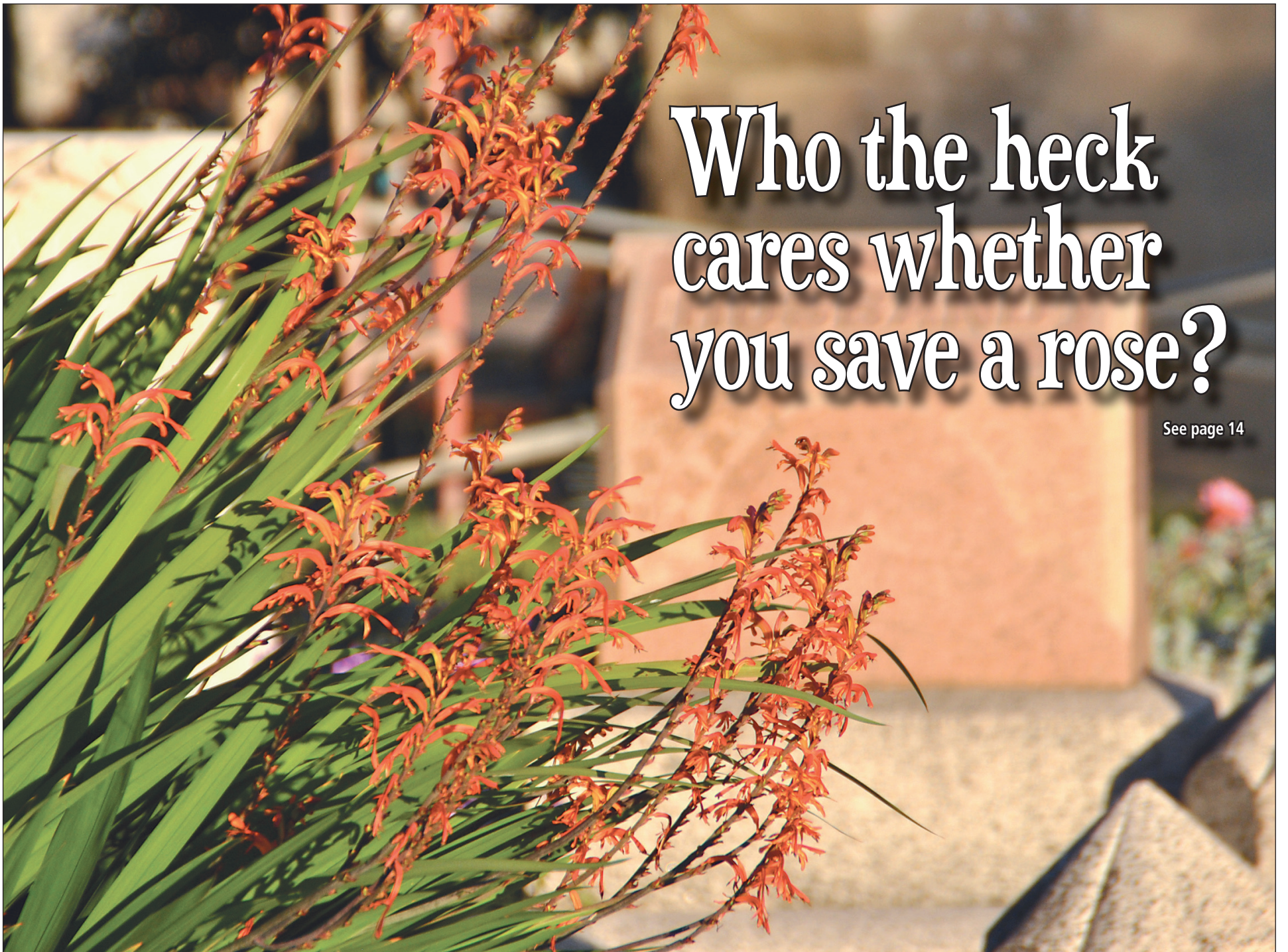


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Who the heck cares whether you save a rose?

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Del Rio trail continues to move forward

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Sacramento teen drummer rocks out with the big boys

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Stephen Crowley

Courtesy
Lance Armstrong

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
Safety and Security could mean many things to many people. In November, 2014 the Neighborhood Needs Assessment: Upper Land Park Neighborhood, Sacramento, Ca. was conducted by the Institute of Social Research, California State University-Sacramento.

Thanks were given to: Sacramento Housing Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), developers, consultants, and the City of Sacramento City Development. At the time of the 51-page report, it provided a perspective of what and how the Residents of ULP believed what impact the 751 units of Alder Grove/Marina Vista has and would have on them and ULP. The sentiments, in part, of those surveyed can be found on Pages 46-50, in which they were asked "What do you like least about living or working in ULP". You can find the 51-page report at: <http://www.ulpbroadway.com/resources/2-Neighborhoods%20Needs%20Analysis.pdf>

The five pages (46-50) of reality, shared with the survey, only produced a short paragraph of the 1.5 pages, (P. 31-32) in conclusions and caveats. I consider the subject of safety and security to be significant, of which I did not find such a concern in the 51-page document.

I suggest that issues that were noted in the five pages of survey responses are what people feel and fear. I did not see any information that suggested there was 24-hour security, or any type of security provided by SHRA on site at the Alder Grove/Marina Vista Sites. I also did not see any mention of Property Managers residing, on site.

In conclusion, if the city wants to provide low-income housing in selected parts of Sacramento, it should consider the safety and security of both the residents and neighbors of such developments. Based in part on the 2014 "Neighborhood Needs Assessment: Upper Land Park Neighborhood, Sacramento, CA," there is a definite lack and consideration of needed safety and security.

I recommend a confidential survey be conducted amongst neighbors of ULP, absent the influence and oversight of the city, developers and consultants. This would be a start, if the city wants to continue their bid to expand the present low-income housing, in ULP, from 751 units to 1200-1500 units. Let's strive for 'Quality of Life, before expanding to Quantity of Life'.

Sincerely,
Art Taylor



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Faces and Places: "Bright Underbelly" mural unveiling

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

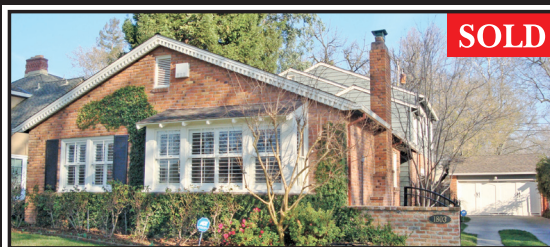
The mural is finished! The Bright Underbelly has been unveiled to you and the rest of the community! With a weekend full of events, starting with the ribbon cutting on March 17 and a free Community Day at Bright Underbelly featuring artists Sofia and Hennessy and other community groups, the final event was absolutely spectacular and began a new Farm to Fork Capital of America tradition for the kick off of spring called Spring Awakening: An Art & Food Experience with Chef Mulvaney. Shown here are photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony.



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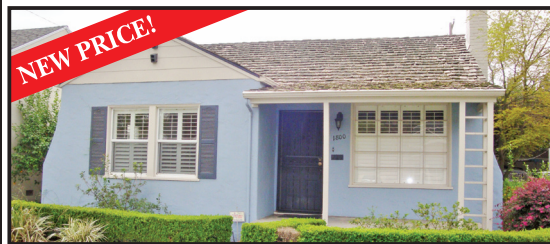
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Belle Cooledge ice cream social set for May 20

By DENISE HOLMES

As always, the Friends of the Belle Cooledge Library will be treating everyone to yummy Vic's ice cream, including "muddy mocha" and "cookies and cream". Yum! Nate, the Children's Librarian, has lined up some special entertainment, including music from the Chicken Lips, magic by Trevor Wyatt and fun crafts with the ArtBeast. Fire Engine #13 will also be making an appearance. Belle Cooledge Park is right next to the library and the event is scheduled from 6-8 p.m. on May 20.

