



School lives art, history and family

See page 4



The incredible, artistical egg

Egg artists Diana Macias, Alice Cameron, and BJ Gothmann recently met in Land Park to show and create more egg art -- and, yes, they use real eggs. Members of the International Egg Artist Guild will be teaching showing and selling all things related to this delicate art form at the group's annual gathering, this year from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, March 7, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 8, at the Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way. Admission is \$5 and all proceeds will benefit the Shriners Hospital for Children. For more about creating art from ostrich, emu, goose and duck eggs, see page 19.



Photos by Robert Scott

Sac school district wraps up hearings Community brings ideas for education

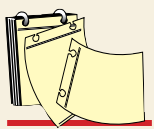
By Miranda Menestrina
THE EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS

Despite the cold weather and rain, hundreds of teachers, parents, students and community members turned out for one of the last community meetings with the Sacramento City Unified School District School to express their fears about the future of the district and generate ideas on new revenue and how the district can save money.

The Feb. 10 meeting at Sacramento Charter High School was the tenth of 11 community meetings in the district's five "study areas" (north, south, east, west and central) that have been held to discuss how it can best utilize its school facilities

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Community Calendar

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Mayor chastises 'wild spending' in Sacramento

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Real Estate Quarterly

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'It didn't have to be this way'

Mayor takes city to task for its previous 'wild spending,' current deficit

It's no secret: the national economic downturn has taken a wrecking ball to our city's finances.

Property tax revenue has plummeted. Sales tax revenue is on a downward spiral, down from a projected \$53 million to \$47 million. A 23 percent decline in new vehicle sales has slashed the city's take of the license fee by a similar figure.

Making matters worse is the protracted impasse between the state's leaders on the state budget. Top that off with our region being the epicenter of the national foreclosure crisis, and you can begin to understand why the city is grappling with its worst budget deficit challenge in a generation. Services to the East Sacramento neighborhood are on the chopping block.

Budget disappointments

It didn't have to be this way. Many other cities in California aren't facing the same struggles. Just a couple hours south, Fresno -- a city with similar population in our same valley -- has a budget surplus.

The reason: Fresno took its budget bull by the horns before the economy went south. It put aside a reserve. It prioritized what mattered to its citizens. As I write this, Fresno's mayor and council are debating what to do with a budget surplus. The likely result will be greater efforts to keep the community's streets safe, and a cushion to protect against a continued downturn in the economy.

That's exactly the type of discussion I would like to have with the council in Sacramento. But, unfortunately, the debate we're having is entirely different.



MAYOR KEVIN JOHNSON
NEIGHBORHOOD MATTERS

In January, I proposed an outside review by the nation's top municipal finance firm of our city government. The initial diagnosis was offered for free -- an amazing opportunity. Then, if efficiencies would be found, the city would pay the firm half of the realized savings. For example, if they found \$500,000 in savings that were realized by the city, then they would get half. In other words, there would be zero net cost to the city.

Unfortunately, that proposal was voted down. The majority on the council have delayed action, meaning no savings from an audit could be realized for this fiscal year. I am hopeful that this proposal will be resurrected.

'Wildly overspending'

As we head into the heat of the budget debate, some say they want a "full-service" city. In good times, they'd be right: our city should be able to provide a full-range of services to all our residents, particularly those who need them most.

And, unfortunately, the absence of urgency on their part has led to our city wildly overspending. In the last few months, we've spent more than \$250,000 to count the city's trees

See Mayor, page 3



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Mayor

Continued from page 2

and hundreds of thousands for what the city's own press release called "state of the art" cat housing.

I'm not against either of those projects -- in good times.

But these are extraordinary times. Sacramento families are losing their jobs, their homes, and their savings.

That's why we have to make difficult decisions. And those who tout wanting a "full-service" city know that simply means deep cuts across the board, particularly in public safety.

Safety priority

My priority is simple: I believe the core function of city government is to keep our citizens safe. That means more police on the streets, not less. It means fire stations that are open are ready to save lives and property instead of being idled one or two days a week. It means having a city with a fully engaged economic development team instead of a skeletal crew that won't be able to compete with our neighbors.

During the next few months, I will be fighting for these priorities.

