

One local man and his special Christmas mission

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Vol. XVIII • No. 24

Arden-Carmichael News is published on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month and is delivered by mail and home delivery. Newspapers are also available in stands throughout the area.

2709 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento,
CA 95818
t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

Publisher..... George Macko
General Manager..... Kathleen Egan
Editor..... Ryan Rose
Production Manager..... John Ochoa
Graphic Artist..... Ryan Vuong
Sales Manager..... Patty Colmer
Advertising Executives..... Linda Pohl
Marc Harris Desilés, Melissa Andrews
Distribution/Subscriptions..... George Macko

\$30 a year subscription



Photo courtesy Pawel Sowa

Pictured here are backpacker friends of Autumn Yates while on a tour she provided of local temples.

From Carmichael to Thailand Former ValComNews reporter and Carmichael resident now TEFL instructor

By TIM TORKILDSON
Special to the Arden-Carmichael News

When she worked at the Valley Community Newspaper group in 2005, first as an intern and then as a crime beat reporter, Autumn Yates was fascinated by the stories she discovered in the police blotter.

Ultimately, her stories ran the gamut from comedy to tragedy, and re-enforced her conviction that the English language is a vehicle of great and profound passion. Yates, a recent Carmichael resident before moving abroad, still recalls with awe her freshman English teacher at Del Oro High School, in Loomis, Calif. – Mr. Albertazzi. She says that although he had been a professional teacher all his life and was in his last year before retirement, he still cried when quoting from William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

There's only one word for that kind of attitude, said Yates: "Awesome!"

When you are around Autumn Yates, you'll hear that word often.

International living

The only daughter of Kirk Yates and Marie Jeanne deForet, a Navy Seal and an environmental chemist, respectively, she brings total commitment and enthusiasm to whatever project she has at hand, whether it's news reporting, cartography, or, just recently, teaching English as a foreign language overseas.

She graduated from California State University, Sacramento in 2007 with a degree in English, having put herself through school drawing maps for the phone company. She developed a great desire to travel while working as a mapmaker, from the computer screen savers she noticed on everyone's desk at work.

"They all had these beautiful scenes of mountains and forests, places you'd love to visit on va-



Photo courtesy Pawel Sowa

Former Carmichael resident Autumn Yates decided on getting a Teaching English as a Foreign Language certificate at a one-month course offered by TEFL International in Rayong, Thailand. She now works at the school in Rayong.

cation – and then when their real-time vacation kicked in they were too tired and broke to do anything but sit at home watching TV," she said. "I decided I wasn't going to let that happen to me."

She decided that teaching English overseas would be her means of obtaining escape velocity.

True to her vow, when she graduated in 2007 she immediately contacted a recruiter and was offered a teaching position in South Korea. She sold her brand-new Jeep Wrangler for initial expenses ("I'm still making payments on it!" she laments).

She stayed a year in Korea before the knuckling got to her. She explains: "In Korea, the elderly are especially revered, and whenever I would be in front of an elderly lady in a line, she would give me a knuckle in the small of my back, just bore right in, to let me know she wanted my place. One day I finally got so tired of it that I started poking people back myself."

See Yates, page 3

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We appreciate your comments on these developments. Send your thoughts, comments and news tips to ryanrose@valcomnews.com.

Yates: 'Amazing amount of freedom'

Continued from page 2

She also admits that, being a true Californian at heart, she didn't care for the frigid Mongolian winds that swept down the peninsula during the winter months.

Off and away

Looking for new worlds to conquer, Yates decided on getting a Teaching English as a Foreign Language certificate at a one-month course offered by TEFL International in Rayong, Thailand. She had researched the facility carefully before applying, but admits that her decision on attending the course in Thailand was due to the center's proximity to the beach – just a half block away on the Gulf of Thailand.

While taking the TEFL International course, she realized that in Korea she had just been a body in a classroom – the teacher trainers at TEFL International gave her the motivation to become sincerely involved with her students.

After graduating, she was offered a position as a teacher at the Rayong school. She now works teaching English to grade school children in a specially prepared classroom on the grounds of TEFL International. She loves every minute of it.

"I'm minutes away from beaches that belong on a postcard," she said.

Advice to those back home

Yates has advice to offer to others who are thinking of a TEFL career.

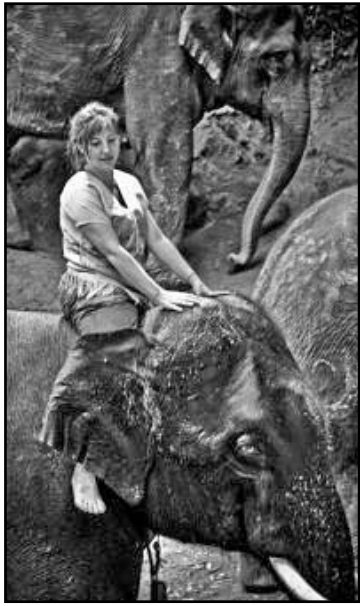


Photo courtesy Pawel Sowa
Former Carmichael resident Autumn Yates has traveled throughout Asia, from the Republic of Korea to Thailand.

"Just do it! There's an amazing amount of freedom in teaching English overseas. If you don't like one place, you can just move on to another place," she said. "There's always going to be a job waiting."

Ultimately, Yates hopes in a few years to move on with her boyfriend to Poland, where his grandmother has promised to teach her the secrets of Polish cooking. In her own words, Yates thinks her whole TEFL experience has been – well – "awesome."

The Web site for TEFL International is www.teflife.com.

Tim Torkildson can be reached at torkil49@live.com.



Photo courtesy Pawel Sowa
Through her travels as a TEFL instructor, Autumn Yates has had the benefit of teaching English to young children and touring some of the most beautiful temples and natural gardens in Thailand and Korea.

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Know your neighbor

Tim's Band Instrument Service strikes a cord with locals

By **BENN HODAPP**
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
benn@valcomnews.com

Residents of the Sacramento area have likely known about Tim's Band Instrument Service for many years. Parents with children in band programs have probably been in his store countless times, whether it is to rent an instrument or sit in the waiting room during a private lesson.

But one of the problems with the shop was that you pretty much had to know where it was in order to find it. Tucked away in the far corner of a small shopping center on Arden Way, it wasn't a place that many people were going to spot from the street and wander inside.

As of December 1, that has all changed.

Tim's has a new home in the area, just 1.8 miles from its old one on Arden Way. The new location is 2812 Marconi Ave. (across from Town & Country Village) and in less than three weeks since it opened, the owners are seeing something quite different in terms of clientele.

"We've been keeping a tally of how many people have come in that we have never seen before in the shop and it's at about 200 right now," said co-owner Scott Mandeville. "The new location is great. The old store was good to us, but the fact that it was tucked away made it difficult."

Mandeville and his wife Melissa purchased the store from the original owner on May 1, 2005.

"I think Tim was going to turn out the lights and just walk away," Scott said. "In November



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Benn Hodapp
Tim's Band Instrument Service has a new home in the area, just 1.8 miles from its old one on Arden Way. The new location is 2812 Marconi Ave. (across from Town & Country Village)

of 2004 we got serious about purchasing the store from him."