A major feature of our annual Ice Cream Social is the biggest and best book sale of the year. We have been receiving donated materials for months and we have sorted and selected the very best adult and children's books, CDs and DVDs just for you. Join bargain hunters and book lovers from all over town at the Belle Cooledge book sale. Beat the crowds and the book dealers and arrive early. There is a 10 percent discount on all purchases for Friends of the Library. Memberships start at \$10 for young people and \$15 for adults.

Special thanks to Councilmember Jay Schnerier and his assistant, Kaylani. They helped us with permits and necessary equipment. Also, we would like to celebrate all the volunteers who have offered to set up, sell books, scoop ice cream and clean the park when it is over. Please consider becoming a member of the Friends of the Library. This is one of so many events we support every day.

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Sacramento to celebrate more than 40 years of historic preservation

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

In celebration of more than 40 years of historic preservation in Sacramento, the city's Preservation Commission and the Sacramento Heritage Board are presenting several events and activities.

Among those events is a photographic exhibit dedicated to the city's historic preservation.

The exhibit will be presented at New City Hall at 915 I St. from May through August, and at the Ella K. McClatchy Library at 2112 22nd St. from November through December.

On May 21, a celebratory reception highlighting Sacramento's historic preservation efforts will be held at the historic Elks Building's Rail Bridge Cellars at 921 11th St.

The two-hour event, which will recognize local preservationists, contributors and sponsors, will begin at 6 p.m.

Due to limited space at the reception, early reservations are recommended.

In another special event in May, Sacramento City Council Member Steve Hansen will present a city resolution recognizing Sacramento's long-time dedication to historic preservation.

Sacramento Heritage, Inc. and Preservation Sacramento have partnered to host a series of semi-monthly, casual social hours, which will be presented at various locations. Venues and times will be announced on Sacramento Heritage's Facebook page.

A special opportunity for Sacramento City Unified School District students to creatively become involved in the recognition of the city's longtime architectural preservation efforts is currently offered through a drawing contest for prizes.

Details about the contest are available through the website www.sacramento-heritage.com.

To attract additional attention to the citywide celebration of Sacramento's architectural and historic preservation, banners will be displayed at 10 down-

town locations throughout the month of May.

Roberta Deering, the city's preservation director, commented about the topic of local historic preservation.

"Sacramento has a great history," she said. "The places that reflect that history are recognized and celebrated through efforts of the public to support historic preservation."

Sacramento, which has a history dating back to the mid-19th century, adopted its first historic preservation ordinance in 1974. The city's first historic preservation board and Sacramento Heritage, Inc. were established during the following year.

The city's current historic preservation celebration coincides with the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, which federally governs the preservation of cultural and historic resources in the United States.

Additional information about Sacramento's historic preservation celebration events and activities can be obtained at www.sacramentoheritage.com.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Among the more notable historic landmarks in Sacramento is the Elks Building, which was home to Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 from 1926 to 1977. The local Elks met in this downtown structure at 11th and J streets until moving into their current Pocket area home at Riverside Boulevard and Florin Road.

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Del Rio Trail continues to move forward

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: We've written sporadically on the topic of the Del Rio Trail and you can read archived stories on the topic by entering "Del Rio Trail" into the search feature on our website: <www.valcomnews.com>.

A bit of natural beauty surrounds the old railroad tracks, owned by Regional Transit, stretching about four and a half miles through South Land Park and other neighborhoods between Interstate 5 and Freepoint Boulevard. Many people enjoy walking in the serenity of this greenbelt. Neighbors and the city have been working closely to further the usability of the land by putting in an actual bike trail, providing a central link in the city's Bicycle Master Plan. The new bike path would be laid through what once was the Walnut Grove Branch of the Sacramento Southern Railroad line.

Owned by Regional Transit, the city of Sacramento would like to purchase the corridor to maintain it and construct a paved path. As for the other details city staff

will be working those out in the coming year.

According to a report on the topic by project manager, Jesse Gothan, the trail will provide potential recreation amenity, but also function as an alternative commute route for people who would prefer to bike to downtown jobs rather than driving on the freeways and boulevards. This would be a new inner city trail allowing cyclists, pedestrians, runners and dog walkers to go for miles to schools, parks, stores and jobs with minimal exposure to motorized traffic. The trail passes through some neighborhoods that do not have sidewalks or bike lanes.

Funded with federal funds through the Sacramento Area Council of Governments and the State Active Transportation Program with matching funds provided by local transportation dollars, the current, \$ million funding is available for the project approval and environmental documentation phase of the project as well as for the final design. As part of the project, the city will be submitting an application for the right-of-way purchase and construction grant funds.



Photo by Monica Stark

This bit of natural beauty surrounds the old railroad tracks, owned by Regional Transit, between Sutterville Road and Fruitridge Road/Seamas Avenue. Many people enjoy walking in the serenity of this greenbelt, which has been saved from the once-proposed notion that trains would run from Old Sacramento to Hood. State Parks had to ditch the section shown here because they don't own the land, RT does. RT has no current plans to sell it either.

Gothan said the city has funding for the environmental studies and project approvals and design, but needs to find additional funds to purchase the corridor and the construction. Preliminary estimates for the entire trail are around \$15 million, so the project would likely be constructed in phases.

A community project kick-off meeting is slated to be held early next year.

The Del Rio Trail project will include a community engagement program to inform and involve the community throughout the process. This will be managed on behalf of the city by a public relations consultant. The city will be soliciting professional services in the fall of 2016.

Letters of support have been submitted for the project from the following groups: The Office of U.S. Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui, Walk Sacramento, The South Land Park Neighborhood Association

The Land Park Community Association, The Cabrillo Park Neighborhood Association, and various residents and business owners. LPCA has endorsed the project as has the local chapter of the Sierra Club.

The South Land Park refuge for years has attracted



neighbors who enjoy taking walks with friends and family, and, of course, the family dog. With signs like "You forgot to pick up your dog's poop? Oh, my gosh, really?" - or landscaping with plants like golden poppies, and cacti, the greenbelt has been a beacon of neighborly do-goodery -- one that has been saved from having trains run on the tracks south of the Zoo.

There is fear that the state and railroad museum will

take another run at running excursion trains south of Sutterville, but neighbors are ready for opposition. (Excursion trains will go from Old Sac to the Zoo, but plans have been cut to have them continue south to the Pocket/Meadowview/Hood area.)

"The gates of hell will open if they try to attempt that," said SLPNA president Brian Ebbert in a phone interview

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Trail:

Continued from page 6

with this publication. "The bottom line is state parks has bill deferred maintenance. Have you tried to go camping in a state park? I don't know how they would have money when they have hundreds of state parks closed."

Personally opposed to the zoo extension, Ebbert recalls the heated community meetings on the topic. "People were fired up. The proponents of the rails were small in number but were very vocal." But he said 83 percent of those surveyed were in favor of a trail over the train. "I was personally opposed to zoo extension. Trains would be literally 50 feet to Holy Spirit School."

Now talks are changing with focus on what to accompany the bike trail.

Ebbert said there have been talks that along the four-mile trail, workout stations and a community garden will be put into place around Palomar Circle near Florin Road and Freeport Boulevard in an abandoned third of an acre property near California Family Fitness. With Sacramento City College professor Sacramento City Professor Carl Sjovold spearheading the effort, putting a community garden in the vacant location seemed like a good fit, as the neighbors themselves will maintain it.

"It gets great sun exposure, so it would be ideal for a community garden. The residents in our neighborhood have been trying for years to have the feds transfer the lot to the city for this purpose, but these things take time," he wrote in a message in response to an inquiry.

A section of land owned by the FAA, the parcel had a signal beacon that the FAA has since removed because of the outdated nature of its navigation technology. "That kind of navigation technology was made obsolete by the advent of GPS devices, I was told," explained Sjovold.

