

LAND PARK NEWS

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A Jolly 'Ol Time at the Family Y

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Neighborhood
Association shares policy
and background on Del
Rio Trail

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Steve Hansen gets
sworn in again

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The Land Park News is published on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in the area bounded by Broadway to the north, Interstate 5 on the west, Florin Road on the south and Freepoint Boulevard/21st Street on the east.

Publisher.....David Herburger
Editor.....Monica Stark
Art Director.....John Ochoa
Graphic Designer.....Annin Greenhalgh
Advertising Director.....Jim O'Donnell
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Vol. XXV • No. 24
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Sacramento,
CA 95818
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Neighbors discuss what they want for Christmas



Richard Cherry said he wants peace on Earth for a change across the globe. "I wish everybody would knock it off. (All the killing of) kids and civilians. They're the ones that pay the price for war." The Vietnam veteran said he would just like to one day turn on the news and not see "car bombings and civilians being used as shields."



Derek Froom said he would like a "free paycheck. That would be nice. One just for me. No bills."



Repeating the question for emphasis, Colleen asked, "What do I want for Christmas?" "Anything but Trump," she said.



Kelly said she would like Trump to leave the country and to move to Moscow.



Then there's Derrick Taylor and Pat (no last name) who want a new set of Callaway golf clubs. Pat specifically added, he wants both the irons and the woods.



Dhel. "We have pretty much everything we need." Similarly, Cliff Lindsey said he's got everything he needs. "I don't want for anything."

"I could say I'd like my whole family together for Christmas. (They are) far apart mentally and physically." —Lanora H.

used to be a tradition for the family to get together. "I miss the traditions. I would like to be at the ocean for Christmas, either Half Moon Bay, or Monterey or Carmel."

Likewise, Judy Loewe said she would love to see her daughter who lives in Colorado during the holidays, as it

"A bass boat and a big diamond for her," Richard Torres said while gesturing his wife

Jerry Landroth-Brusato said she wants the Giants to win the World Series.
Compiled by Monica Stark

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— Mark Andrews

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Holiday Cheer in Sacramento

By CORKY OAKES

It begins just before Halloween. Some Sacramento residents usher in the holiday season with full yard displays complete with "smoking" dry ice, graveyards, skeletons playing organs, and "live" performances by Elvis and Marilyn. Thousands of people walk the streets to capture the feel as well as accumulate treats.

About a week before Thanksgiving, teams of folks begin hanging neighborhood lights, tree-to-tree or the length and width of streets. Homeowners set up their individual light displays: towering London Plane trees are dressed in "net" and magical laser lights. Walkways are trimmed with various shapes, sizes and colors, including lovely luminaria.

Kat, a local resident, describes the use of luminaria in her neighborhood. "We line our streets with hundreds of luminaria; lunch-sized brown bags with a bit of sand and a tea light inside. All the neighbors come out to light them at dusk. It's a New Mexico tradition one neighbor introduced many moons ago...it's really quite a sight...a soft, warm yellow-orange glow stretching for several blocks."

In addition to sights, there are sounds of the season. One of my favorites are hooves of horses leading lighted hay wagons and carriages. Folks in the wagons sometimes sing. Outbursts of holiday cheers are not at all unusual. Warms my heart simply thinking of it.

Holiday cheer also extends beyond the grand festival of lights, colors and sounds. Many residents observe traditions and rituals, year

after year. In my wanderings, a few were shared with me.

"What I really like is getting together before holiday parties with family, exchanging gifts, usually a gag gift." - Tony

"My oldest memory is hanging cards from wood door frames." - S.S.

"One of my traditions this time of year is adding a couple of jingle bells to my dog Mookee's leash (I make sure they are up higher away from his ears to keep from bothering his sensitive hearing). The sound of "sleigh bells" makes our evening walks more festive!" - Kat

"What I like is bringing friends together to play musical instruments and sing... taking breaks to enjoy libations and edibles." - Anon.

"Every holiday season throughout my marriage has been marked by my mother-in-law having some urgent reason to go to the ER. 2016 is no exception!" - Anon.

"Ryan's tree is a small 1' artificial that I decorated for him with blue and green lights, fake seaweed, plastic fish, and a scuba diving Santa and snorkeling Bumble (abominable snowman from the Rudolph animated show). He got certified in scuba the same year he moved out of my house to get his own apt and I knew he wouldn't decorate on his own.... hence my gift. Apparently he likes it because it came back out on 12/1 and he says it's officially his tradition now." - contributed by Kat on behalf of Ryan.

"My cousin Richard hosts an event once every holiday where he invites friends, family, neighbors near and far to meet at his house for a tamale making "how to" class of which he sets them all up in work stations and



"What I really like is getting together before holiday parties with family, exchanging gifts, usually a gag gift."
- Tony

then they watch as he guides them step by step to make a tamale. Wine, beer, hot cider and treats are available through out the day until the tamales are done and everyone gets to enjoy. It's a lot of fun and I sadly have missed the last 5 years but I cherish the memories I have of the last tamale night with them." - contributed by Adrian.

family and friends throughout the season. Also, my family writes riddles and clues for each gift. We open our gifts one at a time, one person at a time. Back in the day it could take up to 3 or 4 hours for gift exchanging, complete with modeling clothes or miming how we might use our gifts. Always hilarious. Whatever you do, wherever you go, I send you Happy Holidays wishes.



