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February 14, 2013

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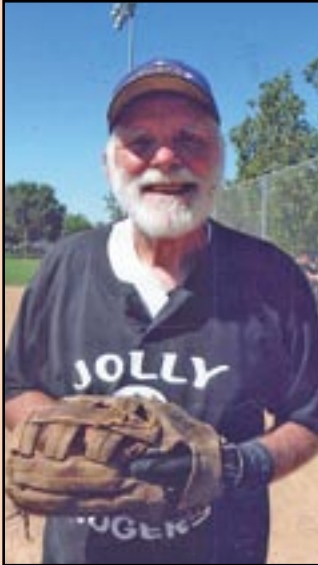
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Wilhaggin merges with Del Dayo Neighborhood Association due to crime surge

By Benn Hodapp
benn@valcomnews.com

Due to a recent up tick in break-ins (both vehicle and home) in the Del Dayo region of Carmichael, leaders of several Del Dayo neighborhood watch organizations met with the Wilhaggin Neighborhood Association with an idea. The idea was to merge the Wilhaggin and Del Dayo areas to try to curb the recent surge in crime. Thus, the Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association was born.

The association works with the Sacramento Sheriff's Department to put an off-duty sheriff in the Wilhaggin/Del Dayo area every day at different time intervals to ward off criminals, according to Wilhaggin Del Dayo Neighborhood Association President Paul Blaise.

"The Wilhaggin Neighborhood Association began as a community group in 2005," Blaise said. "There had been an increase in vehicle break-ins and some minor vandalism."

Once the group managed to get the sheriff's department on board, Blaise said that neighborhood crime went "basically to zero."

The sheriff patrols are not free, of course, so once Wilhaggin and Del Dayo merged, fliers were distributed to houses in the Del Dayo area about a town hall meeting at Del Dayo Elementary School on Jan. 14

to discuss the fees and what they paid for.

The fee is \$275 per household per year, and it covers the expenses for the off-duty sheriff on patrol as well as access to a password-protected website, a direct phone line to the patrolling sheriff as well as vacation monitoring. It comes out to what Blaise calls "low-cost security for less than \$23 per month."

The town hall meeting was packed with area residents who voiced concerns and asked questions. The standing-room-only crowd was largely in favor of the expansion, according to Blaise. However, those who do not wish to pay the \$275 fee are free to abstain and take their chances that their possessions will remain untouched.

Blaise said that the protocol for members who see anything suspicious in their neighborhood to call the direct line phone number to the roaming sheriff vehicle and report the situation. However, Blaise insisted, if there is an imminent emergency, the best thing to do is call 911.

For those who don't pay for the added security, it will be up to the sheriff's personal discretion whether or not to personally act upon suspicious activity, according to Blaise. He added: "hopefully people see the value in (paying the yearly fee)." The sheriff will have access to which houses are and are not members.

In addition to the added presence of the sheriff's department in the area, Blaise said that knowing your neighbors on both sides of you is the best security you can have. Neighbors can look out for neighbors when they can and the sheriff will try to take care of the times between.

Blaise said that the patrols would alternate between day and night so that criminals won't catch on to any patterns of coverage. American River Drive is a major artery for both neighborhoods, so the added patrols will be seen largely on that street, said Blaise. The patrols are more about preventing crime in the first place. Simply having the sheriff cars in the area can make a huge difference in that area, he said.

The Wilhaggin/Del Dayo area has 1,600-1,700 households, but not all of them have paid for coverage. Obviously Blaise hopes that as many as possible will sign up for the added protection. The patrols began on Dec. 1, and the first crime log will be available on Feb. 1. While he doesn't have the data in his hands as of yet, Blaise said, "I would be shocked if the crime rate didn't go down."

To find out if your home is considered part of the Wilhaggin/Del Dayo area, or for other concerns, Blaise can be reached at paul@blaisemedia.com, or you can send a letter to the association's mailbox at P.O. Box 2273, Carmichael, CA, 95609.

Carmichael Baby Receives Life-Saving Heart Transplant

Please help Shaambak Kwetambo, a beautiful, strong baby boy whose life took a sudden perilous turn in May 2012. He was taken to Kaiser, but Kaiser was unable to determine the cause of his deteriorating health.

At that time, Shaambak Kwetambo was a very happy, healthy six-month old infant. Suddenly and unexpectedly, he became sick one day with a very high fever and a racing heart. He was emergency airlifted to the University of California San Francisco Medical Center where he was diagnosed with myocarditis due to a viral infection.

Ten days later his heart and respiratory functions failed completely. The baby was put on a life support and his parents prepared for the worst. Shaambak survived at least two cardiac arrests. His life hung in the balance for days on end but he finally emerged from the crisis and stabilized. Shaambak suffered two major complications: internal bleeding of the brain (which led to a subdural hematoma surgery and termination of his ECMO support). Due to the lack of normal blood flow to the extremities of his body, left hand withered. He survived but the damage to his heart and extremities was irreversible.

Shaambak's parents, Bung-heni Kwetambo and Losamo Yenga, were advised that Shaambak needed a new heart and he was transferred to Lucile Packard Medical Center at Stanford University where he has remained. His parents also faced the cruel reality that their beloved son would have to lose his left hand and several fingertips on his remaining hand as they were too damaged to be saved. Shaambak was placed on a ventricular-assisted device called a Berlin Heart as to sustain him while he awaited a new heart.

As the new year began, baby Shaambak was a recipient of a beautiful matching heart and had a successful

heart transplant on January 3, 2013.

At last we turn to the job of recovery. Miraculously, Shaambak is now recovering well but his parents face the long-term prognosis of constant care for their baby. The financial implications are staggering – much too much for one family to bear on top of the turmoil of these past months' crisis. This little boy has been such an inspiration: so vulnerable, yet so strong; so overwhelmed, so hurt, yet so resilient. He is a fighter.

Volunteers from our community are raising funds to support the ongoing work of the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA, http://www.cota.org/). COTA is a national 501(c)3 charity and every dollar raised in Shaambak's name will be used for transplant-related expenses. Our financial goal is to raise at least \$40,000 for COTA so it can continue its financial support of families such as Shaambak's to make organ transplant a reality.

Myocarditis, according to the National Institute of Health, is inflammation of the heart muscle. Myocarditis is rare in young children. It is slightly more common in older children and adults. It tends to be more severe in newborns and young infants than in children over age 2.