Explaining further, Sjovold wrote that the city decided to apply for the parcel so that it may be incorporated into the Del Rio Trail project. It's uncertain whether at this time if the federal government has transferred the parcel to the



city, but Sjovold is hopeful that this will happen. "The lot would make a great public access point to the Del Rio Trail project. Some of the space might still be reserved for a community garden. The residents of our neighborhood have been grateful for the support and assistance of the South Land Park Neighborhood Association in this endeavor," he added.

It was only last fall that he and other neighbors heard that the lot was ready for transfer, so they worked with staff in councilmember Jay Schenirer's office to ask the city to apply for the parcel as a "Public Benefit Conveyance."

Having never participated in a community garden project before, Sjovold calls himself a mediocre gardener, but having lived in Sacramento for the last 14 years, he has seen a great deal of enthusiasm for these projects.

"My main purpose in advocating for the garden was to have the lot transformed into something more appealing than its current state, as the lot looks like a bomb crater. Indeed, today (Monday, April 11) I noticed that someone had actually dumped a mattress and box spring on the site. If the lot is developed as part



of the Del Rio Trail Project, it will look nicer and attract more residents in the neighborhood who want to enjoy a pleasant stroll along some beautiful green space. I believe that incorporating the lot into the trail project will discourage people from dumping garbage on the site, as they sometimes do," he explained.

In regard to the Del Rio project generally speaking, city staff worked with SLP-NA leaders to provide a neighborhood survey and to collect comments on the project. These will provide background and supplement the future outreach process when the project is launched in 2017. Initial comments expressed enthusiasm for the project as well as some con-

cerns over privacy, security, and long term maintenance issues associated with bike trails.

Letters of support have been submitted for the project from the following groups:

- The Office of U.S. Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui
- Walk Sacramento
- The South Land Park Neighborhood Association
- The Land Park Community Association
- The Cabrillo Park Neighborhood Association
- Various Residents and Business Owners

For more information, contact Jesse Gothan, Project Manager by calling 808-6897 or via email at jgothan@cityof-sacramento.org.

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Angelique Ashby meets with East Sacramentans

By PAT LYNCH

City Councilmember Angelique Ashby studied a heat map. Red sections indicated high crime, and on this particular Natomas map, several giant 400 unit, low-rent apartment buildings glowed red. This is where the poor lived, and the poor are prey. Theft, addiction, assault, isolation—these are the symptoms that lure predators to converge on the vulnerable. Ashby didn't want to use an amped-up police presence to merely treat symptoms; she wanted to tackle the causes. "I wanted to help," she says, and adds, "I like to see issues all the way through."

She reached into the Natomas community and forged partnerships between apartment residents and kids clubs, the local library, reading groups, rehab groups, parenting classes and police—she found people willing to work with the beleaguered tenants. "This was key," she said. Nothing's ever easy but bringing the right people together with well-conceived plan works. Much later she looked at another heat map. The colors around the mega-apartment buildings? Green.

Ashby is pleased with another overarching fact. On her watch as councilwoman crime in Natomas plunged by 48 percent. She also worked successfully to get flood protection and levee repairs, improved first responder emergency response times, protected library and youth program funds, improved basic city services.

She is running for Mayor of Sacramento. Her opponent is Darrell Steinberg. On February 14th a group of Sacramentans gathered in Janet Maira's house on H. Street in East Sacramento to meet Ashby and hear her make her case. "I was very favorably impressed," Land Park resident Ray Brankline said. "She's a self-made person. And she makes things happen." He was forcibly struck by Ashby's biography. A Sacramen-

to High School graduate and single mother, she was on food stamps for a while, worked full time, put herself through UCD and then McGeorge School of Law. Smiling, she described this trajectory as "a tough go." Brankline said, "That kind of grit and energy will show up whatever she does. Plus she's smart."

Ashby first got involved in local politics in Natomas. "It started with a stop sign," she said. She became a community organizer, battled drugs, traffic, crime, blight, and neglect. "It was a 'take back our neighborhood' movement," she said. Urged to run for City Council, she faced a three-term incumbent. She won, in part, she said, because her reach extended to all avenues of the community; she'd formed those working partnerships with schools, police, unions, churches, clubs and businesses—anybody and everybody who wanted to solve problems.

"When I got on the Council it was filled with people who'd been there for years," she said. She had kind words for former councilmember Steve Cohn from East Sacramento who she said was generous with his time and helped her navigate the municipal bureaucracy. But she didn't socialize with her Council colleagues after work. "I went home to my new husband and family," she said. "I didn't go golfing with the boys."

Nevertheless she maintained collegial relationships and got things done for her district. She became Vice Mayor of the Council and in that position stepped in for other members when they needed her. She got to know their districts, learned about differing needs and potential of each. That education increased when she served a second Vice Mayor term. Her family increased as well. "I ran a meeting on Tuesday, she said, "and had a baby on Thursday." Next she was chosen Mayor Pro Tem, the first such position on the Council, and one where she could define the role. This further deepened



Ashby with Boxer at the DC signing of the Water Resources Reform Development Act (WRDA) 2014, the bill unfroze the Natomas building moratorium.

her breadth of city experience, her personal 'reach' into all districts.

Proud of the things she was able to accomplish for her own district, she said in addition to significantly reducing crime, she was able to "make major improvements in every park, and kept jobs in the black." Also, she said, because she was "good at finding money" she found 1.7 million dollars in an already paid apartment tax. So she was able to mail a one hundred dollar check to every Natomas resident.

The assembled voters listened closely. Could she achieve for them the many successes she'd had for Natomas? Most thought so, especially since as Mayor Pro Tem she had familiarized herself with every district. To be sure, most people in this room had opposed the Kings arena development that both Ashby and Steinberg supported. But the East Sacramentans present strongly agreed with Ashby on another issue. A woman asked, "What inspired you to vote against the McKinley Village project?"

Ashby answered that many East Sacramento residents had approached her to explain the harmful aspects of the development. "A guy named Rob Finley, in particular, made a good case that the local school, Theodore Judah, would be badly impacted," she said. Also, the entrance and exit plans didn't look to her to be workable. She said she knew the city would never allocate money to build a tunnel to divert the development's heavy traffic from East Sacramento, and knew the developer was unwilling to pay to ameliorate traffic problems caused by his project. Finally, "all the neighborhood groups opposed it," she said. She listened to the neighborhood. She knew it would hurt her relationship with the developer, Phil Angelides, but she voted no. "He hasn't spoken to me since," she said.

Declaring that she wanted to replicate and expand her success in Natomas to the whole city, she prioritized her goals for Sacramento. "First, pub-

See Ashby, page 9

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Ashby:

Continued from page 8

lic safety.” She explained that this included issues like monitoring drinking water (no Flint should happen here), and improve police and fire protection. “Employment and education” come next. She said we have to ask ourselves, “Do our young stay?” Are we creating and preserving a city where they can build a future? Finally, “Quality of life.” This is all encompassing issue, she asserted, and should inform all the land use decisions the city makes.

She told a story that showed attendee Barbara Ruona how Ashby might resolve disputes and solve problems citywide. Ashby said that at a meeting a young woman, a spokesperson from Black Lives Matter, screamed at her in rage. One of the issues being discussed was police behavior. After the meeting Ashby sought out the young woman; conversations began. She also talked with police. One officer, disturbed by accusations of bias, told her, “I don’t have a racist bone in my body.” Ashby put both sides together. “Her pain was real,” Ashby said. “His feeling of being misjudged was real.” Ruona said, “I liked the way she put that. She knows what’s real and what’s rhetoric. She puts the right people together.” The outcome of the story also pleased the audience. Ashby has been invited and will attend the Black Lives Matter advo-

cate’s baby shower; her candidacy has been endorsed by the Sacramento Police Officers Association.

