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Publisher.....David Herburger
Editor.....Monica Stark
Art Director.....John Ochoa
Graphic Designer.....Annin Greenhalgh
Advertising Director.....Jim O'Donnell
Advertising Executives.....Linda Pohl, Melissa Andrews

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2709 Riverside Blvd.
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CA 95818
t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Greeting and thank you for the recent news article regarding: C.K. McClatchy's lack of current athletic facilities. I agree with the article that McClatchy has long been overlooked by the Sacramento City Unified School District.

One of the sports that was noted in your Jan. 28, 2016 Land Park News article, which is lacking, per order of urgency, by Restore the Roar, is track and field.

Yes, it is a horrible dirt track that is beyond sad. It is not only used by CKM, but also by Cal Middle School, during their track and field season.

Several years ago, a part-time, off-site, seasonal cross country coach/track and field coach initiated a nonprofit corporation with articles of incorporation, #2941086, dated Jan. 9, 2007 for the McClatchy HS Track and Field Boosters.

In an Oct. 15, 2008 letter to Friends of McClatchy High School Track and Field, the President of this nonprofit corporation, names his organization McClatchy Association for an Athletic Powerhouse (MAAP).

Initially in this letter, the president claimed "TAT (Track-A-Thon) and MAAP to have raised more than \$100,000 through community fundraisers, individual donations and the annual Track-A-Thon event."

As time and athletic seasons went on, fundraisers and TAT continued to raise money. (Editor's Note: The author of this letter went on, questioning where the money went.)

There are solutions to the lack of athletic facilities at CKM, but it would take both additional money and land to be able to compete with the facilities at Luther Burbank and Rosemont high schools. Alternate solutions could include:

1. Account for all of the money that the president and board of MAAP held.
2. Consider co-locating athletic facilities with Cal Middle School, which abuts CKM. Both athletic fields are back-to-back and could easily share some of the athletic facilities, instead of each duplicating the process.
3. Consider utilizing Sacramento City College as a source for track and field and football. Student athletes could either travel approximately one mile to SCC via hard surface roads or ride lightrail from the Freepoint Boulevard station (4th Avenue/Wayne Hultgren) to the SCC station.

In conclusion, McClatchy does not have the area to provide for a complete venue for their Div. 1 Athletic Program. With over 2,000 students, CKM lacks in providing bare, essential sports capabilities, in comparison to many teams in the Metro League. CKM, with the assistance of SCUSD, has the ability to make an effort to provide these services to student athletes. It should not be how it is done, but when it is done.

Thank you.

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Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera breaks 7 year paid attendance record

Saturday, Jan. 23, the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera performed to nearly 2,200 patrons in the 2,350-seat Sacramento Community Center Theater. The last time the Sacramento Philharmonic or Opera was filled with that many patrons and near capacity was in 2009.

Mozart's Requiem was the highlighted piece of the concert. Conductor James Feddeck, who had visited local schools earlier in the week to inspire children in the area of classical music, led the orchestra with SP&O's 44-person chorus along with opera stars, Toni Marie Palmertree, Nian Wang, Mason Gates, and Anthony Reed, three of whom are members of the SF Opera's, Adler Fellowship Program. Mozart's Requiem was double billed with Schubert's Fourth Symphony.

At the end of the performance, most all of the patrons were on their feet and filled with enthusiasm. "The response keeps getting better and better," said Alice Sauro, Execu-

See Philharmonic, page 6

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Teaching compassion:

Parkside pastor discusses new banners and the homeless at her church

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

About a week before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, two big banners rose above Parkside Community Church, one a Black Lives Matter banner (with hashtag) and another expressing love for "Our Muslim Neighbors."

With political campaigns underway and negativity surrounding them, the timing of putting up inclusive banners of progressive messages seemed perfect, says Parkside Community Church Pastor Elizabeth Griswold. She said one of the newer members, a former minister of another church Raj Rambob, took on the project and got those made. "He and I talked back and forth and made it happen." Griswold said putting up such banners have been talking points at the church for a long time and now they're showing their beliefs in a more public and visual way, adding that one person prayed to give thanks for the banners.

Despite overall positive feedback, some church members question if there will be repercussions. Within the church she said people accept the Muslim banner more so than the Black Lives Matter one. "I think because it's not just making that statement, but about the demonstrations, and tactics (behind BLM)."

But as a white church in a privileged neighborhood, she says most of her congregation doesn't have the right to say what tactics BLM employs when it comes to social and racial justice.

"This makes the congregation a little uncomfortable. What does it mean to follow Jesus today? This could be a spiritual exercise as a church and also the kind of outreach of evangelism we want to do in the community. It's part of what being a Christian is about."

Additionally, an ongoing struggle with a homeless couple persists, despite a signed covenant by Griswold, the church moderator and the couple. Allowing them to sleep outside the church, the covenant also states that they are not supposed to be there during the day, mostly because of the presence of children at the Little Blossom Montessori School, located on the property.

"It's something the church council worked out. It's been a real compromise... Some think we should be doing more for them, and others that think it's an eyesore. There are arguments on each side."

Another example of putting into practice what they're preaching, Griswold said it's something the congregation struggles with. "The couple was drunk one day on the property and kids at the preschool were asking a bunch of questions to staff. "(Children) have amazingly generous hearts, but I understand not everybody wants to have that conversation with a 3 year old," Griswold said. The mother of a preschool-age daughter herself, Griswold, on the other hand, does discuss poverty with her little one and they volunteer at soup kitchens together.

"There's just not enough places to sleep and what I preach about is compassion. We're fighting over a square of concrete when the rest of us get to go home to a warm place. (The discussion) is a blessing and a bit of discomfort."

"Sometimes it's uncomfortable to live together and acknowledge Jesus and be in the community and look at people who are not privileged in society. How do we support and enable when it's something we are very much struggling with?"

Actual members and participants in the church, John Brown and Kenni Litts, the homeless couple, have been using the facility prior to Griswold's

2011 arrival as pastor, but have been frequenting the church for sleeping more often recently because she thinks they've gotten in trouble by the police for camping in Belle Cooledge Park.

While she trusts they are not dangerous and don't cause any trouble, she says they've also been a thorn in her side. "We have asked they don't come (to sleep) until after 6 p.m. Before, they were camping all day... We had to remind them just at night."

Griswold said the couple used to be more involved as church members, but since they have been staying there more, people haven't been as welcoming. "Their own participation in church activities has declined. They don't feel welcome," she says.