But after 30 years, surely it would be difficult for Tim to part with his shop, right?

"It took about 20 minutes," Scott chuckled.

Scott is certainly qualified to run the shop, seeing as how he worked at Northridge Music Center for 24 years prior to the purchase of Tim's. Melissa fits in perfectly as well, having a background as a private piano teacher for many years.

Reason behind the move

When they took over the original location, they had a 5-year business plan according to

See Music, page 11

You and your teen

Surviving the holidays



By **STEVE DEBENEDETTI-EMANUEL**
Arden-Carmichael News Family Columnist
steve@rivercitycounseling.com

Normally this space is reserved for advice for parents with teens; this week will be different. I'm speaking to adults who plan to spend the holidays with their parents and siblings and giving tips to help them survive and enjoy the holidays.

Recently, my client "Dave" has been worried about his yearly visit to Southern California. He and his wife and kids are spending Christmas with his parents and siblings and staying for a few days afterwards.

As Dave is a chef, the unspoken expectation is that he's going to prepare a lavish feast. And for the last eight years, he has. While others relax, he spends the entire day cooking, getting little help from anyone but his mother and wife. By the time the celebration starts, he's resentful, exhausted and in no mood to celebrate.

And others fulfill their roles. His brother socializes, doesn't even offer to help, and drinks too much. His sister snaps at everyone and leaves in a huff. His father tells loud, inappropriate jokes that make others uncomfortable.

Dave wants things to be different this year. He has already told his parents that he's taking the year off from cooking. He has suggested either a potluck or going to a restaurant. He has also made plans to take his wife and kids to Disneyland for a couple of days. He then plans to return to his parents' house for their last night before heading home.

Just as Dave is trying a new strategy this year, each of us has to figure out what to do differently, to increase the chance of enjoying the holidays with our families. Here are some thoughts to keep in mind as you prepare to go.

It's OK to break lifelong patterns of behavior. There's nothing like time spent with family for you to suddenly find yourself talking and acting like you did when you were a teenager living at home. When you realize you're doing this, gently remind yourself that you are now an adult, and as long as you aren't rude or inconsiderate, you are free to behave however you want.

Be aware that your siblings and parents are also likely to repeat their lifelong patterns. The brother who has always said mean things in order to knock you down will probably try to do the same this year. Remind yourself not to take his bait. Instead, take a deep breath and respond to him as calmly and kindly as possible. Eventually, he'll lose interest and pester others.

Despite the inevitable pressure to be together for EVERY MINUTE of your visit, take breaks from your family. Be it spending an evening with a friend, heading away overnight, or just taking a walk around the block after dinner, if you spend some time away from your family you're more likely to enjoy your time with them.

Regardless of what you plan to do differently, be aware that you will probably feel the pressure to act like you always have. If you stick to your guns and do what makes you (and your spouse and children) happy, rather than giving in and feeling badly afterwards, it's likely that you'll leave feeling satisfied and (almost) ready for next year.

Steve DeBenedetti-Emanuel is a licensed marriage and family therapist based in the Sacramento area. Steve's columns appear periodically in the Valley Community Newspapers. Ask Steve your questions – e-mail him at steve@rivercitycounseling.com.

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Christmas Tree wars



By **MARTY RELLES**
Arden-Carmichael News Columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

In Hollywood, they had “Star Wars.” In Los Angeles, they have gang wars. On Janey Way, when I was growing up in the 1950s, we had a Christmas tree war. This is the story of that epic neighborhood conflict.

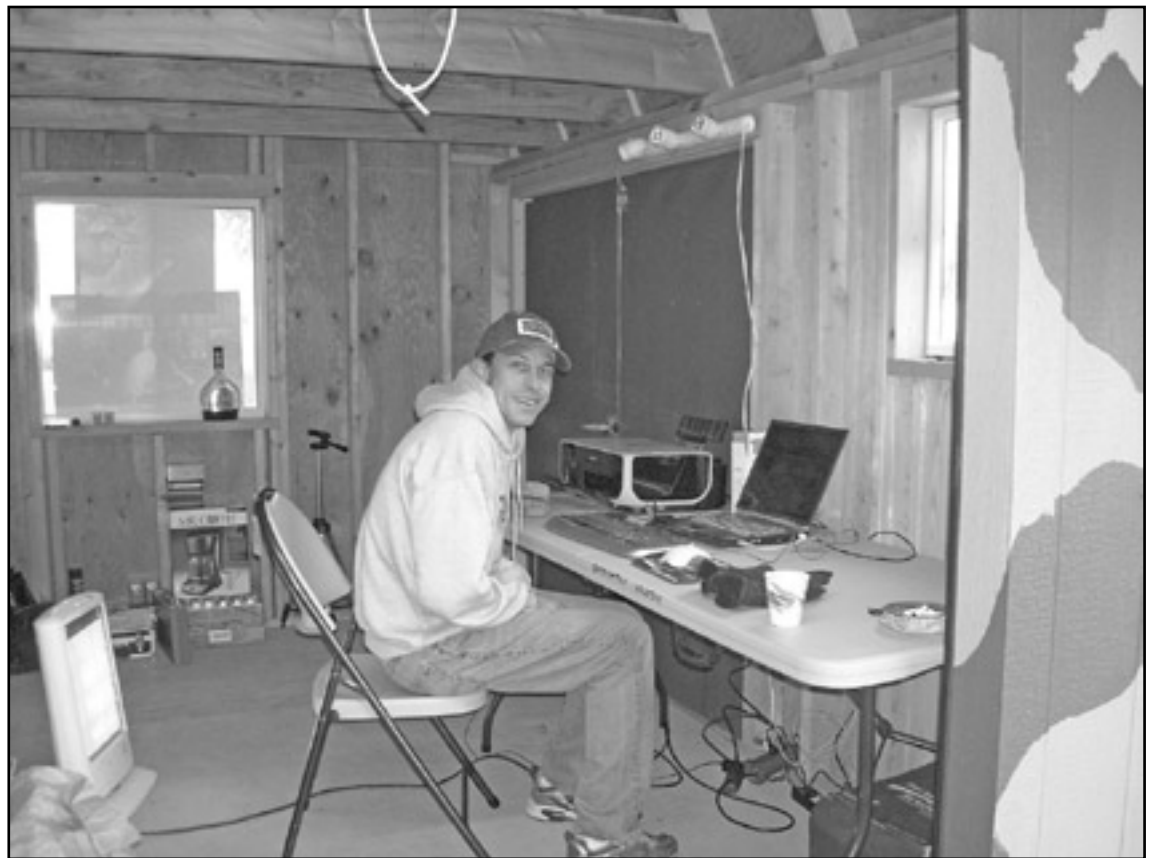
The Christmas season was always special on Janey Way. The priests festooned Saint Mary’s Church with decorations. The sound of Christmas carols rang out from the church tower. All the neighbors had cookies and candies for the kids to eat. Everyone looked forward to Christmas vacation. Then after Christmas day when the trees were taken down and dumped in the street for pick-up by the yard waste truck, the Janey Way kids picked them up and dragged them over to the two vacant lots in the middle of Janey Way. There we constructed a splendid Christmas tree fort. The fort usually measured 12 feet long, by 4 feet wide, by 5 feet high. We used the fort as a place to hang out and just get away from the hustle and bustle of the season. One Christmas, however, there seemed to be a shortage of usable trees in the neighborhood. What to do?

