

## Metal thefts plague Carmichael, region

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Science & Space Center  
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Arden-Carmichael News file photo, Lance Armstrong

PATRIOT PARK in Carmichael was hit by metal thieves in December. Plaques honoring fallen heroes, pictured in this file photo from 2010, were stolen, destroyed and sold to metal recyclers. One recycler turned one customer over to authorities when the large plaque, broken and ground down, appeared to be "suspicious."

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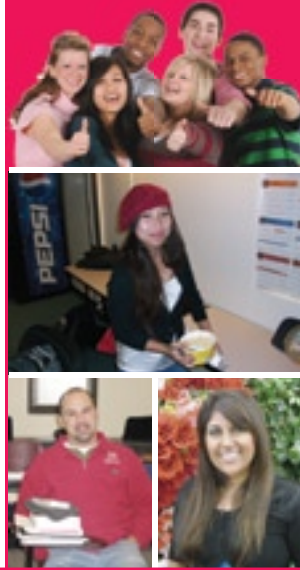
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## Metal thefts continue to plague Carmichael

By **CORRIE PELC**  
Arden-Carmichael News writer  
[corrie@valcomnews.com](mailto:corrie@valcomnews.com)

Anyone that has been keeping tabs on the news the last few months knows there's a major problem in the Sacramento area with metal thievery: everything from copper wiring to manhole covers. According to an article in *The Sacramento Bee* in December, the City of Sacramento has spent about \$900,000 in replacing copper wiring, metal objects, and hiring outside contractors. And it's not just in our community – according to an article on News10.net this past November, theft of metals like copper, bronze, and stainless steel are a global problem stretching from Africa to Europe.

The Carmichael area has seen quite a surge in metal thefts over the past month. For instance, the Carmichael Recreation and Park District (CRPD) has been the target of metal thieves quite a few times. According to Park Services Manager Keith Maddison, copper wiring was both damaged and taken at the La Sierra Community Center on two different occasions and wiring was damaged in the sports field lighting at Carmichael Park. In both damaging instances, while the thieves did not necessarily get away with wire, what they left behind was unusable and needed to be replaced, which Maddison said cost the District about \$25,000 to \$30,000 to fix.

### Patriot Park thefts

Then on the morning of Dec. 19, CRPD maintenance personnel discovered five of 12 bronze plaques – four inductee plaques and the larger dedication plaque – had been forcibly removed from the Wall of Honor

located in Patriots Park. Others had signs of attempted removal, according to Jack Harrison, district administrator of CRPD. Harrison said the plaques honor local heroes who had given their lives to serve their country or their community, and were affixed to a concrete wall with a heavy-bonded epoxy glue and screws with a layer of epoxy over them.

"We thought they were pretty secure, but as we found...If somebody wants to take something bad enough there's ways to break it loose and unfortunately that's what happened here," he said.

### Suspect caught

On Dec. 29 suspect Casey Alger, 37, was arrested by the Sheriff's Department on charges of theft and possession of stolen property for the stolen plaques, according to Deputy Jason Ramos of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. Ramos said the suspect attempted to recycle the large dedication plaque at a local recycling center, which grew suspicious and contacted the Sheriff's Department.

Ramos said although the large dedication plaque was recovered, it was broken in two parts and ground down – making it unusable – and the other four plaques were not recovered. And for all the time the suspect took in removing the plaques and destroying them, Ramos said the recycling center would have given him just \$43 for the large plaque.

That, compared to the cost CRPD is looking at to replace the plaques and reinstall all 12 plaques to make them

See *Metal Theft*s, page 12



# True tales of Flying Tiger aviator's amazing adventures at Arden-Dimick

Special to Arden-Carmichael News

Attention Military History and Aviation Buffs:

The true, larger-than-life adventures of an extraordinary aviator from over half a century ago will be recounted in an adult program at the Arden-Dimick Library on Saturday, Jan. 21 at 2 p.m.

Join local author Barry S. Martin as he shares some tall, but true tales of Royal Leonard's extraordinary adventures as Chiang Kai-shek's personal pilot, co-conspirator with the Flying Tigers commander, and aviator on the "Skyway to Hell," from his new book *Forgotten Aviator: The Adventures of Royal Leonard*.

Find out more about this legendary aviator and the drama and danger of the Golden Age of American Aviation and the Sino-Japanese War.

Refreshments will be served and questions will be welcomed.

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



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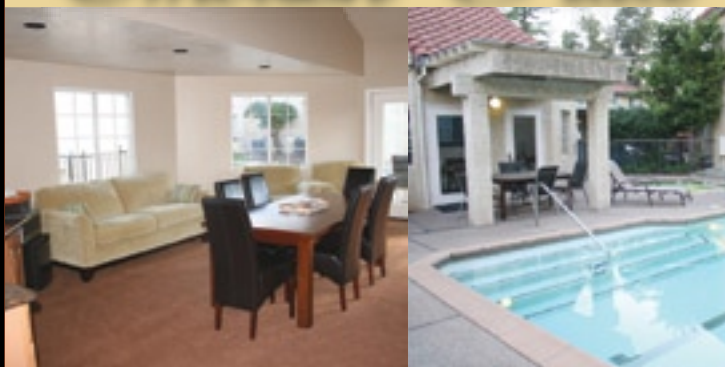
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Who let the dogs out?