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Dog found suffocating in South Hills dumpster

A homeless man who was going through one of the dumpsters behind Vic's Market in the South Hills Shopping Center on Saturday, Dec. 17 heard a whimpering sound coming from a small bag. He tried to open the bag but was afraid he was going to get bitten by the pup inside. Friends with the ladies at Jazzercise, he entered the business and told them about the dog. In a group effort, he and the ladies approached the dog and immediately called Animal Control. An officer came out shortly and now the dog is at the Front Street Animal Shelter. The officer told my coworker, Linda Pohl, that officers will examine the security camera footage and if a suspect is found, they will prosecute for animal endangerment. The officer said often times people who are angry at someone, take their animals and harm them. The little guy appeared frightened but loved being held. If he is your dog, contact Front Street at 808-7387. Front Street is located at 2127 Front St.



Lyon's Land Park office collects and donates 1,987 coats to the Sacramento Food Bank

For the sixth consecutive year, Lyon Real Estate turned its Land Park office into a collection center during the month of October for new and slightly used coats. A total of 1,987 coats were collected from agents, staff and the community that were donated to the Sacramento Food Bank.

Sacramento Food Bank is dedicated to assisting those in need by alleviating their immediate pain and problems and moving them toward self-sufficiency and financial independence.

All 14 Lyon Real Estate offices participated in the coat drive, collecting a record 10,065 coats for local charities in the Greater Sacramento Area. Land Park was the top coat collecting office in the Lyon company during October.

"We are incredibly proud of the Lyon Land Park team's determination in giving back to their community," said Pamela Petterle, Office Manager. "Through their efforts, many locals will be able to experience the gift of warm coats this winter."

For more information on Lyon's Annual Coast Drive, please contact Office Manager Pamela Petterle at 453-3349.



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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14			15					16				
17			18					19				
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		58					59					
60	61				62	63				64		
65				66						67		
68				69						70		

- ACROSS**
- 1. No (Scottish)
 - 4. Heroic tales
 - 9. A way to tend
 - 14. Not or
 - 15. Where rockers play
 - 16. Dutch name for Ypres
 - 17. Ingested
 - 18. A resident of California
 - 20. Unfounded rumor
 - 22. Oats
 - 23. Type of women's coat
 - 24. Life forms
 - 28. Every
 - 29. Alternating current
 - 30. Withered
 - 31. "Gymnopedies" composer
 - 33. Plate glasses
 - 37. Musical artist
 - 38. Before
- DOWN**
- 1. Civil Rights group
 - 2. Early Slavic society
 - 3. Mammals that lack incisors and canines
 - 4. Blasphemy
 - 5. Israeli city
 - 6. Put this in your hair
 - 7. Black tropical American cuckoo
 - 8. Month in the Islamic calendar
 - 9. Begets
 - 10. Court game
 - 11. Painkiller
 - 12. New Zealand parrot
 - 13. Suffix
- ACROSS**
- 39. Arrange in steps of size
 - 41. Electron cloud model
 - 42. Morning
 - 43. Leonard ____, famed Swiss mathematician
 - 44. Capital city of Buenos Aires province
 - 46. Snouts
 - 49. Of I
 - 50. Swiss river
 - 51. Perplexes
 - 55. Made angry
 - 58. Precious stone
 - 59. Type of envelope
 - 60. One who believes in reason and knowledge
 - 64. Monitors brain activity (abbr.)
 - 65. Get __ of
 - 66. Actress Zellweger
 - 67. Spinal muscular atrophy (abbr.)
- DOWN**
- 19. Egg cells
 - 21. Another name for Thor
 - 24. About pontiff
 - 25. The academic world
 - 26. Raise
 - 27. Civil rights city in Alabama
 - 31. Encompasses
 - 32. Helmet
 - 34. Nostrils
 - 35. Lovable Spielberg alien
 - 36. Divides
 - 40. Ruthenium
 - 41. Preceding all others in time
 - 45. Past participle of lie
 - 47. Fastener
 - 48. Overindulged
 - 52. Ancient lyric poem
 - 53. Ardent supporter
 - 54. Iranian village and Islamic pilgrim attire
 - 56. A fragrant resin obtained from tropical trees
 - 57. Semitic fertility god
 - 59. Millisecond
 - 60. Cool!
 - 61. "Take on Me" singers
 - 62. ESPN sportscaster Bob
 - 63. Accommodating place

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Door — to — Door

with PAT LYNCH

The word, upright, had not yet come into vogue but it must be retroactively applied to Mrs. Freligh (not her real name) who seemed to experience her highest sense of human utility when reprimanding others, especially kids. She was a noted personage in our parish. In winter she wore a fox shoulder wrap for attending the long, fancy 11 a.m. High Mass where the Monsignor officiated. Once, compelled to go to this Mass, I fidgeted in the pew behind her and stared at the fox head with its glassy open eyes. Imagine being a fox draped around Mrs. Freligh's neck. What a fate. Finally Mrs. Freligh turned around and delivered a glare that froze me. Another time when my friend Mark and I were cutting across her lawn, she grabbed us by our arms. "You trample the grass like animals," she said. Marching us to the sidewalk, she released Mark but continued to squeeze my arm and said that people didn't appreciate noisy girls who ran around telling knock-knock jokes. Then she said in a whisper much like a hiss, "That boy's not Catholic. You should have Catholic friends." But my mother said I could continue to play with Mark, although I had to remain polite to Mrs. Freligh, and not make faces behind her back.

Mark was two years younger and couldn't yet read or write. I was in the second grade and had already composed a three-page Christmas list, so I helped him write his. One afternoon we sat on my front porch and I printed out his wishes with a red pencil, red for Christmas. It was cold and when we talked condensed air puffed from our mouths in white bursts. I put the pencil in my mouth, held it like a cigarette, and pretend-

ed to blow out smoke. Mark took a crayon from the pencil box and did the same thing. So there we were, sitting quietly, writing, smoking.

