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Editor's Corner

Turning the page on a new year allows us to expand our world view and continue our exploration of the world around us. In this issue we try to introduce you to new experiences, revisit familiar places that may have changed, and provide interesting insight into our Delta community.

Tom Surh's article on the Lunar New Year describes a celebration observed in many of the Asian countries. Check out the events he lists in Isleton and Locke to experience some of the traditional activities associated with this holiday. Jan Vick provides us an update on the new Isleton Museum. Tom's article on Locke delves into a bit of the history of the town and some of its interesting sites.

Susan Whitesell provides a history of the Shiloh Church, now owned and maintained by Solano County, and discusses many of the recent renovations and improvements that have been made. Jan Vick provides an update on the National Heritage Area. Dennis Elliott gives us an update on improvements made to Jellystone Park. Stone Lakes and the Yolo Wildlife Refuge is the subject of an article by Doris Noreiga. Doris also introduces us to the forging of functional works of art at the Walnut Grove Iron Works.

Laurie Oleksiewicz continues her introduction of new businesses in Rio Vista with an article on Scents and Sew-ability that features soaps, creams, fragrant sprays, essential oils and bath and body products as well as sewing, crafting and quilting products and classes. Robie Williams introduces the initial Artists of the Month for 2023 at the RioVision Gallery — Robie Ann Murphee in January, Kris Hall in February, and Dorie Solomon in March. Join us for their artist reception from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on the third Saturday of each month at the RioVision Gallery on Main Street.

Special thanks to Jan Vick, our Assistant Editor, and welcome to Alvaro Villanueva, responsible for the layout of this issue.

CORRECTION:

In our last issue we misspelled the names of two of the artists that painted members of Rock The Flock. We sincerely apologize to Harvey Steinhaus and Diana Pierce and thank them for their contribution to beautifying our town.

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Discover Rio Vista is a tri-annual magazine published by the RioVision Promotions and Communications team that provides information about events, activities and places of interest in and around Rio Vista. This magazine is a volunteer effort. Call RioVision at (707) 360-5244 to help!

See the *Discover Rio Vista* website at discoverriovista.com. For additional information about RioVision see riovistavision.com and facebook.com/riovistavision. RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

COVER: A sunrise over the Sacramento River lighting up the sky, water, and the Helen Madere Memorial Rio Vista Bridge. Photo by Doris Noriega.

5th & Main
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WALNUT GROVE IRON WORKS

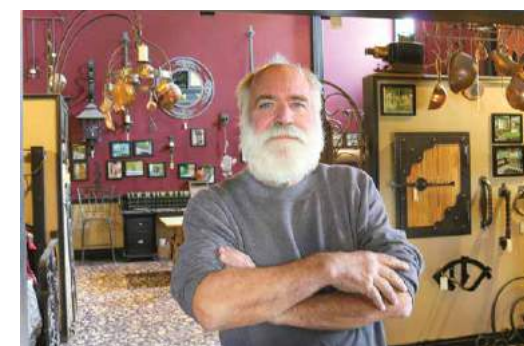
Where Art and Inspiration Meets Functionality

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DORIS NORIEGA

Patrick Daniel is an artisan and craftsman who designs and creates every day functional pieces out of iron while making the client's world a more beautiful place. The Walnut Grove Iron Works is a family run business that creates dozens of different types of products from tables, to beds, gates, lighting, kitchen hoods and many outdoor garden art and sculptures and more. Patrick's wife, Kathleen, is the office administrator and helps Patrick and Jason, their son, take care of the gardens and gallery area. Jason started working with Patrick at an

size of the project it can take hours, days or weeks to fabricate and install. They normally run 3-4 months backlogged on orders. Patrick has dozens of thick photo albums filled with photographs of all the products that he and his son have completed over the years.

Patrick emphasizes that one has to be open to change, willing to learn new things, and be flexible in order to be successful. It is important to be prepared to take advantage of opportunities that come your way.



Left to right: The garden of Walnut Grove Iron Works; Patrick Daniel inside the gallery; hanging sculptures in garden

early age and has picked up the trade as an artist and metal crafter and added his own artistic touches. Patrick has been in the business for 46 years and for the last 17 has been located in Walnut Grove. His work can be found throughout the Delta, East Bay, Sacramento, Lincoln, Folsom, Roseville, and as far away as Carmel, Pacific Grove, San Francisco, Tahoe and Truckee.

The family bought the old movie theater in Walnut Grove and surrounding property upon which they have developed beautiful gardens filled with flowers, trees, metal sculptures, and other ornamental pieces to make a tranquil destination for visitors. Patrick, Kathleen and Jason remodeled the entire building, which had been empty for almost 40 years. Patrick's father was a carpenter so working on the building was second nature to him and a good education for his son working alongside him as he did with his father. Inside the old theater is a display gallery filled with the different types of furnishings and metal wall art. There are many items available for purchase both in the display gallery and in the gardens. In the back of the building is a large work shop/forge area where he produces all his home and garden products.

All the products are hand forged and can fit a variety of architectural styles that clients may ask for such as Modern, Art Deco, Mediterranean, Art Nouveau, Rustic, Mountain Lodge, Industrial, Cottage, or Southwestern, etc. Initially Patrick works with the client to get an understanding of what they envision in the piece they are commissioning and he puts together an ink drawing based on that vision. Patrick and Jason then combine that with their own artistic skills that both have honed since high school. Both from an early age enjoyed sketching and drawing, which Patrick feels he inherited from both his mother's artistic abilities and his father's construction background. In school Patrick studied mechanical drawing and architectural design and took multiple shop classes. Later came trade school and welding certifications. The final drawings of all the product designs are kept in binders for further reference. Depending on the

He tells the story of when he was in high school he was working evenings at a gas station. One day one of his regular customers told him that the local sheet metal company was hiring and that he should apply. Patrick did and that set him on the career path of working with metals. He was prepared and was open to the possibilities. Furthermore he believes that there is something inside everyone that needs to be found and brought out for people to be truly happy in their lives and be able to follow their passion. One has to find that joy and happiness in the work that they choose to do. It is not just about the money it is about the passion and the joy they get from all their customers and people that come to visit.