In children it is usually caused by viruses that reach the heart, such as the flu, Cocksackie virus, parovirus, and adenovirus. However, it may also be caused by bacterial infections, including Lyme disease.

Jesuit High School held a student-led free dress day on Feb. 8. Students paid \$2 for a wristband which allowed them free dress at school that day. A lunchtime food sale late in the semester is also in the works and will probably take place in late March when the weather improves.

Prior to this health crisis, the family lived on Sunset Blvd. just west of Sunrise (down the street from St. Mel's Church and Parish


See Baby on page 5

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Baby: Family in need of financial support

Continued from page 3

school. They have four children, Shaambak being the youngest.

The father has maintained residence in Carmichael during this health crisis and has continued to work at the State Franchise Tax Board during the week, spending his weekends in Stanford.

The Mom was working at Pine Creek Care Center in Roseville prior to the baby's illness but had to quit. Dad almost lost his job due to excessive absence during the early stages of child's illness and temporarily lost insurance coverage. He is forced to work full-time to maintain health coverage.

While the baby was awaiting a donor for a heart transplant, the rising cost of his health care

and the family's responsibility became a concern at which point family friends were given the name of the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA).

A friend, Lokoko Ketenza, spearheaded and organized a committee of 10 who met with a COTA representative in December to go over how COTA helps families and how friends, as a local support group, can help with fundraising to enable them to continue to work with families who have children needing organ transplants such as Shaambak.

Any donation is truly appreciated and payments can be made at (<http://cota.donorpages.com/PatientOnlineDonation/COTAforShaambakK/>)

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Locals recall the 'Goat Man'

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's note: This is the eleventh part of a series regarding the history of the "four corners" of Watt and El Camino avenues.

Certainly most people in the Arden and Carmichael areas are familiar with Country Club Centre, the 60-year-old shopping center on the southwest corner of Watt and El Camino avenues. But few people today remember a man in that area who was simply known as the "Goat Man."

But there was a time when just about anyone who was familiar with the area understood what one meant when they referred to the "Goat Man."

This man, whose real name was George Gust Zwerkis, was a sort of legendary figure of the area.

In about 1924, Zwerkis, who was an old country Greek, purchased 24 acres at the northwest corner of Watt Avenue and Cottage Way, and it was in that area that he acquired his nickname.

Prior to purchasing the property, Zwerkis worked for several years as a shepherd for the Swanstons, the well-known, local landowners. The Swanstons operat-

ed a ranch and meat packing plant near Arden Way and the railroad.

It is no wonder why Zwerkis was known as the "Goat Man," as he would seldom be seen without his goats.

And being that today's Country Club area was quite rural, Zwerkis had plenty of places to roam with his goats.

One of the places where he would spend time with his goats was on the site of today's Country Club Centre, just north of his home, which was about a 20-foot by 20-foot shack that was accompanied by an outhouse. His home was located about 50 feet off Watt Avenue and about 30 feet off Cottage Way.

Zwerkis also brought his goats to open grassland areas along Arden Way, Eastern Avenue and to a site at Marconi and Watt avenues.

Among the people who remember the "Goat Man" is Carmichael resident Sylvia Bringas.

"My late grandparents, Paul and Anna Zvalo, knew George Greek, the 'Goat Man,'" Bringas said. "This is what everyone called him. I remember the 'Goat Man' crossing Watt Avenue, which was nothing but a two-lane country road. George was a very frugal man, who kept to himself and his goats. That area was country and my grandparents had a home nearby a mini farm on Marconi (Avenue) at Watt (Avenue). My grandparents were from Czechoslovakia and English wasn't their first language. My grandfather was the original groundskeeper at Del Paso Country Club there on the corner of Watt and Marconi (avenues)."

In 1976, the longtime local educator Herbert E. Winterstein (1908-1981) - who was memorialized through the naming of the Winterstein Community Park and the Herbert E. Winterstein (elementary) School (now the Community Collaborative Charter School) at 900 Morse Ave., adjoining the park - wrote his own memories about the "Goat Man."

In these writings, he noted that Zwerkis told him that he sold his 24 acres for \$165,000 in 1954.

Jerry Thomas, a 1963 graduate of Encina High School, remembers seeing the goat man during his youth.

"The goat man, all the kids were terrified of him," Thomas said. "The goat man was dirty, meaning everyone thought he was a bum. You would drive by his house, which was set back off the road and there would be a Cadillac out in front, and somebody would say, 'That's those real estate people trying to buy (his property)'. Eventually they did. They talked him out of his property, because it was a really hot place. He didn't want the money. That was the whole thing, but they kept bugging him and bugging him. And then we would hear these silly stories and I think they were just myths. 'Oh, it broke his heart when he had to leave his property' and 'the real estate men have cheated the goat man out of his land.' This (north area) property out here in that neck of the woods is really very useless as a farming area. It's hard-pan."

Winterstein noted that the "Goat Man" was proud of his new neighbors at Country Club Centre and loved to drop by the shopping center for coffee and doughnuts.

Another Sacramentan who recalled Zwerkis was Dr. Pat Melarkey, a longtime local dentist and former county supervisor.

Melarkey, 81, said that he first saw the "Goat Man" as a teenager in the mid-1940s.

"In 1944, I became the stable boy for the (Merle) Foster family on the corner of Morse (Avenue) and Cottage (Way), right where Kaiser (Permanente) Hospital is now," Melarkey said. "They had five acres with a stable and some stalls and horses. So, we had the horses there and I used to take two or three of them and get on one of them and go down Cottage Way, east, and cut through the 'Goat Man's' grape vineyard there. He would tell me not to cut through his property, but I would do it anyway. There were no fences. There was nothing out there then, just a few houses on



Photo by Lance Armstrong
THE REINCARNATED "GOAT MAN"? Dr. Pat Melarkey, dressed in clothes similar to those that were worn by the late George "Goat Man" Zwerkis, stands alongside two goats.

Additionally, Winterstein described the "Goat Man," as follows: "(Zwerkis) was a friendly, talkative neighbor, who somehow knew what was transpiring everywhere. He was difficult to understand, but he was alert and loved company. Yet he was something of a recluse."

Winterstein noted that the "Goat Man" was proud of his new neighbors at Country Club Centre and loved to drop by the shopping center for coffee and doughnuts.

Melarkey said that on at least two occasions, Zwerkis was photographed for a local newspaper.

