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**CHURCHILL MIDDLE SCHOOL
— DEBUTS NEW —
21ST-CENTURY
CLASSROOMS**

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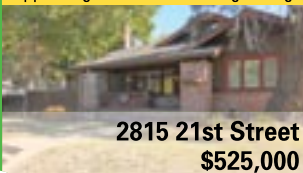
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t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

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Publisher.....David Herburger
Editor.....Monica Stark
Art Director.....John Ochoa
Graphic Designer.....Annin Greenhalgh
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Advertising Executives.....Linda Pohl, Melissa Andrews

Courtesy Staff

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Jesuit graduate and former New England Patriot presented his alma matre with a special award

Former New England Patriots defensive end and Super Bowl XXXI participant Ferric Collons visited Jesuit High School and presented a commemorative Wilson Golden Football on Saturday Jan. 15 during a Jesuit/Christian Brothers varsity basketball game.

The Super Bowl High School Honor Roll celebrates high schools and communities that have contributed to Super Bowl history. This platform is designed to link past Super Bowls with this year's game and honor the high schools and communities that have positively impacted the game of football.

High schools across the nation, and around the world, received a commemorative Wilson Golden Football for every player of head coach who graduated from their school and was on an active Super Bowl roster. Collons



Photo by Sam Mayo
Shown from left to right: Jesuit High School President Father David Suwalsky SJ, Ferric Collons, Jesuit High School Principal Michael Wood at Jesuit High School on Jan. 16.

was a student at Jesuit from August 1983 to May 1987.

More than 1,800 people attended the Jesuit/Christian Brothers match, where Jesuit came out ahead at 73-71.

When the award was granted Jesuit did not have any home football games remaining. This would be the biggest crowd for any other home event this year.

Churchill Middle School debuts new 21st-century classrooms

For eighth-grader Mya Elliot, the best part of Winston Churchill Middle School's 21st-century classroom addition is the ability to easily configure desks so she can work with her classmates in small groups.

Angel Zuniga, also in eighth grade, said he's proud to have classrooms that feature two flat-screen televisions instead of the more customary overhead projector from which to receive lessons.

Their classmate Libby Knight added that it "just feels nice" to have brand-new facilities as she walked along the school's new landscaped pathways.

The Churchill classrooms were opened for students and teachers to start the new semester last week, ending 18 months of anticipation since construction began.

"It's a lot nicer," said Knight, 13. "It feels like a brand new campus, and the only thing I'm worried about now is learning the room numbers."

Funded by Measure J, the \$9.7 million Churchill Middle School project is San Juan Unified's largest 21st-century learning expansion to date. New facilities include nine classrooms, a media room designed to have the feel of an internet café, a computer lab and a physical education studio.

"The students feel pretty special today," said English language de-

velopment teacher Martha Gutierrez. "First thing this morning, you could just see them all peeking through the windows to see what it all looked like."

Every room has flexible furniture that is easy for teachers to configure in different ways for different lessons, two 70-inch flat-screen monitors and multiple walls coated with special paint that transforms them into whiteboard writing surfaces.

Teacher Stephanie Bauman opened a cabinet door to unveil a 70-inch flat-screen in the physical education studio on Friday, connected a video game system and let her students unleash some energy playing the game "Just Dance."

As students displayed their moves on the hardwood floor, Bauman said she's excited to outfit the room this week with equipment for yoga.

"The staff is really energized because there's so much we can do," Bauman said.

While the buildings are complete and student-ready, construction workers will continue to work on some landscaping features over the next several weeks. Portable buildings that had been placed on hard courts for temporary use during construction will also be removed.

The project was designed by ATI



Architects, and built by XL Construction.

Principal Mike Dolan said the most obvious impact of the new classrooms is that they replaced previous portable classrooms that were "well used" beyond their intended purpose. But they go way beyond "just replacing" older buildings, he said. "The new classrooms are on the cutting edge of what a 21st Century classroom should be. These classrooms are intended to be learning environments that can constantly evolve and change depending on

the lesson or the needs of the students/teacher." To that end, all furniture, desk, tables, chairs and cabinets are on wheels, making it easy to transform the room into any setting needed very quickly. There is no front of the classroom anymore with a chalkboard/whiteboard. All the walls in the classrooms have whiteboard paint, making them all writing/learning surfaces. Each classroom has two 70-inch flat screen TVs which the teacher accesses

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Churchill:

Continued from page 3

wirelessly through a computer or iPad. Students may also access the TVs through their smart phones or wireless devices.

"The students, teachers, and parents are all very excited about the new classrooms. Students who currently don't have classes in the new building are requesting to move their schedules so they can have a class in the new building. Teachers are collaborating to implement instructional strategies used in the new buildings throughout the entire school. We are excited as a whole school to be a model for what the 21st Century classrooms are and will be. We look forward to being on the leading edge of instruction and student learning for years to come," Dolan said.

There are many classes in the new rooms: math, computers, Chinese, Spanish, English, history and physical education.

Dolan explained most of the classrooms are in use after school for many academic teams like Science Olympiad, Speech and Debate, Geography Club and more. The computer lab was in one of the older buildings that was replaced. The bond that the district used to build the new classrooms was limited in scope as for what could be purchased for the classrooms. Books, computers and other classroom instructional items were not covered in the bond.

There is a new computer lab and media room in the new building. The media room actually has its own separate

Green Room used for the taping of our student created daily news program.

There are 38 desktop computers in the lab and the computer classroom is used every period of the day by computer technology and media classes. "We actually have 8 COWS (Computers on Wheels) mobile labs that teachers can bring to their classrooms for student use. Each lab has 36 laptops in them for research and document creation," Dolan said.

The physical education/fitness room is an extra-large room with a sports floor surface. This room can hold up to 75 students. It also has two large flat screen TVs. This room is used for fitness activities like: yoga, dance-dance revolution, Tae Bo, The Biggest Loser Challenge, 20 minute cardio workout etc. Additionally, the room gives PE classes a space where they can go to do the pen and paper portion of their curriculum.

In terms of the outdoor renovations, Dolan said there is a lot of concrete hardscape around the new buildings with lots of planter boxes with seating benches around them. "Classrooms and student groups spill out of their doors and onto these areas. Part of the new construction area is along the creek and we look forward to expanding our natural and environmental science lessons to incorporate this outdoor classroom opportunity," he said.