"I can't say they're working hard to change their situation. They're not perfect in this situation by any means. The police will come here, which I don't appreciate. The police would tell people they would have to leave, and I would say it's not their jurisdiction."



Photo by Monica Stark

Parkside Community Church on South Land Park Drive and 35th Avenue raised two banners to promote compassion and tolerance, virtues pastor Elizabeth Griswold preaches.

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Broadway Bridge still 10 years away, but moving forward fast

By MONICA STARK
 editor@valcomnews.com

While it's still about a decade away, planning for the Broadway Bridge continues to move forward. Most recently, the West Sacramento City Council approved the findings of the feasibility study that reviewed several alternative alignments, potential bridge types and lane configurations. The objectives of the completed study were based on the findings of the adopted Sacramento River Crossings Alternatives Study (2011) and included public engagement, traffic analysis and engineering opportunities and constraints to determine a range of potential crossing locations.

"This bridge will definitely be happening. It's a priority for the cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento."
 — Jason McCoy, City of West Sacramento Senior Transportation Planner

The study was completed by a multi-disciplinary team led by engineering firm CH2M, who worked closely with both West Sacramento and Sacramento city staff to understand the needs of property owners, businesses, policy objectives and constraints unique to each city.

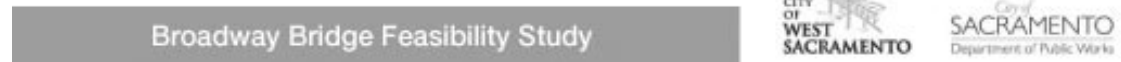
The next step is to go deeper into the preliminary engineering, analyzing each alternative to determine a preferred alignment and bridge type, as well as complete the required State and Federal environ-

mental clearance. The work will be performed with the help of a \$1.5 million TIGER Discretionary Grant awarded to West Sacramento.

Jason McCoy, City of West Sacramento Senior Transportation Planner, said the TIGER grant is highly competitive and a high level of clout is necessary to the completion of the projects. Additionally with support from Congresswoman Doris Matsui and local legislators, he

Bridge Type Comparison Table for 170-ft USCG Channel Width

Type	Minimum Channel	Maximum Channel	Considerations
Vertical Lift	100-ft	400-ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easily Accommodates 170-ft Channel Best for Streetcar
Double-Leaf Bascule	75-ft	180-ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 170-ft Near limit for Channel Width with Streetcar Requires Special Center Locks for Streetcar
Single-Leaf Bascule	50-ft	100-ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does Not Provide Required 170-ft Channel
Swing Bridge	Two 50-ft	Two 150-ft	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovative options available for single channel opening Will Require Costly Fender Longest open/close timeframe



Broadway Bridge Feasibility Study

summarized in the completed and approved Feasibility Study. The PA/ED phase is a two-year effort that will start this spring.

The Broadway Bridge project envisions a bridge extending west from Broadway in Sacramento to the Pioneer Bluff area of West Sacramento near 15th Street. The number of lanes on the bridge will be determined in this next phase with a corresponding effect on cost. A bridge could be built with two lanes, two lanes with the ability to add two more, four lanes or four lanes with two designated for transit only. In all cases, the bridge would be designed with bicycles and pedestrians in mind to expand active transportation opportunities and connectivity across the Sacramento River.

Helping to diffuse traffic from the Southport area and off Highway 50, the project will help keep congestion down and minimize greenhouse gases by shortening trips on the freeway.

"There definitely needs to be more routes across the Sacramento River to keep congestion down," McCoy said.

This phase of the project will rely on technical data

Depending on configuration, the cost of the bridge could be as low as \$180 million to \$350 million (calculated in 2026 dollars). This is a highly conservative estimate that factors in inflation and \$30 million for contingencies.

By summer 2018, the cities will have a finalized project to present, including a preferred alternative from among a handful now, and environmental clearance necessary to pursue State and federal funds. Actual bridge opening is still more than a decade away under the best of all worlds, or six years after the replacement for the I Street Bridge between C Street in West Sacramento and Railyards Boulevard in Sacramento is expected to open in 2020.

buyers, they have opened the second balcony for 4 out of the 5 concerts so far this season due to demand.

"We are moving in the right direction," said Laurie Nelson, SP&O Board President. "We are constantly and consistently meeting and exceeding all of our goals through fundraising, subscription sales, single ticket sales, and even on social media! We are grateful for the renewed excitement and trust that the Sacramento Community has put in their orchestra and opera company."

Philharmonic:

Continued from page 4

Director of Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera. "It seems we've become contagious! People come to one concert, find out how fantastic the orchestra and chorus are, they tell their friends, and then bring them to the next one."

So far this season, the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera has performed four classic concerts and 1 pops concert. In November, their first pops performance featured a Queen cover band entertained over 2,100 people.

Their 2015-2016 strategic plan included closing the second balcony, but with a growing number of subscription and single ticket

Broadway Corridor topic of discussion at community meeting

By MONICA STARK
 Editor@valcomnews.com

The city of Sacramento planning department held a community meeting at Leataata Floyd Elementary School (401 McClatchy Way) on Tuesday, Jan. 26 to discuss Broadway corridor improvements. Updated concepts are meant to improve the historic and vibrant Broadway corridor for drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and transit users, while limiting impacts on the Land Park neighborhood.

With pie charts and architect renderings displayed on poster board, community members got to discuss and question planning proposals on the main intersections through Broadway at Riverside Boulevard, Land Park Drive and 19th Street.

Of major discussion was going from a 4-lane road to a 2-lane road on Broadway. Some neighbors expressed concern about overflow traffic on their streets.

"You hardly use any capacity on any of those streets. I have cars coming through the neighborhood at rush hour. They make a loop. Cars are like water. My street is a gutter. It seems like narrowing it down, there would be more impact," one stated.

Another attendee said the recommendations "reminds

me of Bangkok" and another individual stated the plans seemed "allergic" to pedestrian medians.

While the plans could be interpreted that way, staff said that they're hoping with the layout proposed there won't be an actual need for pedestrian medians and that the safety for walking at crosswalks will be increased with longer signals, for example.

In an interview prior to the meeting, city of Sacramento principal planner Sparky Harris acknowledged that very concern. "We want slow down traffic... Some people want to zip through there."

With the Broadway Bridge on schedule to be complete in about 10 years, traffic will undoubtedly increase, and acknowledging that fact, Harris told the Land Park News that their studies use the regional traffic model of 2036. "There are going to be more cars; let's be honest about that but it will not be at a level that is unacceptable to the city."

Improving the bikability and walkability are of major goals for the improvement project, as represented on the display boards were examples of raised crosswalks and green painted bike lanes.

