

LAND PARK NEWS

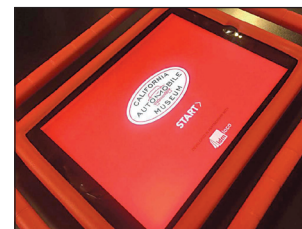
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'Tis the season for tamale making

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New interactive programs unveiled at the California Automobile Museum

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Courtesy

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

November 25, 2016

Dear Editor,

(Editor's Note: The following Letter to the Editor was originally sent to Mr. Julian Castro, HUD Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development)

I am presently a resident of the Land Park (LP) community, located in Sacramento, California 95818 and have owned and resided in residences in Upper Land Park (ULP) and LP since 1983. I am also a Board member of the Land Park Community Association (LPCA). The issues of the continued development of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative Marina Vista-Alder Grove greatly concern the residents of ULP, LP and surrounding communities.

The Sacramento Housing Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) continues to incorporate Low Income Housing, aka-Affordable Housing, Public Housing (PH), Government Subsidized Housing into the ULP and LP areas, by whatever means desired. This additional utilization of ULP and LP neighborhoods includes the purchase and renovation of the Land Park Woods, a Low Income Housing project subsidized under the Tax Credit Program. This additional incentive of increasing such housing favors Developers and satisfies Government objectives without impact consideration to the established, surrounding communities.

In April 2016, the Sacramento Housing Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) placed controversial flyers on doors of residents of the Marina Vista-Alder Grove (MV-AG) Public Housing Development, in Sacramento. The flyers were "out of touch", "demeaning", "insensitive" and "racist". The flyers featured African American women saying, "I still ain't got hired nowhere!" Residents and City Council members demanded answers from SHRA, as SHRA's flyer portrayal of low-income residents was offensive. Attachment 1, www.

sacbee.com/news/local/article72959177.html.

With the holidays approaching, Homicides, Crime, Dumping and Environmental Issues in the PH development of Choice Neighborhood Initiative MV-AG continue to be an issue. These issues inclusively affect the PH, ULP, LP residents and surrounding Sacramento neighborhoods.

Recently, The Sacramento Police Department reported Homicides occurred at the MV-AG PH location when they found three AG residents dead in an AG PH unit. The suspect in these murders has been identified and is still at-large, "Three found dead at Alder Grove housing project, Sacramento Bee."

Attachment 2, www.sacbee.com/news/local/crime/article108614687.html

1. Suspicious dumping of unwanted furniture, appliances, garbage, etc. in surrounding neighborhoods continues to be an issue. In October 2016, ULP residents contacted and reported discarded couches, in and adjacent to the PH. On October 21, 2016 the District Director for Councilmember Steve Hansen, District 4, Consuelo Hernandez cahernandez@cityofsacramento.org, advised, "Thanks. I'll report the couches and ask that they be picked up. No need to wait on hold with 311." Attachment 3.

On September 9, 2016, the Sacramento Bee published an article, based on a University California Davis (UCD) study that included part of the LP neighborhood. The study mapped environmental and economic stresses in MV-AG PH, identified as Tract 6067002200. In their summary, they noted that 91-95% falls within the range of Cal Enviro Screening Scores, there is an estimated unemployment rate of 17.9% and the tract scored in the bottom 20% in several environmental categories. Attachment 4, www.sacbee.com/site-services/databases/article100733297.html.

See HUD, page 4

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Hollywood Park businesses lit up for the holidays

By MONICA STARK

Decking the aisles with boughs of tinsel and lights is just the beginning for Hollywood Park businesses, Hollywood Hardware and Panama Pottery, as displays of festive art pieces have brought holiday magic to the retail shelves. Hollywood Hardware loves Christmas so much they started decorating the store with decorated Christmas trees and you'll have to check out their "Upside Down Christmas tree." Additionally, carnival rides have arrived to their miniature "Magical Village."

At Panama Pottery, Maria Vargas decorated the "cash register room" for the lack of a better term

with tiny paper mache donkeys and kitschy mid-century Christmas decor, including fake silvery-white trees. She's also filled the "cash register room" with mosaic art pieces made by students from the Short Center DDSO (Developmental Disabilities Service Organization). Maria said in the New Year she hopes to stop selling pots that have been made in China, stating that there are many excellent local artists whom she'd like to promote instead.

Hollywood Hardware is located at 5303 Freeport Blvd.

Panama Pottery is located at 4421 24th St.

The photo cover was taken at Panama Pottery.



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HUD:

Continued from page 2

In accordance with the ulpbroadway website, HUD/SHRA is inconsistent their own safety and security representations in their website, where under Introduction, Housing it states, "Reimagine the distressed Marina Vista and Alder Grove properties as high-quality, environmentally-sustainable mixed-income communities that is physically and socially integrated with the surrounding neighborhoods." In review of both statements in the same document, the reality of the PH is noted in Chapter 2, under Neighborhood, in pages 2-30-Crime Context, it states "Most of the crime that does occur in the neighborhood, both violent and property is concentrated within the Marina Vista and Alder Grove communities." Attachment 5, ulpbroadway.com/resources/8-TransformationPlan.pdf.

According to statistical information contained in area vibes website, the overall crime rate in ULP is 70% higher than the national average. For every 100,000 people, 13.29 crimes occur daily in ULP. Another contributing factor in 'crime prevention' or the lack, there of, is that Residents and Neighbors of MV-AG do not want to get involved. When I along with other LP and ULP neighbors attended SHRA MV-AG Workshops, we learned from MV-AG residents that they did not want to report crimes. MV-AG residents stated that although they were victims and witnesses and/or had knowledge of crimes, they did not report crimes to the PH Managers, for fear of being labeled a 'SNITCH' or 'RAT'.

They further feared retaliation should they get involved. For the Safety & Security of the Residents of MV-AG, LP, ULP and surrounding communities, Homicides, Crime, Dumping, and Environmental Issues need to cease. From 1992-1996 Sacramento Police Department had two patrol officers initiate the Problem Oriented Policing (POP). The full-time presence of the two police officers saw a dramatic decrease of crime in the PH community. Due to budget cuts, this program no longer exists even though crime continues to increase in the PH community. Attachment 6, www.areavibes.com/sacramento-ca/upper+land+park/crime/:

Presently, MV-AG consists of 751 units, and makes up 44% of Sacramento's PH. This makes MV-AG the third largest concentration of PH in California following Hunters Point in San Francisco and Watts in Los Angeles. The HUD, SHRA and Choice Neighborhood Initiative MV-AG are focusing on removing the 751 units and replacing them with 1200 to 1500 units. From the developer's perspective, developers report that there are greater profit incentives to house non-income and low-income tenants.

2. According to information contained in TRENDVISION-Metro List MLS-HOUSE Values, the LP area of Sacramento, CA. includes ULP, and MV-AG PH land. LP LAND VALUES and HOUSING PRICES, by far, are one of the most sought af-

See Letter, page 9

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Some questions answered regarding the street paving project affecting Land Park

(Editor's Note: As many Land Parkers know, the City has undertaken a significant street repaving initiative as a follow-up to the installation of water meters. Unfortunately, there were a number of challenges in implementation. Councilmember Jay Schenirer asked transportation folks to send a memo detailing the challenges and plan for moving forward. See below for their response.)

As it has been reported, the City of Sacramento Department of Public Works has entered a construction contract to resurface roadways in the Land Park, Curtis Park, Pocket and Natomas areas. There have been numerous impacts to residents and the traveling public. In an effort to inform our customers and maintain transparency of City operations, we are releasing this memorandum to provide project information and answers to frequently asked questions.

♦ **What is this project? What is its scope and schedule?**

The project purpose is to provide various resurfacing treatments to City roadways within the Pocket, Land Park, Curtis Park, and Natomas areas. These treatments are a preventative maintenance measure intended to extend the design life of the roadways and are a critical component of the City's pavement maintenance activities. This project was initially scheduled to be substantially completed in the month of October but was delayed due to a wetter than usual month. To date, the initial resurfacing work (not including clean up, striping, and repairs) has been completed within the Pocket, Land Park, and Curtis Park areas. Due to the falling temperatures, all remaining resurfacing work has been halted until spring and warmer temperatures. The contractor will still be on site in the coming weeks performing site cleanup, placing striping at critical locations, and adjusting utility covers.