Summing up the new classrooms, Dolan said, "We will be learning as we go on how we can best utilize the classrooms for our instruction and student engagement/learning."

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Sacramento Youth Symphony seeks alumni to mark 60th anniversary

The Sacramento Youth Symphony is conducting a nationwide search for alumni, to help them celebrate the symphony's 60th anniversary in April. Forever young, the Sacramento Youth Symphony possesses a proud, six-decade heritage. Musicians from Sacramento, Amador, El Dorado Placer, San Joaquin, Solano, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties continue to perform with this symphony.

Since its founding in 1956, thousands of young musicians performed technically challenging works of music for audiences in Sacramento and around the world. The symphony began as a 55-member youth orchestra under the direction of Fritz Berens. Today, the symphony has a membership of over 400 talented young people. Maestro Michael Neumann is now in his 37th year as artistic director and conductor. His contribution to the musical arts in Northern California is substantial.

Many alumni went on to become significant contributors in the world of music. A few of these are:

- **Allison Buck**, bassoonist with the International Lyric Academy in Rome and Viterbo, Italy. In the U.S., she regularly performs with many California symphonies.
- **Adam Flatt**, whose musical career touches three regions of the United States. He is music direc-

tor of the Colorado Ballet, the Newport Symphony, and the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra.

- **Eric Gorfain**, founder and leader of The Section Quartet, the premier rock string quartet in Hollywood.

- **Susan Lamb Cook**, artist affiliate in cello and chamber music at UC Davis. She is a member of the Gold Coast Trio, and has performed extensively throughout Europe and the United States. A published author, she is heavily involved in youth music education.
- **Matthew Muckey**, associate principal trumpet with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

- **Jerome Simas**, clarinet/bass clarinet with the San Francisco Symphony. He is a professor at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Others find their callings in other fields. These include **Jane Clayton Johnson**, an Emmy-winning journalist and author. She is widely known for her work in network news for CBS and ABC. Her book, "I Am a Mother," discusses her decision to leave the media world to become a full-time parent.

Gathering alumni stories

Today, alumni range in age from their late teens to their mid-70s. They are scattered, like the downy seeds of

a beautiful flower, to the seven winds. Where most took root is a mystery.

"We would like to hear their stories," said Robert Vann, general manager of the symphony. "How did being a member of the Sacramento Youth Symphony influence your life? What advice would you share with young musicians today?"

Upcoming winter concert

Sacramento Youth Symphony presents 60th Anniversary Season Premier Winter Concerto Concert with 80 young musicians performing classical favorites under the direction of Michael Neumann, Artistic Director and Premier Orchestra Conductor on **Sunday, Jan. 31. The premier orchestra performs at 7 p.m. at Sacramento City College, Performing Arts Center, 3835 Freepoint Blvd.** Tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$15 for students and seniors. Box office opens one hour before concert. Tickets available online at www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org. Works presented include two violin concertos by young soloists. Brandon Luong (9th grade, Christian Brothers High School) will perform Ziguenerweisen (Gypsy Airs) by Pablo de Sarasate and Ayana Jaycox (6th grade, Sacramento Waldorf School) will perform Allegro from Violin Concerto in G, K. 216

by Mozart. Other works on the concert include Danse Macabre by Saint Saens, Symphony #8 (Unfinished) by Schubert, and Toccata and Fugue by J.S. Bach arranged by Stokowski. Sacramento Youth Symphony is proud to celebrate Sixty Years of musical excellence by young musicians from the Sacramento Region.

Save the Date

The Sacramento Youth Symphony will host a special 60th anniversary Gala at the Crocker Art Museum on Friday, April 29, 2016. Tickets will be available at sacramentoyouthsymphony.org.

Open rehearsal

"The next day, Saturday, April 30, alumni are invited to 'sit in' with the SYS Premier Orchestra for an open rehearsal," Neumann said. "We would love to see alumni from all over the country - from all over the world - attend this special event."

Call to Action

Alumni and family members who wish to share their stories are invited to visit the symphony's web page, www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org. Click the "Alumni" page and click "Share Your Alumni Story".

Stories may be shared online to encourage future musicians.

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Firefighters and civilians recognized for extreme heroism

Story by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Recognizing acts of extreme heroism, the Sacramento Fire Department held a special awards ceremony on Dec. 11, 2015 at the Elks Lodge, No. 6. Emceed by KCRA's Kellie DeMarco and awards given to firefighters and civilians by Chief Walt White, the day's event recognized those who continue to make a difference in this great city. Local 522 Honor

Guard and Sacramento Fire Pipes and Drums presented the colors and Pioneer Mutual Hook and Ladder displayed their historic fire engines and other equipment. Rachel Sprague sang the National Anthem and Chaplain Kevin Snider provided the invocation.

Recognizing some of the citizens that have acted bravely in the face of danger or who have given back to their community, the fire department recognized

the following members of the **Community Emergency Response Team: Judy Johnson, Betty Omotunde, Linda Panattoni and Robert Ross.** CERT, first developed in 1985, is a team of volunteers sponsored by the SFD in fulfilling its mission.

The Commendation of Outstanding effort was awarded to Teichert employees Rick Flint and Will Johnson who pulled their construction water

truck into the driveway of a home on fire, and stretched a hose line from it and extinguished the fire.

On Feb. 21, 2014, **Stephen Saldana**, while performing his duties as a maintenance worker at California Fitness in North Natomas, saved one of the patrons that was drowning in the swimming pool. Saldana received the **Commendation of Outstanding Effort.**

On June 26, 2013, in a completely unrelated incident as the previous recipients, **the staff of the North Natomas branch of California Family Fitness** worked together and removed a

drowning victim from the swimming pool, performed CPR, delivered defibrillation with an AED unit and guided emergency crews to the patient's side. They received the **Commendation of Outstanding Effort.**

On Sept. 12, 2015, **Gregory Anderson and Christian Castaneda**, while traveling down San Juan Road, witnessed a vehicular accident. Realizing the driver of a pickup ended up trapped in a canal and could not escape, Anderson and Castaneda stripped off their clothes and swam to the sinking truck. They

Heroes:

Continued from page 6

lifted him onto the roof of the truck and awaited help from the fire department. The chief presented to Anderson and Castaneda the **Commendation of Outstanding Merit.**

The **Certificate of Appreciation** was awarded to **Engineer Aaron Dean** for his lead role with the program "Every 15 Minutes".