Jason feels that same passion and really appreciates that sense of accomplishment during the transformation and the creation of pieces for people to enjoy. The company's product line has evolved over the years to meet that vision and needs of their clients. On their website there are photos of modern kitchen hoods, and specialty lighting installations that work well in updating and remodeling homes and commercial projects. The purpose of the ever expanding gardens is not just to display products but to welcome people into Walnut Grove and promote tourism for all the Delta towns. They feel very lucky to have found a special place to live and work filled with good people. A multitude of photographers and photography groups visit and photograph the flowers, trees, sculptures, and garden art, etc. Their family welcomes people from all over to come and visit the gallery and garden. It literally is a lovely place to just stop and smell the roses.

All pieces are made in their shop and they would like to thank customers for buying American products. It keeps everyone forging ahead.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

wgironworks.com

wgironworks@frontiernet.net

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Shiloh Church

BY SUSAN WHITESELL

Deep in the Montezuma Hills on Shiloh Road, stands the serene and starkly beautiful Shiloh Church. Simple monuments in the cemetery reflect the names of the early Montezuma Hills pioneers, and those descendants are among the nearby residents today.

In an article written for the December 1986 Solano Historian, Carley Robinson, mother of multi-generational Rio Vistan Wes Stewart, wrote, "...the quiet of the countryside is interrupted only by an occasional car on its way to a working ranch, to Rio Vista, or to Birds Landing. The fields are covered with the remnants of an earlier harvest or lie fallow waiting for a late fall planting. Sheep graze noiselessly within fenced fields while the rolling Montezuma Hills reflect the gold so characteristic of the California agrarian landscape."

"...the little church has answered many of the community's needs and been the scene of many of its most important ceremonies. Weddings, funerals, reunions, and family gatherings have been sheltered within its walls." The first meeting of the "citizens of Montezuma" occurred August 25, 1869, in the Daniels School next to the future site of the new church. Four days later, committee members paid one dollar for a deed for an acre and a half of church land.

Many meetings followed to pledge monies, create building plans, secure building bonds, and identify a builder. The committee took possession of the building February 17, 1870, seven months from the initial meeting to propose a church. A few years later, fences were added to the front of the church and the cemetery. Twenty-nine cemetery lots were sold to local families. The first burial was Mrs. Sarah Shed, August 20, 1874. And in that year, 200 Monterey cypresses were planted, joining the groves of eucalyptus trees planted by farmers for shade, landscaping, and windbreaks. After a few fits and starts, determined parishioners finally hired Mr. Crawford as preacher for the year 1875 for a salary of \$600.

The day after Christmas 1875, committee trustees leaving Mr. Crawford's home saw the church was on fire. Carley Robinson further wrote, "The Sunday school session was then interrupted by the alarm and all present rushed to save what they could. The organ, library, and pulpit, seats, and a portion of the windows were saved. However, the lovely little church was burned to the ground. A defective stovepipe was the culprit."

Only four days later the community decided to rebuild. This time, Reverend Crawford took much of the leadership responsibility with support from trustees Lambie, Blacklock, Stewart and Bird. The second church was constructed in 1876 at a cost of \$2,000.

World War I ended. Over the years the church congregation dwindled. The loss of parishioners prompted one historian to note, "The cemetery grew faster than the congregation." The church closed its doors as Cumberland Presbyterian in 1920. The Great Depression passed.

The church was used infrequently in the 1930s. The structure fell into disrepair and the church and grounds repeatedly vandalized.

World War II ended. In the 1940s the church and grounds continued to deteriorate. All the windows were broken, and much of the plaster had fallen.

In one particularly egregious act in the late 1950s, three beautiful chancel chairs were stolen, and grave markers were toppled and broken. The community galvanized to repair the church before irreparable damage occurred. Through monetary and "in kind" donations of labor and supplies by people in the community and afar, windows

were replaced, old plaster removed, sheetrock installed, tile placed over old wood floors, pews repaired and refinished, and the exterior painted. Services were held in the renovated church by a non-denominational group from Elmira. Once their interest waned, the church once again sat unused for regular services.

No longer a house of worship, the church was designated by the state as a "State Point of Historical Interest" in 1969. The Montezuma 4-H Club—some members fourth generation descendants of the original church pioneers—helped to maintain the structure as an ongoing club project through the 1960s and 70s. Community fundraising in the 70s gathered enough monies to paint the church. Additional improvements were funded by the Solano County Historical Society. However, the need for serious restorations far surpassed available funding.

In 1998 through 2006, a particularly entrepreneurial group of Montezuma Hills residents, with tremendous support from the Birds Landing, Colinsville, and Rio Vista communities, partnered with the Western Railway Museum annual "pumpkin patch" to raise funds for both the museum and Shiloh Church restoration projects. The simple

pumpkin patch grew to include live music, hayrides, a straw bale fort to climb, animals to pet, food, homemade baked goods, and crafts. The event proceeds poured thousands of dollars into the church restoration coffers. The steeple crown was repaired and the entire structure re-roofed, damaged siding was replaced or secured, an old stovepipe was removed, damaged windows were replaced with Mark Peugh's hand-crafted wood frames and mottled glass to match the originals, the foundation was repaired, and old paint was scraped off and the structure repainted.