Mrs. Freligh came up our walkway. She asked what we were doing. Christmas lists, we said. She glowered down and said Christmas was for Baby Jesus, not Santa Claus and presents. Those things were for pagans. She gave Mark a long look, at once curious and condemning. "Do you know who Jesus is?" she said. She didn't wait for an answer. "Jesus Christ is the Son of God," she said, then rang the doorbell. When my mother opened the door Mrs. Freligh said, "They're playing some sort of cigarette game out here," then went in to talk.

She told our mother that the Monsignor was coming to her house for dinner, 6 p.m. sharp on December 12th, and she would like the street to be pleasant and quiet for that event. The Monsignor was a big catch for the Frelighs. He was short, had thick white hair and an air of invincible authority. He was the top priest in the parish and every Sunday Mrs. Freligh was foremost among the people who clustered around him on the church steps after Mass. Now he was going to be on our very block. "She could hardly contain herself," my mother later told my father. You'd think the Pope was coming." She said she told Mrs. Freligh not to worry because children wouldn't be running noisily around at 6 p.m., when it was dark outside.

Mrs. Freligh almost daily chastised the kids of 42nd Street, but this year was especially bad because she was so worked up over the Monsignor's visit. Once, when we played a shrieking game of Red Rover, Red Rover,

she strode into the street and told us through clenched teeth to be quiet before we woke the dead. I wondered if we could wake her fox with its dead, startled eyes. "Play quietly," she said. "Can't any of you ever just play quietly?"

As the dinner party neared Mrs. Freligh got more and more excited—no, enthralled,--and told my mother that Mr. Freligh was buying a special whiskey for the occasion. The Frelighs didn't drink but were determined to serve their guest the best. They hired gardeners to trim their hedges. A lady named Pearl came to mop and vacuum. None of us, not even our parents, had ever been inside the Freligh's house, but we knew it had to be tidy and splendid. I wondered what the Frelighs and the Monsignor would talk about during their grand dinner: probably how much racket people made, how Christmas was becoming a pagan festival of greed.

The next Sunday when the Frelighs were at Mass Mark snuck onto their porch and peered through a space in their curtains. Their living room furniture was covered with crinkly, shiny, see-through wrapping. "Come see," he said, and I did. It was just as he said. Everything wrapped. Maybe they had bought all new furniture. But no, we would have seen the big truck from Brueners. We snuck around the back. Mark boosted me up to the kitchen window. The sink fixtures were unwrapped but spotless, no dirty dishes. It was like nobody lived there.

Mark and I snuck another look two days before the dinner. The furniture was unwrapped, the hardwood floors gleaming. A large manger scene took up the entire top of the now unwrapped coffee table.

The great day came. My mother told us to play at a distance from the Frelighs and to behave ourselves. Around four o'clock Mr. Freligh emerged and drove away. He scowled as he passed us. He was a plump, critical man, ever on alert for delinquency. Last Halloween he had

turned off the porch-light and sat by the door, waiting to catch someone doing something wrong. He'd told Mrs. Apperson that trick-or-treating was invented by Irish hooligans.

He returned in twenty minutes with a bag and Mrs. Freligh opened the door for him and took the bag. She wore a new blue dress, diamond earrings and a look of luminous consequence. It would be dark soon so Mark and I went to my house and sat on the porch. Mark wanted to stay to witness the six o'clock arrival of the Monsignor. He wondered if the Monsignor would be driven up in a special car. Would there be guards? Would they salute? Bow? It was too bad to have to tell him no, the Monsignor would drive and would wear the same black suit and Roman collar they all wore. But I promised to take him to Mass some time—there he'd get plenty of bowing and razzle-dazzle-long sat-in capes, ringing bells, the smell of incense, and loud incantations in a strange dead language.

Mr. Freligh came out on the porch, looked up and down the street, looked at his watch, went back inside. He didn't see us whispering in the dark. I ran in to the kitchen clock. 6:15. I could tell time now and was always eager to announce it. I told my mother the Monsignor was fifteen minutes late and ran out. Mark said while I was inside Mrs. Freligh had looked out her door. By now the Freligh house was all lit up, candles burning in both front windows. If you listened closely you could hear *Oh Little Town of Bethlehem* softly emanating from their living room. We continued to watch, huddled together because it was colder now as well as dark.

Fifteen more minutes, maybe twenty. The front door opened and Mrs. Freligh walked down to the sidewalk in her high heels. It looked like she was holding her hands together in front of her. She gazed down the street. In the distance headlights appeared and grew larger. Mrs. Freligh raised her right arm in a wave

See Door-to-Door, page 17

South Land Park Neighborhood Association shares policy and background on Del Rio Trail

In 2013 and 2014, the South Land Park Neighborhood Association spearheaded an effort to oppose the State Parks General Plan and Environmental Impact Report for Old Sacramento. This General Plan called for the operation of tourist trains on an abandoned rail corridor owned by Regional Transit, that cuts through South Land Park residential neighborhoods. After significant public pressure, the State Parks General Plan was amended to remove the neighborhood rail corridor.

Since 2014, SLPNA has led a movement to actively promote the plan to build a multi-use trail on the four-mile long right of way.

Opposition to Rail Traffic: The South Land Park community spoke very clearly in 2014 that residents adamantly oppose any train traffic in our quiet residential area.

Hundreds of petitions were signed by residents, and hundreds of people showed up to oppose the plan at community meetings and State Parks and Recreation Commission hearings.

In January 2014, then-Senator Darrell Steinberg requested that the Commission delay their vote on the General Plan and EIR, and confer with residents in South Land Park, who were completely blindsided by the Parks proposal to run trains on the corridor.

This 4-mile strip of land had become a cherished community greenbelt in the 40 years since it was abandoned by the railroad. The tourist train issue motivated neighbors to quickly organize: block captains were established; volunteers knocked on doors to inform the public of the train plan; flyers were distributed; and elected officials were swamped with calls and emails from concerned citizens.