Listeners also liked her insights into homelessness (wrap around model housing paid with redevelopment funds and stepped up County efforts with mental health and child protective services). “The problem will be solved when the only people left on the streets are the “chronic homeless”—people who simply can’t live inside,” she said. That population is estimated to be very small.

For all her persuasive skill, Ashby seemed at heart a policy wonk who went to the root causes of tangled issues and worked her way up and out. She listed achievements (after extensive study she wrote a “best practices” Police Oversight Review as part of an ethics reform process) without grandstanding, and educated without lecturing. One audience member said she was surprised to learn that sexual trafficking of young females occurred here, but felt confidence Ashby would find the best way to halt it. Janet Maira, who hosted the event, said through Ashby she learned more about the way the city worked, and learned that with the right leadership it could work better, and for everyone.

When the question period ended Ashby thanked people for attending. “This is a beautiful home,” she said. “Yesterday I walked over needles and litter to another home in Del Paso Heights.” Some is-

sues differed, she said, but the goals were the same: safety, opportunity and quality of life.

After Ashby left her associate, Lynn Lenzi, gathered up flyers. Someone said Ashby had made a great impression. Lenzi looked up. “I’m not political,” she said. “And I know when I’m getting a political answer. I’ve never gotten a political answer from her.”

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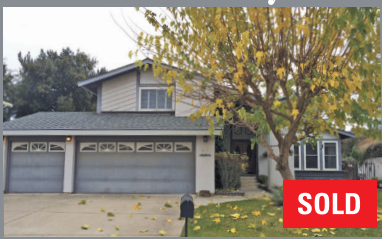



Faces and Places: Easter Sunday Experience at Sacramento City College

Photos by MAGGIE ROSE MCGURK

Shown here are photos from the Easter Sunday Experience with Paula Mandella, Director & Arts Ministry, SLC Choir, Conductor, Lejon Walker and the Soul Connection was terrific and was held at The Performing Arts Center Auditorium at Sacramento City College. For more of Maggie's photos, visit <www.maggiemcgurk.photorefect.com>.



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"The Wizard" Makes Science Cool

By LEIGH STEPHENS

"In school when the day came for science class, a creeping dread overcame me: staring out the classroom window day-dreaming about the Friday night dance as the teacher explained air pressure and velocity (whatever that is); my nerdy lab mate and me cutting up smelly frogs; washing out test tubes of toxic potions, convinced I would die early of chemical weapons of mass destruction."

-Leigh

If science classes were just a little more like the exuberant programs of the "The Science Wizard," our country might not have a shortage of scientists who could explain the world around us.

Big puffs of air and smoke, loud bangs and whishes, and comic antics caused the room full of kids and parents to laugh and cheer when "The Science Wizard" performed at Belle Cooledge Library on Friday, March 25 from 4-5 p.m.

More than 50 kids and parents attended the fun educational program sponsored by the Friends of the Library. "The Science Wizard," Jordan Reading, bounced around the crowded Community Room with manic energy reminiscent of Robin Williams.

"The Wizard" entertains his audience with science experiments laced with improv comedy. He says his programs are planned for grade school through about 12 years, although teens and parents enjoy his antics.

He is dressed in a purple headband, purple t-shirt, black jeans and trainers. Topping his outfit is a white lab coat giving him an air of authority before his mesmerized fans. Although this library program is "Awesome Air Pressure," there are six different programs available including the "Wizard's Lab," a night party called "Castle Dungeon" on lights and lasers, a Harry Potter event, and several on lightning, magic and illusion, and chemistry.

At the Belle Cooledge Library program, the kids give rapt attention as "The Science Wizard" entertains with one experiment af-

ter the other. Producing his magical experiments, he uses household products like cans of soda, plastic pop bottles, Alka Seltzer tablets, paper cups, a hairdryer, a blowtorch, a leaf blower, duct tape, and toilet paper.

Some of the kids sit on a carpet down in front of the lab table. They are waving their arms and rising off their knees to be picked as a volunteer to help with each experiment. One featured two volunteers holding between them a pole with a roll of toilet paper on each end. "The Wizard" uses the leaf blower to demonstrate the power of air as the rolls begin to unroll, blowing toilet paper all over the kids, up in the air and across the room. The children leap up and grab pieces of paper, throwing pieces like streamers.

All eyes are on the big hit, the hovercraft driven by air from the leaf blower that propels a little girl into the air all the way across the room as she sits on a round board supported only by paper cups placed in a circle. The craft rises about a foot from the paper cups and glides on air.

"The Wizard," Jordan Reading, says he is from Sacramento but went to Chico State and studied physiology and tax accounting. He worked for a number of years as an accountant, but his fun side led him to create "The Science Wizard" programs that educate and entertain hundreds of kids yearly.

Reading says, "I'm first and foremost an entertainer, not a teacher. So my goal is always to make sure everyone has a good time. A by-product of this is that if the kids have fun, they associate it with SCIENCE! Now all of a sudden, science is cool, and they all want to grow up to be scientists and look forward to taking science in school. Even if they don't learn or retain anything from my shows, they have a spark for learning that pushes them in the direction of science."

He started "The Science Wizard" in 2005, and is in his 11th year. "I wanted my shows to be the best science shows available, so I went to every science show, sci-

ence museum, or science display I could find on the West Coast. Also searching online, I looked for the biggest and best experiments that I could transport to and from my shows."

"The Wizard" has presented his science programs up and down the state at the Los Angeles County Fair, the Lodi Grape Festival, the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History among others as well as at private birthday parties, corporate picnics, school assemblies and church groups. Fees for the performance range from \$195 through several hundred dollars with a small mileage fee for distances.

Sponsoring this show were the Sacramento Friends of the Library. In the January/February *Among Friends* newsletter, Library Director Rivkah Sass reports, "In 2015, the Friends of the Library provided more than \$300,000 in support of library services and programs and contributed thousands of volunteer hours."

Each of the 28 public libraries has a branch of the Friends of the Library. The group is a membership-supported, non-profit organization that advocates, raises funds, and provides critical support for the libraries and bookmobile. The majority of their funds come through used book sales to the public. The money goes for pro-



grams that focus on literacy and education.

Long time Friends volunteer Virginia Kidd says, "Our primary fundraising effort is selling used, donated books that has the added benefit of letting readers find treasures at the sales."

Together the Friends operate the Book Den and Warehouse located on Belvedere Avenue in Sacramento. The Book Den is open several days weekly and holds quarterly used book sales. There are also locations at libraries

that sell donated books and magazines.

"The Science Wizard" can be contacted at Jordan@sciencewizardparty.com or 916-765-4377.

Professor Leigh Stephens is retired from the CSUS Journalism & Communications Studies Department. She was also a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii for 22 years. Stephens is a national and California Press Women's award-winning author of more than 500 articles and several books.



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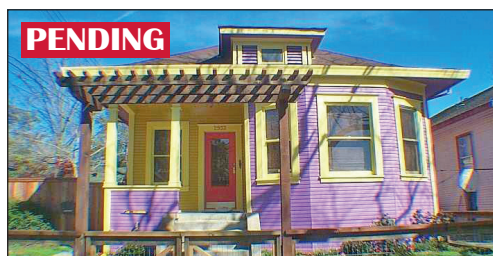
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Places, no faces

Photos by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

The Historic City Cemetery is bursting with color right now, as flowers are now in bloom. You will see many plant species which thrive in the Sacramento Valley with limited water. They may give you some ideas for your own home landscape. The Historic City Cemetery is located at 1000 Broadway. Call 448-0811 or 264-7839 for more information. Parking is located across the street from the 10th Street entrance. The tour is free; however, donations are appreciated and benefit cemetery preservation.



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Who the heck cares whether you save a rose?

By CHRIS VANCLEAVE
America's Favorite Rose Gardener

(Editor's Note: This article has been reprinted with permission from Chris VanCleave who first published this piece on his blog: *The Redneck Rosarian*.)

