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Celebrate Carmichael's 102nd Founders' Day

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

Saturday, Sept. 24 will mark Carmichael's 102nd Founders' Day Celebration.

As it does every year, the Carmichael Recreation and Park District is putting together a party you won't want to miss. It's hard to see how they manage it, but the event just seems to get better every year.

From classic cars to arts & crafts to power horns and carnival games, the event will have a little something for everyone. Dignitaries, musicians and vendors will be "doing their thing" from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The day kicks off with a delicious pancake breakfast hosted by the Fair Oaks Lions Club. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and is \$5 for adults, \$3 for kids ages 11 and under.

The Classic Car Show starts at 10 a.m. and runs until 3 p.m. This year, the Cappuccino Cruisers car club is bringing their collection of classic autos to Founders' Day. Check out the muscle cars of the 1960s and early '70s, the classics of the '50s, the flat-heads of the '40s, the gangster cars of the 1930s and the classic 'tin lizzies' of the teens and '20s.

New to Founders' Day this year is an Old-fashioned Country Fair. Like county fairs of old, this fair will feature competitions in art, textiles, food and more. If you win a competition, you have bragging rights for the next year that you are the BEST in Carmichael.

Check-in is from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Judging is at noon. To enter, contact the Cappuccino Cruisers (who are hosting the fair) at (916) 988-6376. There is an entry form available online at the Carmichael Park and Rec website: www.carmichaelpark.com.

The Carmichael Dog Park Society will host a Dog Parade and Show as a fundraiser to benefit the Carmichael Dog Park. Call (916) 422-2280 for details to enter your pooch in the parade. The Dog Parade and Show will start at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Founders' Day is always a family friendly event so be sure to bring your children or grandchildren out so they can enjoy the many children's activities. There will be a mini carnival, face painting, arts & crafts, clowns, an appearance by River Cats mascot Dinger and more – all free.

The shopping promises to be good at the vendor booths this year, also. Information booths, arts and crafts vendors, non-profit agencies and of course food vendors will be scattered around the Carmichael Park Band Shell to tempt you into shopping, eating and enjoying the day.

Live entertainment by the headlining band, Custom Neon, is sure to please.

For more information on Founders' Day please call the Carmichael Recreation and Park District at (916) 485-5322 or visit www.carmichaelpark.com. The Carmichael Park Band Shell is located in the back of Carmichael Park at 5750 Grant Avenue and both parking and admission are free.

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TEENS, read "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain and then make a bleached tee-shirt at the Arden-Dimick Library on Sept. 29.

Mark Twain bleached tees at Arden-Dimick Library

Special to Arden-Carmichael News

Teens, participate in this year's "Big Read" by reading "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" by Mark Twain. Then, if you feel like sharing your favorite quote or image of the author, you can come to the Arden-Dimick Library and say it with bleach on Sept. 29!

Materials will be provided for this teen program at the Arden-Dimick Branch Library. The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts with Arts Midwest.

The bleached tee-shirt activity will be held at the library on Sept. 29 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wear old clothes – there *will* be bleach involved.