After several months of community meetings, press stories, and pressure on local and state officials, State Parks removed the neighborhood rail proposal from their Old Sacramento General Plan. Within days of the Commission amending their General Plan, SLPNA

immediately formed a trail committee, and began advocating for the Del Rio Trail, which was already part of Sacramento's bicycle master plan. The City worked with SLPNA to host a neighborhood forum on the trail plan, and surveyed 2700 residents as to their desire for the property. Schools, residents, and businesses throughout the neighborhood were surveyed: Eighty-three percent

See SLPNA, page 8



This bit of natural beauty surrounds the old railroad tracks, owned by Regional Transit, between Sutterville Road and Fruitridge Road/Seamas Avenue. File photo by Monica Stark

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Christmas Day
Dec 25th @ 10:30 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE
Sunday @ 10:30 AM

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SLPNA:

Continued from page 7

of respondents support the trail concept.

SLPNA has the following stances related to the abandoned railroad right-of-way:

1. SLPNA strongly opposes any trail plans that would allow any train traffic on the abandoned rail corridor south of South Land Park Drive (near Sprouts/LaBou). SLPNA believes that State Parks and the Railroad Museum may propose a "trail with rail" concept at some point. This would evoke significant community opposition.
2. SLPNA strongly supports the development of the Del Rio Trail. The key benefits will be providing area residents with a safe walking and biking route to schools, parks, shopping and other amenities.
3. Ideally, the trail should be a serene neighborhood amenity and not a "bike highway" of speeding cyclists (i.e., the trail design should ensure safety for walkers, joggers, dog walkers, and nature explorers, in addition to accommodating bicycle traffic).
4. The corridor should feature parklets, community gardens, winding routes, natural settings, incorporate native plantings where possible, plus benches. The trail should preserve large trees and foliage whenever possible. 1354 Palomar Circle urban garden should be included as part of the trail design.
5. The City and its consultants are encouraged to consult with UC Davis Landscape Architecture department, which has offered its students to work on trail design for class credit.
6. Dog walking or a dog park should be included where feasible, since portions of the corridor are already used as a dog walking area.
7. The Sutterville Preschool should be consulted by the city and its consultants, due to the school's ongoing issues with traffic on Fruitridge at Gilgunn.
8. Landscaping and natural plantings, benches and park-like settings should be included at the major intersection of Florin and Freeport Blvd.
9. An "adopt a trail" program should be launched that includes support from nearby businesses, schools, and neighborhood associations.

This program would include trail cleanup days, design ideas, donations for adding amenities and maintaining the corridor. Naming opportunities should be considered for trail sections, benches and other features, to offset building/maintenance costs.

10. The East Land Park Subdivision should be closely consulted, since the corridor directly impacts homes in this subdivision. It is unclear if residents on this street prefer the trail on the east median, the street, or on the rail corridor.
11. Residents living nearest to the corridor should be invited to provide input on trail design and access points.
12. Public safety and residential privacy must be high priorities in trail design.
13. Adequate environmental analysis should be conducted prior to construction. Such analysis should take into consideration impact of removing the creosote-soaked rail ties and metal rails (i.e., is it better to leave rails untouched or covered with soil to avoid ejecting toxins into the air?). Toxic herbicides should be avoided where possible to reduce residential and pet exposure.
14. Public art should be considered for installation along the corridor.

Pat Lynch is a Sacramento writer with astute social consciousness and a reporter's sharp eye. She tunes us in: to language with its revelations and betrayals, to subtexts, to nuance, to irony. Her characters engage us emotionally; her stories peel away the layers with humor and great humanity.

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The above policy was adopted by unanimous vote of the SLPNA Board of Directors on Nov. 2, 2016.

On Wednesday, Jan. 4 from 7-9 p.m. the SLPNA will meet to discuss this topic at the Belle Cooledge Library 5600 S. Land Park Drive.

Christmas Eve Services at Parkside Community Church

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Steve Hansen sworn in for 4 years, Land Parkers offer criticism

On Saturday, Dec. 10, Sacramento City Council member Steve Hansen (D-4) was sworn in for another four years. A big celebration was had at the Verge Center for the Arts.



Photos by Stephen Crowley
Shown here is a collection of photographs from Steve Hansen's swearing-in ceremony, which was held on Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Verge Center for the Arts.

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Blind Sacramento teen learns from Paralympians

Caleb Hutchens, 14, of Sacramento looks forward to his annual chance to learn judo when Society for the Blind in Sacramento hosts the Blind Youth Paralympic Sport Experience in early December each year on the day of the California International Marathon.

"Caleb really gets a kick out of the judo workshop," said Sam Hutchens, his father. "I like that it's an event we can experience together."

20 Sacramento-area kids and teens with visual impairment, along with their parents, descended on Society for the Blind on Dec. 4 to learn judo, archery, golf and goalball from top blind athletes. Greg DeWalt, 2008 Beijing Paralympics Bronze medalist and staff member at Society for the Blind, hosted the judo clinic. Janice Walth, Women's Gold Medalist at the 2015 World Archery Championships and a

Society for the Blind board member, hosted the archery clinic. The event also included Bill Davis, who holds the world record as a blind golfer, and Joe Hamilton, Silver Medalist in goalball at the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

Some of the kids and parents, including Caleb and Sam Hutchens, also participated in the California International Marathon fun run before the event.

"We like running the fun run and then spending the afternoon at the Blind Youth Paralympic Sport Experience," said Sam Hutchens. "I'm always interested in learning how blind athletes are able to do the same things sighted people do."