"He was shown with his hands up in the air leading his goats across either Watt Avenue or Fulton Avenue with some heading like, 'Traffic problem on Watt Avenue,' which was quite funny, since neither one of those streets ever got much traffic back then," Melarkey recalled.

Zwerkis' goats, Melarkey noted, ranged in numbers, depending upon the time.

"He had a minimum of 25 goats, but sometimes he had 75," Melarkey said. "And he had them kept in pens and a lot of those little ones he kept in the shack with him. He was really into husbandry."

Melarkey added that the "Goat Man" also owned dogs

Cottage Way. All that land over there, where Wal-Mart is there (in Country Club Centre), was all open, so we would just gallop the horses around and exercise them. So, I would see George herding goats, and, of course, I was there many times when traffic stopped and he was driving them across Watt Avenue or El Camino (Avenue). It was all open and he would just take them over (to different properties) to keep the grass down."

Melarkey said that he experienced a sad moment in his life a few years later when Bill died, as he was one of several dogs in the area that were randomly poisoned with strychnine.

With a bit of a chuckle, yet with a fond tone to his voice, Melarkey said, "No matter what (the temperature) was (Zwerkis) was out there with an Army overcoat, a great, big hat, rubber boots and his goats and dogs. The 'Goat Man' was quite a unique guy."

After selling his Watt Avenue and Cottage Way property, Zwerkis moved to Elk Grove, where he died at the age of 72 on May 15, 1955.

Winterstein and those who were interviewed for this article recalled that the "Goat Man" had left a wife back in Greece.

Regarding this woman, Bringas said, "(Zwerkis) stashed the cash (from the sale of his north area property) in his mattress. Subsequently, he died and a wife no one knew about showed up direct from Greece and claimed the money and went back home."

Despite his passing, the "Goat Man" left behind a legacy as one of the north area's all-time notable characters.

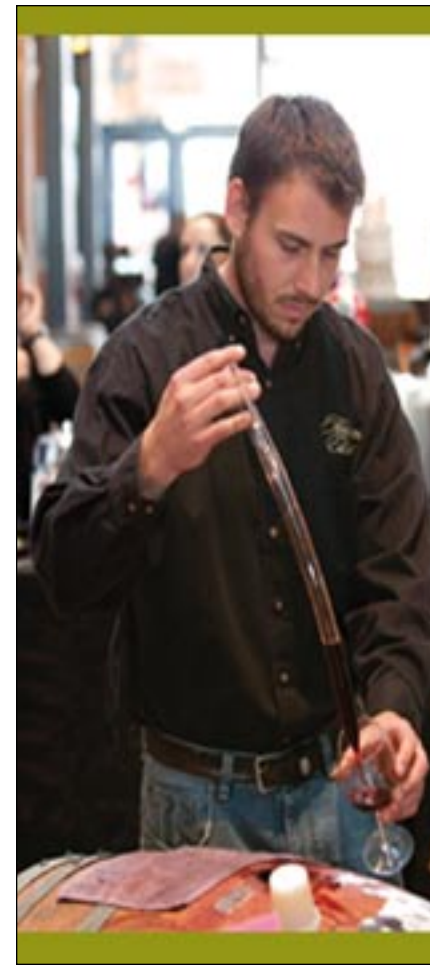
George: An all-time notable character

Continued from page 6

that he used to herd the goats.

"He had five or 10 (dogs) at a time," Melarkey said. "He had some beautiful sheep dogs. The neighbor (local butcher Dick Rogers, who resided at 3229 Cottage Way) around there found this one (dog that belonged to Zwerkis) in their garden and it was half dead. I brought (the dog) home and my mother (Eunice) got him well. It took about three or four months for him to get well. I then used to bring him out there (around Zwerkis' place), and as soon as George saw the dog, he said, 'That's my dog,' in so many broken words. And I said, 'No, this dog was given to me by somebody else.' The dog's name was Bill. It had those white eyes and it was very distinctly marked - light brown and white. It almost looked like a calico cat."

Bill eventually became a very strong dog, much due to the fact that he would accompany Melarkey on his daily Sacramento Union route.



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Golden Seniors Softball: A game for the ages and ageless

By Ron Roach

For more than 30 years, the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento has been one of the nation's bedrock organizations for slow-pitch players who have reached the age of 50. The club has about 450 members and provides nearly 420 games from mid-March into September.

Close to 100 of these members like it so much that they play in more than one of the club's six leagues. For many, there is no such thing as "enough softball." But there is plenty of room for someone new to the game, or who hasn't swung a bat in more than a decade. "Hey, it can be like riding a bike. Just get back on and enjoy the ride," said the club's president, Tom Sansone.

"Softball can really be a game for the ages -- and the ageless."

Playing 22-game schedules, there are three six-team night leagues for players 50 and over at the Sacramento Softball Complex -- Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with games at 6:30, 7:45 and 9. Two leagues play on Tuesday mornings, also at the Complex, for players 60 and older. The club's Monday morning league at Howe Avenue Park is for players at least 70.

Sansone, 65, said playing softball at this stage of his life has been a very satisfying experience. "It gives me incentive to exercise and try to stay in shape. I enjoy the camaraderie. There are a lot of people who are really dedicated to

See Softball page 9

Softball: Drafts now underway

Continued from page 8

this club. I urge anyone who wants to continue playing softball well beyond their middle-age status to check us out. You'll be impressed with our quality of play." The Elk Grove resident pitches on Tuesday morning teams and is entering his 11th season with the club.

Mel Tennyson joined the club in 2009 when he was 55. He now plays in all three night leagues and serves as the commissioner in charge of the club's Tuesday night league. He also plays for a nationally ranked traveling tournament team. Mel, a West Sacramento resident who pitches and plays the outfield, said, "I love the game" and the Golden Seniors club has provided opportunity to play with and against people more his own age while being more relaxed and less-competitive than his tournament team. "It keeps me healthy and I enjoy meeting people. I play softball for athletic and social reasons. My advice to anyone thinking of playing ball is to come out, have fun and stay young."

Anita Kemp, 53, who resides in south Sacramento, joined the club in 2011 and became a fixture at third base, first base or catcher on Tuesday nights. She plays on a couple of coed teams and said she wanted more softball, so a friend suggested she try the Golden Se-

niors. How has it worked out? She said she has not been disappointed and felt welcomed as a new member. "It's fun, to be honest with you. My other leagues are real competitive, true 5-women, 5-men coed teams." The Golden Seniors is "really a fun league." And when a guy thinks he can hammer a grounder by her at third, she said she takes a great deal of pleasure in her ability to throw him out.