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

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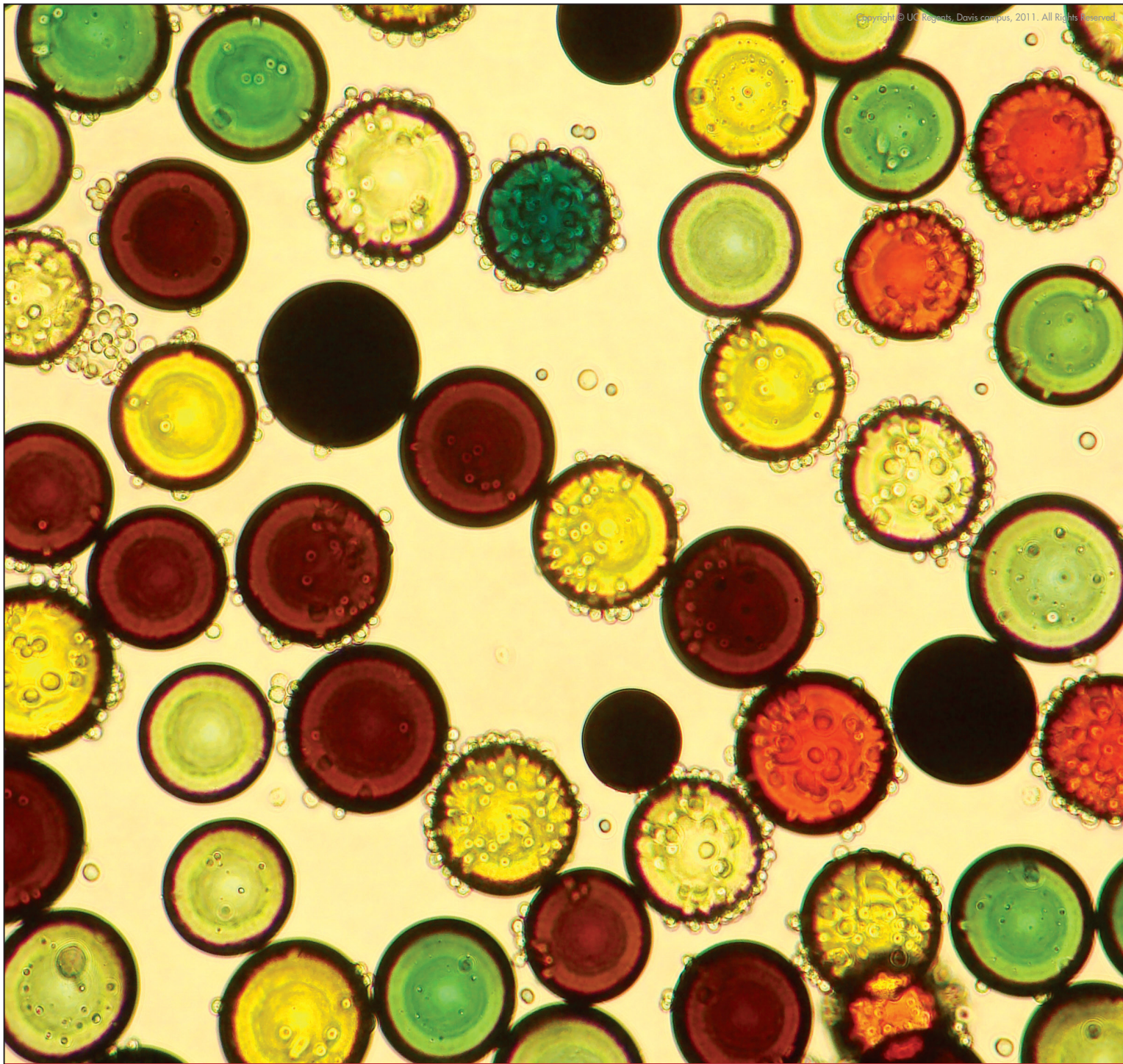
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Be inspired by the lovely home interiors of Land Park

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

Tickets are now available for the 2011 Land Park Home Tour that will take place on Sunday, Sept. 25 from 10 a.m to 4 p.m.

Land Park is a Sacramento neighborhood that is known for its lovely architectural detail. Homes were built in the 1920s, '30s, '40s and '50s and the homes feature many cus-

tom architectural details. The entire neighborhood has a cozy, picturesque quality to it.

This year's tour includes seven beautiful homes that have undergone extensive renovations, but still preserve their unique Land Park character and charm. As a special bonus, Fire Station 5 at Broadway and 8th Street will be open to members of the tour.

Featured homes include a Spanish-style home with a wonderful great room

and new master suite; a Cape Cod home with beamed ceilings and a glorious expanse of windows in a newly remodeled kitchen; a shingled cottage now boasts guest quarters in a colorful Mexican-style *casita*; and a Tudor-style home has a new second story with unique flooring made from recycled railroad ties.

Tickets are \$20 in advance of the tour and can be purchased at Vic's Ice Cream,

Espresso Metro and Capital Nursery (on Freeport Boulevard). Tickets will be \$25 on the day of the event.

Proceeds will benefit the visual and performing arts programs at Land Park neighborhood schools, and will help fund park and neighborhood enhancement projects. For more information, call (916) 455-9941 or visit www.landparkhometour.com.