One neighbor expressed concern about the dangers of biking to work on Riverside Boulevard from Land

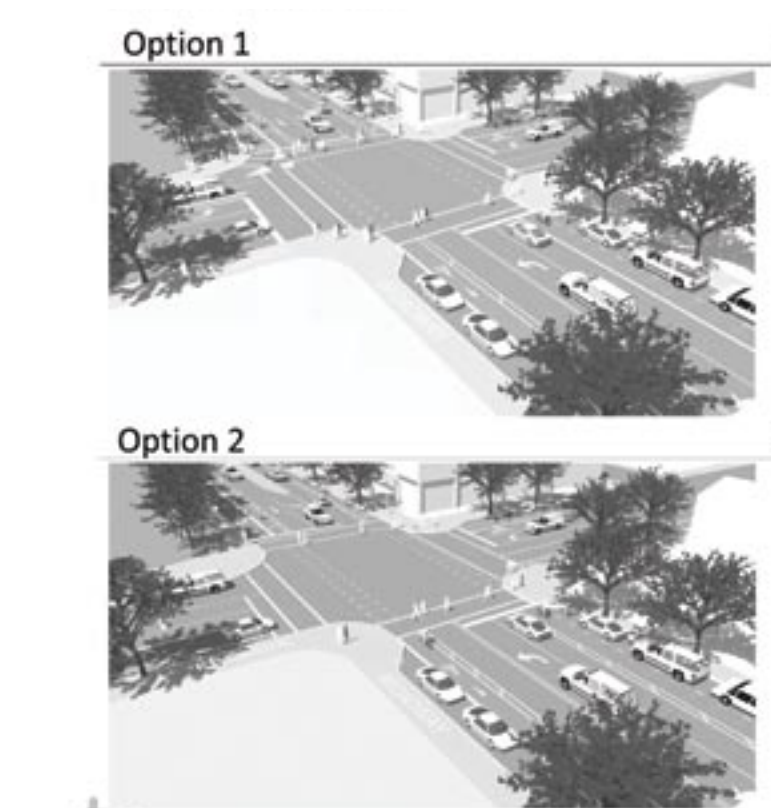
Park to downtown. As traffic turns onto freeway on ramps, she feels vulnerable. And during the open house portion of the meeting she suggested to staff that protected signals be put in place to mitigate dangers for cyclists.

Suggestions like hers were encouraged; colorful sticky notes were available for neighbors to write comments or suggestions. They then were posted to the display boards.

But, overall people understood what they accomplished there in terms of making the stretch safer for bikes, walkers.

Attendee George Raya, a board member for nearby La Raza Galeria Posada (2700 Front St.), said one of the storyboards that appealed to him showcased enhancements that were made in the San Diego area that are inspiring these Broadway improvements. "University and North Park. I know University. I was down there last July and I can see night and day, the changes where it is more walkable."

"They are taking into consideration everybody. Bikers, transit. So I like it. I like what I hear. When we



NOTE: CONCEPTUAL DRAWINGS NOT TO SCALE. **BROADWAY** Complete Streets Plan. Can you spot the differences between the two options for the Riverside and Broadway proposed intersection?

moved there 3 years ago, I used to be on parks and rec and we were talking about the docks project. For us, this is going to be a very exciting part of town. The neighborhood association is not happy, but they will not be able to fight it out," Raya said.

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Local scene

Sacramentan to ride 12 hours on a stationary bike at the YMCA for St. John's Summer Camp at Tahoe Park

Lifelong resident of Sacramento, Isaac Gonzalez, has served on the Community Advisory Board for the Sacramento Central YMCA. He worked with YMCA staff to open a new community center in his neighborhood, the Tahoe Park Community Center.

His goal is to raise \$5,000 for the St. John's Program for Real Change Summer Day Camp. St. John's helps women who are homeless or escaping an abusive situation find services and on-the-job training which transforms not only their lives, but the lives of their children who also live with them at the shelter and attend the day camp in the summer.

Describing the importance of the camp on his fundraising website, ymcasuperiorcal.org/donations/isaac-gonzalez, Gonzalez writes: "The Summer Day Camp at the Tahoe Community Center is more than just arts & crafts for a few hours a day-for many it's a happy memory in an otherwise difficult time. It's a chance to meet life-long friends and have new experiences that otherwise may never occur. For me, it's a chance to see all the work my neighbors and I put into reopening our community center go to great use."

"On February 23rd, my 35th birthday, I will ride a LeMond RevMaster Pro stationary bike for 12 hours in the lobby of the Sacramento Central YMCA with the goal of raising \$5,000 for the St. John's Summer Day Camp program. \$5,000 will allow 40 kids to attend one week of the program or to look at it another way, 4 kids per week for all 11 weeks the program is available. Last summer, the YMCA served 27 kids from the St. John's shelter, an average of 14 kids per week, for a total of \$18,375 dollars in free scholarships. This is why it's so important to help the YMCA right now during this

season of giving- the need is huge and the lives we change are real and local. Please give \$50 or more today!" See more at: <http://ymcasuperiorcal.org/donations/isaac-gonzalez#sthash.jPzYo5CK.dpuf>

Theater Show: Selections from Seussical the Musical at Fairytale Town

Celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss with selections from Seussical the Musical by the cast from the Fair Oaks Theater Festival. Enjoy family friendly musical fun with the Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude Mc Fuzz, the Whos down in Whoville, and many other characters created by the beloved Dr. Seuss.

Tickets are a \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers, in addition to paid park admission. Tickets can be purchased at the Fairytale Town Box Office or at the entrance to the Children's Theater 15 minutes prior to show time. All performances take place in Fairytale Town's indoor Children's Theater.

Performances will be Wednesday, March 2 at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m.; Saturday, March 5 and Sunday, March 6 at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Run time will be approximately 20 to 30 minutes.

Little Peeps pre-kindergarten classes starting at the zoo for spring session

The Little Peeps classes are two hours long and designed for 3 to 5 year olds with a caregiver. Each class will focus on a different theme and will include a mini lesson, fun craft and other activities such as stories and songs to expand the learning. Little Peeps will also enjoy a special visit with one of our animal ambassadors. At the end of the class, caregivers will receive additional activity ideas to continue the learning fun at home. You may register for each class individually, or all six classes for a 10 percent discount. Classes are held from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and the cost



is \$25 per class for Sacramento Zoo members, \$30 for non-members. Register for all six classes and receive a 10 percent off discount.