The event, which is hosted by Society for the Blind, United States Association of Blind Athletes, and Paralympic Sport Club of Sacramento and sponsored by Hanson McClain, also in-

cluded lunch sponsored by the Senator Lions Club and a keynote address by Shawn Cheshire, ranked sixth in the world for tandem cycling racing. At the end of the event, participants were presented with certificates and swag bags donated by the Sacramento Kings Foundation and the Northern Nevada Delta Gamma Alumnae Chapter.

"It's great to be able to put opportunities in front of Caleb that he can choose from," said Sam Hutchens. "Being visually impaired, Caleb doesn't have a lot of opportunity to participate in sports."

For more than 60 years, Society for the Blind has created innovative ways to empower individuals living with low vision or blindness to discover, develop and achieve their full potential. Society for the Blind has grown from a dedicated group of volunteers that



Sam Hutchens of Sacramento and his son Caleb participate in the California International Marathon fun run before joining the Blind Youth Paralympic Sport Experience at Society for the Blind that afternoon.

included the Lions Clubs of America to a nationally recognized agency and the only comprehensive rehabilitative teaching center that provides services for a 26-county region of northern California. The nonprofit provides low-vi-

sion eye care, life and job skills training, mentorship, and access to tools to maintain independence for 6,000 youth, adults and seniors experiencing vision loss each year. For more information, visit www.SocietyfortheBlind.org.



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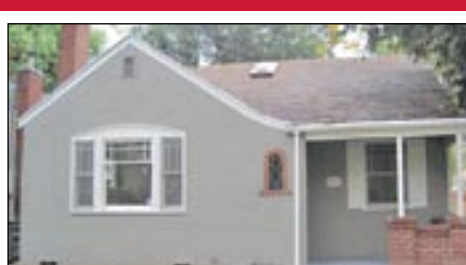
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A Jolly 'Ol Time at the Family Y

By MONICA STARK
Twas not yet Christmas, and all through the Y, children were swimmin' and havin' good time. The decorations were hung by the pool with care in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were splashing all fun in the pool, while visions of merfolk danced real cool. And lifeguards on deck, and one on a chair, were watchin' the kids for a long evening stare.

When out on the deck there arose such a clatter, Children swam all around to see what was the matter. Away to the deck they swam like The Flash, to see Santa Claus and offer a splash.

With little red swim trunks, and a candy cane shirt, Santa was quiet and the children alert. More rapid than sharks, the children they came, Santa whistled and shouted HO, HO, HO just the same:

Now Sophie! Now Billy!
Now, Albert and Ben!
Oh, Jeffrey! Oh, Samuel!
Oh, Audrey and Jen!
Over to the shallow end!
To where you can stand!
Now tell Santa your wishes! Tell him all night!

Covering her tail as she walked through the Y, Aimee Alejandre, her fins underlie some scarves and a jacket that hid her mer-self until she was ready to reveal her true self.

Whose mermaid career began in '11 as a lead at Dive Bar Aimee's giving back now after being a sea star A fish in water almost her whole life She loves the community there at the Y

And Santa whose presence there on that fun night Aimee had a wish for the man – keep the children safe and all right. The children were fine; they had a good time. So did the parents whoopity do.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.



Photos by Steve Crowley
See more photos page 13



To read more about Aimee and her mermaid endeavors, just pick up this paper... on Jan. 12, 2017.

A Jolly 'Ol Time at the Family Y

Photo by Lance Armstrong

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POLICE LOG

Compiled by: Monica Stark
The news items below are collected from police dispatchers' notes and arrest reports. The information in them has often not been verified beyond the initial reports. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

ported. Officers arrived on scene and the investigation remains active.

Reporting date: Dec. 9
(Burglary): 500 block of Merkley Way at 9:31 a.m.

Officers responded to the call of a ringing alarm at a residence. The victim was away from home when an unknown suspect forced entry. Miscellaneous property was stolen. The investigation remains active and a report was generated.

Reporting date: Dec. 11
(Burglary): 500 block of Broadway at 10:17 a.m.

Officers responded to a business regarding a burglary that occurred. Upon arrival, officers determined that the suspect had taken property from a detached storage space. The suspect in the crime had fled prior to the arrival of officers. A report was generated. 16-355373 (Collision Investigation): 26th St / Broadway at 11:31 a.m.

Reporting date: Dec. 8
(POD Arrest: Stolen Vehicle): Florin Road / Franklin Boulevard at 5:51 p.m.

Officers responded to the area regarding a Police Observation Device (POD) of a stolen vehicle being driven nearby. Officers quickly located the vehicle and detained the driver who was ultimately arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle and possession of stolen property.

(Carjacking): 300 block of Seavey Circle at 10:37 p.m.

A male victim was walking to his vehicle when he was approached by a male suspect. The suspect implied he was armed with a firearm and stole the victim's car. No injuries were re-

Reporting date: Dec. 12
(Collision Investigation): 26th Street and Broadway at 11:31 a.m.

A SPD motor officer was in the area working traffic enforcement on his department motorcycle when he observed a speeding vehicle. The officer activated his lights and siren and headed towards the vehicle to conduct a traffic stop. As the motor officer was traveling east on Broadway approaching 26th St, a vehicle entered the intersection from 26th St. The officers motorcycle struck the vehicle at low speed causing non-life-threatening injuries to the officer and minor damage to both vehicles. The officer was transported to an area hospital for treatment. The driver of the other involved vehicle remained on scene and was cooperative with traffic collision investigators.

(Robbery): 2700 block of 10th Avenue at 4:40 p.m.

Officers responded to a residence regarding a robbery that occurred. The victim was approached by two suspects who engaged her in conversation. The suspects then took property from the victim by force and fled the area on foot.

Reporting date: Dec. 13
(Burglary): 4400 block of Del Rio Road at 5:35 a.m.