Someone had an idea. The 58th Street kids had built their fort on the grassy entrance to the National Guard Armory at 58th and M streets. “Let’s go over there at night and take their trees.” So, late that night, by cover of darkness, we crept across the armory parking lot. We climbed over the gate at the 58th Street entrance, and one by one, took all the trees making up that fort. Then we hauled them back and used them to significantly improve our fort. When the 58th Street kids went to their fort the next morning, the structure had disappeared as if by magic. To the best of my knowledge, they never figured out where the trees went.

That success led us to try yet another Christmas tree caper. “Let’s take the trees from the O Street gang’s fort.” They were set up in Bob Pesce’s backyard. That night, we walked over to N Street, then up Mike Pesce’s (Bob’s cousin) driveway, over the fence and into Bob’s backyard. One by one we confiscated those trees until, all of a sudden, the backyard light came on and out of the house stormed Bob and his brother Eddy. Naturally, we fled with all due haste.

The next day we met at our fort to decide what to do next. As we met, we heard a great roar coming down the block. “What’s that?” someone yelled. We rushed outside the fort to find the O Street gang standing in the vacant lot yelling angrily about the theft of their Christmas trees and threatening violence. Once the uproar calmed down, we proposed a powwow to settle the matter. After some discussion, we reached an agreement. The Janey Way gang returned the stolen trees to the O Street gang. And the O Street gang would not take any trees from Janey Way.

So ended the great Christmas tree war. In the end, no blood was spilled. Both gangs retained their honor. Life returned to normal on the block, and the Christmas tree war went down in the annals of history as another unforgettable Janey Way memory.



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Celia Green
Rodney Stanhope chose to live in a shed in the parking lot of the Market Square Shopping Center on Arden Avenue. His reason was to help the families of deployed military members.

Faces and places

Rodney Stanhope’s mission for Sacramento military families

By **CELIA GREEN**
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
reporter@valcomnews.com

The second week of December brought freezing temperatures to Sacramento. And while most of us happily cuddled in our warm homes, Rodney Stanhope chose to live in a shed in the parking lot of the Market Square Shopping Center on Arden Avenue. His reason was to help the families of deployed military members.

“This is ‘Operation Christmas for the Troops VI.’ It’ll be bigger, badder and bolder than previous years,” said Stanhope while he was living on site. “I’ll be living here for 12 days of Christmas, and so will Santa (Rick Sihner). We’re here to collect toys and cash to help our military families have the best Christmas season possible.”

Stanhope and Sihner moved into their holiday digs on Thursday, Dec. 10, and left at noon on Dec. 22.

“This year we’ve constructed a compound of three Tuff Sheds, one for me, one for Rick, and one to store collected toys. We couldn’t do this without the help of our awesome sponsors: Tuff Shed dropped off the sheds, Lowe’s donated the generator and floodlights, Home Depot gave us materials for Santa’s sleigh, and the Cheesecake Factory is providing us with dinner (and an occasional cheesecake for volunteers), and we have the full support of the National Guard, who have

helped loading and delivering toys. This is local people helping local people, because the toys donated here help the military families in Northern California,” said Stanhope.

Making a difference for military families

“This is the sixth year I’ve done this, but we decided this year to have Sihner live here, too, since he was driving here every day from Oroville. I started doing this, collecting toys and money in 2002, when my best friend was deployed. My friend had been a very successful real estate agent, and the deployment caused a huge cut in pay, and his family needed assistance. That year I helped out his family. The following year I worked with a veteran’s group helping out military families. The toys are for the kids and the cash is used to buy toys that don’t get donated, or for gift cards from grocery stores for the moms.”

In 2006, Stanhope joined forces with Yellow Ribbon America, a national grassroots organization sharing Stanhope’s goals.

“It breaks my heart – this year, for the first time, we’ve had requests for diapers, formula and baby food, and even children’s clothing. So some of the cash is being spent on items such as those,” he said.

As of Sunday, Dec. 20, Day 11, Operation Christmas had already collect-

See Toy drive, page 7



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Celia Green

As of Sunday, Dec. 20, Day 11, Operation Christmas had already collected and distributed more than 10,000 toys and raised \$4,500.

Toy drive: 'The people of this area are amazing'

Continued from page 6

ed and distributed more than 10,000 toys and raised \$4,500, with Monday and part of Tuesday still to go. Stanhope said any toys not delivered this year will be stored at Mather Field and used in next year's drive.

"It's been great having Rick here with me this year. Rick wears the Santa suit, and we have hours when kids can have their pictures taken. There's no charge

for the pictures. We use a digital camera and I either print the photos right here, or we e-mail the photos to the parents. And Claire (Si-hner, Rick's wife) has been our toy maven. She coordinates what toys are needed for which pick-up, and runs to the stores to buy what hasn't been donated."

Commitment and honor

While very successful, the experience was not without

turmoil; the compound's generator was stolen in the early hours of Day 4.

"I was honestly thinking about shutting this down, but the people of this area are amazing," Stanhope said, adding that someone donated another generator.

If anyone would like to help with next year's toy drive, Rodney Stanhope is on Facebook or can be contacted through Yellow Ribbon America.

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The season of giving

The quality of mercy: The gift that gives back

By **SUSAN LAIRD**
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
susan@valcomnews.com

For the past several weeks, the shopping mall sidewalks and parking lots have been busy. Shoppers rushed home with their treasures. After Christmas, they will be bustling again – with returns and exchanges. It's the nature of the season.

It is not fair to brand all holiday shoppers as self-centered or fickle, because clearly they are not. Most are shopping for others, and contributing mightily to an anemic economy that needs consumers.

Another staple of the season is charitable giving. Despite the challenges of the current economic climate, many non-profits have made their holiday deadlines. Barely, in some cases.

William Shakespeare wrestled with the issues of self-interest and love in "The Merchant of Venice." In Act 4, Scene 1, the character of Portia said that it all boiled down to the issue of mercy. But what is mercy? Why should one care? Again, to quote Shakespeare:

The quality of mercy is not strain'd,

It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven

Upon the place beneath. It is twice blest:

It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.

'Tis mightiest in the mightiest: it becomes

The throned monarch better than his crown;

His sceptre shows the force of temporal power,

The attribute to awe and majesty,

Wherein doth sit the dread and fear of kings;

But mercy is above this sceptred sway,

It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,

It is an attribute to God himself;

And earthly power doth then show likest God's,

When mercy seasons justice.

In other words, giving to others is good for both parties – it benefits the giver as much as the recipient. It is fair, as the Almighty is fair. Giving is good for the soul.

