VIEWPOINT

A publication of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association since 1979

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A preview of Tapestry of Tastes, 175 Years of Sacramento Food & Wine

By Bruce Pierini

As organizer and moderator of SCNA's "Tapestry of Tastes," I posed some key questions to the panelists who will speak at the Nov. 19 event at 7 p.m. in the 24th Street Theater. The panel discussion will follow a wine-tasting reception from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Sierra 2 Center Garden Room and Courtyard. Ticket information for both events is available at events@sierra2.org.

Tapestry of Tastes will raise needed funds for the continued operation of *Viewpoint*, the Curtis Park newspaper, which is edited, written and distributed entirely by volunteers.

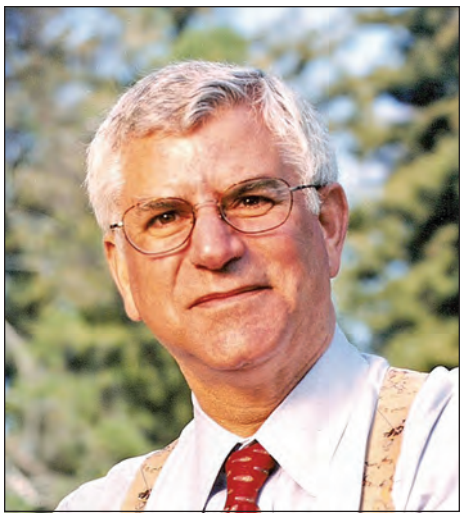
Why is there such nostalgia around Sacramento's restaurants of the past? Does their quality justify it?

Maryellen Burns, author of "Lost Restaurants of Sacramento and Their Recipes":

"Nostalgia for Sacramento's long-gone eateries is fueled by the memories and cultural significance they held for the community, beyond just their culinary offerings. These establishments were gathering places where milestones were celebrated and offered a slice of life unique to Sacramento's past. While their quality might not always meet today's standards, the value lies in the emotional connections and the sense of belonging they provided.

"However, the quality of many of these restaurants was indeed exceptional, if not stronger than today, thanks to the young, innovative chefs who defined Sacramento's food scene in the 1980s. Talents like Jim LePerriere of Biba, Slocum House and Enotria, David SooHoo with Chinois East/West and his subsequent restaurants, and Rick Mahon, who like many others, worked in Sacramento's burgeoning restaurants and continues to create magic at Waterboy.

Maryellen Burns



Darrell Corti

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Save the Date

Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association (SCNA)
Membership Meeting
6:30 p.m. on
Tuesday, Dec. 10
Curtis Hall, Sierra 2 Center
2791 24th Street

Meeting Agenda:

- Recap significant SCNA 2024 accomplishments
- Review SCNA financial status
- Meet new Executive Director Danielle Whitmore
- Vote on bylaws amendments
- Elect new directors of the board

You must be a SCNA member to attend the meeting and vote.

To join SCNA, visit sierra2.org.

SCNA board approves bylaws changes

Members asked to vote on matter in December

The SCNA Board approved changes to the SCNA bylaws at the October board meeting and recommended the membership approve some of these changes at the annual membership meeting in December. The bylaws require membership approval for any provision that impacts a member's right to vote or changes the number or terms of directors (Art. XI. Sec. 1. Power of Members).

The provisions that require member approval include:

Pay dues at least 72 hours before the membership meeting to be eligible to vote. This change will streamline the process, enabling members, staff and the board to focus on board accomplishments, future plans and electing directors.

"Members" are neighbors who pay SCNA dues; "directors" are members of the SCNA Board of Directors.

Vote up to 14 days early to facilitate member voting. Those unable to attend the membership meeting in person can obtain a ballot from the Sierra 2 office.

Reduce the number of directors from the current 23 to 15. The board will devise a plan for reducing the size. The change will provide for a more manageable board appropriate to Sierra 2's current staffing levels. Staff performs most of Sierra 2's day-to-day functions and assists the board in its oversight role.

Board candidates nominated from the floor or self-nominated at the membership meeting must be members in good standing three months prior to the meeting or have two members vouch for their candidacy. The Nominations Committee solicits and vets most candidates, but not floor or self-nominated candidates. This change will make it more likely that "last-minute" candidates will have some neighborhood experience and knowledge about board functions.

The board will have the discretion to fill director vacancies rather than requiring them to do so, as is now the case. This change will enhance the board's ability to reduce the number of directors from 23 to 15.

Authorization for the board to remove a director or officer for cause, as defined, by a two-thirds vote at a regular or special meeting with written notice explaining the reason for the proposed removal. The director to be removed will be allowed to address the board. "Cause" will include, but not be limited to, engaging in conduct detrimental to SCNA or violating SCNA's

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Halloween: They're back
Ghosts and witches and spiders, oh my!
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Lucky's Drive-in opens
Burger and fries, anyone?
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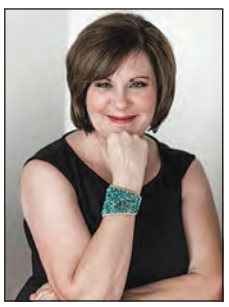
Cultivating connections in Curtis Park

Danielle Whitemore

Sierra 2 Executive Director



I do love good alliteration, and I love my work here. As I move through the many facets of my role as executive director, I continue to be inspired by the unique connections and infrastructure that support SNCA/Sierra 2 (S2). An amazing array of programming, lessons, volunteers and pride reinforce the organization's sustainability and ability to contribute to the community. This structure and a keen vision to maintain and grow a vibrant Curtis Park community with the arts at its heart is a recipe for success.

The Sierra 2 Center serves as the headquarters of this work. I have had the pleasure of meeting several tenants and renters, all of whom are grateful for the opportunity to dwell in a dynamic space that embraces their creativity and provides multiple opportunities for collaboration. This robust nonprofit incubator model is the backbone of the organization's fiscal resilience and helps us maintain our services, including keeping this 100-year-old building safe and sound.

The small but mighty S2 Team helps keep things running and, quite frankly, makes it all look easy. The team is comprised of many new, fresh faces who bring a lot of knowledge, know-how and smiles to each day. It's such a pleasure to work with a staff of professionals along with the vibrant, engaged board of directors. It is a rare combo and has helped smooth my transition.

