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Front Street Animal Shelter fulfills Arden area 11 year old's birthday wish

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Del Norte resident Presley Knott had just one wish for his 11th birthday: that all of the animals in Sacramento get a forever home.

A local boy with Autism, Presley said his pet Chihuahua named Luigi is from the City of Sacramento's Front Street Shelter and he's his best friend. "(Luigi) has some special needs but doesn't everyone?" asked Presley. "Animals can help people with disabilities like Autism or blindness or if you can't walk. They also love you no matter what anyone else thinks."

The Front Street Shelter helped make his wish come true last weekend by making the price of adoption only \$11 in honor of his 11th birthday, which resulted in about 70 adoptions.

"They are awesome," Presley said. The shelter also collected donations for Autism Speaks, an autism advocacy organization. "So, we aren't just helping the animals but we are helping people with Autism, too," Presley said.

In honor of his birthday, a big party was held at the shelter with about 30 guests, including friends from his school, Mariemont Elementary in the Arden Park area. They were treated to pizza as well as a tour of the shelter. They were asked to pick an animal and write a letter as to why it should be adopted. "The shelter has found when there's a personal note of why it should be adopted, it goes a lot further," Presley's mom Randi Knott said in an interview with the Arden-Carmichael News, adding that "Team Front Street has been amazing for Presley to give back." She said even though he has special needs, this shows what good you can still do for the community, including improving the welfare of animals and people alike.

Randi called "Louie" (Luigi's nickname) a great addition to Presley's life. "Even when playing his video games, Louie is in his lap," she said. "It's been great. We had dogs before (Presley) was born, but those dogs weren't interested in him and he wasn't interested in them. My husband wanted him to experience the joy of having a pet - one that was his dog." The timing was important because as his friends became more socially sophisticated, Presley experienced

bullying because of the disorder. "So we wanted him to feel the unconditional love of the pet," Randi said.

And luck would have it, 4RFriends, a Sacramento animal rescue, was having an adoption fair at Loehmann's Plaza last July. It wasn't that Randi and Presley were intentionally going to buy a pet that day, but the young boy saw a beat-up, 2-year-old pup and fell in love. "I called him the Charlie Brown Christmas tree of dogs," Randi said. "He had huge scars from a massive surgery. He was run over twice. But my son saw something in him that no one else saw." They've been joined at the hip ever since.

Presley walks him and the unconditional love has been good for his self esteem and inherent in their human-animal bond dwell incredible healing powers. Many at risk children have tales of sorrow, loss and pain with no one to listen and often, no one to see the possibility and provide an opportunity to restructure their lives with a positive experience. Through interactions with an animal, a child becomes not a child with autism or any other disorder, but they simply become a child with a friend.

On the Autism spectrum, Presley's condition is considered high functioning and to him, "it's a matter of more or less" compared to others at his school who might not be as socially capable.

At Mariemont, Presley attends special day class, takes adaptive physical education and has vocabulary delay. But the school and his therapist Anne Shideler have been great. "After working with her, he ran for student senate. His speech went viral. Even though he didn't win, I got texts from parents. He came in third, which wasn't too shabby especially for a kid who wasn't terribly popular. It was a great experience for him. I feel he has power over his life and what more can any parent want."

When Presley expressed his birthday wish to his mother, Randi said she thought about how to fulfill it. Being of the Jewish faith, the family usually volunteers on Christmas Day and this past year, they spent the day at the shelter where a tripod Chihuahua inspired Presley to help get the animal adopted. Professional photography was done and photos went online. Presley wanted



Photo courtesy of Randi Knott
Presley Knott cuddles a sweet little pup. He celebrated his birthday at the Front Street Shelter on Sunday, Jan. 19 where a successful adopt-a-thon was held.

