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Rubble stands now on 16th Street where Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson managed his 2008 mayoral campaign.

East Sacramento News writer is first at calamitous scene **Mayor Kevin Johnson's former** campaign headquarters collapses

By LANCE ARMSTRONG East Sacramento News Writer vcnnews@valcomnews.com

As a reporter covering many miles throughout the Land Park, Pocket, East Sacramento and Arden-Carmichael areas, it is not always known exactly where my travels will lead me from week to week.

Furthermore, it is often a mystery who I will speak to and what I will see along my many daily journeys.

But few incidents can compete with what I saw on the afternoon of May 19, as I stood outdoors about a half-block from one of the most unusual scenes that I have come across throughout my career as a journalist.

At about 2 p.m., I heard the familiar sounds of screeching tires that are not uncommon along the major city thoroughfare, 16th Street.

Sometimes these sounds are followed by another sound - the impact of one automobile colliding with another automobile.

But in this incident, I heard a sound that was unlike any automobile accident that I have ever heard in the past.

After hearing the usual automobile verses automobile impact sound, this sound was almost immediately followed by what I could best describe at the then-sight-unseen moment as the sound of an extremely large load of heavy supplies being knocked off a large flatbed delivery truck.

Racing by foot to the scene at the northwest corner of 16th and U streets, I discovered a large, white delivery truck amidst a huge pile of bricks.

To my astonishment, the entire front portion of the building, which was most recently the site of Mayor Kevin Johnson's campaign headquarters and was at the time vacant, had been completely destroyed.

A few moments later, I noticed that behind the truck was a second vehicle, which was partially submerged in brick.

I later heard that the truck, which was heading north on 16th Street, had struck the building following a collision with the much smaller vehicle, which was traveling west from U Street.

As the dust began to settle, it was only a short period of time before emergency vehicles arrived at the scene, the drivers of the vehicles were attended to and 16th Street was temporarily closed near the scene of the accident.

Fortunately, several outdoor diners at the popular Harry's Café, located next door to the collapsed building, were quick on their feet, as they raced to safety just prior to their table and chairs being overturned. In all, three tables and nine chairs were overturned and one table and three chairs were destroyed.

After accident aftershock

With tears in his eyes and visibly shaken by the incident, Harry Luong, the cafés owner, told me that his son, Sam, and three of his co-workers were among the people sitting at the table.

About an hour later, still shocked by the accident, Luong said to me, "I'm still shaking."

Although no fatalities occurred from the accident, the incident was undoubtedly a very scary moment for those involved.

The accident also resulted in the partial loss of a historic landmark along this portion of the former Highway 40, since the now-collapsed building, which was constructed in 1929, originally housed an early Safeway grocery store.

Although the front part of the building now rests as a pile of bricks behind a chain linked fence and everyday life continues in the area, Luong and others who were there on this unusual Tuesday afternoon understand that with this tragedy comes a very important result.

"It may have been a tragic moment, but we were very fortunate that nobody lost their lives," Luong said.

In retrospect of this incident, Luong suggests that the city consider placing stoplights at the intersection of 16th and U streets.

"I've seen many accidents here - many of which have gone unreported – so, I think stoplights here would be a very good thing."

No new high school for East Sacramento SCUSD decides to hold off on the promise of a new high school

By MIRANDA MENESTRINA East Sacramento News Writer vcnnews@valcomnews.com

Faced with the momentous task of cutting millions out of their budget and the difficult decision to close four schools, the Sacramento City Unified School District has also resolved not to open a new high school in East Sacramento something that's been promised since they closed Sacramento High in 2003.

"It's not forgotten, but, at least for awhile, there are no immediate plans to move forward (with the opening)," said SCUSD Communications Officer, Maria Lopez.

The resolution to open a new high school was the result of a consent decree that came about after parents and the teachers union sued the district for closing Sacramento High School.

The closure

Receiving state funding due to underperformance issues, Sacramento High was shut after it failed to meet specific targets for two years in a row. Unfortunately, the closure of the historic school, the second oldest high school west of the Mississippi, left the students of College Greens, East Sacramento, Midtown, Oak Park, River Park and Tahoe Park without a traditional neighborhood high school.

And while the site became the new home for St. Hope, a public charter school, parents pleaded to have the district open a new high school nearby that that offered all the extracurricular activities that they believed every high school student should be entitled to.