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Barry Ross takes over as new director of recreation at MORPD

By **MARC MALONEY**
Arden-Carmichael News writer
mmaloney@valcomnews.com



Arden-Carmichael News photo, Marc Maloney
BARRY ROSS is the new director of recreation and marketing for the Mission Oaks Parks and Recreation District.

One glance at the office walls of Barry Ross, new director of recreation and marketing for the Mission Oaks Recreation and Parks District (MORPD), makes it immediately clear Ross did not grow up in California.

Staring back from the walls are posters of New England sports legends like Larry Bird, Bobby Orr, and Tom Brady; other spots on the walls are covered with ticket stubs and other mementoes commemorating the accomplishments of the Boston Celtics, Bruins, Red Sox, and the New England Patriots.

Obviously, this is not the office of a man who grew up surfing the beaches or exploring the redwoods of California. But, after nearly two and a half decades working at park and recreation districts, Ross clearly understands Californians and their recreational needs and desires.

Ross, who took over at MORPD for the recently-retired Mark Koller, grew up in Berlin, NH, which lies about midway between Boston and Montreal. Fittingly, his father's side of the family was English-speakers, while his mother's side of the family spoke French. Ross grew up ice skating and playing hockey on frozen rivers; by high school his sports were basketball, football, and soccer. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1986 with a BS degree in parks and recreation and a concentration in recreation administration.

A year later, Ross was in San Francisco, working at the Embarcadero YMCA when offered a job as general manager at the Highlands Recreation District in San Mateo County. He worked there for three years, and then accepted a post as recreation supervisor with the City of San Mateo, where he stayed for nine years.

Ross relocated to the Sacramento area in 2000 to work as recreation supervi-

if he thought I'd be a good fit, and he gave me a lot of encouragement," Ross recalled.

More than 100 people attended Koller's retirement party, Ross said, and he shared one anecdote as a fitting sendoff to Koller. Attendees paid to attend the party, Ross said, with part of the cash collected earmarked for Koller, so he could pick his own retirement gift. Koller, however, stunned those in attendance when he announced he would be donating the cash to Victor Rodriguez, a Sunrise Recreation and Park District employee whose wife was killed recently in a parasailing accident during their honeymoon in the Bahamas. Koller had never met Rodriguez.

"It was a real Kleenex moment," Ross recalled. "Afterward, someone said, 'That was amazing,' and Debby (Walker, MORPD administrator) replied, 'That's not amazing, that's just Mark.'"

Since taking over for Koller, Ross is focused on a few main projects: updating the district's 10-year master plan, tracking the progress of a recently-submitted grant application the district wants to use to construct a gymnasium at Swanson Community Center, and trying to obtain seed money to start a Police Activities League (PAL) program.

sor with MORPD; in 2004, he began a seven-year stint as recreation manager for the Citrus Heights-based Sunrise Recreation and Park District that ended with his return to MORPD.

"Getting this job...I'm very happy about it," he admitted. "It helps that there are still a lot of familiar faces here from my time here seven years ago. And I always felt like part of the family here, because I was invited back to various functions and kept in touch with the people here."

It was in fact Koller, the recent retiree, who informed Ross about his pending retirement and the job opening it would create.

"Once Mark announced his retirement, I asked him

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"We have a board, we've had a few meetings, now we're trying to get that money to get it off the ground," Ross said of the proposed PAL program. "Some of the things we might be looking at doing are boxing, motocross, and maybe junior baseball and tennis programs."

As for the master plan update, Ross said the district is early into the process.

"This is the first one of these I've done for an entire district and for the services it offers," he said. "Debby (Walker) is really kind of taking the lead on that, and our entire management team is working on it. It's pretty much a year-long project, and we're trying to do as much of it in-house as possible before outsourcing it."

The updated plan, Ross said, will help guide the district's decision-making process over the next decade.

"We're looking for trends," he said. "We know the average age of our community

members is still going up, so those trends are going to be changing. But overall, I think we have a satisfied group of users, who are intelligent enough to understand what we're going through financially. I'd say we feel a lot of community support."

