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Carmichael area resident recalls his career in early television

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On the ballot: Voters asked to pay \$4 a month to improve parks

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 Arden-Carmichael News is published on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Newspapers are available in stands throughout the area.
Publisher..... George Macko
General Manager..... Kathleen Egan
Editor..... Monica Stark
Art Director..... John Ochoa
Graphic Designer..... Ryan Wunn
Sales Manager..... Patty Colmer
Advertising Executives:
 Linda Pohl, Melissa Andrews, Jen Henry
Distribution/Subscriptions..... George Macko
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Vol. XXIII • No. 4
 2709 Riverside Blvd.
 Sacramento,
 CA 95818
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Cover photo:
 Bill Condray
Other photos by:
 Courtesy
 Lance Armstrong



Photo by Monica Stark

In your neighborhood, but where?

On the corner of American River and Wilhaggin drives is a house where metal art by Aurelio Torres decorates the front yard. According to his website, <http://sactometalart.com/about.html>, Torres was born and raised in Mexico. Upon describing the connection between his background and his style today, he states on the site: "My admiration for the people from my home town, who do extraordinary blacksmith work for a living, has given me the inspiration to create an expressive style in my own sculptures. Using found objects or scrap metal, I give new opportunity to those forgotten or discarded pieces by incorporating them again to form new and unique expressions."

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Schools host charity basketball game to benefit family of former teacher

A framed jersey stood at the entrance of the El Camino High School gymnasium during last week's "Hoops for Hope" event. It bore the number 40 and the name "Dingman."

Inside, El Camino and Rio Americano staff members faced off in a basketball game to raise money for charity.

Both schools chose to give 100 percent of the event's proceeds to the family of Brandon Dingman. The beloved El Camino teacher suffered a heart attack and passed away suddenly in December.

Students remember Dingman, an El Camino alumnus, as a compassionate and dedicated leader.

"He would do anything for his students. He truly cared about them," said El Camino student body president Matt Smith.

The gym was crowded with supporters who shouted and cheered as the two teams battled into overtime. El Camino won 26-24.

"Hoops for Hope" raised \$4,700 for Dingman's family. He was the father of two young children.

El Camino athletic director Cici Robinson said it was a powerful show of support from a school still mourning a valued team member.

"They came to be a part of Mr. Dingman and his family, and they all realized the importance of the legacy that he has created and we want to continue to foster for years and years."

The schools plan to make the event an annual tradition to encourage community involvement.

"We can get more charities involved and always have it be about something other than us, but a positive cause that the kids can really be a part of," Robinson said.



Carmichael area resident recalls his career in early television

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is part two in a series about local people connected to the early days of television.

In continuing to relate his memories about his career in art, Carmichael area resident Bob Miller said that his involvement in working in television did not end with his employment with KTVU Channel 36 in Stockton. He would become one of the early employees of KOVR Channel 13, which was founded in Stockton, and has a long history of operating in the Sacramento area.

"I was there (at KTVU) for six months, and that was in 1954," Miller said. "(KTVU) immediately put me on the air. There was a show called 'Magic Genie,' and a woman named Jean Hardie did the show. And once a week, I went on the air (on the 'Magic Genie' show) and I drew pictures on big sheets of butcher paper (with) lecturer's chalk. I would draw, for example, Elmer the elephant, and I showed the kids how to draw Elmer using black and white chalk. And then I would tell a story about Elmer. Or it might be Sam the snake or it might be Joe the spider. Kids would send in drawings. We would get anywhere from 800 to 1,000 drawings a week and we would pick 10 winners to



Photo courtesy of Bob Miller
KCRA-TV art director Bob Miller, right; Don Chandler, assistant art director; and Bob Matsumoto, student trainee, work on a project for a then-upcoming Crystal Cream and Butter Co. commercial, in the 1960s.

be on the show, and we would give them little prizes. We were sponsored by a little toy store in Stockton. I was (at KTVU), then (KOVR) Channel 13 went on the air."

Miller related his first memory about KOVR, as follows: "The first thing pictured on the air misspelled KOVR. It was spelled KVOR. And, of course, KOVR stood for coverage in those days, seeming they had a signal that [covered Northern

California]. It was a huge, huge signal, and that was the idea. But the problem was, it duplicated coverage of stations in the Bay Area – the NBC and CBS outlets and so forth. So, (KOVR) couldn't get a network. They had for a brief time the DuMont network, which carried the (San Francisco) 49ers, which was not much of a deal in those days. (KOVR) had

See TV, page 6

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TV:

Continued from page 5

to curtail their coverage in order to get a decent network.”

After being asked how soon he began working for KOVR following the station's debut, Miller said, “I was almost brand new (at KOVR). There had been another art director there before I was there. His name was Jens Hendrickson. I don't recall what the reason was he left the station, and they hired me. If they terminated him, it was possibly because of the situation with the 'KVOR' mistake.”

In being only about six months shy of the 60th anniversary of KOVR, its history should be of added interest to locals, especially those who recall the earlier years of the station.

The previously mentioned long range coverage of KOVR was referred to in *The Sacramento Union* and *The Sacramento Bee's* announcements that the station would debut on Sept. 6, 1954.

