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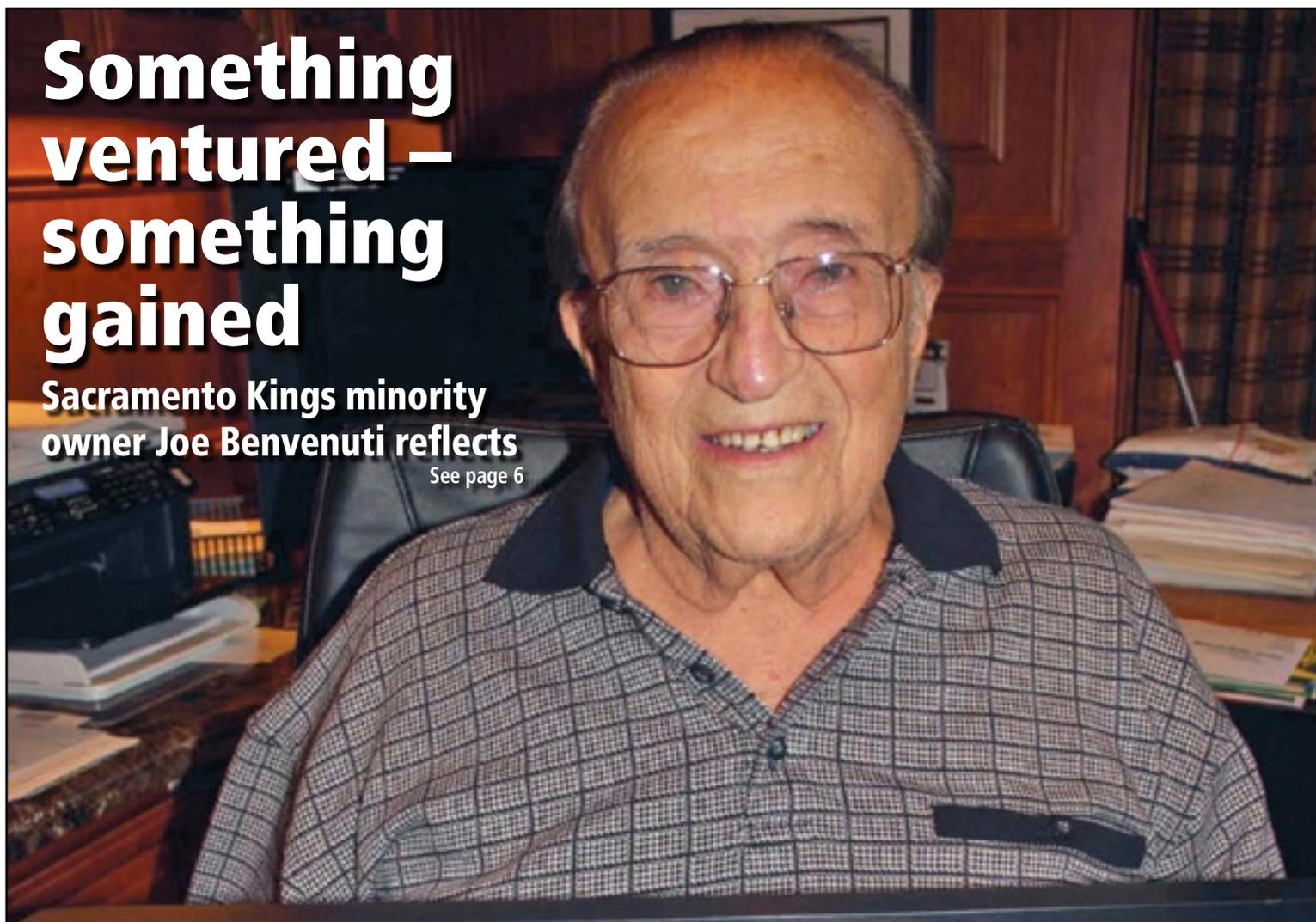
Engines roar at CAM Cruise

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Something ventured – something gained

Sacramento Kings minority owner Joe Benvenuti reflects

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f: (916) 429-9906

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Assistant farm manager Antonio Garcia demonstrates to a group of 6th graders how to harvest dry beans from the field at Soil Born Farms. Photo courtesy, Guy Galante

Soil Born Farms educational program teaches youth about where food comes from

By JULIE FOSTER
Special to Arden-Carmichael News

During a recent Saturday morning visit to Soil Born Farms' idyllic American River Ranch, the action was nearly non-stop. Fueled by coffee and scones from Magpie Café, shoppers hovered over luscious-looking heirloom tomatoes at the farm stand. While one group of children learned the intricacies of making veggie pizzas, another group, led by Youth Education Director Guy Galante, rambled off for an exploratory visit to the nearby American River Parkway

American River Ranch, which is the last working farm along the American River Parkway, offers a series of richly textured food and environmental education programs. Focused on service and experiential learning and grounded in the natural world and the kitchen, participating children and teenagers explore the wondrous connection between human, animal and plant life.

The multitude of activities geared for various ages includes field trips, classes, workshops, farm tours, job training and youth leadership development.

Because back-to-school season is almost here, one program – the Discovery Field Trip – is of particular interest. Designed for classes or groups like the Boy Scouts or church groups, the trips are open to ages pre-school to 12th grade.

Components include native plant restoration, agriculture, healthy cooking and eating,

and nature exploration. Depending upon the season, participants might learn the names of plants, learning more about each one before embarking on a hike to the river where they look for "their" plants. Kids learn how to use a variety of tools, how to double dig beds, sow cover crops, harvest, wash, pack and clean veggies. They meet farmers and gain an understanding of what it takes to run a farm or a large garden. After harvesting fruits and veggies, they then observe or participate in a cooking demonstration followed by a tasting of what they helped produce.

While hiking the Parkway, youth learn tracking skills, nature games, geology and photography, while gaining an understanding of the big picture, including Soil Born Farms' role in the watershed ecology.

The trips bring youth and students together, and unify classes because the activities require teamwork and everybody wins. Though all the field trips follow a basic structure, what differentiates them throughout the year is the seasonality of the veggies and the agricultural tasks required at that time of year.

"The field trips are important to youth development because everybody can participate and be successful non-competitively," Galante said.

Galante, a credentialed teacher, created, implemented and refined his youth education programs at Soil Born over the last four years. He's been hiking, photographing

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Photo courtesy, Guy Galante

Third graders from Abraham Lincoln Elementary in Sacramento City Unified enjoy carrots after learning how to harvest and bundle them for distribution.