Finally, Ross is following the progress of a grant application the district submitted for funds to build a gymnasium at the Swanson Community Center. The district does not own a gymnasium.

"That we be huge," he said of potentially getting the grant. "We want to add a gym and add offices. Swanson is only three years old, but it's already made a tremendous difference in that community."

An announcement about the grant recipient is not expected until next March, Ross said. Should MORPD receive the grant, Ross said construction could start the following year with the gym possibly open by April 2014.

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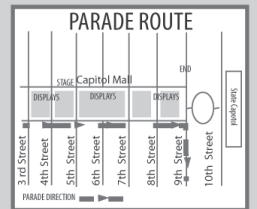
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Noah's Bagels Baseball Gang is a hit in Town and Country Village

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Arden-Carmichael News writer
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Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series highlighting local baseball players who live in the publishing area of Valley Community Newspapers.

For a group of mostly Sacramento natives who grew up playing baseball in this very rich baseball city and a few other places, a tradition was born about five years ago.

It was around this time that a group of seniors calling themselves the Noah's Bagels Baseball Gang began meeting once a week at Noah's Bagels in Town and Country Village.

Continuing their weekly gatherings since this time, this social group has grown to include 18 members.

The very first members of the group were Jim Westlake, Dick Alejo and the late Danny Mooradian, who are considered the founders of the group.

In speaking about the formation of the group, Dick said, "We just felt like every time we would go out and see some guy, we would say, 'Hey, we meet here for coffee. Why don't you join us.' Pretty soon, here we are (as a large group)."



THE NOAH'S BAGELS Baseball Gang meets weekly at Noah's Bagels in Town and Country Village.

Arden-Carmichael News photo, Lance Armstrong

Joe Duarte, one of the earliest members to join the group, said that there are various ways that one can be eligible to become a member of the group.

"(To join the group, one should) know somebody, played ball with somebody (or) went to school with them and played ball with them," Duarte said. "Some of these guys played minor league baseball. Only one - Cuno Barragan - played in the big leagues. He caught for the (Chicago) Cubs for (three) years. Almost all of them, ex-

cept for two or three, played high school baseball. I never played high school baseball, because I went in the merchant Marines in 1944, when I was 15 years old."

Duarte said that he eventually became a baker, but chuckled when asked about bagels, saying (back then, in the 1940s), "I'd never heard of them."

During one of the group's recent gatherings, the following members of the group in attendance shared information about their connections to baseball.

Barragan: "I was born (on June 20, 1932) and raised in Sacramento. I graduated from Sacramento High School in January 1950, and I played football and baseball at Sacramento Junior College. I signed a contract with the Sacramento Solons in 1952, and I played my first year of professional baseball in 1953 for Idaho Falls and then came back and went in the service in 1954 and 1955. I did two years of active duty in the Navy. I went to spring training with the Solons in 1956, was optioned to Amarillo, Texas, Western League, and had a reasonably good year there, and played with the Sacramento Solons in 1957."

Barragan added that after a brief retirement in 1958, he eventually was drafted

See Baseball Gang, page 7



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FROM THE "BIGS." Cuno Barragan, a member of the Noah's Bagel's Baseball Gang, played baseball for the Chicago Cubs from 1961 to 1963.



Arden-Carmichael News photo, Lance Armstrong

BAGEL BOYS. Members of the "bagel boys," as the group is sometimes called, enjoy a moment during a recent gathering at Noah's Bagels.

Baseball Gang: Social group has grown to include 18 members

Continued from page 6

from the Solons by the Chicago Cubs in 1961.

"My first at bat was (at Wrigley Field on) Sept. 1 against the San Francisco Giants and I hit a home run off of Dick LeMay on the first pitch. It was pretty exciting."

Dick Alejo: "I was born in 1936. My professional career was not that big. I just went down to Mexico and played for a team, called Puebla, with Cuno Barragan and Sparky Anderson (who later played and managed in Major League Baseball). Besides that, I played for the American Legion Post 61, McClatchy High School and in the Winter League and at Sacramento Junior College. I did well, but I'm not going to (the National Baseball Hall of Fame in) Cooperstown!"