Turning from thoughts celestial to the Internal Revenue Service, then... Even the IRS knows that when charities and non-profits are helped, the entire community benefits. 'Tis the season of year-end giving, and charitable deductions are good for the bottom line at tax time.

Taxes and timing

To help taxpayers plan their holiday-season and year-end giving, the IRS offers the following additional reminders:

The key is to search your heart, and then give something back. It's good for the spirit.

• Contributions are deductible in the year made. Thus, donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2009 count for 2009. This is true even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2010. Also, checks count for 2009 as long as they are mailed in 2009 and clear, shortly thereafter.

• Check that the organization is qualified. Only donations to qualified organizations are tax-deductible. IRS Publication 78, available online and at many public libraries, lists most organizations that are qualified to receive deductible contributions. The searchable online version can be found at IRS.gov under Search for Charities. In addition, churches, synagogues, temples, mosques and government agencies are eligible to receive deductible donations, even if they are not listed in Publication 78.

• For individuals, only taxpayers who itemize their deductions on Form 1040 Schedule A can claim deductions for charitable contributions. This deduction is not available to individuals who



choose the standard deduction, including anyone who files a short form (Form 1040A or 1040EZ). A taxpayer will have a tax savings only if the total itemized deductions (mortgage interest, charitable contributions, state and local taxes, etc.) exceed the standard deduction. Use the 2009 Form 1040 Schedule A to determine whether itemizing is better than claiming the standard deduction.

• For all donations of property, including clothing and household items, get from the charity, if possible.

See *Charity*, page 9

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Charity: There are many worthy organizations

Continued from page 8

sible, a receipt that includes the name of the charity, date of the contribution, and a reasonably-detailed description of the donated property. If a donation is left at a charity's unattended drop site, keep a written record of the donation that includes this information, as well as the fair market value of the property at the time of the donation and the method used to determine that value. Additional rules apply for a contribution of \$250 or more.

- The deduction for a motor vehicle, boat or airplane donated to charity is usually limited to the gross proceeds from its sale. This rule applies if the claimed value is more than \$500. Form 1098-C, or a similar statement, must be provided to the donor by the organization and attached to the donor's tax return.

- If the amount of a taxpayer's deduction for all noncash contributions is over \$500, a properly-completed Form 8283 must be submitted with the tax return.

Food for thought

Therefore, when weighing the temporal and eternal balances in your gift giving plans, consider: what non-profit groups help to feed the hungry, clothe those in need, comfort the sick and dying, help in disasters, provide cultural and educational opportunities to the community, etc.

There are many worthy organizations in the community that are all in need

of support by year's end. These include: the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Mercy Hospital of Sacramento, the UC Davis Health System, the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Sacramento, the Salvation Army, the Sacramento Hospice Consortium, the Red Cross, the Sacramento Ballet, Sacramento Opera, the Crocker Art Museum, the California History Museum, the California Railroad Museum and so many others.

Giving back

The key is to search your heart, and then give something back. It's good for the spirit. As the Bard himself put it:

...Consider this,
That in the course of justice none of us
Should see salvation: we do pray for mercy;
And that same prayer doth teach us all to render
The deeds of mercy.

Contributions are deductible in the year made. Thus, donations charged to a credit card before the end of 2009 count for 2009. This is true even if the credit card bill isn't paid until 2010. Also, checks count for 2009 as long as they are mailed in 2009 and clear, shortly thereafter.

Congers celebrate 80 years of marriage

Special to the Arden-Carmichael News

JD and Opal Conger celebrated their 80th wedding anniversary on Dec. 7, at their home in Carmichael Oaks Assisted Living. The Congers were married when JD was 20 and Opal was just 16. JD stayed at the boarding house where Opal's mom was a cook. JD explains that part of their "courtship" included Opal whacking him in the head with an apple when he walked by and ignored her one evening.

After marrying, the couple came to California from Oklahoma during the depression in a pick-up truck with JD's parents and all their belongings. Opal rode in the back of the truck with their 3-year-old son James and their one-year-old daughter Joyce.

JD's advice for a long marriage is "not to go to bed arguing," and to consult Opal on all important matters – and everything is important! JD and Opal never show any open displays of affection (partly due to their generation), but as time has passed, the family has been blessed to see the love and dedication they have for each other. We all see it in the way JD looks at Opal, the way he helps her get around, still ties her shoes, and kisses the back of her hand ever so gently. It isn't about how they show their love to the world to see, but rather the tenderness, affection, contentment and respect they have for each other and how they have nurtured those feelings over the past 80 years.

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**Merry Christmas &
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Music: 'We have some of the finest teachers'

Continued from page 5

Scott, but before long it became necessary to make a change.

"We outgrew the business plan in 20 months," he said. "An opportunity arose with the fact that lease rates were down and we took it."

The couple looked at several different possible sites, but the one on Marconi really jumped out at them.

"It's great. There's a better demographic and the visibility is huge," he said.

Melissa added that the success is largely due to the Taylor Center in which the shop resides.

"The center doesn't have any big box stores, they're all locally owned and family friendly," she said. Both added that Gary Taylor, the owner of the shopping center, helped to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Scott and Melissa have been residents of the Sacramento area since 1980 and 1977 respectively, and they are well-versed in the local music community. Melissa said that one of the best things Tim's has to offer is the high level of private instructors they have.

"We have some of the finest teachers in the area," she said. "Our instructors are some of the most in demand musicians in Sacramento."

More space, more music

Something else that the new shop has over the old one is some 1,900 more square footage. The old Tim's was 3,100 square feet while the new one is 5,000 according to Melissa.

"There was stuff just kind of crammed in every nook and cranny at the old store," she said. "Here once we get everything all put away it will be much more organized."

Inside, the feeling is much different from the former place. Everything is new and shiny with high ceilings, an expansive instrument repair area, a soundproof room for trying out instruments and accessories, and seven private instruction rooms.

Instruments adorn the walls, drawing the eye with their sparkle. "As you can see we have violins," Melissa said. "People didn't know we sold violins at the old store because we didn't have enough room to display them."

Tim's also boasts something that no other music store in northern California can: an ultrasonic cleaner.

Musicians young and old will learn that calcium deposits from their saliva will start to damage the instrument from the inside out. What the ultrasonic cleaner does is create microscopic explosions that destroy the calcium build-up in the instrument.

The device looks kind of like a big deep fryer. It has a window set up in front of it so people can watch the process as it happens.

"There are always a lot of amazed faces when we clean an instrument in there," Melissa said. "The parents sometimes look at their kid and ask 'is that supposed to be in there?' as stuff comes pouring out of the instrument."

Insight and instruction

For people interested in getting their child into music or for ones who wish to begin private instruction, Melissa explained some of the things that make Tim's a good choice.

"We have an excellent rental program, expert repairs, knowledgeable staff and great teachers."

The store has instructors that teach saxophone, clarinet, woodwinds, trumpet, French horn, guitar and trombone. The store's business hours are 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Thursday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday. The store is closed Sunday and Monday.

For more information about everything Tim's has to offer, call 916-925-9160 or go to the store's Web site at www.timsbis.com



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Benn Hodapp

Sales associate Jamesson Kaupanger demonstrates the ultrasonic cleaner on a 1935 bass saxophone.