♦ **Why were there issues with the drying/curing of the resurfacing materials?**

The recent issues with this project are largely due to

lower than optimum ambient and pavement temperatures. Although the City has had success performing slurry seals in later months during previous year's projects, this project included many City streets that remain shaded almost the entire day due to the neighborhood's tree canopy. We are working closely with our contractor to address the issues that have arisen as a result. Additionally, we are making every effort to catalog and respond to resident concerns in a timely fashion.

♦ **My car has paving material all over it from driving on recently resurfaced roadways. What do I do?**

The City has received many complaints from residents who have gotten asphaltic material on their vehicles due to roads being opened prior to drying sufficiently. Our contractor, Valley Slurry Seal, has established a process by which residents can file a claim and have their vehicle cleaned. They have set up a cleaning service that will come to residents to minimize inconvenience.

The process for submitting a claim is as follows:

1. Contact Valley Slurry Seal (VSS) at (916) 373-1500 to request a claim form.
2. Submit a completed claim form to VSS's claims manager Victri Wackford at Victri.wackford@slurry.com. You will need to include a description of where/when the incident occurred, photos of the damage, and proof of vehicle ownership.
3. VSS will process your claim to verify the location of the incident and then make arrangements to have your vehicle cleaned.

VSS is diligently working through these claims. Residents are encouraged to be patient and work through the claims process that VSS has put in place.

♦ **There is gravel all over my street. How is the City going to fix this?**

Street sweeping activities are currently underway. The contractor will be running multiple sweeping crews

to expedite the process. This process will take some time due to the number of streets, the amount of on-street parking, and the volume of fallen leaves in most of the project area.

♦ **The resurfacing in my neighborhood is not smooth, extends onto the gutter, and has created a mess on sidewalks, driveways etc. How is the City going to fix this?**

It is important to understand that this project is not yet complete and the work is under warranty.

The contractor must achieve City acceptance of the work before they are released at the end of the job. As with any City construction project, our inspectors will review all work performed, develop a punchlist of items that will need to be addressed, and require the contractor to repair anything found to be deficient before the Contractor is released and paid their retention.

There are quality issues that need to be addressed after the initial construction of any roadway project. This project is no different. City inspectors have been carefully reviewing the work that

have been completed and documenting issues and repair work that will require the contractor's attention. At this time we are only addressing issues which may present a safety concern. We will not direct our contractor to remove and replace any defective sealing work until the spring unless absolutely necessary.


Residents should also be aware that seals may have minor ruts or ridges upon their initial placement but this is normal and the aesthetics generally improve over time with exposure to traffic.

♦ **There are issues with the striping that was placed after the resurfacing. What is the plan to address these issues?**

Some streets have received striping where none existed before. We have not changed the designation of your street. These markings were added to provide enhanced channelization of vehicles and safety for active modes of travel (bicyclists and pedestrians). We have typically painted a short stripe at each leg of an intersection or provided shared lane markings on the road for cyclists at locations where these complaints have been received.

We have identified several locations where traffic striping was placed and the work is not acceptable. In these areas the striping will be removed and replaced. Some of this work may occur this winter and some will be deferred to the spring for warmer weather. This is determined on a case by case basis. Any location where the issue presents a safety concern will be addressed immediately.

There are a number of things that should have been done differently on this project. We apologize for the inconvenience and impacts experienced by our customers. At this time we are working with the contractor to address the many issues and concerns being expressed to us by local residents. Quality customer service is an important part of the culture at the Department of Public Works and we have fallen well short of our goals with this project. We will continue to strive for improvement in this area with the remainder of this and future projects. For any questions or concerns regarding this project please contact the Project Manager Josh Werner at JWerner@cityofsacramento.org.




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COLDWELL BANKER



Local softball standout signs onto play at UC Davis

By MONICA STARK

At a high school where the student population does not boast a very large talent pool for softball players, 5-foot-1-inch second baseman Kiana Lee stands tall above her John F. Kennedy teammates, and as of last month accepted an offer to become an academic-athlete and play softball at the highest collegiate level.

As most of her fellow senior classmates are currently turning in college applications, Kiana committed herself to UC Davis, a Division-1 university.

For awhile, Kiana didn't even want to play college softball, but she realized after all the hard work she's put into the sport, she'd work even harder to get noticed by recruiters. She sent out hundreds of emails, made hundreds of phone calls, so when the news came that UC Davis wanted her to play on their team, Kiana "was just really happy. I think I cried three times," she said. Academically attractive to recruiters, Ki-

ana's small size on the other hand created some difficulty in getting noticed. So, she put her education first. "It's a big relief," she said.

To her parents Kevin Lee and Meena Chan Lee, Kiana is a role model to many young girls with lofty ambitions. "She is proof that no matter where you come from or what your obstacles are, with the right attitude, perseverance, and support, pretty much anything is possible to child wanting to fulfill their biggest dreams," Kevin Lee said.

Ever since a little girl, Kiana has wanted to attend UC Davis for its veterinary program, but more recently neurology, psychology and behavioral science have piqued the interest of the 4.2 grade point average student. "I like the brain and the mystery it has... one favorite courses (at Kennedy) is anatomy by Mr. Pollock," she said.

Perhaps, Kiana's intended major goes hand-in-hand with her position as second-baseman. "You need a strong mental focus," she says. "There's



more thinking involved in second base than what people realize. You have to react quickly and think about what you're going to do and think about situations before the pitch is being pitched."

One of her main coaches, Ray Stone has been with her since age 12, encouraging her to make the switch from pitching to second-base. A player of the fast-pitch softball club Batbusters for the last year and a half, Kiana has moved to three different organizations just to stay under the guidance of Stone. Her 18 and under club team has boasted multiple collegiate commitments. "Two girls are going to South Dakota State, one to Wagner College in York, one to New Mexico State, one to Humboldt State," she said.

When she was 5 years old, Kiana first walked onto a baseball field to play tee ball for Pocket Little League. At that age, she was both unaware of her talents and unaware of the existence of a softball league. After two years of learning the fundamentals of baseball, she moved onto softball at the age of 7. It wasn't long before she started to notice her abilities.

Kiana started with Pocket Girls' Softball, a main reason she had a head start in a flourishing softball career.

This next spring, Kiana thinks the Kennedy Cougars softball team will be good due to a high number of strong transfers. Will they beat rival,



C.K. McClatchy? "I think so," she says.

Then, in the summer, Kiana will stay busy, traveling for national championships and having regular practices. Meanwhile, on the agenda, her UCD coach will hand out a summer workout. "Since I'm close enough, I can go to the weights room and work out with the weights coach."

In the game of fast-pitch softball, players, including Kiana have had their share of injuries. She's been hit in the mouth, the throat, the elbow. Asked about her batting, she said she didn't used

to be a very good, but now boasts the second highest average on her team. Additionally to softball, Kiana plays tennis and soccer, sports that help her stay in shape. Adding to her regimen, Kiana does "core work" while watching Netflix and enjoys walking the family's white German Shepherd, Shiloh. An added bonus of attending college nearby, Kiana says she come home and see her dog.

"She's not coming home to see us, but coming home to see the dog," quipped her mother.

"True," Kiana says.



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Homelessness is the Most Pervasive Issue Facing California's Cities

By JAN DALSKE

According to the United States Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the State of California has the highest population of homeless people, more than any other state. In 2015 there were 115,738 homeless people who called California home. The rising cost of rents, rapidly declining numbers of low-income housing units, and slow wage growth have all contributed to homelessness.

On any given night in Sacramento, the State's Capitol, more than 2500 individuals are without a home. An estimated 5,200 more will become homeless over the course of the next year. Homelessness has risen to historic levels throughout the state. Being homeless is dangerous, especially for youth. There are families, youths and

many people needing substance and mental health treatment suffering on the streets of our cities. Both the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California have requested that Governor Brown declare a state of emergency on homelessness.