The owner of the business location arrived to discover the property was broken into overnight. Unknown suspects forced entry, stole miscellaneous items and fled. Officers arrived on scene and canvassed the area for evidence. The investigation remains active.

Reporting date: Dec. 16
(Suspicious Device): 1000 block of Captains Table Road at 2:27 a.m.

Officers responded to the call of a loud noise heard in the neighborhood. A resident in the area discovered a large piece of metal near a vehicle parked nearby. Officers arrived on scene along with the E.O.D. unit. After further investigation, it was determined a suspicious device had detonated. No injuries were reported. Officers canvassed the area for evidence. Follow up will be conducted.

Reporting date: Dec. 17
(Burglary): 300 block of River Bend Circle at 6:23 p.m.

Officers responded to take a burglary report where the victim stated her apartment had been burglarized sometime during the day. A report was generated, the investigation remains active.

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Door-to-Door

Continued from page 6

as the car neared. The lights got bigger, like yellow eyes, then passed her and turned left on 42nd and D. For a moment in the glare we saw her grimace, then drop her arm. We strained to see her face in the dark but when she stepped up under her porch-light she turned her head away. My mother came out and told Mark and me to come inside and eat. She watched Mrs. Freleigh close her door. She said, "That poor thing."

It was strange to hear someone who was powerful - an adult, an enemy-called a poor thing, stranger still to feel sorry for Mrs. Freleigh. But we did. Mark said tomorrow we should be nice and "real, real quiet." But I knew, without knowing how I knew, that the nicest thing we could do would be to act like we always acted and pretend we knew nothing.

It turned out that the Monsignor had forgotten the dinner and, worse, assigned a younger priest to call the Freighs to apologize. My parents and their friends had an excited time talking about this. Our mother said the Freighs were hurt and humiliated. Our father said they ought to take a few nips of the booze they bought for the Monsignor.

We continued to play noisily on the sidewalks, but for the rest of the Christmas break the Freighs did not come out the door except to go to the 9 a.m. short Mass on Sunday. And when that happened she didn't look at any of us. Neither did he. It was odd to play freely, with no Mrs. Freleigh on patrol. The Sunday before Christmas when they were again at church Mark and I snuck up on their porch. The crib scene was still up but the see-through wrapping was back on the living room furniture. It looked again like nobody lived there.

Sacramento Boys & Girls Clubs Get Active with "Exergame" in Land Park area school

A body in motion tends to stay in motion. And that's a good thing.

There was a lot of moving around for first-grader Sascha and her buddies who happily tested out new "exergame" kits that were donated to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento. Known as NERF ENERGY Game Kits, the devices help encourage children to be more physically active through "exergaming" - a videogame that is also exercise.

"I really like the way it works," said Sascha about the kits. "The technology is really fun and easy, and it will help show my family that I get a lot of exercise by just playing."

The NERF ENERGY Game Kits, which use activity trackers, soccer balls and mobile games to get kids moving, were donated to the local Club by UnitedHealthcare as part of an initiative with Hasbro, the kit maker. The special donation was timed to coincide with the holiday season when children tend to be more sedentary.

Nationwide, approximately 17 percent of children and adolescents ages two to 19

years are obese, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In California, studies show that 15 percent of children are considered obese.

The NERF ENERGY Game Kits enable kids to pick their own method of being active. As children participate in physical activity, they earn "energy points" that are tracked by the activity band, and these points turn into screen time to play the mobile game, NERF ENERGY RUSH, on a smartphone or tablet. The mobile game is an "endless runner" game that asks players to turn, jump and avoid obstacles to complete courses and earn power-ups.

The positive response was echoed by fifth-grader Izaiah. "It's a pretty cool thing to have these kits. I plan to start setting goals for how many steps I can take, so I'm grateful to have a toy that is both fun and rewards me for just playing."

The kits were distributed during a demonstration event held Dec. 15 at Leataata Floyd Elementary School in the Upper Land Park area. About 30 school-age club



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

members were on hand to receive the kits and get in some exercise, with help from UnitedHealthcare volunteers and the company's mascot, Dr. Health E. Hound.

The kits will be available as a regular part of member activities after school and on weekends.

The Sacramento donation is part of an initiative by UnitedHealthcare to donate more than 10,000 NERF ENERGY Game Kits to schools and youth-focused organizations across the country, including Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send you updated announcements email to editor@valcomnews.com

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WHAT'S HAPPENING, LAND PARK?

SATURDAY, DEC. 24

PJ PARTY CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO: The Sacramento Zoo welcomes you to celebrate Christmas Eve there... in your pajamas! Admission is free and staff will be in their best pjs. Zoo closes early at 1:30 pm. 3930 West Land Park Drive.

TUESDAY, DEC. 27

KNITTING CLUB AT BELLE COOLEGE: From 10 to noon, enjoy a relaxing morning of knitting with fellow yarn enthusiasts. Anyone interested in knitting and crocheting, (even beginners) are welcome to join in. This is not an instructional class, but assistance is available. Bring your own supplies and a project to work on. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

ASL STORYTIME WITH SACRAMENTO SIGNING FAMILIES AT BELLE COOLEGE: From 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. children between the ages of 0 - 5 are invited to read well-loved children's books in American Sign Language! This storytime takes place two evenings a month (second and fourth Tuesdays) and is facilitated by Sacramento Signing Families through the support of a First 5 Sacramento grant. All children and their grownups are invited to join! 5600 South Land Park Drive.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28

DROP-IN TECHNOLOGY HELP AT BELLE COOLEGE: From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., get expert help with your computer and technology related questions. Our knowledgeable staff will be available during this time to help you with eBooks, social media, software training or anything else you bring to the table. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

THURSDAY, DEC. 29

JOB COACH AT BELLE COOLEGE: From 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., a job coach will help you look for jobs, get an email address, create and upload a resume, and prepare for an interview. No appointment required. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

PJ PARTY CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO:

The Sacramento Zoo welcomes you to celebrate Christmas Eve there... in your pajamas! Admission is free and staff will be in their best pjs. Zoo closes early at 1:30 pm. 3930 West Land Park Drive.