We face some extremely challenging days ahead. In the coming months, we will need to develop a plan to balance the fiscal year 2010 budget. That will require a series of painful cuts to our

programs and services, as well as layoffs that may run as high as 400 to 500 city workers.

I do not look forward to the difficult choices ahead. However, I am committed to providing the leadership required to navigate this crisis.

Mayoral access

That begins by listening to you. Each month, I hold office hours across the city so you don't need to trudge to City Hall. I also appear online on News 10 every Wednesday, either at 11 a.m. or 5 p.m., to take your questions online; I also take questions on KFBK radio every Wednesday at 3 p.m..

We are all in this together, however. All of us, every citizen and every city worker, will be asked to make sacrifices. That's why your creativity and ingenuity are essential. (Have an idea to make our government work better? E-mail me at mayor@cityofsacramento.org.)

As a third generation Sacramentan, I know our city has faced difficult times before. As we have done in the past, we will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever.

Charter reform update

Last month my column was focused on an effort to modernize our city government. More than 74,000 signatures were collected for two initiatives -- a record amount of signatures gathered in time to put these measures

on the ballot if a special election were called by the governor and legislature in June.

These measures would have brought evolutionary -- not revolutionary -- changes to city government.

Under the first measure, the mayor and council would be directly accountable to you for the way city government is operated -- not an unelected city manager. Sacramento's city government would be modernized for the first time since the 1920s in a structure similar to California's other major cities. (In 2002, the city charter was changed to give the mayor a full-time salary, but did not provide full-time responsibilities.)

More than 62 percent of the nation's top 50 cities have this type of government. Which is why the proposal was embraced by a broad array of supporters, ranging from the former Republican Mayor of Fresno, Alan Autry, as well as Democrat Gavin Newsom of San Francisco. Jeannine English, the former director of the state's Little Hoover Commission supports it, as does community leaders and the Sacramento Police Officers Association. Even supporters of my former mayoral opponent, such as Randy Paragary, are backing this initiative.

A city budget analyst

The second proposal would create an Independent Budget Analyst, simi-

lar to the respected Legislative Budget Analyst that serves the State Senate and Assembly. This budget analyst would scrutinize the city budget and provide recommendations to us for savings, providing an independent review from the city manager's assessment.

However, it's clear that the city budget must be the top priority of the City Council. And unfortunately, some on the City Council found that these measures were a distraction to the work that needs to be done in balancing the city's books. I love our community too much to allow the dissent on this issue to spill over to the budget deficit we need to tackle.

For this reason -- and the likelihood of a June election declining with every passing day of the state budget impasse -- we've decided to stop actively collecting additional signatures.

As a reminder, it was never our intent to hold a special election to vote just on this issue. To save Sacramento taxpayers money, we intended to "piggyback" on a statewide special election -- saving at least \$500,000. That remains our intent. And if the governor and Legislature decide on a special election for November 2009, we're likely to submit the signatures for these measures so they qualify for that contest.

I remain hopeful that the City Council now can put politics aside and focus on our city budget. It is essential that we do so.

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Art, history and family trees

Shalom School's annual Living History Faire last month gave students the opportunity to creatively give history a lively touch, and brought in world famous Judaic artist Mordechi Rosenstein, who joined the students in creating a painting in the rotunda. Rosenstein served as artist-in residence for a week, as well as a guest lecturer at an evening event for families, that included a slide show on the history of Jewish art and a family-friendly art project centered on Family Trees. Shalom School, the only Jewish day school in the Sacramento region, marks its 30th year this year. The campus is located at 2320 Sierra Boulevard, phone 485-4151.



Sixth grader Greyson Horst donned a historical costume to bring his project on Greece to life.

Photos by Kai Garner



(left) Zachary Gonzalez and Elijah Ott, third graders, help create an American and Israeli flag with handprints. (center) Fifth graders Mia Fahn and Jenny Gurev dressed in Colonial costumes. (right) Zachary Lewin, fourth grade, displayed fruits and vegetables grown in California.

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Advice nights coming to Shepard center

Friendly 'crop swaps' might be the answer to stretching food dollars

By Steffi Broski

THE EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS

It tastes like cardboard, but it is cheap and times are tough. However, junk food does not have to be the alternative if you were recently forced to cut your food budget in half.

Sacramentans interested in not just growing their own food, but also exchanging that fresh produce with others, are invited to the "Crop Swap Informational Night" at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center located at 3330 McKinley Boulevard at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of March and April.