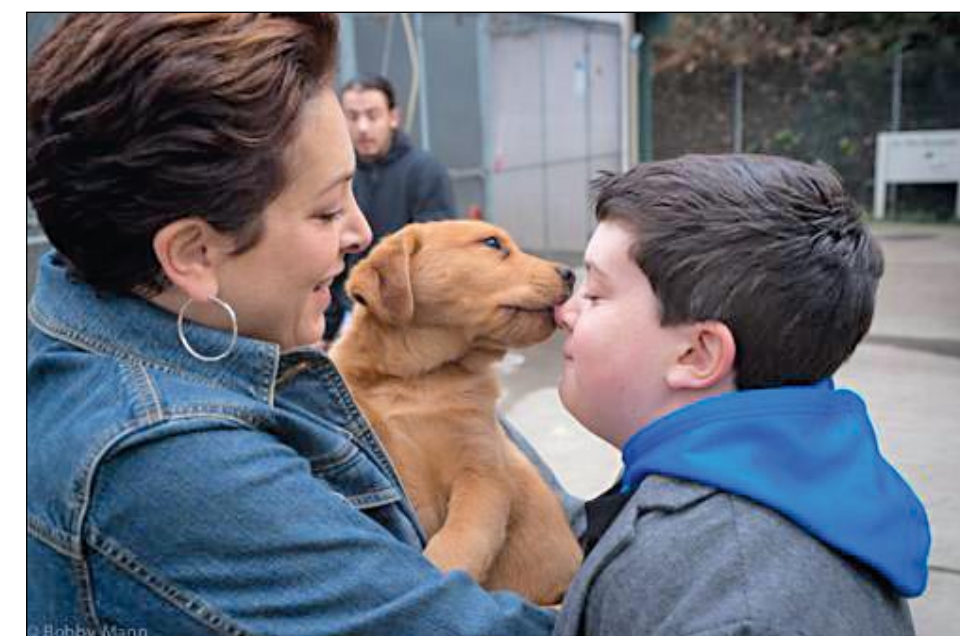


Photo courtesy of Randi Knott
Randi Knott and her son Presley Knott cuddle a small pup. Presley, a boy with autism, celebrated his birthday at the Front Street Shelter on Sunday, Jan. 19 where a successful adopt-a-thon was held.

to name it "Adorable Survivor", so "Lucky" was a good compromise, since the former was a little long. Anyway, Lucky got adopted the very next day and the experience inspired Presley's birthday wish and his mom's idea to contact the shelter to host the party.

Understanding that animals bring comfort and a level of unconditional love, the Front Street Shelter recognized the need to make adoption possible for anyone and has agreed

to offer the space and special rate adoptions in honor of Presley, who is a junior ambassador there. He feels extremely proud and reminds the public, "Remember, adopt. Don't shop." To the Front Street Shelter, they're hoping the birthday bash is the beginning of many creative partnerships that benefit not only the lost, stray and abandoned animals of Sacramento, but also shed light on many other efforts under way that benefit the entire community.

Unique Valentine's gift: Singing Valentines

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

When love is in the air, a beautiful serenade from a Capitolaire Barbershop Chorus quartet might be the perfect surprise for your sweetie. Along with a choice of love songs between "Let Me Call You, Sweetheart" and "Story of the Rose: Heart of my Heart", members will present the lucky one with a silk rose, a box of chocolates and a personalized greeting card from the sender. In the past, such gifts have come with marriage proposals, with future grooms on bended knee.

Besides singing to the romantics, the Capitolaire have received requests to perform their Singing Valentines in schools, usually by the request of a teacher for her class and also in businesses where coworkers have gotten to enjoy the harmonizing of a tenor, baritone, bass and lead. Simply put, singer Joe Samora told Valley Community Newspapers: "We do songs for men and women."

Last year, the Capitolaire sold 47 valentines. One quartet sang 16 valentines in one day, with 12 being the typical amount. While they generally stick to the greater Sacramento area, Samora said last year they accepted a request from a military officer serv-



ing in Afghanistan for his sweetheart who was living in Yuba City. Also in the past, the Mayor's office has asked the Capitolaire to come to the Blood Bank and sing.

This year, the organization is hoping to sell 60 valentines, which will be performed amongst five quartets.

With more than 30 members of local singing phenomenon, the Capitolaire turns 70 years old in 2016. Formed in 1946, it is the second oldest barbershop harmony chorus along the Northwest coast with Reno being the first. Besides the annual Singing Valentines fundraising event, the group performs for children and their families each December at the Polar Express event where Santa and trains mixed with Christmas music gets visitors in the holiday spirit.

The Capitolaire is a nonprofit, sponsored by the Metro Arts Commission and the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce. From events like the Singing Valentines and the Polar Express, they raise funds to help



pay for teaching four-part harmony to high school boys at a camp in Pollock Pines each September. The boys memorize the words and the notes.

The quartets will deliver the Singing Valentines on Friday Feb. 14 and on Saturday, Feb. 15 between the

hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. with a four hour delivery window for \$50. If you're interested in giving the gift of song, all you have to do is call (888) 877-9806 or order at www.capitolaire.org and express where you want the quartet to show up.