Firefighter **Sharon McIntyre** was awarded the **certificate of appreciation** for her years of hard work and dedication to serving as medical director of the Kops-n-Kids" program, which reaches students age 8 to 12.

Firefighter **Monica Wilouza** was awarded the **armed service award** as a veteran of overseas service who continues to serve in transporting wounded veterans from overseas to stateside hospitals.

On Sept. 1, 2014, the Sacramento Urban Search & Rescue Team, California Task Force-7, was deployed to Oso, Washington in response to mudslides and was tasked with providing emergency search and rescue operations for those souls presumed lost in the slide.

The Chief presented to each team member of the Urban Search and Rescue Team the **Oso Washington Deployment Ribbon** and a citation.

While vacationing with his family in Hawaii, firefighter **David Carlson** found an unconscious 4 year old that had been pulled from the bottom of the pool by his father. Carlson began CPR and monitored the child until the fire department arrived. For saving a life under special and unique circumstances while off duty, the chief presented Carlson with the **Outstanding Service Award.**

On July 19, 2013, Engine Company 20 and Medic 20, under the command of Captain Irvine, were dispatched to a vehicle versus pedestrian who was found unconscious with multiple injuries, including major head trauma. They provided advanced life support care that continued until

arrival at the hospital. The Chief presented to Captain John Irvine, engineer Billy Schneider, firefighters Zack Heyde, Fergus Johnson, Shayne Marshall and Aaron Peterson of Engine Company 20 and Medic 20 the **Outstanding Service Award** for their actions.

On Sept. 19, 2013, then-Captain Chad Augustin (current battalion chief) and firefighter Paul Januario entered a burning apartment to search for reported victims trapped inside. They located a live victim and removed him to safety. Once outside, they began advanced life support before loading him onto an ambulance. For their heroism, **Augustin and Januario** received the **Outstanding Service Award.**

Captain Jason Hemler of Engine Company 12 and Firefighter **Ryan Gardner** of Truck Company 6 received the **Outstanding Service Award** after responding to a structure fire that had a victim unconscious in the bathroom and a second victim in the rear of the house.

On April 4, 2015, while on duty **fire investigators David Fowler and Zack Nokes** had their fire department radio on when they heard a call for a violent crime with a child burned. They contacted the Sacramento Police Department patrol sergeant and advised of their availability and offered their help. They began processing evidence of a child being intentionally burned with gasoline by her mother. The fire investigators played a key role in the police department's and district attorney's ability to prosecute the mother for attempted murder. **Fowler and Nokes** received the **Outstanding Service Award.**

On Sept. 9, 2015, firefighters **Nick Pershing and Eric Pohl** were returning to the fire station when they saw a man choking and striking his girlfriend, without hesitation they pulled their ambulance close to the incident. They then jumped out and diverted the attacker's attention long enough for an arriving police officer to take the assailant down. For their selfless actions, they

received the **Outstanding Service Award.**

On the morning of Aug. 13, 2013, the crew of Engine Company 13 under the command of Captain Wardell Kirkland and Medic 12 responded to a first aid call at a window business. An employee had complained of feeling ill before being lowered to the floor where he then suffered a heart attack and became unconscious and unresponsive. His coworkers called 9-1-1. Arriving on scene in four minutes, the crews then initiated advanced life support measures. The chief presented **Captain Wardell Kirkland, engineer Ken Rose, firefighters David Demetre, Fredericck Goerend, Sean Hill and Xavier Sales** the **Company Citation.**

Additionally, the chief of the department presented the **Company Citation** to the crews of Engines 316, 318, 368 whom under the command of Battalion Chief **Craig Wiedenhoeft** fought the major forest fires in Butte County and the Rim Fire outside of Yosemite National Park.

On Jan. 29, 2014, Engine Company 20, under the command of then-Captain Augustin, was dispatched to an apartment fire in North Sacramento where heavy smoke and flames were showing from a second story apartment and multiple tenants, who already escaped, reported that an elderly man was still trapped inside. He was found and removed to safety. **The Company Citation Award** was presented to **Battalion Chief Chad Augustin, engineer Andrew**

Ramos, and firefighters Richard Fulfer and Dan-son Drummer of Engine Company 20.

On Feb. 21, 2014, the crew of Engine Company 15 under the command of Captain Blackmun and Medic 43 responded to a call at a local gym where an unconscious drowning victim had been pulled from the pool by staff and basic life support had been given, but further action was needed. They saved the patient's life and **firefighters Eric Green, Luis Bisbiglia, Michelle Brown and Freddie Goerend** received the **Company Citation Award.**

On Feb. 18, 2015, Engine Company 60, under the command of Captain Dave Charron, was dispatched to a house on fire. The tactic of placing the hose between the fire and the trapped occupant allowed them to search for the missing resident who they found and rescued. **The department presented the Company Citation Award** to **Charron, engineer Brian Franks, firefighters Nick Sower, Elliot Reyes, and the company members of Engine 60.**

On Oct. 24, 2015, firefighter **Brandon Lynch**, while assigned to Engine Company 2 and under the command of **Captain Ferguson**, had just completed a routine boat training exercise on the American River, when he saw an unconscious female floating in the river, so he dove into the water and swam toward the victim, fighting the current the entire way. He was able to grab her and once at shore, they were met by the rest of Engine Company 2 where

they quickly transported her to UC Davis Medical Center. The Chief awarded the **Medal of Superior Effort** to **Lynch**. This was his second medal for heroism in the last three years. For the assistance in the rescue, the chief presented to **Ferguson** the **Outstanding Service Award.**

On May 26, 2013, engineer **Ricardo Panameno**, assigned to Engine Company 13, responded to a report of a small backyard fire. Suddenly an armed man pointed a shotgun at him. Panameno called for the police department and repeatedly told the suspect to lay the gun down. As the man put the gun down, he reached into his waistband for a handgun, at which time Panameno tackled and subdued the attacker until the rest of the engine crew came back to help. The chief of the department awarded Panameno the **Medal of Merit** for his act of heroism.

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Newspapers are in his blood

Meet the new publisher of Valley Community Newspapers

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Growing up attending "every event under the sun" while his father Roy carried a camera around his neck and his mom Mary spent days writing about local news, the last thing David Herburger thought he'd pursue was working in the newspaper business. Roy first put David to work at age 7 delivering newspapers and now the son brings Dad into the office.