Of the nation's top ten most expensive rental markets, four are located in California. San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, and Los Angeles all have very high rents. The County of Los Angeles now has an estimated 46,874 homeless people on any given night. This reflects a 6% increase from last year. The City of Los Angeles has declared a state of emergency due to a lack of shelter for homeless in the city. San Diego is one of the top four cities in the nation when it comes to homeless and many of them are veterans. More than 25,000 Califor-

nians from many walks of life have signed a petition urging Governor Brown to act immediately. They feel that it is time to address this critical situation.

Our elected officials recognize that the challenge of confronting homelessness requires active engagement and leadership by all branches of government. Both the Senate and the Assembly are making it a priority to take action on homelessness prior to the adjournment of the 2015-16 Regular Session of the Legislature. The State of California has been committed to the prevention and significant reduction of chronic homelessness in the past.

In 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger launched his Chronic Homeless Initiative which included the creation of an Interagency Council comprised of the leaders of

eleven Agencies and Departments with responsibility for housing and services for citizens who are at risk of or already chronically homeless. The Interagency Council initiated the process of a collaboratively developed *Ten Year Chronic Homelessness Action Plan (TYCHAP)* and created a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.

This TYCHAP had set forth the goals, strategies and action steps necessary to work towards its mission of preventing homelessness and shortening the length of time people remain homeless by focusing statewide efforts through a well-coordinated system of housing, income supports, and collaborative services. The state remained committed to those goals, in spite of the fiscal situation, and the plan was a vision for how the problem of chronic homelessness

could and would eventually be addressed.

But when? AB-1177 (2009-2010) titled: *Homelessness: Interagency Council on Homelessness* declared that California must give priority to developing "consolidated, coordinated, and cooperative approaches to issues of homelessness, including, but not limited to, specific issues addressing homeless youth, families, veterans, parolees, victims of domestic violence, people with substance abuse or other mental health disorders, people experiencing chronic homelessness, seniors, and disabled people".



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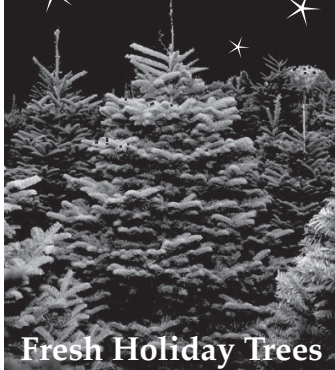
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The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By CANDY TUTT

Christmas is funny. Why else do you think Santa goes, 'Ho, ho, ho!?' Here's an example.

About 15 years ago my son lived in Sonoma county, a long mostly-scenic drive winding past pastures and vineyards. Once into the suburbs the view from the freeway consisted of back yards, cinder block walls and rooftops.

One December when we drove by, I glanced over to look for Christmas decorations and guffawed.

"What?"

I could only laugh and point, but my husband didn't get it until I explained. One of the houses had a plastic four-foot tall Santa Claus on their roof, poised with his sack of loot.

But from the back, the way Santa was bent over, it looked LIKE HE WAS TAKING A WIZZ DOWN THE CHIMNEY.

We verified it on the way home, and the next year we actually craned our necks on the outskirts of Petaluma, watching for Santa.

"There he is!" Sure enough, the Jolly Old Elf was relieving himself on the bricks again.

'Up on the housetop, quick quick quick - peeing down the chimney, it's good Saint Nick...' Sigh.

Our neighborhood is eclectic; a Latino influence is noted around Halloween when skeletons of all

shapes and sizes pop up in windows, where they remain through the first week of November in observance of El Dia de Los Muertos and El Dia de Los Santos.

Halloween decorations get a bit bizarre as well. , perched on the steps of one house, alongside a ghost and a scarecrow, was a lighted bright green alien. Well, okay, that's scary, especially if you live in Area 51.

A month later my husband came home one night in early December, laughing. "You gotta see this," he said, "get in the car."

We cruised up and turned to the next street over, and in the middle of the block he slowed down.

"Check it out."

There on a crowded concrete porch was The Nativity, complete with all three Wise Men, two shepherds and a sheep; Mickey Mouse in an Ebenezer Scrooge outfit, and...the Alien.

Wearing a Santa Hat. It's a holly-jolly Christmas.

My husband's aunt had a humungous plaster Nativity Set. Every year it took over the top of the stereo, laid out on a sheet of cotton batting that I think she bought during the Eisenhower Administration. Hail, hail the gang's all here: the angel, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, wise men, camels [both standing and seated] [the camels, not the wise men], and a supporting cast of candles among which were little kids in

choir robes, a couple of snowmen, and a pink bunny that snuck in from the Easter decorations but was allowed to remain. Hey, it's the joy of Christmas, why not? A smaller more portable Nativity usually sat on a coffee table or bookcase; the stable portion was made of brown plastic and the participants were separate plastic pieces glued into place. Time took its toll on the little town of Bethlehem, and by the 1990s all that was left was Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and one sheep.

About five years ago Tony had a job driving cars for an auto auction out in Rio Linda, which is sort of Sacramento County's version of the Ozarks. One December night Tony arrived home laughing about a display of life-size Christmas figures he'd seen on a lawn.

"They had everything: Joseph, Mary, the baby, Wise Men, shepherds..." then he started laughing again.

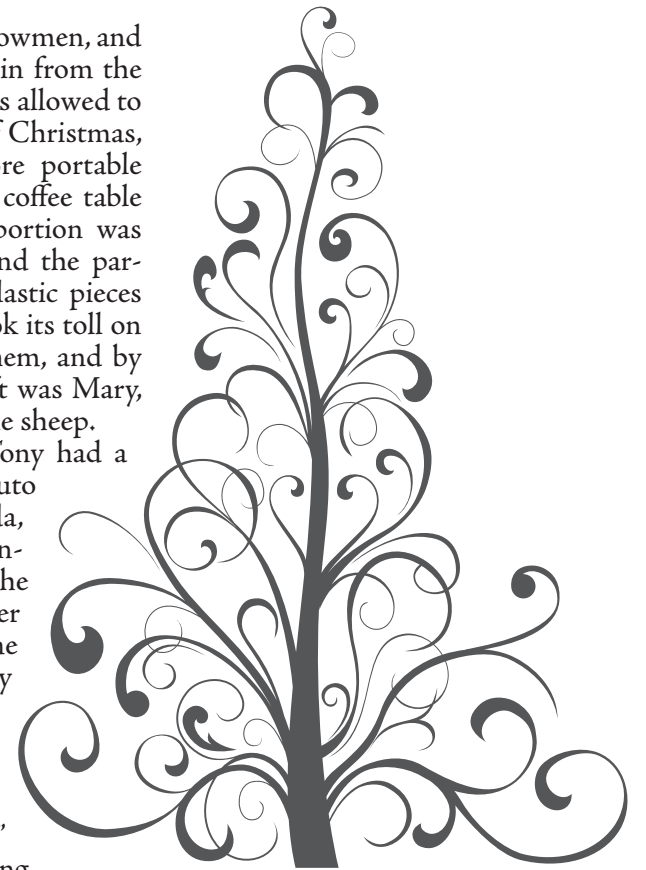
"What?"

"...and Snoopy. A great big inflatable Snoopy..."

Okaaaaay... that gave me an idea. The next day I rooted around in a box of art supplies, and when he got home I pointed to the bookcase.

"Oh, hon, it's Aunt Marie's little Nativity!"

"Look closer."



There, just outside the stable, next to the lone remaining sheep, I glued a little plastic Snoopy.

"Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown."

I still have the little Nativity thingy and it goes on the bookcase every year. Christmas is fun, whether it's Santa peeing in your chimney, an alien on the doorstep, or Snoopy in the manger.