The GSSCS Tuesday night league has about a dozen women spread among six teams. The club would like to attract more women, and Anita said more women would join if they knew about Golden Seniors. The club needs to advertise. (Note the ad in this newspaper.) "Everyone gets along and gives you a pat on the back. It's a friendly environment."

The Wednesday and Thursday night leagues attract more competitive players, many who also play on tournament teams.

Ernie Kidwell is one of 137 current Golden Seniors "life members" who have played at least 15 consecutive years and attained the age of 75 or 10 years and celebrated their 80th birthday. Kidwell, who will turn 81 this year, lives in north Sacramento near Carmichael. He joined the club in 1991. He began playing in the night leagues and for the past decade has been playing Mondays and/or Tuesdays. "Why do I continue to play? Because I just like to play. I like the camaraderie, the fellowship ... Softball is

a good reason to get up and go somewhere."

While leagues for the 2013 season are scheduled to conduct drafts in February, the first league games are not scheduled until mid-March. Some leagues may have immediate openings for those wishing to sign up, or players can sign up, come out and play as substitutes or be permanently assigned to teams as roster vacancies occur.

The club's fees are very reasonable, Sansone said, amounting to less than \$5 a game, and include uniform jersey, cap and umpires. And the fees are prorated for players who come aboard later in the season.

The club has a website, www.gsscs.org, where details can be found on how to join. The club's player agent, Myron Dahl (916 451-2450), can answer questions and provide sign-up forms. Each league plays 22 to 24 games in a season that runs into September and concludes with league championship playoffs and a picnic.

The health and safety of club members is of paramount concern. Anita Kemp said the toughest thing for her was getting used to the base-running rules that are designed to reduce the risk of injury from runner-fielder collisions or from awkward slides into bases. As many men and women join the club not having slid into a base in 20 years, sliding is not allowed.

Besides special base-running rules, members are encouraged to

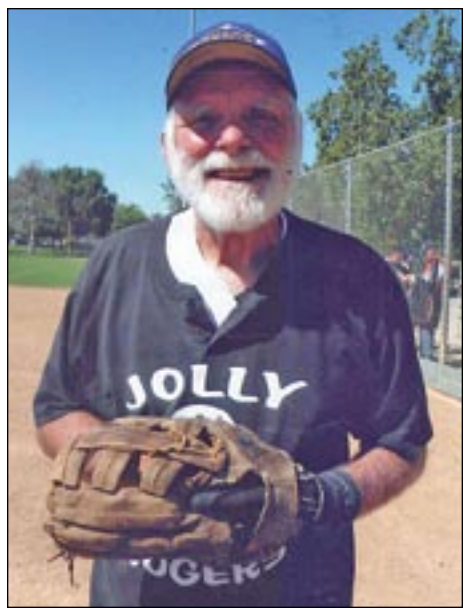


Photo courtesy of Lou Coppola
 Bob Rogers is a GSSC player and tournament star as well as a long-time sponsor of the Golden Seniors. When he played he was a manager, pitcher and infielder. Lou Coppola describes him as a versatile player.

sign up for training in the use of the club's defibrillators, or AEDs, and to become certified by the Red Cross in CPR. According to doctors, more than one Golden Seniors player is alive today because of this program and staying active on the ball field.

Ron Roach is the editor of GSSC's 'Dugout Chatter' and active player in two leagues. Accompanied photos were taken by Lou Coppola.

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ARTS

Bigger than life mural reflects Rio's passion for the arts

Courtesy of The San Juan Unified School District

It's complete. It took almost three years, but the Rio Americano High School mural is complete.

"Markos has gone way above and beyond what we expected," Rio Band Director Josh Murray said.

Late in 2010 Markos Egure of West-Kos Images, was sought out to make the outside of the Rio Band rooms look like what it feels like in the inside- full of music, inspiration and passion.

"I wanted it to represent visually as what I felt when I arrived on the campus and listened to the students play, musically," Markos said. "I see extreme talent here from youngsters. That was my inspiration to make it as best as it could be with all the time and budget allotted."

The funds to make this project happen came from a Sacramento River Cats grant and money raised by the Rio Band Boosters. That covered the mural agreement, but Markos' took it further.

"It was much more elaborate and detailed than we expected," Murray said. "He was wonderful. It really represents the three main aspects of our program- classical, jazz and the pop and modern music side."

The painting was originally going to be about 25 percent of the size it is now. But after that much of it was complete, Markos just wasn't satisfied. So he donated his time, his tools and his hard work to make it perfect.

"My art is very clean and neat," Markos said. "One of my teachers told my mom, she tells the story now- that when I was in the second grade I would rewrite my name until it was perfectly written or until I accepted it. And here I am painting, and I still feel the same way. I want to come out here and paint some more."

The huge mural has been well received by students, staff and the Rio community. The school prides itself on creativity, the arts and especially its band program. So this just fits.



Courtesy of SJUSD

"I'm ready to go around the other side when Rio is ready to go around the other side," Markos said. "Let this project grow. We have two more sides. It is under negotiation right now. There might be more for Markos and for Rio."

In other news for the Rio jazz band, for the fourth year in a row, students are headed to The Big Apple to participate in the Charles Mingus Jazz High School Festival & Competition.

"It's a really incredible opportunity for the students," Rio music teacher Max Kiesner said. "They get to in-

vestigate the place where jazz lives and breathes in New York City."

Juniors Taylor Mesich (tenor saxophone), Andrew Stephens (trumpet), Joey Cozza (piano), Jeric Rocamora (bass), Emery Mesich (alto saxophone), Harrison Smith (trombone) and seniors Paul Slater (drums) and Henry Lunetta (electric guitar) will represent the high school at the Manhattan School of Music from Feb. 15-18. While the students are there, they will have the chance to tour the city, visit some colleges and mingle with some of the best professional and high school musicians in the country.

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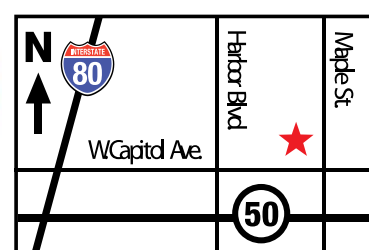


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Sacramento Steampunk Society to hold Emporium and Swap Meet

By Corrie Pelc
corrie@valcomnews.com

During the day, Jennifer Brown works for a bank, doing a lot of data work and problem solving.