Every morning after Roy Herburger is dressed to the nines, David drives him over to where Herburger Publications began half of its newspaper operations – The Galt Herald, the small town's official newspaper since 1901. There, Roy, now age 85, despite suffering from Parkinson's and losing his eyesight, continues writing Roy's Comments, a weekly local happenings column in print since 1959. "As long as his fingers are in the right place, he'll be typing out the column," David said. Mary, 83, continues to add to the Herald's sister publication, the Elk Grove Citizen with announcements of life's three big events: "hatchings, matchings, and dispatchings," though she said these days it's mostly been the latter that she writes about.

Roy and Mary divorced in 1980 but have continued coming to work every day. The Elk Grove Unified School District named a school after the older Herburger: Roy Herburger Elementary. There's also a park named after him and one named after Mom, called Mary Hull Lewis Park. Roy, Mary and David have all sat on numerous boards, and on Friday, Jan. 8, the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce named David chair of the board of directors at its annual gala.

Publishers of the Elk Grove Citizen, Laguna Citizen, The Galt Herald, and The River Valley Times, and the printers of various publications through its commercial department which prints newspapers and other publications for schools, community groups and local businesses, Herburger acquired Valley Community Newspapers as of the first of the year.

Purchased from the Mackos, George and Kathleen, Valley Community Newspapers continues its family-owned, community-based coverage with a publishing company whose CEO, Roy, and its General Manager, David, has been involved with VCN for many years as its printer. Ready to retire, George ensured VCN staff a place of continuous employment by selling to the Herburger family. In 2015 after the surprising death of the West Sacramento News-Ledger's publisher and editor Steve Marschke at age 51, the Mackos purchased that publication, keeping it alive. Kathleen continues her work there as that weekly publication's general manager.

In an interview about Herburger's acquisition, David, excited about the purchase, said when opportunity knocks, he always opens the door; and quoting the great Milton Berle, he added, "If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door ... The Mackos have been very gracious and they gave us the opportunity. We've been doing the commercial work (for VCN) and it seemed like a natural fit to ensure the longevity of all the newspapers involved. It's the new normal. We have to be smarter about how we put things together and it's a good fit with our organization. We're all local, all the time. Our goal is to maintain local, community journalism. Someone needs to be out there covering the news, a professional staff that's out there that's ready to intercede when things come up. It's a calling more than anything else."

David started his college education at the University of the Pacific but Stockton was too far from his one and only love, Debra Davidson, a special education teacher for the EGUSD. Rather than getting on the typical newspaper track, he moved back home and majored instead in business from Sacramento State University during which time he "was doing the books for Dad and Mom was still writing." David and Debra have three adult children, none of whom have pursued journalism, but who each have careers that take a certain calling. One son's a lawyer; the other, a student at the maritime academy; and the daughter studies nursing.

While he now sees the experience from a parents' perspective, as a kid, David didn't necessarily enjoy attending every event under the sun. "I felt like I was being taken to places when I wanted to play baseball. On a weekend, Dad would say, 'David: Quit drawing. We are going to the Western Festival.' ... When we got to the events, Dad would hand me a dollar. I would throw the dime into the jar and get a plastic monkey. At the time, I didn't realize how important it all was."

Realizing the connections he's made throughout his life because of the newspaper business, David says often people ask for the newspapers' support of an event and soon after he becomes a part of it. "I think the key to it all — and I am discovering it — being in the newspaper business opens a lot of doors. People reach out to you for a fundraiser and soon you are involved in that very event."

Around since 1959, Roy and Mary created Herburger Publications when they bought the Citizen and the Galt Herald, starting the company with themselves and six others. "Dad was publisher, editor, writer, photographer, pressman. Mom was writer, bookkeeper and she



Staff photo
Shown sitting, Roy Herburger, with his son, David Herburger inside Roy's office at the Galt Herald. As of Jan. 4, Herburger Publications owns Valley Community Newspapers.

was in the community and a mom at the same time," David said.

Currently there are 49 on staff, which includes the recent acquisition. At its height, the company had 74 on staff. "We haven't rehired anyone unless there was an opening," David said. One such writer, who has graced the pages at Valley Community Newspapers as its historian, Lance Armstrong, made headlines for his return to the Elk Grove Citizen last fall. Lance previously worked there as the Lifestyle Editor and today he covers local politics. Since he worked there the first time, the Lifestyle Editor's hours have been reduced and other staffing changes have been made.

"The Great Recession has been the perfect storm between the financial collapse and we were at a tipping point with the changes in media because of the Internet and the digital age. Bringing those together was a dramatic blow," David said. "But in the last year, we've seen greater interest. People are discovering that the new and shiny stuff isn't so shiny and we are starting to see things coming back."

Over at the Citizen Mary has also continued her About Town section about local happenings and she does a lot of publicity for organizations she belongs to, including the Strauss Festival, the Elk Grove Historical Society and the Soroptimists in Elk Grove. She also writes a column called Glance Back that draws upon files from years past. Asked if she is happy having Herburger take on VCN, Mary said, "As long as David is, that's just fine. Of course, I think he will make a wonderful boss." She said as long as she maintains good health and David.

A brief history of Valley Community Newspapers

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

According to unpublished material by Lance Armstrong, VCN's former history writer (who works for Herburger at the Elk Grove Citizen covering local politics), the history of what became VCN began in 1992 with the creation of the Pocket News, which was established by Ken Mandler, who is best known as the founder and former, longtime proprietor of the Capitol Weekly newspaper, and his then-wife, Pat Clark. The Pocket News was first published in February 1992 under the direction of Clark, who served as the paper's original editor. Pocket News was followed by the creation of the Land Park News, then, in order of their founding, the East Sacramento News, the Laguna Times, the Arden News and the Carmichael News. There is no longer a Laguna Times and the Arden News and the Carmichael News combined to become known as the Arden-Carmichael News. The business underwent an ownership change in mid-1995. It was then that George Macko and Steve Chanicka purchased the business, which at the time was located in the South Hills Shopping Center at 5962 South Land Park Drive. Macko, who is a native of Scranton, Pennsylvania and a 1963 graduate of the University of Scranton, bought out Chanicka's interest in the business, which was relocated to 312 Florin Road in 2001 and has been located at its current address of 2709 Riverside Blvd. since February 2006. Macko owned VCN with his wife, Kathleen Egan, until the end of last year.