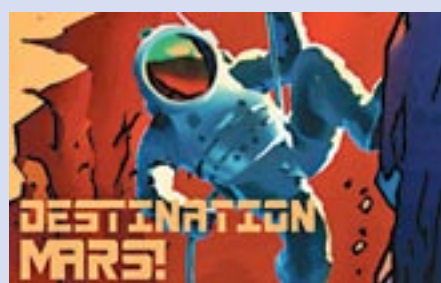
NEW YEAR'S EVE NO DAPL SACRAMENTO: No Dakota Access Pipeline Sacramento in partnership with Capsity is hosting a fundraising New Year's Eve SOLIDARITY party to raise funds for the Standing with Standing Rock Legal Fund. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve and goes to 2 a.m. on New Year's Day. Get your tickets at: <https://www.universe.com>.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28, THURSDAY, DEC. 29 AND FRIDAY, DEC. 30

WINTER CAMP AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO (SESSION 1): The learning doesn't have to stop when school break begins; 1st - 8th grade children are welcome to the Zoo for more learning and even more fun! The third annual Winter Camp at the Sacramento Zoo will be even bigger this winter with two sessions. The first session (from Dec. 28-30) is called "Survival of the Fittest". The description for this session, reads: "Could you survive in the freezing Himalayas? Not without a heavy fur coat like the Red Pandas! What about surviving on the Savannah? It helps to have a herd by your side! Come to the Zoo this December to discover how animals survive in their different habitats." \$120 for Sacramento Zoo members, and \$135 non-members. Winter Camp will include lessons, games, crafts, and animal encounters. This year, we will offer two different sessions with different themes and activities.

BEST BETS

MARS: YOUR HOLIDAY VACATION DESTINATION: Get ready to blast off on a voyage to Mars! Powerhouse Science Center will be the travel guide to children during the holidays as staff there will chart the course to the red planet. Kids can explore what it would take to travel to Mars and practice rocket launches and discover "rover" choices that will help navigate the Martian terrain. You can find out which animals from the Nature Discovery exhibit would be best suited for space travel. Also, you can meander along the "Solar System Walk" to plot your course to Earth's next door neighbor. Aerojet Rocketdyne will share a launch pad exhibit—on display for two weeks ONLY! Each of its four interactive sides is dedicated to a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) discipline. Plus, friends from Sacramento County Public Libraries will be there daily at 11 a.m. for Mars-themed story times. All aspiring astronaut families are sure to enjoy the numerous activities and photo opportunities with costumes and backdrops throughout our retrofitted Science In Motion exhibit which is in its final weeks! Powerhouse Science Center is located at 3615 Auburn Blvd. **When:** Saturday, Dec. 24; Monday, Dec. 26 to Saturday, Dec. 31 and Monday, Jan. 2, 2017 to Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017



GROWN UP COLORING CLUB AT BELLE COOLEGE LIBRARY: From 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., an hour of relaxing music, beautiful images to color, and refreshments. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

SATURDAY, DEC. 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE NO DAPL SACRAMENTO: No Dakota Access Pipeline Sacramento in partnership with Capsity is hosting a fundraising New Year's Eve SOLIDARITY party to raise funds for the Standing with Standing Rock Legal Fund. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. and goes to 2 a.m. on New Year's Day. Get your tickets at: <https://www.universe.com>.

SING ALONG WITH MISTER COOPER AT BELLE COOLEGE: From 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., join neighborhood favorite Mister Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

SIXTEEN CANDLES AT THE TOWER THEATRE: From 7 to 8:33 p.m. at The Tower Theatre, 2508 Land Park Drive, revisit an '80s classic. It's Samantha Baker's Sweet Sixteen and no one in her family remembers the important occasion. John Hughes, the writer of National Lampoon's Vacation, shows how coming of age can be full of surprises in this warm hearted teenage comedy starring Molly Ringwald. She's your average teen, enduring creepy freshmen, spoiled siblings, confused parents and the Big Blonde on Campus who stands between her and the boy of her dreams. This sparkling film

See Events, page 19

Events:

Continued from page 18

features a dynamic score, and outstanding performances by Paul Dooley, Emmy winner Blanche Baker, and Oscar nominee Justin Henry. www.readingcinemas.com

TUESDAY, JAN. 3

KNITTING CLUB AT BELLE COOLEGE: From 10 to noon, enjoy a relaxing morning of knitting with fellow yarn enthusiasts. Anyone interested in knitting and crocheting, (even beginners) are welcome to join in. This is not an instructional class, but assistance is available. Bring your own supplies and a project to work on. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

POP-UP BOOK SALE AT BELLE COOLEGE:

From 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on every first Tuesday of the month there's a sale featuring books for all ages. All proceeds from the sale benefit library programs. The Friends Bookstore will be open regular hours. The sale is held at the entrance to the library. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

BABY STORYTIME AT BELLE COOLEGE:

From 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., the library offers nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program, babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4

DROP-IN TECHNOLOGY HELP AT BELLE COOLEGE: From 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., get expert help with your computer and technology related questions. Our knowledgeable staff will be available during this time to help you with eBooks, social media, software training or anything else you bring to the table. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

SOUTH LAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION AT BELLE COOLEGE:

From 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., this is the monthly business meeting of a non-profit organization that addresses neighborhood issues. The meetings sometimes include guest speakers. Association members and area residents are welcome to attend. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