The church and surrounding grounds are now owned and maintained by Solano County. The Rio Vista-Montezuma Cemetery District staff and board trustees are particularly proud of the improvements made to the church and grounds in the last 10 years. These include new floors, restored pews, new wrought iron fencing, new lights and ceiling fans, electrical upgrades, new heating and air conditioning, paint inside and out, new handicap-accessible outdoor restroom, blacktop roads, and well-maintained grounds.

This picturesque well-preserved church and cemetery continues to reveal the values and spirit of the community. See the Rio Vista-Montezuma Cemetery District website at riovistamontezumacemeterydistrict.com or call manager Joana Rodriguez at (707) 344-1976 to reserve the church for weddings and funerals.



The front of Shiloh Church now (right) and during restoration (left)





Lunar New Year

BY TOM SURH

Many countries and cultures observe Lunar New Year, particularly China, Vietnam, Singapore, Korea, and other China-influenced locales. It begins on the first new moon in the Western calendar in late January or February. The celebrations and traditions from southern China are most familiar to us because of the very long history and large presence of southern Chinese in California and the Delta region. This year, January 22, 2023, is New Year Day, and traditional celebrations and traditions continue until the Lantern Festival on the fourteenth day (full moon) and beyond. In China today, many traditions have not survived widely, largely due to the Cultural revolution. In overseas Chinese communities, such as ours, many traditions continue.

Here in our Delta region, with its rich history of early Chinese settlers, celebrations abound. This year Locke revives its celebration event, after a Covid hiatus, on February 11. (This year Isleton wraps their usual celebration into their 100-year anniversary celebration on May 14.) Here is the list of events in Locke, beginning at Noon on Saturday February 11:

- **Lion Dance**
- **Martial Arts Demonstration**
- **Tai Chi Demonstration**
- **Flower Arrangement Presentation**
- **Painting and Calligraphy Contest**
- **Chinese Musical Performance**
- **New Year Cooking Lecture**
- **Free New Year Snacks**
- **Red Envelope Money (for the first 100 visitors)**



Main Street during celebration in Isleton

Chinese people prepare ahead of New Year Day by cleaning the house, getting new clothes ready, and preparing the many traditional foods, which often includes a vegetarian dish based on the diet of monks and nuns. The extended family gathers for a banquet when the older married folks give lucky money in red packets to the younger unmarried members, and the younger ones pay their due respects to their elders. At Chinese New Year celebrations, expect to see the Lion dancers as they proceed to very loud drumbeats from shop-to-shop collecting the money offerings suspended from the doorway. All the while, strings of firecrackers keep the evil spirits at bay.

This is the Year of the Rabbit, based on the Chinese Zodiac cycle of 12 years. Those born during this year are said to be kind with a quiet personality that tends to hide their confidence and strength. In the Zodiac cycle (which begins with year of the Rat) Rabbit is followed by the year of the Dragon, then the Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, Pig, Rat, Ox, and Tiger. Each one has its own character, and matchmakers consider the birth years of the proposed couple to find the most auspicious matches. You can find where you fit in this cycle with an online search for “Chinese zodiac.” Once you know a person’s Zodiac sign, you can usually figure out their age without asking directly!



Various Lion dancers in their colorful costumes

The Amazing Little Town of Locke

BY TOM SURH — PHOTOS BY DORIS NORIEGA

This tiny town with a big history is on Highway 160 about a mile north of Walnut Grove. Originally part of the ranch owned by George W. Locke, it was the location of a shipping wharf on the Sacramento River. Locke became a permanent settlement in 1915 when a group of Chinese moved there after their residences in Walnut Grove were destroyed by fire.

Due to the California’s 1913 Alien Land Law, Chinese could not own real property. Instead, they leased the land and built a thriving community. At its height, upwards of 1,500 Chinese lived in Locke.

Beginning during the Civil War, Chinese laborers, including many from the Pearl River delta regions of Guangdong Province, built the levy system in our Delta with hand labor. This created the very rich Delta farmland that we still en-joy today.

Although largely avoided in the Delta region, there were longstanding anti-Chinese movements throughout California involving harassment, property burnings and lynching. These movements resulted in many local and state laws targeting Chinese and culminated in the federal Chinese Exclusion Act in 1882

Chinese, Japanese and Filipino immigrants brought their agricultural skills and labor to work the land. With some exceptions, these Asian pioneers were unable to prosper economically because of discriminatory attitudes, anti-miscegenation laws that made forming families difficult, and other barriers. Their descendants mostly left the Delta region for urban centers that offered more opportunities.

While only a small handful of Chinese continue to live in Locke, the town is very unique in that the Main Street still has many of the original structures that once housed gambling houses, brothels, and opium dens that once made the town infamous throughout the Sacramento region. The Locke Foundation has succeeded in restoring a number of these structures and creating museums that are very