Touring Effie Yeaw with naturalist Kate Marianchild

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

At 62 years old, Kate Marianchild has finally found out what she wanted to be when she grows up. A messenger of wonder, she is driven to share all the marvels of plants and animals -- their social structures, their anatomical adaptations -- and has packaged her knowledge inside a book titled, "Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants and Animals among California's Oaks". All the way from Ukiah, the county seat of Mendocino County, Marianchild presented a talk and a sold-out walk at Effie Yeaw in Carmichael where she spoke last fall about the Valley Oak Trees, California ground squirrels, mistletoe and rattlesnakes that call the nature preserve home.

The book profiles 22 species, including five birds, five mammals, one mushroom, one amphibian, a butterfly, oak galls, fungi and the western fence lizard. Not really about oaks (except for an overview in the introduction), "Secrets of the Oak Woodlands" is in its third printing of 3,000 copies per run. Without having a track record at all in the publishing world or in biological sciences, Kate is pleased with the success of her first book.

Marianchild began writing the book in 2009 and completed it about five years later with the help of Ukiah's official newspaper, The Ukiah Daily Journal.

(Full disclosure: The author of this article was one of Marianchild's editors at the Ukiah Daily Journal during her submissions to the paper). "The stories for the paper -- that is what got me the contract. I called (Berkeley-based) Heyday (Publishing) and decided to go straight to the top. I told them I had a book idea and they said, 'That's right up Heyday's alley. (Malcolm Margolin) was so impressed of the eloquence of the writing, the natural complexities. It was the easiest book publishing contract."

One of the visitors at Effie Yeaw, Ola Jane Gow who lives in Pollack Pines, said she found out about the book through a recommendation of her friend Deborah Nicolls of Placerville. "I read the book and couldn't stop talking about it. Her writing style is very enjoyable. She brings in really whimsical things. She makes you want to explore more, and the drawings in here make it a book you really want to keep." Ola especially enjoyed the talk as it reinforced things she learned from the book, adding that it was "good to see the author talk."

Having moved from San Francisco to Pollack Pines just last year and the first bird she met happened to be the bird that is pictured on the cover of Kate's book. "He's crazy," she says of the acorn woodpecker. "How can you not like this bird that makes all this noise? When you find out about the bird, you fall in love with it."

A part of the Effie Yeaw logo, the acorn woodpecker has many admirers. "He's like our mascot," Marilyn Escobar, a docent at the preserve, said, "I love to hear them chatter."

"They've got personality. They're amazing. They argue and call out to other species to get away," her sister Elaine Hujamboje added.

Marilyn said she picked up "Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants and Animals among California's Oaks" a couple of months ago and had a



Kate Marianchild

Photo by Monica Stark

blast reading it. A volunteer for about five years now, Marilyn is familiar with the oak woodlands, and the animals that call them home. Born and raised in California, spending much of her childhood camping and always loving the outdoors, she also has rave reviews for the book. "I love the way the chapters are set up. It makes for a nice read," she said.

Marianchild explains on her tours about the benefits of mistletoe that homeowners especially are intent on removing because they think it damages their trees. She said it turns out mistletoe is a keystone species, one which removed can affect other species. Its removal affects the bird population. It's not that the birds directly rely on its presence, but insects do and birds, well, they eat insects. Asked if the mistletoe is harmful to the trees, she said the jury isn't on that. "There's no difference of the growth rate, but they didn't do the study during a drought. Even so, oak trees are said to live for 100 years and die for 300 years." Another species we humans fear? Poison oak: "It's really important

wildlife food," she said. "At least 50 species of birds that eat it, as well as mammals, bears, deer, pocket mice. It's also important as a nursery plant after clear-cut or a fire. It's one of the first to come up."

In her closing remarks at the talk at Effie Yeaw, Marianchild's talk about mating galls -- or those multiplying abnormal outgrowths of plant tissues, similar to benign tumors or warts or animals -- illustrate her witty and off the cusp descriptions of Mother nature. "Mating galls) like to have big egg laying parties. They fertilize the eggs like fish. There's no penis, vagina thing that happens. Here, there are hatched larvae with gills." Then, she showed a beautiful watercolor by Maglente of the mating galls.

In a call to action to preserve our oak woodlands, Marianchild noted there are 10 million acres left in California and are "going fast." Valley oaks are traditionally the most complex of all and they support the most life, she said. "Do everything you can to save the Oak woodlands from Redding, to the Sacramento Valley, Sacramento, Fresno, the San Joaquin Valley, Bakersfield, SF, LA." Ending her speech, she thanked those in the audience. "Docents: Consider yourselves messengers of wonder."

While now a naturalist known throughout Northern California and beyond because of her popular book, Marianchild didn't always enjoy learning about the complexities of nature even though she has spent her life immersed in it. "I wasn't interested in plants until I wrote the books," she says.

A former UC Berkeley student of the Chinese language and comparative literature, Marianchild said she lived in Hong Kong for two years as part of that process, which she said, was totally wasted but while there got involved in anti-Vietnam War work. "A lot of GIs came to Hong Kong. We would lure them to a little apartment, hear their stories," and if they weren't happy with their situations, she said some became conscientious objectors, and she helped get them counseling. When Marianchild returned to college, she dropped out, and for a few years organized women hospital workers at Travis Air Force base, giving them a voice. Not much later, across the country in New England, she got sick with her first round of Lyme disease. A doctor who recognized how desperately ill she was, put her on disability. So even though she couldn't work, she thought maybe she could finish college and of all things, became a carpenter. As she tells the story, she chuckles, mentioning her time living in Mendocino County on a commune in between the small Anderson Valley towns of Philo and Elk. During that time, over the course of eight years, she started harvesting seaweed: drying, packaging and selling to natural food stores. After 25 years, the company Rising Tide Sea Vegetables, still exists and is second largest seaweed company in the domestic United States after one in Maine.

Her love of nature and of the outdoors continued, despite being diagnosed with a second round of Lyme disease. A life impacted by illness, she had a five year reprieve before getting sick again in 2004. "I've had Lyme and about four other diseases from ticks... One of them is just Malaria; it affects red blood cells. It was just awful, but I kept trying to have a life....By 2010, I felt fairly normal, but before that I moved inland. As I got sicker and sicker, the coast got too cold for me. I ran my business from afar with an office manager and I moved into a yurt on a ranch that's (located) left of Parducci winery (in Ukiah). It's rough. When I am sick, I really want a bathtub, so one of these days I will have to get more civilized."