Spring Session classes will be held on Thursdays: Feb. 11, 18, 25, March 3, 10, and 17 as well as Fridays: Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 4, 11, and 18

Spring 2016 Class Topics

This spring in Little Peeps we will learn all about how animals are grouped by the scientists who study them! What makes a cat a cat? What is an ungulate? What makes a bird so special? Join us for one week, or for all six to really become an animal expert!

Feb. 11 and 12: Birds: How does a bird fly? Join us to learn all about our feathered friends, the birds! From birds who can fly up to 50 miles per hour to birds who cannot even lift off, we will learn about them all!

Feb. 18 and 19: Reptiles and Amphibians: Have you ever wondered what makes a lizard different from a newt? We will be learning all about reptiles and amphibians: what makes them different and what attributes they share. Join us to get up close and personal with some of our slick and scaly animals at the zoo.

Feb. 25 and 26: Primates: This week will be spent studying our primate pals up in the trees! We will learn the difference between monkeys and apes, what makes lemurs special, and learn how we are similar to them as well!

March 3 and 4: Bugs and Insects: Did you know that invertebrates make up more than 95% of all animal life on earth? This week we will study this fascinating group looking at some of Earth's smallest creatures: bugs and insects! We will learn how most of them wear their skeletons on the outside, and how these tiny animals survive in such a big world!

March 10 and 11: Cats: Lions, tigers, and leopards, oh my! Join us this week to take a look at some of our fiercest animal friends, the cats! Big and small, we will be learning what make these creatures so unique and beautiful.

March 17 and 18: Ungulates: Ungulate, what a funny word! Ungulates are animals with hooves! From hogs to giraffes, these animals come in all sizes! Come get up close and personal with these majestic and sometimes silly animals!

Long ago neighbors reunite at South Land Park assisted living facility

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Long ago in a not too far away neighborhood lived three friends and today they are all under one roof many decades later at the Waterleaf on 43rd Avenue. It's just a typical Tuesday and Elizabeth "Betty" Barrow, 91; Dora Del Porto, 96; and Alice Pugliese, 94 have their bingo cards out as a staff member calls out the numbers.

"My mother is one of them," says Don Del Porto, Dora's son, who visits mom many times a day, as does his wife Carol who visits her mom, Betty.

"I think it's really nice that they are able to have a reunion and enjoy the events together, playing bingo, listening to music, seeing each other, being with each other in the dining room. They even go to church together at communion services here on Friday," says Don.

The new one on the block, Alice, loves to chit-chat with Betty about their children, the good 'ol days dancing at the Dante Club and partying with friends.

Unfortunately, Dora suffers from dementia and doesn't recognize Alice.

"We all had fun. Can't believe it; we had so much fun," Alice said.

An example of the small town feel of Sacramento presents itself with stories like how the three first got to know each other. "When the Barrow family lived on Lawrence Drive their next door neighbors were the Pugliese. My mother and father were good friends with Alice's in-laws. Alice's husband had a brother who was a good friend of father. They were longtime friends and they all belonged to the Dante Club in Sacramento. Carol and I got married, so we started getting together."

Thinking back about how long they've known each other, Don said judging from old photos the three knew each other since the 1960s and Alice and Betty knew each other as early as the '50s.

When Dora had her 85th birthday party, Alice and Betty were there. When Betty had her 80th or 85th birthday, they were all there. When Alice and her husband Leo had their 60th anniversary, they were all there. They were part of large mob of people. "We had a lot of get-togethers," Don says. "For period of time, they weren't able to get together."



Photo courtesy

Shown from left to right: Dora Del Porto, Elizabeth Barrow and Alice Pugliese.

They lost their husbands. Mother went to (Leo's) funeral. But things slackened off ..."

They became part of a generation where a lot of their friends were dying. Dora has been living at Waterleaf for almost seven years. "She couldn't live alone. My wife and I got a placement agency and this place seemed like the

best fit. She moved in 2009. Betty moved in 2014 and Alice just moved in. The reason my mother-in-law came here is that she visited my mother and said she wanted to go here. Alice, her family knew my mother was here, and Betty was here and she needed a place to go. They got a hold of us and we said come on over."

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Sacramento Public Libraries have upcoming puppet shows

Libraries throughout the Greater Sacramento area have some upcoming puppet shows that will be good fun for families.

Here's a list of upcoming shows:

African Folktale Puppet Show at Del Paso Heights
Friday, Feb. 12 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Tales of Br'er Rabbit with Magical Moonshine Theater @ Rancho Cordova Library
Friday, Feb. 12 from 4 to 5 p.m.

Program-palooza @ Fair Oaks
Tuesday, Feb. 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Celebrate Black History Month with Puppet Company's Anansi the Spider in Galt
Tuesday, Feb. 16 from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Program-palooza at Fair Oaks

Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Black History Month Program at The Isleton Library
Wednesday, Feb. 17 at 2 to 3 p.m.

Program-palooza @ Fair Oaks
Thursday, Feb. 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Program-palooza @ Fair Oaks
Friday, Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Program-palooza @ Fair Oaks
Saturday, Feb. 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Puppet Show: Zomo the Trickster Rabbit with Luce Puppets at Elk Grove public library
Wednesday, Feb. 24 from 3:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

"Zomo the Trickster Rabbit" Puppet Show - Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
Thursday, Feb. 25 from 11 to 11:35 a.m.



Preschool Storytime with Magical Moonshine Puppet Show at Rio Linda
Thursday, March 3 from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.

An Irish Tale with the Puppet Company at Arcade
Thursday, March 17 from 4 to 5 p.m.

Eighth annual Taste of McClatchy

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

Featuring all-you-can eat food, as well as delicious libations from local restaurants, wineries and breweries, the 8th annual Taste of McClatchy will be held on Friday, Feb. 26 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Sierra 2 Center 2791 24th St. Some items for the silent auction include donated artwork and themed gift baskets. This year, everyone seems to be excited about a professional cornhole toss with the McClatchy logo that's painted on it. This ever-popular event outgrew its first location, Park Terrace and the beautiful Sierra 2 courtyard will serve once again as the location for the beer garden.

Last year's fundraiser was crucial in supplying the freshmen team with uniforms and providing an extra set for the varsity.

4. Baseball equipment, including helmets and nets. "The school gives us a certain amount of baseballs. They help when they can for the most part. If it wasn't for the booster club and Restore the Roar we wouldn't have the things we have."

If you go:

What: Taste of McClatchy, which includes all-you-can eat food, wine and beer from local restaurants, wineries and breweries

When: Friday, Feb. 26 from 6 to 10 p.m.

Where: Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St.