"Who the heck cares whether you save a rose?" The words of the late Barbara Oliiva, rosarian and a former curator at Sacramento's Historic Rose Garden have resonated in my mind this week as I read the news of the City of Sacramento's plans to remove and or attempt to relocate one of the world's most prized collections of roses at its historic City Cemetery.

Sacramento Bee reporter Debbie Arrington first broke the story citing reports that due to a recent designation as a historic site, the cemetery would fall under new guidelines requiring the removal of arches and roses that touched monuments.

This story has sent shock waves around the world as the news spread that this prized collection of roses was in peril at the hands of bureaucratic lawmakers in Sacramento who have probably never even bothered to visit this magnificent resting place for those helped settle their town. We implore them to spend some time with the roses before making decisions.

Attempts to reach council members and the mayor's office as well as call to the Na-

tional Park Service office yielded a statement sent by Judy Ulich, Director of Convention and Cultural Services for the City of Sacramento on behalf of City Manager John Shirey – City Manager – City of Sacramento California, It says in part:

"The rose garden was established in 1992 and is made up of a collection of historic roses of the period. Ninety-eight percent of the current roses were planted in the 1990s. Two percent of the rose population is made up of the species from the Victorian era. At no time were there any recommendations to have the roses ripped out or killed off in any way. The roses have become a beautiful addition to the cemetery and are cherished for the beauty that they bring. The guidelines put together by the ad-hoc committee call for roses to be trimmed around the grave sites so that visitors can access and see the headstones. During the planning sessions, it was also recommended that the climbing roses and non-historic trellises be relocated to the stone fence that surrounds the cemetery. The move of the trellises will take place in December."

The comments above seem promising but are fraught with error. The statement says that many of the roses were planted in the 1990s, and the statement that only two percent are old garden roses is inaccurate. This gives the impression that there are varieties easily obtainable in commerce today. The truth is that the roses planted during that time were from cuttings of antique ros-

es obtained by caring volunteers from roses that have since disappeared from commerce or are very rare, many of which only live in this garden and in the hearts and minds of those who once grew them.

I do not believe the elected officials in the city of Sacramento know what a treasure it has in this garden, nor do they recognize the international significance of this collection of roses. As someone who has been growing roses virtually all my life, I can tell you that many of these old roses, especially of this size and stature growing on arches, would NOT survive if cut and moved to the stone fencing that surrounds the cemetery.

As an advocate for roses in this country, I know all too well the great disconnect that often exists between City Hall and parks employees. I implore Mr. Shirey, the City Council of the City of Sacramento, the National Park Service, the Volunteers who work tirelessly to help maintain and preserve this garden along side the city's dedicated parks employees to work TOGETHER as a TEAM to save the beauty and allure of this garden, while maintaining a resplendent resting place for those who endured "many dangers, toils and snares" to bring the city of Sacramento to life and they deserve a resting place that befits their struggle.

So, to answer Barbara's question, "Who the heck cares whether you save a rose?"

I do! And, she did and I know tens of thousands of rosarians around the world who care. A literal legion of people who care about the history and significance of the world's most beloved flower and I ask that you voice your opinion to those in charge in Sacramento.

I am calling upon rose lovers from around the world to unite in this matter and to show their support for the rose and its preservation.

Please write to City Council members and the Mayor asking them to SAVE THE ROSES at all costs, even if it means turning down the NPS Historic Site designation.

Here is a list of their email addresses:

mayor@cityofsacramento.org
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River Park teen drummer rocks out with the big boys

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Seventeen-year-old drummer Nick Pesely of River Park loves to rock out to classic rock, and the louder, the better. The music is crazy, heavy and awesome.

Neighbors love it.

Drum covers of Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden, Van Halen, and his favorite band of all time – Rush – can be heard from outside the house and online where Nick adds to his YouTube and Facebook regularly. Fans and friends praise his style. Skylar Martin from Wisconsin calls him a beast and encourages him to “keep rocking on them drums!”

Wearing all black, Nick’s got the image of an ‘80s rock star, as his hair, tou-

sled, moves as his whole body gets into the drum playing. “I want to get famous and make this my full time job. I want to do music for a living. That’s what I want to do. Playing in bands, touring the world. My parents are very supportive.”

A full drum set, guitars and Rush memorabilia decorate the walls inside the Peselys’ bright red music room. In the car, classic rock keeps him company. “I’ve gone to concerts ... My first concerts was with my dad (Steve Pesely) at Arco Arena. We saw Kiss in 2010. It was great.”

A junior at Rosemont, most his peers don’t understand rock’n roll these days. “Most just walk around with earbuds in their ears and don’t communicate. It’s the way of the world.

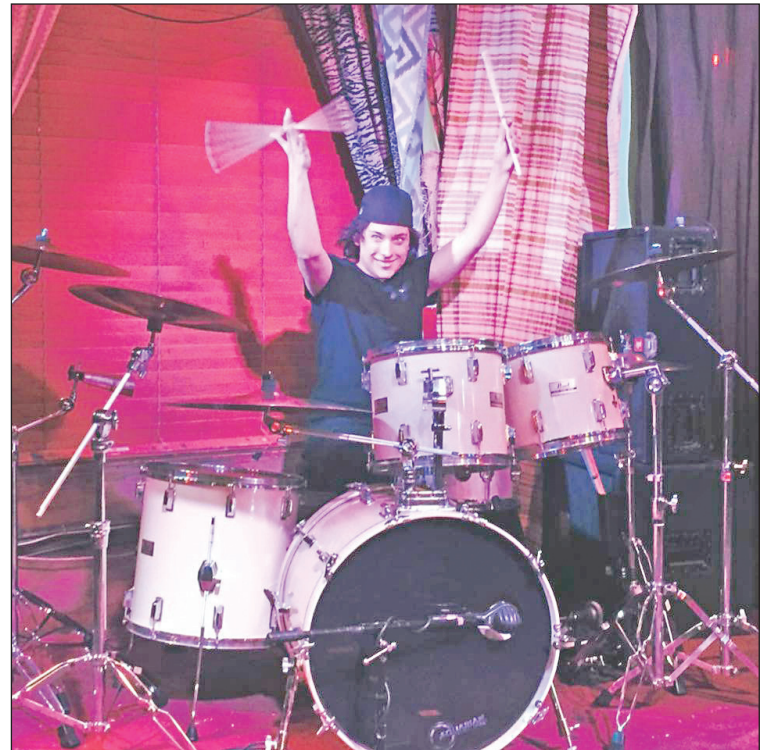
They do have a good music program at Rosemont and there are a few kids that come out and rock out,” says Steve. “The majority don’t get it; they don’t listen to music at least with instruments, they don’t. Hopefully that will change someday and Nick is trying to make that change.”

Nick’s just a young guy keeping metal music alive.

Expressing his extreme dislike of pop music, Nick calls it the worst music invented. “I get so annoyed today. Pop music killed rock’n roll. I don’t like stuff that was created on the computer,” he says, adding that no one at his school likes the same music as he does. “Occasionally, I find a few people though.”

And, occasionally a few people find him, though sometimes many years his senior.

Fifty-year-old James Cundiff, the front man of local rock band Anarchy Lace, came across a YouTube video that Nick made of himself, a clip like many online, that shows his intensely intricate drum playing. Last November, James asked Nick to be in the band. A cross between Social Distortion and the



Drummer Nick Pesely.

Ramones, Anarchy Lace does mostly original music though they’ll throw in a couple of covers. On Saturday, April 16, they’ll be playing at Ace of Spades, opening for 1980s metal band Dokken, a show that comes on the heels of a successful performance at the Boardwalk on Jan. 22, where the band played in front of 500 people and sold more than 120 tickets for a show with headliner

Saving Abel. (For the April 16 show, you can get tickets at aceofspades.com.)

“I am surprised I’m in a band and am this successful. I never thought I’d be playing Ace of Spades at 17 or the Boardwalk, but I’m doing it,” Nick says.