Hope for rescue dogs in the Arden area

By BILL LAWS

Rosemarie Messina gently guides Bocce, her newly adopted greyhound, in front of the bustling Whole Foods Market on Arden Way. An account executive for the Sacramento News and Review, Rosemarie says a recent Greyhound Friends for Life informational meeting in front of the market is an ongoing "opportunity for people to be around greyhounds and find out how great they are as pets."

Greyhound Friends for Life, a nonprofit agency that lobbies against dog racing, meets monthly on Sundays during lunchtime at the Arden Way market. It seeks homes for racing dogs that have become too old for the grueling and often cruel life on dog tracks. [see www.greyhoundfriendforlife.org for information].

According to a pamphlet distributed by the agency, dogs, like Bocce, that have "demonstrated the potential to make money for their owners will be sent to various racetracks across the country." After only a year or less, most of the exploited animals will be "killed or sold for medical experimentation." Tragically, only a few of the animals will be "rescued" after becoming injured or "retired" after the mandatory age of five years.

"We adopted Bocce in October," explains Messina. "He's already like a member of our family."

Along with a previously adopted "rescue dog" named Greycie, Bocce was given a loving home after a career racing at the Tucson, Arizona greyhound track. Like other dogs bred to serve the racing industry, Bocce carries tattoos in his ears that give his age and an established litter number.

Nora Star is the representative for Greyhound Friends for Life in the Northern California area. Retired after a career in the medical field, Star has been a dedicated

advocate for over 25 years of greyhounds rescued from the race track industry.

"It started after I saw a television show about the subject," she explains. "After that I positively fell in love with the breed."

Star, however, cautions potential pet owners who are considering adopting a rescue dog. "Security measures are the key thing," she says "because the dogs are trained to aggressively pursue a specific object or bait in order to get them running on the race track." She emphasizes that a rescue greyhound not handled properly on a leash might chase a small dog that it sees. Even from a great distance, the dog can spot a smaller animal and instantly give chase at very great speeds. Luckily, however, track greyhounds are trained from pups to tolerate a sturdy leash.

Currently, Star is taking care of two older greyhounds. This pair of dogs, she says, are rescued animals that would have been totally abandoned by a former adopting family who was forced to relocate to an apartment that didn't take pets.

Despite the obvious complexities of adopting a rescue greyhound, though, Star stresses that most families bond emotionally with the pets. "There are some great pet owners," she states exuberantly. In fact, in her book Greyhound Tales: True Stories of Rescue, Compassion and Love Star documents the stories of many former race dogs that have been successfully incorporated into loving families.

Most of the greyhound owners at the informational event at Whole Foods emphasize the gentleness and friendliness of their rescued dogs. Because they are large animals, they need regular outdoor exercise. This, of course, must be provided with the animals on a firm leash. Some dogs, moreover,

such as Gracie, have chronic conditions caused by an injury incurred during the dangerous racing career.

Yet, in information provided by the agency sponsoring the event, a greyhound's "docile nature" makes the switch from race track to a home setting "an easy transition." If the full turnout and enthusiasm shown by the owners at the informational event is any indication, goodwill certainly abounds for the needy animals. And, without a doubt, there will be pet owners who rise to the challenge of giving a second life to these large but handsome animals.



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Kora player Karamo Susso opens the spring World Music Series at Sacramento State with a concert at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, in the Music Recital Hall on campus, 6000 J S. The kora is a 21-stringed harp/lute, and Susso has played it with the likes of Taj Mahal and other music stars with a repertoire that includes jazz and hip hop. Tickets are \$15 general, \$12 seniors and \$8 students, available at the University Ticket Office, 278-4323 or www.csus.edu/hornettickets. Contact: (916) 278-5191.



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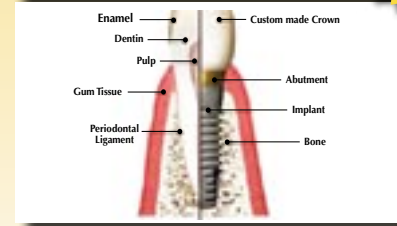
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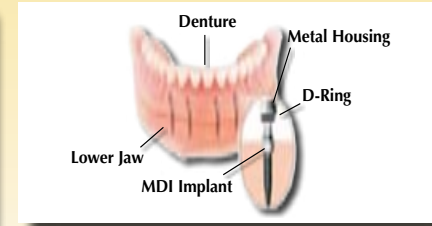
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As in years past, 70-year-old Mary Anne Brizze, a breast cancer survivor, is gathering friends and family (about 35 strong) and descending on Country Club Lanes for a fun day that raises money for a good cause, the Albie Aware Breast Cancer Foundation. "I'll be in my pink survivor bowling shirt," said Brizze.