Cost: \$35 donate in advance, \$40 donate at the door

For more information, call 769-2679 or email mike@mcclatchybaseball.com



Sophomore Jack Filby has made a verbal commitment to play ball at UCLA.

The Lions returned four starters and this year have nine pitchers, only two of whom are seniors. The rest are juniors and sophomores. There are a couple more sophomores on the JV team that have varsity caliber talent.

Meet Jack Filby

Just a sophomore at McClatchy **Jack Filby** who last year as a freshman played varsity baseball on a competitive team, hit over 500 for the year and garnered a very generous verbal scholarship commitment from

Division 1 UCLA. Jack also made the All-City Honorable Mention list and a few other top awards at age 15. Last season, Jack was the first freshman that Coach Mike ever had on varsity at the beginning of the season. A shortstop, he has been a top hitter in the area, batting a 504. "If you are good, you bat a 300," Mike says. "For freshmen to do that is really incredible. We would play games. After the game, a coach would ask, 'Is that a

mistake on the roster? Is he really a senior?' It was obvious he was the best player on the field. When you see him, he looks like anyone else out there, but when he puts on the uniform, he owns it. The way he carries himself and the way he plays, he always plays big."

Coach Mike remembers just a few years ago when both his son and Jack played against each other in different Land Park Pacific Little League games. Mike said

while most teams would walk Jack or pitch inside, he had his pitchers actually pitch to him. "I didn't think it was fair to him to walk him, but the field had to be shifted." So, Mike lined the outfielders against the back fence. "He's a winner. As a freshman, it's hard to lead the team. This year on the field, he's more vocal. He knows it's his team now. Though we have key seniors coming back, he will be a leader in this team."

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Going for a beer run:

Neighbors come together for weekly runs followed by beer at New Helvetia

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Some people think members of The Sloppy Moose Running Club are a crazy bunch. Fit people run; lazy people drink beer. This is anything but true on Thursday nights in Land Park says founding member Kyle Blaikie. "After a run, nothing hits the spot like a cold craft beer. There have been many studies that show drinking beer after a run has some benefits. Some even claim that it is better for rehydration. Some consider these studies controversial; others believe in them 100 percent."

The group likes to think running a few miles, followed by a beer or two is not only good for someone's physical fitness, but also their mental well-being. With some serious runners, most Sloppy Moose runners are social folks who enjoy both the run and the beer. "One aspect that we did not foresee was the romantic relationships that have emerged. We have had five or six long-term couples who are regulars at our weekly runs," Blaikie says.

When New Helvetia Brewing Co. opened up a few blocks from the Blaikies'



house, it seemed to be the perfect spot to start a running club. Now, the Sloppy Moose runs three miles every Thursday from February through November. The group meets on the corner of 18th and Broadway (1730 Broadway) and the run starts at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome at the Sloppy Moose: fast runners, walkers, social joggers, strollers and dogs. They encourage all new folks to show a little early to sign-in and meet friends. After five (legible) sign-ins, you earn the coveted orange Sloppy Moose t-shirt, which earns you drink specials at the brewery. "There is no charge and

no membership fees; we just ask people to come with a smile and positive attitude," Blaikie says. The Sloppy Moose Running Club started in early 2013 when Blaikie and his wife went for a run with a couple friends. Afterward, they had a couple beers at New Helvetia Brewing Co. "My wife and I had the idea for a running-beer club ever since we moved to Sacramento from Washington. When we lived in Washington, we ran with a local running club who met at an Irish bar. Ever since we moved to Sac, we were looking for a group of folks to run with then share some laughs with



Shown here are members of The Sloppy Moose Running Club.

over a pint of local craft beer," he says. The group ran for a few weeks searching for a name. Every week, the group grew a little when a couple friends would bring a couple friends. After a run and a couple pints, the name "Sloppy Moose" emerged.

"My 20-pound Boston Terrier named Moose drools profusely. She sometimes runs with us, but she mostly enjoys the social aspect afterwards. While hanging out on New Helvetia's back patio after a run, a couple artistically gifted friends drew Moose's face with antlers and her patented drool dripping from her left jowl. The Sloppy Moose Running Club was officially born... As the group has grown beyond anything we could even imagine, we imagine we could do some serious good for the community with our reach. We recent-

ly turned the Sloppy Moose Running Club into an official non-profit; the mission is to promote health and wellness throughout the greater Sacramento area," Blaikie said.

On Sunday, Feb. 28, the club hosts the annual Sacramento Beer Week 5K. The \$35 registration includes: official chip timing, dry-fit race shirt, craft beer at the finish line, rad swag bag and entrance into the post-race block party/expo. Proceeds benefit the Northern California Children's Therapy Center. Some of the sponsors of this year's "Beer Run" include: New Helvetia Brewing Co, Fleet Feet Sports Sacramento, The Bicycle Business, Beers In Sac, Sacramento News & Review, Renee LeFebvre Massage and Rebel Confectionery. Register at www.TimeYourRace.com before the event sells out.



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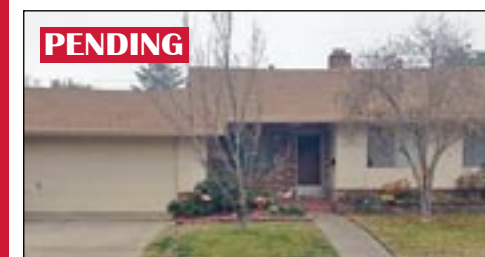
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Local students gear up for Sacramento County History Day

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Sacramento County History Day will be held on Saturday, March 5 at Inderkum High School and will feature works from about 300 schools county-wide. Many St. Francis High School students are involved each year. Currently, organizers are looking for judges for the various school projects.

Cash prizes range from \$25 to \$100 and some will move onto the state competition, which will be held in Rocklin, May 5, 6, and 7.

Promoting the event, Dr. Bob LaPerriere, curator of the Sierra Sacramento Valley Museum of Medical History in East Sacramento, said this event makes history more interesting to the students. "It gets them more interested in history than in class when what they learn is not too relevant about what they are thinking about, things they are interested in."

This year's theme is "Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History", a theme broad enough to encourage the investigation of topics ranging from local to world history and across any geographic area of time period, argues Adrienne Harkness, contest manager and Lynne M. O'Hara, director of programs for National History Day. In a joint description, promoting the event to teachers and students, they write: "Consider this theme an invitation to look across time, space and geography to find examples in history of when people took a risk and made a change. You can begin brainstorming for possible topics by thinking about subjects you are interested in, whether it is science, sports, art, travel, culture or even specific people." Four examples they provided are: Encountering a New Religion; Spanish Catholic Missionaries in the Americas; World War II War Brides: The Exchange of Cultures; Peace of Westphalia: The Exchange that Ended the Thirty Years War and Roanoke: When Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange Went Terribly Wrong.