Knowing Kate, even if she did move out from yurt living, she would pursue any new passion and she will always be a messenger of wonder. Also, her giving nature with her talks, walks and books make Mother Nature fun for all. To her health and the planet's.



Pump Up the Volume: Hip-hop exhibit now at Sac State

Celebrate the history and global success of hip-hop with "Pump Up the Volume," a free art exhibit by Jane Dickson and Joe Lewis in Sacramento State's Robert Else Gallery, Jan 27-Feb. 26. It explores the genre's reach from the Bronx to Soweto to Dallas, and BMW to ballet. Works range from paintings to photos to text. Regular gallery hours are noon-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, contact: 278-6166.

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'Poetry at Einstein!'

Monthly poetry readings come to the Arden area

There will be a poetry reading on the first Sunday of every month in the Arden/Arcade area at the **Albert Einstein Residence, 1935 Wright St.** between Cottage and Wyda. The second reading to date at this location will be held on **Sunday, Feb. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m.** There were 35 folks at the first reading in January. The February featured readers will be: James Lee Jobe, Allegra Silberstein & Taylor Graham. Poetry at Einstein is Co-Sponsored by the Sacramento Poetry Center and is being brought to the Arden-Arcade area since there were no readings in this neighborhood. Additionally, on behalf of the group, Sandi Wasserman said she picked this venue because she lives at that residence center. "On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the best...Poetry at Einstein! ranked an easy 10!" Wasserman said regarding the January reading. "New venues revive the art of poetry in new places. They inspire and provide outreach to communities," she said. The poets that have been chosen are all poets she knows from our community. Regarding the February reading, the following are biographies of the poets, provided courtesy of Wasserman.

James Lee Jobe has been published in Manzanita, Tule Review, Pearl, and many other periodicals. His online publications include Convergence, Knot Magazine, Poetry 24, Medusa's Kitchen, and The Original Van Gogh Anthology. Jobe has authored five chapbooks, and his blog is at jamesleejobe.tumblr.com.

For more than 40 years, **Taylor Graham** and her husband, Hatch, have trained their German Shepherds for search and rescue; they've responded as volunteers to hundreds of missions in Alaska, Virginia, California and beyond. They don't go on searches now but still train their dogs; Shepherds don't understand retirement. Taylor's poems appear in the anthologies Villanelles (Everyman's Library) and California Poetry: From the Gold Rush to the Present (Santa Clara University). Her book The Downstairs Dance Floor was awarded the Robert Phillips Poetry Chapbook Prize. Her latest is What the Wind Says, poems about living and working with her dogs. A new book, Uplift, is due out later this month from Cold River Press.



Barbara Dow doodled and colored her way through childhood and has studied art for many years and taken classes from respected artists Gary Pruner and Steve Mermering. Barbara is a very adept oil painter who leans toward impressionism, influenced somewhat by Matisse. Through her volunteer work with Happy Tails, a cat rescue shelter, Barbara discovered she liked painting pets and regularly does commissions for pet owners as well as many other subjects.

Barbara enjoys the challenge and excitement of creating something on the canvas that represents her heart and soul. Her challenge is to interpret what she sees, and produce a permanent visualization to be shared and enjoyed with the viewer. Sometimes an accidental mix or blending with the brush stroke produces and element of surprise and excitement. Most days you will find Barbara working in her studio at Artistic Edge Gallery, 1880 Fulton Ave. She loves when people come in and check out her work.

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The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Worsted fabric
- 6 Out, in a way
- 10 Insult, slangily
- 14 Codeine source
- 15 Capitol feature
- 16 Furniture wood
- 17 Like a novel character
- 19 Broadcast
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- 21 Lcky stuff
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- 26 Overshoe
- 27 Bordeaux product
- 29 Time being
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- 32 The Joker, to Batman
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- 37 Grocery carrier
- 39 "___ we there yet?"
- 40 Giant syllable
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- 44 Time out?
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- 46 Certain shark
- 48 One way to run
- 51 Declare with confidence
- 53 Stagger a bit
- 54 Bassoon, e.g.
- 55 Babysitter's handful
- 58 Be sore
- 59 Butcher block preserver
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- 63 Coffee choice

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- 30 Like an oxeye window
- 32 Got gray
- 33 More convincingly, in legalese
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Now until Jan. 15: Calling knitters, crocheters and loom knitters of all ages. The American Heart Association Sacramento Chapter is calling for handmade little red hats in premie and newborn sizes. Hats need to be completed and delivered to the Sacramento Chapter Office located at 2007 O St., 95811 no later than Friday, Jan. 15. "Little Hats, Big Hearts" is a nationwide campaign of the AHA, bringing awareness to the babies who are born with heart ailments and heart defects. All hats received will be distributed locally in February 2016 as part of Go Red Month. This event is also being hosted on Facebook as "Little Hats, Big Hearts" for Elk Grove and Sacramento. Enjoy being part of this special project. Participants in Elk Grove will have designated drop-off locations to be announced in the Elk Grove Citizen and Facebook. For more information, contact Teresita Valadez at teresitagabriela@yahoo.com.

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The Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society (STJS) monthly music event
Every second Sunday of the month, STJS has music at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., from noon to 5 p.m. Each

month STJS has a different band, there is three different rooms to listen to music. Nominal fee for members is \$8; non-member price is \$10.

Nar-Anon meeting for families and friends
The group meets to learn about drug abuse, share problems, encourage the addict to seek help, replace despair with hope, improve the family attitude, help regain your self-confidence. For more information, call the First United Methodist Church at 446-5025, ext. 101. Meetings are Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 2100 J St.

Rotary Club South meeting
The Rotary Club of South Sacramento meets at noon for lunch every Thursday at Iron Grill, located at 2422 13th St. (Broadway and 13th Street). Rotary is one of the largest service organizations in the world dedicated to community service both locally, and internationally. Please call JR Springer at 425-9195 for additional information.