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Benn Hodapp

In addition to selling instruments, the store also has instructors that teach saxophone, clarinet, woodwinds, trumpet, French horn, guitar and trombone. The store's business hours are 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Thursday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday. The store is closed Sunday and Monday.



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Carmichael Chamber banquet honors Sheriff John McGinness

By SUSAN MAXWELL SKINNER
Special to the Arden-Carmichael News

The Carmichael Chamber of Commerce will honor home-grown celebrity Sheriff John McGinness at a board installation on Friday, Jan. 8. The event is open to the public.

McGinness, who recently stated his intention not to seek reelection, grew up on California Ave, Carmichael.

"As a kid, every Saturday, I'd jump on my bike and head for Ancil Hoffman Park," the sheriff recalled. My friends and I'd vanish for the whole day. Our parents never worried."

Now 54, McGinness remembers wooden sidewalks of Carmichael strip malls and a movie house that hosted his first dates. On vacation, he worked in the already ancient Carmichael plumbing store.

"In summer, we were in and out of the river so often, we didn't even notice it was hot," he said.

The future sheriff classified his youthful vices as "innocent vandalism." He and his chums once toilet-papered their teacher's house.

"We had to apologize and clean it up next day," admits the miscreant. "My parents tolerated pranks but there were two rules: never do anything mean; never steal."

His first encounter with law enforcement was when his dad was caught speeding on Fair Oaks Blvd.

"The deputy seemed nine feet tall," said McGinness. "He let dad off with a warning. He patted my head and cautioned Dad: 'Drive safely; you're carrying precious cargo.' I've used the same line to drivers, myself."

Those police officers Johnny McGinness saw in Ancil Hoffman Park shaped his ambition. Said the 6-foot-4-inch sheriff: "Mounted park deputies did a great job. I admired them. The tradition of the Irish becoming cops was not a factor for me. As far back as I can remember, I never wanted to be anything else."

True to the family's Irish Catholic roots, he attended Our Lady of Assumption School and wed sweetheart Peggy in its chapel. Though he now lives in Folsom, McGinness - who now adds radio talk show host to



Photo courtesy Susan Maxwell Skinner
John McGinness pictured with fallen deputies' loved ones at the Memorial Rose Garden in the Sheriff's Academy, Carmichael. The sheriff will be the toast of a Chamber of Commerce banquet, January 8. The public is invited.

his resume - often revisits his childhood streets.

"It always feels good to be in Carmichael," he said. "Growing up there, we observed the honor of our community. In the hardware store, every customer was a friend. Handshakes were ironclad deals. Carmi-

chael was a small town, never a hick town. It was Mayberry. Every kid should grow up in Mayberry."

The Jan. 8 event begins at 6 p.m. at the Palace banquet rooms. Dinner is included and business attire is suggested. Admission is \$30. Information: (916) 481-1002.

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New arrival brings excitement to the Sacramento Zoo

Special to the Arden-Carmichael News

The Sacramento Zoo recently welcomed Makan to the Sumatran orangutan group. Makan is 6 years old and was born at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs. Makan arrived in Sacramento in September and following his quarantine in the veterinary hospital, he was introduced to the two female orangutans. The Sacramento Zoo, the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo and the Orangutan Species Survival Plan committee have been planning Makan's move for about a year.

In September, CMZ staff began the drive from Colorado to California with Makan safely tucked away in a large

crate. When he arrived, he was moved into our Zoo's hospital quarantine area where he was monitored for any illnesses that could potentially be transmitted to resident animals. After he received a clean bill of health from the veterinarian, the young orangutan moved up to the Ape House to begin introductions to the exhibit and the resident orangutans.

Makan joined the Zoo's two older females: Cheli is 37 years old and Ginger, at 54 years old, is the oldest Sumatran orangutan in a U.S. zoo. Right now, Makan looks like the females and weighs only 65 lbs. In a few years, he will go through a massive growth spurt, developing large amounts of muscle, gaining close to 200

pounds, getting large round cheek flanges, and growing long hair with a mustache and beard. It will be interesting to see Makan on exhibit interacting with the girls, but more interesting to the keepers is how the girls will interact with him! It has been a few decades for both of the females since they have lived with such a young male. He was introduced to the girls in the quiet night quarters away from distracting crowds. When he is on exhibit with Ginger and Cheli, he experiences new surroundings; Makan had never seen zebra or bongos, which are viewable from his new home.

For information about the Sacramento Zoo, call (916) 808-5888 or visit saczoo.com.



Photo courtesy the Sacramento Zoo
Right now, the Sacramento Zoo's new orangutan Makan looks like the females and weighs only 65 lbs. In a few years, he will go through a massive growth spurt.



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Changing face of Crocker

Spacious Crocker Art Museum expansion slated to open its doors in 10 months

By SUSAN LAIRD
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
susan@valcomnews.com

It is said that great cities have great museums. If that is so, one might also postulate that great communities have great museums. The Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, as the first art museum established in the Western U.S., is greater than the sum of its parts. It is both a great city museum and a great regional museum.

A \$100 million expansion project, slated for completion next October, will permanently establish the Crocker as a museum of national significance for generations to come. A brilliantly conceived "classic contemporary" structure by the late architect Charles Gwathmey, the expansion will improve visitor amenities, enhance museum operations and provide new resources for collections care. The project also ensures that the Crocker Art Museum, founded in 1885, will enjoy another 125 years of inspiration and education.

The numbers are impressive. The new Crocker expansion adds some 125,000 square feet to the existing museum. The structure will contain: 8,200 square feet of glass, in the form of windows that feature views that highlight the beauty of the original Crocker and the natural beauty of Sacramento's many trees. The exterior will be covered by 4,000 aluminum panels and 4,500 zinc panels. Underlying it all at the foundation, some 320 auger-cast piles were driven 60 feet deep to support the three-story structure.

Spacious new galleries already have 15 skylights specially designed to let in natural light – but without its destructive effects.

There is 12,000 square feet of exhibition space to display works of art.

"Not only will we have the ability to host some of the larger traveling art exhibits, we will be able to display some of the more massive works of art that were originally intended for display in grand homes or cas-

ties," said Kathleen Richards, marketing communications coordinator for the Crocker. "These pieces can be very tall. The new expansion has spaces where these art works will be able to be seen and appreciated."

A 7,000-square-foot open air courtyard at the new museum entrance will allow the Crocker to host more than 1,200 people at outdoor events. The design of the courtyard allows visitors to enjoy and appreciate the architectural styles of both structures. A beautiful two-story atrium will have the capability of seating 400 for dinners. There is a 250-seat auditorium for presentations and educational events. There is handicapped access throughout. And the new facilities will be available for special events, making Sacramento now capable of hosting some national cultural events.

"All of us at the Crocker are very excited to serve our community in ways that literally weren't possible before and to be an even more integral part of civic life in Sacramento and the region," said Lial Jones, museum director.