# Carmichael Canine Corral offers play spot for dogs, owners

By **CORRIE PELC**  
Arden-Carmichael News writer  
corrie@valcomnews.com

Dog parks are a hot commodity right now. According to an article in *USA Today* in December 2011, dog parks are the fastest grow-

ing segment of city parks in the United States – there were 569 dog parks in the 100 largest cities in 2010, a 34 percent increase over five years, where parks overall only increased by three percent. The article said this re-

flects changing demographics are there are now more households with dogs (43 million) than children (38 million).

One group looking to give Carmichael and surrounding area residents a great dog park experience is the Carmichael Canine Corral Association, which oversees the Canine Corral dog park at Carmichael Park. Open since 2000, the Canine Corral saw over 4,000 weekly visits by dogs in the spring of 2011, according to Elizabeth Susan Brown, president of the Carmichael Canine Corral Association.

“The Canine Corral is an off-leash dog park, which is a safe, pleasant, enjoyable place for dogs to run, play with other dogs, socialize with other dogs,” said Ellen Atwood, director of communications for the Carmichael Canine Corral Association. She said the Corral also lets dog owners social-

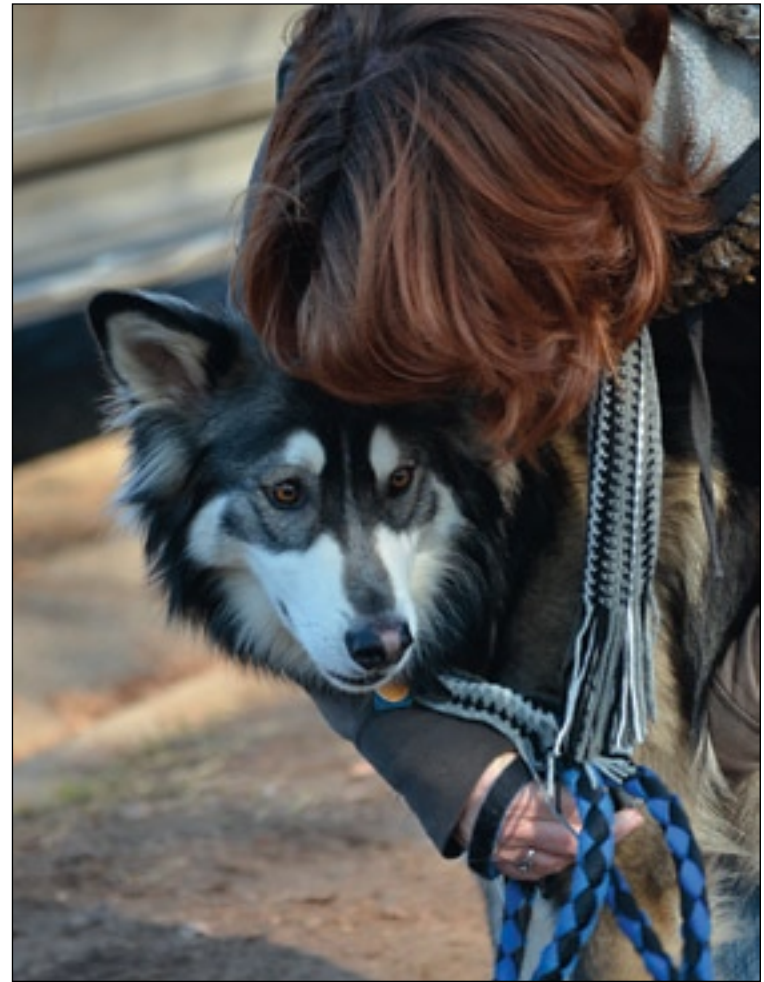


Photo courtesy, Sarah Pratt

*CANINE-HUMAN BONDING* is a given when both have access to fresh air, activity and positive social situations. The Carmichael Canine Corral Association hopes to expand the resources at the local dog park with the help of the community.

See *Dog park*, page 5

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# Dog park: Funding sought to renovate existing Carmichael dog park

Continued from page 4

ize, both with other dogs and other humans.

## No public money

According to Atwood, the Association in conjunction with the Carmichael Recreation & Park District administers the needs of the dog park.

"It is not funded by any county or state association or public money – all of the upkeep, the rakes, the poop bags, getting the leaves picked up and the trash bags, and so on and so forth is all done by volunteers," she said. In addition to volunteers, those that utilize the Corral can become members of the Association for \$20 a year to help fund the Corral. Atwood said a membership grants access to the members' only section of the association's Website, [www.carmichaeldogpark.com](http://www.carmichaeldogpark.com), as well as additional information sent to members.

Now going on 12 years of use, Brown said the dog park is becoming a "bit shabby" from use and it is time for a major renewal.