Beginning tai chi gong
These exercises use the principle of chi flowing properly throughout the body to maintain the equilibrium of yin and yang. Regular practice of these forms will develop better balance and flexibility, gain strength, promote deep relaxation, and improve health. This beginning class will also learn the 24 Yang Style Tai Chi and Yi Jing, a traditional Health Qi Gong. Pre-registration and prepayment required or \$7 drop-in fee at the door. Class will be held on Tuesdays from 4:00-5:00 pm at ACC Senior Services,

7334 Park City Drive. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accs.org.

Soroptimist International Sacramento South
Meets the second and fourth Tuesday at Executive Airport, Aviators Restaurant at 12:15 p.m.

Widow persons monthly buffet and social
Widowed Persons Association of California, Newcomers' Buffet and Social is open to any and all widows and widowers, the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The buffet will be held in the private dining room at the Plaza Hof Brau, corner of El Camino and Watt Avenue, cost varies as the choice is from a no-host buffet menu. There is no charge to attend the social other than the meal chosen. For more information, call 916 972-9722. Widowed Persons Association of California, Sunday Support, is open to any and all widows or widowers, every Sunday from 3 to 5 p.m. in the meeting room of the WPAC office, 2628 El Camino Avenue, Ste. D-18. Enter from the back parking lot. For more information, call 916 972-9722. Saturday, Nov. 7, Widowed Persons Association of California Workshop, "Coping with the Holidays," 2 to 4 p.m., the doors open at 1:30 p.m. A second session will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1, from 7 to 9 p.m., doors open at 6:30 p.m. The workshops will take place at 2628 El Camino Ave., Ste. D-18. Enter from the back parking lot. For more information or to register, call 972-9722.

JANUARY

Sac State exhibit traces the global reach of hip-hop
Jan. 27-Feb. 26: Since its origins in the Bronx in the 1970s, hip-hop has not only influenced music, poetry, and dance, it's had an impact on art as well. Pump Up the Volume!, a free exhibit running Jan. 27 to Feb. 26 in Sacramento State's Robert Elsie Gallery, features the art of Jane Dickson and Joe Lewis, who explore the dynamic music form and its global reach through paintings, photos, text, and more. The two artists will be on hand for the exhibit's opening reception from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27, and will hold a special artists' talk from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in Kadema Hall 145. Described as the voice of the underserved and unrepresented who have been abandoned by the powerful, hip-hop has spread around the world, ushering in a new movement along with art forms such as street art, graffiti, and break dancing. Pump Up The Volume! consists of more than 60 discrete pieces, including portraits of important hip-hop artists. There is also an audio component: An overlay of 278 songs tracing the history of the genre will play during the exhibit's run. Art Professor Elaine O'Brien arranged to bring the exhibition to Sac State from the Bronx ArtSpace in New York, where it was on view in February and March of last year. "Pump Up The Volume! shows bright embers of a youth culture that caught fire fast and burns hot everywhere today," says O'Brien. "We brought this show here for the students, to impress and inspire them with the force of art made by young people out of school and against the odds." Dickson began working on projects at Fashion Moda in

See Calendar, continued page 14

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CALENDAR

Continued from page 13

the South Bronx in 1979, created City Maze there in 1980 along with graf artists Crash and Noc, and began collaborating with future husband Charlie Ahearn on Wild Style, the first hip-hop movie, in 1981. Often working with industrial materials, her work examines the conventions and disjunctions of contemporary American life. Her work is owned by more than 30 museums, including the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, and the Brooklyn Museum. Lewis' work reflects his introduction to hip-hop and street culture. His focus is on "the Word," its influence on animate and inanimate ideas, places, and things. At times, he also muses on the mystical and supernatural meaning of everyday things when taken out of context, such as prep school boys dressing and acting like "gangsters." His work can be found in collections at the Studio Museum in Harlem, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and Deutsche Bank. The exhibit is sponsored in part by Sacramento State's One World Initiative and Associated Students Inc. For more information, visit Sacramento State's Art Department at www.alcuss.edu/art or call 278-6166.

SacTown VegFest
Jan. 30: The Sacramento Vegetarian Society (SVS) is excited to launch SacTown

VegFest, Sacramento's first 100% plant-based vegetarian festival. SacTown VegFest will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2016, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Sacramento City Unified School District's Serna Center, 5737 47th Ave. (one block west of Stockton Blvd.) in Sacramento. This event is FREE and open to the public. There will freshly prepared food and plant-based merchandise for sale as well as free samples. There will be information on the many benefits of plant-based eating—from delicious health-promoting recipes to how diet can reduce both water-usage and your carbon footprint. SacTown VegFest will be a family-friendly event with fun activities for children. Speakers include: Keynote: Kristie Middleton, Food Policy Director, Humane Society of the U.S.; Hope Bohanec, Author and Executive Director, Compassionate Living; Timraee Hagenburger, "The Nutrition Professor"; Cosumnes River College; Nora Kramer, Founder, Youth Empowered Action (YEA!) Camp; Rajiv Misquitta, M.D., and Cathi Misquitta, Pharm.D., "Healthy Heart, Healthy Planet"; Lani Muelrath, author, "The Plant Based Journey" SVS is a nonprofit educational and social organization founded in 1986. Online at <www.facebook.com/SacTownVegFest/> and <www.SacTownVegFest.org>.

Chinese New Year Celebration (Year of the Monkey)
Jan. 30: From noon to 5 p.m. at Hiram Johnson High School Auditorium, 6879 14th Ave. Sacramento 95820, the Chinese New Year Celebration Association will present an afternoon with dragon dance and martial arts, cultural entertainment, community exhibits, arts and crafts, food vendors, children's games. Tickets are available at door: \$6 adults, \$1 children under 12. For more information, visit www.cnyc.net or call Vicki Beaton at 601-7511.

Sacramento 2016 Winter Tweed Ride & Picnic
Jan. 30: Travel on vintage bikes and see the best tweed show and picnic in the winter on maple syrup and snow from noon to 5 p.m. The Coffee Garden, 2904 Franklin Blvd. From there, revelers will ride to a pretty picnic spot and finish with victory ale. Bring: ID, bike lock. Win: Best bike, bike accessory, hat, shoes, picnic. City Bicycle Works & Beers Books provided prize donations. Thank you also to: Bike Dog, Camp Pollock, Back Door Lounge, Ella K. McClatchy Friends Library, & the Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park for hosting the group during its 2014 and 2015 rides. Stay tuned for more on Facebook: Sacramento Tweed Ride 2.0 or twitter: @SacTweed.