"In these times many people are struggling to pay their bills," said Bill Maynard, founder and project coordinator of the Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition, "it is important that even though they might have to reduce their food budget, they still make sure to eat vegetables."

An advice night

The "Crop Swap Informational Night" will educate gardeners on how to start produce-trading groups at their workplace, school, neighborhood or church. Once those groups are formed, Maynard gives them advice on how to grow the crop, and even provides various free seeds.

"If you just moved into a new house and the tree is full of grapefruits, pick them up and swap them for tomatoes."

Bill Maynard

Community Garden Coalition

Newly organized "Crop Swap" teams then arrange meeting times and facilities on their own. And in a few weeks, when the tomatoes are red, the oranges plenty and the eggplants plump, the groups will get together at their meeting place to swap the produce.

"We encourage as many different crops as possible. Really, the more people, the merrier and the more diverse the planting," said Maynard.

Last year, Maynard held the first meeting of its kind in Oak Park and now the area has its own "Crop Swap" team with frequent get-togethers between June and September where tomatoes

are swapped for oranges, pears for limes and lettuce for carrots. At the end of each meeting, usually none of the vegetables and fruits are left.

"Well, not always. Someone brought in 32 pounds of apricots one day," Maynard laughed. "By the end of the meeting, we had about 10 pounds or so left."

The excess produce is donated to the local food bank, Maynard said.

Flexible set-up

Groups are not required to trade certain foods or follow a strict system. Maynard said he wants gardeners to swap an amount of

produce they feel comfortable with and what they will need at home that week.

Some people use a token system, for others that might be too formal and they prefer to trade based on value or pounds. Money is not involved.

"Other than that, we just have some guidelines such as what's accepted to bring, you have to have produce in order to swap and so on. This is not like a flea market, more a neighborhood farmers' market," Maynard said.

Maynard encourages dedicated people to start a new group. Even an office team, he said, can partake and swap their crop during lunchtime. And not everyone has to be a gardener

right away to form a "Crop Swap" team or become part of an existing one.

"If you just moved into a new house and the tree is full of grapefruits, pick them up and swap them for tomatoes," Maynard said.

Contact Maynard at the Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition for more information by e-mail at sac-gc@ulink.net or call 508-6025. The free "Crop Swap Informational Night" will take place at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center located at 3330 McKinley Boulevard at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, and Tuesday, April. If readers are not able to make it to these meetings, they are encouraged to call Maynard to set up another meeting.

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Multicultural events span years

St. Francis High School taking on an international outlook

Special to *the East Sacramento News*

Several St. Francis High School events bring an international flair to the campus.

In January, as a result of a request by the student council, the school held its first Winter Ball, with an international theme. The dance served as a wrap-up and finale for Multicultural Week.

Leading up to the evening of the event, in addition to assemblies focused on global issues, students spent time learning dance steps, decorating flags, and making jewelry to use during the dance. Stu-

dents felt the occasion celebrated the school's unity through the diversity of its student population.

Then, Feb. 18, the St. Francis High School Foreign Language Department sponsored International Night, a long-standing school tradition. Each year, students present dances and songs from their foreign language classes to an audience of parents and friends, showcasing their knowledge and appreciation of their own ethnic backgrounds and the cultures about which they are learning.

An international dinner featuring foods from around the



St. Francis High School students began a Winter Ball this year, giving it an international theme as a finale to the school's Multicultural Week.

Courtesy photo

world takes place on campus before the evening's performances.

Sister school exchange

For 11 days in March, 40 families will host girls from Nakamura Gakuen school, St. Francis High School's sister school in Fukuoka. The Japanese exchange program has

provided a special activity for St. Francis families for more than 15 years.

During their visit, exchange students attend English classes, participate in cultural activities and take field trips. During evenings and weekends, the Japanese students enjoy accompanying their hosts on shopping trips, to sports practices

and other typical family activities.

The exchange students all speak some English and have electronic dictionaries. The girls become good friends and the families often maintain contact years later.

Each May, a group of St. Francis students and staff travel to Japan, where they live with Japanese host families, attend classes at Nakamura Gakuen School and experience the local culture.