Nick Capachi: "I played on all the city leagues growing up - the 125-pound, 75-pound leagues - then I played for (American) Legion, high school, county leagues, the Placer-Nevada League and the KFBK all-star team," said Capachi, who turned 77 last April. "I also played on the (Sacramento Junior) College team. We won the state championship in 1953. We beat Long Beach for the state championship right here at (William) Land Park. I also played in the Army, while I was sta-

tioned in the Presidio (in San Francisco)."

Augie Amorena: "I went to Sacramento High School and graduated in 1948. My parents (Amelia and Augustine Amorena) were immigrants from Spain. I started playing baseball when I was about 14. I played Summer League in the different weight divisions. I played (American) Legion, Sac JC and local Winter League, Spring League. We had a team in the Winter League, Julius Style Shop, and Joe Freitas was the manager. We were all young kids, just out of high school. The enthusiasm, the fun, we could hardly wait until Sunday to play ball. We did okay. We won a championship one year. And I played minor league baseball four years (including his time in the International League with the Edmonton Eskimos).

I also played in the service for the Army team (in Hawaii)."

Mike Bakarich: "I was born on Mother's Day, 1944, at Sacramento County Hospital. When we were younger, there was no Little League. You played in the 100-pound league, got weighed. I grew up in West Sacramento and I had to take the Gibson bus and the streetcar to go to McClatchy Park to play baseball. They couldn't remember my name, so they called me 'the kid from across the river.' I played with these guys since I was in the 7th grade, probably. I went to Grant Tech (College, which was located across the street from Grant High School) and I played all three sports there. Then I played

baseball in the Winter League, in the National Division, played in the County League and the Rural League and I quit playing hard ball in 1960 or 1961, because I like to play fast-pitch softball. We were playing maybe 75 or 80 ball games a summer, and trying to

play baseball and softball was kind of tough. With the fast-pitch softball, I've been to two world tournaments and two national tournaments. I played all over the United States. I'm in the fast-pitch hall of fame and the baseball hall of fame in Sacramento."

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Chandler Copps Amphitheater dedicated at Camp Mokitana

By **SUSAN LAIRD**
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The first phase of the renovation of Camp Mokitana – the old Camp Fire Girls camp located in River Bend (formerly Goethe) Park – was celebrated when the camp's amphitheater was dedicated in memory of Rotarian Chandler Copps on Sept. 15.

Dignitaries from the county, Rotary District 5180 and SaveMart Supermarkets were on hand for the dedication – as were members of the American River Parkway Foundation, which had voted just the night before to become partners in the restoration of the facility.

Located in the heart of River Bend Park, Camp Mokitana's 10 acres are in the heart of the bend of the river. In effect, the rest of the park "barbells" around it. The restoration of the old camp by the Rotarians and their partners will restore this prime property to the Sacramento community, for use by scouting groups,

Boys and Girls clubs, church youth groups and other family groups.

Rotary District 5180 and SaveMart have jointly committed to raise \$500,000 to the restoration effort over a five-year period.

The camp site is significant and holds great sentimental importance to generations of Sacramento area children – now adults – who attended summer Camp Fire camps at Camp Mokitana for well over a half century.

The property was originally gifted to the Camp Fire Girls by Charles M. Goethe, a strong believer in conservation. The Sacramento-Sierra Camp Fire Council ran decades of successful day camp and overnight camp programs for Sacramento Valley youth there.

When the council closed in 2008, the property reverted back to Sacramento County – with the provision that it remain a camp for youth in the region, and that any future Camp Fire youth would have access to the camp.

At the dedication, eyes grew misty as a Dutchman's Pipevine butterfly flew

over the heads of those dedicating the renovated camp amphitheater in memory of Rotarian Chandler Copps, who saw the need to restore this resource to the community – and took action to make it happen. The butterfly's caterpillar, called "Charley" by campers, can only survive on Dutchman's Pipevine, which grows abundantly at Camp Mokitana. It is a precious habitat.

"We've become friends, working together on this project," said Don Beans, director of community relations for SaveMart Supermarkets. "Our primary giving interests center around health, wellness and feeding the hungry. This project really fit into 'health and wellness' for young people and families. We've been here four years and we are doing our best to get involved with the community. We are proud to be working with Rotary, because they always take on the tough projects."