Matías Bombal's Hollywood

(Editor's Note: On Feb. 4, TIME readers can join Matías Bombal of "Matías Bombal's Hollywood" at the Crocker Art Museum for a screening of the restored 1946 masterpiece "La Belle et la Bette," "Beauty and the Beast," as visualized by France's great poet, artist, and filmmaker, Jean Cocteau.)

Dirty Grandpa
Lions Gate offers "Dirty Grandpa", which gives us the kind of movie that I remember seeing in my youth in the summertime through the 1980s: raunchy, filled with outrageous low humor and crude jokes. Although you may think movies in the vein of "Caddyshack," "Animal House," "The Flamingo Kid," and "Porky's" may not elevate the cinema as art, it does have strong nostalgic ties to the experience of going to the movies when it was a carefree way to spend time, and just for fun.

It is just in that vein that one should consider "Dirty Grandpa" which has no connection whatsoever to "Bad Grandpa" from the "Jackass" series of movies. Yes, this movie has the raunchy aspects of a Florida spring break movie. However, it features actors whose abilities far exceed the nature of the material, so it becomes a fascinating thing to watch when players such as Robert DeNiro, Der-

mot Mulroney, and Zac Efron work in this genre. Efron you've seen in this type of thing before. I have always maintained that he has tremendous acting skill and lament the fact that he's often featured in "bad boy from a fraternity" type roles. I'm still waiting for him to prove my theory by giving us another serious dramatic role.

"Dirty Grandpa" screen writer John Phillips has, amid the mire of low humor, written some outstanding bits of clever comedy with a more adult and smart twist. It is story of a recent widower, Dick Kelly, played by DeNiro. His grandson Jason, played by Efron is about as straight-laced as possi-

ble, looking as if he stepped out of a Brooks Brothers catalog. As the picture starts, we are at the funeral of DeNiro's wife and Efron's fiancé Meredith, played by actress Julianne Hough, is selecting ties for their forthcoming wedding. DeNiro sizes her up on the spot as not ideal.

Grandpa Dick asks his grandson to drive him to Florida to have a fun vacation to help in his grief over the loss of his wife. This causes Jason some grief, as he's days from being married, and really hasn't the time to drive his grandfather around. Much to his surprise however, his grandfather turns out to be nothing like he thought he might be. Picking him up he finds him rarin' to go,



now free from the commitment of his wife, and enthusiastic to sew one last wild oat in Florida. This is where the cleverness of the screenplay makes this so interesting to watch, as both leads are in roles exactly opposite to their typical type.

This movie is a little long, but I really enjoyed the chemistry between DeNiro and Efron, and the slightly "off" feeling the movie had throughout. Kudos must go to vivacious ac-

trix Aubrey Plaza who plays Lenore. Perhaps you saw her in the delightfully strange title role of "Life After Beth". Here she's an over the top joy. I feel this young lady is one to watch in future. "Dirty Grandpa" is not for a refined movie taste, but aside from being a tad long, had me laughing continuously throughout and proves once more that DeNiro's facility with any material makes him one of the greatest in his craft.

Solution to Crossword:

S	E	R	G	E	A	B	E	D	S	L	A	M
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F	I	C	T	I	T	I	O	U	S	E	M	I
A	C	E	G	O	O	K	I	N	C	I	S	E
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P	A	R	A	A	E	R	Y	E	X	I	S	T

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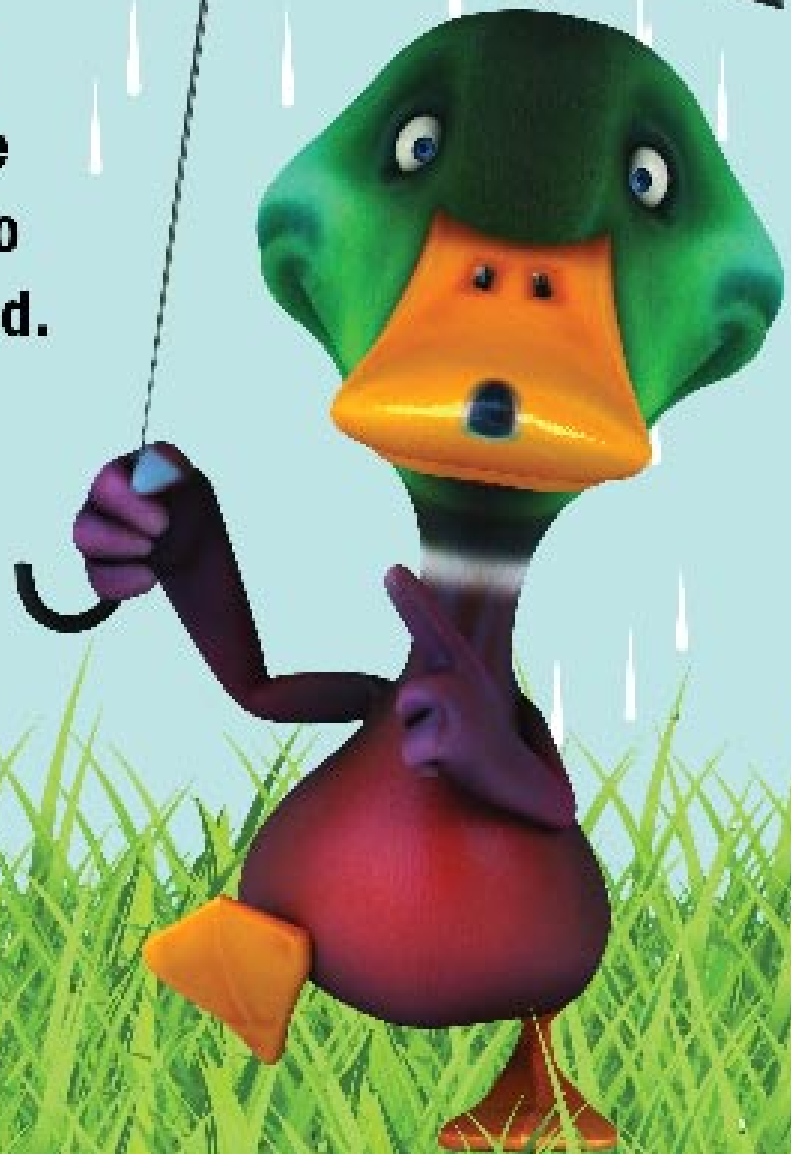
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