The event will include special pink pins, glow bowling, raffle prizes and a disc jockey. It will be about \$100 for a team of five or \$25 per person, shoes included.

The schedule is as follows: Squad No. 1 will go on from 1 to 3:30 p.m., followed by house music. Then Squad No. 2 will go on from 4 to 6:30 p.m. and will include glow bowling and DJ music. Then Squad No. 3 will go on between 7 and 9:30 p.m. and will also including glow bowling and more DJ music. Interested bowlers should send a check to Country Club Lanes/Albie Aware Event; 2600 Watt Ave. The fax number is 254-0316 and for more information, call 595-9502. The deadline is Feb. 20.

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Art with a purpose:

A Sacramento sculptor's mission to rid lead from ceramics in Bolivia

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Editor's note: This is the second part in a series about a prominent sculptor from the Sacramento area whose work inspires and teaches students locally at the Short Center North and internationally in a small Bolivian town called Huayculi.

As was mentioned in the first part in this series about Pocket sculptor Miguel Paz, the artist hails from La Paz, Bolivia and has taken multiple trips back to his home country to share his expertise with fellow artists in an effort to create an international artists' collective on the most basic level of community building and sharing of ideas and resources.

With a teaching background from Columbia University's Teachers College and experience working with the Sacramento Arts Commission and also at the Short Center North, Paz is intent on showing townspeople how using natural resources not only produces aesthetically beautiful pieces, but also is healthier. Starting this week, he will be starting a four month class where he will learn how to build an anagama kiln and will be teaching people in Huayculi what he's learned.

It is not uncommon in Bolivia or in other parts of South America to see ceramic pieces that contain lead and according to an April 7, 2011 article on the topic in Food Safety News, lead has been used in the glazing process for ceramic dishes, bowls, pitchers, plates and other utensils for centuries. Typically, after being fired in a kiln, a piece of ceramic will appear smooth and shiny due to the lead in the glaze.

Upon describing what he saw in Huayculi, Paz said in an interview with the *Pocket News*: "They are happy firing it at 1,000 degrees. I call it quasi ceramics. It's not cooked; it's only basically hardened. The reason why is that they efficiently melt the glaze, which is lead-based at that 1,000 degrees. You can make it run. When it comes out of the kiln, it looks like ceramics, so they are able to sell it."

Surrounded by homes made from Adobe growing up, Paz was influenced by the material at such a young age. "Adobe was incredible, so I was very much influenced by that when I was young. But also by 1991, I also began to see there was something that developed, from a cultural point of view that fascinated me."

"There was a tremendous amount of alcoholism, similar to the Native American story on the reservations. There's

no incentive. Everybody is being taken care of, but there are all of these forces of prejudice and racism and marginalization that deprive individuals of wanting to make something with their lives."

This discovery came to light during a visit in 1991, after 20 years had passed since Paz's previous time there. He was living on the East Coast with his wife and daughters (ages 8 and 11), but problems with his marriage led to a separation and as a result he fled back to Bolivia.

"I was mainly just angry, bitter, disillusioned," Paz said.

"I got a job working in a ceramics firm that was doing exports and imports. It was an interesting relationship, building a work production for making ceramic pieces that could be made there. They were fired electric. It was capital intensive," he recalled. "It's not like here where you can go to Alpha Ceramics (4675 Aldona Ln.) or Panama (Pottery, 4421 24th St.). You had to dig. I heard they had kaolin (a rare type of pure clay used in porcelain) down in Southern Bolivia."

About a year and a half later, he boarded a bus out of Sucre to take him to the land of kaolinite rich rocks, but he never made it. The route from Sucre to Southern Bolivia was a 9-hour ride that tired out the bus driver who fell asleep at the wheel. The vehicle went off the side of a mountain, leaving Paz quadriplegic. "The last thing I remember seeing was nothing but dark in front of me. I swear, I was in the back, I heard screams. So I got up, put on my glasses and it was like light at the end of this dark thing."