THURSDAY, JAN. 5

TODDLER STORYTIME @ BELLE COOLEGE: From 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., toddlers and their caregivers are invited to enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. After the storytime, there will be a stay and play group or a simple craft. To ensure that storytime is a positive experience for all, attendance is limited to 40 children (they can bring as many adults as they want!) 5600 South Land Park Drive.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME @ BELLE

COOLEGE: From 11 a.m. to noon, preschoolers age three and older and their caregivers are invited to join us for fun songs, stories, fingerplays and a craft or play activity; all designed to build early literacy skills. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 4, THURSDAY, JAN. 5

AND FRIDAY, JAN. 6
WINTER CAMP AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO (SESSION 2): The learning doesn't have to stop when school break begins; 1st - 8th grade children are welcome to the Zoo for more learning and even more fun! The third annual Winter Camp at the Sacramento Zoo will be even bigger this winter with two sessions. The second session (from Jan. 4-6) is called "Survival of the Fittest". The description for this session, reads: "Have you ever wondered why an Anteater's nose is so long, why an Armadillo is so scaly, or why an Aardvark's toenails are so long? Answer all of these and more when we delve into the world of weird, wacky, and wild animals at the Zoo this January." \$120 for Sacramento Zoo members, and \$135 non-members. Winter Camp will include lessons, games, crafts, and animal encounters. This year, we will offer two different sessions with different themes and activities.

SATURDAY, JAN. 7

SING ALONG WITH MISTER COOPER AT BELLE COOLEGE: From 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., join neighborhood favorite Mister Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years. 5600 South Land Park Drive.

RECURRING

MARS: YOUR HOLIDAY VACATION DESTINATION: Get ready to blast off on a voyage to Mars! Powerhouse Science Center will be the travel guide to children during the holidays as staff there will chart the course to the red planet. Kids can explore what it would take to travel to Mars and practice rocket launches and discover "rover" choices that will help navigate the Martian terrain. You can find out which animals from the Nature Discovery exhibit would be best suited for space travel. Also, you can meander along the "Solar System Walk" to plot your course to Earth's next door neighbor. Aerojet Rocketdyne will share a launch pad exhibit—on display for two weeks ONLY! Each of its four interactive sides is dedicated to a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) discipline. Plus, friends from Sacramento County Public Libraries will be there daily at 11 a.m. for Mars-themed story times. All aspiring astronaut families are sure to enjoy the numerous activities and photo opportunities with costumes and backdrops throughout our retrofitted Science In Motion exhibit which is in its final weeks! Powerhouse Science Center is located at 3615 Auburn Blvd. **When:** Saturday, Dec. 24; Monday, Dec. 26 to Saturday, Dec. 31 and Monday, Jan. 2, 2017 to Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017

Get Terry Moving:

Community comes together for local hero

By GAVIN LOVELESS

Terry Preston could be known as a local hero. His incredible will power may have saved lives. About two years ago a young school girl was hit and killed by a car while crossing the intersection of Stockton and Fruitridge. Terry noticed that on this intersection there was no traffic light. He knew that it would happen again if nothing was done to improve the safety of that intersection. He went to the city and requested a traffic light on that intersection. After a debacle, the city refused to put one in. Terry thought he might have better luck with people backing him up against the city. He organized his community and went back to the city leaders. They brought up some very good points and they finally convinced the city to put a traffic light in.



Soon after, in April of 2015, Terry unfortunately had a stroke. This tragic occurrence put Terry through a grueling two years of recovery and rehabilitation. "Terry is still very immobile, and he is wheelchair bound," said Tamie Dramer, Chairman and CEO of Organize Sacramento. "He can speak through a device in his throat but he is limited to only a few words at a time."

Terry's wife, Alice is an elementary teacher at Bancroft Elementary, and she is very busy. She actively participates with the Sacramento City Teachers Association, the California Teachers Association, and the Sacramento County and California Democratic parties. With all of her school and volunteer work she is also Terry's primary caregiver in the evenings. With the help of her and Terry's amazing son Leroy, Alice bathes Terry and helps him get in and out of bed everyday. It is very strenuous work for her so for a while Alice has been looking for an overnight in-home caregiver, but has had no luck yet.

With the help of a friend, Isaac Gonzalez, a GoFundMe had been started in attempt to raise money for a van that would be able to get Terry and his motorized chair around Sacramento. In the GoFundMe description, Isaac says "To describe Terry as an asset to our community is a massive understatement. The direct effect of his efforts have made our city more livable and safer." Please help spread the word and help raise the money Terry needs at www.gofundme.com/getterymoving!

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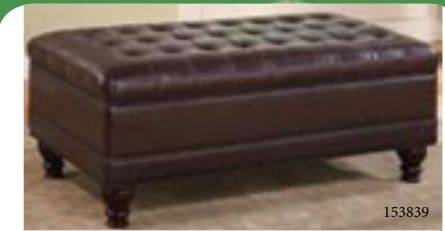


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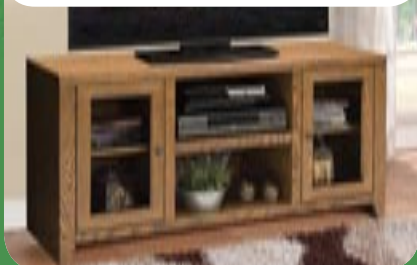
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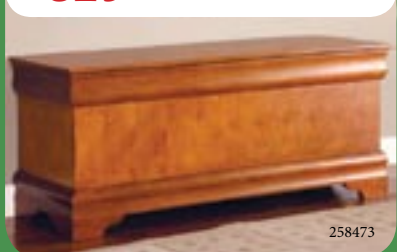
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