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Letter:

Continued from page 4

ter and valued areas in Sacramento. It would be prudent to say that, as a matter of investment and costs, it would be more profitable to liquidate the MV-AG real estate and build PH in existing, less expensive land value areas. Sacramento has Urban In-fill or New Construction site availability that could support the requirements of PH objectives such as; Curtis Park Village, McKinley Village, Sacramento Rail Yard, Meadowview and Natomas to name a few.

The following information is from TRENDVISION-Metro List MLS-House Values/sq.ft. & Median Price of Houses Sold-10/16'- Sacramento, Cal. Zip Codes-95811, 95818, 95822, 95832:

95811-Midtown-	\$287/
sq.ft., sold-\$500,000	
95818-Land	Park/Up-
per Land Park to include	
MV-AG-	\$326/sq.ft.,
sold-\$500,000	
95822-South Sac-	\$204/
sq.ft., sold-\$232,000	
95832-Medowview-	\$165/
sq.ft., sold-\$255,000	

Attachment 7

Marina Vista (37.9 acres) and Alder Grove (32.5 acres) PH represent 70.4 acres of prime Sacramento Real Estate Land. The City of Sacramento could secure more revenue by selling the property to developers to convert the aged and outdated Sacramento PH property into a Market Rate Home Community. As a matter of economics, the construction and sale of a Market Rate Home Community draw revenue with current tax rates, assessments and revenues, not currently generated by the PH.

In conclusion, I along with the residents of LP and ULP request and hope that HUD, SHRA, Politicians and Developers select alternate areas in Sacramento, CA. for PH objectives, instead of saturating one specific area. We suggest the remedy is not to increase crime by increasing the size and population of MV-AG, but decrease it deferring to other areas to avoid PH saturation.


Sincerely,
Arthur D. Taylor,
Board Member, LPCA

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Great Sac Give Back weekend of service to kick off Mayor-elect Darrell Steinberg's swearing-in celebration

Mayor-elect Darrell Steinberg's swearing-in celebration is set to begin this weekend with the Great Sac Give Back, a weekend of service projects designed to inspire civic engagement and camaraderie throughout all of Sacramento's neighborhoods.

On December 10 and 11, hundreds of Sacramentans will join their neighbors in giving back to their community through service projects, one in each of the city's eight City Council districts.

"There is no more appropriate way to celebrate our vision for our city than to join our neighbors and give back to the community," said Mayor-elect Steinberg. "We must continue this Sacramento spirit and momentum to ensure this weekend of service continues as a commitment to service to one another year round."

Steinberg has said that as Mayor of Sacramento, he will focus the energy of the

city's neighborhoods to build a great future based upon civic action, strong communities and youth. The Mayor-elect will travel to each of Saturday's community events, which are anticipated to draw over 500 volunteers and attendees. The service projects range in theme, from neighborhood beautification projects to donation drives and neighborhood feeds.

A full list of each district's service project details, as well as a form to sign up to volunteer, can be found at aboutsac.com/giveback.php.

The All About Sacramento Committee will soon release additional information on the swearing-in ceremony itself, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 13 from 5 to 9 p.m. at the California State Railroad Museum.

For questions about how to volunteer, contact Maritza Davis at maritza@unseen-heroes.com.



Holiday sing-along at Eskaton set for Saturday

On Saturday, Dec. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m., the Land Park Community Association invites the public in joining in a sing-along at Eskaton Monroe, 3225 Freeport Blvd. Performances by McClatchy High School String Ensemble, Crocker Riverside Elementary Orchestra, Holy Spirit Parish Choir, guitarist, pianist, and a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by the neighborhood association's president, Steve Wincock. Parking is limited. For more information, call Shannel at 992-4218. Shown here are photos from last year's event, courtesy of the Land Park Community Association.

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Holiday Magic returns to the Sacramento Zoo on Saturday, Dec. 10

The holidays are here and it's time to enjoy the season! Bundle up the family for Holiday Magic at the Sacramento Zoo on Saturday, Dec. 10. Throughout the day, special gifts will be delivered to the animals. See them pounce, tear and stomp into their one-of-a-kind holiday gifts through out the day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Zoofari Market will be open at 10 am for Sacramento Zoo Member shopping. Members receive a 25 percent discount with their Membership card (excluding books, disposable cameras, sunscreen, sunglasses, Fair Trade, and promotional, discounted or sale items.)

Food Drive: Bring a non-perishable food item and receive a \$1 off your Zoo admission.

Animal Enrichments: Animals will get special treats delivered to them and staff will be on hand to share facts, secrets and answer your questions.



Schedule of Enrichments

All enrichments will happen at the animals exhibit.
 10:30 a.m. - Sumatran Orangutan, stockings with treats
 11 a.m. - Eastern Bongo, Christmas tree with edible ornaments
 11:30 a.m. - Black & White Ruffed Lemur, "Santa's Village" with edible treats
 Noon - Snow Leopard, frozen presents and ice
 12:30 p.m. - Wolf's Guenon, holiday pinata, presents and pinecone "reindeer"

1 p.m. - Red Panda, bamboo wreaths with apple
 1:30 p.m. - Jaguar, boxes with spices, ice and a Christmas tree
 2 p.m. - Red River Hogs, pumpkin bowls filled with fruit and vegetables
 2:30 p.m. - Giraffe, wreaths with treats, holiday pinata and a Christmas tree
 3 p.m. - Fruit Bats & Guinea fowl, fruit rings and browse wreaths
 3:30 p.m. - African Lion, holiday-themed pinata and boxes with spices

Visitors Tip: Keep an eye out for off-schedule enrichments that will be placed on exhibit at the zoo keeper's convenience.

Holiday Magic 2015 was a wonderful day, as 1,100 people came out to watch the animals get their special holiday treats.

Call 808-5888 for more information.