On the same day, *The Union* noted: “The Sacramento-San Joaquin valleys get a new TV station today, when KOVR-TV goes on the air at 7 p.m. with its premiere program. The new VHF station, with transmitter atop 4,000-foot Mt. Diablo, 35 miles from its studio, will operate on Channel 13. The debut of KOVR marks the first very high frequency TV station to start operations in the valleys.”

The Union described KOVR's transmitter tower as “standing 325 feet above Diablo's peak” and sending out 141,000 watts of signal power. The construction permit for the tower was issued by the Federal Communications Commission in February 1954 and work for the construction of the tower began shortly thereafter.

Prior to KOVR's first broadcast, it was estimated by A.E. Joscelyn, the station's manager, that KOVR would eventually have an audience of more than 4 million viewers. It was also reported by *The Union* that the station's first program would be viewed by 300,000 people.

The Bee, in its Sept. 6, 1954 edition, noted: “Northern California's newest television station and one which promises to be seen over the widest area will go on the air tonight with an inaugural live program from the California State Fair and Exposition in Sacramento.”

At that time, the 55-mile microwave relay from the fairgrounds at Stockton Boulevard and Broadway marked the longest remote sound and picture pickup ever attempted in this section of the country. The Sept. 6, 1954 telecast was the first in a week-long series of nightly telecasts from the fair.



Photo courtesy of Bob Miller
While working for KCRA-TV, Bob Miller adjusts a flat on the set of the Milly Sullivan Show in about 1955.

The Bee also reported that the station's original reception reached as far north as Oroville (Butte County), as far east as the Sierra Nevada, as far south as Fresno (Fresno County) and to the Pacific Ocean on the west.

And in *The Union's* report, it was noted that KOVR's test patterns determined that the station originally had strong reception in 27 California counties, including Sacramento County.

With its first airing, KOVR became Northern California's seventh VHF station to take the air. KOVR was originally owned and operated by Television Diablo, Inc. and that independent company's principal stockholder and president was Les Hoffman, who

was also a radio and television manufacturer.

Miller recalled Hoffman's involvement as a television manufacturer, as follows: “His company was the manufacturer of 'Easy-Vision' televisions. The picture tubes in the television sets had a tinted glass that was supposed to make it easier to watch the television picture.”

In 1957, KOVR became an ABC affiliate, as it acquired that status from the capital city's original ABC affiliate, KCCC Channel 40.

During the following year, KOVR was sold to the Gannett Company of Rochester, N.Y. Part of the arrangement of the sale was that the station's transmitter would be moved to a location near Jackson.

KOVR was sold to Metropolitan Broadcasting (later

known as Metromedia, Inc.) in February 1960, and the station's antenna was placed on a 1,550-foot tower near Walnut Grove.

By 1962, KOVR was running its Sacramento studios at 1216 Arden Way.

KOVR began its McClatchy ownership era when McClatchy Newspapers purchased the station from Metromedia in 1964, and operated KOVR from studios in Stockton and Sacramento.

That era ended with the sale of the station to the Outlet Company of Providence, R.I. for \$65 million. The agreement for the sale was announced on July 5, 1979.

In explaining the reason for the sale, McClatchy Newspapers President C.K. McClatchy,

See *History feature*, page 7

History feature:

Continued from page 6

in an interview for *The Bee*, said, “Various recent court decisions and rulings by the Federal Communications Commission have made it clear there is increasingly strong government opposition to the ownership of television stations by newspapers in the same market. This is what led to our decision that it would be in the best interests of the community and our employees and McClatchy Newspapers to seek an orderly transfer of ownership.”

The Rockefeller Group bought the Outlet Company in 1983 for \$244.8 million and assumed an \$87.3 million debt. As a subsidiary of the Rockefeller Group, the Outlet Company later became known as Outlet Communications.

In explaining a portion of KOVR's history, *The Bee*, in its March 13, 1986 edition, noted that “Outlet remained a part of Rockefeller until February [1986], when it split off, leaving KOVR behind, briefly.”

And *The Bee* added that following that split, Outlet “almost immediately” partnered with Wesray Capital Corp. to spend \$625 million for the acquisition of four radio stations and seven television stations, including KOVR.

The station was once again under a different ownership in 1986, as Narragansett Capital, Inc., an investment group based in Providence, purchased it for \$104 million.

But that proprietorship was fairly short lived, as Narragansett sold KOVR to Anchor Media, Inc. (later became River City Broadcasting) for \$162 million on Nov. 1, 1988.

In 1995, KOVR exchanged affiliations with KXTV Channel 10, as KOVR became a CBS affiliate.

During the following year, River City Broadcasting was bought by the Sinclair Broadcast Group.

Viacom Television Stations Group (presently part of CBS Corporation) purchased KOVR for \$285 million in December 2004.

Today, KOVR, which presently identifies itself as “CBS 13,” is recognized as the Sacramento market's oldest continuously operating television station. Its offices and studios have been lo-

cated at 2713 KOVR Drive in West Sacramento since 1987.

In continuing with his memories about Channel 13, Miller said, “One of our major shows was the Hoffman Hayride, which was sponsored by Hoffman Easy-Vision televisions. It was a live show once a week. It lasted an hour, and they had a lot of production numbers. Among the guests were Maddox Bros. and Rose, which in those days were popular western (music) people. ‘Cotton Seed’ Clark was the show's emcee. We had seven or eight production numbers, with guys singing, ‘(When the) Moon Comes over the Mountain,’ (etc.). I would do sets (for the show) with lecturer's chalk on big sheets of paper – 8 (feet) by 10 feet, with props and so on. And when I was done, I was just covered in chalk. I looked like a clown, but it was fun.”