However, six years after the fact, that high school still doesn't exist.

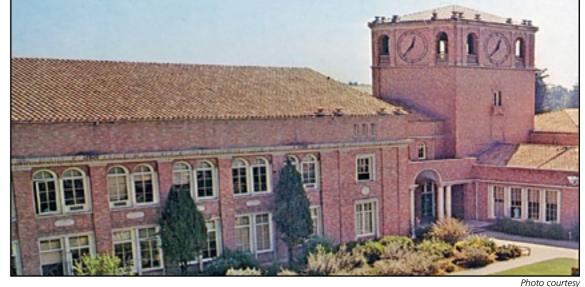
District Efforts

The guidelines of the consent decree required SCUSD to open a small (roughly 500-800 students), comprehensive high school within two miles of the former Sacramento High's attendance area. In 2005, the district surveyed the involved neighborhoods, came up with several sites that could work and discussed ideas with the community.

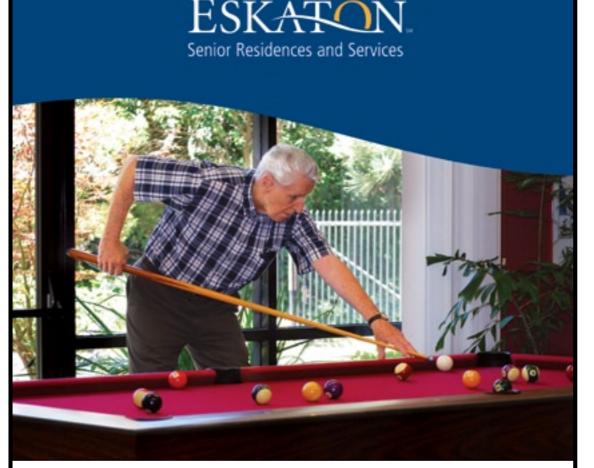
In 2008, the conclusion was to renovate and use

See School, page 23





The historic halls of Sacramento High once housed East Sacramento students. Since the school's conversion into a charter school in 2003, the East Sacramento region has been left without a high school.



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A day for the dogs Four-legged friends rejoice: Sutter's Landing Dog Park opens

By BENN HODAPP East Sacramento News Writer vcnnews@valcomnews.com

When the landfill known as Sutter's Landing closed its doors in 1992, the city of Sacramento was left with an area full of promise but lacking direction. An important step in fulfilling the land's potential was unlocked on May 23 with the opening of the Sutter's Landing Dog Park.

A crowd of hundreds piled through the gates with their canine friends, ready to experience something that was a long time coming.

"There was a pent up demand for this," said local resident and City Attorney Eileen Teichert. "People around here who have small properties need this."

Teichert was joined in the festivities by Jackson, her five-year-old Pug who clung to her side and scoped out the goings on.

District 3 councilmember Steve Cohn was on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and he explained how the park came into being.

The general idea for a park was hatched in 1994, he said. The cleaning out of the remains of the landfill took some time, but in 1999, the park began to take shape. A bike trail was one of the first steps.

In 2005, Cohn said, the city started thinking more specifically into what the park would offer. Thanks to a \$2.5 million check from the Capital Reinvestment Fund as well as lease revenue from billboards on I-80, there was enough money to put the plan into effect.

Construction began early this year, but it was more than meets the eye. Much of the process of turning a landfill into a dog park goes unseen because it happens underground.

The asphalt floor of the landfill was lined with layers of clay, soil and bark to ensure full drainage of all water. The trees that dot the park are the first to grow in the lot in more than 100 years, boasted Cohn. On the Cover: City Attorney Eileen Teichert and Jackson the Pug at the new Sutter's Landing dog park. (East Sacramento News Photo/Benn Hodapp)

Jackie Kuhwarth, founder and president of the Sacramento Dog Owners Group (sacdog.org), was one of the biggest advocates of the park. Despite the fact that the park shrunk from a proposed 17 acres down to its current three-acre size, Kuhwarth is pleased with the start. She said that she and her two Basenjis, Ben and Cooper, will utilize the park a great deal.

The park consists of two fenced-in areas. One area is for dogs up to 25 pounds and the other is for larger dogs over 25 pounds. Each section has been landscaped to have hills and ample running room for the curious critters. The three-acre park is the largest in Sacramento according to Cohn.