Soil Born: Kids learn about native plants, agriculture, healthy cooking, nature exploration

Continued from page 2

and studying the American River Parkway for eight years. Galante has led hundreds of hikes along this incredible watery ribbon of life, and has served on advisory councils for the American River Natural History Asso-

ciation and the Save the American River Association.

To learn more about the Discovery field trips, contact Guy Galante at ggalante@soilborn.org.

Harvest Sacramento

Harvest Sacramento organizes volunteers to glean unwanted fruit for donation to food assistance agencies year-round. They are gearing for late summer harvesting following the rush of citrus season. Volunteers are now ready to harvest your unwanted produce including apricots, plums, pluots, peaches, nectarines, figs, grapefruit, lemons and kumquats. Late summer produce also includes pomegranates, apples, pears, persimmons and walnuts.

If you would like to volunteer or know anyone who has a fruit or nut tree which will go partially or completely unharvested in the next few months, please contact Randy Stannard at (530) 204-8082 or rstannard@soilborn.org or visit www.soilborn.org for more information.

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Lego fun with Bricks4Kidz at Arden-Dimick Library

Special to Arden-Carmichael News

Kids will have lots of fun when the local franchise of Bricks4Kidz brings Lego fun to the Arden-Dimick Library on Aug. 18 from 4 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Lego skills will be demonstrated and kids will have a chance to create for themselves.

The Arden-Dimick Library is located at 891 Watt Ave. in Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 264-2700 or visit www.saclibrary.org.



Photo iStockphoto

LEGO FUN is on the kid's program calendar at the Arden-Dimick Public Library. Kids will learn some new projects and can create some new structures on Aug. 18.

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A late summer tradition:

Good times to flow at 'Wine, Beer & Food Extravaganza'

Special to Arden-Carmichael News

On Sept. 9, Christian Brothers High School will be transformed into a festival of food, fun, beer, wine and live music.

Now in its 24th year, the Wine, Beer & Food Extravaganza is a well-established Sacramento tradition that draws crowds of over 1,600 to the campus for open tastings from vintners and craft breweries – along with ample foods and desserts by area restaurants and caterers.

Setting this event apart is its festive, casual atmosphere and live bands in two venues – a beer garden and wine tasting area. New this year, guests can also enjoy a cigar along with bourbon and port tastings in the Cigar Lounge.

Not only will guests sample great food and beverages, they will sample great music too. The evening starts out with the jazz sounds of the New Originals Trio. In the Wine and Restaurant Area, the Dane Drewis Band will get the party started. And once everyone is warmed up, Mustache Harbor will perform "Yacht Rock Explosion" music in the Beer Garden that will rock this late summer evening with "sweet sounds as smooth as the summer sea."

The Wine, Beer & Food Extravaganza will be held Friday, Sept. 9 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.



Photo courtesy, Christian Brothers High School
SOMETHING TO ROAR ABOUT. Members of the Sacramento Mountain Lions Cheerleading Squad attended last year's Wine, Beer & Food Extravaganza. This popular event benefits tuition assistance at Christian Brothers High School. Over 1,600 Sacramento area residents, athletes and celebrities will be in attendance at this year's event on Sept. 9.

at Christian Brothers High School, located at 4315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Sacramento. Event shuttles will be available from East Sacramento, Downtown and Midtown locations. For ticket information, visit www.cbhswinetasting.com.

All proceeds benefit tuition assistance at CBHS, so celebrate the last days of summer with an evening of wine, food and fun and help support this most worthy cause – and let the good times flow.

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Know your neighbor

Joe Benvenuti shares his memories as a Sacramento Kings owner

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

Editor's Note: This is the second article in a two-part series regarding Sacramento Kings owners who reside within the coverage area of Arden-Carmichael News.

It has been more than 60 years since Arden area resident Joe Benvenuti moved to Sacramento. And one of his most notable accomplishments as a local resident was playing a major role in the relocation of the National Basketball Association's Kansas City Kings to California's capital city.

Joe, 90, who has been an owner of the Kings since 1983, when the team was still located in Kansas City, sat down with Arden-Carmichael News last week to

discuss his life and connection with Sacramento's only major league sports team.

After spending the first nine years of his life living in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Joe, who was one of the five children of Angelo and Mary Benvenuti, moved with his family to New Jersey.

It was during his time in New Jersey that Joe became a fan of the classic New York Yankees teams of the 1930s and 1940s.

And like many Yankees fans during this time, Joe Benvenuti was a big fan of the Yankees great, Joe DiMaggio.

Joe Benvenuti said that he enjoyed his formative years and was raised well by his parents.

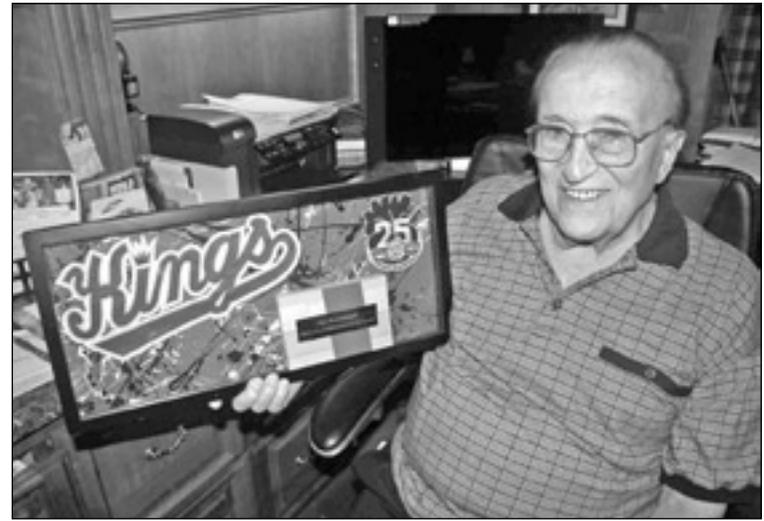
"I had a very good upbringing," Joe said. "My father was a missionary and

besides that he pastored about four churches in his lifetime. We were all Christians."

At the age of 29, Joe moved to Sacramento, where he encountered a building project that led to his longtime career in real estate development.

After learning various details about the building project, which featured \$6,700, two-bedroom, one-bathroom houses near his first Sacramento home, Joe was inspired to emulate what he had seen.