Inside the medical history museum is one student presentation that won a national award. "We have an exhibit from 10-12 years ago that won national award. It's about the flu epidemic of 1918 and the students from Elk Grove have moved on. One is in medical school at UC Davis. (The display) is a gold standard in my mind for exhibits. I never saw one that came close because of the way it's done; there's



Dr. Bob LaPerriere, curator of the Sierra Sacramento Valley Museum of Medical History in Sacramento, stands in front of what he calls the "gold standard" in History Day displays. This student-made display is a fixture at the museum.

a large lot of photographs. It's impressive looking at it. It has an 85-page bibliography of research and a DVD where they were interviewing people whose family that had gone through the epidemic."

One of this year's participants, Henry Ankhelyi of Vista del Lago High School, said his favorite part of History Day is learning about different historical events, groups and individuals which have an impact on our lives even to this day. "For example, my group's topic for this year's History Day, Exchanges of the Fur Trade and American Capitalism, focused on fur trading companies as an aspect of capitalism. We discovered a fur trading company founded in 1797 called the XY Company. The company still remains after a complex and troubled history to this day and now makes hand crafted canoe paddles. I found that the small discoveries like this were my favorite parts of History Day," Ankhelyi said.

When he was in the seventh grade, Ankhelyi did his History Day project on the steam engine and its impact on society today. "I explored how it revolutionized people's lives when it was introduced, and the kinds of reaction and reform it induced as a result of its introduction." Ankhelyi is doing a group project website this year with friends on the fur trade topic. Regarding support from his school about history day, he said he has had a lot of support from Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Baquero and Mrs. Hillesland.

On the web:
Sacramento County History Day
<http://www.sachistoryday.org>
National History Day - California
<http://www.nhdca.org>
National History Day
<http://www.nhd.org>

Ski documentary screening to be held at Holy Spirit Parish School

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

"The Streif: One Hell of a Ride," a documentary about the famed Hahnenkamm downhill ski race in Austria, will be shown at Holy Spirit Parish School on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Doors open at 5 p.m.; film starts at 6 p.m. inside the gym. Tickets are \$10 in advance, or \$12 at the door.

Winner of the 2015 ROMY award for Best Documentary, "Streif" is narrated by U.S. Ski team legend Daron Rahlves and chronicles the momentous story of the 75th Hahnenkamm race in Kitzbuhel, Austria and follows five of the world's top ski racers: Aksel Lund Svindal, Hannes Reichelt, Erik Guay, Max Franz and Bode Miller – as they prepare and compete in the flagship World Cup Race.

"It is a sports documentary about the ski event that the entire skiing world focuses on for the week that just passed, in the World Cup ski racing calendar," explains HSPS principal Peter McIntosh.

Released through theatrical tour in the U.S. by Warren Miller Entertainment last fall, it's available for licensing across the United States through this year.

Excited about the screening at his school, McIntosh said, "It kind of feels surreal because it's so out of the box. We're a little catholic school hosting this thing."

"Usually these events get featured at the Tower or the

Crest theater(s). Holy Spirit Parish School is a K-8 Catholic School, located behind the Sacramento Zoo," McIntosh said. "This (showing) is the first of its kind (to be shown) in a multipurpose facility, in a K-8 gym." Between San Francisco and Lake Tahoe, HSPS is the only location showing the film.

An added special treat, the film's narrator Rahlves, a three-time Olympian and winner of the Hahnenkamm race, will take audience questions after the screening.

Involved with ski activities and blogging about them, McIntosh hopes to get the broader community excited about this event.

Because skiing is a niche sport, McIntosh has garnered promotional help from Land Park Ski and Sports, Sugar Bowl Ski Resort and Alpine Adventures, and with 450 seats to fill inside the gym, McIntosh is keeping ticket prices low. "It won't be an exclusive thing. It's something that hasn't been done before. It's like a test. I hope and expect that it will (sell out)."

A fundraiser for HSPS weekly field trips to the zoo for their Hands on Science program, McIntosh said all proceeds will benefit that partnership. "We are helping the zoo develop their Hands on Science curriculum. We want to have a budget in place to fund this science curriculum and sustain

it. We want to have this as a fun fundraiser that goes beyond our own borders."

In line with "Next Generation" science standards, McIntosh said the Hands on Science curriculum involves much time and cost.

Over the years of interviewing athletes for his podcast, prosportstalks.com, he's become friends with Rahlves, and during a recent ski outing together, they brainstormed about how to best promote the film. "I was skiing with him about six weeks ago... He said he'd be interested coming down (from his home in Truckee) and meeting people."

As an aside describing his podcast, McIntosh said it's about sports, skiing, soccer and fitness. "I get advice from the pros that uplift your game" – inspiration and tips that transcend other disciplines. "I'm the chief beneficiary of the pro athlete advice. It's self-serving in that way."

On the web:
The trailer of "Streif: One Hell of a Ride" can be seen on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMAIRaBxw4M

If you go:

What: Screening of "Streif: One Hell of a Ride", featuring a question and answer period with documentary narrator, ski team legend, Daron Rahlves



When: Tuesday, Feb. 16. Doors open at 5 p.m.; film starts at 6 p.m.

Where: Holy Spirit Parish School gym; 3920 West Land Park Drive

For more information, call 448-5663
Cost: Tickets are \$10 in advance, or \$12 at the door. For tickets to the screening at Holy Spirit Parish School visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/edit?eid=20773048748>





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ESH Gallery opening up next door to the Coffee Garden

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Standing in the paint line at Home Depot, a woman asks me which swab looks more like terracotta. Pointing to the more dull of the two, I said, that one, but what's it for? "An art gallery!" she said.

Not afraid to ask, I said, "Wouldn't white go better?"

But I happened to have been chatting with Land Park area estate sale mogul Jennie Krausse who I only heard about, never met. In business in Sacramento for more than 30 years, her company is a labor of love, she says.

Krausse will be transforming the once-upon-a-time grocery store, located next door to the Coffee Garden and kitty-corner from Gunther's Ice Cream on Franklin Boulevard, into a vintage style gallery with early art and unique antique pieces. "We will be painting all of the partial and permanent walls a deep terracotta to blend with the external architecture. When the weather warms, we will do the same to the exterior...with a little addition of vintage tile and wrought iron to match the standing pieces," she said.