Dog day morning

The opening was a huge success, as seemingly hundreds of dogs couldn't wait to charge through the gates and mingle with their four-legged brethren. Well, mostly four-legged, that is.

One of the stars of the show was two-year-old Rottweiler Cain who was born with a deformity on his front left paw. His owners, Kim Kearsing and Abby Maurer, explained the process that led to their dog's starring appearance.

"The vet told us that the best thing to do would be to amputate his leg," Kearsing said.

Cain has been hobbled for nearly a year now, but he doesn't even seem to notice. He sprinted along happily with 160-pound Great Dane buddy Oliver who treated Cain like part of the family.

The dogs that showed up ranged from handbag-riding Chihuahuas to the larg-



East Sacramento News Photo/Benn Hodap Dogs (and their owners) await entry during the May 23 ribbon-cutting ceremony for East Sacramento's new dog park.

est dog in attendance, a 185pound Great Dane named Coco, who was accompanied by "big" sister Piddles, a tiny terrier that was no more than 10 pounds.

Dave Katten and Ruby, his five-year-old Corgi, were out enjoying the festivities as well. Katten lives a block away from the park and he is delighted with how it looks.

"We're going to come down here every day," he said.

Despite the great start to the park, Cohn said that this is just the beginning for Sutter's Landing. By next spring there will be courts for basketball, bocce ball and handball; a restroom to replace the current portable toilets; and further beautification processes to cover up the remaining vestiges of the park's former use.

Cohn said that when the park is fully developed, it will be the size of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Time will tell if that becomes a reality, but on this day at least, it was a wonderful dog day afternoon.

Sutter's Landing is on 28th street past C Street and just past the railroad tracks.



Reshaping Panama Pottery From the rich, dark clay of the earth: Art springs forth

By BENN HODAPP East Sacramento News Writer vcnnews@valcomnews.com

A piece of Sacramento history nearly 100 years old is getting ready to make a change, but with a promise of upholding tradition.

Panama Pottery has been making terra cotta pottery since 1914 and has operated out of its home on 24th Street for all of those 95 years. The shop currently sells pottery by both retail and wholesale, but it has become clear that a change has to be made.

'We cannot make money in wholesale production any longer," said production manager Chuck Owens. "We try to maintain an inventory, but some things are impossible to make into a profit."

Because of this, the business is shifting its focus more onto the artistic part of the business rather than the wholesale portion. Owens explained that in the coming months the business will found a non-profit organization that will serve to promote local artists at the ic change from wholesale site.

The organization will lease out access to the studio for a price between \$50-\$100 per month for artists to come, work and hopefully sell their products. Artists will have a personal locker and access to the studio 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The works that are done on the site can be sold either in the shop or in the courtyard that is lined with professional artistic works.

In addition to the promotion of local artists, the nonprofit organization will begin teaching educational pottery classes for all interested. Owens said that the fees for the classes are not set, but the program will consist of four two-hour classes and there will be a separate class for children and adults.

Owens and manager Glenn Takai both hold Masters of Fine Arts degrees and will be the instructors of the classes.

A changing face

Despite the dramat-

See Pottery, page 7



Camille Schindler molds clay into a work of art at a studio rented by her aunt Marsha at Panama Pottery. The unique site, right, is located at 4421 24th St. East Sacramento News Photos/Ryan Rose







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At left, production manager Chuck Owens reviews the decades-old machinery that produces and mixes clay for artists from the red earth below the building; above, manager Glenn Takai attends to a sculpture inside the Panama Pottery studios.

East Sacramento News Photos/Ryan Rose

Pottery: Change after 95 years of business making unique artwork

Continued from page 6

to artistry, the retail portion of the shop will remain intact, according to general manager Carol Honda.

"We will be building retail as well," she said. "The only thing we are cutting down on is wholesale."

Honda also said that the current practice of having tour groups from schools and other facilities will continue as always. The tours wind through the facility and introduce patrons to the kiln that fires the pottery at 2,000 degrees for as long as two days. It also includes a tour of the courtyard that is peppered with works of art that are for enjoying or, if something strikes your fancy, buying. All items are labeled with the artist's name and the price. Items for sale in the shop and the courtyard range in price anywhere from \$8 to well over \$1,000. "We consider the time it took and the amount of creativity involved when setting prices," Takai said.