"Right away, I bought the five acres at the corner of El Camino and Morse (avenues)," Joe said. "I put a 68-unit apartment right on the corner and around the back, I built these homes. And that's what got me going. I started building homes. I built a lot of homes."



Arden-Carmichael News photo, Lance Armstrong

SACRAMENTO KINGS minority owner Joe Benvenuti holds a framed Kings 25th anniversary (1985-2010) art piece, which includes a small portion of Arco Arena's basketball floor.

Another one of Joe's early housing developments occurred after he purchased 10 acres on Edison Avenue and Kerria and Tamalpais ways.

"I built 45 homes there and they went like that," Joe recalled.

Joe eventually purchased seven lots on Railroad Avenue for 25 cents per foot and placed warehouses on the lots.

"I started (with warehouses) there and I never stopped," Joe said. "I never went back to homes. I built a lot of warehouses. I own I

don't know how many down in Natomas."

Although Joe abandoned his formal education after the eighth grade, he said that it was his personal motivation and risk-taking that allowed him to succeed in life.

"It depends on yourself," Joe said. "I was always very aggressive. I took chances all the time. You know, 'nothing ventured, nothing gained,' and that's what I believed in. And that's what I did. I've got a lot of warehouses. I've

See Owner, page 7

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Owner: Benvenuti attributes his success to personal motivation, risk-taking

Continued from page 6

built some apartment houses, I built a couple of small shopping centers. I still have (a shopping center near the corner of Douglas and Sunrise) in Roseville. And I saw that Sunrise stopped right there, and I extended (the street) all the way to what is now the auto mart. I still own the buildings on Arden Way, where the paint shop is, just west of Fulton (Avenue)."

Joe's drive in life led him to be in a financial position that allowed him to assist in the project to help make it possible for the old Kansas City Kings to become the Sacramento Kings.

Recalling the moment that he was asked to become involved in the local efforts to acquire an NBA team, Joe said that he was approached by Sacramento business owner and a future Kings owner Gregg Lukenbill in the early 1980s.

"Gregg Lukenbill - I'd read about him, (how he) and his father were building homes, but I'd never met (Gregg)," Joe said. "He called (local real estate developer) Buzz Oates, he called everybody, all the contractors. He wanted to get some team over here. Sacramento had nothing; no baseball, no football, no basketball."

Joe said Lukenbill also approached him and convinced him to become involved in the efforts to bring an NBA team to Sacramento.

In 1983, Joe and Gregg traveled to Kansas City to negotiate a deal to purchase the Kings.

In recalling this historic event, Joe said, "(Gregg) and I got on a (Kansas City-bound) plane one day and we spent three days there with lawyers and bought (the Kings). Paid \$10.5 million for them. I paid it. Gregg had no money; he just had a lot of guts. And that's how we got the Kings."

Two years later, the Kings were relocated to Sacramento, as they played their first regular season game in a temporary arena just east of Power Balance Pavilion on Oct. 25, 1985.

During a discussion regarding the temporary arena, Joe said, "That small (arena) sticks in my mind, because that's where it all began. And all these big players came from L.A. and Washington and New York to play. (Games at the arena) were always exciting. There were only 10,000 seats, but (the arena) was always jam-packed. And people were selling their tick-

ets for more money, because you couldn't get any more than 10,000 (tickets)."

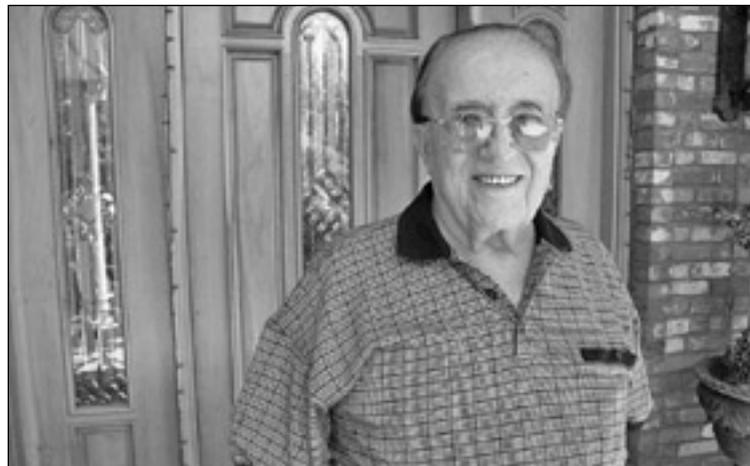
The second arena - today's Power Balance Pavilion - was opened for the 1988-89 season and until earlier this year was known as Arco Arena, which was also the name that was given to the temporary arena.

Of the original owners of the Kings - Joe, Bob Cook, Gregg, Gregg's father, Frank Lukenbill, Steve Cippa and Frank McCormack - only Joe and Cook (who was featured in the first part of this series, which was published in July) remain in the ownership of the Kings.

Joe, who believes - despite the league's current lockout - that NBA teams will play a full 2011-12 season, because team owners would not want to lose money from a cancelled season, said that he is looking forward to following Kings games by this coming fall.

And in reviewing the Kings' quarter century in Sacramento, Joe said that the team has brought him much joy in his life.

"Win or lose, I'm glad to have them," Joe said. "After all, I bought them. We had a lot of good times and we still do."



Arden-Carmichael photo, Lance Armstrong

Joe Benvenuti, who played a major role in acquiring the Kansas City Kings and bringing them to Sacramento, is a 62-year resident of the Arden area.

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Rare birth at zoo

Abyssinian ground hornbill hatched

Special to Arden-Carmichael News

Last week, the Sacramento Zoo was pleased to announce a rarity in the zoo world – an Abyssinian ground hornbill chick was successfully hatched.

Currently, there are only four other pairs of this hornbill species successfully breeding at zoos in the United States, and no other captive

hatches have been reported in the last year.

Two eggs, laid by the zoo's only pair of Abyssinian ground hornbills, were discovered in early May. Based on the mating pair's history of not yet successfully raising any chicks, staff decided to incubate and care for the chicks using protocols developed by the San Diego Zoo. Both chicks hatched

but sadly one did not survive.

The chick, hatched on June 15 and weighing 72 grams, is being raised by staff off-exhibit and now weighs 3,930 grams.

"Every first at the zoo provides a new and exciting learning experience," said Harrison Edell, general curator. "We do everything that we can, but it is still not an exact science. With each success we are able to share knowledge with other institutions and further our conservation efforts."