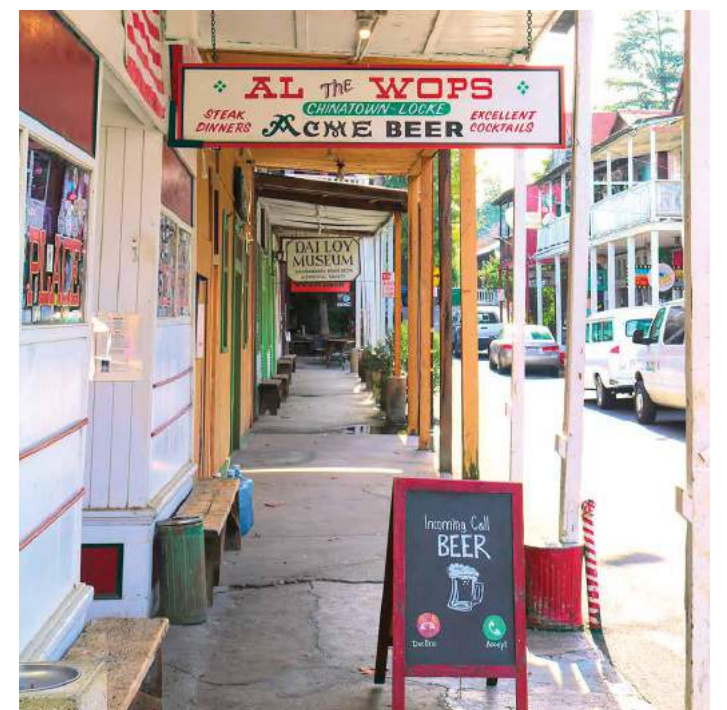
Interior of the Locke School House



Locke Chinese Medicine Shop

much worth a visit on weekends. These include the Chinese School Museum, the Dai Loy gambling Museum, the Boarding House Museum and Gift Shop, and the Jan Ying Museum. This latter had been a social gathering place for men from the Zhongshan district, an area near present day Macau that is the hometown of Dr. Sun Yat-sen as well as the group that moved from Walnut Grove and founded Locke. Also find the Memorial Garden, art galleries, and eateries. The most famous of these is Al the Wops on Main Street. It was founded in 1934 by Al Adami, the first non-Chinese business owner in town. It was and remains a militantly working-class place with no ties allowed, a funky atmosphere and hearty menu.

All in all, Locke is a living museum and fun place to visit.



Looking down the covered sidewalk on the East side of Main Street

Discovering the Chinese Roots of the Delta: THE ISLETON MUSEUM

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JAN VICK

The history of Chinese immigrants in Isleton really begins with the influx of many Chinese to work on the transcontinental railroad and the gold fields in California. Until the 1850s, when California became a state, the Delta was a marshy landscape home to Native Americans and teeming with wildlife. The Swamp and Overflow Land Act of 1850 opened the land for sale to local development, particularly agriculture. Starting in the Civil War period, Chinese immigrants took on the backbreaking work of building a levee system to contain the water and channel it into rivers, sloughs, and canals, creating the fruitful land we know today.

Many of the Chinese who had worked on the railroad settled in Truckee until that town was burned in a race riot, and most then relocated. One of the businessmen that came to Isleton from Truckee was Toy Yick Quen, who started an import business with a partner near Jackson Slough on land leased from Dr. Josiah Pool. The business sold medicinal herbs, Chinese groceries and other merchandise imported from China. Toy Yick's son, Toy Teu Quen, began working for his father in 1894 until he took over the business in 1900 when his father returned to China. Dr. Pool had his land plotted and recorded as a town in 1874. The name Isleton, which meant "town on an island," was chosen by Dr. Pool and a friend.

Many of the families who settled in the Isleton area were unsuccessful gold miners who then turned to farming. They depended on Chinese labor to till, plow, and work in the fields of sugar beets, asparagus, wheat, corn, potatoes, cabbage, onions, beans, and pears. Floods were common in the Delta, and were the ruination of many early farmers, including Dr. Pool. Up to eight canneries were established within 5 miles of Isleton, many packing and shipping asparagus. In

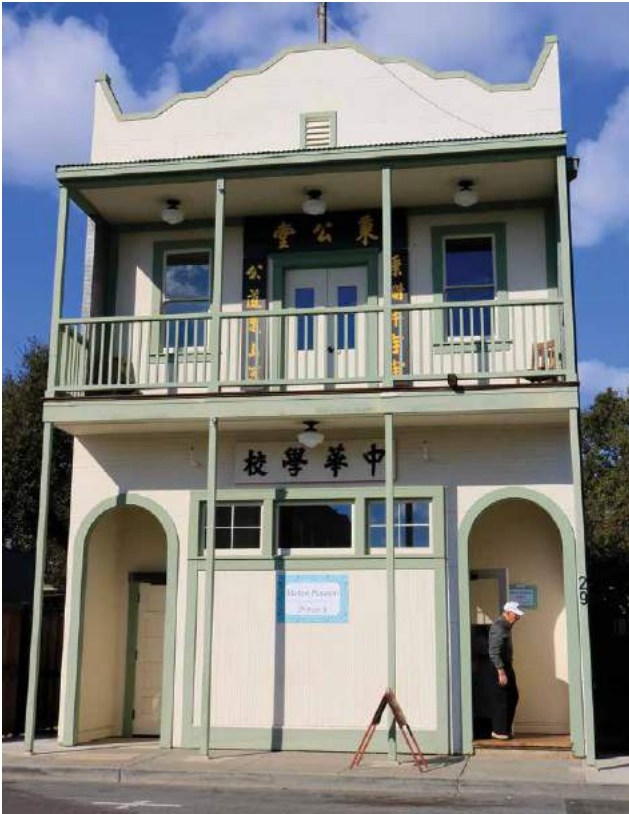
the '20s and '30s Isleton was known as the "Asparagus Capital of the World" producing about 98% of the world's asparagus. The Chinese residents were important workers in the canneries.

Toy Teu Quen founded the Bing Kong Tong Society in 1903 upon receiving permission from the San Francisco Chinese community. A Tong, which means a "gathering place" or "hall" provided many services to the growing Chinatown community in Isleton. The current building was erected in 1926 after a fire destroyed all the buildings on Main Street. Monthly meetings were held at the Tong to mediate disputes and resolve other community issues.

The first floor was used for a Chinese Language School, and students came after their day in public school. The Bing Kong Tong met on the second floor. An empty lot next to the building was set aside for a playground for the language school and gardening space for the teacher.