It was about 5 a.m. Paz was airlifted. Doctors saw bleeding, broken ribs, a contusion in the back, two broken collar bones. "It was really bad. I was really fortunate to have made it, but I made it back to the United States because they had no MRI in Bolivia," Paz said. His mother brought him back to California, where he recuperated and gradually learned to regain strength and movement.

"When my Mom brought me back, I saw I had messed up when you leave children, even though it was a separation. I was very much an artist pursuing my thing. It was about me, me, me. It was the machismo, egocentric nature of the artist that I took out on my family."

The accident, undoubtedly, was life changing for the artist in many ways in relation to his future work at the Short Center North as well as working to eliminate lead from the ceramics in Bolivia.

Because of the accident, Paz "saw the light."



Photo by Miguel Paz
Shown here is a bit of the landscape of "Valle Alto de Cochabamba". The photographer, Miguel Paz, took the photo in 2012 when he returned to his home country. Paz is on a mission to remove lead from the clay in the small town of Huayculi.

"It's so connected you cannot believe. There's an amazing potential to create art even if they wouldn't have been able to consider a therapeutic association to rehabilitate. To me, it's one of the greatest opportunities to work with this population. This is where art really begins, to understand the primal understanding of art. It evolves out of the life story."

As the disabled population lives in the margins of society, the people of Bolivia Paz has met are also marginalized and he describes art as something readily available to the privilege class. "This is how it all fits. In reality, it's an unfolding. And this is my own personal investment to do something that truly has a purpose. There's a reason this is all coming together," Paz said. "I had the accident. It was a reality check, a rethinking, and reevaluating of the most important principles a person should live by. It was philosophical."

Paz took up teaching at the Short Center North, where he has enjoyed watching talent flourish from his students with disabilities and over the years, he has made a few trips back to Huayculi. "I came back to the United States and continued on with my life on a level that was more culturally based -- how arts and education empower people. That's what I noticed in Huayculi."

Paz noticed the appreciation for Bolivian culture the people of Huayculi embodied, and the beauty of it all, has resonated within the sculptor, inspiring him to stay in contact with the community there on a regular basis since 1996. "(I speak to) the people who are producing the indigenous cottage industries -- the people who are feeding the local markets."

On an educational level, Paz wants to teach the importance of not using lead in ceramics and bring back the knowledge that has empowered Bolivians since the Inca. "That's why in 1991, when I went to Bolivia, when I had the accident, I began to really see there was a real strong cultural ground of the knowledge of what clay can do for people. It's such an inexpensive material but it's so culturally embedded in the lives of people."

See Miguel Paz, page 14

But as much as Paz has tried to preach about the danger of lead-based clay, "it's in one ear and out the other," he said.

And he's starting to see the philosophical connection. "It's the way they have experienced life for so long, being at the yolk of someone else's beat. Even the Inca was oppressive, but they weren't into lead back then. Now everybody does it quick, quick, quick because you're competing against plastics."

Because of trade agreements, Bolivia has become the recipient of used cars, essentially becoming the dump site for conglomerates that are getting rid of their unwanted vehicles. "You can have a car that's 5 years old that they are throwing away in Indonesia or Japan or Europe. They sell these cars to people in Bolivia so they can have a job driving a taxi and with it comes with a battery and the battery is already used as it is. There are no recycling efforts for batteries."

"So what the native people, the indigenous people, the artists, what they do, since they cannot afford much, they get their hands on an old battery. They cracked them open; they've removed the cells. There are nine cells in there that's barium. Barium is a lead derivative that is able to collect that electricity. It can dispense on a gradual basis. The duration of it is five to 10 years if it's well taken care of. By cracking it, you remove these cells, then you grind it. This is done in the open. With a little water, you coat all of the ceramic pieces in the low fire range at 100 to 1,000 degrees."

"Then they stack them on top of each other. Then they separate them and sell them at markets. These things are causing enormous problems. Not only as ultimately reaching the brain, but it's also destroying the liver, the kidneys, the stomach, the esophagus. All of these problems that are tragic. Changing these from 1996 to today, it's like fighting impossible odds, almost. The interests are really to increase the livelihood of people going back to the 50s. People weren't just poor, they were dying. They were

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Arcadia is Arden area's newest entertainment center

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

The Arden-Carmichael News recently paid a visit to the Arden area's newest entertainment center, Arcadia.