The original goal is to regenerate the ambiance of its original 1920s design with some gold-leaf, early, bank-style lettering on the front window and doors. The name, hours, and function

will be described beautifully by Martha Esch, renowned Locke artist.

The gallery will be named ESH GALLERY (ESH being an anachronism for Estate Sales Help) and will be more or less a brick and mortar showing of estate art. The pieces will be available for sale online via an auction or online store format. Krausse hasn't worked out the specifics on this yet, but she says the hours of operation to experience, view, touch, or smell the artifacts will be more or less 7 days a week, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and sometimes later.

She will begin with pieces from the home of a WWII German spy who collected three generations worth of European art. "We then added some rare 1960s-70s pieces from a music producer and photographer who is currently in hospice and could not host a sale of his own. The last collection is from an elderly woman in Larkspur who has several generations of family heirlooms to re-home. As time goes on, we will accept other consignments of interest to show and broker," she said.

Talking about how the space became her own, she said searched high and low for a commercial building close to home. That's when she asked her dear friend's husband if he could come meet her to view a vacant building nearby. "While speaking, he mentioned he had a vacancy at one of his locations near



Photo courtesy

Let the transformation begin. Jennie Krausse, estate sale mogul, will transforming the space next to the Coffee Garden in Curtis Park into an art gallery, featuring some unique antique pieces. She will be having her grand opening on Second Saturday (Feb. 13).

Gunther's Ice Cream on Franklin Boulevard. I drove by to take a peek and it was love at first site. I have always loved the bones of early Spanish buildings, their ornate, honest, architectural design... We are delighted to be a part of the local art community in our own special vintage way!"

Krausse is now working with many crew members and friends to make this dream a reality. The public is invited to their grand opening on Second Saturday, Feb. 13 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with refreshments and snacks from 6 to 9 p.m.

Matías Bombal's Hollywood

Hail, Caesar!

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Universal Pictures releases the latest Coen Bros. picture, "Hail, Caesar!" a comedic look at a classic movie studio so very close to the real M-G-M of the Golden Era that the characters are named after real M-G-M executives. It was even filmed at Sony Studios, what had once been the M-G-M studio. Set in the 1950s, it relates the experience of the studio's cover-up executive, the man in charge of keeping the company's human assets, actors and others under long term contracts, from any bad or unfortunate publicity.

In an era before the tabloid insanity of today, the movie studios carefully controlled all publicity about their personalities, which they built up over time with considerable investment. From arranged marriages and dates for publicity that would benefit the studio, to the more unseemly issues covering up homicides, underage sexual encounters, sexual deviance and a host of other issues that some movie stars might get involved with that must not reach the press.

Josh Brolin stars as just this type of a "fixer" for the fictional Capitol Studios, Eddie Mannix. We see that he has a quiet home life with his wife and two kids, although hardly there as he's up at all hours keeping wayward studio assets from disaster. At the beginning of the picture, he's pulling away an underage starlet from a photographer taking French postcard type photos of her and bribing the police, who he knows on a first name basis, not to mention a thing about the issue in the press.

Mannix has a stressful life, and with two kids, a job with less stress would be helpful. He finds himself going to confession every day, where he tells the priest that he lies to his wife about quitting cigarettes. Mannix is being courted, in a rather clandestine fashion, by a leading aeronautical company to come work for them for much better money. The core of this movie is about his unease in choos-

ing to stay in the movie business or take the job with more security and less stress.

Peppered around this thin core story are several delightful vignettes evocative of movie studio life in classic Hollywood. Mannix's stress is bound to get worse when a group of disgruntled communists have kidnapped the studio's biggest male star, Baird Whitlock, played by George Clooney. They hold him for ransom. Whitlock is loosely modeled after a Robert Taylor type. Thus, this movie studio's biggest biblical epic in production, "Hail, Caesar!", so very much like M-G-M's two versions of "Ben-Hur" comes to a grinding halt.

Eddie Mannix in real life was indeed a "fixer" at the M-G-M studios. Although Brolin's role has the same job and name, the movie is not a depiction of, or a biographical account of the real Eddie Mannix. You'll also hear the name Nick Schenck talked about on the phone in the movie as a studio boss. It is not supposed to be the real Nicholas Schenck, chief executive of Loews, Inc. which owned M-G-M, the real life boss of Louis B. Mayer, Irving Thalberg and others.

We also get to visit the studio's big swimming star, Deanna Moran, played by Scarlett Johansson, who gives us her best Esther Williams, in sequences actually shot in Es-

ther's original pool stage at what had been the real M-G-M. She has a child with no father for Eddie to fix. Then there is the tension between the director of refined drawing room comedies, Laurence Laurentz (Ralph Fiennes) and cowboy star Hovie Doyle (Alden Ehrenreich), an Audie Murphy type struggling with his drawl to say lines in a clip Brit accent trippingly.

It is 26-year-old Alden Ehrenreich which makes this picture so enjoyable, along with some very brilliant comedic vignettes that classic movie fans will really enjoy. Sadly, the movie's thin plot and very rushed unsatisfactory ending was a great disappointment. It was great to see some great vintage Hollywood spots in the movie, including the inside of the old Hollywood Palladium, which serves as supper club where Hovie takes his arranged date, Carlotta Valdez (Veronica Osorio). You'll also see the beautiful Los Angeles Theatre, where Hovie's movie premieres. The Los Angeles is one of the nation's last great movie places.

I was so disappointed that this movie did not meet the excellence of the past work of the clever and artistic Coen Brothers, yet it has fun moments for movie fans, the best of which occurs with a film editor played by Frances McDormand and an old film editing device called a Moviola. Also in the picture,



Tilda Swinton in a double role as sister gossip columnists, Jonah Hill, and Channing Tatum.

The Choice

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Lions Gate offers "The Choice", the latest movie adaptation of a Nicholas Sparks romance. The cast is not made up of major players other than the great actor Tom Wilkinson as Shep, the local veterinarian in a coastal town where opposites begin to attract between two neighbors, Travis (Benjamin Walker) and Gabby (Teresa Palmer).

The two fall in love after a rough start as they annoy each other quite a bit. Naturally, there are complications, in that he's a ladies' man which few find hard to resist, and she actually has a boyfriend, Ryan (Tom Welling).

As much as my colleagues deride these Sparks movie romances, which he also partially produces, I find in them values not seen in many modern movies. The story development is slow, which I like,

allowing the characters to be properly established. There are no explosions, nasty dialog or loud music. Nor will you find all those computer graphic infested elements of pop culture garbage that may be seen in most major releases. They are in a way rather old fashioned. To me, that's a value. It's nice to see these lesser known actors have a chance to have dialogue advance the story with some rather beautiful photography; in this, it is the fine work of Alar Kivilo.