"To renovate our dog park for the health, safety, and security of humans and dogs both, we need sewage, drains, fences, and grass watering systems," Brown said. "Our improvement list also contains ponds for play, wash stations, electricity, lighting, walkways, and more."

Atwood adds the renovation would also include much-needed amenities for humans in the small dog section of the Corral, including water, shade and seating. "A lot of our efforts are going to create not just a safe and healthy environment for the dogs, but also for the humans," she said.

## Two plans

The Association has two plans for the renovation – one is their dream dog park that Atwood said will cost \$250,000. Atwood said the large cost comes from the improvements to the infrastructure, things like plumbing, grading, seeding, fencing and shade structures, that are important but carry a high price tag. "We

know now right at this moment that we're not able to reach that goal, so we have a down-scale version that will do just the absolute necessities and that is a total of \$20,000 that we need by June 2012," she adds.

## How to get involved

In order to meet either of these goals, the Association needs to raise funds and they have been holding a number of fund raisers. For instance, in December dog owners could pay to have their pooch featured in a calendar that will be produced and sold to benefit the Corral. Atwood said the Association is currently selling bricks that can be personalized to memorialize an animal or human or just because. The bricks, which will be installed permanently at the dog park, cost \$125 for a small brick and \$250 for a larger brick.

## Corporate sponsors sought

And the Association is also looking for corporate sponsors to help their cause. "We

happily would change the name to reflect any company or person willing to fund a large part of our renovation budget," Brown said.

As the Association works towards its goals, Atwood said it continues to be a place where owners can take

their dogs for well-needed exercise, both dogs and owners can expand their relationships, and owners can use it as a source of education about pet behavior and training. "It's kind of like

See Dog park, page 6

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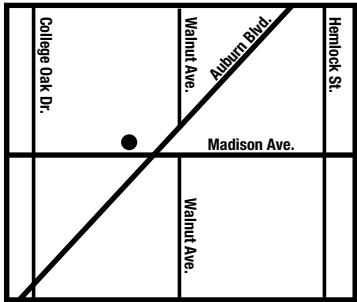


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## Dog park: Carmichael Canine Corral provides fun, safe place for dogs and owners

Continued from page 5

parents at a preschool – they sit around and watch their kids play,” she said. “They’re pet parents sitting around watching their animals play and talk about things that are pertinent to animal behavior.”

## Dog-gone fun

Thinking about taking your dog to a dog park for the first time? Michelle Dillon, owner of The Pet Agency – offering home pet care and dog training in the Carmichael, Arden and Fair Oaks areas – offers these tips:

- Look for a dog park that is clean, well-maintained and has a good reputation. Dillon also suggests finding a dog park that has docents or people in charge that are there consistently “so they can intervene if there’s any scuffles that come up or behavioral issues between the dogs.”
- Look for a dog park that has a separate area for smaller dogs. “Let’s say you have a dog that weights 100 pounds, is very muscular and is excited to be playing,” Dillon said. “That dog may not be able to see a tiny dog and might run right over a tiny dog and could break its back and cause permanent injury.”
- Make sure your dog is well-socialized, has all its vaccinations, and you have an okay from your veterinarian.
- Owners should bring plenty of “poop bags,” sunglasses and a hat, but make sure to leave any food at home. “And no cigarettes – some people think smoking in dog parks is okay, but a lot of people get offended by that,” Dillon said.
- Have fun! “When someone really loves somebody, to watch that organism have the time of it’s life is a great joy – it increases a person’s mental health, it increases the dog’s mental health,” she said. “It’s a great place just to enjoy the outdoors.”



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Special workshop:

# Fair Oaks Boulevard Corridor update for Carmichael's 'Main Street'

Special to Arden-Carmichael News

Members of the public are invited to attend a special Fair Oaks Corridor Plan workshop on Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Carmichael Library multi-purpose room.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide residents with an update on the recently approved corridor plan and to gain input on design aspects of gateway monuments for Fair Oaks Boulevard that will welcome visitors to the Carmichael community.

The workshop is hosted by the Planning Division of the Sacramento County Community Planning and Development Department and the Carmichael-Old Foothill Farms Community Planning Advisory Council.

These efforts are underway as part of plans to revitalize and enhance Fair Oaks Boulevard as a "main Street" for the Carmichael area. During the special workshop, Department of Transportation (DOT) staff will provide details on projects being designed for the "main street" effort, and Planning Division staff will provide an update on the Fair Oaks Boulevard Corridor Plan, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in September 2011.

The corridor plan was developed to help guide revitalization and enhancement of Fair Oaks Boulevard. The overall goal of the plan is to facilitate development of a pedestrian-oriented town center for the Carmichael community including a "main street."

"Main street" efforts are moving forward with Phase I and Phase II improvement projects for sections of the Fair Oaks Corridor Plan corridor area, including new gateway monuments; improvements at the intersection of Marconi Avenue/Fair Oaks Boulevard; and, major pedestrian, bicycle and roadway enhancements planned from south of Landis Avenue to Engle Avenue.