In the words of Principal Andreas Agos, one of the adults accompanying the 2008 exchange group, the experience "had everything that a great trip should have: wonderful hosts, eye opening culture experiences, delicious and different food, everlasting memories."

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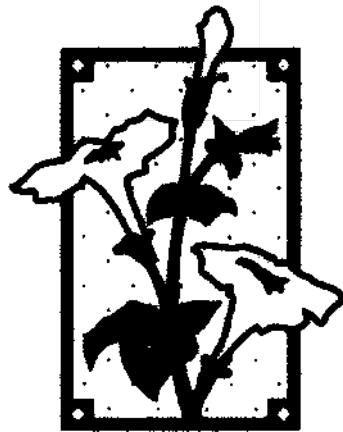
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- One-half teaspoon dish soap (optional)
- 3 to 8 drops of essential oils (optional)
- Old newspapers

Put all ingredients in spray bottle and attack those dirty windows. The dish

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All-surface spray

- Use this product on counter tops, walls and spills.
- 2 teaspoons Borax
- Hot water
- One-quarter teaspoon castile soap
- Mix the Borax and hot water until Borax is dissolved and then add the

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All-purpose liquid cleaner

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Laws, bills and props Keeping tabs on the newest laws—local and beyond— concerning real estate

By John Woodall
LYON REAL ESTATE

New rules.

This article summarizes many of the new federal and state laws affecting the real estate industry this year, as well as 2008 emergency legislation that went into effect immediately.

**Eminent Domain
(From Proposition 99, passed June 3, 2008)**

Responding to *Kelo vs. City of New London* -- where private property taken by eminent domain was turned over to another private person for a development project -- Californians passed Proposition 99. Under this new law, government agencies cannot take owner-occupied residences by eminent domain to transfer to a private person except for certain very limited exceptions.

These exceptions include protecting public health and safety; preventing serious, repeated criminal activity; and responding to an emergency.

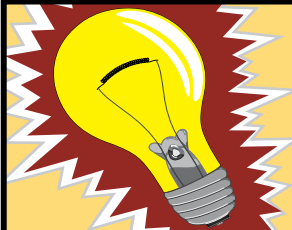
**Landlord/Tenant
(AB 2052 effective Sept. 27, 2008 to Jan. 2, 2012)**

**Victim of Domestic Violence
and Termination of Tenancy**

This law authorizes a tenant to notify the landlord in writing that he/she or a household member was a victim of an act of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and intends to terminate the tenancy. It requires the tenant to attach a copy of a specified report to the notice.

The tenant is not responsible for any rent following 30 days

See Woodall, page 12



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Real Estate Quarterly



Inside environments

Making your home 'green' can be done without exotic expenses

Environmentally-friendly design, also known as "green design," is gaining popularity. Builders, architects, designers and other residential professionals recognize this trend and the fact it's growing more quickly than ever.

While the concept of going green or green design often entails methods of home design that can be costly, do know that not all "green" home improvement options are that extensive or expensive. Many eco-friendly, low cost strategies can be easily incorporated into a home's design.

TEAM BLACK

LYON REAL ESTATE

What 'green' means

Green design is about the environment ... our environment: Minimizing our impact (carbon footprint) and preserving natural resources that have limited renewable capabilities.

Unfortunately, many of the materials that we favor in our homes are from non-renewable resources such as stone (marble, granite) and wood materials. Quarries are

slowly being exhausted and many species of wood are being cut when the tree is smaller in order to meet the demand.

Why not select renewable materials that are grown and harvested for use due to their ability for continued growth such as bamboo (25 percent harder than oak) and cork? Additionally, cotton, silk and wool are renewable materials that continue to grow after harvesting.

Inside tips

To reduce the use of water, replace old faucets with faucets that have economizing features that utilize the same water pressure while using less water. Don't forget to check the showerheads. Purchase CFL (compact fluorescent light bulbs) that are longer lasting and reduce "urban glow." Purchase new appliances that reduce noise pollution. Make certain that you unplug your appliances when not in use or use a "smart" power strip that cuts power when it senses they are not in use.

To improve the air quality and reduce the air pollution, use paint and finishes that are water-based instead of oil-based. If possible, avoid products that contain more glues and adhesives than other ingredients.

Try making your own non-toxic cleaning products. By using a few simple ingredients, you not only save money, you improve your indoor air quality.