The Zoo supports the Mabula Ground Hornbill Research and Conservation Project in South Africa. In addition to conducting research on genetics and behavior of Ground hornbills, this important project has launched awareness cam-



Photo courtesy, Sacramento Zoo
THIS RARE Abyssinian ground hornbill chick was hatched on June 15. Here, it is just three days old.

paigns to educate the public on the dangers to hornbills such as unintentional poisoning, secondary trapping and snaring. Part of the project also includes hand-rearing some second-hatched hornbill chicks for

release back into the wild or to join the captive breeding program. This is done because ground hornbills usually only raise one chick at a time. If two chicks are

See Chick, page 9

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Photo courtesy, Sacramento Zoo

LOOKING GOOD at 47 days, this rare Abyssinian ground hornbill chick is being raised at the Sacramento Zoo using wildlife protocols developed by the San Diego Zoo.

Chick: Rare bird is being raised using San Diego Zoo wildlife protocols

Continued from page 8

hatched, one must be removed from the nest to improve its chance of survival.

Like all 54 different hornbill species, the Abyssinian ground hornbill wild population is vulnerable. Ground hornbills from Sub-Saharan Africa are the largest of the hornbills. They have a bony horn on top of their bill called a casque, which makes their calls louder and easier to hear over great distances. Abyssinian ground hornbills fly only when dis-

turbed or when crossing areas of dense brush, preferring to walk or run from danger. The greatest threats to the hornbill are human-related and include habitat loss and illegal hunting.

To receive the most current information about the new hornbill, see pictures of it off-exhibit and learn when it will be out for the public to see, visit www.sacramento-zoo.blogspot.com.

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65th annual Japanese Food & Cultural Bazaar is this weekend

By **SALLY KING**
Arden-Carmichael News writer
sally@valcomnews.com

Want to try the best teriyaki chicken in northern California? To experience an entire culture without travelling thousands of miles? To check out local history?

Then look no further than the 65th annual Japanese Food & Cultural Bazaar this weekend.

The two-day event will be held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church at 2401 Riverside Blvd. in Sacramento from noon to 9 p.m. on Aug. 13 and 14. There will be free parking

and shuttles from the W and 7th streets parking lot.

According to the church, the bazaar began as a way for the Japanese to rebuild their community following their forced evacuation from the West Coast during World War II.

Reverend Bob Oshita said he has a theory on why

this event has continued to grow from a small food bazaar to what it is today, with an estimated attendance of 40,000 to 50,000 people.

"In the late 1950s, our physical community was moved to renovate the downtown area, which scattered people," Oshi-

ta said. "Every year, that community seems to come back to life through the bazaar."

Oshita said that people who no longer live in the south Sacramento area come to revisit friends. He said it is a chance for them to reconnect

See Bazaar, page 11

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Bazaar: Annual event is an opportunity for community to re-connect

Continued from page 10

with something from their childhood.

"This is the second largest temple in the country," Oshita said. It was founded in 1899."

The temple was located at 1221 Third Street and one year later, due to growth, moved to 410 O Street. It remained here until 1958, when it was relocated because of the city's redevelop-

ment project and moved to Riverside Boulevard.

Oshita said the bazaar provides cultural exhibits, flower arranging, calligraphy, Taiko Drums, craft booths, children's games, lots of food and much more.

"We have the best teriyaki chicken in all of northern California," Oshita said. "This event

always takes on a life of its own and I just let it happen."

Oshita said it takes 500 to 600 hundred people to run the bazaar and all of them are volunteers. He said the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Dharma Women's Auxiliary and others volunteer their time, making sure it is a success.

"My favorite part of the bazaar is the Taiko Drums, Gar-

rett Kurahara, student staff member, said.

Oshita said his favorite part of the bazaar is the food and meeting with people. Oshita said this year they purchased 10,000 chicken halves. The organizers said they will clean one and half tons of rice, 400 pounds of shrimp, 1,500 pounds of beef and

500 pounds of noodles for hot and cold dishes.

Proceeds from the event will support the Sacramento Buddhist Church and its affiliated organizations such as youth sports programs, adult and senior groups, and many others.

To see a schedule of events, visit: www.buddhistchurch.com/events/Bazaar.htm

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— Debi, Veronica, Dr. Chalmers, Desirae, and Stephanie

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Faces and Places

Engines roar at annual California Auto Museum Cruise

Photos by TOM PANIAGUA
Arden-Carmichael News photographer
tom@valcomnews.com

The California Automobile Museum's Third annual Car Cruise was a smashing success on Aug. 6. Thousands turned out to see vintage autos from just about every decade.

This year the CAM Cruise started from the Sacramento State campus and traveled along a beautiful five-mile route to the storied Fulton Avenue corridor. On Fulton, members of the public could enjoy live music, food and head-turning cars, trucks and vintage trailers – including a remarkable gull-winged Mercedes Benz sports car worth over \$300,000.



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Cruise: Fulton Avenue lined with scores of vintage vehicles

Continued from page 14



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Not your 'typical' swim team

The Stingrays Synchronized Swim Team is more than meets the eye

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

Of the many summertime activities for youths in Sacramento, swim team is one of the ones you hear about the most. But the Fulton-El Camino Stingrays swim team has a counterpart that no other recreational team in Sacramento has – a synchronized swim team.

With 42 girls from ages five- to 18-years old, the Stingrays synchronized swim team (synchro for short) is one of five synchro teams in the Valley Foothill Competitive Aquatic League along with ones from Auburn, Davis, Rancho Cordova and Citrus Heights.

While the synchro enrollment is but a fraction of "traditional" swim teams, the Stingrays have found ways to keep the young ladies coming back year after year.

"We get most of our kids from word of mouth or they saw our ad in the summer brochure," said Stingrays Head Coach Laura Faulkinbury.

Along with that, many of the current Stingrays have siblings who were on the team before them, including Faulkinbury herself. Laura swam with the Stingrays from 1993 to 2005 from ages six to 18. She was never on any other swim team and she learned how to swim as a Stingray.

"My first year I was terrible," she recalls. "I was scared of the water."