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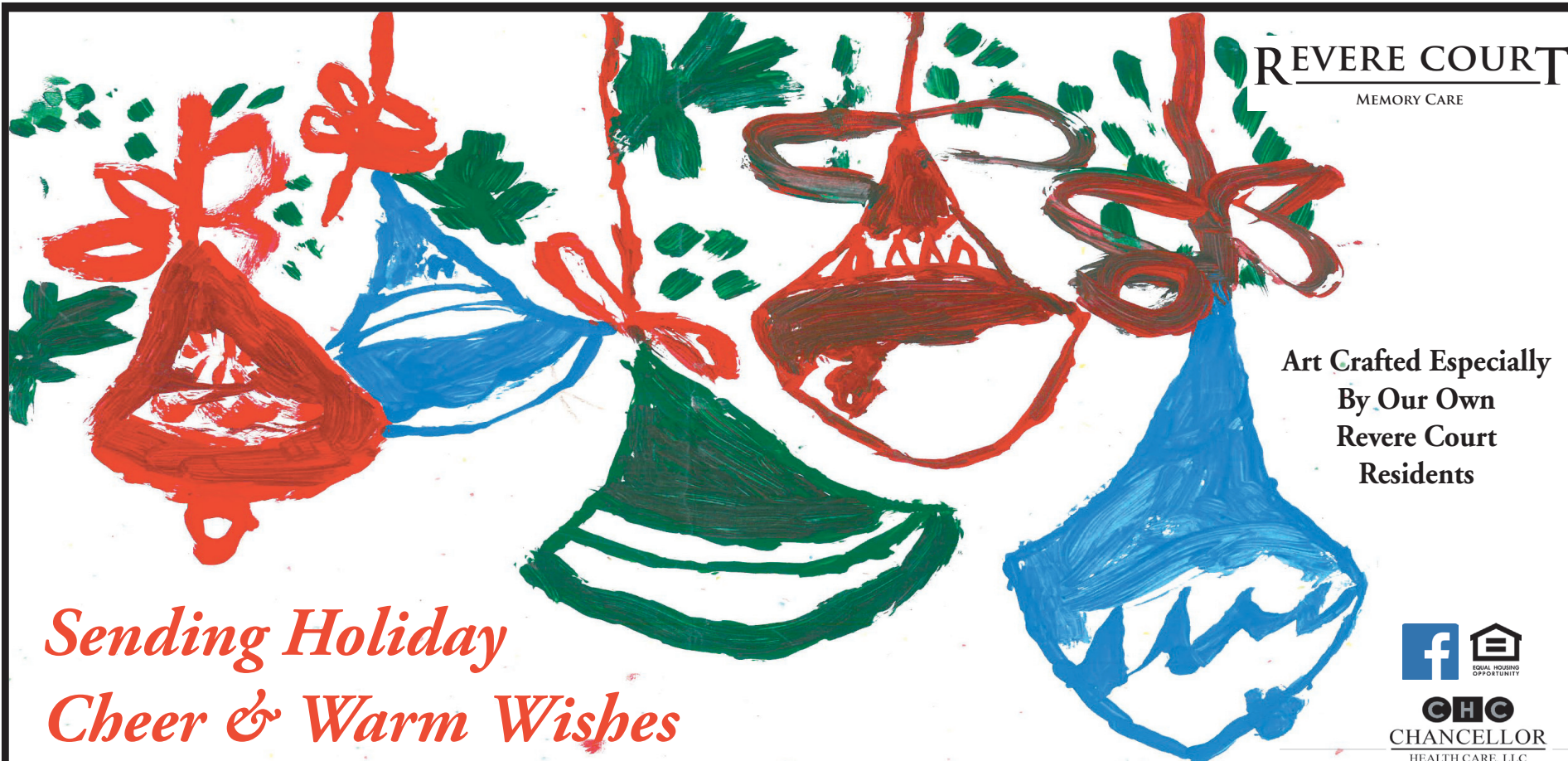
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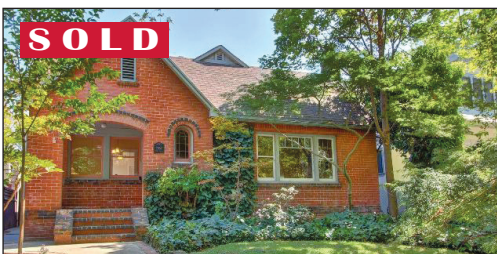
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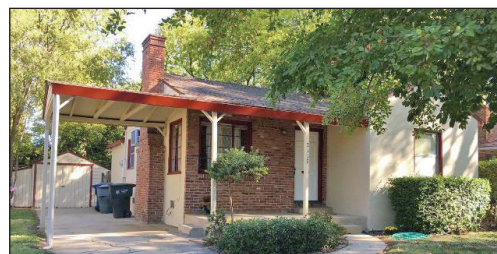
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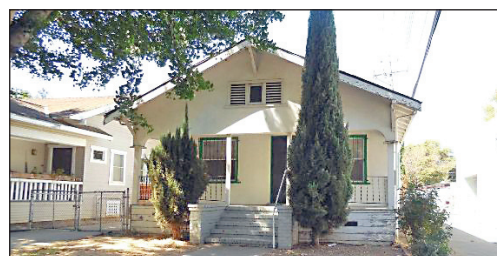
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'TIS THE SEASON FOR TAMALE MAKING

Here are some tips from Lalo's Restaurant in Hollywood Park



By Ray Bouknight

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

My mother grew up in Gonzales, a tiny migrant town south of Salinas. Every year, mi abuelita (my grandmother) Socorro Martinez would make tamales and sell them out of her home. Lines of people would crowd the sidewalk waiting to greet mi abuelita who took their orders in advance. From carnitas, to chicken, and of course the cinnamon and sugar varieties, the little town loved her cooking. Sadly, my mother didn't carry on the tradition but my uncle, Juan Martinez, still

lives in the area, and over our "Second Thanksgiving" shared with me his reason for his tardiness to dinner:

"We were making tamales! I looked at the time - 2:30 p.m. - shoot. I didn't get to stick around for the tamales to get done, but here I am. We were all there working away. It was an assembly line. A lot of us worked in assembly lines before, so it's easy for us," he said, laughing in an "it's-so-funny-it's-sad kind-of-way."

Former farmworkers who became activists in order to give back and help "la causa" Juan (aka Johnny to

me) and his friends get together to share their stories of "those days". They weren't quite good ol' days, but they were good ol' days. The trouble they'd get into! Johnny has always been my favorite uncle with his stories and humor -- always in attendance at Thanksgiving (whether it's Thanksgiving One or Two) and at Christmas. Tamale making is a favorite tradition, especially during Christmastime to share stories whilst slaving away with la familia, trying to get the masa just right. Because who likes a tamale that falls apart?

Because the traditions of tamale making weren't passed down to me, I have been curious: What makes a perfect tamale.

"You want to make sure you don't want to overcook them," says Lalo Tinoco of Lalo's Restaurant in Hollywood Park. "They will continue to cook even after you turn the fire off. It's kind of like an egg. When you are cooking an egg, you want to take it off of the fire and heat because the heat that's already in it will continue to

See *Tamales*, page 15



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Staff at Lalo's Restaurant.



Volunteers inside the kitchen at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

Tamales:

Continued from page 14

cook it. So you want to make sure you don't want to (keep them on the heat), because then they will be fully dry. Also, when we are cooking our tamales, we like to boil a little bit of rice and you add them in there and add it into the masa because it will not let your masa dry out. They won't stick to the husk. Everything you have to be a little curious."

At Lalo's they don't add mole or sauces on top of their tamales. "We want to make sure the filling is very flavorful so that you don't have to add extra condiments to it, so that you can

enjoy the tamale for what it is. But one day, we put sour cream on top and said, 'wow, this is good, so we continue to do that.'"

Asked where the restaurant gets its masa, Lalo said, "If you don't get your masa from La Esperanza, you should. They're the OGs (original gangster) of tamales." Lalo's parents Cecilia and Wenceslao Tinoco joined their powers in creating the perfect tamale recipe at the restaurant. "Every Hispanic family has a tamale recipe and hers has been very successful at the restaurant," Lalo said.

Tamale-making is a staple for the Tinocos, not just at Christmastime or Thanksgiving, but, as Lalo puts it:

"Not even every holiday, but every birthday, every American holiday, every Hispanic holiday, every anniversary. It's always the family, the family of the family, people that work here, their family. We all get together. At Thanksgiving, we never ate turkey. We always ate tamales ... We always bought a 20-pound bag of masa and everyone joins together. One person does this. One person puts the husks together. One person builds them. Then, you just wait till they're done and then dig in."

Lalo's is now taking orders for holiday parties up to a week in advance. But, they don't want to say no. "We'll make extra." Lalo's Restaurant is lo-

cated at 5063 24th St. (down the street from Panama Pottery) in Hollywood Park.

Besides Lalo's, a personal favorite place to pick up tamales has been the cafeteria at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (711 T St.) across the street from Southside Park. Every Sunday from morning to evening, the cafeteria is open. Church goes and visitors (like myself) go in and order lunch, be it two carne asada tacos or a cheese and pepper tamale (a perfect combination for those who like some spice but not a lot, as the cheese brings down the heat). The kitchen is all-volunteer run and the proceeds benefit the church.



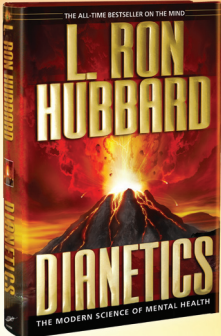
Linda Pohl

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Camellia Waldorf 28th annual winter faire set for Saturday, Dec. 10

On Saturday, Dec. 10 celebrate the magic of the season at Camellia! Enjoy children's puppet shows and craft activities, live music and entertainment, holiday shopping with local artisans, organic coffee and baked goods, delicious food, gingerbread houses and a children's store stocked with treasures for young shoppers.

Our Winter Faire is an annual event open to the public held rain or shine! Organized by parent volunteers, the faire "offers the best of what our community has to offer in terms of an openness to celebrate with neighbors and friends the joyous winter season, in addition to featuring activities that are unique to Waldorf education and reflecting our caring community - puppet shows, a special store for children shoppers, craft activities, handmade crafts and holiday shopping, great food, and heartwarming entertainment," stated parent Marisa Cheung. "Our parents spend countless hours preparing for this day, planning details and hand making gifts to be sold in the Children's Store. Where else can one find a store for chil-

dren shoppers only, in which parents are not allowed? Children enter a beautifully decorated and magical space to spend tickets in exchange for small gifts for their loved ones or for themselves!"