"I want to acknowledge and thank to Rotary and SaveMart and others for supporting the renovation," said County Supervisor Don Nottoli. "We now

have an opportunity with a strong local cadre involved in the restoration and improvement, and hopefully once it is completed it will be an area in the American River Parkway where people can come enjoy the natural setting and get a better sense of what a crown jewel this really is. We tend to forget that young people in the area don't get to experience something like this."

"We are over 40 Rotary clubs in the area and almost 2,000 Rotarians strong," said Jack Taylor, District 5180 governor. "Rotary has been successful because of the partnerships we've formed with SaveMart and others. Our theme for this year is 'Share Your Rotary Passion.' This is one example of the many, many ways Rotarians share their passion for the community."

Elaine Copps, Chandler's widow, perhaps summarized things best at the dedication.

"Not too long ago, I found a note in Chandler's desk, in his hand," she said. "It said: You do not get love. You give love. And it returns the favor."

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Bandleader celebrates 74th year playing for U.S. big band dance fans

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Buddy stands up, saxophone ready and gives the down-beat. Fourteen professional musicians follow the legendary bandleader as he celebrates his 74th year showcasing America's favorite dance hits.

The afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 25 will kick off the 11th annual "Autumn Ball" in the dance hall of Elks Lodge No. 6 with Orval "Buddy" Harpham in charge as dancers joyfully swing out to the music and vocalist Lynn Steiner sings the ballads.

One of the founders of the Nor Cal Big Bands Preservation Society, Harpham's career began in 1937 when, as a 16 year old, he played in Sacramento's "Dime a Dance" emporium. The Auburn native never looked back, attaining stints from live and recorded radio shows, to the elite U.S Navy Corps band, and to name bands in leading hotels.

Harpham earned a master's degree from the College of the Pacific and spent 35 years teaching in Sacramento middle and elementary schools. He has led his own fifteen-piece orchestra for 63 years.

The "Autumn Ball" is sponsored by SeniorMag Live and Avalon Hearing Aid Centers. Singles and couples are welcome. Special talent entertainment begins at 1 p.m. Dance hosts will be available. Snacks will be available at 3 p.m., and prizes at 4 p.m. Individual tickets are \$12, group tickets are \$11. Gold Card member tickets are \$10. Elks Lodge No. 6 is located at 6446 Riverside Blvd. Call (916) 444-6138 or e-mail loucopp45@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy

ENJOY THE TOE-TAPPING melodies of Buddy Harpham's band at the 11th annual "Autumn Ball" on Sunday, Sept. 25.



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Offseason hard work, dedication about to pay off at local high school gridirons

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

Editor's note: This is part one of a two-part series featuring high schools in the Arden-Carmichael News publishing area. This issue, we highlight Rio Americano, El Camino and Del Campo high schools.

All across the country the stadium lights are clicking to life on Friday nights. For Rio Americano, El Camino and Del Campo, the sweat and grind of the off-season is about to pay off. It's game time.

Rio Americano Raiders

Rio Americano comes into this season looking for a taste of the playoffs after just missing out last year. The Raiders (4-6 in 2010) will depend on a young group of mostly juniors to try and get the team over the playoff hump. Head coach Christian Mahaffey talked about his goals for the team in 2011.

"We have only nine seniors, the rest are juniors. We're young and talented," he said. "We don't have a defined goal this year other than to play hard week-to-week."

There's no question that the next logical step for the Raiders is a playoff spot in the Capital Football League.

"I think (the playoffs) is a definite possibility," said Mahaffey.

Rio will rely heavily on a strong run game in 2011. Last season the Raiders averaged 248.5 yards per game on the ground.

Star running back and cornerback Basil Okoroike is an undeniable team leader according to Mahaffey. Last season Okoroike ran for 573 yards and eight touchdowns and also caught eight passes and added another score through the air.

Mahaffey named Bobby Keenan (offensive tackle/defensive end), Alfonso Castro (offensive tackle/defensive end) and Bob Roseberry (offensive guard/defensive tackle) as other players to watch this year.