As we prepare for our organization's next chapter, we're excited about the possibilities. In 2025, we plan to bring back favorite community events and introduce new ideas. We're fine-tuning an engagement plan with art, music, speakers and fun events for all ages. We're eager to share these plans with you and hope you'll be a part of our future. Stay tuned.

There are numerous ways to participate and support SCNA/Sierra 2, from becoming a member to making an end-of-year gift. Your generosity brings our community and the arts to life, inspiring others to join us. As we enter the giving season, we understand that you have many options for your contributions. We hope you'll consider supporting your neighborhood association first. When you support SCNA/Sierra 2, you're saying 'Yes!' to the future of arts and community engagement in Curtis Park.

We are counting on you to answer the call.

WHAT'S NEW AT SIERRA 2?

Dustin Fitzgerald: A man with hidden talents

By Erin Gottis

You might see him setting up for events or waxing the floors, but the man with the toolbox is also a storyteller who loves poetry.

Meet Dustin Fitzgerald, Sierra 2's go-to facilities guy, who also happens to be an award-winning poet and a man deeply immersed in the arts. When he's not setting up for events or helping tenants, he's crafting metaphors that would make even the most accomplished poet proud. When asked why he so appreciates poetry, Dustin said, "I like that two people can say the same thing in different ways. There is magic in words. The way you say something can grab someone's attention, and I like that."

Dustin started as an artist focusing on drawing, but after some challenges and inability to continue drawing, he discovered poetry. His skills transcend what you might learn in a classroom, which is especially relevant because Dustin didn't have a traditional early education. A regular at Renaissance fairs, Dustin delights in captivating crowds with his words, blending poetry with wit. Dustin has written more than 20 poems and enjoys sharing them with others.

Working at Sierra 2 Center gives Dustin a unique opportunity to nurture his artistic side and be part of a crew that enjoys helping patrons.

"I like to rub elbows with different types of artists, from thespians and singers to tap and jazz dancers," he said. "I like to see the variety of art that comes through Sierra 2, especially international shows, like a show from Australia, Spanish Romance. I get to see them all."

Some of Dustin's other interests include performing stand-up comedy, acting in plays and cataloging volumes of fun facts. His poem, "Princess and Her Dragon," won him a Creative Writing Award at a Festival in Ashland, Oregon. You can listen to Dustin's poem here: sierra2.org/princess-and-her-dragon/ or scan the QR code to listen.

Dustin Fitzgerald Photo by Erin Gottis

UPCOMING EVENTS

Tapestry of Tastes:
November 19 from 5:30-8 p.m.

Angel Tree:
December 3 – December 20 in the lobby of Sierra 2

SCNA Membership Meeting:
December 10 at 6:30 p.m. in Curtis Hall

Add Sierra 2
To Your
End Of Year Giving
Scan Here

Leaf season brings color, leaf pick-up services to the neighborhood

Rick Jennings
City Council Member District 7

As the beautiful colors of fall emerge, I want to remind you about an important service our city offers to keep our streets clean during the leaf season: leaf pick-up.

Each year from November through January, residents in Sacramento who receive solid waste collection from the city can place excess yard waste, including leaves, branches and Christmas trees, in piles on the street for collection. This service ensures we all enjoy cleaner streets and neighborhoods during the busiest leaf-drop season. However, it is important to note that this service is only available for properties on public streets.

The city's claw truck makes multiple sweeps through each street during leaf season. Starting in late October 2024, you can use the SacRecycle Collection Calendar or the SacRecycle app to get an estimate of when your next collection will take place. In the early part of the season, pickups may happen more frequently, but as more leaves drop and weather conditions like rain and windstorms occur, it may take longer for the crews to rotate through the city.

To keep our streets cleaner and ensure parking availability, please continue to use your green yard waste container for smaller amounts of yard waste. Weekly container collections will continue throughout leaf season, so filling your container first is always a good idea. And remember, the schedule is updated daily based on the previous day's collection volume, weather and equipment availability.

To make sure we all benefit from this service, please follow these important guidelines for placing yard waste piles on the street:

• Piles should be no more than 5 cubic yards (4 feet high, 4 feet wide, and 9 feet long).

• Limbs must be no longer than 3 feet and no thicker than 4 inches in diameter.

• Keep piles at least 6 feet away from any obstacles, such as parked cars, basketball hoops or other obstructions.

• Make sure there is space between the curb and the pile to allow water to flow into storm drains and avoid placing piles in bike lanes whenever possible.

• Food waste belongs in the organics container, not in yard waste piles. Similarly, pet waste should be placed in the garbage, not yard waste piles or containers.

• No plastic bags. Organic waste or recycling should never be placed in plastic.

Christmas trees also will be accepted in the yard waste piles after the holiday season; just make sure to remove all plastic, glass and metal decorations.

Sacramento's leaf season is a time to come together to keep our neighborhoods clean and safe while enjoying the beauty of fall. Your cooperation helps make the process smoother for everyone. Thank you for doing your part to keep our streets clear, and please don't hesitate to check the SacRecycle app or website for the latest updates on your street's collection schedule.

Wishing you all a safe and happy fall!

Board Notes

Board Votes on Proposed Amendments to Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee anonymously voted on the proposed amendments to the bylaws previously presented to the board. Before the meeting, each board member was mailed a paper ballot with the proposed revisions to the bylaws. Each amendment was voted on separately. Board members present at the meeting – either in person or on Zoom – were eligible to vote. Ballots were collected at the meeting, and members participating by Zoom were given until noon the next day to submit their paper ballots at Sierra 2. See the story in this issue of *Viewpoint* for details.

Board Fills Two Vacant Positions

Ryan Marenger explained the Nominations Committee's process for collecting and vetting candidates for the two temporary vacancies caused by the resignations of former board members **Jack Foster** and **Kinsley Earl** earlier this year. An earlier announcement in *Viewpoint* invited people to apply by Sep. 20. After the application period closed, the committee met to discuss the candidates and agreed on two. The committee chose people they felt complimented the board and added value through their experience or connection to the community. **Alex Moos** is an education administrator and state board liaison at the California Department of Education. **Andrew Meditz** is a senior attorney at SMUD. Both were approved unanimously. Moos will take Foster's two-month board seat, and Meditz will take Earl's year-long seat.