Joining the frontman and drummer is bassist and backup singer James Man-

See Drummer, page 17

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Drummer:

Continued from page 16

sfield, who band members call "Little James", Lena Campbell on vocals and percussion, and lead guitarist George Bogues. Coincidentally, both "Little James" and Nick attended Caleb Greenwood Elementary, but didn't know it as the bassist left the school to attend elsewhere. They reunited via Craigslist and realized later they both attended the same elementary school. Then they started playing together frequently.

Relaying the story of how his son got into Anarchy Lace, Steve said, "What really happened was that Nick was getting together with these two young guys. They were just messing around, then the leader of Anarchy Lace contacted them and said you want to try out, and he said, 'But my two buddies: Can they play, too?' And (James) said, 'Sure, let's see if it works out.' And, so far, so good."

Just recently, Nick rocked out on a Wednesday night at the Powerhouse Pub in Folsom. "It was lots of fun. Great crowd," he said of the show. "They liked my drum solo (for the song) Deeper and Deeper."

A hired drum gun, Nick says playing with Anarchy Lace is a lot of work with two practice days a week at House of Hits, where he has a second drum set.

Ever since Nick was a baby, he's banged on his

dad's drum set. Sitting in the Peselys' living room, Nick showed a photograph of himself rocking out with members of Rash Rush, a locally-based Rush tribute band. It was his father's 46th birthday. Coming up in July, it will be two years since that show. Reminiscing on the time that had transpired, Nick said, "That's when I had short hair, Dad." And now as he grows out his hair, Nick's been experimenting with flat irons, creating a classic rocker look.

Idolizing Rush drummer Neil Peart, who is recognized widely for his technical style and his stamina, Nick says what he loves most about the famed musician (who, by the way, was inducted into Modern Drummer Hall of Fame in 1983) is absolutely everything. "He's the best. It's hard to say. I like everything he does. I like everything, the time signature changes in his songs."

Spoken like a true fan, when asked what his favorite Rush song to play is, he said he likes them all. But after a minute or so of pondering the question, he stated Cygnus X-1, which is a two-part esoteric series. Book I clocks in at 10 minutes and 25 seconds, and Book II at 18:08. "They are meant to be played together," he says, despite being on two different albums.

And it feels "good to get it right" when he plays. "I just



feel great when I play a song all the way through."

In the future, he plans on focusing on music in college, expressing some interest in a music school in Los Angeles. "Music has always been my favorite thing in school. I've had great music teachers. My teacher now, Mr. Boettner, he's just a fun teacher. He likes lots of the classic rock that I like. And he's very helpful. He came to the one with Saving Abel. It was nice to see him there. There were probably like 500 people there. The place was packed."

Not really nervous about the performance, he was just excited. "I was cool as a cucumber going up there," he said.

A family full of drummers, Steve said he has several cousins that have been in bands throughout his life. "A cousin got me into drums when I was in junior high school. I got out of drums through college, and then like 20 years ago, a friend had a drum set and wanted to give it away cheap. It's a Pearl drum set. Nick has added to it over the years. He constantly wants to buy things for it."

Adds Nick: "My Christmas money; my report card money – that's all I spend it on. Music is just in me. Music is in my family. Music is just in my blood, I guess."

If you go:

What: Dokken and Anarchy Lace (featuring drummer Nick Pesely of River Park)

When: Saturday, April 16 at 7 p.m.

Where: Ace of Spades, 1417 R St.

Cost: \$22



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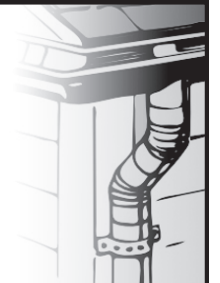
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CALENDAR

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

The Fairytale Town Troupers present: Sleeping Beauty in Space

April 16-April 30: Saturdays & Sundays (April 16, 17, 24 and 30); showtimes at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.; run time is approximately 30-40 minutes. Join the Fairytale Town Troupers as they present the classic tale of Sleeping Beauty re-imagined as an epic space adventure in an action-packed setting. Once upon a time, a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, a benevolent group of star fairies discover a very special child adrift in deep space and decide to raise her as one of their own. By the age of 16, Princess Deja has become a master of martial arts and mind control—and an expert with a “Star-Sword”. But she is plagued by mysterious dreams—dreams that link her to a handsome young astronaut on a faraway planet called Earth. The two star-crossed lovers are finally united, even as galactic turmoil ensues. Dark invaders appear from a planet of evil to threaten cosmic peace. Princess Deja must face her destiny and vanquish the Dark Forces before she and her Prince can live happily ever after. Sleeping Beauty in Space is a fast-paced, family-friendly adventure featuring stirring music, come-

dy, romance, and thrilling lightsaber duels in the dark. 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.

Kaiser Permanente to offer eye screenings for free cataract surgeries

April 16: Kaiser Permanente physicians and staff in Sacramento will offer screenings for area residents who may be eligible for free cataract surgeries that will be performed this spring. The screenings, by appointment only, will be on Saturday, April 16 at the Kaiser Permanente Point West Medical Offices, 1650 Response Road. The surgeries are part of Mission Cataract USA, an annual program in which participating doctors provide the sight-restoring procedure to hundreds of people across the nation who have no health insurance and can’t afford the operation. This is Kaiser Permanente’s 21th year in the program. Kaiser Permanente physicians and staff will perform as many as 20 free cataract surgeries on eligible individuals in early May. Annual service is for Sacramento-area residents who are uninsured. Screening appointments can be made until the available slots fill up. To sign up for the screen-

ing, or to request more information, call: (916) 973-7159.

Music at noon

April 20: Free music programs, offered at Westminster Presbyterian Church at noon on Wednesdays. This week enjoy music by Men of Worth with James Keigher and Donnie Macdonald; Irish.

Birding in Alaska to be topic at

Audubon meeting
April 21: Planning a birding trip to Alaska? Ed Harper, an expert birder who has made many trips to the 49th state, will present a program on the more accessible hot spots and the birds and other creatures you’re likely to see there at the April 21 meeting of the Sacramento Audubon Society. In addition to learning about the Spectacled Eider, Northern Wheatear, and Arctic Warbler, be prepared for Moose, Musk Ox, and Grizzly Bear! He’ll cover visits to Seward, Homer, and Denali National Park, a boat excursion to Kenai Fjords National Park, and trips to other good birding places. The public is invited to the 7 p.m. meeting at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park (For directions, see sacnaturecenter.com.) There will be no charge for the program, and no park entry fee.

Land Park Pacific Little League

presents Movie on the Mound
April 22: Movie On The Mound has been rescheduled due to the weather to this date. The movie will be “You’re Killing Me Smalls!” Don’t have movie and dinner tickets, but now you wish to join on April 22? Contact our fundraising chairs to get your reservations and payment in for new date: fundraising@lppll.com. 2 San Mateo Way, Sacramento, 95822.

Diabetes academy educational series

April 22: Diabetes 101 is a series of three classes dealing with diabetes. The first class

to be held on April 22 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. will be an overview of diabetes and its management. The second class to be held on May 19 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. will be on checking, managing and coping with your blood sugar and diabetes. The third class to be held on June 7 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. will be on meal planning and carb counting. Free of charge. Pre-registration required. Class will be held at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

Sutter Children’s Center Wellness Festival at Fairytale Town

April 23: Free Admission! Celebrate active and healthy living at the Sutter Children’s Center Wellness Festival from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.! Enjoy free play, games, healthy fun and more. Sutter’s medical personnel will be on hand to answer questions and provide information on healthy child development. Plus, local health organizations will be offering activities, games and information on healthy lifestyles. Take part in fun games and activities throughout the day! Ride the smoothie bike and blend your own yummy fruit smoothie, and join us on the hour at the Mother Goose Stage for active fun, games and dancing. Plus enjoy performances of The Adventures of Sir Enamel by Puppet Art Theater Company in the Children’s Theater. In this special wellness-themed show, there is a battle going on inside Johnny’s mouth. King Sugar Bug and his Sugar Bug Army are attacking Johnny’s teeth. The only thing protecting Johnny’s teeth is Sir Enamel! Will Sir Enamel be defeated by the Sugar Bug Army? Find out in The Adventures of Sir Enamel! Show times are at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Puppet show tickets are a \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Tickets are available 15 minutes prior to each showtime at the theater doors or at the box office.