Suffice to say that she didn't stay scared for long. Faulkinbury, now 25, swims for the Masters team with the

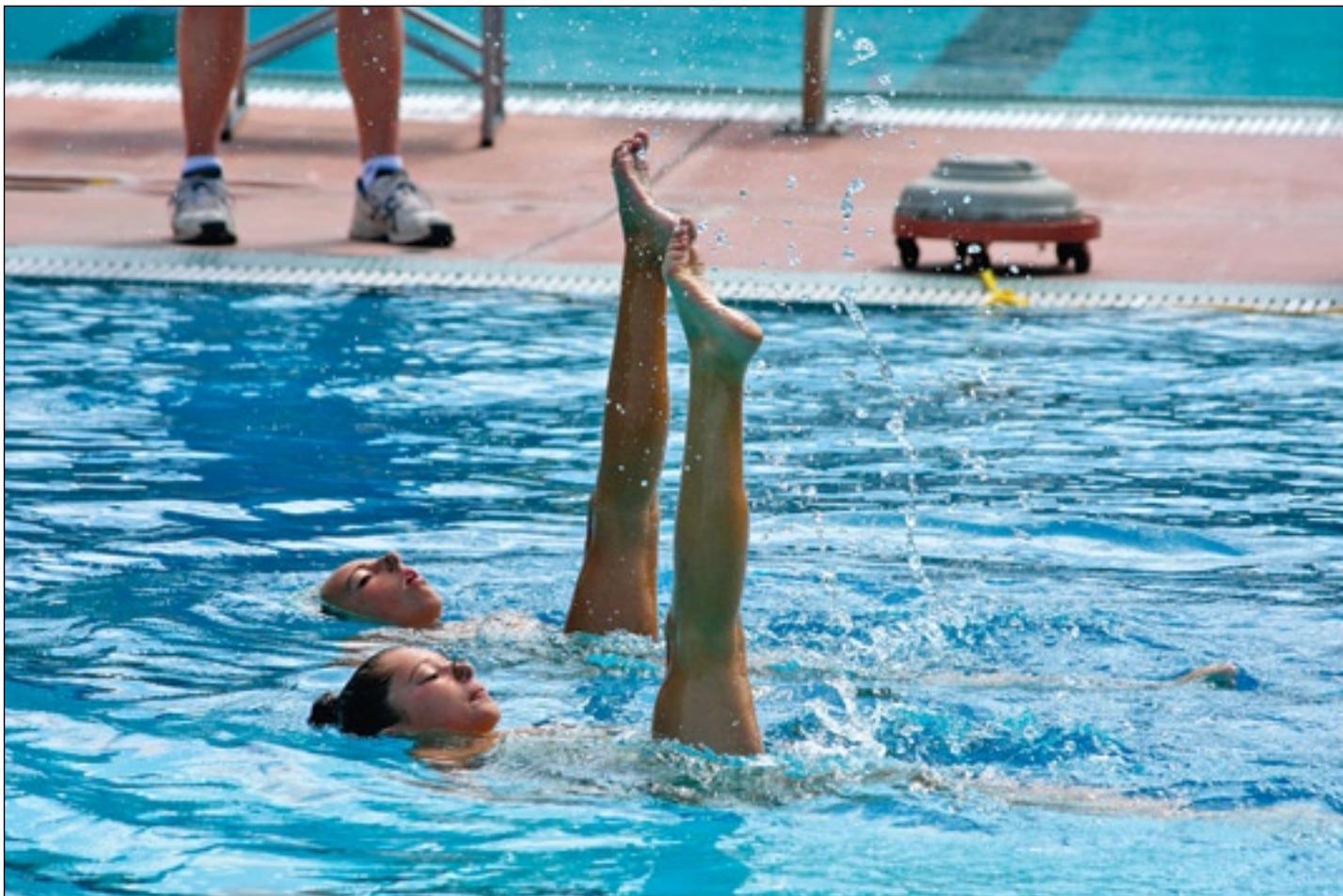


Photo courtesy, Jim Faulkinbury

SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING requires a unique combination of overall body strength and agility, grace and beauty, split-second timing, musical interpretation, stamina and dramatic flair.

Sacramento Synchronized Swim Team, a member of USA Swimming. Her coaching career started as a student coach with the Stingrays in 2004.

The Stingrays, who practice at Cottage Pool at 3097 Cottage Way in Sac-

ramento, is a recreational team built on learning and having fun, but competition is an important part of the team as well.

"It's definitely a mix," said Faulkinbury. "We try to keep in mind that it's

recreational, but at the same time it is a competitive league."

The term "synchronized swimming" probably brings visions of many swim-

See Synchro, page 17

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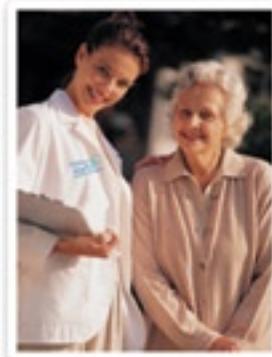
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THREE EVENTS are currently recognized internationally in synchronized swimming: solo, duet and team (eight swimmers). The competitive rules and manner of judging are similar to such sports as figure skating and gymnastics.



THE STINGRAYS HAVE FUN at their events, while still keeping their competitive edge.



Synchro: Much like gymnastics, there are both individual and team goals

Continued from page 16

mers doing a vast array of simultaneous and visually outstanding maneuvers. And while that is part of the sport, there are also solo events called "figures" as well as duo and trio performances. Much like gymnastics, there are both individual and team goals.

Lisa Crayne, 18, is a student coach for the Stingrays who just finished her last year of eligibility as a swimmer for the team as well as her senior year at Victory Christian High School.

"I tried (synchro) when I was nine and didn't like it," Crayne said. "But I tried again at 15 and loved it."

While the goal is to make the moves look perfect and smooth, Crayne is quick to point out that synchro is anything but easy.

"It's such a difficult sport," she said. "People don't realize how hard it is to make it look effortless."

One of the things she loves about her job is imparting her knowledge to the younger girls on the team.

"I love seeing the girls improve and learn new things," she said.

Shelby Carney, 19, is an assistant coach for the Stingrays. She is in her third year as a coach and swam with the team for 12 years beginning when she was seven. She shares Crayne's love of watching the little ones learn.

"I like seeing kids light up when they understand what they're doing," Carney said. "I

love that instant spark they get. It warms your heart."

Carney, whose career plan is to become a teacher, found her passion for teaching as a coach for the past three years.

"I learned my love of teaching as a coach here," she said. "I felt like I was supposed to be doing what I was doing. My parents told me when I was younger that I was a role model for younger kids. The (swimmers) cling to me. I love to nurture."

She credits her time with the Stingrays for picking her major of liberal studies with a minor in special education at Sac State.