The Phase 1 project is currently out to bid, and Phase 2 is expected to start construction in 2014.

Interested residents desiring additional information about the corridor plan can contact either Tricia Stevens [e-mail: stevenst@saccounty.net or phone: (916) 874-2926] or Surinder Singh [e-mail: singh-su@saccounty.net or phone (916) 874-5462]. For information about the proposed streetscape improvements, contact Steve White [e-mail: whitest@saccounty.net or phone (916) 874-5354].

The Carmichael Library is located at 5605 Marconi Avenue in Carmichael.

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# Speaker & Potluck for Carmichael Canine Corral Dog Park Jan. 21

Special to Arden-Carmichael News

Come learn how to work better with your four-legged canine family members and bring a potluck dish to feed 10 to 12 hungry neighbors at the Second annual Carmichael Canine Corral Dog Park Fundraiser Potluck on Saturday, Jan. 21.

Regional trainer for Petco, Tom J. Lucido, will be the guest speaker. There will be a raffle and plenty of prizes. All funds raised at this event will go to

the renovation of the Carmichael Dog Park.

The event will be held at the Carmichael Veterans' Hall, corner of Fair Oaks and Grant Avenue in Carmichael, Jan. 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. The event is \$5 per person. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or six tickets for \$10. "Like" the Carmichael Canine Corral on Facebook. The group's official website is [www.CarmichaelDogPark.com](http://www.CarmichaelDogPark.com). For additional information, email [CarmichaelCanineCorral@yahoo.com](mailto:CarmichaelCanineCorral@yahoo.com).



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# 'Young at Art 2012' opens vista of possibilities to region's middle school students

By SUSANLAIRD  
Arden-Carmichael News editor  
susan@valcomnews.com

Art is a path for the exploration of beauty...a door to an infinite number of possibilities. It is not intended to be enjoyed – or created – only by the cultured or the elite. It is for all people, and for every age group.

This is especially true for young people, who see the future through a unique and hopeful perspective.

For the past four years, the annual "Young at Art" show for middle school students in the Sacramento region has showcased the work of young artists. Students and schools from Sacramento, Davis, Auburn, Woodland, Granite Bay, Folsom and El Dorado Hills have participated in the past.

This annual student art show is highly anticipated and well attended. It is sponsored by St. Francis Catholic High School, which is known statewide and nationally for its programs in the visual and performing arts. Although St. Francis is a high school for young women, entries from both boys and girls are encouraged. The competition is open to students from public, private and home schools.

At a time when arts programs are operating in a "reduced" (or perhaps, non-existent) role in some schools, this program provides individual students an opportunity to shine.

There are no entry fees, and the grand opening of the show is a fun experience. The young people of this area are extremely talented.

The show is an opportunity for students to experience the procedures for entering an art show, as well as to have their talents acknowledged in a regional forum. It is an opportunity for inspiration and validation.

The grand opening of the art show will be held on Feb. 1 in the St. Francis High School Arts Complex at 5 p.m. All artists and their families are welcome. Awards will be presented at 6 p.m.

The prizes are pretty cool. These include art supplies (sketchbooks, charcoal, paints and more), gift certificates to local art supplies stores, etc. The grand prize is a full scholarship to the St. Francis High School Summer Arts Workshop for Middle School Students, worth \$275. The grand prize winner will have the opportunity to pursue his or her arts passion with the direction of the Troubadour Art Department's amazing faculty.

**Entry details:** Students and schools should deliver art works to the St. Francis High School Art Theatre Complex Foyer on Thursday, Jan. 26 between 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Artwork will not be accepted at any other time or date. The campus is located at 5900 Elvas Avenue in

Sacramento, just off 65th Street and Highway 50.

Pictures must be matted, but canvas and sculptures do not need matting. A 2"x3" label should be permanently affixed to the front, lower right hand corner of the work. Information on the label should include: 1. Student first and last name; 2. Student grade; 3. School full name; and 4. Art teacher name.

The limit for submissions is up to 25 pieces per school and one work per student. All mediums and sizes of art are accepted. For more information, call (916) 737-5002.

Art is a vital expression of the creative mind. It encourages solutions-oriented thinking.

And when young people are encouraged to "think outside the box," amazing things can happen.



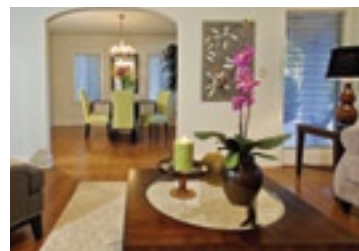
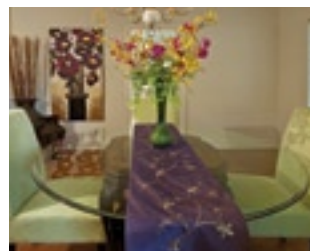
Image, courtesy  
YOUNG AT ART 2012 will give local middle school artists an opportunity to create and show a variety of artworks – and gain recognition in a regional Sacramento show.