More alternatives

Consider alternative energies such as solar lighting and heating. Make certain the heat and cool air loss is kept to a minimum by the use of proper insulation methods. You will be amazed at the difference just weather-proofing your home will make. Weather-proof around your doors and windows, the attic and exterior walls. Save energy and save money by setting your thermostat a few degrees lower in winter and higher in the summer months.

Since vehicles are a major cause of air pollution, choose locally made products to reduce the impact traffic has on the environment.

By making a few conscious eco-friendly choices about the improvement of the inside and outside of our home, we will have made a positive impact on our global environment.

Team Black is part of Lyon Real Estate. Contact Annette Black at 552-7203.

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Real Estate Quarterly



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May 12-13, 2009

For more information contact:
Farough Tabrizi, CAHSEE Project Coordinator
(916) 650-2745, tabrizF@scc.losrios.edu

Woodall

Continued from page 9

from the date of the notice. The notice to terminate the tenancy must be given within 60 days of date the order was issued or the report was made, or as specified.

Identity Theft

The 'Red Flag Rule' Final Rule Identity Theft Transactions Act of 2008 (effective Nov. 11, 2008 for compliance)

Under the Red Flags Rule, financial institutions and creditors (includes mortgage loan brokers) must develop a written program that identifies, detects and responds to the relevant warning signs – or “red flags” – of identity theft. Examples include unusual account activity, fraud alerts on a consumer report, or attempted use of suspicious account application documents.

Public Pools and Spas

S. 1771 effective Dec. 19, 2008

This new federal law requires new and existing public pools and spas to be equipped with anti-entrapment drain devices. The law applies to multi-family apartment complexes and not individual homes. A willful violation of the drain cover standard could result in significant criminal penalties, including fines or imprisonment.

California rules for single family homes: New or remodel pool or spa permits require similar anti entrapment grates and two suction drains. Check with your city building department for details

Fire “safe zone”

SB 1595 (effective Jan. 1, 2009)

Revised Owner/Tenant Responsibilities in High Fire Hazard Severity Zones/State Responsibility Areas

A person who owns or controls an occupied dwelling/structure in a forest, brush or grass-covered area within a very

high fire hazard severity zone or state responsibility area must maintain a defensible space no greater than 100 feet from each side of the structure, but not beyond the property line unless required by state or local regulation, or under certain circumstances an insurance company.

Home Owners' Associations

Solar Energy

AB 1892, 2180; (effective Jan. 1, 2009)

Any governing document of a homeowners association that effectively prohibits or restricts the installation or use of a solar energy system is void and unenforceable. Reasonable restrictions are permissible.

Notification of a Notice of Default

(SB 1511 effective Jan. 1, 2009)

This law permits a homeowner's association to request that it be notified of the recording of a notice of default and to receive a copy of any trustee's deed after the trustee's sale for property it has an interest in.

Amended Written Notice

Re: Assessments and Foreclosure (AB 2846 effective Jan. 1, 2009)

This law amends existing HOA's notice provisions to also include a statement notifying members that an owner may pay under protest any disputed charge owed to the association and by doing so specifically reserve the right to contest the disputed sum in court or otherwise.

The owner may also pay the disputed amount and other costs levied under protest and file an action in small claims court to recover them. Nothing in the section added by this law impedes an association's ability to collect delinquent assessments.

Landlord/Tenant

AB 2949 (effective Jan. 1, 2009)

Landlords/REO Lenders and Abandoned Animals: This law requires a person or private entity that discovers an abandoned animal in or about the premises of real property that has been vacated due to a lease termination or foreclosure of the property to immediately contact animal control for the purpose of retrieval and care. (Note: This law impacts banks with REO properties and their real estate agents.)