Carney isn't just a great coach, she was a dynamic figures swimmer as a Stingray and competes with Faulkinbury on the Masters team. Also like Faulkinbury, Carney had an older sister who swam for the Stingrays.

The Stingrays finished their season on July 17 with the league championship. The season runs from May to July with two weeks of preseason training before the first meet. The season consists of four duel meets where every team faces each other once, followed by a season-ending championship meet where all five teams compete together. Those interested in becoming a member of the Stingrays can visit the team website at www.fecstingrays.org for more information.



Photos courtesy, Jim Faulkinbury

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CALENDAR

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Send your event announcement for consideration to: susan@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

REUNIONS

C.K. McClatchy High School 1971
Sept. 17: C.K. McClatchy High School, Sacramento, Class of 1971, is holding their 40th high school reunion at the Frasinetti Winery. Contact McClatchy71@gmail.com or Cyndy Wright at (916) 704-4952, or Steve Chan at (916) 421-7777.

ONGOING

'Annie Get Your Gun'
Through Aug. 14: There's no business like show business, especially in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Music by Irving Ber-

lin. Call for times, prices. Music Circus. (916) 557-1999 www.SacramentoMusicCircus.com

Defending the Caveman'

Through Sept. 11: Broadway's smash comedy about the sexes, written by Rob Becker. Call for times, prices. The Cosmopolitan Cabaret, 10th and K streets., Sac. (916) 557-1999 www.CosmopolitanCabaret.com

Landscapes from the Age of Impressionism

Through Sept. 18: This exhibition of approximately 40 paintings includes many of the finest examples of mid-19th through early 20th-century French and American landscapes from the collection of the Brooklyn Museum. These works form a broad survey

of landscape painting as practiced by leading French artists such as Gustave Courbet and Claude Monet, as well as their most significant American followers, including Childe Hassam and John Singer Sargent. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

Transcending Vision: American Impressionism, 1870-1940

Through Sept. 25: "Transcending Vision" traces the development of Impressionism in the United States and the growth of a truly American style of painting. The exhibition includes works by more than 75 prominent American artists including George Bellows, George Inness, Childe Hassam, Ernest Lawson, Lilla Cabot Perry and Julian Alden Weir. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

Gardens and Grandeur: Porcelains and Paintings by Franz A. Bischoff

Through Oct. 23: After beginning his career as a china painter in Bavaria, Franz A. Bischoff immigrated to the United States in 1885 to become one of the foremost porcelain painters of his day. He won numerous awards and earned the title "King of the Rose Painters." "Gardens and Grandeur" features approximately 40 examples of Bischoff's work, including porcelains, still lifes, and landscapes. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

AUGUST

Bilingual Toastmasters

Aug. 11, 18, 25: Una oportunidad unica para mejorar sus habilidades bilingues y superar el temor de hablar delante de gente con nuestro club Los Oradores Toastmasters. Improve your language skills and lose fear of speaking in front of people in Spanish and English with Los Oradores. Every Thursday/Cada Jueves 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Sutter Cancer Center 2800 L Street, Sac. Teri Bullington (916) 723-6232 teri.bullington@gmail.com, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

Capitol Mall Farmer's Market

Aug. 11, 18, 25: Capitol Mall Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, May-Sept. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 6th St. & Capitol Mall, Sac. www.california-grown.com

East End State Capitol Park

Farmer's Market

Aug. 11, 18, 25: East End State Capitol Park Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, June-Sept. 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. 15th & L streets, Sac. www.california-grown.com

Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market

Aug. 11, 18, 25: Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, year round. 8 a.m.-noon. Florin Rd. & 65th St., Sac. www.california-grown.com

Food Addicts Anonymous

Aug. 11, 18, 25: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Thursdays. 9 a.m. St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 6201 Spruce Ave., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Living Positive with Chronic

Disease group

Aug. 11, 18, 25: Meet-up group for people living with chronic disease who honor how important a positive mindset is. If you want to complain - this isn't the group for you. The group will discuss and support: best practices for managing your condition, communication strategies, ways to laugh, have fun, engage with life and more. Free. Meets Thursdays. 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Starbucks, 1401 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. Danae Horn (503) 319-4247

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Aug. 11, 18, 25: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Kelly Byam (916) 684-6854.

Sacramento Downtown Plaza

Farmer's Market

Aug. 11, 18, 25: Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, May-Sept. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 4th & K streets, Sac. www.california-grown.com

Sutterville Heights Optimist Club

Aug. 11, 18, 25: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon, every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Cliff (916) 427-2698 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

Volkssport walking

Aug. 11: Come join the Sacramento Walking Sticks Volkssport Club! Monthly meetings held every second Thursday at 7 p.m. SMUD Headquarters Bldg., Conference Center, 6201 S St., Sac. Those who wish to walk before the meeting, meet at Starbucks, 1420 65t St., Sac. At 5 p.m. to walk a 3-mile walk to CSUS campus & back. Barbara Nuss (916) 283-4650 or (916) 691-7618 or nussb@surewest.net. Also www.SacramentoWalkingSticks.org

Sacramento Kaiser Farmer's Market

Aug. 12, 19, 26: Sacramento Kaiser Farmer's Market. Every Friday, June-Nov. 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2025 Morse Ave., Sac. www.sierrafresh.com

Saint Rose of Lima Park Farmer's Market

Aug. 12, 19, 26: St. Rose of Lima Park Farmer's Market. Every Friday, June-Sept. 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. 7th & K streets, Sac. www.MarketLocations.com

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Aug. 12, 19, 26: Come listen to an interesting guest speaker weekly; community service, serving the children of the world. Visitors welcome, first breakfast "on us" 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. Fridays. 2875 50th St., UC Davis Med. Ctr., Sac. (916) 761-2124 www.east-sacmidtownkiwanis.com

Rotary Club of Point West

Aug. 12, 19, 26: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com

Soroptimists of Sacramento

Aug. 12, 19, 26: Soroptimist International of Sacramento South, a service club for business and professional women, meets Fridays. 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. Barbara McDonald, (916) 363-6927

Concert in the Park

Aug. 13: "Q-Balls" will perform classic rock from the 1960s, '70s and '80s for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Free. 6:30 p.m. Danny Bishop Memorial Pavilion for the Performing Arts in Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael. (916) 483-7826

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Country Club Plaza Farmer's Market
 Aug. 13, 20, 27: Country Club Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Saturday, year round. 8 a.m.-noon. Watt & El Camino, Butano Dr. parking lot, Sac. www.california-grown.com