Miller said that new employment brought him to Sacramento in 1955.

“Dick Block, who also worked at Channel 13 at that time, said, ‘Hey, I heard about a television station going on the air up in Sacramento, Channel 3. So, Dick and I came up to Sacramento – and made an appointment of course. I was interviewed by (Ewing C.) ‘Gene’ Kelly, showed him my portfolio, and that was at the corner of 11th and J (streets), above a creamery called Country Maid. I started the day the station went on the air on Sept. 3, 1955.”

Miller eventually spent a decade working as the art director for Channel 3.

While at Channel 3, he designed all the sets for the news shows, most of the commercials and all of the kiddie shows, including Skipper Stu, Boson Bill and Captain Sacto.

After leaving Channel 3, Miller began working for Fred Wade – the original Captain Sacto – at his business, Wade Advertising Agency, which handled the accounts of such businesses

as KCRA-TV, KCTC 1320 AM, Crystal Cream and Butter Co., Capital Federal Savings and Loan, Suburban Ford and Rancho Murieta.

Most Sacramentans would recognize the steamboat logo for River City Bank that Miller created while he was employed by Wade.

Miller ventured into business on his own in 1977, as he established Bob Miller's Art Department, which later became Bob Miller Associates, and is now known as Bob Miller Design.

In discussing his career as a whole, Miller said, “I think I left a legacy and helped raise the standard for design in Sacramento and that might be part of my legacy. Working as an artist and designer has been a rich, professional life. It's been an adventurous, entertaining and fulfilling career, and I'm not done yet. I have fairly solid (artistic) commitments until 2018, so it would be irresponsible to die (before then).”

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A Passport to Eggventure:

Carmichael resident discusses her love of egg art

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Carmichael resident Merry Ellis is like many other egg artists. Once she got into the art form, she quickly devoted much of her time to producing elaborate designs, using a variety of infertile eggshells from such animals as ostriches, emus, geese and ducks.

Gearing up for the Northern California Egg Artists 24th annual Egg Show and Sale, to be held March 1 and 2 at Crowne Plaza, Merry continues to whip out the egg art. Dedicated to the art for the past 20-25 years, Merry has produced hundreds of egg art pieces, including purses she's worn out to dinners parties as well as earrings she's worn for special occasions. One of Merry's favorite egg creations includes an eagle she designed in homage to 911. Some of her eggs can open up and With four cabinets full of her masterpieces, Merry keeps them in pristine condition.

Egg-made purses definitely have been an attention grabber for Merry when out with folks who were apparently unaware of her hobby. "It would dangle off my wrist with a glass of champagne and they would say, 'Oh, that's so pretty.'"

Then she would set it down right on her plate and people would then ask questions. "People would say, 'How do you blow them?' But, we don't blow them, we buy them. If we had to blow them, I don't think we would be in this business too much."

Chuckling over those memories, Merry sat inside her Carmichael home spoke fondly on the love of making egg art. Upon describing the venture, she said: "I'm addicted to making them it's terrible. You keep wanting to make one right after the other. It's just such fun. I don't do too much in the summer because I have too much garden work, but I do more of them in the wintertime."

Working as a docent at the Crocker Art Museum, Merry got to see first hand some of the samples which happened to be on display conveniently timed as when the annual convention was going on. There she wanted to take a class from a highly regarded egg artist who apparently didn't want to take beginners, as Merry said: "He didn't want to take me that first year. I think he wanted someone who knew what they were doing, but he took me the second year."

Themed "Passport to Eggventure", the show will celebrate the diversity of the artists. There will be artists representing Spain, China, South Africa,



Photo by Monica Stark
A display of eggs made by members of the Northern California Egg Artists.

Canada, the Netherlands, the UK, Japan, South Korea and Scotland.

If you go:

What: Passport to Eggventure, Northern California Egg Artists 24th annual Egg Show and Sale

When: Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2
Where: Crowne Plaza, 5321 Date Ave., Sacramento

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This photo of the American River was taken on a warm February morning.

Photo by Monica Stark

The Future of Arden Bar

By BILL LAWS

Dianna Dal Poggeto, executive director of the American River Parkway Foundation, expresses a rare calmness when talking about the drought. Despite the fact that Arden Bar area of the American River, hard hit by the lack of rain, lies only a few hundred feet from her office, the attractive and well-dressed professional is calm and entirely collected.

"My concern is really for this summer," she explains. "That's when the water districts upstream might begin to pull more water from the river."

As she relates the potential problem, if communities such as Granite Bay feel they need more water, they have the legal ability to tap greater quantities of water from the already depleted American River.

The Parkway Foundation, with offices at the end of Arden Way at William Pond Park, are located at ground central of the inclement dryness. An official steward of grant awards ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000, Dal Poggeto's organization gears itself toward maintaining a scenic and healthy river environment. Its annual river cleanup program, for example, has garnered national attention.

"Right now we need to be concerned," she adds, "but there is no precise way of judging the extent of the problem." Dal Poggeto points to the problem of arson and accidental fires which affected a native grove of Oak trees immediately across the river from William Pond Park and Arden Bar. She explains, with notes of curiosity and caution, that one of the unknowns is how the dryness caused by the drought will exacerbate the problem of deliberately set blazes. With a steady breeze, this problem, although a rarity, might pose a much more significant

issue. Extremely dry conditions might encourage even small blazes to spread rapidly into major conflagrations.