"This is an exhilarating time for the city of Sacramento, and the Crocker Art Museum's expansion exemplifies the changes taking place," said Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson. "The museum is vital to the region's cultural and economic development, and the new Crocker is an important icon for Sacramento's ongoing emergence as a cultural destination and a world-class city."

The new Crocker

There will be more to the Crocker's expansion than the 14,000 cubic yards of concrete and 1,400 tons of steel that make up its infrastructure.

"This will be one of the largest venues in Sacramento, if not the largest," Rich-



Renderings courtesy of the Crocker Art Museum
A classic contemporary expansion of the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento will be completed in October of 2010.

ards said. "Hospitals and museums are the most expensive structures to build, due to the massive amount of infrastructure that is required. The building has to be able to withstand having many people visit it every day, year after year. The walls have to be able to bear the weight of heavy artwork. There has to be climate control and light control to preserve the art, and so on."

Visitors will be able to walk up to windows on the first floor that look into the conservation area. It will be an opportunity for everyone, from school children to adults, to learn about the science of preserving art.

"Conservation is a very interesting field," Richards said. "You have to have a master's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in art. The conservation center will enable us to provide better collections care and restoration, as well as education."

The museum staff will have something they have never had before: ample modern office space. Located on the third floor, the architect's design provides each worker with desk space and personal space, while opening the larger space to the eye.

The opening of the new facility is planned for Oct. 10. The Crocker plans a series of special exhibitions that will feature highlights of the museum's permanent collection. Many pieces have never been displayed to the public before.

The Crocker's expansion is supported by a \$100 million capital campaign. More than \$90 million has been raised to date. The campaign has received generous donations of \$1 million or more. The new wing of the museum will be named the Teel Family Pavilion in recognition of a lead gift from the Joyce and Jim Teel Family Foundation. Building on this success, the museum is launching a broad-based

fundraising and member campaign.

Crocker Art

The Crocker Art Museum is located at 216 O Street in downtown Sacramento. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors 65 and better, \$3 for students with a valid ID and free for children ages six and under. Thanks to a generous grant from Bank of America, admission is free on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with extended hours on first and third Thursdays until 9 p.m.

For more information about the Crocker, call (916) 808-7000 or visit www.crockerartmuseum.org.

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CALENDAR

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Is your club, group, church, school, or organization having an upcoming event? Let us know. Send information about your event—including date, time, location, a brief description, cost (if any), and contact information—to Calendar, c/o Valley Community Newspapers, 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, or e-mail ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Deadline is one week before publication. Priority is given to events that are in the community and/or of little or no cost. There is no guarantee that events submitted will appear in the calendar. To ensure placement within the newspaper, please call 429.9901 to place an advertisement.

DECEMBER

Christmas services

Faith Presbyterian Church at 625 Florin Road welcomes you to its Christmas Services: Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27 – Sunday Services, held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Dec. 2, 9 and 16 (Wednesday) Advent Dinner at 6 p.m., followed by worship at 6:45 p.m. Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve service

You are invited to experience God's love and peace – Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m. Faith United Methodist Church, 3600 J Street, 452-7637.

DECEMBER 25

Free Christmas dinner

The Majestic Restaurant management/staff would like to thank our customers and the community we serve for making 2009 a great year. We open our doors Christmas day and ask that you come out and join us for a free Christmas dinner. Time: 12 – 3 p.m. Location: Majestic Restaurant, 2355 Arden Way. Individuals willing to make a financial or any

type of donation to support this first Gift of Giving Free Christmas Dinner please contact Lisa Johnson 916-912-1279 every donation will go towards making this event possible.

DECEMBER 27

River Park Blood Drive

The next River Park Blood Drive will take place on Sunday, December 27, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at 5458 Carlson Drive across from the school. Coffee Donuts and BBQ.

Computer Gardening Class

Class is 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. at 828 I St. Dig It! - A guide to gardening information on the Internet. Join us for this free class as we look at Web sites that provide information on plants, soils, climate and garden design. We will explore sources such as newsletters and weblogs, as well as information from plant and garden societies and educational and governmental sources. At the Central Library, 828 I Street. Free parking on Saturdays in the lots of Sacramento Public garages at Tenth & I streets and Tenth & L streets. To reserve a space, call 264-2920.

All Saints music

Nine Lessons and Carols music presentation will begin at 4 p.m. at the All Saints Episcopal Church, 2076 Sutterville Rd. Scott Nelson conducts.

Big band ball

Dancers are invited to bring noise-makers and their festive spirits to the Annual Pre-NYE Ball presented by Nor Cal Big Bands Preservation Society, Sunday, December 27, at the Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. beginning at 1 p.m. The Dave Chelini (a favorite Sacramento accordionist) Plus his Sound Box magic plays from 1:00-2:00 p.m. with an array of standards for great dancing. From 2:00-

5:00 p.m. a legendary bandleader and reedman George Bruno leads his 13 members Big Band. Tickets (sold only at the door) are \$14 per person, \$12 per in groups of ten persons, and \$9. to the Society's Gold Card Holders. For more details, call 444-6138 (evenings & weekends),

JANUARY 5

Alzheimer's Support group

Are you looking for someone to talk to – someone who understands what it is like to deal with Alzheimer's disease? Join an Alzheimer's Support group hosted by Carmichael Oaks Senior Living. Ongoing sessions provide families and caregivers guidance and training to assist them in caring for a person with the disease. Our program will offer tips, resources, and the ability to connect with fellow caregivers. The free event starts at 6 p.m. at Carmichael Oaks Senior Living, 8350 Fair Oaks Blvd. Information: Refreshments served. RSVP at 944-2323. For more information, visit www.carmichaeloaks.com.

JANUARY 7

Citizens for Health Freedom

The California Citizens for Health Freedom, Sacramento Chapter will meet on Jan. 7, 2010, at the SMUD Auditorium (the old SMUD Building) on 6201 S Street, Sacramento. A free lecture, "Turning Stress into Strength" presented by Ilona Ireland, M.A., C.M.T. Call 916-635-6724 for information. Please call Elsie Player at (916) 635-6724 regarding any of the above notices if you have any questions

JANUARY 9

Free Electronic-waste Collection Fundraiser

Proceeds to benefit Kit Carson Middle School's 8th Grade G.A.T.E. Class. Students are planning a 4 day-three-night trip to Washington, D.C. Drop off on: Saturday, January 9, 2010, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kit Carson Middle School parking lot, 5301 N St. You won't even need to get out of your car, we will unload for you! We will accept: monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines. We cannot accept: Household appliances (i.e. refrigerators, washers/dryers, etc), furniture, hazardous household waste, including fluorescent

light bulbs, paint, pesticides, used oil, cleaning supplies, tires, etc. If you need something picked up, or have additional questions, please contact Shawn D'Alesandro at 658-2701 ext. 12#.

Senior Ball

Hart Senior Center cordially invites people 50 and older to attend our semi-formal Senior Ball on Saturday, January 9 at 2 p.m. This event is sponsored by the U.C. Davis Health System with all proceeds benefiting the Ethel Hart Senior Center. Please join us for 3 hours of catered appetizers and desserts, 50's and 60's music, free Senior Ball portrait, ballroom dancing and much, much more. Tickets are limited. No door sales of tickets. No refunds. Tickets cost \$5. Event at Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Call 808-5462 for more information.