SCNA Hires New Bookkeeper

SCNA found Capitol Bookkeeping to replace Sierra 2's outgoing bookkeeper. Marenger and Executive Director **Danielle Whitmore** are working together to ensure a smooth transition.

Several HVAC Units at Sierra 2 to be Replaced

The HVAC units that serve nearly half of the Sierra 2 buildings have died. They were all about 25 years old. **Hal Thomas** met with the company Villara to discuss the cost of replacing the units with heat pumps. Rebates are available for the work. The Facilities, Finance and Executive Committees will meet to discuss and vote on a plan for replacing the units with heat pumps.

Tapestry of Tastes Event at Sierra 2

The board has begun selling tickets to the Tapestry of Tastes event featuring **Maryellen Burns, Mike Dunne** and **Darrell Corti**, which will be from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Nov. 19. The Development Committee is soliciting volunteers to help at the event. There are 250 tickets available. Those interested can buy tickets online at sierra2.org/event/tapestry-of-tastes-175-years-of-sacramento-food-wine/. Ticket proceeds will help fund *Viewpoint*.

SCNA Collects for Bench Honoring John Mathews

The board continues to collect donations to fund a bench to honor late board member **John Mathews**, who passed away last year. A full $11,000 is needed to fund the bench and its upkeep. Anyone interested in donating can make a check out to SCNA with "JM Bench" in the memo line. SCNA hopes to collect the total amount by the end of the year as the city will not begin the project until the total amount is collected.

Neighborhood Concerns Discusses City Survey

Madelyn Gelpi and **Kathy Les** of the Neighborhood Concerns Committee (NCC) will attend other committee meetings to solicit feedback on the neighborhood pulse survey introduced by Gelpi to NCC earlier this year. They will seek recommendations for the kinds of information each committee would like to see collected.

The next board meeting is at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 6.

– Submitted by Lily Harris

VIEWPOINT

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Advertise in *Viewpoint*
Call Kinsley Earl: 916-452-3005 x 202
kinsley@sierra2.org

Burgers and fries now just down the street

Lucky's Drive-in on Franklin is open

By Patti Roberts

Lucky's Drive-in is open at 1565 Franklin Blvd. Photo by Joan Cusick

Finally! At Lucky's Drive-in on Franklin Boulevard, cars fill the parking lot, the scent of burgers and fries wafts in the air, the red London-style double-decker bus glistens and, most importantly, the sign says "We Are Open."

It's hard to say who is most excited – the neighbors, the customers, or the owners, Willow Eskridge and Michael Feagins.

It's been a long road since the couple bought the old Hideaway Bar and Grill at 2565 Franklin Blvd. four years ago and posted a sign that said, "Opening August 2021."

The new owners were excited after buying the 1921 building, intending to match the success of their similar hamburger joint in Washington state. The Washington site drew people in with a parked 1955 city bus, so they duplicated it here with a London bus.

But roadblocks prevented it from being remodeled into a hamburger eatery, including a long wait for plans and final permits and one more year of waiting for an essential electrical part.

"It was frustrating, to say the least," said Eskridge. "But we are persistent people and don't give up easily, so I guess we had that going for us."

The couple held a soft opening in their parking lot in September with a cruise night and car show sponsored by the Sacramento Car Museum. Many of the cars matched Lucky's decor – straight out of the '50s and '60s.

"We wanted Lucky's atmosphere to be vintage modern, simple and classy," said Eskridge. "Mid-century decor, good food and good tunes."

The inside features classic laminate tables and red plastic chairs, neon signs, a '57 Chevy front frame hanging on the wall, a mannequin wearing a '50s Rockabilly outfit and '50s and '60s tunes playing throughout.

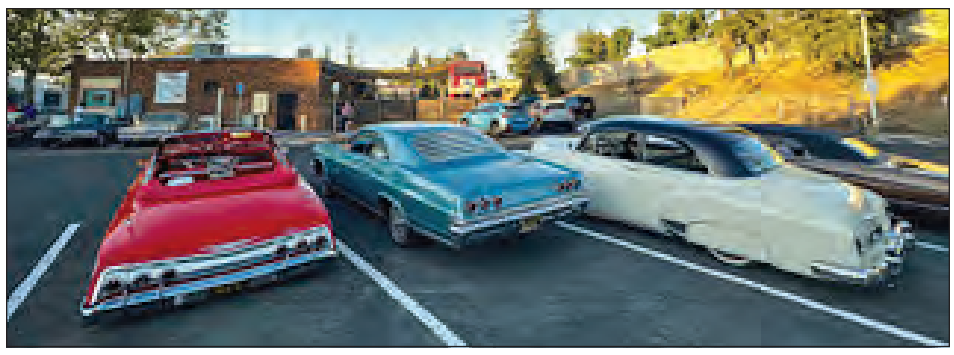
The menu is also vintage, described by Eskridge as "comfort food, simple and flavorful." It's a menu of old-fashioned burgers, fries, milkshakes, all-beef hot dogs, house-made chili, veggie burgers, burger salads and a bun-less option.

"Our patties are juicy, fries are crispy," says Eskridge. "The buns are a tasty brioche that has the perfect toasting. And we make all of our sauces in-house."

Since their opening, they have received friendly greetings from customers and Curtis Park neighbors.

"The neighborhood has been very welcoming, and people are loving the food," said Eskridge. "We are so grateful to finally be open and want everyone to come give us a try. You'll come for the bus but stay for our famous fries. "

Lucky's Drive-in, 2565 Franklin Blvd, is open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.



Lucky's Drive-In hosted a soft opening with a vintage car show in the parking lot. Photo by Pam Carlton

City removes fence around Sierra 2 Green

By Jim Miller

City workers recently removed the chain-link fence surrounding the Sierra 2 Green in Curtis Park, citing a goal of making it easier for youth soccer spectators and others to get to the field.

A city statement said the fence's removal also responded to concerns about off-leash dogs.

Previously, people had to enter or exit the field through a handful of openings in the fence around the green, through the Sierra 2 playground or via the parking lot adjacent to the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community.