While the dry conditions have already set a number of disappointing records in the region, many intimately connected to the health and welfare of the American are not ready to throw in the towel. Quantities of water can be augmented by either an enriched snowpack or by direct amounts of rainfall that find their way to the Sacramento Valley.

Others students of the drought, however, are not as objective or optimistic about the future of the American River. Mary Maret, a biologist for Sacramento County, contends that breeding grounds for spawning salmon near the Arden Bar area and upstream from the foot bridge at the end of Arden Way are currently in immediate peril. These grounds or redds, consisting of clean granite wafted into mounds by the tails of female salmon as they release their eggs, are now in danger. The receding water levels, she explains, have exposed these sites to hikers and those fishing in shallow water who might accidentally disrupt them.

Harry Morse, a biologist and public relations officer for the Department of Fish and Wildlife underscores the importance of future water levels. He remarks that "those fishing in the American have been alerted to the redds which are now only a few inches under water. The greater problem is whether the baby fish or fingerlings that grow and swim around the redds will have enough water to grow to five or so inches so that they can swim down river and return to the Pacific Ocean."

From another perspective, though, a key issue becomes the integrity of the river environment after



Photo by Bill Laws

the drought has passed and the rains have returned. This issue, the soundness of the river environment, still hangs in the balance. Morse, for example, raises the possibility that the invertebrates or smaller life forms that grow in the gravel and under rocks

See Arden Bar, page 11



Photo courtesy

Arden Bar:

Continued from page 10

may not survive the drought. These animals form a key part of the food for salmon, steelhead and other fish.

According to Dal Poggeto, as well, no one really knows how the native plants are currently faring in the drought. These plants, including Lupine, Willow and Cottonwoods are all important in thwarting erosion that can damage habitat for both fish and land animals. The roots of these plants, moreover, can be a factor, in future wet years, in securing the precious redds or breeding areas that salmon utilize.

With a bit of luck, the drought can even have a beneficial influence by adversely im-

pacting invasive species such as the yellow thistle which competes for living space with the beneficial native species. If rain returns to near normal levels, the dangers to the aquatic food chain may also be significantly reduced.

Politicians and public utilities are calling for drastic measures to prepare for the possibility of extended and universal drought conditions. These measures include everything from new desalination plants along the coast to water tunnels beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. What the face of an extended drought will look like in specific regions, such as along the American that moves through Carmichael and Sacramento, is actually anybody's guess.



Photo courtesy

Camp Pollock service days underway

The SVC Staff hosts service days at Camp Pollock every Saturday from 9am-1pm through 2014. A wide variety of tasks will keep a wide variety of volunteers busy of community pride alive, improving the American River Parkway as a true gem to the Sacramento region! The SVC's goal is to improve the 11 acres along the American River Parkway for general public's day use, including; bird watching, cycling, kayaking launching and group picnicking. More importantly, the SVC is redesigning youth campsites for local youth groups to utilize along the American River Parkway.

As a volunteer, you will lend a hand to Camp Pollock's projects. Tasks include; upgrade and expand camping areas, build benches, construct picnic tables and create an interpretive trail, overlooking the American River. Help the SVC, won't you?

The SVC has already improved the entrance way and parking area, established a courtyard for special gatherings and has goals of remodeling the 1924 lodge this year.

The former Boy Scout Camp, has been under the SVC's management for the past year, when the State Lands Commission acquired Camp Pollock from the Boy Scouts in December 2012. Camp Pollock and the 1924 Lodge can be located just north of downtown Sacramento, under Hwy 160 and is open to the public dawn to dusk.

The SVC is looking for the following volunteers;

Entry Level Volunteer; Assist with general tasks of up-grading campsites, bench building and moving dirt for trail building. SVC needs your help!

Specialty Volunteer Docents; If construction, painting or plumbing repairs are your skill-set specialty, the SVC would love your knowledge and participation!

Public Volunteer Docent; Spend the day outdoors greeting visitors to historic Camp Pollock. Once constructed, Docents will direct guests to natural riparian garden and walking paths along the 11 acres of the property. Become a lasting memory to those that spend part of their day exploring the American River Parkway in Sacramento.

Contact Matt Gaylord with your interest of volunteering at Camp Pollock. 530/321-2063 or email matthew.gaylord951@gmail.com

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On the ballot: Voters asked to pay \$4 a month to improve Carmichael parks

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

In the June election, Carmichael property owners will be asked to vote to improve public parks by paying \$3.74 a month, which would generate \$5 million for the Carmichael Parks and Recreation District, amounting to \$666,000 annually.

Of that yearly amount, \$200,000 will be set aside for a full-time security patrol and increased maintenance to all parks.

Neighborhood parks included in the measure are: Del Campo Park, Glancy Oaks Park, Jensen Botanical Gardens, Jan Park, O'Donnell Heritage Park, Patriots Park, Schweitzer Grover Nature Area, Sutter/Jensen Park.

At Carmichael Park a new spray play area (where the old pool was), band shell improvements special events space, lighted ball fields, walking paths, security lighting, added restrooms, tennis court resurfacing, remodel clubhouse, Veteran's Hall, improvements to basketball courts, and parking lot improvements would be included in the passage.