In one sequence, Travis takes Gabby to his tiny private island, his special place. This is evocative of the scene between Greta Garbo and John Gilbert on the Isle of Friendship in the 1927 silent movie "Flesh and the Devil", right down to the row boat. This movie will likely quickly be forgotten. It is not very good, but yet, for the reasons I mentioned, not that bad either. Nicholas Sparks' movies are the movie version of Hallmark cards or paintings by Thomas Kinkadee: A pleasant, pretty serenity but without much life.

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Faces and Places: Sacramento 2016 Winter Tweed Ride

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

In tweed-inspired attire, bicyclists took to the streets of Curtis Park on Saturday, Jan. 30. Starting at the Coffee Garden, after going around town, riders ended with some nice Victory Ale.



Land Park area police logs

The information provided allows for a timely snapshot of significant events in our community. The crimes reported here are preliminary investigations, taken in the field by patrol officers, and may or may not be assigned to a Detective for further investigation. The information provided may be found after further investigation to be incorrect or false. Certain details of these incidents have been removed due to potential follow up investigation into the incident and/or for privacy rights.

-Compiled by Monica Stark

Jan. 7 on 2700 block of 29th Ave at 11:11 p.m.:

Officers responded to the above location regarding a disturbance. Officers contacted the resident and conducted a probation search. During the search, officers located narcotics inside the residence. The resident was safely detained and ultimately arrested for multiple charges.

Jan. 10 at 6:29 p.m. I 5 Nb / Sutterville Road. An officer stopped a stolen vehicle in the area and detained the driver. The man was arrested for possession of stolen property and vehicle theft.

Jan. 10 at 9:32 p.m.: Florin Road / 24th Street: An officer stopped a stolen vehicle in the area and detained the driver. The man was arrested for vehicle theft.

Jan. 11 at 8:03 p.m. (Robbery): 600 block of Broadway: Officers responded to the location regarding a report of robbery. Two unknown suspects armed with handguns entered the business, demanded property and fled in a vehicle prior to police arrival. Follow-up will be conducted and a report was generated.

Jan. 11 at 11:54 p.m. (Robbery): 2100 block of Broadway. Officers responded to the location regarding a report of a robbery. The victim was walking in the area when he was confronted by an

unknown suspect, who assaulted him with a blunt object, took his property and fled prior to police arrival. A report was generated.

Jan. 13 at 1:09 p.m. at Jan. 13 (Disturbance): 2400 block of 21st Street: Officers responded to the report of a suspicious subject in front of a business. Officers contacted the man and it was later determined he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. He was safely detained and ultimately booked into the Sacramento County main jail for his warrant.

(Suspicious Vehicle): Jan. 13 at 1:38 p.m.: 1700 block of Vallejo Way: Officers responded to the call of a suspicious subject driving a vehicle in the above neighborhood. Officers located the described vehicle and contacted the driver and the passenger. It was later determined the driver and passenger were on parole. Both subjects were ultimately arrested for parole violations.

Jan. 14 at 2:23 a.m.: 2500 block of Broadway: Officers responded to the call of a ringing alarm at a business. When officers arrived on scene, it was determined unknown suspects entered the closed business. Officers canvassed the area for evidence. A report was generated.

Jan. 15 at 11:42 a.m. (Burglary): 1500 block of Dickson Street. The victim was inside his residence when an unknown suspect entered the home. The suspect stole miscellaneous property and fled the scene prior to officers arriving. No injuries were reported. Officers checked the area for the suspect. The investigation remains active.

Jan. 16 at 7:46 p.m. (Attempted Robbery): 2400 block of Fruitridge Road: Officers responded to the location regarding a report of an attempted robbery. The suspect entered the business, demanded property, but was not successful after he was con-

fronted by employees. The suspect fled from the scene prior to police arrival and a report was generated.

Jan. 20 at 8:08 a.m. (Burglary): 6300 block of Freeport Boulevard: Officers responded to the report of a suspicious vehicle being driven in the above area. It was later determined a locked storage unit was broken into. Officers arrived on scene and located the described vehicle and safely detained both the driver and passenger. After further investigation, both suspects were arrested for burglary and possession of stolen property.

Jan. 22 at 2:23 a.m. (Vehicle Collision): 1500 block of Broadway: Officers responded to the report of a single vehicle collision. The driver of the vehicle struck a nearby business and fled on foot prior to officers arriving on scene. No injuries were reported. A report was generated.

Jan. 22 at 10:13 a.m. (Suspicious Device): 2600 block of 5th Street: Officers responded to the call of a suspicious device located in the above area. EOD (Explosive Ordinance Detail) officers responded to the scene and detonated

the device in place. No injuries were reported. The area was canvassed for evidence and the investigation remains on-going.

Jan. 22 at 3:15 p.m.: 1400 block of Coolbrith Street: The victim was seated in his vehicle at the above location when he was approached by three suspects. One suspect was armed with a handgun. The victim was assaulted and the suspects stole the victim's property and fled prior to officers arriving on scene. Officers checked the area for the suspects, but were unable to locate them. The investigation remains active.

Jan. 22 at 5:10 p.m. (Arson): 2700 block of Sutterville Road: Officers re-

sponded to the call of a juvenile setting a fire inside a building. When officers arrived on scene, they safely detained the 14-year-old who was ultimately arrested for vandalism and arson.

Jan. 23 at 2:34 a.m. (Child Neglect): 5600 block of James Way

Officers responded to the call of a child neglect incident. A 5-year-old juvenile was located outside the residence with no guardian present. Officers contacted the parent via telephone who responded to the location. After further investigation, the woman was arrested for child neglect. CPS was notified and a report was generated.

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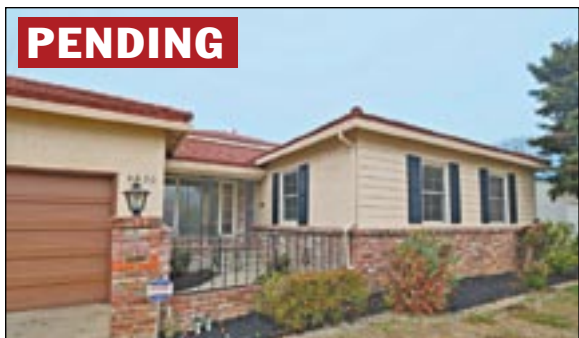


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