SacSings!Sacramento choral festival

April 23-24: Nine hundred singers in 20 regional choruses will be assembling in Sacra-

mento City College’s Performing Arts Center on April 23 and 24 to celebrate the third annual SacSings Sacramento choral festival. Seven of the 20 choruses will be participating in SacSings for the first time, and besides Sacramento-based groups, singers will be coming from Woodland, Grass Valley, Auburn, Placerville, and even Calaveras County. New this year will be the appearance of 3 college choirs. Participating choruses include some of the biggest names on the Sacramento choral scene, such as the Voices of California, the Sacramento Gay Men’s Chorus, and the Sacramento Master Singers. But one of the purposes of SacSings is to showcase the many choruses that are not so well known. For a full list of participating organizations, visit the www.SacSings.org. This third year of SacSings represents two important changes. First, the festival is taking place before the heart of the spring choral season, instead of after it. Now when someone hears a chorus that appeals to them, they will be able to attend its full concert in late April, May and June. Second, SacSings has been moved from Folsom to the heart of Sacramento to give prospective audiences a shorter drive. Tickets will be available starting March 1. For details, visit the SacSings! Website (www.SacSings.org/Tickets), Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/sacsings>), and on Twitter @SacSings. General Event Website: <http://sacsings.org> Sacramento City College Performing Arts Center, 3835 Freeport Blvd. Saturday April 23 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and shows on Sunday, April 24 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. The Sacramento Valley Choral Coalition, a non-profit organization, empowers the joy of singing with sustaining resources for vocal arts organizations. General seating tickets are \$20 for premium seating tickets \$25 (front rows) www.SacSings.org/Tickets or call 916-905-2467.

Understanding the real estate process and role of title/escrow company

April 26: Learn what a Title/Escrow company does, understand the importance of documents generated by them and what to do with the documents. Free of charge. Pre-registration required. Class will be held on Tuesday, April 26, from 10 a.m. to noon at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.org

Music at noon

April 27: Free music programs, offered at Westminster Presbyterian Church at noon on Wednesdays. This week enjoy music by The Vocal Art Ensemble; Tracia Barbieri, director.

Free VA Home Buyers Workshop:

April 28: From 6 to 7 p.m. at Dunnigan Realtors, 4215 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento 95822, there will be a free workshop for veterans, ser-

See Calendar, page 21

Crockett-Deane Ballet Company & Deane Dance Center


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April 17 at 2 pm \$10 - \$15

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Calendar:

Continued from page 20

vice members, and their spouses regarding the process of buying a home using the VA home loan program. Mortgage Loan Specialist, Jai Jett of Pacific National Lending will go over the eligibility requirements, process, and benefits of using the VA home loan program. Realtor Beth Sherman of Dunnigan Realtors will go over the home buying process. Reference materials will be provided to take home and any questions attendees may have are welcomed. For more information, contact either Jai Jett at JJett@PacificNationalLending.com or Beth Sherman at Beth@LiveInSac.com.

MAY

Music at noon

May 4: Free music programs, offered at Westminster Presbyterian Church at noon on Wednesdays. This week enjoy music by Chanteuses Vocal Ensemble; Chris Alford, director.

20th Annual Race for the Cure Susan G. Komen Sacramento Valley

May 7: Komen Sacramento 2016 Race for the Cure is the enduring symbol of the fight against breast cancer. This year marks the 20th Annual Race for the Cure in the Sacramento region. Since the initial race, \$19 million has been granted to deserving local programs serving 19 counties. This year's theme, "There's a Hero in All of Us", celebrates our participants

— survivors, teams, individuals and sponsors — each who help Komen Sacramento move one step closer to ending breast cancer. Join us on May 7 at Cal Expo for the 20th Annual Race for the Cure. For more information or to register for the race, visit: komensacramento.org and click Events/Race for the Cure. The event will be held at Cal Expo Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. Race Start. Questions? Call 231-3148 or email info@komensacramento.org.


Friends of Library Book Warehouse Sale

May 7: An ever-changing inventory of more than 100,000 "gently used" books, videos, and audio books will be offered for prices from 50 cents to \$2 at the Saturday May 7 sale at the warehouse of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. The warehouse is at the rear of the Friends' "Book Den" store at Suite E, 8250 Belvedere Ave., just south of 14th Ave. between Power Inn and Florin-Perkins roads. Plenty of parking is available, but visitors should be careful not to park between the "No Parking" signs on the south side of Belvedere. Sale hours on Saturday will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a preview and sale on Friday, May 6 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. for Friends members only (You can join at the door for \$15). Income from the sale helps pay for programs, equipment, and materials local libraries need but can't afford. With more books constantly needed, the Friends will be glad to have yours, too. See a staff member on how to donate. The book store will also be open during the sale as well as weekly on Thursdays 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m. Items there are priced from \$1 up. With Memorial Day coming up, books on war will be discounted at the book store by 30 to 40 percent to members. For more information, call (916) 731-8493 or go to bookden@saclibfriends.org.

Hansel and Gretel Puppet Show at Fairytale Town

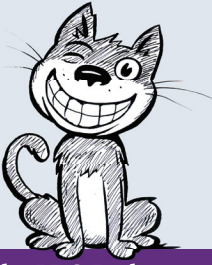
May 7-8: Puppet Art Theater Company presents the classic tale Hansel & Gretel in the Children's Theater with showtimes at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. In this version, Gretel overhears her stepmother convince her father to lead her and her brother into the forest and leave them there for good. Hansel's plan to leave a trail of bread crumbs to find their way home fails miserably and he and Gretel are left in the forest to fend for themselves. It is there that they discover a house made of Gingerbread. Little did they know the house belongs to a Wicked Old Witch. Will Hansel and Gretel escape the Witch and find their way home? 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.



April 24, 3:00 p.m.
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Miguel Izurieta

Land Park news briefs

Block Parties Coming to a Neighborhood Near You

Three free, family-friendly events to take place this spring and summer

Sacramento, Calif. – April 4, 2016 – The Crocker Art Museum's Block by Block team is throwing three free events this spring and summer featuring art, food, music and entertainment for all ages. The all-day block parties, which run from noon to 7 p.m., will take place on Saturday, May 7 in North Sacramento; Saturday, June 11 in Oak Park; and Saturday, July 9 in South Sacramento. In partnership with Sol Collective and Sojourner Truth Museum, each block party will celebrate the neighborhood in which it is held by showcasing local artists, entertainers and vendors.

"The block parties are a celebration of arts happening in

the community," says Daphne Burgess, project manager of Crocker Block by Block. "We really want to highlight the creativity that exist in Sacramento's unique neighborhoods that often gets overlooked but really make Sacramento special. We want to co-create an opportunity for them to shine and be celebrated. There will be interactive art experiences; live music, visual arts, performing arts; and it might be your neighbor who is performing."

In addition, each block party will showcase the work of three Art + Impact grant recipients, whose work was selected on the basis of innovation, connection and unique experience with an emphasis on process and social engagement.

Anthony Padilla's "Solar Poppy," a solar-powered sculpture that also acts as a shaded resting place

with seats and USB charging stations, will be on display at the May 7 block party, held at Grant Union High School. Gioia Fondà's "Give a Fork" sculpture, which raises awareness about food scarcity and is comprised of household forks donated by local residents, will be on display at the June 11 block party at Steve Jones Park. And Zero Forbidden Goals' "#TheMostOpenMicInTheCity," a mobile performative intervention, will be in action at the July 9 block party at the Colonial Heights Library.