The business, which is located at 1901 El Camino Ave., features six arcade games, a pool table, a dart board, a restaurant and dining area with seven tables, a beer bar, a jukebox, gumball and toy machines, live music and two 55-inch televisions.

In being eager for more people in the community to become familiar with his establishment, which opened last Nov. 9, Anthony Morales agreed to share details about his business and give a complete tour of the place.

Anthony, 42, also spoke a bit about his personal background.

About seven years after being born in Houston, Texas, Anthony, who was one of four children, came to California with his family.

At that point, Anthony was raised by his mother in south Sacramento, and he eventually attended and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School.

Arcadia is not the first business that Anthony has owned, as he was the proprietor of AM/PM Janitorial Services from 1986 to 2009.

Anthony, who is married and has two children and two stepchildren, said that he discontinued his janitorial busi-



Arcadia owner Anthony Morales, left, stands alongside two of his employees, his brother Phil Morales, and Cathy Blanco. Photo by Lance Armstrong

ness due to physical ailments that affected his ability to work in that field.

Fortunately, prior to when he ceased operating his first business, Anthony had pondered the idea of owning arcade and vending machines.

So, opening a place featuring arcade machines became Anthony's number one post-janitorial business priority.

After Anthony acquired the El Camino Avenue business space, which had previously housed Casa Jalisco Mexican restaurant, his entertainment/eatery dream soon became a reality.

In recalling a special moment at his current business, Anthony said that he first experienced satisfac-

tion with the establishment when he saw customers visiting his place and enjoying that experience.

Assisting Anthony in operating his business are his brother, Phil Morales, Cathy Blanco and Martha Espinoza.

Anthony said that Arcadia is continuously making improvements.

Among those improvements is the upcoming addition of eight more arcade games, which will be present in the building by January 26.

Anthony explained that he has the incentive to add those new games by that date, because Arcadia will then be presenting a special event.

"On the 26th (of January from 1 to 5 p.m.), we're hav-

ing an arcade and home console tournament to find out who the best players are," Anthony said. "And we're going to have a Killer Instinct (fighting game) tournament. Nobody else in Sacramento has a Killer Instinct arcade machine. So, we're going to do a tournament on that machine. (The tournament is) for bragging rights and whatever we collect at the door, the winner gets 70 percent of that (money)."

The contest, which has a \$10 cover for contestants, will also have prizes for second and third place finishers.

A wall separates the business into two large sections, with one section featuring the kitchen and dining room and the other section consisting of the pool room, a live music area and the bar, which has four beers on tap and 12 different imported, bottled beers.

While giving a tour of his business to this publication, Anthony mentioned, as well as showed, that his business is a place of both cleanliness and organization.

"(A health inspector) already came in, and the lady goes, 'I was ready to flag your restaurant with a yellow tag saying you need a lot of improvements, like this needs to be done and that needs to be done.' She comes in here and goes, 'In the last four or five months, I have never given out a green tag until now.' She gave me a green one right off the bat. She was here (for

Arcadia:

Continued from page 12

like three hours trying to find something. She couldn't find anything wrong."

And in speaking about some of Arcadia's food offerings, Anthony said, "The double cheeseburgers sell all the time. The western barbecue burger is another big one that's on (the menu). The hot links sell just as much as those (burgers). And then we have kids' combo meals. We also have hot dogs, BLTs, corn dogs, chili dogs, chicken tenders, chicken sandwiches and hot wings.

The double cheeseburger and the western barbecue burger, which each sell for \$6.25 and include steak fries and a soda, should satisfy about any appetite, as these burgers feature a thick patty and plenty of fixings.

After being asked to explain what he thought about doing in his future when he was a child, Anthony quickly responded, "Make people happy."

In commenting about how that childhood desire relates to his current business, he said, "It's perfect, because we grew up poor and going out (for food at a restaurant and entertainment) was too expensive and my mom couldn't afford to take us. In order for us to go, she didn't pay the rent that month. And I remember what that was like. So, when I grew up, I always

wanted to make people happy. Now I have a chance to do that (through Arcadia). You can literally come here with \$20 and feed a family of four."

But Anthony added that he will not be completely satisfied with his business until he can open another Arcadia in a different location.

As for now, he is concentrating on the success of his only business location, which accommodates 67 people in its dining area and 79 people in its bar/pool room.

With a content look on his face, Anthony leaned back in a cushioned seat at a booth inside the dining room and said, "(Arcadia is) doing good. The business increases every day. We get more and more customers. A lot of new people come in."