Family Fun Fest

Aug. 13: A free and fun filled day with entertainment, family games, art projects, and give-a-ways. Free music, DJ, youth performances, and local entertainers. Loads of free goodies! You can also enjoy booths with art, crafts, and food and local business and non-profit information. Free. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sponsored by Omni Youth Programs. Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael. (916) 362-2000 ext. 14

Food Addicts Anonymous

Aug. 13, 20, 27: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Saturdays. 8 a.m. Mercy General Hospital North Auditorium, 4001 J St., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

65th annual Japanese Food & Cultural Bazaar

Aug. 13-14: Enjoy great food and entertainment at this classic Sacramento event. Featured: Koyasan Taiko Group, Okinawa Music & Dance, Sakura Monyo Doo Koo Kai (Japanese Fols Song & Dance Society), Koto Duet, East Wind Band, Japanese Classical Dance (Buyo), Sacramento Taiko Dan, Introduction to chapel and so much more. Free parking and shuttle from W & 7th streets lot. Noon to 9 p.m. both days. 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sac. (916) 446-0121 www.buddhistchurch.com

Pressure canning techniques

Aug. 13: The pressure's on at this basic introduction to safe pressure canning techniques by the Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension Master Food Preservers. Free, no pre-registration required. 10 a.m.-noon. Sacramento Cooperative Extension Office, 4145 Branch Center Rd., Sac. (916) 875-6913 www.sacramento.ucdavis.edu

Sacveg Fest

Aug. 13: A celebration of raw, vegan & vegetarian cuisines. Examples, samples, recipes, speakers, demos, tasting competitions. Hosted by Del Paso Blvd. Partnership. \$2 admission, or \$1 with a non-perishable food item for local food banks. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Artisan Building, 1901 Del Paso Blvd., Sac. www.sacvegfest.com

Screen on the Green

Aug. 13: "Shrek Forever" Sundown. Hagginwood School Soccer Field, 1418 Palo Verde Ave., Sac. www.sacscreenthegreen.com

Carmichael Farmer's Market

Aug. 14, 21, 28: Carmichael Farmer's Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., every Sun. Year round, rain or shine. Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael. www.bemoneysmartusa.org

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Aug. 14, 21, 28: 12-Step group for those who struggle to maintain healthy relationships. Meets Sundays. 2 p.m. Heritage Oaks Hospital, 4300 Auburn Blvd., Rm.101, Sac (866) 794-9993.

Community Sunday breakfast

Aug. 14, 21, 28: Enjoy a delicious breakfast of eggs Benedict, corned beef hash, Joe's scramble, pancakes and more. 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., every Sun. \$9. Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. (at Florin Rd.), Sac. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. www.elks6.com

Concert in the Park

Aug. 14: "Metro Swing" will perform dance music for your listening and dancing enjoyment. Free. 6:30 p.m. Danny Bishop Memorial Pavilion for the Performing Arts in Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael. (916) 483-7826

State Parking Lot Farmer's Market

Aug. 14, 21, 28: State Parking Lot Farmer's Market. Every Sunday, year round. 8 a.m.-noon. 8th & W streets, under Highway 50, Sac. www.california-grown.com

Sunday Support for the Widowed

Aug. 14, 21, 28: The Widowed Persons Assn. sponsors Sunday Support sessions which are held every Sunday, rain or shine - holidays included. 3 p.m.-5 p.m. 2628 El Camino Ave., Ste. D-18 (east of Fulton). Widows and widowers welcome. Barbara Stewart (916) 363-3482

Hatha yoga

Aug. 15, 22, 29: Align the body through breathing techniques, postures and deep relaxation. 3 p.m.-4 p.m. Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Sac. (916)808-5462. Meets every Mon. Repeats Wed., Fri.

Rotary Club of South Sacramento

Aug. 15, 22, 29: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 11:30 a.m., every Mon. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. www.rotary.org

Funderland celebrates 65th anniversary

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

Thousands upon thousands of children have passed through the gates of Funderland, Sacramento's small-scale, old-fashioned amusement park for young children.

And despite its longtime identity issue, as it is often overshadowed by or confused with its neighboring Fairytale Town, Funderland actually predates Fairytale Town by more than a decade.

Another aspect regarding Funderland, which is locat-

ed at 1350 17th Ave. in William Land Park, is that despite the fact that there are many people who are aware of Fairytale Town, but not Funderland, the ownership of Funderland actually contributes a portion of its annual gross revenue to the city of Sacramento for

the support of Fairytale Town, the Sacramento Zoo and William Land Park. In 2010, for instance, Funderland contributed \$178,606 to the city.

But certainly, there are plenty of people who are very aware of Funderland, which was originally known as Kiddie Land.

This is an obvious point, when considering that Kiddie Land/Funderland's history dates back to 1946.

For more than 30 years, Kiddie Land was owned and operated by its founder Ray Silva (1910-1996).

A Sacramento native, Ray was the son of the Portuguese immigrant Charles Silva (1867-1944), who founded Charles Station, the area that later became known as South Land Park Hills.

In having such a self-motivated, hardworking and business-minded father (read the Charles Silva story at www.valcomnews.com/?s=charles+silva), Ray was led by example, as he developed his own successful life.

In addition to operating Kiddie Land, Ray, who was one of 11 children, also refereed collegiate and American Basketball League (a forerunner to the NBA) games, and later, from 1944 to 1955, he was a referee for the Harlem Globetrotters.

During his last year with the world-famous "Trotters," Ray did his own globe trotting with the team, as he refereed games in Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and many parts of Asia.

Two years following his decade with the Globetrotters, Ray, along with local businessmen, John Silva (not related to Ray) and Edwin A. Beers, founded the Miller Park boat harbor on the Sacramento River.

Ray was also on the planning committee for Fairytale Town, which opened in 1959, and he donated the complex's pirate ship "in memory of the Charles F. Silva family."

In his earlier years of life, Ray worked for the city's recreation department as a super-

visor of playgrounds, and in 1928, he founded the Southside Athletic Club, which was an organization dedicated to promoting sports for youth.

Ray, who was a member of the Dante Club soccer team that won the Northern California championship in the 1930s, also played an important role at the California State Fair, as an assistant manager in charge of racing, tickets and rentals from 1931 to 1942.