The biggest rival for Rio is now and has always been Jesuit High School. If you stand at the corner of either school and peer around the corner, you can quite literally see the other school. They are so close together that

a rivalry has brewed deep within the student bodies for generations.

In 2010 the Raiders defeated the Marauders of Jesuit in a wild game by the score of 34-33. This year, however, Rio fell to their archrival in a scoreboard busting season-opener by the score of 52-38 on Sept. 3.

In the game, Okoroike rushed for 157 yards and two touchdowns. He also returned five kicks in the game for a total of 72 yards; Keenan amassed seven tackles (including a sack) and junior quarterback Mark Lyon threw for 193 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the loss.

Rio shares the Capital Football league with Whitney, Mira Loma, Antelope, Cordova and El Camino high schools. Last season the Raiders went 1-3 against league opponents. Rio begins league play on Oct. 8 against Cordova.

El Camino Eagles

El Camino comes into the season with a similar goal – improving on a so-so season in 2010. The Eagles (4-6 in 2010) will take into the season a young team that lost five senior starters on the offensive line. Head coach Adam Reinking thinks his team has what it takes to climb back into the playoff picture.

"Our strength is in our offense and our specialty players," he said. "We have to give maximum effort in every



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IT'S GAME TIME. Local high school football teams have put in lots of hard work and dedication during the off season. This fall, each team will see the results of its labors. No matter the outcome, it is character building.

rep, practice and game. If we do that, wins should take care of themselves. Our team goal is to win league and make the playoffs."

The Eagles haven't made it to the postseason since 2006, but just a slight upgrade in league play could have them back in the hunt this season. The team averaged 255.1 yards

See Football, page 14



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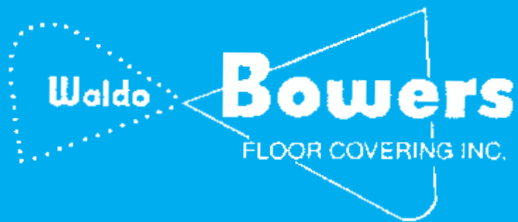
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Football: Team rivalries will keep fall games interesting

Continued from page 12

on the ground last season, making them a vaunted rushing attack that should continue this year.

Coach Reinking named Will McGehee (running back), Jonah Lessard (quarterback), Dee Kuwabara (wide receiver) and Cameron Marcum (cornerback) as players to watch this season.

El Camino's geographical rivals are Rio Americano and Mira Loma. All three happen to reside in the same conference, so those rivalries hold a little extra meaning for the teams involved. The three schools are separated by only a few miles.

The season has started out on a sour note for the Eagles as they have lost their first two games of the season to non-league opponents Colfax and Union Mine. So far on the season, McGehee has rushed for 102 yards and a touchdown; Lessard has thrown for 246 yards and a pair of scores; Kuwabara has 155 yards receiving along with two scores and Marcum has racked up seven tackles and two passes defensed.

The playoffs only take into account league games, however, so the Eagles have some time to correct themselves before league play begins on Oct. 6 against Antelope.

Del Campo Cougars

Del Campo (8-3 in 2010) is coming off a successful season that saw the Cougars reach the playoffs. And while they lost the playoff game against Rosemont High School, the team remains confident that another playoff run is within its grasp.

"I love my team, but we are very young and not as talented as in the past," said head coach Mike Dimino. "We are working hard right now. We have 32 juniors and 14 seniors. Our juniors as a JV team went 4-6 last year.

While the team appears to be raw in the early going, Dimino has been impressed with how his defense has played thus far.

For a team that has won 51 games in the past five seasons (and won two section titles), this year of rebuilding is something the school isn't used to in recent years.

"I have never coached a team to less than a .500 record," Dimino said. "This might be the first. Hopefully we get better each week and be ready for league play next month. As it is now, we have a lot of improving to do."

The team captains for the Cougars are Adrian Garcia, Sam Perez, Anthony Rodigo and Danny Newman.

The Cougars play in the Capital Valley Football Conference along with Bella Vista, Rio Linda, Oakmont, Christian Brothers and Casa Roble high schools. Dimino identified Casa Roble as the team's biggest rival.

"They are the only team to win a league championship other than us," he said.