On her off time, Brown has found an outlet for her creativity as a member of the Sacramento Steampunk Society.

"It's that spirit of never got over Halloween — it's that love of getting dressed up, combined with a love of history and sci fi, and being able to combine all of that together to have fun," she explains about attracts people to steampunk. "It's that aesthetic that draws people in because it's fun and whimsical."

And on Saturday, Feb. 16, the Society will host a Steampunk Emporium and Swap Meet in the Arden area that will help introduce others to the steampunk culture.

Steampunk 101

So what exactly is steampunk?

According to Wikipedia, steampunk is "a sub-genre of science fiction that typically features steam-powered machinery, especially in a setting inspired by indus-

trialized Western civilization during the 19th century."

Brown says steampunk is a cross between the Victorian era, when steam power was starting to be used, with modern science fiction. She explains this allows you to take the beauty of the Victorian era and put a modern spin on it. "It gives you free reign to create really anything, from time travel like Dr. Who to anything that Jules Verne would have created in his books," she says. "The phrase I hear all the time is it's a world that never was, but should have been," she adds.

Lon Lee, a member of the Society for over a year and one of its nine administrators that helps run the group, says adds steampunk is a type of "retro futurism," where the past is mixed with the future, or the future is mixed with the past. "It's basically like H.G. Wells' time machine where you mix the futuristic technology with old values, old styles," he says. "Anything's possible."

Lee says the Sacramento Steampunk Society, which just celebrated its third birthday, is a social group for those interested in steampunk to meet once a month. He says they have more than



Members of the Sacramento Steampunk Society in costume.

Photos by Connie Ricca

1,100 members worldwide — including members in France, Germany, Japan and England — that represent all genders and nationalities and range in age from 4 to 80.

Express Yourself

For those who follow steampunk culture, there's a variety of ways to express their interest, from literature to art to music. One way many showcase their love of steampunk is through costumes.

A love of Victorian fashion was one of the things that drew Brown to steampunk. An administrator for the group and Society member for more than two years, Brown now enjoys making her

own costumes and learning from others in the Society. "There are a lot of people in the group who are excellent at being able to sew and create, so sometimes it's about finding the right idea and the right person to help you with it, and other times it's really just finding the great thrift store find that works perfect," she says.

Lee says most of the Society's members make their own costumes, jewelry and props. "Some of the costumes, some people spend hours and hours working on just one costume — it's always interesting to see what somebody comes up with next," he says. "There are some

See Steampunk on page 13

Steampunk: Renowned author in genre to sign books at the swap meet

Continued from page 12

members that make really exceptional items ... It's inspiring what some of the people do."

Lee himself was drawn to steampunk due to his artistic background, as a sculptor, painter, photographer and creator of CGI artwork. He says creativity is a main part of steampunk. "It's individuality — everybody picks and chooses what they like for their style, so nobody looks the same, nobody dresses the same," he adds.

Letting Off Steam

Although individuality is a big part of steampunk, that's not to say everyone does not share their tips and tricks on making their own costumes and accessories.

In fact, it's the willingness of those in the Society to share and help each other out that Brown loves about being a member. She says even if you have an idea that you are not sure how to make, there's bound to be a member of the group that has the skills to help you accomplish your goal. "Everybody's just really open about sharing everything, and that has helped me become more creative because somebody sparks an idea that then gives you an idea to do something else," she adds.

Society members also have an opportunity to learn from each during the group's monthly meetings, which Lee says are held the first Thursday of every month at the Arcade Library at 6:30pm. While the first half of the meeting is devoted to Society business, the rest of the meet-

ing includes time for members to show-and-tell projects they are working on, plus there is a how-to demonstration lead by a Society member. "So somebody can come in and show how you modify a plastic gun to make it look like a sci fi ray gun, or how you age clothing or make jewelry," Lee explains.

Brown says the monthly how-to demonstration gives Society members an opportunity to teach whatever they would like, from making photographs sepia tone to teaching swordplay using a walking cane. "It gives everybody an open venue to come in and teach something," she adds.

Emporium & Swap Meet

Now that steampunk has caught your fancy, how can you learn more?

Lee says the group's upcoming Steampunk Emporium and Swap Meet on Saturday, February 16, at Great Escape Games on Howe Avenue is a great opportunity to come and see what steampunk and the Society is all about, with about 50 vendors, plus entertainment.

Brown says the Emporium is an artists' bazaar with a steampunk flair, featuring artisans selling items they have made, including costumes, jewelry, leatherwork, books, and hats.

Entertainment at the Emporium is scheduled to include the Aether Brigade, SwingGoth and Equilibrium Fire Arts. Plus members of a number of groups will be on

hand, including the League of Proper Villains, High Desert Steam, Steam Federation, The Great Basin Costume Society, and the Pirates of Sacramento.

And Brown says attendees will have the opportunity to meet New York Times best-selling steampunk author Gail Carriger, who will be holding a book signing from 1:30-3:30 p.m. "We were very excited that she was interested in coming down and hanging out with us since she is a steampunk writer and very well known in the genre," Brown adds.

Brown hopes those that come to the Emporium and Swap Meet will have the opportunity to find groups they would like to become part of, and will leave with "an understanding a little bit more of what steampunk is and how a lot of it can carry over into normal life," she adds. "Like a great necklace with gears on it doesn't have to be just a costume piece — it can also be something you can have in your every day that's a little different and a little fun."

For those interested in learning more about the Sacramento Steampunk Society, Brown urges them to join their Facebook group, which can be accessed through their website www.sacsteam.org, to stay up-to-date on upcoming meetings and events, and come out to their monthly meetings that are open to the public. "Steampunk is just so welcoming and everybody is so friendly — that's one of the



Members of the Sacramento Steampunk Society in costume.

Photos by Connie Ricca

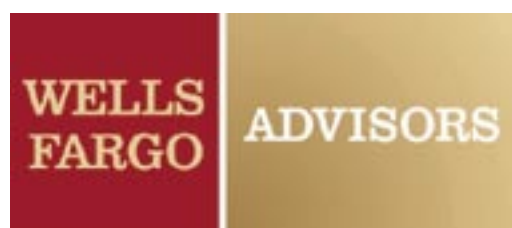
things that I'm the proudest of our group," she says.