As the canneries left Isleton and the Delta, the Chinese began to leave the area. WWII had an impact as young men returned from the war and went to school on the GI bill. They moved to the Bay Area or Sacramento for better jobs and families gradually moved out of Isleton. The Tong building no longer had a Chinese community to serve, and it gradually fell out of use. The building was turned over to the Isleton Brannan-Andrus Historical Society in 1994. During the past 28 years the building has been gradually renovated and now has opened as the Isleton Museum, showcasing the deep history of the Chinese immigrants who played such an important role in the making of Isleton and the Delta.

The museum is open on Saturdays from 12 to 3 pm and is a fascinating look at the history, artifacts and information about the Chinese in Isleton.



The Isleton Museum façade



Left to right:
1913 trunk, six
silk hangings, silk
crane hanging,
altar

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park™ and Camp Resort

BY DENNIS AND MERILYN ELLIOTT

For family fun along the Delta, you can't beat Northgate Resorts' Yogi Bear's Jellystone Park™. The high season is from May through August, but it is open year-round. Though some activities may not be available during the off-season, there are special events during the holidays.

There are 231 trailer/RV camping spaces available with power, water, and sewer hookups. If you don't have an RV, or prefer to "rough it," there are 128 fully furnished cabins available for daily or weekly rental. These include 35 newly constructed luxury cabins that sleep up to eight, and some even include hot tubs.

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- Giant jumping pillow
- Special events and live music
- An outdoor movie theatre
- Themed visits from Boo Boo Bear™ and Yogi Bear™ (keep a close eye on your picnic baskets)
- Special shows and events for kids and kids-at-heart
- Bark Park (for our furry friends)
- Free picnic (pic-a-nic according to Yogi) sites and firepits
- Volleyball court and basketball courts
- Horseshoes
- Gaga Ball court (like dodgeball, but safer)
- Private Sunset Beach
- On-property guest laundry
- Handy grocery and gift shop
- Rental golf carts to get around the sprawling property
- Pic-a-nic food truck
- And more... plus Mountain View Sweet Shop Ice Cream parlor opening in 2023

To see a complete list, visit the websites towerparkresort.com/things-to-do and towerparkresort.com/add-ons.



Cindy Bear™ speaks no evil, Boo Boo Bear™ hears no evil, and Yogi Bear™ sees no evil

WATER PARK AND LAZY RIVER

Even though most guests visit during the peak May through August period, park management also offers off-peak events for visitors to come and enjoy for the day. For example, six weekends of exciting Halloween festivals (including a haunted house) as well as Thanksgiving and Christmas adventures. To see a complete list of activities and special events, see towerparkresort.com/events.

YOGI BEAR™ CAMPGROUND CABINS

Among their many properties, Northgate Resorts owns and operates eighteen other Jellystone Parks™. Britani Eaton, from their headquarters marketing department, says their goal is to "continuously get better and continue to have both new campers and repeat campers come enjoy a getaway with us. We love to create those lasting memories for families and friends, and everyone that comes through our gate is a part of our Jellystone Park™ family."

The Park is located at 14900 West Highway 12, Lodi, California. For reservations, call (209) 369-1041 or go to their website towerparkresort.com and click on the Reserve Now button.

For a little extra fun, take a 15-minute drive into the city of Lodi, where you can check out over 50 wineries, many offering wine tasting. Or take a 15-minute drive in the other direction to the city of Rio Vista where the first Friday in October you can enjoy the three-day Bass Derby and Festival. On the last Saturday in August, you can participate in Hog August Bites. This event is a one-day Barbeque rib cookoff and a competitive local chef's chili contest. Come and be a judge. Both events feature a classic car show, free parking, all day music, vendor booths, and no entrance fees.

BOO BOO BEAR™ SAYS HI

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The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area

BY JAN VICK

THE DELTA: those of us who are lucky enough to live in or near the Delta are aware of how special this place is. With its wandering rivers and sloughs, its picturesque towns and its gorgeous sunsets, the Delta is a magical place to be. But how do we attract more visitors to our towns, wineries and open spaces while still protecting the essence of this place? Many scenic areas have grappled with this issue, and a number have found that establishing a National Heritage Area has opened the doors to more visitors, educational opportunities as well as the ability to better manage these areas.

The Delta Protection Commission (DPC) is a state entity committed to the protection and health of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta). In 2009 DPC was directed to develop a plan to establish State and Federal designation of the Delta as a place of special significance. As part of that work, the DPC wrote a Feasibility Study in 2009 for submission to the National Park Service, which found that it met the criteria for National Heritage Area (NHA) designation. The creation of the

NHA required approval by Congress and legislators approved the creation as part of the John D Dingell, Jr., Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act in 2019. The DPC was designated the local coordinating entity and has embarked on creating a management plan that will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for approval.

In January 2021, the DPC, after soliciting volunteers to work on the management plan, convened an NHA Advisory Committee to oversee the writing of this complex plan. The volunteers represent wide-ranging areas of interest and expertise from within the NHA boundaries (see map). The committee has met monthly to discuss progress and issues. In addition, four task groups were established: interpretive planning; resource stewardship; heritage development and tourism; and organization. These task groups, made up of NHA Advisory Committee members as well as other partners and stakeholders, collaborate closely with a consultant group experienced in the establishment of NHA's as well with California State Parks employees.

When establishing the boundaries of the NHA, the Commission considered not only the boundaries of the Delta itself, but the importance of the Suisun Marsh as well as the historical towns along the Carquinez Strait and the Yolo Bypass. Ultimately, the management plan will include a thorough list of the rich resources within the NHA as well as procedures to develop relationships with local partners and resources.

The Management Plan should be completed during 2023 and will be released for public comment prior to approval. Anyone interested in attending the meetings and commenting on the completed plan, please send your contact information to: Blake Roberts, Program Manager with the DPC at blake.roberts@delta.ca.gov.