Gary Hursh, a member of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District Foundation Board, has been involved in many efforts to improve the quality of life of his neighbors, namely helping update the master plan for the Carmichael Park's master plan and this ballot measure.

Passing out fliers at the Carmichael Farmers' Market on Sunday, Feb. 23, Hursh and his friend Susan Brown were advocating for the passage of the new ballot measure.

In an impromptu interview with the Arden-Carmichael News, Hursh described the magnitude of local parks' decline and the importance of the measure's passage: "If they don't pass this, it's just going to get more neglected and more rundown. This park district has been neglected for years. If you look at all the park districts in Sacramento County, there are only two that



Fair Oaks resident Hugh Gorman's 100-foot-long mural at Carmichael Park invites visitors with an image of the American River and the word, "Carmichael". Photo by Lance Armstrong

don't have an assessment and this is one of them. All the others have assessments. Carmichael has been around so long; they weren't doing assessments back then."

Formed nearly 70 years ago, the Carmichael Recreation and Park District has been responsible for building and maintaining our local parks and for providing recreational and educational programs in the Carmichael area. Governed by a five-member appointed advisory board of directors, the Park's District budget is funded through a small portion of property taxes, which have steadily declined in the past few years.

According to one of the fliers Hursh passed out, the district has lost more than \$2.5 million in revenue despite increasing costs over the past four years. Moreover, the flier states, in spite of these cost-reduction efforts, the park district has had to put off much-needed improvements.

The district has laid off staff, done furloughs, reduced pay for staff and cut line items and services to stay within budget.

Discussing reduction of funding due to the state of the economy, Hursh said: "Government is starv-

See Park District Tax, page 13



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Shown here is one of Carmichael Park's more notable signs.

Park District Tax:

Continued from page 13

ing with property taxes going down because of the recession, they're losing money. Absent the fact it will take years to recover."

Adding her support of the measure's passage, Brown said: "This is the only park within miles and miles and we don't have a park assessment, which includes money specifically delegated to the park maintenance repairs, renovations. Well, the pool's closed, no money," Brown said.

The measure will reach 15,000 voters and preliminary polls indicate a mixed response from the community.

Hursh said he and others have polled residents, showing homeowners are in favor of the measure, and commercial building owners against. "(Commercial building owners) don't understand how it will improve the quality of life and business, so they are against being taxed."

The assessment can be adjusted for inflation, but not to exceed 3 percent per year. Any adjustment must be approved at a public hearing and reviewed by the CRPD Advisory Board. There is no sunset to the assessment.



Photo by Monica Stark

Sue Brown and Gary Hursh passed out fliers at the Sunday, Feb. 23 Farmers' Market at Carmichael Park. The Carmichael Recreation and Park District is putting a tax on the June ballot for the betterment of the neighborhood parks, which, they argue, have been neglected for too long.

Details of the Carmichael Recreation and Park District's June election ballot measure

Funds from the park measure would maintain and improve parks throughout the park district. The list below provides an overview of proposed services.

Provide Safety and Security Patrols: The local Parks measure will provide the funding to implement a park patrol program, as well as lighting and other improvements to increase park safety.

Improve neighborhood parks and recreation facilities: If the measure is approved, the district's parks and recreation areas will receive improved year-round maintenance, renovation and other repairs.

Local control and accountability: The funds from this measure will be controlled locally by an oversight committee and will be audited annually. No more than 5 percent of the funds will be used for administration.

Maintain and repair play areas, sports fields and tennis courts: The measure will provide funding to maintain popular recreation facilities in our parks.

Make improvements at Carmichael Community Park: The park measure will provide funding to create a new public covered special event space to support food trucks, the farmers' market and special events, a new family water spray park and improve the existing band shell for summer concerts.

Major renovations to La Sierra Community Center: Funds from the measure will be used to make necessary repairs to the La Sierra Community Center, including installation of new gym floors and roof repairs.

For more information contact the district at 485-5322 or visit www.carmichaelpark.com

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RSVP LisaW@eastlawn.com

Seating is limited to 30 attendees per seminar - RSVP today and reserve your seat.

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Faces and Places: Del Dayo Father Daughter Dance

Photos by Bill Condray

Del Dayo Elementary School's multipurpose room was transformed into a beautiful ballroom for the third annual Father Daughter Dance, which was held Friday, Feb. 7. Fun was had with friends and an enjoyable evening of dancing. There were dads in ties and daughters in dresses, learning how a gentleman treats a lady! Fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, uncles or other significant adult males were invited to escort the young ladies. Moms were welcome to quietly spectate at the dance for only the last 15 minutes. Hosted by the Calcagno, Davis, Garcia, Lynch, Rios and Tully families, the event benefited the Del Dayo PTO.



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Man with dog—Clipart © Microsoft Media

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

AARP tax aide seeks volunteers for 2014

The nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers for tax assistance/preparation and leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. Each year from Feb. 1 through April 15, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers prepare federal, state, and local tax returns for low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to

those age 60 and older. Volunteers are especially needed to assist with electronic filing of tax returns. You do not need to be an AARP member or retiree to volunteer. For more information on how you can join the AARP Tax-Aide team in Northern California, contact Ron Byrd at NoCalTaxAide@Outlook.com or visit website at: www.aarp.org/taxaide

Mahogany Urban Poetry Series

- Queen Sheba - poetry readings
Each Wednesday from 8-11 p.m. at Queen Sheba in Sacramento, local talent makes it way to the restaurant for weekly open-mic events. \$3-\$5. 1704 Broadway.