Jensen Garden Workday Volunteers

Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden hold garden work days one Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The next workday is Saturday, January 9, 2010. Bring work gloves, hand pruners and your lunch. Come join with other volunteers to keep the garden beautiful all year. Next workdays in 2010 are 2/6, 3/6, 4/10, 5/8, 6/5, 7/10, 8/7, 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/4. The Jensen Garden is located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. For more info: Tracy Kerth (916) 485-5322 ex23 or e-mail tracy@carmichaelpark.com.

Falling seminar

A four-hour seminar to educate seniors on how to avoid the dangers of falling while carrying out their day-to-day activities will be held on Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Belle Coledge Community Center, 5699 South Land Park Drive. The South Land Park seminar, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is one of six being presented during December and January at various locations in the Sacramento area by the City of Sacramento with the participation of Kaiser Permanente, according to Kim Metcalf, who heads the city's 50+ Wellness Program. The seminars, entitled "Stand Up to Falls," are open without charge to seniors, who must make advance arrangements to attend by phoning Metcalf at 808-1593 or via e-mail, fiftypluswellness@cityofsacramento.org.

E-waste recycling at Cal Middle School

California Middle School will be hosting an e-waste recycling event on Saturday January 9, 2010 from 10-3 p.m. Also, if you have a large volume of e-waste that needs to be recycled, we can arrange for pick. Contact Julie Watkins at watkinsj@sac-city.k12.ca.us.

JANUARY 10

Seminar on Estate and End of Life planning

Parkside Community Church is offering a free workshop entitled "It's Not Over When It's Over" on Sunday, January 10 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The workshop will focus of estate and end of life planning and will feature guest speakers Mark Lamb and Beatrice Bailey. Attendees will receive informational handouts and Ms. Bailey will have books for purchase.

JANUARY 12

Gray Panthers meeting

The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Northern California will conduct the Tuesday, January 12, meeting of the Gray Panthers of Sacramento. The Funeral Consumers Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose objective is to protect a consumer's right to choose a meaningful, dignified, affordable funeral. The meeting will be held at 1 PM at the Hart Senior Center, 915 - 27th Street, Sacramento, between I and J Streets. Further information can be obtained by calling 916-921-5008.

JANUARY 13

Sacramento Genealogical Society meeting

Root Cellar – Sacramento Genealogical Society General Membership meeting, Wednesday January 13 from 7 – 8:30 p.m. at Citrus Heights Community Clubhouse 6921 Sylvan Road, Citrus Heights. Program: "Land Records" presented by Lynne Roberts. Free. Visitors welcome. Contact Sammie Hudgens (916) 481-4830 or www.rootcellar.org.

JANUARY 14

Computer club meeting

The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet on Thursday, January 14, 2010 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. The meeting topic will be "Digital Photography." A problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow the meeting. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information call (916) 366-1687 or visit our Web site at www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

JANUARY 15

Organic gardening

On January 15, 2010, the Organic Gardening Club of Sacramento County will meet at the Carmichael Park Administration Building, Room 1, 5750 Grant Avenue, Carmichael, at 10 a.m. The program will be "Soil...not just a dirty word" by guest speaker, Steven Zien, CA Certified Nursery Professional, Living Resources Company and Sacramento's Organic Advocate. Call 916-635-6724 for information.

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JANUARY 18

MLK Jr. march

Monday, January 18th, 2010 Martin Luther King Jr. March and Celebration, Get Involved and Make a Difference. Visit www.mlk365.org for more information or call 920-8655.

JANUARY 20

Genealogical Association meeting

The Genealogical Association of Sacramento will have its regular meeting on Wednesday January 20, 2010 in the Belle Coolege Library at 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. The meeting is at 1 PM The speaker will be Karen Paige from the California State Library. She will teach us how to navigate the many resources held at the California State Library. Members are encouraged to attend and please bring a friend. Interested guests are welcome too.

JANUARY 22

Annual hot crab feed

Annual HOT Crab Feed & Auction Benefitting Courtyard School. Featuring the Captain Bob's famous HOT CRAB! Delivered live to the event, prepared on-site and served HOT to your table. All you can eat HOT crab, pasta, bread and salad! No to go bags, please. Tickets are \$50 per person; limited seating at 300. \$450 if you order a table of 10. The event will benefit Courtyard School and will feature raffle items, live and silent auction as well as a dessert auction. The evening starts at 6pm with a social/cocktail hour followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Located at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. Tickets can be purchased at the school: 205 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816. For more information contact the school at 916-442-5395.

JANUARY 23

Women's Self-Defense Class/ WEAVE Fund Raiser

Held Saturday, Jan. 23, at the Coloma Community Center, 4623 T St., from 1 to 2 p.m., learn the tools necessary to increase your awareness, defend yourself from bodily harm, and turbo-charge your life by becoming self-empowered in this safe, fun, and non-embarrassing seminar for women. The instructor has taught active law enforcement and security guards the same proven techniques that you will learn. Start the new year feeling smart, safe, and strong! This Women's Self-Defense Seminar is being offered to the community for free as a fundraiser for WEAVE by Zen Martial Arts and Sacramento Parks and Recreation. Donations for WEAVE will be accepted at the class. Receipts available. For more information, call 530-613-6779 or visit ZenMartial.com.

JANUARY 27

Embroiderer's Guild meeting

Embroiderer's Guild of America, 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 27, 2010, SMUD Building, 6301 S Street. We will be stitching Kissing Pillows. This is a national project donated to the military. Visitors welcome. For more information, call (916)961-3558.

FEBRUARY 6-7

Jewish Film Festival

Humor Abounds at the 13th Annual Sacramento Jewish Film Festival, Saturday February 6 and Sunday February 7, 2010. It all happens at the Historic Crest Theatre 1013 K Street. Advance tickets are on sale now at the Crest Box Office and tickets.com. Tickets are \$10 general admission, \$8.50 for seniors, students and Friends of the Festival. Festival passes are \$34 general, \$30 for seniors, students and Friends of the Festival. Saturday and Sunday Day passes are \$18.00, \$16.00 for seniors, students and Friends of the Festival. For additional information go to www.thecrest.com, www.sacjfff.org or by calling 916-442-7378.

FEBRUARY 15

American Heritage Day

American Heritage Day event at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 8201 Greenback Lane, Fair Oaks. The 8th Annual American Heritage Day will be held at Mt. Vernon Memorial Park. This event brings history to life for children with hands on/re-enactment performances. Families can enjoy over 17 different performances and continuous free entertainment. For more information, call (916) 969-1251.

ONGOING

American Legion Dance

The American Legion Dance, Held on the first Friday of each month from 7 – 10 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Hall at Royer Park in Roseville, featuring ballroom, Latin, swing, and night club dances with DJ Bob Wayman. The public is in-

vited and singles are welcome. There is a great wood dance floor, good parking, no-host bar, soft drinks, and snacks. Come dance and make new friends. The hall is located at 110 Park Drive. Cost \$8. Info: (916) 783-7267. Proceeds go to support the troops and our veterans.