About a month prior to his 26th birthday on Aug. 16, 1936, Ray married Rosalind Fraser, who had been crowned the first Miss Sacramento a year earlier.

Ray and Rosalind's only child, Raelyn (Silva) Paige, who was born in 1941 and owned Kiddie Land from 1978 to 1983, said that her father opened Kiddie Land with only a merry-go-round.

Ray later added about eight other rides that furthered the amusement park's reputation as a favorite destination for many Sacramento children.

Sacramento native Don Conner said that he may have visited Kiddie Land as early as 1949, considering that he was born in 1947 and that some of his earliest memories in life are of visiting Kiddie Land.

"I remember going (to Kiddie Land) with my father (Elmer) and on some occasions my mother (Jessie) and my sister (Marcia) would also go," Conner said. "They had a set of railroad tracks with a miniature train and a conductor with one of those striped, railroad hats and it just went around and around a loop. I also went on the merry-go-round, which was right near the front entrance. It was always delightful with lots of things to distract one's attention."

Conner also recalls the other attractions in the area, which included Eddie Fernandes' pony rides, fishing in the park's lake and the William Land Park Zoo, as the Sacramento Zoo was then known.

Stan Bento, a 1970 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, worked at Kiddie

See Funderland, page 23

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Funderland: A portion of revenues support Fairytale Town, Sacramento Zoo, William Land Park

Continued from page 22

Land during summers while he was still in high school.

Bento, who noted that Ray emphasized safety and cleanliness at his amusement park, said that rides during this era included the merry-go-round, the railroad, the fish ride, a boat ride and the Tubs of Fun.

The Tubs of Fun were manufactured by Hampton Rides of Portage Des Sioux, Mo. and the carousel was built in 1948 in Buffalo, N.Y. by Allan Hershell.

Remembering these rides is no problem for Bento since he spent time working at each ride.

"We (the workers) would have rotations and we would stand by each ride and I think every hour or every 45 minutes we would rotate to different rides," Bento recalled.

Among the other Kiddie Land workers during this time were Christian Brothers High School students Kevin Fleming, Mike Fleming and Dennis Bertacchi.

In 1984, carnival operator Sam Johnston purchased Kiddie Land through an auction and after operating the park in its original state, he replaced most of the old rides with completely new rides, which led to a re-grand opening of the amusement park in 1990.

Newer rides at the park include the Flying Dragon roller coaster, the Log Run water log ride and the Crazy Cups ride.

Funderland also includes miniature buildings, which Johnston added throughout the amusement park's grounds.

Johnston's history with Ray dates back to 1958, when he helped his father – also Sam Johnston – and Ray put in an amusement facility in Micke Grove Park in Lodi.

In recent years, Johnston's son-in-law John Dedds has managed Funderland with his wife, Ashley.

Prior to this time and for about three years, Johnston's other daughter, Spring, managed the amusement park with her husband.

Johnston, who is known for his easy going demeanor and infectious smile, which are both good qualities for a man who operates a place called Funderland, said that he has enjoyed his years at Funderland.

"I've got a lot of enjoyment out of providing a safe recreational amusement facility for the children of Sacramento and I want to continue carrying on the tradition that Ray Silva started," Johnston said. "I don't feel like I've ever worked a day in my life. I love it here."

Funderland's summer hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends.

For additional information regarding Funderland, call (916) 456-0131 or visit the Web site, www.funderland-park.com.

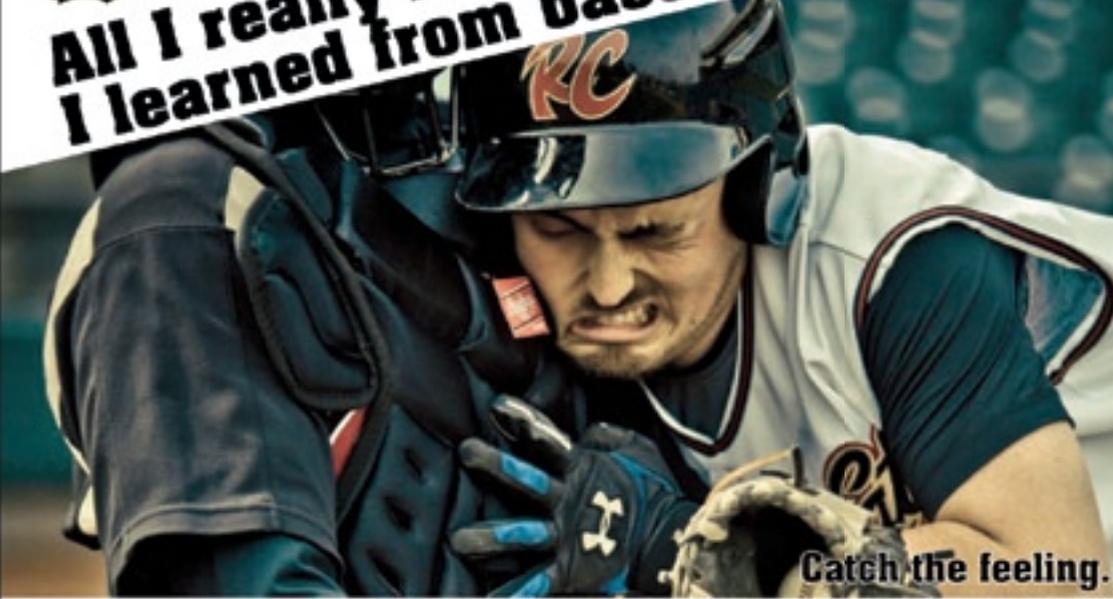


The Flying Dragon roller coaster is among Funderland's nine children's rides.

Arden-Carmichael News photo, Lance Armstrong



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SHELFIELD ESTATES

4 Bedr 2 Bath home beautifully updated & well-maintained. Near the Am River Parkway & neighborhood parks. New roof, fresh interior paint, flooring, partial dual pane windows, water heater & deck. See www.5725riveroakway.epropertyites.com \$447,900

LEIGH RUTLEDGE 612-6911
BILL HAMBRICK 600-6528



CARMEL CHARM IN DEL DAYO

4 bedroom 2 bath Del Dayo home with beautiful yard and pebble-tech salt water pool, gated and fenced. Updated kitchen with tile and granite, and maple cabinets. Lovely master suite with huge closet. Gleaming hardwood floors, Anderson doors, fabulous condition! See: 1500deldayo.epropertyites.com \$519,000

ANN WORTHINGTON 425-7715

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