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Know your neighbor

# Carmichael pianist has grand love for Sacramento

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

Parmys (Muse) Weinberg, a 44-year resident of Carmichael, has had a lifelong love for music. And although she did not grow up in Sacramento, Calif. or even on the West Coast, she developed an undying love for our state's capital city.

Weinberg, 76, is a regular performer in the Eddie Lovato group, which performs lively classic music at Friday afternoon senior dances at Carmichael's Mission Oaks Community Center.

## The Eddie Lovato Group

Those who are familiar with these dances know that Lovato's group brings many smiles to the faces of seniors who enjoy dancing to the band's performances of many popular tunes of the past.

The band provides music for such ballroom dancing as Latin, fox trot, waltz, samba, rumba, cha-cha, tango and swing.

Although the lineup of Lovato's group has changed throughout the years, one familiar face in the band for the past 11 years has been Weinberg.

Altogether Weinberg, who is a Louisiana native and an accomplished pianist, has been performing at Mission Oaks dances for the past 16 years.

Prior to joining Lovato's group, she played for five years at the communi-

ty center dances with the Bob Hinton Orchestra.

## Favorite song

In addition to the many nationally and internationally known songs that Lovato's group plays, the band also performs a song that expresses Weinberg's deep love for the capital city.

The song, which is simply called, "Sacramento," is a favorite among Mission Oaks dancers.

Weinberg, who wrote the song in the 1990s, always enjoys the positive responses that she receives each time she plays the song at the Carmichael dances.

When asked how a Louisiana native became so inspired to write such a pro-Sacramento song, Weinberg explained that she not only fell in love with the city after moving here, but she has an even deeper connection to the place.

"I have to say that my credentials for (writing the song) are positively respectable, because my grandfather's brother, Edward Muse, who was also from Louisiana, found work for the California Highway Commission (in Sacramento on Aug. 19, 1918)," Weinberg said.

## Edward Muse

But 14 years before he became employed by the state, Muse, who stud-



Arden-Carmichael News photo, Lance Armstrong  
CARMICHAEL PIANIST Parmys Weinberg has built a longtime career as a musical performer in the Sacramento region.

ied at the Art Students League and the Academy of Industrial Design in New York City, was involved with work in Sacramento. During these years, he was involved in the commercial art field in the capital city, as well as in Stockton and San Francisco.

While working for the state, Muse designed the official emblem for the California State Employees Association and the official seals for seven state departments. These departments

were the Department of Motor Vehicles, the California Highway Patrol, the Toll Bridge Authority, the California State Water Authority, the Division of Forestry, the Division of Highways and the Department of Public Works.

Muse also supervised many State Fair exhibits of the Department of Public Works and was involved in the planning

See Pianist, page 11

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# Pianist: Weinberg's Sacramento roots date back to the early 1900s

Continued from page 10

and promotion of beautification projects on several Capitol properties.

Among these projects were a proposed pioneer memorial that was intended to be placed at the entrance to the Capitol and a series of large oil paintings of wild-life scenes and early California.

At least one of these paintings was completed. The painting, which depicted a scene of a bewildered fawn standing alongside a doe that had been killed by a hunter, was hung beside the Capitol's north staircase.

Muse, who served the state for nearly 24 years, passed away at his home at 2314 26th St. on Jan. 3, 1944, just five days prior to his 70th birthday.

Weinberg, who lives in the same Carmichael house that she moved into with her husband and two young children in 1967, said that she knew very little information about her grandfather's brother when she arrived in California.

Weinberg's curiosity led her to contact the commission regarding Edward Muse in 1974. And fortunately for Weinberg, the commission was able to provide her with some details about her late local relative.

## Chico connection

Weinberg said that she has also investigated the life of her grandfather, James Holcomb Muse (1869-1920), who also lived in California.

"My grandfather is buried in Chico," Weinberg said. "He was a pharmacist up there. He followed his brother out here (to California). He died up there from an abscessed tooth. (After James' death), his wife and my father, who was nine, moved back to Louisiana. That's why we really didn't know too much. My dad only lived to be 52 and he didn't get to pass on that kind of talk. So, I just sort of investigated after I moved out here."

Although she did not learn as much as she would have liked to about her family history during her childhood, Weinberg, who was one of the five children of James Edward and Vera (Kennedy) Muse, achieved an appreciation for music at a very young age.

## Family love of music

Weinberg's parents had a great love for music. Her mother played piano for the Eastern Star during her younger years and had experience as an actress, and her father had a great ear for music and would often sing to Parmys when she was a little girl.

While living in a home with her own immediate family and some of her older cousins and an aunt, Weinberg would observe the piano lessons of her extended family members.

Remembering these moments, Weinberg said, "I wanted to do everything they did (on the piano). And I would try to pick out their songs when the music teacher left them."

## Britney Spears' family classmates

Weinberg, who spent the earliest part of her life in the small town of Tangipahoa, La., explained a bit of music-related trivia with a link to her childhood.