The Sacramento Steampunk Society meets the first Thursday of every month at the Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Ave., in Sacramento, at 6:30 p.m. Meeting times and locations may change — visit sacsteam.org or join their Facebook page for most up-to-date information.

IF YOU GO:

What: The Steampunk Emporium and Swap Meet
When: Saturday, Feb. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Great Escape Games, 1250 Howe Ave., Suite 3A, in Sacramento.
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Celebrate Black history! Events continue throughout the month

By **CORRIE PELC**
corrie@valcomnews.com

February is Black History Month, and there are a number of opportunities for you and your family to celebrate in the Sacramento area. Here's a look at just some of the events happening this month!

Quilt Exhibit to Highlight African-American Quilters & Quilts

Sisters Quilting Collective (SQC) will host its second annual quilt exhibit, "A Stitch in Time: The Past, Present and Future," from February 2 through 28 at The Brickhouse Art Gallery, 2837 36th Street, in Sacramento.

The exhibit will highlight African-American quilters and quilts with a variety of programs, including quilting demonstrations, children's activities, quilt displays, lectures and film screenings.

For more information, call 916-475-1240 or visit www.thebrickhousegalleryoakpark.com.

Free Tribute Concert to Famed Female Jazz Singers

The Sacramento Public Library will present a musical tribute to famed



Photo courtesy of Vivian Lee.
Jazz vocalist and recording artist Vivian Lee.

women jazz singers at a free family concert at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 20, in the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria at the Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento.

Jazz vocalist and recording artist Vivian Lee and her quartet will celebrate divas of jazz – Carmen McRea, Billie Holiday, Nancy Wilson and Dinah Washington. Hear the music and learn about the lives of these amazing African American women of the jazz world. The jazz concert is one of numerous Black History Month

programs scheduled at Sacramento Public Library locations throughout February.

For more information, call 916-264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Black History Month Family Festival

The Crocker Art Museum will celebrate Black History Month with a showcase of the art, culture, history and traditions of the African Diaspora through its Black History Month Family Festival on Monday, February 18, from 11am-3pm. This free event will feature performances by musical storyteller Asheba, the Vukani Mawethu Choir, and the Sacramento/Black Art of Dance.

The Crocker Art Museum is located at 216 O Street. For more information, call 916-808-7000 or visit www.crockerartmuseum.org.

Sacramento State Celebrates Black History Month

California State University Sacramento is offering a number of programs in celebration of Black History Month.

On February 16, award-winning author Eva Rutland, 95, will lead a discussion about her life from her book, *When We Were Colored: A Mother's Story*, at

12 noon in the Union Redwood Room at Sacramento State.

On February 19, representatives from Sacramento State and the California State University system will visit churches in Sacramento's African-American community to urge young people and their parents to begin planning for college. President Alexander Gonzalez will visit St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at 10 am, and Joseph Sheley, Sacramento State's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, will visit St. John Missionary Baptist Church at 10:45 am.

A photo exhibit by Felicenne Ramey, "We Stand On Their Shoulders," featuring images of elder African Americans, will be on display from February 12 through March 15 at the Sacramento State Library lobby. The exhibit is open during Library hours: 7:15 am-11 pm Monday through Thursday; 7:15 am-7 pm Friday; 8 am-5 pm Saturday; and 11 am-10 pm Sunday.

And Sacramento/Black Art of Dance will celebrate its "20th Anniversary Concert: Past, Present and Future" in the Solano Hall Dancespace. Performances are at 8 p.m. Feb. 16-18, 24 and 25; 2 p.m. Feb. 19 and 26; and 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22-23. Tickets are \$5-\$12 and available at Sac State's Ticket Office, 916-278-4323 or www.tickets.com.

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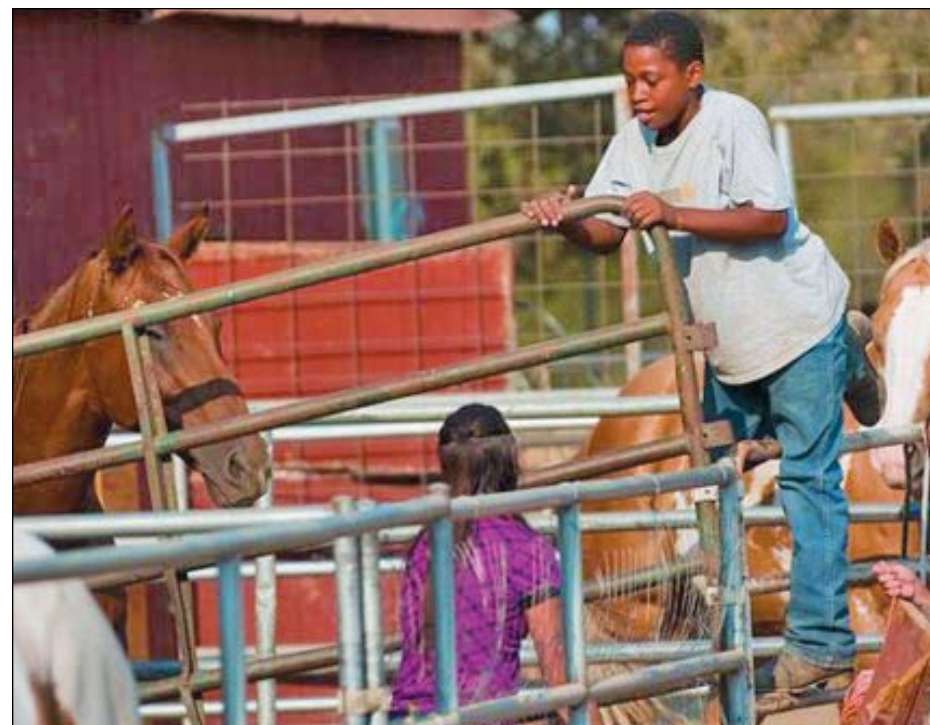
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Horses, Hope and Healing: Fundraiser to benefit inner city youth

"Is this enough for a riding dollar bill and some change from two little girls six years ago was the first spark on the road to creating Horses, Hope and Healing, a program that provides horse riding lessons for children who could otherwise not afford it. Back then Tiffany Oreglia, now the owner of Horses, Hope and Healing, was taking horseback riding lessons from a friend and noticed how financially fortunate she was to be able to ride on a regular basis. Nestled near the west end of Marconi Boulevard, this 9-acre horse ranch is both home to former race horses and disadvantaged youth

who Oreglia saw needed a program that helps build their self esteem. So, she joined with other parents, horse owners and volunteers to create such a program. "I grew up a little like some of the kids we help. My dad got me a horse when I was little. I realized a lot of my friends were in a lot of trouble. What was different for me was ... I realized it was my horses." At the ranch, children are given chores in exchange for the riding lessons. They are drug tested and the organization provides free counseling. "It's a fun heart felt thing," Oreglia said.