Among the people who have already grown fond of Arcadia during its short existence is Harrison Umaña.

"Anything I see that's brand new or anything that has just opened, I want to go try it out," Umaña said. "And if I like it, I'm always going to come back (often). I started coming here in December and I've been here like 30 times already. I bring all my family and friends and everybody. I've tried all (of) their menu. I love playing their pool table and (listening to) their jukebox, and all their classic, old school music. They have a mixture of all different types of music. I love it."

First time customer Charlie Headstone, 38, said that he was initially attracted to Arcadia by its lights.

"This is my first time coming here," Headstone said. "The lighting outside is awesome. It attracted me to come here. I drove by here like three or four times and I wanted to stop. Tonight I was hungry."

Headstone also noted that he appreciated the value of his meal and the place's family atmosphere, and he noted that he plans to return to Arcadia with his wife and some of his friends.

After enjoying a double cheeseburger, fries and a soda at Arcadia, neighborhood resident Luis Esparza, said, "It's my second time coming here. They have nice customer service, nice cooks and good food, and it's (a) fun (place) for the family."

Ramiro Solis, a regular customer of Arcadia, said, "I've been coming here since like a week after they opened. We stopped by and ever since we stopped by, we (have frequented the place). We usually try to come every day like around 7 (p.m.), because we work all day. I tell my buddies about (Arcadia). It's a nice place to relax. It's like a family area, like there are no problems here. You would think there would be problems because they sell alcohol, but it's actually not. It's always real calm, everybody's friendly and the owner is real



The western barbecue burger combo with fries and a soda is one of Arcadia's best selling food specials. Photo by Lance Armstrong

nice. (The owner and his employees) are always asking me if I want anything and making sure everything is good. So, they're pretty good people. And the food is super good."

Michael Roberts, 30, has also become a regular Arcadia customer.

"The food is great and they have games for the kids," Roberts said. "I come here a lot to

hang out and get away from everything. They have a pool table and any age can play on the pool table. It's family entertainment. All the owner wants is for the family to come in and have a good time. It's a pretty good place to be."

Arcadia is open daily from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. The business's telephone number is 692-5578.

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Miguel Paz:

Continued from page 10

holding on with dysentery. The trade off is called denial."

Paz describes the policies set forth by the World Bank and IMF trade agreements as "truly criminal" established by a ruling class to administrate.

"The only thing that is bad is the barium. And Bolivia is on the other side of the Andes and nobody cares. It's being used as

a glaze in this pseudo ceramics. Because it looks shiny, it's actually distorting our sense of values. In terms of economy 7 to 10 percent of cottage industries are run by this quick and fix. But it's being discarded. I have just become aware of this as of last year," Paz said, adding however, it's not something new; it's been going on for two generations. "We're not rabbits or fruit flies. We are human beings. In one generation you

can change these forces that are so great."

While the odds may seem insurmountable to overcome, Paz currently is intent on learning how to build an anagama and show what he's learned to empower the people of Huayculli to use natural resources to create a healthy local economy. "It would relate itself to an exchange program, a school for the arts and include the individual on a local base to work

hand in hand in producing quality work," he said.

Paz has been inspired by Marc Lancet, an instructor at Solano Community College who co-authored *Japanese Wood-fired Ceramics* with Masakazu Kusakabe in 2005. Lancet, not only uses wood in the firing process, he's a master anagama kiln maker who is helping to revive a movement of the ancient type of pottery kiln which was brought to Japan from China in the 5th century and first to the United States in 1995. Akin to the large beehive kilns at Panama Pottery, which are no longer in use, the anagama can be quite ginormous and firings can last weeks.

"He (Lancet) uses natural resources and high fire to create incredibly colorful pieces. What you are exposing is the richness of the clay as it crystallizes. So the appeal of all of this is the coloration. The wood itself, when it reaches high fire, it creates an ash that floats inside of the chamber at

high temperature and it floats and descends. It coats and lands on the pieces that are maturing. It's great," Paz said.

In the process Lancet uses, none of the glazes are lead based and as far as using wood to fire in Bolivia, well, Paz said the country has a lot of eucalyptus. "With proper management, you can do it. You have to plan on the level of the growth of the eucalyptus," he added.