THE JEWEL CITY BUNGALOW

BY PHIL PEZZAGLIA

Many of the unique homes and buildings that once lined the picturesque streets of Rio Vista during the turn of the last century are gone now, however a few have remained. One such structure, found at 15 South Front Street between Lucy's Café and the former River News-Herald newspaper office, has served through the decades as either a residence or a business. What makes this somewhat hidden, bungalow style home historically important is why it was constructed and where it was located before it was placed at its present site.

THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

The house is one of only a handful of buildings that survived from the historic Panama-Pacific International Exposition. The Exposition was a world's fair held between February 20 and December 4, 1915, in San Francisco, California. The purpose of the fair was to celebrate the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914.

But the City of San Francisco also saw it as an opportunity for the city to highlight its recovery from the 1906 earthquake. The fair was constructed on 636 acres between the Presidio and Fort Mason. This area is known today as the "Marina District." The fair drew more than 18,876,438 people.

During the weeks that followed the closure of the exposition, nearly all of the buildings and structures erected for the exposition were either demolished or moved. The only one of the exposition monuments that still exists in the same location is the "Palace of Fine Arts." However, several of the buildings were saved, moved, and repurposed.

EDWIN M. CHASE PURCHASES THE HOUSE

In December 1915, Edwin M. Chase bought a house, which had been on display at the fair as a modern bungalow home. After the house was bought, Chase had it placed on a barge and floated up to Rio Vista. While awaiting the arrival of the display bungalow, he had a basement dug on the property next to his general merchandise store. He then placed the house on the newly constructed basement and foundation. Over the years the house has been used as both a residence and as several businesses.

EDWIN MONROE CHASE

Edwin was born January 1864 and raised in Rio Vista. He was the son of James and Ella (Perry) Chase, early settlers of the town. Edwin was a diligent worker plus at the age of eleven, began working in his father's general merchandise store, "Chase's Store," located on the southeast corner of Main and Front Streets. Eventually he would buy the store from his father.

After years in the general merchandise business, Edwin caught the "political bug," and in 1890 was the Prohibition Candidate for Surveyor General. After Edwin's passing in 1928, his widow, Anna, inherited the property and business. Eventually Anna sold Chase's Store, the "Jewel City Bungalow," and the property that it sat on to Jess S. Jessen. Jessen would end up tearing down the store and constructing a restaurant & bar on the property.

FORMER OWNERS AND RESIDENTS

The Chase family never occupied the home, however they used it as a piece of rental property. One of the earlier families, which occupied the home during the early 1920s, was local bakery owner Simon Yong. During the 1980s the home was used as a beauty parlor, Bourdo's Boutique, being returned to a residence in 1991.

Although 107 years old, the structure is remarkably well preserved. This is a testament to the artisanship put into building a bungalow, which during the Exposition depicted the home of the future.

PIECES OF THE PUZZLE

As has been mentioned several times in earlier articles, the history of Rio Vista is like a gigantic puzzle and there are many pieces that connect Rio Vista with other places and events outside of Rio Vista.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL TIES WITH THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

Rio Vista has three definite ties to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. As already mentioned, the "Jewel City Bungalow" was on display at the exposition, but did you know that Rio Vista has another rather unique connection to the great Panama-Pacific International Exposition? Hanging in the Rio Vista Museum is a panoramic photograph with the caption "The First Grand Outing of the Exposition Builders, Rio Vista, California, April 20, 1913." Obviously, the builders took a break and ventured up the Sacramento River to Rio Vista where they enjoyed a day's break away from the construction of the exposition. The third tie between the exposition and Rio Vista is Henry Clay Smith. Mr. Smith was a San Francisco architect who received a Gold Medal for public school architecture in

1915 at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Smith would go on to design the Rio Vista Grammar School in 1918 and another school in the Delta, the Beaver Union School in 1920.



Jewel City Bungalow.

The bungalow purchased by E. M. Chase from the late Exposition grounds at San Francisco, is now nearly completed on the site on Front street. During the past few days A. W. Hansen has been attending to the plumbing, while F. Lemley has been doing the electric wiring. When completed the new building will make a handsome addition to the improvements on Front street, and will ever be a remembrance of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Mr. Chase has also made extensive improvements to his property on Front and Main streets, and an extensive fill has been made on both streets to the level of the curb.



Panama-Pacific International Exposition Home on Front Street; Article from *The River News*, December 1915; Location of bungalow

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Scents and Sew-ability

A New Business in Downtown Rio Vista

BY LAURIE OLEKSIWICZ



Views of the store



Downtown Rio Vista is home to some fabulous long-time businesses, however there are several new businesses that have appeared on the scene bringing exciting options and variety for residents and visitors to enjoy.

One of these newbies is Scents and Sew-ability, located in the Braids building at 321 Main Street. The driving forces behind this unique business are three sisters, Eldy, Vivian and Evelyn Nodel. The three sisters are Bay Area natives who moved to Rio Vista in 2020 to live closer together and to take care of their aging parents. The sisters brainstormed potential opportunities drawing on their many years of business experience and community involvement.

The first step was to move Eldy's marketing and events business, Logistics Driven Management, to the downtown area. They agreed that the front portion of the space would be ideal for a boutique offering items not available in Rio Vista and those they enjoyed making and buying. Thus the creation of Scents and Sew-ability.

Scents and Sew-ability offers quality cotton fabric, sewing notions, patterns, and other quilting essentials. The scent side of the business features hand-crafted soaps, CBD creams, fragrance sprays, and NOW essential oil and bath/body products. Various sewing and crafting classes have been a big hit, and they are developing a fun class schedule for 2023. The classroom is open to all on non-class Saturdays for those who wish to sew with others.