"Each project was designed to bring awareness to issues and interests within our community as a means to inspire, provoke and connect—art can do that and so can museums," says Stacey Shelnut-Hendrick, the Crocker's Director of Education.

Block by Block is an initiative of the Crocker Art Mu-

seum focused on Sacramento City Council districts 2, 5 and 8. Through Block by Block, the Crocker aims to strengthen connections between the Museum and its broader community by co-creating neighborhood-based arts experiences with artists, grassroots organizations, businesses and community members interested in using the arts to build and improve our sense of community. The project is funded by the James Irvine Foundation.

For questions about Block by Block, call (916) 808-1059 or email blockbyblock@crockerartmuseum.org.

At-a-Glance:

What: Block Parties
When & Where:
Saturday, May 7, noon – 7 PM, Grant Union High School, 1400 Grand Ave., Sacramento
Saturday, June 11, noon – 7 PM, Steve Jones Park, 2331 Casa Linda Drive, Sacramento
Saturday, July 9, noon – 7 PM, Colonial Heights Li-

brary, 4799 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento

Cost: Free

Who can attend: All ages

More info: (916) 808-1059, or email blockbyblock@crockerartmuseum.org

The Crocker Art Museum was the first public art museum in the Western U.S. and is one of the leading art museums in California today. Established in 1885, the Museum features one of the country's finest collections of Californian art, exceptional holdings of master drawings, a comprehensive collection of international ceramics, as well as European, Asian, African, and Oceanic art. The Crocker is located at 216 O Street in downtown Sacramento. Museum hours are

10 a.m.–5 p.m., Tuesday–Sunday; 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Thursdays. Every third Sunday of the month is "Pay What You Wish Sunday" sponsored by Western Health Advantage. For more information, call 808-7000 or visit crockerartmuseum.org.



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McClatchy Library events

Saturday, April 16 at 2 p.m. Music Circle with Felipe Ferraz (School Age (6-12)): Come celebrate Dia de los Ninos with us as Felipe Ferraz will entertain us with music from around the world! This fun interactive family show features songs in English and Spanish while encouraging participation

from the audience. This program sponsored by the Friends of the Ella K. McClatchy Library.

Saturday, April 16 at 2:30 p.m.: Jane Austen Reading Group: Come and join this monthly group reading the works of Jane Austen. Meets the third Saturday of each month in the Ella K. McClatchy library. All Austen fans are welcome.

Tuesday, April 19 at 10 a.m.: Preschool Storytime (Early Childhood (0-5)): Please join us every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for books, songs, stories and fun. Miss Lindsey and her guitar always make this story time a fun event. Everyone is welcome to "stay and play" after with our fabulous toys.

Saturday, April 23 at 1 p.m.: Shakespeare Reading Library (Adult): April 23rd is Shakespeare's 452nd birthday, so in his honor the McClatchy Friends and the Sacramento Poetry Center are co-hosting a community reading of Shakespeare's sonnets. Eng-

lish Renaissance music will be performed by The Sine Nomine Recorder Group. Costumes are welcome. If you would like to read a sonnet or two, email ovationstage@gmail.com, giving your name, which sonnet (or two) you wish to read and a preferred time. Walk-in guests also welcome.

Tuesday, April 26 at 10 a.m.: Preschool Storytime (Early Childhood (0-5)): Please join us every Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. for books, songs, stories and fun. Miss Lindsey and her guitar always make this story time a fun event. Everyone is welcome to "stay and play" after with our fabulous toys.

Thursday, April 28 at 2 p.m.: Neighborhood Knitters (Adult): Do you have knitting projects you need to finish? Do you enjoy a little conversation with your knitting? Join our knitting group, learn some new tricks and share your knowledge with others. We welcome all ages and skill levels.



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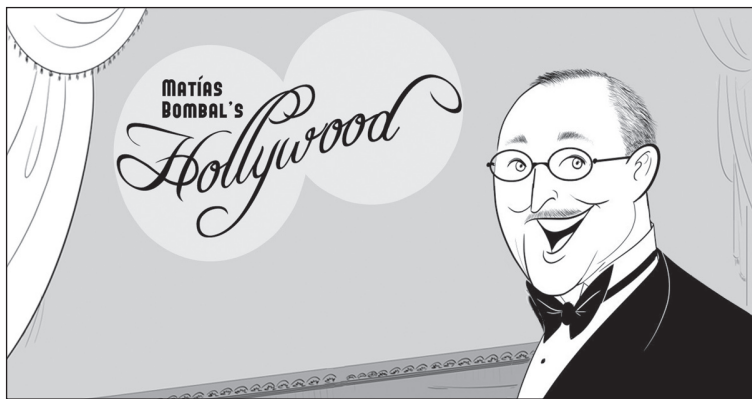
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Matías Bombal's Hollywood

I Saw the Light

The MPAA has rated this R

Sony Pictures Classics offers "I Saw the Light" a screen visualization of the life of singer-songwriter Hank Williams, who in his tragically short career, made an indelible mark in country music in the USA with 33 hit song singles, 30 of which were in the Top Ten, including eight number one hits. This is the first of three movies to come out this month about music personalities of the past which coincidentally had substance abuse problems. The other two movies are about jazz legends Chet Baker and Miles Davis. Based on the book "Hank Williams: The Biography" by Colin Escott with George Merritt and William MacEwen, this movie's screen play was adapted and written by the director, Marc Abraham.

Tom Hiddleston stars as Williams, bringing the clearly defined music personality back to life for this movie. His somewhat domineering mother, Jessie Lillybelle Skipper Williams Stone, who was also his early manager, is played by Cherry Jones, who you may remem-

ber from the "Horse Whisperer" or "Erin Brockovich". The movie begins with a faux documentary approach, with men integral to Williams' career being interviewed about the singer in black and white and in a nice touch, the classic academy ratio of 1.37:1, a rather square screen shape. The production returns to this shape later in the feature for the clever recreations of Kodachrome home movies of Williams' family, a nice element in a movie in which Tom Hiddleston is completely believable in the part he is playing.

Williams' life of wandering, drug and alcohol abuse destroyed much around him but he had moments of joy with one of his wives, Audrey, who was the mother of Hank Williams, Jr. Audrey fancied herself a singer and wanted much to be teamed with her husband in records and radio, but lacked the ability to hold a tune. She's played in the movie by Elizabeth Olsen.

During Williams' marriage to Audrey, what started as a little pain in his back would eventually be Hank's undoing. Suffering with Spina bida occulta, Hank began to self-medicate, combining al-



Elizabeth Olsen plays Audrey, Hank Williams' wife. Photo; Sam Emerson/Sony Pictures Classics

cohol, morphine and chloral hydrate, eventually leading to a heart attack which took him at just 29 years of age in 1953, when en route to a performance.

We see the years 1944 to 1953 covered during the course of this movie, and it well establishes the feel of the period, recreating the mood and times from which Williams' singular voice became an indelible part of the passing parade. Hiddleston's own voice is used in the picture, rather than the actual

Hank Williams recordings, and he does quite well, making you believe he is the genuine article.

Though there are uncomfortable moments to watch, Hiddleston really gives a great performance here and proves yet again what a great talent he is in the worlds of cinema. I hope you see this picture and enjoy his performance as much as I did. In Sacramento at the Tower Theatre.

Other theaters in Northern California: San Francis-

co: Landmark Clay, Century 9, AMC Van Ness, Stone-town Twin, Berkeley: Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, Pleasant Hill: Century 16, Menlo Park: Landmark Guild, San Jose: CineArts at Santana Row, San Rafael: Regency Cinemas 6, Monterey: Monterey Cinemas 16 and Santa Cruz: Nickelodeon.

For more information about "Matias Bombal's Hollywood", please visit: www.mabhollywood.com for exclusive content. #MABHollywood.



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