Both Takai and Owens have works of their own on display that are available to admire or own.

Honda said that they will always welcome custom orders and that the customer service side of the business will remain strong. Takai said that they enjoy doing special projects and that they encourage new ideas.

As far as how artists should go about inquiring about studio access, Honda said that she thinks it is beneficial for them to come down to the site and see for themselves what it has to offer.

While the business will no doubt run differently than it does and has for 95 years, it is of vital importance to the people who work there to uphold the traditions that it has long held.

"The equipment is all 19th century developed and the job is very labor intensive," Takai said. "We are very unique in that (the business) is a picture into the past of this industry."

Funding the future

Another way that the business intends to stay true to tradition is by holding what Owens calls the annual "blowout sale" on June 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"There are people that have shopped here for many decades," Owens said. "This is our way of honoring our long-time clientele."

During the spring and summer months the shop is open seven days a week. Monday through Friday the hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on weekends from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Schools who would like to tour the facility can call the office at (916) 452-7181. Additional information is available at www.panamapottery.com. Panama Pottery is located at 4421 24th Street in Sacramento.



Valley Community Newspapers, Inc.

Know your neighbor Heavy metal and high art comes to life at Fe Gallery

By BENN HODAPP East Sacramento News Writer vcnnews@valcomnews.com

Thanks to an organization created by the city of Sacramento, art lovers can stroll about the streets of East Sacramento and get their fill of all things artistic. The Second Saturday Art Walk is a way for local artists to have their works seen, enjoyed and possibly even sold to admiring patrons. The second Saturday in June falls on the 13th, and East Sacramento's Fe Gallery is one of many art houses participating.

Located at 1100 65th St., the Fe Gallery (the letters "f" and "e" represent the elemental symbol for iron) has been in business since October 2007 and has quickly found a niche by bringing local artists together to show their works to the community.

Millie Porter, curator and co-owner with husband and metal artist Stephan Lyman, talked about why the gallery

> is the place to be come the second Saturday of each month.

We're one of the few galleries that does dem-

Fe Gallery 1100 65th St. (916) 456-4455 www.fegallery.com

onstrations," she said. "People are fascinated by our metal workshops and I think people are going to love the glass blowing demonstration (in June). It also allows people to see what a working metal studio looks like.

The gallery has two artists in residence (Lyman and fused glass artist Sheena Wolfe) whose work is shown at all times. Each month the gallery selects a number of local artists to be featured in the gallery for that month. In May, the gallery showed the work of photographer Rudy Calpo and glass artist Phil Teefy.

June's featured artists are bronze sculptor Darby Patterson, painter Lynnette Diem and blown glass artist Rene Steinke.

Diem, whose displayed works will be a series of paintings of river rocks, spoke of her inclusion in the gallery's event. She said that she submitted slides of her work to

East Sacramento News Photo/Ryan Rose

June's featured artists at the Fe Gallery includes bronze sculptor Darby Patterson. Her beautifully crafted bronze penguin – a resident of the Sacramento Zoo – has drawn praise



East Sacramento News Photo/Benn Hodapp The next Second Saturday falls on June 13 and East Sacramento's Fe Gallery is one of many art houses participating.

the gallery and it went to the gallery's jury that decides who to accept and who to deny.

She received her master's degree in art from Cal State Northridge and currently teaches art at Davis High School. She said that she has been an artist for more than 20 years, then conceded that "it's actually closer to 30 now."

Her 15 selected works will be on display and for sale at the gallery (the pieces range in price from \$300-\$1,200 according to Diem), but she hopes that at the very least people enjoy the experience of seeing her art.

"I think people will enjoy the tranquility of my work," she said.

Lyman, the resident metal artist, started his work as an artist in 1978. He told the story of his background with metal art and how he got started.

"I'm 56 and my dad had a (metal) shop my whole life. I was around it ever since I was about four years old. I was employed by the time I was 11."

Lyman will have what he calls "utilitarian and functional art" on display in June. His pieces will be for sale as well and the prices range from \$35 to \$5,000.