In its statement, the city said, "We've received multiple community requests regarding the fence removal, specifically to provide more accessibility and entry points to the space during permitted field use. The continued off-leash dog use in the area is also a concern that we took into consideration in our decision-making process.

"The park will continue to be managed like our other neighborhood parks citywide, which typically do not have fences," the city statement said.

The Sierra 2 Green became a popular unofficial dog park during the pandemic. That prompted complaints from some nearby residents.

City parks officials tried different temporary pop-up dog parks at Sierra 2 in 2023 but ultimately determined that they were too small and a "significant maintenance burden" for the city, according to a staff report to the City Council.

Neighbors learn history of past racial exclusion in Curtis Park

By Kathy Les

Desegregating Sacramento, a program illuminating the life and work of Sacramento's first Black attorney in private practice, Nathanial Colley, attracted an audience of 130 in Curtis Hall last month, all eager to learn more about past housing discrimination in Curtis Park and beyond.

The program, co-sponsored by SCNA's Ad Hoc Racial Justice Committee and the Nathaniel Colley Coalition, featured video producer and speaker Chris Lango, who has spent years researching the life and work of Colley. Lango interspersed short archival videos he produced with a talk weaving together common housing discrimination practices from 1950 to 1990 juxtaposed with Colley's legal work to desegregate public and private housing at the local, state and national levels.

A national hero of desegregation now known as "Mr. Civil Rights," Colley lived in Sacramento his entire adult life, arriving in 1948 and until his death in 1992. His first home with his new wife was on Second Avenue in Curtis Park; soon thereafter, he purchased a home in Upper Land Park, where he lived with his family for the duration of his life. His legal office was located downtown near Capitol Mall.

Colley traveled across the U.S. for his work and was on a first-name basis with Gov. Pat Brown and every U.S. president from Dwight D. Eisenhower to George H. Bush. Each leaned on Colley to help with gnawing discrimination issues. California Gov. Pat Brown appointed Colley to the State Board of Education in 1960 and in 1961 President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the federal Committee on Discrimination for the U.S Armed Forces.

Lango's talk covered Colley's various legal cases that now prohibit racial discrimination in housing. In 1952, Colley won a ruling that prevented the Sacramento Housing Authority from discrimination and segregation in the then-named New Helvetia Public Housing on Broadway. In 1957, Colley's case, Ming vs. Horgan, resulted in a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court stating that developers using federal VA and FHA mortgage financing must refrain from discrimination in private housing. Lango illustrated how, through racially restrictive covenants, these practices were prominent in Curtis Park, Land Park and East Sacramento since the founding of these new "suburbs" in the 1920s.

Protests in South Land Park erupted in the summer of 1962 when a Black physicist, Arthur Layman, who worked for Aerojet, was denied purchase of a home because of his race. The protests ended in September 1962 when the developer agreed to sell to any qualified applicant. Lyman purchased a lot elsewhere in Sacramento.
Photo courtesy of Chris Lango from the Sacramento Bee archive.

Colley's 1967 U.S. Supreme Court case Mulkey vs. Reitman was another of his wins for housing desegregation. The case was instrumental in overturning California's Proposition 14, which voters overwhelmingly supported by a 65 percent margin in 1964. Pushed by the California Real Estate Association and then Gov. Ronald Reagan, Prop. 14 gave Californians the defacto right to discriminate on racial and ethnic grounds by allowing owners to choose to whom they would sell their houses until it was ruled unconstitutional.

SCNA's Racial Justice Committee hopes to hold more programs to spotlight leaders in the fight against racial discrimination. If you have suggestions for future topics, please email info@sierra2.org, attention Kathy.

For those who missed the program, several links are available to learn more:

youtube.com/c/ChrisLango
colleycoalition.org/colley-civil-rights-coalition/
colley.omeka.net

SIERRA 2 CENTER
SIERRA CURTIS
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Questions? Please contact groups directly.

ART

Glass Acts Mosaics Collective
All skill levels welcome.
Tuesdays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11
glassactmosaics.org

MUSIC

Beginning Taiko Drumming
4-week class
No experience necessary.
Tuesdays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 1
kristyoshiro.com/taiko-classes

Intermediate Taiko Drumming
4-week class
Previous taiko experience required.
Tuesdays, 7-8:30 p.m. Studio 1
kristyoshiro.com/taiko-classes

MARTIAL ARTS

Yi family Tai Chi/Qi Gong, Shaolin Martial Arts
Tuesdays/Thursdays, 7-8 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 2
lohan36@sbcglobal.net

Eagle Claw Kung Fu
Mondays, 6-7 p.m. Studio 2
Wednesdays, 6-7:15 p.m. Studio 2
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Studio 2
Sifu Mary Melliza: 916-802-3144

ADULT DANCE

Dancing with Heidi
Tuesdays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Children's Ballet I, ages 6-9 (no experience required)
Wednesdays, 3-4:30 p.m.
Adult/Teen Basic Ballet (some experience required)
Wednesdays, 6-8:30 p.m.
Adult/Teen Ballet from the Beginning (no experience required)
dancingwithheidi@gmail.com

Dance for Parkinson's
Free class sponsored by Pamela Trokanski Dance Theater.
Wednesdays, 1-2 p.m., Studio 1
Rcarlson404@yahoo.com

Two Rivers Dance Center/ River City Taps
Mondays-Thursdays/Saturdays
Class schedules:
tworiversdancecenter.com and rivercitytaps.com

FITNESS

Zumba with Pakko
Sundays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 3
pakko.zumba@yahoo.com

WW Studio Workshop
Thursdays/Fridays, 8:30 a.m. Room 10
Sat., 8:30 a.m. & 10 a.m. Room 10
800-374-9191, weightwatchers.com

OTHER

City Life Church
Sunday worship service, 10 a.m.
Room 10
916-538-9292

SIERRA 2 CENTER
FOR THE ARTS & COMMUNITY
Senior Center

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Activities are free, except where noted. (Donations appreciated)
Room 12 • 916-455-6339. For more information: Sierra2.org.