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Real Estate Quarterly



East Sacramento Residential Real Estate Transactions • Second Quarter • April–June 2008

Address	BR /BA	Value	Date	Address	BR /BA	Value	Date
95816				843 42ND ST 2 1 599,000 2008/11/14			
1615 22ND ST 3 1 \$375,000 2008/10/24				1909 42ND ST 4 2.5 590,000 2008/11/13			
1900 23RD ST 4 3.5 545,002 2008/10/16				112 43RD ST 2 1 345,000 2008/12/31			
221 25TH ST 2 1 243,506 2008/12/09				1371 43RD ST 3 1.5 800,000 2008/12/04			
1616 26TH ST 2 1 250,000 2008/12/18				933 44TH ST 2 1 299,000 2008/12/12			
1631 26TH ST 3 1 380,000 2008/10/15				1422 44TH ST 3 2 800,000 2008/10/10			
621 28TH ST 4 1.5 480,000 2008/10/21				72 45TH ST 3 1 372,000 2008/12/02			
240 32ND ST 2 1 289,000 2008/11/04				710 47TH ST 2 1 543,000 2008/10/16			
1321 33RD ST 2 1 399,000 2008/10/27				731 48TH ST 4 2 527,000 2008/12/04			
1125 34TH ST 2 1 347,500 2008/11/21				1560 48TH ST 2 1 324,000 2008/10/28			
1137 34TH ST 2 1 305,000 2008/12/22				1657 49TH ST 2 2 324,000 2008/12/19			
1528 35TH ST 2 1 225,000 2008/12/19				1720 50TH ST 2 1 285,000 2008/10/23			
1309 36TH ST 2 1 430,000 2008/10/24				915 52ND ST 6 3 515,000 2008/10/30			
1119 37TH ST 3 1.5 420,000 2008/12/19				940 52ND ST 3 2.5 391,926 2008/12/24			
1306 37TH ST 0 0 365,000 2008/10/24				857 55TH ST 2 1 342,500 2008/10/01			
317 39TH ST 2 1 354,000 2008/11/21				900 56TH ST 2 2 399,000 2008/12/29			
220 ALHAMBRA BLVD 2 1 355,000 2008/10/17				1341 56TH ST 3 2 375,000 2008/10/16			
2215 C ST 2 2 355,000 2008/12/09				149 ADA WAY 2 1 340,000 2008/10/22			
2500 CAPITOL AVE 2 1 250,000 2008/12/04				4800 C ST 2 1 280,000 2008/11/21			
2230 D ST 2 1 345,000 2008/10/30				5421 CALLISTER AVE 3 2 355,000 2008/11/12			
3534 D ST 2 1 395,000 2008/10/16				612 EL DORADO WAY 2 1 325,000 2008/10/20			
2319 E ST 3 2 500,000 2008/10/15				639 EL DORADO WAY 3 2 295,000 2008/10/08			
2816 E ST 3 1 351,000 2008/12/29				3511 ELVAS AVE 4 2 465,000 2008/10/20			
2605 G ST 2 1.5 418,000 2008/12/30				4228 F ST 2 1 350,000 2008/10/09			
3241 L ST 2 1 380,000 2008/11/25				3993 H ST 4 1 410,000 2008/11/18			
3209 MCKINLEY BLVD 3 1.5 422,127 2008/12/05				5021 JENNINGS WAY 4 2.5 436,000 2008/11/20			
2617 N ST 0 0 590,000 2008/10/30				5281 K ST 2 1.5 310,000 2008/12/10			
3318 N ST 1 1 218,000 2008/10/09				49 LUPINE WAY 2 1 375,000 2008/10/08			
3147 O ST 2 1 217,300 2008/10/22				6023 M ST 3 1.5 320,000 2008/11/06			
3710 P ST 2 2.5 425,000 2008/10/21				3976 MCKINLEY BLVD 3 2 427,000 2008/11/24			
3832 S ST 2 1 354,000 2008/11/14				350 MESSINA DR 3 2 440,000 2008/11/13			
1715 SANTA YNEZ WAY 2 2 260,000 2008/12/18				1328 RODEO WAY 2 1 364,000 2008/10/22			
3208 SERRA WAY 4 2 295,000 2008/12/12				5340 S ST 5 2 199,000 2008/12/11			
2209 T ST 3 1 400,000 2008/11/26				5160 SANDBURG DR 3 2 425,000 2008/12/12			
95819				5416 SPILMAN AVE 3 2 460,000 2008/10/08			
1733 40TH ST 2 1 \$435,000 2008/11/04				5541 STATE AVE 2 1 300,000 2008/10/30			
				4409 T ST 3 1 350,000 2008/11/26			
				58 TAYLOR WAY 2 1 405,000 2008/10/15			



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Calendar

There's always more calendar at www.valcomnews.com

FEB. 19

Same-sex legal help

Attorney Penny R. Brown and financial planner Rebecca E. Harper leads a presentation on legal and financial planning for same sex couples, 4:30 to 6 p.m., The Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St. Teaches effective estate planning and financial strategies. Information at 808-7000.