Horses, Hope and Healing is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and they are gearing for a crab feed fundraiser on Feb. 15 at the Sacramento Horseman's Association, 3200 Longview Dr. Oreglia leases the property, which she said has a high rent, but said it's worth it because it's located in Del Paso Heights "right where we are most needed." Many of the children ride or walk over to the ranch and others can take public transit to get there. Due to the economic downturn, the organization is limited to the amount of horses they can rescue. Children are referred to the program from various social service organizations like Mill House, Stanford House and Families First. Oreglia is not worried of the ranch ever being demolished because on the property sits an old historic barn that was built in the 1930s has been grandfathered in to be a historic facility. And she

loves what she calls "the quaintness of it." So asked by her friends why not get new barns built, she said, the old barn "sort of fits what we do. We can't give up on the kids or the barn," she said.



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING:

Celebration Arts presents A Life a drama by Anne Peters.

Shows Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. through March 2 Eunice Katem, a feisty, 74 year old, Jamaican and former school teacher has lived a strong and independent life. Now recuperating from a heart attack, her independence is in jeopardy. Eunice has been removed from her home by her daughter. Eunice is adamant about returning and is determined to have her way even though she recognizes the realities of old age. The production features Patricia Coleman, Debbie Reeves, Cynthia Drumbror and Mericus Adams. Tickets are \$15 general, \$13 students and seniors. On Thursday night all seats are \$8. Tickets online at mycommunityevents.com. Call (916) 455-2787 for information and reservations. Celebration Arts Theatre is located at 4469 D St. Sacramento.

The Sacramento Rose Society meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., in East Sacramento. For more information, visit www.sactorose.org/sacramentorosesociety.

Fair Oaks Library to unveil a new Families and Books Center

Feb. 16-March 23: The Sacramento Public Library will be renovating the children's room at the Fair Oaks branch, 11601 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, February 16 through March 23. The children's area will become the new Families and Books Center. For more information, call the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Kit Carson schedules additional IB info nights

Parents are invited to learn about the International Baccalaureate program. Come learn about Kit Carson's transition to an International Baccalaureate school for grades 7 through 12. Campus tours are held every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tours are a great opportunity to see a school in action. There is no need to call in advance. 5301 N St, Sacramento. 95819. For more information, call 277-6750.

Travel club meetings slated at Arcade Library

The Sacramento Public Library invites all travelers to its monthly "No Reservations Travel Club" meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Arcade branch, 2443 Marconi Ave. The free adult meetings feature a speaker, plus time for exchanging travel information within the group. 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

FEBRUARY

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Feb. 14: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thursday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

Mission Oaks Computer Club meeting

Feb. 14: The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. The meeting topic will be "Future of Health Care and Telemedicine". A problem solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow. 366-1687, www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

North Franklin Business District Association Meeting

Feb. 14: Meeting to be held at 8 a.m., 5383 Franklin Blvd., Suite F.

Stockton Boulevard Partnership Meeting

Feb. 14: Meeting to be held at 9 a.m. at the Stockton Blvd Partnership Resource Center 5625 Stockton Blvd.

Bi-Polar Anonymous

Feb. 15: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7-8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786.

Crab feed fundraiser to benefit Horses, Hope and Healing

Feb. 15: Starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Horseman's Association, located at 3200 Longview Dr., the crab feed will benefit Horses, Hope and Healing, a nonprofit that provides free horseback riding lessons to inner city youth.

'A Stitch in Time: The Past, Present and Future'

Feb. 16: Presented by the Sisters Quilting Collective in celebration of Black History Month. "Stitching from the Soul". Alice Calhoun, hand quilter will hold a presentation from 1 to 2 p.m. and Jan Hollins, textile designer/quilter will present at 3 p.m. 2837 36th St. Sacramento. 613-7401, 475-1240.

Sacramento Tet Parade

Feb. 16: Starting at 10 a.m., starting at corner of Stockton Boulevard and Fruitridge Road.

Good Fortune Concert with Sacramento Youth Symphony and Comedian Paula Poundstone to benefit library

Feb. 16: Comedian, author and panelist Paula Poundstone will join forces with the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library to raise funds for the Library during her appearance in Sacramento. The Friends will be selling Poundstone's book, There's Nothing in This Book That I Meant to Say, at the show and will receive a percentage of the proceeds from the sales. Paula Poundstone is well known as a stand-up comedian, author, Emmy-winning television performer and regular panelist on the popular National Public Radio quiz show, "Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me." The event is scheduled for the Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street, at 7:30 p.m. Advance ticket prices range from \$27 to \$42. To purchase tickets, contact www.ticketcity.com on-line or call 800-225-2277. For more information about the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library call 916-264-2880 or visit the web site, <http://saclibrary.org/About-Us/Friends-of-The-Library/>.

Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra

Feb. 16: Celebrate The New Year with traditional Western and classical Chinese instruments and music with the Youth Symphony, Premier Orchestra and Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra presents the Good Fortune Concert at 7 p.m. at Hiram Johnson High School, 6879 14 Ave., Sacramento, 95820. www.sacramentoouthsymphony.org or call 916-731-5777. The Premier Orchestra of the Sacramento Youth Symphony under the direction of Michael Neumann joins Gordon Lee and the Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra of San Jose with east and west flavor. Works by Californians Gordon Lee and Pablo Ortiz will be performed.

NorCal Big Band Preservation Society

Feb. 17: First band 1-2 Laguna Creek Jazz band, Major band 2-5 Swing Masters (16 PC) Big Band. Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, located 6446 Riverside Blvd at Florin Rd. Dance will go on from 1 to 2 p.m. Tickets now for as low as \$10. Call 444-6138 for more information.

Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael

Feb. 19: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Jackson Catering and Events, 1120 Fulton Ave. (916) 925-2787. Carmichael meets at 6 p.m., Palm Street Pub & Grill, 6416 Fair Oaks Blvd. www.rotary.org.