The Cougars will meet the Rams of Casa Roble on Oct. 14. Del Campo currently holds a 1-1 record on the year after a loss against Enterprise (17-10) and a win against Rancho Cotate (15-14). League play begins for Del Campo on Oct. 7 against Rio Linda.

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CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
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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 1976

Sept. 24: C.K. McClatchy High School, Sacramento, Class of 1976 is hosting its 35th high school reunion at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. Golf Classic is on Sept. 23. Contact CKMcClatchy1976@yahoo.com or www.facebook.com/pages/CK-McClatchy-Class-of-1976/256399844375802?sk=wall or www.mcclatchy1976.com

ONGOING

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

SEPTEMBER

Bilingual Toastmasters

Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: 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

Bingo!

Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: Enjoy a great local charity game of bingo every Thurs. night at 6:30 p.m. Benefits projects in the community. Early bird for \$5, Regular game buy-in of \$20. Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., Sac. (916) 422-6666

Capitol Mall Farmer's Market

Sept. 22, 29, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 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

Sept. 22, 29, June 7, 14, 21, 28: 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

Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: 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

Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: 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.

Greenhaven Mothers' Club

Sept. 22: Kick off meeting! Spread the word to current members and interested moms in 95831. We have an exciting year planned. Learn about club activities and how you can be involved. 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Cabana Club South, 6615 Gloria Dr., Sac. www.greenhavenmothersclub.org

Living Positive with Chronic

Disease group
Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: 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
Sept. 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27: 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.

Date Correction!

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Jan Park opens under blue skies and sunshine

Story by **MARC MALONEY**
Arden-Carmichael News writer
mmaloney@valcomnews.com

Photos by **BILL CONDRAY**
Arden-Carmichael News photographer
bill@valcomnews.com

Ending an uncertain past filled with stops and starts, visions and revisions, Jan Park in Carmichael opened to an appreciative, festive crowd Saturday morning, Sept. 17 under blue skies and sunshine.

The 13.6-acre site at Jan Drive and Slate Way has been owned by the Carmichael Park and Recreation District (CRPD) for more than 40 years, and at several times over that period, the park faced an uncertain future. The park's final design was settled upon only recently, and ground was bro-

ken on the project only this May.

The developed portion of the park site offers a play area with a swing set and a few other play structures, a small turf play area, picnic sites, and walking trails. Much of the site was left undeveloped intentionally. In May, CPRD Administrator Jack Harrison said, "We're going to be keeping it much like it is. That's what the people really wanted, and that site really lends itself to a design that emphasizes its natural state."

The site provides habitat for a multitude of plant and animal species including the big brown bat, red-tailed hawk, Pacific chorus frog, gopher snake, barn owl, and blue, valley, and corn oaks.



At one point while the park was being planned, CRPD proposed selling four of the site's acres to developers to generate development funds for the park. Neighbors opposed to the proposed land sale formed the Barrett Hills Neighborhood Association in 2009 in response, with the association's member-

ship quickly championing the cause of preserving the entire site. Through countless fundraisers, work days at the site, and brainstorming sessions, the association created a "no land sale" proposal for the park, which the CRPD embraced. The neighborhood association also raised funds for the park's

development via sales of commemorative bricks and did lots of the behind-the-scenes grunt work preparing the site.

During Saturday morning's dedication, Karen Borman, chair of the CRPD Board of Directors, praised the partnership between the district and the membership of the neighborhood association. The association, she said, proved especially important when it came to the CRPD receiving a \$410,000 state grant for the park's development.

"If it wasn't for that collaboration," Borman said flatly, "we wouldn't have gotten (the grant)."

Sacramento County District 3 Supervisor Susan Peters echoed the importance of the collaboration between the county and the residents living near the park site, comparing the park's opening to a Midwestern barn-raising.

"This demonstrates what can be done when everyone pulls together," Peters noted.

Following the opening remarks, the park officially opened to the public; the colorful celebration included clowns, Styrofoam airplanes soaring above (and sometimes into) the crowd, interactive science and nature exhibits, and free food and ice cream.

Jan Park is the third park opened by the CRPD in the last few years, joining O'Donnell Heritage Park and Patriots Park in the district's list of assets.

See photos, page 19

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