Registration Open for Nature Bowl Science and Conservation Competition

Registration is now open for the 29th annual Nature Bowl, an elementary school activity-based competition held in the spring. Coordinated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in partnership with local organizations and agencies, the Nature Bowl increases the science and conservation literacy of third through sixth grade students in the Sacramento Valley and Sierra foothills. The Nature Bowl is open to students from any school, group or organized youth club. Participants employ teamwork, creativity and critical thinking while participating in group learning activities centered on local and regional natural environments. The first round will be held at 10 locations from mid-March through early May. Teams will consist of three to seven students each and several teams will advance to the finals to be held at California State University,

Sacramento on May 17, 2014. Teachers, youth group leaders or parents can coach a team. The semifinal at Nimbus Hatchery is scheduled April 3, 2014. To register, call (916) 358-2884. The semifinal at Effie Yeaw Nature Center is scheduled March 11, 2014. To register, call (916) 489-4918. A new semifinal is also being offered at Sutter's Landing Regional Park in Sacramento on May 1 or 2 (date to be determined). For more information, please call (916) 284-1627. For more information about the Nature Bowl, please call (916) 358-2353 or visit the CDFW website at www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/2/naturebowl/.

Brain Gymnasium

Exercise your mind and have some fun at this on-going Brain Gymnasium class! Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freepoint Boulevard, 9:20 a.m. Thursdays. \$6 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

Women with Good Spirits monthly meeting

Women With Good Spirits is a networking group that engages women in the Sacramento community with non-profit organizations that make contributions to our quality of life and care for our fellow residents. Each month, Women With Good Spirits invites a community non-profit to present on its mission work. The meeting is held at Revolution Wines on the second Tuesday of each month and starts at 6:30 p.m. The presenter will start their presentation promptly at 7:15 p.m. and will last 15-20 minutes with an open question and answer forum after. RSVP is appreciated as well as a \$5+ donation per person that will go directly to the non-profit presenting that month. Revolution Wines is located at 2831 S St. Visit www.womenwithgoodsprits.com or find the group on Facebook.

Davis Art Center invites teen girls to write and publish

The Davis Art Center is offering a six-week creative writing class for girls ages 13-18 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays starting February 11. The class will offer a positive, supportive space for girls who love reading and writing and are interested in discovering and developing their individual voices. Participants will use short stories by a diverse range of contemporary women writers as jumping off points for their own writing sessions. Each student will pick her best writing to include in a class-produced literary magazine. The class will be taught by Elise Winn Pollard, who earned her M.A. in creative writing from UC Davis. The fee is \$95 for Art Center members and \$105 for the general public. To enroll, stop by the Art Center at 1919 F. St., call (530) 756-4100 or register online at www.davisartcenter.org. Students must be registered at least two weeks before the first class session.

Gentle Qi Gong

Learn powerful relaxation techniques reduce stress, reduce physical pain and emotional suffering, lower blood pressure, increase immune response and improve balance. Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freepoint Boulevard, 3 to 4 p.m., Wednesdays. \$7 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

Attn. students: Submit now for water efficiency video contest

High school students can win cash prizes and the chance to view their video on the Raley Field Jumbotron by entering the 2014 Water Spots Video Contest. The contest, sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Sacramento Bee Media in Education (MIE) program, challenges teens to create compelling and original 25-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos on a select water efficiency topic. The 2014 water efficiency theme is: Don't be a gutter flooder: Prevent overspray and runoff. Judging will be based on creativity, entertainment value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the water efficiency topic. Finalist videos will be displayed on the Raley Field Jumbotron screen and winners announced at a Sacramento River Cats game in April 2014. Winning students and their teachers will also get cash prizes. The grand prize winner's spot may become part of RWA's 2014 television ad campaign. Submissions due Feb. 28. Visit www.BeWaterSmart.info for more information and tips on using water more efficiently and to submit entries or get more information about contest rules, judging and prizes, visit www.sacbee.com/water-spots

California Youth Basketball League taking applications

CYBL is a non-profit year round league for ages 4 through 18 that prides itself on being well organized that aims to develop basketball skills, sportsmanship and self-esteem through coaches, gym official and organizers. Visit www.cybhoops.com or call 391-3900.

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on Fridays at 7 a.m. Topical weekly speakers and first meal for visitors on us. Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com. Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

The Sacramento Capitolaire meeting

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Hall (Sierra Arden United Church of Christ), 890 Morse Ave., Sacramento. Info: www.capitolaires.org, call 888-0877-9806, or email info@capitolaires.org

Artisan holds Food Drive

Artisan Salon is participating in the Spirit of Giving Food Drive. Over the last 17 years, the Spirit of Giving (SOG) drive has helped Sacramento Food Bank collect and distribute over 4.6 million pounds of canned and non-perishable food items for local families in need. Help support families in need by participating in this year's drive! Artisan Salon is located at 3198 Riverside Blvd.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento South meetings

A service organization dedicated to insure the status of women and girls, the group meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic. Meets

the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. The meetings discuss our fund raising Projects and Community Service, often with speakers from our community.