Cheung added that another enduring and beloved tradition is the school's gingerbread exhibit featuring gingerbread houses made by students and their families. "The sweet-smelling exhibit promises creative artistry and humor for viewers of all ages, and many creations are placed on silent auction. One will also find Camellia students performing on stage in choirs, string ensembles, and as angel guides helping young shoppers in the children's store," she said.

"Held rain or shine!" is the tagline. The event is always great fun for the entire family and people come to the Faire from all parts of the Sacramento region. Admission is free and nominal fees are charged for some activities. It takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Camellia Waldorf School, 7450 Pocket Road. For more information, call 427-5022 or go to www.camelliawaldorf.org -**Monica Stark**



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Former Panama Pottery worker recalls company's factory, more

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is part five in a series about the history of the longtime-operating Sacramento business, Panama Pottery.

It has been 52 years since Rupert Hess spent two summers working at Panama Pottery, but he remembers many details of those hot summers under the roof of this Land Park area institution.

Long before working at Panama Pottery, Rupert, a Pennsylvania native, moved to 2781 3rd Ave. in Curtis Park at the age of 7 with his parents, Herman and Esther, and his four siblings.

The Hess family made their way to California in 1955 after Herman, who worked for the Prudential Life Insurance Co. for 27 years, was transferred to Vallejo.

Two years later, the company opened an office in Sacramento and the Hesses moved to the capital city, where Herman would eventually retire. His last position with the company was regional vice president.

While growing up in Curtis Park, Rupert attended Sierra School at 2791 24th St., California Junior High School (now California Middle School) at Land Park Drive and Vallejo Way, and McClatchy High School.

Rupert described himself as growing up as an "average, middle class kid" who enjoyed various activities, including playing in local youth league baseball games.

It was in 1962 when Rupert learned of an opening to work at Panama Pottery as one of its four workers.

Rupert fondly recalled one of those workers.

"I remember there was an older Hispanic gentleman there that made the pots," he said. "He was a character. He had a good sense of humor, he spoke broken English, he was always upbeat and had good things to say. He was happy all the time and he worked hard."

Rupert added that maintaining a sense of humor at the factory during hot summer days could be challenging.

"If you work in pottery with a kiln in Sacramento in the



(above left) Former Panama Pottery worker Rupert Hess, shown with two 134-pound halibut that he caught, is currently enjoying his retirement years.



(above right) The Hess family, including Rupert (center), is shown in this 1970s photograph.

Photos courtesy of Rupert Hess

summertime, you've got to have humor," he said. "Inside was hotter than outside."

As for the manufacturing of Panama Pottery ceramics, Rupert recalled the process of making ceramic planting pots and other items.

"The clay came in and it was just a pile of dirt really," he said. "But there was an old Mexican gentleman there that would mix it all together and it would make clay. Our job was basically, we would make all the pots and all that stuff."

"We would load them in the kiln. They would fire it up and while that thing was (operating), they would make some more pots. It took a long time for them to cool down."

"(One) guy had a specialty. He would go in there and make sure everything was turned properly and didn't have any cracks. If they did it too long, the (ceramic products) would crack and they would lose a lot of inventory."

Rupert said the majority of that inventory was clay pots for local nurseries, including Capital Nursery.

"There were five nurseries and they were all retail," he said. "We would just load up the old semi and drop these pots off. We would go out to other places, West Sacramento, whatever."

Although Panama Pottery mainly sold their products to nurseries, Rupert said that the public was also welcome

to make purchases at the 24th Street factory.

"If you walked in there, you could buy things, but (the owner) didn't sell too much," he said. "If (people) were in the neighborhood or knew about it, they could buy things. He would sell to anybody."

Following his time at Panama Pottery, Rupert later acquired what eventually became a better paying job at the American Can Co.

Although he was hired by that company at the same rate of \$5 per hour that he was paid at Panama Pottery, he was later earned \$10 per hour at that plant, which was located 33rd and C streets.

Rupert recalled how the pressure that he later received from his father to move forward in his life led to his career choice in information technology – aka data processing.

"I was playing football, chasing women, drinking, so, my dad threw a hammer down on me" he said. "He said, 'Son, the fun's over. Go to school or get a job or go into the military. Those options weren't real good."

"Anyway, a math teacher at (Sacramento Junior College) said, 'There's a new thing called information technology. You would be good at it.' So, there was a place called

Automation Institute downtown. They sent a representative over and they gave me a big test.

"I think I got 98 (percent). So, my dad looked at me and said, 'I think this is your last chance.' So, that became my career."

During his career in information technology, Rupert worked for two years at the Sacramento Army Depot before spending the next 25 years working for the county of Sacramento.

Rupert is currently enjoying his retirement years and resides with his wife of 51 years, Caroline, in the Elmhurst area.

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THURSDAY, DEC. 8 - SUNDAY, DEC. 11

WINTER WONDERLAND AT FAIRYTALE TOWN: Celebrate the holiday season at Fairytale Town's Winter Wonderland! Their storybook park is open for play, trimmed with festive holiday décor and lit up with a dazzling display of lights, starting at dusk each evening (weather permitting). Guests will love a flurry of snow falling nightly at 7 p.m. near the Mother Goose Stage. Plus, visitors will enjoy making holiday themed crafts, visiting Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain, the Candy Castle and more! Visit www.fairytaletown.org

FRIDAY, DEC. 9

ORGANIZE SACRAMENTO OPEN HOUSE: From 6 to 9 p.m., Organize Sacramento cordially invites the public to the organization's new office and training space for a Grand Community Open House! Folks can mingle with friends, local leaders and community members. There will be food, refreshments and entertainment and the group will review Organize Sacramento's work in the community over the last year, and share with everyone what projects they're working on now and in the coming months! Organize Sacramento, 1714 Broadway. Individual tickets are free and there are various sponsorship levels available. Visit: <https://rally.org/organizesacramento> or contact: OrganizeSacramento@gmail.com Organize Sacramento is a 501(c)3 Charitable Organization. All donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Tax I.D. #46-1869541.

SWIM WITH SANTA AT THE YMCA: Bring your wish list and join Santa for poolside pictures and a swim in our indoor, heated pool! The fun continues with art & crafts, holiday snacks, a Sacramento Kings tickets drawing, giveaways and more! The event is FREE & OPEN TO ALL with suggested donation of non-perishable food to benefit the River City Food Bank or school supplies for Mustard Seed School Sacramento. PLUS, enjoy NO JOINING FEE when you become a member of the Y community, door prizes, priority swim lesson registration - including a free swim cap, and so much more! Swim with Santa is fun for all ages so bring the whole family and all of your friends! Please note: Pictures with Santa 5:30 - 6:30pm; Swim with Santa 6:30 - 7:30pm. From 5:30 to 8 p.m., the YMCA of Superior California, Sacramento, 2021 W St., 95818; www.ymcasuperiorcal.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

HOLIDAY MAGIC AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO: Why should only humans receive gifts during the holidays? It's time for Holiday Magic when the community has the special opportunity to watch as the animals unwrap their holiday goodies! Plus, Zoo visitors who bring a non-perishable food item receive \$1 off admission on that day. For more, visit www.saczoo.org

HOLIDAY SING-ALONG AT ESKATON: From 2 to 4 p.m., the Land Park Community Association invites the public in joining in a sing-along at Eskaton Monroe, 3225 Freeport Blvd. Performances by McClatchy High School String Ensemble, Crocker Riverside Elementary Orchestra, Holy Spirit Parish Choir, guitarist, pianist, and a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by the neighborhood association's president, Steve Wincock. Parking is limited. For more information, call Shannel at 992-4218.