"I went to school three miles up the road, after the fourth grade, in Kentwood, which is the hometown of the famous (pop singer) Britney Spears," Weinberg said. "And I went to school with her grandparents. Her grandmother was (Emma) Jean Forbes (Spears) and her grandfather was June Austin (Spears). We're talking small town here. I didn't know Britney. I only knew her grandmother and her grandfather. I was gone when she came to fame."

Weinberg eventually attended Southeastern Louisiana College – today's Southeastern Louisiana University – where she majored in music education with an emphasis in piano and voice. She later used her education to teach in a vocal school in Colorado.

## Local pianist

Since moving to Carmichael, Weinberg has used her abilities as a pianist to work in many music-related jobs.

This experience includes playing piano at Aldo's Restaurant, La Posta Mexican Food restaurant and at Thares and Crockett studios for master ballet classes.

And last year, Weinberg ended her 14-year employment as a pianist at Biba restaurant.

In addition to her work with the Eddie Lovato group, Weinberg plays the piano with the trio, Nice 'n' Easy, led by Bob Noren, every other Saturday for dances at The Station in Roseville.

With a grin on her face, Weinberg said, "All of my jobs are music related. I don't know how to do anything else, except make gumbo."

## 'Sacramento'

In returning to the topic of her song, "Sacramento," Weinberg said that through her love for the capital city, she was inspired to write the song.

"My second husband died in 1994 and I was thinking about moving back to Louisiana," Weinberg said. "I thought of all the music people I've built up knowing here and I like it here so much and I just don't want to go back."

Instead of returning to Louisiana, Weinberg remained in California and wrote her Dixieland jazz-style song about the capital city for the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society.

Although the jazz society, as well as the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, who received a recording of the song, did not use the song in any manner, Weinberg said that she still has high hopes that the song will one day be purchased and used for a special purpose.



## Snowman Sculpting and Other Life Lessons

Mom would say that Dad was always the "first kid out of the house" to build the winter snowman. My brother and I giggled about it; we knew at a young age that Dad was enthusiastic about all his works of art.

Dad was a painter. He made the most beautiful pictures and I wanted to grow up to be just like him.

One time Dad gave me a drawing he made of an elephant and encouraged me to color it. He watched carefully as I tried to stay inside the lines. He put his hand on mine and said, "Sweetie, don't be afraid to go outside the lines, your ideas are too big to be boxed in."

Over the years I learned so much from him, and the gift of self-confidence tops the list.

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# Metal thefts: Carmichael Bible Church members held stakeout – caught thieves red-handed

Continued from page 2

more secure, which Maddison said will cost the District about \$3,500 to \$4,500.

"The damage is by far more than the amount of materials in a lot of cases," Maddison said.

## Security steps

The District is taking steps to protect other areas that have been targeted by metal thieves. Maddison said they have just installed alarmed panels on La Sierra Community Center to protect the copper wiring. And to protect the sport field lighting, CRPD is looking at options to protect the wires inside the pole boxes,

such as burying them or even pouring concrete on them.

"If you have to get a locator to find the box later on and take a little extra time, it's worth it, or if you have to take a jackhammer and ruin a \$50 box 30 years from now to get back in, it's better than the alternative of letting them destroy your copper over and over," Maddison said.

## Catching them red-handed

And it was the act of copper theft over and over that caused the congregation of Carmichael Bible Church – another recent metal theft victim – to take matters into

their own hands. According to the church's Administrative Pastor Matt Potratz, one morning in the beginning of December, staff noticed a hissing sound coming from the outside HVAC units of the church's main sanctuary. After having the units checked out, they were informed someone had punctured the evaporation lines on all of the condensing units to let the freon leak out.

"The HVAC person said, 'I think that you're being targeted for somebody to come back and try and steal your copper condensing units once the freon is all out,'" Potratz detailed. "The thieves have to drain that because it's under 100 pounds of pressure and if they just start cutting into the copper while it's under pressure, it will spray oil all over them and everything else. They have their routine down where they come and sabotage your units, hoping it won't be discovered, and then they come back the next day and completely rip into them and steal the copper out of them."

Potratz said the next morning staff found the thieves had been back and this time had stolen many of the copper parts of the units. However, not ev-

erything was taken and it looked like there was a good chance the thieves would be back that night. Potratz said some congregation members decided to stake out the scene in case they came back. He also contacted the Sheriff's Department to let them know what they were doing.

"We had a couple of our members stay the night in an adjacent building," Potratz recalls. "We set up a nanny cam – one of the guys has a kid and has a little camera to watch his baby go to sleep at night – and we set one of those up on the roof of the adjacent building, wired it down to a TV inside the building, and guys took shifts like every two hours overnight." Then at 4:30 in the morning, a car pulled up in front of the church, two men got out and jumped the fence surrounding the HVAC units. "That's when we called the Sheriff's Department and they ended up coming and swarming the scene and caught them red-handed," Potratz said.

## Copper a poor return

According to Potratz, the thieves would have received an estimated \$300 for the copper units they had sto-

len from the church, while in turn the church received \$45,000 from their insurance company to pay for all damage and replacement costs.