From the inspiration of Lancet and Sacramento State University ceramics professor Scott Parady, Paz has learned the beautiful facets the anagama can have on the experience of a community. "We are conscious of the fact it's a collective and communal experience." And in relating back to Bolivia, he said: "There aren't many jobs available in that field, so we need to make the interest in the learning of making ceramics through the people in the humanities - the understanding of art, the children who will become the people who will bring about a social change."

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New possibilities for community cohousing in the New Year

By ANNE GERAGHTY

A "Cohousing Forum" on Saturday, Feb. 8, is bringing together national and local experts to discuss how these collaborative neighborhoods can be a great option for active adults looking for a place they'll be able to age in place. Cohousing combines private homes with extensive common facilities to create environmentally and socially sustainable neighborhoods. Earlier communities like Southside Park (built in 1993 at 5th and T streets) were intergenerational communities with a lot of focus on creating a great place for kids.

"We are now seeing increasing interest from people looking at their second half of life and wanting to retain their independence and active social life," says Kathryn McCamant, architect and national leader in the cohousing movement, who works with groups all over the country to create new cohousing communities. "Whether that is an intergenerational community or a community of active adults, the neighborhoods are offering a new option for older adults. I am very pleased about the strong interest in cohousing throughout the Sacramento and Foothill region." The forum will provide a variety of talks including a panel of se-

niors that are already living in cohousing to assist people in exploring if this might be a good option for themselves.

David Mogavero, Sacramento architect and developer, will talk about the possibilities for new cohousing developments in the Sacramento region. Mogavero, worked with future residents to design Southside Park Cohousing 20 years ago. "It is very rewarding to me to see how successful Southside Park Cohousing has been. This development has made a big difference to this neighborhood. I'm excited about the renewed interest in cohousing today as I believe it can be a real asset both to its residents and, as well, to the neighborhoods in which it is built," he said.

Residents of Wolf Creek Lodge and Sacramento Cohousing will talk about what it is like to live day-to-day in a cohousing community.

Joyce Rasmussen is one of Wolf Creek's newest residents. She sold her Sacramento home of many years to make this change. "I was curious about Wolf Creek. I loved the building and the location but what sold me was attending one of their meetings and seeing the group work through a difficult issue to solution with grace and humor. I haven't regretted my decision. This is a great group of people."

Sacramento Councilmember Steve Hansen has been

invited to give his perspective on how cohousing fits in with the City of Sacramento's infill development policies.

The Cohousing Forum, hosted by the Renaissance Village Homes and by Wolf Creek Lodge of Grass Valley, will be held at Northminster Presbyterian Church from 1 to 5 p.m. at 3235 Pope Ave. in Sacramento.

Cohousing is a community oriented housing approach organized and developed by the owners themselves. Each owner (individual or family) has their own home within a development designed to foster interaction. There are community rooms created for meetings, meals and other social functions.

Wolf Creek Lodge, completed a year ago, is located in Grass Valley on a site overlooking forests and Wolf Creek yet within walking distance of shops and trails. The Lodge has 30 units with 3 remaining for sale. Wolf Creek residents will provide their insights on living in cohousing including sharing meals, helping one another with projects, attending local events. They will also talk about what they went through to develop their award winning cohousing project.

Sacramento's Renaissance Village Homes is a newly formed cohousing group that is interested in locating a site in the Sacramento urban area within walking distance of transit and other amenities. It is seeking additional members to help in this development goal.

Information on the recently formed Fair Oaks EcoHousing project will be available as well for individuals and families interested in an intergenerational cohousing community.

A \$10 fee will be collected at the door. RSVPs are appreciated to be certain that there are sufficient seats, materials and refreshments for all. Please RSVP to info@renaissancevillagehomes.org. For additional information see the following:

www.renaissancevillagehomes.org, www.wolfcreeklodge.org, and www.cohousing.org.

Anne Geraghty represents Renaissance Village Homes.

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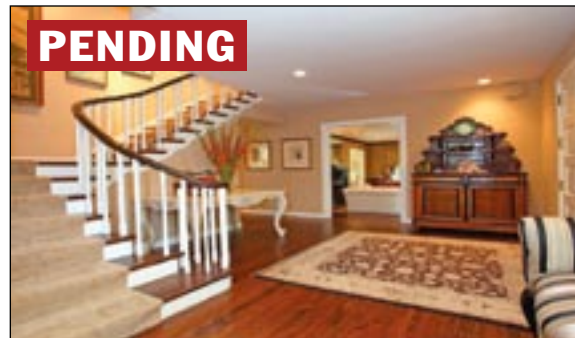
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