FEBRUARY

Microbiology in Sickness and in Health
Feb. 27: Learn how to keep healthy from an infectious disease, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., free; held at ACC SSC, 7375 Park City Dr, Sacramento, 393-9026.

Just Say No! - Senior Scams

Feb. 27: Learn the various types of senior scams in our community and how to prevent it, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Held at ACC SSC, 7375 Park City Dr, Sacramento, 393-9026.

MARCH

Love your Brain in Mind, Body, and Spirit

March 1: Learn to promote mental, physical, and spiritual health through the years. The seminar will be led by Professor T. Ainsworth through the Bread of Life Center. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch will be included. For more information, contact Centennial Church at 452-4477 or email centennialUMC@centennialumc.com

Lunch and "Wine Social" at Casa Garden

March 4: There will be a lunch and "Wine Social" at Casa Garden with red and white wine sips offered by BellaGrace Vineyards of Sutter Creek paired with delicious Casa hors d'oeuvres at 11:30 a.m. [one seating only], Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. Entree choices: Three-Cheese Garden Lasagne or Chicken Caesar Salad; dessert: Latte Mocha Torte ~ \$22 per person, includes tax and gratuity. Reservations a must, open seating — call 916-452-2809. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

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Arden Carmichael News

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32nd Annual Spring Craft Faire

Saturday, March 1, 2014
9 a.m. - 3 p.m. FREE

Over 90 Crafters!!!
Great shopping for specialty gifts!

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Saturday, March 1st
9am - 3pm • FREE
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Directed by Richard Morrissey

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Let's Go to the Movies

Four Shows
March 8 & 9
Sat 4:00 pm and 6:30pm
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Live music ~ Food ~ No-host bar ~ Free parking

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A Rodgers & Hammerstein Sing-Along

2013-2014 Concert Series *Keep Dancin'!*

Oklahoma!
Carousel
South Pacific
The Sound of Music

PLUS
The Cowboys
Youth Artist Competition Winner

Sunday, March 16, 2014 - 2:30 pm
Crown Plaza Sacramento Northeast

Info: (916) 489-2576 Map: www.sacwinds.org
General Admission \$10 5321 Date Ave., Sacramento 95841
Student, Senior \$5 Tickets at the door Free parking

CALENDAR

How to Take Care of Your Body, Mind, and Spirit

March 6: 3-5 p.m., \$15 or \$17 at the door. Pre-registration required. Held at ACC SSC, 7375 Park City Dr, Sacramento, 393-9026.

Advance Health Care Directive

March 6: Also known as living will, personal directive, advance directive or advance decision. 6-7 p.m. Free. Pre-registration re-

quested. Held at ACC SSC, 7375 Park City Dr, Sacramento, 393-9026.

Focus on Fixed Income

March 10: Learn the basics of bonds, the advantages of laddering and how fixed income may be part of your investment strategy from 10 to 11 a.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Held at ACC SSC, 7375 Park City Dr, Sacramento, 393-9026.

Pesticides and Integrated Pest Management

March 11: Learn how to identify and control pests and diseases with the least toxic and pest-specific methods, 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Pre-registration required. Held at ACC SSC, 7375 Park City Dr, Sacramento, 393-9026.

St. Patrick's Luncheon at Casa Garden

March 11: St. Patrick's Luncheon with music by The Irish Eyes at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. seatings at the Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. Entree choices: Traditional corned beef served with steamed potatoes and pea/pea slaw or chicken Caesar salad; dessert: almond cake Framboise -- \$22 per person, includes tax and gratuity. First-come, first-served group reservations by one person, one check. Reservations a must -- call (916) 452-2809. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bring the entire family to this audience-participation concert entitled "Broadway!" at the Crowne Plaza Sacramento Northeast. The Sacramento Symphonic Winds, conducted by Dr. Les Lehr, features a sing-along for Oklahoma!, Carousel, South Pacific and The Sound of Music, all by Richard Rodgers; The Cowboys by John Williams; our Youth Artist Competition winner, and more! Visit our web site at www.sacwinds.org

Sacramento Symphonic Winds presents "Broadway"

March 16: Sacramento Symphonic Winds, a 60-piece symphonic band, presents "Broadway" at 2:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Sacramento Northeast, 5321 Date Ave., Sacramento, 95841 (On Date just north of Madison east of I-80 inter-

change). Tickets sold at the door: General Admission \$10; Student/Senior (65+) \$5; Children under 8 Free

Folsom Library spring 2014 book sale

March 21-23: Shop for incredible bargains in 1000s of gently used books, audio books, videos, CDs and much more in both children and adult materials. All proceeds directly benefit the Friends of the Folsom Library, a 100 percent non-profit organization. The sale will be held inside the Folsom Public Library's Georgia Murray Building Meeting Room at 411 Stafford St. The early bird sale will take place on Friday, March 21, from 5 to 8 p.m., admission \$5 per person (including children 12 and older). The general sale will be Saturday and Sunday, March 22-23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission free. Fill a bag for only \$5 on "Bargain Sunday". For more information, visit www.foflib.org or call 608-8743 or 355-7374.