"It's a significant amount of money, especially for a non-profit religious organization which relies completely on donations to exist," he said. "We did have insurance that covered the loss, but we had a deductible and we're obviously looking at possible premiums being increased in the future. It does hurt in the long-run and it's just such a senseless act."

Although the church is now looking into ways keep the congregation from being targeted by thieves again, Potratz said they are still determined to hold to their mission of having an open campus that anyone can come to and holds no grudges to those involved.

"We aren't holding any kind of bad feelings towards those that are in places where they're desperate for help and we're here to try to help them in a positive way," he said. "We really want that to be the message that resonates from this whole story and episode is that we want to be a place where people are loved and where people can find hope."



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Taking charge:

# Discovery Museum brings the future of robotics to Sacramento youth

By CORRIE PELC  
Arden-Carmichael News writer  
corrie@valcomnews.com

With how technology has been advancing lately, almost on a daily level, it's not that hard to imagine a world where robots are an integral part. Just look at IBM's supercomputer "Watson" that beat some of the best contestants ever to be on *Jeopardy!* just last year.

At the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center in Sacramento, children can start preparing for a future including robots at the new Robotics Club, which started in February 2011.

"The future of most things is robotics," said Anika Greene, robotics coordinator for the Discovery Museum. "Mercy (Hospital) now has robotic surgery, NASA is concentrating on robotic exploration - there are things that robots can do that humans can't do, so people are tending to look more into robotics and how it can be used for everyday tasks. So it's definitely going to be something that's a part of their future. And so learning about it now gives them a chance to be a part of robotics when they get older, as well as just give them an understanding of what it is about."

The Robotics Club is geared towards students ages nine to 14 and meets every Friday evening from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Over an eight-week period, students use Lego Mindstorms® technology to build and program a robot to accomplish a specific task.

Students can then repeat the club as every eight-week project is different. For example, the club just finished a project where they built SumoBots - fighting robots where, like sumo wrestlers, they have to try to push each other off a ta-

ble. Greene said other projects have included building a smaller robot and programming it to run a maze, and even a "Body Forward" project that explored biomedical engineering.

## Power up

While building robots may sound cool, it may not be for every child. Greene said the Robotics Club is best geared towards children that are interested in technology and want to learn how to program.

"If your child has a real interest in LEGOs and robotics and technology and working with computers, that makes them perfect for this club," she said.

For Susan Kear of Davis, signing her 13-year-old son Westley up for the Robotics Club was a "no-brainer" due to his avid interest in technology, engineering and robotics.

"I wanted to build robots with other kids and I already liked using Lego Mindstorms," Westley said.

## Additional skills

Greene said while kids in the Robotics Club will obviously learn how to work with Lego Mindstorms and basic programming skills, they will walk away with much more than just that.

"They're working on a team, so they learn teamwork skills, they learn how to communicate with others," she said. "They learn how to problem solve because with robots it doesn't always work correctly the first time or the way they think it's going to work so they have to problem solve on how to fix it. So it's much more than just building a robot and programming it."

Kear agrees. "Finding mentors for your child in the area of their interest can be challenging. (Staff)



Photo courtesy, Discovery Museum Science & Space Center's Robotics Club  
*THE FUTURE IS NOW.* Students from the ages of nine to 14 are learning how to build, program and work with robots as part of the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center Robotics Club.

are not only knowledgeable about robotics, but also spend much of their time teaching the kids how to work constructively in groups and as a team. We have seen amazing leaps in Westley's social maturity and confidence, in addition to his robotics and programming knowledge."

## Hopeful future

So what does the future hold for the Robotics Club? Greene said they hope to offer both open and closed labs for those that wish to work on robotics projects when the Discovery Museum moves to the new Powerhouse building in about 2014. She adds they are also looking at expanding their school programs regarding robotics with potential outreach programs, as well as hosting robotics-related events.

And while the club's participants are mainly boys, Greene hopes to change that.

"We always love to see girls in robotics because robotics is going to become a huge part of our young people's lives in the future and so it would be great to have as much exposure with robotics for both boys and girls," she said.

*The Discovery Museum's Robotics Club is \$60 for members and \$75 for non-members. For more information, call (916) 808-3942 or visit [www.thediscovery.org/museum-programs/robotics-club](http://www.thediscovery.org/museum-programs/robotics-club).*



Photo courtesy, Discovery Museum Science & Space Center's Robotics Club  
*BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS* are welcome to join the Robotics Club at the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center.

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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.

## JANUARY

### Bilingual Toastmasters

**Jan. 12, 19, 26:** 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!

**Jan. 12, 19, 26:** 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

### Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market

**Jan. 12, 19, 26:** 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

**Jan. 12, 19, 26:** 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

**Jan. 12, 19, 26:** 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

**Jan. 12, 19, 26:** 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

**Jan. 12, 19, 26:** Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, May-Sept. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 4th & K streets, Sac. www.california-grown.com

### Sam Brannan Middle School

#### Visitation Days

**Jan. 12, 17, 18, 19:** Sam Brannan Middle School will host parent and 6th grade student visitation days. Come discover the exciting transformation taking place at Sam Brannan Middle School. See first-hand some of the best teaching taking place in Sacramento! All classrooms will be open to students and parents to visit, 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon. Contact the school office to schedule your visit. (916) 264-4350 x 1001.

