunteers for the Sacramento Democratic Party booth this year.



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