In addition to their involvement in their businesses, the Nodel sisters are very involved in the community and support many of the non-profits located here in Rio Vista. Scents and Sew-ability has been well received and enjoyed by many. Please stop by and say hello to this trio and explore their fine establishment.

Hours of operation are Thursday thru Saturday (10 am-4 pm). The website is available for online shopping and provides free delivery for orders within Rio Vista city limits. For more information visit scentsandsew.com, scentsandsew@gmail.com, (707) 378-2178.



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WINNING REPUTATION - WINNING RESULTS

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge & the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DORIS NORIEGA

*"I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to
have my senses put in order."*

—John Burroughs

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge is another beautiful and quiet place to enjoy nature. It was established in 1992 and is located 10 miles South of Downtown Sacramento, west of Interstate 5 on Hood Franklin Road. Its mission is to preserve, enhance, and restore the diverse Central Valley habitats, which includes wetlands, savannah grasslands, riparian forest, and natural freshwater sloughs and lakes. The refuge is also very active in assisting the recovery of rare, threatened, and endangered species while working with state and federal flood management agencies and private agricultural land owners.

This 18,000 acres protected wildlife refuge provides trails, guided walks, paddle tours, and seasonal waterfowl hunting. It too is along the Pacific Flyway and is the winter home for both migratory birds and local birds that stay all year round. Observe ducks, geese, Sand Hill Cranes, sandpipers and plovers. In addition there are Avocets, Mallards, Tree Swallows, and Swainson's Hawks. In the refuge there is a major rocky for nesting species such as the Great Blue Herons. The best time to view the migratory birds is between October and May. Sight



Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

other diverse wildlife such as coyotes, raccoons, squirrels, deer, and river otters.

The amenities provided are concrete pathways, an amphitheater, stationary dock, observation deck, Blue Heron Trail Kiosk, and a parking lot with a non-flush restroom (so bring your own hand sanitizer).

"The Little Green Heron Playscape," currently under construction, will offer young children the opportunity to explore and connect to nature by using natural building materials of logs, boulders, rock and plant material.

To enhance your visit bring drinking water, sunscreen, hat, snacks, insect repellent, camera with telephoto lens, binoculars, and field guides. Depending on the weather dress in layers. The trails and facilities are accessible to strollers, walkers, and wheelchairs. Although there is no formal picnic area visitors are welcome to use the pavilion.



Stone Lakes, Green Heron Playscape

It is an amazing experience to explore the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area by yourself or on a tour. This wildlife area is a sprawling restored wetland that provides habitats for nearly 200 species of birds, in addition to amphibians, reptiles and mammals. But this area is also intricately connected to so much more in terms of flood control, water supplies, agriculture, conservation, and recreational and educational uses. The 16,000 acre wildlife area is one of the largest public/private restoration projects in California. The Wildlife Area itself is located within the Yolo Bypass. The bypass carries Sacramento River water at overflow to the Delta and is part of the Sacramento River Flood Control System. Intensive management is necessary to protect surrounding farming operations while at the same time reducing hazardous levels of mosquitoes.

The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is open to the public everyday of the week from sunrise to sunset except on December 25 and during periods of flooding. Permits and fees for daily public use are not required. There are multiple walking trails throughout the Wildlife Area. Monthly tours of the Wildlife Area are the second Saturday of each month except July, August, and September. The tour is lead by an experienced field trip leader.

The Yolo Basin Foundation founded in 1990 works in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that makes the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Areas accessible to thousands of people each year. One of their common goals is to increase the waterfowl and other bird populations. The foundation's mission is to expand public appreciation and conservation of the wetlands and wildlife. This is done through education and innovative partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies while addressing the needs of private landowners, farmers, hunters, birdwatchers, and other conservation organizations. Discover the Flyway School Programs offer outdoor education programs for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. Its goal is to offer children outdoor experiences that give them an appreciation for the wetlands, agriculture, and wildlife in California. Once an individual understands and learns something new about their environment they are better able to protect it.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS:
Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge
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Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarter
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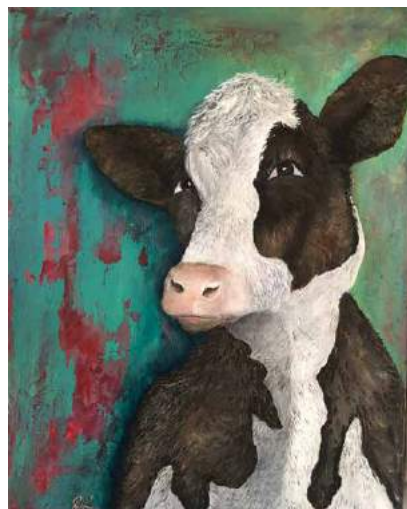

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Gallery Artists

BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

The Gallery has about twenty artists from the Delta displaying their art. The genres are varied and fascinating, ranging from paintings in acrylics, oils and watercolors to photography, jewelry, gourds, felted art and more. Most of the artists also work in the Gallery. Each month the RioVision Gallery highlights an artist and their work. A reception on the third Saturday of the month provides an opportunity to meet the featured artist and view their work while mingling with others who appreciate art.



THE ARTIST FOR FEBRUARY IS *Kris Hall*

When she was young, **Kris Hall** did not do well in art and did not dream of becoming an artist. As an adult, however, Kris aspired to be a Rock and Roll artist, so she started modeling and then became a member of a Rock and Roll band. She made her dream come true: she was an artist! However, due to circumstances beyond her control Kris had to leave the world she had come to love. Kris shifted gears and stepped into the business world. She became a banker and later a consumer lender and mortgage broker. During the 2007/08 financial crisis, her mother needed help, so Kris became an Uber driver for its flexible hours. As her mother needed more health care, Kris moved into her home in Rio Vista. Having an enterprising spirit, she knew she needed to make money. She wrote three books including *Mocha Secret* and *Niches to Riches* under her married name Kris Holmes and self-published them. She wrote two children's books that she has yet to publish.