Family History Library tour

The Mission Oaks Genealogy club will meet, 4 p.m., for a tour of the Family History Library, 2745 Eastern Ave, between El Camino and Marconi. Visitors welcome. Information at 483-4703.

SCC fund-raising concert

DiverCity Records, Sacramento City College's student-run record label, presents a spring fund-raising concert with the vocal and instrumental talents of SCC students, 8 p.m., college's Little Theatre, 3835 Freeport Blvd. Cost, \$5 general, \$2 students with ID. All ages welcome, high school students encouraged. Information by e-mail at BeatriG@sccl.sosrios.edu.

Sacramento Audubon

Find out what to do about injured birds and animals at a program by Sac-

ramento Wildlife Care Association, and meet some "Animal Ambassadors," 7 p.m., Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Free, open to public -- parents and children especially invited. For information call WCA at 632-1862.

FEB. 21

E-waste fund-raiser

Free, electronic waste collection from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Francis High School, 5900 Elvas Ave. Public may drop off used electronics including computer monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PC's, VCR's and phones. Also accepting small household appliances. (No large appliances such as washers.) Proceeds benefit the St. Francis Safe Grad Night. Information from Robbin Haitz, 601-8333.

Nursing home standards

Beth Mann, president of the California Culture Change Coalition, discusses standards for providing nursing home care for Sacramento area residents at the monthly meeting of the Sacramento Capitol chapter of the Older Women's League, 10:30 a.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Public welcome. Information from Carolyn Negrete, 424-5316.

Night hunters

Uncover the mysteries of owls: what they eat, where they sleep, how they find food and more, 1:30 p.m., Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Park entrance fee, \$5. Information at 489-4918 or www.effieyeaw.org.

McClatchy alum game

McClatchy baseball brings back the McClatchy Alumni Game, CKM alumni vs. 2009 varsity and junior varsity, 9 a.m. to noon BP, JV game 10 a.m., 1 p.m. varsity, with barbecue. Open to all alums, old and young. Information from Coach Denecochea, 769-2679, or e-mail denecochea@aol.com.

FEB. 21, 22

Sojourner Truth for kids

Fairytale Town hosts a two-day event to celebrate the life of Sojourner Truth as part of Black History Month. Each day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., activities include hands-on arts and crafts, storytelling, interactive-clothing displays and more. At the park, 3901 Land Park Drive. Park admission \$4.50 general, free to children 2 and under. Information at 808-8886, e-mail magic@fairytaletown.org, or see the website www.fairytaletown.org.

FEB. 22

Mardi Gras Sunday

Sacramento Banjo Band plays traditional Dixieland jazz, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 9:55 a.m., 3235 Pope Av. Following the music and service, a free Mardi Gras luncheon of

jambalaya, beans and rice, and red velvet cake will be served. For more information call 487-5192, or visit www.northminsteronline.org.

'Bachathon' at St. John's

Sacramento Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents some of Sacramento's best known organists in a "Bachathon" drop-in recital, 2 to 6 p.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 17th and L streets. New, 59-rank pipe organ is featured; musicians will play 15- to 30-minute sessions. Cost, \$5. Information from Nancy Metzger at 422-5168.

Signs along the river

Focus on the sights and sounds of wild life along the river in a guided nature walk, 1:30 p.m. Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael. Park entrance fee, \$5. In-

formation at 489-4918 or www.effieyeaw.org.

FEB. 24

Embroiderers meet

Embroiderer's Guild of America, 7 p.m., SMUD Building, 6301 S St. Angelica Garrido will demonstrate construction of rugs and pillows using cross stitch. Visitors welcome. Information at 961-3558.

Free flapjacks for charity

I-Hop's fourth National Pancake Day, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., serves up a free short stack of pancakes, and in return, ask guests to donate what they would have paid for the pancakes, or more, to local children's hospitals and other local charities in the communities. Information at www.ihoppancakeday.com.

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California Kids! reaches those parents most likely to purchase products and services by targeting active families who get out and enjoy all that the community has to offer.



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Education

Continued from front page

and other sites to make up for declining enrollment and what seems to be a vanishing budget.