LEISURE

Book Club
2nd Monday, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Room 12
Nov. 11 - "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion

Nonfiction Book Club
3rd Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon
Room 12
Nov. 21 - "Of Boys and Men" by Richard Reeves

Life History Writing
Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.
Room 12

Open Art Studio
Bring in your art or craft project to work on while socializing.
Fridays, noon-3 p.m. Room 11

CARDS & GAMES

Pinochle
Fridays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

Mahjong
Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon Room 12

Fun Bridge (contract)
Thursdays, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

Women's Friendship Group
Meet new friends and discover new hobbies.
2nd and 4th Wednesdays,
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 11

ZUMBA GOLD

Saturdays, 8:30-9:30 a.m. Studio 1
2nd and 4th Saturday, 1-2 pm. Studio 2

EDUCATION

My Story Project
2nd Monday, 1-3 p.m. Room 12

SENIOR WELLNESS PROGRAM

Punch cards $80/10 classes; $45/5 classes or $10 drop-in (purchase in the Sierra 2 office)

TAI CHI CHUAN
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

STRENGTH AND BALANCE
Tuesdays, 10-11 a.m. Studio 1

GENTLE YOGA
Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-noon Studio 1

LINE DANCE CLASS
Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m. Studio 2

AT SIERRA 2 CENTER
The LEARNERY
Cultivating Curious Minds

TO REGISTER FOR A CLASS
sierra2.org/thelearnery

The Aha Method: Expand Your Art Vocabulary (Mixed Media)
Wednesdays, Nov. 6, Nov. 20
5:30-7:30 p.m.
$35 per class
Express your feelings on paper using an eclectic and dazzling variety of art materials to fashion a piece of surprising, revealing and often unexpected art. Taught by award-winning artist and teacher of the year Larry Ramos.
Explore: What is your most treasured memory?
Explore: What challenges did you overcome this year?

The Aha Method: Expand Your Art Vocabulary (Watercolor)
Wednesday, Nov. 13
5:30-7:30 p.m.
$35 per class
Explore: Watercolor wet-on-wet technique
Come and experience fun and easy technical instruction combined with freedom of expression. Taught by award-winning artist Larry Ramos.

Letting Go: Creative Painting Workshop
Saturday, Nov. 9
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
$40
Optional paint kit: $25
Explore the wonderful world of art where the focus is not solely on the result but the joy and fulfillment of the creative process. Whether novice or experienced, this class welcomes individuals from all levels of painting expertise. Discover the power of self-expression and the therapeutic nature of painting. Every aspect of the artistic journey will be explored and celebrated, from mixing vibrant colors to experimenting with different brush strokes. Under the guidance of instructor Cara Gregor, you will learn various techniques and approaches to painting.

Introduction to Stage Combat
Mondays, Nov. 4 - Dec. 12
6-7:30 p.m.
$250 per person
Join our introductory stage combat course led by certified instructor Samuel Quinzon. The course is open to ages 15 through adult and will teach safe, realistic stage combat techniques for both stage and screen. This class will focus on building the fundamentals of stage combat and applying them within a practical scene. It's perfect for actors or enthusiasts, new or intermediate students who will learn the fundamental skills in a supportive, hands-on learning environment.

Photo Organization and Preservation: How to Start
Wednesday, Nov. 13
10:30 am-1:30 p.m.
$40 per class
Learn the ABCs and the Dos and Don'ts of photo organizing. In this class, you learn ideas and solutions for sorting, organizing and sharing photos and memories. Handouts covering the process will be provided.
In addition, we will discuss scanning options and cover cloud storage as a backup for your digital photos. Bring 25 loose standard-size photos for scanning during class and get a kick start on your photo preservation.

Viewpoint wants your story ideas

Viewpoint appreciates neighbors who submit news about babies, new neighbors, milestones and special events. This includes letters to the editor and opinion pieces.

Please send your ideas to: dorsey.griffith@gmail.com with *Viewpoint* in the subject field.

Deadline for *Viewpoint* copy is the 15th of the month prior to publication.

CURTIS PARK NEWS SINCE 1979

ADVERTISE in *Viewpoint*
Call Kinsley Earl:
916-452-3005 x 202

SIERRA 2 CENTER
THEATER
EST. 1929
24th Street THEATRE

Young Actors Stage presents Wonka Jr.

Nov. 16-17
For showtimes visit YoungActorsStage.com
Tickets: $15 general admission

Based on the original book "Charlie and The Chocolate Factory" by Roald Dahl, this timeless story about a sweet boy's encounter with the eccentric and reclusive world-famous candy man features enchanting songs from the 1971 film. It's a scrumdidilyumptious musical for the whole family. The show is performed by young actors, including teens and children.

Let's Get Social!

@Sierra2Center

Sierra 2 Center

LOCAL MUSIC SCENE

Here's your handy guide

THE SIDE DOOR
2900 Franklin Blvd.
thesidedoor.net • All shows 7 p.m.
Tickets: $20-$25. Advance tickets available.

Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands Photo courtesy Laurie Lewis

Saturday, Nov. 2: Anton Barbeau, SPIN called this California/London/Berlin pop legend "Brain-burrowing melody and mystical psych-guitar fuzz"
Thursday, Nov. 7: Laurie Lewis & The Right Hands, legendary multi-GRAMMY nominee Laurie Lewis & her band are champions of bluegrass, old-time and folk
Friday, Nov. 8: Jessica Malone, Acoustic Americana, joyous, poignant storyteller
Saturday, Nov. 9: Damon Wyckoff & His Twilight Cast, Singer/songwriter of Sacramento Roots Americana stalwarts Forever Goldrush
Thursday, Nov. 14: Alex Lucero Band, Transfixing Soul/Americana band, imagine Bob Seger's voice
Friday, Nov. 15: California Bluegrass Reunion, All-star band paying tribute to the music of the Bluegrass Album Band (Tony Rice, J. D. Crowe, Bobby Hicks, Jerry Douglas, Doyle Lawson and Todd Phillips)
Friday, Nov. 22: Late For The Train, Sonoma County's literate modern string band rooted in American folk and bluegrass music
Saturday, Nov. 25: Vivian Lee, Sacramento's elegant jazz standards songbird

OLD SOUL COFFEE
3434 Broadway Ave. 95817
oldsoulco.com/cafes/40-acres-in-oak-park

Sundays, 4-6 p.m. FREE.
"Jazz @ Old Soul" 40 Acres curated by noted guitarist Ross Hammond. Different groups every week.
Nov. 3: Otis Mourning & Bryan Kilfoil Duo
Nov.10: Mo' Mod
Nov. 17: Alex Jenkins Trio
Nov. 24: Session in the Leaves

THE GUILD THEATER
2828 35th St. 95817 sthope.org/guild-theater-home

First Thursdays, 7p.m.
The Guild Theater's monthly Poetry and Hip-Hop Night, POHOP, is hosted by J. Nash.