Sacramento Community Concert Association performance

March 22: SCCA presents A Night At The Movies With Pipe Organist Dave Moreno at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 1300 N St. Complemented by emcee Matias Bombal, organist-entertainer Dave Moreno will thrill you as he accompanies popular silent films on Westminster's grand 3000-pipe organ. Don't miss this extraordinary event. Regular subscription: \$90, Group discount (8 or more people): \$75, Students subscription: \$45, Single Tickets: \$25. For more information, contact Sacramento Community Concert Association www.sccaconcerts.org; info@sccaconcerts.org; 400-4634

Youth Job Fair

March 22: There will be workshops where people can learn how to dress to impress,

how to nail an interview at City Hall's plaza area (915 I St.) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you have a resume, bring copies. Remember, first impressions go a long way, so dress to impress. For more information, call 808-6525. Bus and light rail tickets are available for the ride home. This is for ages 16-22.

APRIL

'The Benefit Plant Sale' to be held at McKinley Park

April 5: Bob Hamm, perennial grower and founder of The Benefit Plant Sale announces that 'The Valley Benefit Plant Sales, benefiting the kids summer camp programs of Sunburst Projects (<http://www.sunburstprojects.org>) will have a spring plant sale in the back patio area of the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. The sale will run from 10 a.m. to 4p.m. and will feature a wide range of perennials for the yard including many new, rare and hard to find varieties in sizes ranging from starters to one gallon containers. Cash and checks will be accepted, but not credit cards. For more information, contact Bob Hamm at 617-7516.

Race for the STARS

April 27: For details, visit www.raceforthestars.com, is a fun family event that raises money for SJUSD schools. This year, the 5K run/walk and kids race event will take place on Sunday, April 27th at Rio Americano High School. The kids races take place at 8 a.m. and the 5K run/walk will take place at 8:30 a.m. The family festival with food and drink, music and activities for the entire family will follow the race. Adults are \$30, Students are \$15, and kids under 12 are \$10.



FREE Family Concert

MARCH 23, 2014

1:00pm Instrument Petting Zoo and FUNSHOP
art stations offered by I Can Do That!
Concert

2:00pm

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Lower dentures almost never fit properly. They are loose fitting due to less surface area which can't create a suction, shrinking gum tissue, and bone loss, which can cause irritation in the mouth, sores and pain. The only relief is using sticky dental adhesive to help it, but it is very messy, hard to clean off, and needs multiple applications throughout the day.

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Spacious open floor plan, 4 bedroom 3 bath ranch style home. Private master retreat adjoins spa-like bath with sunken jetted tub and multiple spray shower. Fine wood cabinetry, granite counters and oak wood floors. Entertaining backyard with pool and gazebo. \$759,000

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4 or 5 bedrooms 3 full; 3 half baths; 24' entry, limestone floors, main floor master, bath with onyx counters, jetted air tub and heated floor. Granite kitchen, hidden refrigerator, high-end appliances, and butler's pantry. Home theater, wine room, outdoor kitchen! Spectacular! \$1,850,000

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Fantastic 4 bedroom 3 bath on a very large lot in one of Sacramento's premier locations! Recently remodeled home and meticulously maintained you will enjoy the spacious floor plan, the gourmet kitchen, the charming fireplace, pristine hardwood floors, large family room, and a fantastic master suite. \$625,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



ANCIL HOFFMAN CLOSE

Custom home in a peaceful location; newly remodeled kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances. Bathrooms recently remodeled, too. 4 nice sized bedrooms, large 2-car garage, and roomy laundry room with sink. Backyard features a lovely pool suitable for play or swimming laps. \$529,000

LEIGH RUTLEDGE 612-6911



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Contemporary, designed for gracious entertaining! 5 bedrooms, 4 fireplaces, 3 baths; vaulted ceilings, open airy spaces, magnificent new kitchen. Remote family room with home gym space. Lovely pool and water feature set on .80 acre with orchard, garden and inviting patio spaces. \$978,500

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CAMPUS COMMONS & POOL

Great location for this 5500A plan with 2 or 3 bedrooms 2½ baths ... two very large bedrooms upstairs. Master has sitting area plus fireplace and walk-in closet. Enjoy your own private pool and hot tub in backyard. Updated electrical and HVAC. Walk to shopping, coffee shops, and American River Parkway. \$375,000

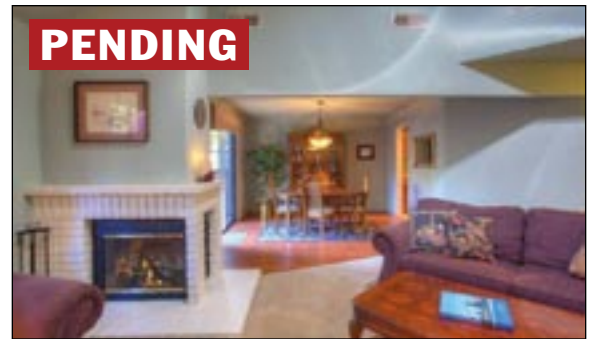
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CARMICHAEL

Wonderful four bedroom single story home in a nice neighborhood. Beautiful hardwood floors, charming brick fireplace, separate living and family rooms, RV or boat storage in large side yard and newer appliances. Great location close to great schools. Move right into this quality home. \$319,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



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Attractively updated 2 bedroom 2½ bath home in gated University Park. Nice location with lovely patio, two recently remodeled bathrooms. Kitchen is also updated with Zodiaq quartz counters and stainless steel appliances. 2 large master suites with walk-in closets. 2 pools and tennis courts. \$355,000

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