MONDAYS

Tai Chi at Hart Center

Chinese exercise combines specific movements and relaxation, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Instructor, Mamie Woo. Information at 808-5462.

Hatha yoga class

Instructor Pat Shaw teaches students to align the body through breathing techniques, postures and deep relaxation, 3 to 4 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Information at 808-5462. Repeats Wednesdays, Fridays.

Gray Eagles meet

Gray Eagles, a social group for men and women, hears guest speakers on air shows, flying and warbirds, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., second Mondays of the month. Visitors welcome. Free, at the Hometown Buffet (private dining room), 4300 Florin Road. Information at 421-0844.

Newcomer's Buffet

The Widowed Persons Association of California invite any and all widows and widowers to attend their Newcomer's Buffet and Social at 5:30 p.m., every third Monday, at the Plaza Hof Brau, El Camino at Watt Avenue. The cost varies as the choice is from a no-host buffet menu. For more information, call 972-9722.

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An end of an era for longtime family-owned Compton's Market

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Arden-Carmichael News Writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Sacramento's Dave and Mike Compton have sold the last of their family's chain of locally-owned grocery stores, known as Compton's Markets.

The final link in this chain, the East Sacramento store at 4055 McKinley Blvd., will officially change hands during the first or second week of December.

But fortunately for the neighborhood, the store's new owners, Pam and Sunil Hans, have vowed to maintain the store's name, employees and overall offerings that have made this store a community treasure.

Pam, Dave said, will head the operations of the store, while Sunil will maintain his high level position with the 7UP Bottling Co.

Although many customers are disappointed with the sale of the busi-

ness, Dave assures the public that very few notable changes will be made to the store.

Additionally, Dave, 60, said that his brother, who is 57, plans to assist the new owners as an advisor in helping them understand what type of operations work best in this neighborhood store.

Building a business

The McKinley Boulevard store, which opened in about 1973, was once among eight Compton Market's in the Sacramento area. The first of these markets – the 2703 24th St. store, which is now known as the Curtis Park Market – opened in 1957.

The stores were originally owned and operated by Dave and Mike's father, Bill Compton, and their uncles, Loy and Lou Compton.

Bill, who passed away a little more than a year ago and was the last of the sur-



Dave Compton stands in front of Compton's Market at 4055 McKinley Blvd. in East Sacramento. The longtime popular neighborhood market was recently sold by Dave Compton and his brother, Mike Compton.

living original owners of the markets, gifted his sons the 24th Street and McKinley Boulevard stores upon his retirement.

Dave recently met with the East Sacramento News to discuss the sale of the East Sacramento store, as well as the history of his family's longtime grocery venture in the capital city.

Sitting behind his desk, wearing a blue Polo sweat-

er and flashing the same friendly smile that has greeted thousands of patrons of his store throughout the years, Dave said that he felt the timing was right to sell the store.

"I'm 60 and I've been doing this since 1966, so that's about 45 years, so it's time to try something new," said Dave, a 1967 graduate of Bella Vista High School in Fair Oaks. "My brother and

I had been kicking around the idea of selling this store for the last three years. We both knew that we were getting toward the ends of our careers and neither one of us wanted our kids to be in the grocery business, so we discouraged that and we told them to go to college. My dad used to say, 'I don't think the store will be around when your kids are grown up.' I'm sure my dad is smiling from on high that we got to get out."

Despite his upbeat attitude regarding the sale of the store, Dave, who plans on becoming a part-time Weight Watchers representative, said that he will strongly miss his many loyal customers.

"I'm really going to miss the people who I had a chance to get to know throughout the years," Dave said. "We're on a first name basis with most of the people who come into the store. I have a lot of casual acquaintances and a lot of good friends (who are Compton's customers), so working with the public is the part

See Compton's, page 23



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4:00 pm	Pageant Service
10:30 pm	Carol Sing
11:00 pm	Festive Holy Communion (ASL Interpreted)

December 25, Christmas Day

10:00 am	Holy Communion in Chapel
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St. Francis Episcopal Church

11430 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks • 916-966-2261

Compton's: 'I never had a day that I didn't want to come to work'

Continued from page 22

I'm going to miss the most. That's always been my sort of forte to just say, 'Hi, how are you doing?' and to learn something about their families. I've always been fairly outgoing when it comes to that. I'm just really happy to have had an opportunity to do that and I'm going to miss that a lot."

Changing hands

Many customers have expressed their gratitude for the East Sacramento store and their disappointment with its recent sale.

Louisa R. Vessell, who lives less than a mile from the store, said that she was surprised to learn of the sale of the store and called the store upon learning the news.

"I was really saddened when I heard the news (about the sale of the store) and I immediately called the store and talked to Dave and asked, 'Why?' Vessell said.

Jeanette Ashton, 92, who also lives nearby the store,

said that she has been shopping at Compton's in East Sacramento since the year that it opened.

"I have been coming here since April 1965 when this was a Stop-N-Shop store," Ashton said. "(Compton's) has been really handy for me for many years. You can get anything you want here. You don't have to go all over. Boy, I'll miss the (Compton family).

They're very accommodating. They are very good, very friendly and they call you by your first name."

Another noteworthy patron of Compton's is Paul Guidera, who Dave said often purchases flowers from the store to place on the East Lawn Cemetery grave of his late wife, Anita.

In addition to the store's many dedicated customers, Dave said that Compton's stores have had a variety of long-term employees, including Royal Clark, who managed the 45th and D streets store for about 20 years, Harry Nakamura, a

produce worker for about 12 years and Bob Colby, who worked for about six years in the meat department in the 14th Street and Broadway store.

Another very notable employee, Elaine Davies, is enjoying the final days of her 42-year career working in Compton's Markets.

"I started working for Compton's in 1967," Davies said. "At this time, there were a lot more independent grocery stores like Van's markets and Tom Thumb markets. I started working at 14th (Street) and Broadway in a little office adjacent to the store. I originally worked for Bill Compton. Bill did not know a stranger. We would have a luncheon for employees and people would walk up and say, 'Man, you guys are having the best time of your lives' and the next thing you know, Bill would have them sitting down next to us and talking to us. He was just a very congenial man. In fact, all three of the brothers who



Arden-Carmichael News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Dave Compton (right) prepares to hand a bag of groceries to a customer at Compton's Market in East Sacramento.

started Compton's were just loved by everybody. It's just been a great time working here. It has been the wildest ride of my life and I never had a day that I didn't want to come to work."

New era for Compton's

Being that Compton's Market is not closing, but is simply changing ownership, Dave invites the public to continue to shop at this

longtime East Sacramento grocery store once the new ownership begins operating the store.

The store will continue to offer USDA choice meats, a self-service deli and conventional and organic items in its produce, grocery and frozen foods sections.

For additional information about Compton's Market, call (916) 456-2443.

From Our Family To Yours

May your holidays be warm and safe and filled with laughter and love.



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