In 2018 Kris began watching YouTube painting lessons developing a style of her own. She was surprised by the positive reactions to her art. While she tried flowers, nature scenes and pottery, it just did not fuel her artistic passion. Kris says, "I found that passion in large canvases, working in abstract art and collage tributes of musicians!" Her large canvases include Rock and Roll artists Elvis Presley and Neil Young, country star Johnnie Cash and Reggae icon Bob Marley. She has also created a 4' x 6' canvas depicting a Harley Davidson.

The Artist Reception for Kris is February 18th from 3 to 5 pm.



JANUARY FEATURES *Robbie Ann Murphree*.

Robbie Ann grew up in the East Bay and remembers drawing cartoon characters as a child in the backyard. It was many years later that she decided to paint a picture of "Sunny," one of the chickens in her backyard. Robbie Ann found that she loved the feeling of the brush full of paint in her hand and intuitively knew what to do. Although it started awkwardly and she had thoughts of giving up, she took a step back and could see the detail that was needed. Since then, her painting continues, and she still has that "first" painting.

She began her art career in 2016, painting in acrylics and oils, although she primarily paints in acrylics to achieve a rustic concept or a raw look. She is also a photographer and writer. Her art tells a story, and she captures moments of time that she hopes will inspire authenticity and simplicity in the lives of others. Her artwork has a peaceful, calmness to it, but also often expresses joy. From her playful dolphins and mermaids to her animal portraits, seascapes, and landscapes, you can be assured that Robbie Ann

painted with a purpose and enjoyed the process.

Robbie Ann appreciates the importance of expressing her creativity and works continuously to align herself with her purpose.

Meet Robbie Ann at her reception on January 21 from 3 to 5 pm.



of the Month

OUR ARTIST FOR MARCH IS *Dorie Solomon*



Dorie Solomon is one of our most talented artists who continues to paint through her trials. In 2014 she moved to Rio Vista because of deteriorating health. Her sister, Diana, was able and willing to assist her in what they hoped would be recovery. Dorie went from healthy to bed ridden in a very short time with multiple diagnoses.

She could hardly walk or feed herself and was in constant pain.

Dorie was a very successful artist for 50 years and was now unable to paint. She realized that painting was her life, her whole life.

With many trial and error treatments she improved enough to paint a little in watercolor, but her beloved medium is oil and slowly she worked her way back to painting oils. Some days are better than others and one day she decided to attend a Trilogy Art Guild meeting and met Linda Solomon. They shared a laugh about their common last names and became fast friends. She entered a TAG show, placing first, second and best in show in oils and sold the paintings she entered. When RioVision Gallery opened, she was encouraged to display there and has sold several pieces encouraging her to continue to paint through her pain. Dorie's experiences have not diminished her talent as her art just gets better and better.

Thanks to Diana, her sister, and good friends, Linda, and Amy Schmidt, she says she will not die with the music inside her. Dorie paints everyday even though she uses a walker and is at last content. She felt that not being able to paint was killing her spirit. She advises us all to find something we love and find a way to do it. "Be grateful for what you do have. Be courageous, faithful, and strong."

The reception for Dorie will be held on March 18th from 3 to 5 pm.



APRIL HIGHLIGHTS *Amy Schmidt*

Amy Schmidt is the Gallery curator. Amy moved to Rio Vista in 2002. She volunteered to help set-up the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center with the RioVision Gallery on 2nd Street in 2015. Later, in 2016, she helped move it to its current location at 116 Main St. Amy is an award-winning artist for both her mixed media and jewelry, having won ribbons at the Solano County Fair, and the Fairfield Annual Juried Art Show in multiple years. Much of her jewelry is copper, and Amy points out the medical efficacy of wearing copper jewelry. She also uses brass, natural stones, abalone, pearls, beads, and unique glass. She has a variety of designs that are hammered, torched, and twisted into beautiful shapes. Until 2021, Amy taught Shibori style clothes dyeing. Recently, Amy has dabbled in wood working and is also using clay to create different art. Amy was an integral part (and helped paint) both the 911 mural at the Rio Vista Fire Department and the mural on 2nd St. on the Books Rio V building. Check out the utility box at Main and Front Street by Haps Bait to see another Amy creation. You will find Amy at the Gallery, especially in the beginning of the month when the art is changed out. In addition to her art Amy is a member of RioVision's Board of Directors serving since 2019 and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and at the Veteran's home in Yountville.

Visit with Amy and view her various genres of art on April 15th from 3 to 5 pm.



The RioVision Gallery is located at 116 Main Street in Rio Vista, and the hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11 am to 3 pm. While you are there checking out the art, pick up some Sees Candies (now with sugar free choices). Appointments are available outside of the normal hours by calling (707) 360-5244 during Gallery hours or (707) 469-3080 after hours.

Event Calendar

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Mad Hatter's Tea Party

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Contact Renee Tingey at (707) 374-2455 or buy tickets at Rio Vista Muffler. If you have any questions, please contact Nora Crane at (707) 334-6191

Self-Guided Walking Tour

RIO VISTA MUSEUM, 16 N. FRONT ST.

Any time — at your convenience



This booklet is available at the Rio Vista Museum.

Take a self-guided Street-by-street walking tour of a selection of Rio Vista's historic homes. This booklet contains an easy-to-follow guide showing the locations of the historic homes as well as a brief history of each one.

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Long-billed curlew. Photo by Nan Sincero

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