TWO RIVERS CIDER CO.
4311 Attawa Ave.
tworiverscider.com/events
Nov. 2: The Nipper Brothers – 4 p.m.
Open for beverages and food plus these free events:

Tuesdays: "Dead Night" with Dick's Picks, Dave's Picks and unreleased. 5:30-9 p.m.
Thursdays: Black Yacht Club presents "The Acoustic Circus," 1st Thursday, 7-9 p.m.
"On the 2 & the 4," Jazz with Kent Lacin & Two Rivers Trio," 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6-9 p.m.
Fridays: "Local Sounds" acoustic showcase hosted by Four-Eyed Whale, 6-9 p.m.
1st Saturday: "Sactown Swings" 6-8 p.m.
Sundays: Ukelele class with Gurukulele (Jim Coats), 4-5 p.m.

– Mindy Giles

Support live music! #SaveOurStages!

PARK ARTS

Apples and Oranges by Patricia Altschul

The Rolling Pin by Patricia Alschul

Patricia Altschul lives on 24th Street and works in her studio, which is tucked into her garden. Her work includes pencil drawings and oil on canvas and panel, and mainly focuses on the female figure in moments of stillness or at work. She is inspired by the transient moment, a fleeting expression, the history of time as it crosses a face or passes through a body at rest or work. The human figure is a landscape of time, so the paintings become a form of landscape painting and a way to illustrate our presence in time. She received her MFA in painting from UC Davis and has shown her work nationally. She is represented by the b. Sakata Garo Gallery in Sacramento, where she will have a solo show in April 2025.

Photos and information on her work, including her participation in a KVIE auction, are at patriciaaltschulart.com and on Instagram @patriciaaltschulart.

Linda Tennyson is a writer and, mostly, a poet. Most of her work, rooted in nature, is inspired by her daily walks in Curtis Park, where she has lived with her husband since 1999. She is also moved to write about social injustice, matters of the heart and her dog, Lucy. She can be reached at desertwalk3@gmail.com.

Viewpoint last ran her work in June of 2023.

How We Save Ourselves

Swaddle the infant nation in soft cloth;
Our nation divided by politics and identity,
seduced by ambitions.

Blare lullabies from street speakers
until we lay our guns
by the cradle.

Sooth our wolf-bite wounds
marinate in home cooking,
barbeques and chocolate cake.

Apply healing balm to noose scars.
Parade them around the country
for all to see.

Crush ignorance and
suppression of knowledge
under the feet of ballerinas.

Lock up hateful words
in a Pandora box. Throw the key
in the Potomac River.

Take your enemy by the hand
and tango at the entrance
to Walmart.

Pray, meditate,
sing the Star-Spangled Banner
with me here

we are again
at the crossroads
for the first time.

Stars

I love to wade ankle deep
in autumn leaves
three-pointed maples'
sunburst yellow,
fingertips dipped in red
raspberry red.
Chinese Pistaches' marmalade orange
and yellow.
Fallen stars and broken tips of stars
swished and tossed, they ride
like cowgirls
on the toes of my boots.

I also like neatly raked
rows of golden Sycamore leaves
peeled back to the grass beneath.
Leaves pushed to the curb
until only green grass is seen.
Then Sycamore drops one golden star
on green
and we begin again
all messy and me.

Tastes

Continued from page 1

"They, along with women in the vanguard like Anne Shelton of Wulff's, Anik Vickers of Moveable Feast, Judy Parks at Tart and Truffles and dozens of others, brought creativity, technique and a commitment to local ingredients that established Sacramento's reputation as a culinary destination. Their legacy endures."

What are some misconceptions about Sacramento-area (Lodi, Amador, Clarksburg) wines, either historic or at present?

Mike Dunne, author of "The Signature Wines of Superior California":

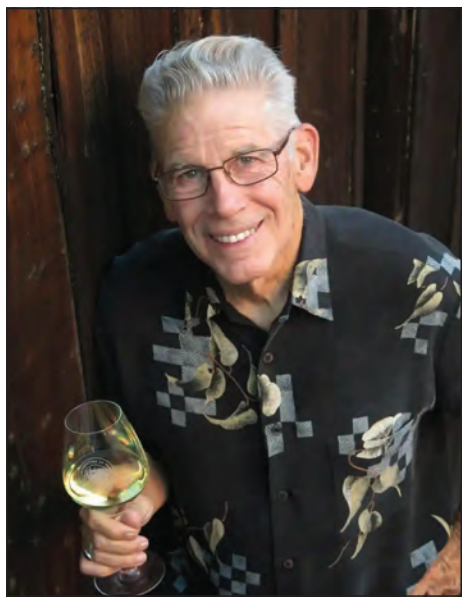
"Two common misperceptions about the wine trade in and about Sacramento: one is that nearby appellations – Shenandoah Valley, Dunnigan Hills, Lodi, among others – don't produce fine wine of a caliber equivalent to wines out of Napa Valley and Sonoma County. The second misconception is that Sacramento itself hasn't played a significant role in the development of California's wine culture."

To what do you credit the success of Corti Brothers since its foundation in Sacramento in 1947, such that it's become a culinary institution?

Darrell Corti, Corti Brothers owner, grocer and wine expert:

"When Frank and Gino Corti came to Sacramento in the 1940s, they realized there was a tremendous need for the European food and beverage products available in San Francisco, which had not found their way into the Sacramento area. The Corti family combined their ethnic roots in cooking with their passion to serve, along with serious dedication towards overcoming the many challenges in business to achieve long-term success."

Please send your questions for the panelists by email prior to the event to help organizers prepare for the panel discussion. Send them to NCC@sierra2.org.