AUTO MUSEUM MURAL DEDICATION: From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the California Automobile Museum, 2200 Front St., will hold a Second Saturday celebration of their new, larger-than-life art installation by muralist Shaun Burner. The museum will be celebrating outside (weather permitting) with free hot cocoa, coloring art projects for kids, meet-and-greet with the artist, and more. Certainly, a fair number of people have been given directions to the Auto Museum featuring this statement: "Look for a big warehouse building across from the animal shelter." Weeks ago, that would have been accurate. But those days are long gone. With funds raised from our annual benefit dinner's "Bid for a Cause", the museum has commissioned local mural artist Shaun Burner to create a pop-art mural featuring some of the stars of the collection.

HANDS ON HISTORY: A SIMPLE EMIGRANT CHRISTMAS AT SUTTER'S FORT: In John Sutter's day, people from around the world passed through the gates of Sutter's Fort, each with their own customs and traditions for the holiday season. "A Simple Emigrant Christmas" offers several vignettes showing holiday scenes, including foods, music, decorations, and traditions from other cultures. During this special "Hands on History" event, Fort visitors will be able to dip candles, make cornhusk dolls, and create keepsake ornaments. For more, visit www.suttersfort.org

CAMELLIA WALDORF SCHOOL'S 28TH ANNUAL WINTER FAIRE: Come celebrate the magic of the season at Camellia! Enjoy children's puppet shows and craft activities, live music and entertainment, holiday shopping with local artisans, organic coffee and baked goods, delicious food, gingerbread houses and a children's store stocked with treasures for young shoppers. Free admission, nominal fee for some activities. It takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Camellia Waldorf School, 7450 Pocket Road. For more information, call 427-5022 or go to www.camelliawaldorf.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 AND SUNDAY, DEC. 11

FUN WITH HOLIDAY DÉCOR AT THE CROCKER ART MUSEUM: Guests are encouraged to drop in to enjoy a holiday decoration extravaganza at the Crocker Art Museum. With four sessions and designed for guests ages 4 and up, visitors can choose to make traditional decorations from around the world or create their own decorations inspired by an array of unusual materials. For more, visit www.crockerartmuseum.org

SUNDAY, DEC. 11

SOUTH SACRAMENTO INTERFAITH PARTNERSHIP FUNDRAISER AT CHIPO-TLE: Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support SSIP Food Closet. Come in to the Chipotle at 4001 Freeport Blvd. Suite 102 between 1 and 6 p.m. Tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure that 50 percent of the proceeds will be donated to SSIP Food Closet. Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count towards total donated sales, but purchases made with an existing gift card will count.

MONDAY, DEC. 12

SANTA TO VISIT SURFSIDE KIDS DENTAL: Ho! Ho! Ho! Surfside Dental will host Santa for a free 3-hour event open to our community, friends and family to visit and receive a complimentary photo. There will be a photographer on site, first come first serve, 9 a.m. to noon. 2615 Riverside Blvd. Allow one business day for photo processing. Photos may be reproduced for personal use only. Copyright protected. Photos provided by The Joy Archival. For more information, email marketing@surfsidekidsdental.com

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

HOLIDAY CRAFTS & COCKTAILS AT THE CROCKER ART MUSEUM: Due to popular demand, holiday craft night returns to the Crocker! Adult guests will enjoy sipping a holiday cocktail as they create seasonal decorations, last minute presents, or special creations for themselves. Participants are encouraged to bring their imaginations and good cheer for an evening of creative fun. For more, visit www.crockerartmuseum.org

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH: "It's the happiest season of all," sung Andy Williams. But for many the Christmas season doesn't always bring happiness. Particularly if they have lost a loved one, are dealing with worsening health issues, unemployment, or another difficult life situation. For those who feel depressed the greeting have a "Happy or Merry" Christmas serves as a constant reminder about what they have lost or never had. If you feel sad or "blue" with the approach of the Christmas season, and would like to be in a space where you can acknowledge your feelings in a quiet setting, consider attending the service of Blue Christmas. The service focuses on the idea that everyone is not happy during the Christmas season, said the Rev. Michael Monnot. Blue Christmas will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church, 2076 Sutterville Road (across from City College) on Sunday, December 18, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 24

PAJAMA PARTY AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO: Guests can celebrate Christmas Eve for FREE at the Sacramento Zoo without even changing out of their pajamas! Festive and fun, get there early as the Zoo will close early at 1:30 p.m. that day so the dedicated staff can enjoy time with their families. For more, visit www.saczoo.org

SATURDAY, DEC. 24, MONDAY, DEC. 26-

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

MARS: YOUR VACATION DESTINATION AT THE POWERHOUSE SCIENCE CENTER: Powerhouse Science Center is offering a wonderful holiday destination for guests to enjoy a fantastical voyage to Mars and experience the retrofitted Science In Motion exhibition. Visitors will practice rocket launches, see "rover" choices to help them navigate their excursion on the red planet, meander along the "Solar System Walk" to plot their course to Mars, and find out which critters in their live animal collection would be best suited to space travel. Plus, Aerojet Rocketdyne will share a special launch pad exhibit on display for this week only. For more, visit www.powerhousesc.org

MONDAY, DEC. 26-SATURDAY, DEC. 31

UNDERGROUND TOURS OFFERED BY THE SACRAMENTO HISTORY MUSEUM: Coinciding with the holiday break and offering a unique experience for friends and families to enjoy together, the Sacramento History Museum is extending its 2016 season with a special week of Old Sacramento Underground Tours. Visitors can take the hour-long tour at either 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. each day during this holiday week. For more, visit www.sachistorymuseum.org

Ongoing

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SACRAMENTO SOUTH MEETING: The club welcomes women and girls to the club's lunch meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Aviators Restaurant, at Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd.

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A 'Winter Wonderland' returns to Fairytale Town

Celebrate the holiday season at Fairytale Town! Weather permitting, the annual event called Winter Wonderland will be held at Fairytale Town on Thursdays to Sundays, Dec. 8 to 11 and Dec. 15 to 18 from 1 to 7 p.m. Fairytale Town's storybook park will be open for play, trimmed with festive holiday décor and lit up with a dazzling display of lights, starting at dusk each night, with a flurry of snow falling nightly at 7 p.m. near the Mother Goose Stage. Children can enjoy making holiday themed crafts, and be able to visit the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle.

On the weekends, even more holiday fun awaits with hands-on activities, a holiday marketplace, Victorian carolers and more. Santa will also be making a special stop at Fairytale Town and will be available for visits and photos in his workshop, located in the Children's Theater, from 3 to 6 p.m. Photos will be available for purchase for an additional cost. Please Note: The Santa line closes at 6 p.m. promptly. Printed photos with Santa are \$5.

To note: During Winter Wonderland, Fairytale Town's operating hours are 1 to 7 p.m.

Winter Wonderland Tickets: Winter Wonderland is free with paid park admission. Weekday admission is \$4.75 per person. Weekend admission is \$5.75 per person. Children ages 1 and under are free. For faster entry, buy general admission tickets online and bring the printed tickets when you visit.

Fairytale Town members are free.

Entertainment Schedule

Thursday & Friday, Dec. 8 and 9:

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle!

Make a holiday themed craft

FRIDAY ONLY: Watch a holiday themed puppet show! Puppet Art Theater Company will present a holiday version of Jack and the Beanstalk at 6 PM in the Children's Theater. Puppet show tickets are an additional \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Tick-



ets are available 15 minutes prior to each show time at the Children's Theater doors or at the box office.

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11:

Santa Claus will be in his workshop in the Children's Theater and available for visits and photos from 3 – 6 p.m. (line closes at 6 p.m.)

Meet two of Santa's reindeer from 1 to 7 p.m. in Pooh Corner

Enjoy holiday themed hands-on activities around town

Listen to a quartet of Victorian carolers as they stroll through the park from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Vendors will be selling holiday wares and treats

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle!

Thursday and Friday, Dec. 15 and 16:

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle!

Make a holiday themed craft

FRIDAY ONLY: Watch a holiday themed puppet show! Puppet Art Theater Company will present a holiday version of Jack and the Beanstalk at 6 p.m. in the Children's Theater. Puppet show tickets are an additional \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Tickets are available 15 minutes prior to each show time at the Children's Theater doors or at the box office.

Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 17 and 18:

Santa Claus will be in his workshop in the Children's Theater and available for visits and photos from 3 – 6 p.m. (line closes at 6 p.m.)

Enjoy holiday themed hands-on activities around town

Listen to a quartet of Victorian carolers as they stroll through the park from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Vendors will be selling holiday wares and treats

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle

*Entertainment Schedule is subject to change

Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. For more information, call the main office at 808-7462, the 24-hour line at 808-5233, or email mail@fairytaletown.org.

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New interactive programs unveiled at the California Automobile Museum

The California Automobile Museum is pleased to introduce a number of new interactive programs and exhibits of special appeal to children, teens and guests of all ages. The Museum recently launched a monthly reading program for young children, a distracted driving simulator for teens, and now has a dozen iPads available for guests of all ages to easily access additional content and information about exhibits on display. These exciting new programs and interactive features are all offered free with Museum admission.

Distracted Driving Simulator – Next to Drive-In Theater Area

Driver safety is an important part of the evolution of the automobile and a recurring theme at the Museum. Today, distracted driving – especially due to texting and phone use – is an increasing concern for young new drivers. To help combat this, the Museum recently introduced a new driving simulator that brings the dangers of texting and driving to life. The simulator covers general safe driving as well as impaired/intoxicated driving, and guests are encouraged to hop in to experience just how distracting texting can be while driving.

Story Time – First Friday of Each Month from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Children ages six and under are invited to embark on an adventure through the sights, sounds and stories that make the automobile come alive. On the first Friday of each month, kids (and their parents, too) can gather in the new children's area and listen to a story about common car-themed topics such as lights, horns and wheels. After Story Time, the children can explore the Museum and see, touch, and even climb into and onto different cars and car parts to experience the story first hand.

iPad Tour – Available at Front Desk

To expand and enhance the Museum experience, guests are invited to utilize one of a dozen new iPads equipped with additional images, videos, facts and figures about the galleries, exhibits and automobiles on display. For a comprehensive self-guided experience, guests are encouraged to stop by the front desk and for no extra charge, check out one of the iPads available.

For more information about the California Automobile Museum, please call 916-442-6802 or visit www.calautomuseum.org

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ALLIED, RULES DON'T APPLY, and MOANA, now playing for your post turkey-day entertainment.

ALLIED

The MPAA has rated this R

Paramount Pictures has had a good year with movies that echo that studio's past greatness. Their new release "Allied" is yet another example of the studio returning with force as a provider of outstanding movies. Directed by Robert Zemeckis, a man who has had many movie hits, "Allied" stars Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard and is set in 1942.

The story begins in North Africa, where Pitt, playing Max Vatan, a Canadian Air Force intelligence officer assisting the RAF, encounters a female French Resistance officer, Cotillard, playing Marianne Beausejour. Whilst on a deadly secret mission playing a happily married husband and wife they find themselves attracted to each other, but must not act on those feelings during the mission, which involves "removing" a high ranking Nazi officer in Casablanca.

Max and Marianne make their way back to England as he waits for another assignment. Much to the strong resistance of his superior officer, Frank Heslop, played by Jared Harris, the two are married and have a lovely baby daughter. The baby's birth is of one of the most spectacular of scenes, it happens during the London blitz. She begins, only to be carted out of the hospital and into the streets under the light of incendiary tracer bullets, searchlights beaming across the sky and falling bombs. Although this movie is in wide-screen, it captures the feel of classic Hollywood with many moments that remind you of great classic films, yet does not get campy in any way with its tip of the hat to tinseltown.

Doubt manifests in the movie's third act where Max gets the very bad news that it may be possible that his wife and mother of their new born baby may be a spy working with the Nazis. His difficulty believing the possibility and how the idea begins to slowly poison him brings out one of Brad Pitt's best performanc-

es in years; stoic, in love and forced with impossible choices that make espionage seem like child's play by comparison. Jared Harris, one of my favorite actors working today, who you may remember from "Mad Men" has a role that reminded me much of Trevor Howard in "The Third Man". He is outstanding here.

The beautiful Miss Cotillard is stunning in this period setting. Don't think of this as a World War II film as much as a World War II drama, in the vein of the classic M-G-M wartime films like William Wyler's "Mrs. Miniver" with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon. Perhaps with a little more spice, such as in one of the most inventive of love making scenes; the principals are inside a car in a sandstorm; it was a memorable way to handle and cleverly photograph such a moment, my kudos to Don Burgess, the cinematographer in realizing such a scene with cleverness and good taste. "Allied" offers a great production, photography and performances. Don't miss it! It's the way movies used to be.

RULES DON'T APPLY

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Set in Hollywood in 1958, Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation brings us "Rules Don't Apply" director Warren Beatty's labor of love in which a young starlet has been placed under contract by movie mogul and aviation giant Howard Hughes. The small-town beauty queen, a devout Baptist virgin, Marla Mabry, played by Lily Collins, arrives in the movie capital

with her mother Lucy Mabry in tow. She's played by the radiant Annette Benning.

As was typical in Hollywood of that era, starlets under contract received a weekly salary, but often had to wait and wait before they were asked to do anything at all, always hoping for the phone to ring to report to the studio for a screen test or wardrobe fitting. Miss Mabry has been assigned two drivers, working in shifts to take her where she desires and to work if so called; Levar Mathis, played by Matthew Broderick and Frank Forbes, played by Alden Ehrenreich.

Frank's background is similar to Marla's, he, a Methodist with a girlfriend back home set on marrying him. During their many drives they get to know each other and she chats on and on whilst he becomes interested, but of course, fully knowing that he'll lose his job if an impropriety occurs.

This movie is beautifully lit as films of that era were, defining the look of what we now consider classic films. I find it the most beautifully photographed movie I have seen this year. This is the sensational work of cinematographer Caleb Deschanel, who was delighted that Beatty wanted much in darkness.

This is a highly entertaining picture and the years of planning have paid off in a fun and wonderful movie experience you will truly enjoy. Warren Beatty plays Howard Hughes and in the great tradition of showmanship, does not appear on screen until the movie is well on its way. Even then, it is in the dark, as he brings the complex Hughes to life.

Beatty is in the remarkable place to have lived this era in his youngest days as a contract player himself at the very end of the Golden Age of the movies, its tumultuous changes of the 1960s through to the present. He gives us a phenomenal cast of actors that enrich any movie they appear in, including Paul Sorvino, Candice Bergen, Martin Sheen, Ed Harris, Amy Madigan, Oliver Platt and the ever-working Alec Baldwin, who had also appeared in a similar role as an airline executive locking horns with Howard Hughes in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator" in 2004. A nice touch in the movie is a new song, which gives the movie its title, "Rules Don't Apply" written by Lorraine Feather and Eddie Arkin. Go see the movie! It's absolutely beautiful, I loved it!

MOANA

The MPAA has rated this PG

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures offers their winter-time big feature with a princess. In this case, the Disney Princess is not actually a princess, but the daughter of the chief of her south sea island tribe, who longs to travel by sea. Her feckless father, shocked by past

danger at sea will not let her go, but the lure is too strong in young Moana Waialiki (voiced by Auli'i Cravalho).

Adventure she must, so with guidance from an elder, slightly tetchd tribeswoman she sets out to sea to find the demigod Maui (Voiced by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson). She's in luck, they meet and he guides her, when not extolling his own virtues, by giving her tips so that she may become an excellent wayfinder. They encounter monsters and many tribulations, completing the classic hero (in this case heroine) cycle.

Simply put, the film is too long for adults and children at almost 2 hours running time. The jokes for adults and the consistently brilliant animation of Disney make you watch to the end, but the characters are not as likable as past Disney favorites. The musical score and pop tunes, penned by the team of Broadway's sensation, "Hamilton", seem repetitive and un-inspired. Director Ron Clements seems not to know when to end the story. Unless you have a child begging you to go, save your money. Here's hoping Disney's next is better.

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