'Hands on History: By Land and By Sea' event at Sutter's Fort

Feb. 16: Through exciting demonstrations and fun hands-on activities, docents will help Fort visitors understand the two different ways emigrants originally came to California -- by land or by sea -- while sharing the unique challenges they faced and what daily life was like during their journeys. As an event highlight, the Mexican-American war fife and drum corps will be visiting Sutter's Fort SHP to take part in special activities that include a visually-exciting flag raising ceremony, marching demonstrations and more. Multiple hands-on activities await Fort visitors as they will help pack a wagon or trunk, make choices about what to bring along for their "journey of a lifetime," learn how to use a nautical compass, hoist a laden barrel, weave rope and simple knots, create maps with available resources, and even join the Navy and receive pay in Stonington Bank \$2 bills. For more information about this special "Hands on History" event, or other events and activities at Sutter's Fort, call 445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is located at 2701 L St., Sacramento. Fort hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Cannon firing demonstrations: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., Musket demonstrations periodically throughout the day. \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per youth (ages 6-17), free for children 5 years and under.

Community discussion on veganic farming

Feb. 17: Steph Litus a volunteer for Animal Place, a Sanctuary and Education Center in Vacaville, will speak at the Sacramento Vegetarian Society's potluck at the Grange located at 3823 V St. (Corner of Stockton Blvd. and V St.). She will talk about the veganic farming taking place at Animal Place and their plans for starting a veganic CSA, with a drop-off location in Sacramento. Veganic produce is grown without animal fertilizers.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento North meeting

Feb. 19: An organization for the betterment of women and children meets at the atria El Camino Gardens at 2426 Garfield, Carmichael. Call Sheila at 624-4643.

East Sac Rotary

Feb. 20: Meets at noon, Evan's Kitchen, 855 57th St. Sacramento. www.eastsacrotary.com.

Basic computer classes offered

Feb. 13 and 20 at Sacramento's Central Library
 Feb. 20: The Sacramento Public Library invites first-time computer users to learn the basics of the computer, keyboard and mouse at a free class at 10 a.m. at the Central Library, 828 I St. No experience is necessary in this relaxed, fun Oasis Connections class. Registration is required by calling the library at 264-2920.

Sacramento State's Symphonic Wind Ensemble performance

Feb. 20: Starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall on campus, 6000 J St. Tickets are \$10 general, \$7 seniors and \$5 for students, and are available at the University Ticket Office, 278-4323 or www.csus.edu/sfs/ticketoffice/.

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Feb. 21: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thursday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

Rev. Jesse Duplantis to speak at Victory Life Bible Church

Feb. 21: Victory Life Bible Church invites you to come hear Rev. Jesse Duplantis at the DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way at 7 p.m. Musical praise begins at 6 p.m. Arrive early for free on-street parking. Hotel provides gated parking for \$4. Call Victory Life Bible Church for further information, 331-8306.

The basics of bees discussion

Feb. 21: Bees never sleep, work 24 hours a day, need sunshine to harvest nectar, and usually stay inside the hive at night. The Sacramento Public Library invites all ages to learn more about bees at 3:30 p.m. at the North Natomas branch, 4660 Via Ingoglia. Bee behavior will be discussed and fun bee facts shared. Sponsored by the Friends of the North Natomas Library. 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Area 4 Agency on Aging public hearing

Feb. 21: The Area 4 Agency on Aging is holding a public hearing from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 2260 Park Towne Circle, Ste. 100, Sacramento. The topic of discussion "How to Spend Federal Money for Senior Programs (including nutrition, transportation, caregiver support and others)."

Extreme couponing workshop presented at North Natomas Library

Feb. 21: The Sacramento Public Library will provide money-saving tips at the supermarket at 7 p.m. at the North Natomas branch, 4660 Via Ingoglia. Adults can learn how to take full advantage of grocery discount coupons at the free program, presented by Golden1 Credit Union. 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Bi-Polar Anonymous

Feb. 22: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7-

8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786.

Community Fruit Harvest

Feb. 23: From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Community Fruit Harvest, Colonial Heights library, located at 4799 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95820. Please register online in advance of the events. For more information and/or to register, please contact Randy Stannard at rstannard@soilborn.org or (530) 204-8082

'A Stitch in Time: The Past, Present and Future'

Feb. 23: Presented by the Sisters Quilting Collective in celebration of Black History Month. Keynote speaker Alice Beasley, quilter and artist to present from 1 to 2 p.m. Alice has been creating fabric portraits, quilts and wire sculptures since 1988. She is a member of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland and the Studio Art Culture Association. 2837 36th St. Sacramento. 613-7401, 475-1240.



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PATTY BAETA 806-7761



IMMACULATE GOLD RIVER

Outstanding Powell floor plan tucked away in a cul-de-sac on a nice sized lot featuring pool, spa and a beautiful Heritage Oak. Features include 2 bed plus den (could be 3rd bed), 2 baths, updated kitchen and bath, granite counters, cozy fireplace and charming courtyard. \$469,000

PATTI PRIESS 801-0579



NEW CUSTOM HOME

Located in a small gated community of only 3 custom built homes on a 1.185 acre lot in prime Carmichael location. 4 or 5 bedrooms 3½ baths this amazing home features 2 masters, theater/game/bar room, hardwood floors, natural stone, venetian plaster, gorgeous granite and much more! \$1,095,000

MONA GEGEN 247-9555



SHOW STOPPER CONTEMPORARY

Beautifully rebuilt one-of-a-kind home on .38 acre lot! Main house with 2285sq ft has 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, a private master suite, gourmet kitchen, family media area and wall of glass looking to the private backyard and pool. Separate 472sq ft guest house can be an office, in-law quarters, or exercise studio. \$799,000

CHRIS BALESTRERI 996-2244



DESIRABLE SHELFIELD

4 bedroom 2½ bath home in wonderful Carmichael area close to American River Parkway. Features include open floor plan, formal dining room and breakfast nook, dual pane windows, 2 HVAC units and solar heated pool! Spacious lot with area beside garage for parking, RV space and more. \$549,000

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GARDEN OF THE GODS

Fantastic 4 bedroom 2½ bath home with separate office, crown moulding in every room; and wainscoting in the dining room! And wait until you see the fabulous backyard with the 2010 saltwater Sport Pool, travertine copping and 3 waterfalls! There is also a fire pit and covered patio with skylight! \$379,000

LIBBY NEIL 539-5881

for current home listings, please visit:

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