Mike Dunne

Bylaws

Continued from page 1

policies or bylaws. Currently, only SCNA resident members may remove a director at a regular or special meeting.

The Bylaws Revision Committee was comprised of Mimi Budd, Lily Harris and Matthew Royal. The committee presented proposed amendments to the Sep. 15, 2020 bylaws at the Sept. 4, 2024 meeting. Last modified in 2020 and at other times since SCNA's founding, this was the first comprehensive review in several years. The board asked the committee to recommend amendments to make the bylaws, which govern and regulate board operations, conform to current board procedures and to consider other appropriate changes.

At the September board meeting, the committee presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the rationale for the proposed amendments. The process began in February when the committee met with the board and with individual directors, staff and others to solicit input and recommendations and to prepare the proposal presented eight months later. The committee accepted several additional changes recommended by the board after the Sept. 4 meeting.

The final package of proposed amendments was presented for board approval at the Oct. 2 board meeting, after a 10-day notice period was provided to directors by email and online at the Sierra 2 website, in compliance with the bylaws' provision Article XI. Section 2. Ballots were mailed to individual directors prior to the meeting. Notice was also posted on the SCNA website to benefit the membership.

All proposed amendments were passed by a two-thirds majority of the board, except a provision that would have required the board (rather than the Executive Committee) to form the Nominations Committee and would have capped members at three to five directors (rather than three). The Nominations Committee would have presented a slate of prospective directors to the board in July (rather than November). The amendments failed by a vote of 11 yeses to 8 noes. These are the only provisions that did not receive a two-thirds vote.

Other provisions that were approved and do not require membership approval include:

Purpose

• Wording changed to conform bylaw language to SCNA Articles of Incorporation.

Membership

• Rules for member participation in board meetings were amended and re-adopted.

• Membership hardship dues were adjusted to $10 from $1.

• Regular membership meetings may be noticed electronically.

• Special membership meetings may be called at any time by a majority vote of the board.

Board of Directors

• Board meetings may be held electronically with stipulated requirements for director participation.

• Special meetings may be noticed electronically.

Officers and Executive Committee

• Clarifies that if the directors remove a board president, vice president, secretary or treasurer from his or her position, the action does not also remove that officer from the board.

• The board has "ultimate direction" over "powers, actions, and affairs of SCNA" so providing for board "ratification" of executive committee actions is redundant and was deleted.

Committees

•Clarifies that directors serve on at least two committees.

• Deletes Heritage Committee, which is no longer operating.

• Clarifies that the board, not members, may create ad hoc committees.

Financial and Operations Review

• Eliminates the 5-year strategic plan requirement and requires the board to develop and approve a strategic plan as often as appropriate and review it annually to ensure compliance with goals and objectives.

General Provisions

• Recordkeeping requirements summarized in the bylaws were restated, following more closely the requirements stated in the Corporations Code; old language was deleted.

• The rights of members and directors to review documents maintained by SCNA were restated and reordered for clarity; safeguards were increased to determine whether record requests were appropriate. Both the executive director and SCNA Executive Committee will be involved in the records request process.

Non-substantive style changes also were approved.

POINT OF VIEW

How to remove a racially restrictive covenant from your home's title

By Joseph Wraithwall

In a September 2020 *Viewpoint* article "The color lines that divide us," writer Dennis Cusick asked, "Why is Curtis Park so white?" He explained that one of the many racist tools that governments, real estate agents and developers, homeowners and banking institutions used to install and perpetuate segregation in residential neighborhoods was the "racially restrictive covenant." These binding private contracts were attached to property titles to bar non-white people from homes, and they were commonly used during the period between the conclusions of the two World Wars.

While my spouse and I were aware of the prevalence of racially restrictive covenants in core Sacramento neighborhoods, the historical importance of these covenants did not become fully apparent until we discovered the home we were buying had one of them.

As we moved through the stages of buying our home, we received an email and attachments from the title coordinator. "This explains the rules within the neighborhood," she said. "For example, some neighborhoods will not allow you to paint your house neon pink or have a RV parked out on the street for more than 2 weeks… Some use these reports to help them fall asleep and others find them entertaining."

I opened the document titled "CC&Rs," and found a grainy photocopy of a typewritten document. About halfway down the first page, I read:

"Said 'Owners' DO HEREBY CREATE, IMPOSE AND ESTABLISH on each of said lots or portions of lots the following covenants, conditions and restrictions, to-wit: That no part of any of said lots shall at any time be rented, leased, sub-leased or sub-let to, or to be occupied or used by any person of either Hindu, African, Japanese, Chinese, or Mongolian descent, but such property shall be restricted to persons of the Caucasian Race forever."

It wasn't my typical bedtime reading. I found the covenant had been established in 1944 alongside hundreds of others of parcels in Curtis Park. Unlike covenants established by the developers of South Curtis Oaks and Heilbron Oaks in 1920 and 1923, the residents of our house and hundreds of homeowners around it had organized to create new legal documents barring non-whites from ever living in their neighborhood. The format of the covenant suggests that it was a community effort with different witnesses in charge of gathering signatures from groups of property owners across Curtis Park to institute permanent segregation by force of law.

Another striking detail in the covenant was that our seller was the direct descendant of the resident who signed the racially restrictive covenant in 1944. That connection brought home to us how Curtis Park still echoes with the racism of the past. While racially restrictive covenants were declared unenforceable in 1948, I do not think it is precious to contemplate the implications of a white family selling this house to another white family as the covenant remained legally part of the title even 78 years later.

Assembly Bill 1466 (authored by Assemblymember Kevin McCarty and signed into law in 2021) requires county recorders to establish a program to identify and redact unlawfully restrictive covenants from California property records. While the element of the law requiring the title company to notify us of the existence of the racially restrictive covenant was not followed, we were happy to discover that the Sacramento County Clerk/Recorder's Office has established a restrictive covenant modification program that makes it easy for homeowners to redact unlawfully restrictive language from their titles for free.

A webpage at ccr.saccounty.gov explains the process. It's easy. If your title contains a racially restrictive covenant, call 916-874-8884 and leave a voicemail with your name, phone, address the year you purchased your home, and, if available, document information about the covenant (recording book or document number). After leaving a voicemail, I promptly received a call back from a helpful Sacramento County employee who affirmed the presence of discriminatory language, and said she would send an envelope with a copy of the title and some documents for signature.