Since 2002, the district has cut \$90.4 million, and since 1999 it has lost roughly 10,000. It is projecting a \$15 million to \$20 million deficit for the 2009-2010 school year, saying that 49 percent of state budget cuts are coming out of education.

Idea outreach

Criticized in the past for generating ideas before seeking community feedback, this time the district decided to seek ideas from the community first.

So far, ideas discussed at previous meetings have hit on all subjects, from energy-saving tips to leasing office space, and from sharing staff to having administrators consolidate to a four-day workweek.

"We appreciate your interest, and we do value your suggestions," said associate

superintendent Philip Moore. "We really want to be a model district in the state of California, and with your energy and your ideas we know we can be better."

Throughout the two-hour-long meeting, numerous money-saving and money-generating ideas were brought up.

One mother explored the idea of extending class time to 90 minutes a day and implementing a block system, claiming that if students had more time with teachers, there would be less of a need for after-school tutoring programs, thus saving the district money.

Another parent asserted that the same would be true if class sizes were kept to a minimum.

One parent even talked of renting advertisement space for local businesses on the fences that surround neighborhood schools.

Parental frustrations

One father of three acknowledged the "phenomenal" job of the elementary teachers in the district, but shared his disappointment that the same quality of

teaching is not shown at the high-school level.

"You're losing kids to private schools," he said. "Look at this as a great opportunity to welcome tons of families back into your district. If there's a school we can send our children to with pride, we'll be there."

Another parent with a child at Theodore Judah Elementary said that when he chose where to send his child, he looked for a school that was a "shining light." But with larger class sizes and the constant threat of closures, he claimed that light was fading.

While school closures are said to be a last resort, community members asked the district what its plans are for if and when that happens.

"If you start closing schools, you'll affect neighborhoods that have been struggling for decades," said one parent. "My worry is that if it's a school in my area, my neighborhood will be blighted."

However, Tom Barentson, the deputy superintendent and chief financial officer of administrative services, reaffirmed the

district's goal to leave no school "shuttered."

"If we do close a school, we would make sure it doesn't sit unused," he said, referring to past ideas of using sites for community programs or adult classes.

Met Sac turns out

In addition to the possibility of closures, students and teachers from the Met Sacramento High School, an innovative school in the district at 810 V St., packed the room to talk about the rumor that their school will be consolidated with another.

Joanna Dixon, a hearing-impaired senior at the Met, explained how her life changed after transferring from John F. Kennedy High School.

"[At Kennedy] I was failing and not succeeding at all, and I didn't know if I was going to be able to graduate, or why I should even try," she said. "Now I have no more negative thoughts about my future. But if you put us together with another school, it will just be the same as before."

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The egg could be a jewelry box, ornament, purse, or jewelry, only the mind of the artist will know.

Egg artists from all over will gather their creations the weekend of March 7 and 8 at the Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way, just north of Cal Expo, for the Northern California Egg Artists 2009 Show and Sale. Proceeds benefit the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Sacramento.

Local and international egg artists will be attending, teaching seminars, selling egg art and supplies. For a \$5 admission, guests will be able to participate in hands on projects, meet artists, purchase decorated eggs and supplies.

At a recent art session in Land Park, experienced egg artists Diana Macias, Alice Cameron, and B.J. Gothmann demonstrated the process. It's exacting, delicate work, and the shell lends itself to painting, pencil, decoupage, beading, wiring, sculpting, jewelling and carving. Expect the unexpected when an experienced "egger" creates. Some eggs are outfitted with lights and moving parts, appealing to the ear with music boxes, bells and waterfalls.

Northern California Egg Artists meet each month on second Wednesdays, alternating meetings between Benicia and Sacramento, where they meet at 10 a.m. at the Crossroads Christian Church, 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks.

For more information, see the website www.norcaleggart.org.

PHOTOS BY

Robert Scott



Eggs created by Diana Macias, Alice Cameron, and BJ Gothmann, members of the International Egg Artist Guild.



(left) Diana Macias used an ostrich egg to create a jeweled crown. (right) An egg chess set.



(left) Macias, left, Cameron, center, and Gothmann, right, gathered in Land Park to create works of art out of eggs. (right) Cameron, an egg artist for five years, applies design work to a green enameled goose egg.



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