### Sutterville Heights Optimist Club

**Jan. 12, 19, 26:** Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Golden Corral, 7700 W. Stockton Blvd., Sac. Charlie (916) 427-7136 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

### Volkssport walking

**Jan. 12:** 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

### Ballroom Dances

**Jan. 13, 17, 20, 24, 27, 31:** Enjoy dancing to a live band every Tuesday and Friday. 1:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. \$5/person. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael

### Carmichael Geranium Society

**Jan. 13:** Come to the monthly meeting of the Carmichael Geranium Society. Guests welcome. Meets every Second Friday of the month, 10 a.m.-12 noon. No mtg. in Aug. Carmichael Park Community Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael. Jean (916) 481-2076

### Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

**Jan. 13, 20, 27:** 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.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com

### Rotary Club of Point West

**Jan. 13, 20, 27:** 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

**Jan. 13, 20, 27:** 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

### Country Club Plaza Farmer's Market

**Jan. 14, 21, 28:** 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

### Food Addicts Anonymous

**Jan. 14, 21, 28:** 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.

### Carmichael Farmer's Market

**Jan 15, 22, 29:** 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

**Jan 15, 22, 29:** 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

**Jan 15, 22, 29:** 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



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Faces and places

# Carmichael Chamber honors those who serve

Photos by **BILL CONDRAY**  
Arden-Carmichael News photographer  
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The Carmichael Chamber honored four individuals who have dedicated significant time to serving the Carmichael community at the La Sierra Center on Jan. 6.

Dubbed the "Kitty's Glitter Banquet" in honor of Carmichael's 2012 Person of the Year, radio and television personality Kitty O'Neal, the event also recognized the efforts of the Warrick Family and Earl (Jack) Koobs.

Koobs, also known as "Ranger Jack," developed a nature preserve and a veterans' memorial in Carmichael. He was recognized as Carmichael Veteran of the Year. Koobs is a long-time member of Kiwanis, International.

Jim Warrick accepted flowers on behalf of his mother, Lola Warrick, honoring the Warrick Family as Carmichael Patriots of the Year. The Warricks are members of the Carmichael Elks, and for 53 years have been an integral part of the Carmichael Fourth of July Parade.

The beautiful and the powerful were present, including Congressman Dan Lungren, Assemblywoman Alyson Huber, Supervisor Susan Peters, Sac Metro Chamber President Roger Niello and former Sacramento Sheriff and KFBK radio personality John McGinness to name a few.

"Kitty has been so wonderful and so supportive of our community over the years," said Linda Melody, Carmichael Chamber administrative consultant. "It was a beautiful event."



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Saturday - January 28, 2012

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### Winter Bird Festival

Saturday, January 28

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**PATTY BAETA 806-7761**



### PRIVATE ARDEN OAKS

Private setting on tree lined street. 4 bedroom 3½ bath; grand floor plan, large formal dining room and living room. Separate hobby room or office has full bath, heat, vaulted ceiling and storage closets. 3-car garage plus carport, circular driveway, sparkling pool. See www.3521ArdenCreekRd.com \$775,000

**PATTY BAETA 806-7761**



### CAMPUS COMMONS

Beautiful remodel by Tlustosch Building. 4400 Model, 1700 square feet, 2 bedroom, 3 bath model w/den shines w/all the amenities. White cabinetry, granite counters, top of the line laminate flooring in Brazilian walnut, stacked stone fireplace, and much more. See www.1105DunbartonCircle.com \$359,900

**CHRIS BALESTRERI 996-2244**



### FANTASTIC RANDY PARK

4 bedroom 2 bath home located in a great neighborhood. This very spacious home includes a vintage fireplace, immaculate hardwood floors, completely landscaped front and back yard, and a very open kitchen. See: www.4619laurelwoodway.ihousenet.com \$249,000

**TIM COLLOM 247-8048**



### WYNDGATE CUSTOM

Customized 2 story 2 or 3 bedroom 3½ bath, features His & Hers custom baths and walk-in cedar closets. Open floor plan with raised wood beamed ceilings in living and dining rooms. French doors to patio. See: 455wyndgaterd.epropertiesites.com \$635,000

**PATTY BAETA 806-7761**



### COUNTY LIVING IN CARMICHAEL

Almost 4 private acres with a gorgeous 4 bedroom 4 bath home plus guest house! Amazing horse property has barn, stables, fenced & cross fenced! Imagine gathering your own eggs, jumping in the pool, cooking in gourmet kitchen and enjoying pastoral views! See: 6449stanleyave.greatluxuryestate.com \$1,695,000

**CARMAH HATCH 765-6210**

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