Days later, I received a thick envelope with the document to sign and a copy of the covenant with instructions on the language to redact. I erred in not redacting completely enough the offending language the first time, so it was sent back to me to completely obscure it. I resent it, and our title is now legally altered with the racist language blacked out.

While some might question the value of removing language that has had no legal force since 1948, it is worthy to contemplate how the most important places in our lives were explicitly shaped by racism. Going through the process to expunge racist covenant language from house titles is grossly insufficient to address the historical impacts and ongoing drivers of racial disparities. There is so much more to do to ensure that Curtis Park is more equitable, sustainable, affordable and just in the future. However, even as we confront the racist legacy of Curtis Park recorded in homeowners' titles, future residents need not be introduced to their new home by reviewing discriminatory language in their title – or can at least know that at some point, another resident grappled with the implications of those words for long enough to strike them from the legal record.

Joseph Wraithwall lives on Portola Way.

Birthday bash brings animal shelter vanload of donations

The Oct. 6 birthday bash for Mr. Pickles, the feline socialite of Donner Way, was a grand success. Neighbors happily showed up to pet Mr. Pickles, mingle among friends and contribute food and other pet supplies, which were piled up on the sidewalk before being taken to the Front Street Animal Shelter.

"There was quite a turnout and so many donations we had to use our neighbor's van to haul it all to the shelter," said Pickles' owner, Jeff Ewing. "They were very grateful; we have a lot of generous people in Curtis Park."

Six-year-old Jed Cartwright visits with Mr. Pickles at his birthday bash Oct. 6.
Photo by Dorsey Griffith

Neighbors flocked to Donner Way Oct. 6 to celebrate Mr. Pickles' birthday and donate items to the Front Street Animal Shelter.
Photo by Jeff Ewing

Ghoulish soccer match gets underway on Marshall Way

This year's Halloween tableau on Jayne Mangles' lawn on Marshall Way features a soccer game between witches and ghosts. Mangles says she spends all year planning the annual display, which in the past has featured a witches and ghosts basketball game, among other sporting themes.
Photo by Anne Da Vigo

Bret Harte Elementary seeks donations for butterfly garden and outdoor classroom

Lauren Gothard *and* Lindsey Sin

Bret Harte's school garden has been approved to receive a significant addition. Brought to life through the dedication of a few neighbors, teachers and parents, the school garden started as a small place for planting and learning. Over the years, it has grown to include an orchard, raised vegetable beds and flower beds along its fence. Every fall and spring, students plant seeds and harvest what they grow, learning about plant life cycles along the way. Nearly every month during the school year, neighborhood volunteers, families and teachers tend to the garden, as well.

For the last year, the PTA's Garden Committee has been working on plans for the garden's largest expansion project, intending to add learning opportunities in the outdoor space. Committee co-chairperson and Bret Harte parent Julissa Leal first researched adding milkweed to the current garden because to help the declining population of Monarch butterflies, which lay eggs in the plants.

"As I started researching, I realized caterpillars needed milkweed, but the butterflies needed nectar plants and plants that would provide shade," she said. The committee then reached out to Shevaun Zakhir of Mother Natives for a design consultation for a pollinator garden that could be accessible to students. This past spring, the school district approved the design of a fully dedicated space for pollinators.

The planned butterfly garden will sit adjacent to the existing garden on the east side of the orchard, adding about 1,280 square feet. The space will include seating and a shade structure for students to rest during recess or to use as an outdoor learning space.

"There will be two large native planter beds along the sides and a smaller bed along the orchard," Leal said. "The beds will be filled with plants that bloom throughout the year." Plants to be added include California lavender, yarrow, milkweed, penstemon, woolly sunflower and native California grape.

Committee co-chairperson and Bret Harte parent Anne Seiler explained that the butterfly garden has several goals, including "providing a real-life science laboratory for students to study pollinators through their lifecycle, giving opportunities for students to help restore native habitats and providing students with a chance to play, rest and learn in a little piece of nature at their own school."

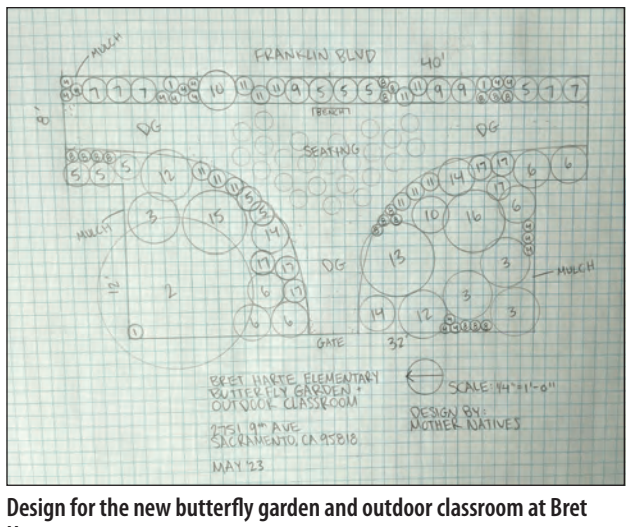
Now that there is a plan and district approval, the Garden Committee is working to raise funds to get the expansion started.

"The site prep and plants are going to cost us about $4,500," said Leal. That budget does not include fencing and a shade structure. The committee hopes to get funding through grants, fundraising and donations.

"The plan is to fundraise and start work on clearing the ground and adding mulch and low fences this school year and plant next fall," added Seiler.

"We want to reconnect students with nature and hopefully inspire them to be good stewards of the land," added Leal.

This area will soon be home to a butterfly garden and outdoor classroom. Photo by Lauren Gothard



Design for the new butterfly garden and outdoor classroom at Bret Harte.

In addition to monetary donations for the butterfly garden, the PTA hopes to receive or purchase learning tools such as magnifying glasses, binoculars and microscopes for the outdoor classroom. Volunteers are welcome to join the next garden workday from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 16. Anyone who would like to help fundraise for the butterfly garden can contact the PTA at brethartebearsPTA@gmail.com. Donations can be made at bit.ly/BretHarteDonate.