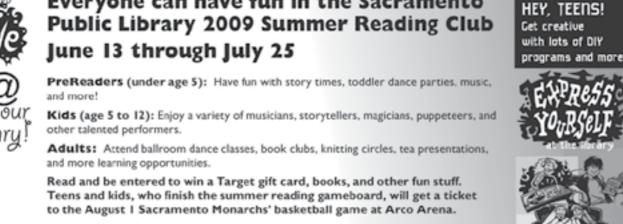
As far as his side of running the business, Lyman cracked that "Millie handles all the interested artists who want to be showed. I'm just an artist, I do the fun stuff."

Porter, who prefers to think of herself as someone who does "a little of this and a little of that" rather than a curator, said that there are more reasons to come out and enjoy Second Saturday at Fe Gallery. The gallery offers appetizers such as cheese, grapes, crackers and wine. For the meat-loving section of the populace, there is a tri-tip smoker on the premises that also makes an appearance.

June's installment in the Second Saturday franchise will include a sculpting demonstration by bronze sculptor Patterson and a glass blowing demo by Steinke. The demos will take place during Second Saturday hours, which are from 6 to 9 p.m.

The gallery is an extension of Fence World Iron World at 1100 65th Street in Sacramento. Those wishing to see the artistic works but are unable to make it out for Second Saturday can visit the gallery during regular daytime hours, which are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and most Saturdays from 10[°] a.m. to 12 p.m.

For more information on the Fe Gallery, you can go online at www.fegallery.com or call (916) 456-4455. Information about the Second Saturday Art Walk and other galleries included within it is available at www.2nd-sat.com.



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Sacramento State professor's talent takes center stage

Special to the East Sacramento News

Teacher, tutor, singer, star—it's all the same for Sacramento State professor Robin Fisher.

Robin Fisher, a Sacramento State music professor and accomplished opera singer, performed Samuel Barber's "Knoxville, Summer of 1915" in a concert last week presented by The Academy at All Hallows Orchestra and Chorus in Sacramento.

Fisher, a soprano who has performed to critical acclaim in such cities as Paris, Vienna, Prague, Hamburg, Chicago and Dallas, is currently on sabbatical from Sacramento State.

This spring, she made several Northern California appearances, including her debut with the Sacramento Opera as Susanna in Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro," and a performance with the Townsend Opera Players as Pamina in Mozart's "The Magic Flute."

She also sang the soprano solos in Mendelssohn's "Elijah" with not far from the Sacramento State

the UC Davis Symphony and Chorus at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts; performed a program of late-Renaissance music from England with the Sex Chordae Consort of Viols at Sacramento State; and sang an all-Bach concert with the Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra at the Mondavi Center and at Las Positas College in Livermore.

The musicians that participated in last week's performance included Sac State students and some faculty. Among them, Julie Anne Miller, a 2006 alumna who is Fisher's replacement while she's on leave, sang a solo, and Ryan Murray, a 2008 alumnus and assistant conductor at the Academy at All Hallows, conducted one piece, Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria," says Peter Nowlen, the academy's artistic director and a horn instructor at Sacramento State.

Fisher noted that The Academy at All Hallows performs at a venue campus, making it possible for closer interaction with students and University music patrons to take part in the many events.

"Students sing in the choir and play in the orchestra, providing them with valuable professional performing experience," she said. Because the academy emphasizes outreach education for school-age children, Sac State students who perform are able to share their musical talent with the young audiences, still so impressionable and eager to see young people playing classical music. It is a wonderful way to showcase Sac State talent while educating future generations of concert-goers about music."

Nowlen says the academy this year has awarded about \$30,000 in scholarships to music students and alumni at Sacramento State. It also seeks to expose underserved communities to the world of music, he says, by holding concerts for schoolchildren and providing violins and



Photo courtesy Sacramento State University Robin Fisher, a Sacramento State professor of music, is an accomplished opera singer.

cellos – and weekly instruction – for "junior scholars."



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WEBSITE: www.memory5k.org

E-MAIL: alanf@eastlawn.com

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Nature center committed to working through the tough times

By LANCE ARMSTRONG East Sacramento News Writer

vcnnews@valcomnews.com

Despite looming financial difficulties for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and the apparent loss of staff and programs that are expected to occur due to budget cuts, which were outlined in the last edition of the East Sacramento News, the center's tradition of meeting its main objective to educate the people of the region about the importance of preserving nature continues.

And this is a tradition that has stood the test of time, as the center, which is a unit of the Sacramento County Department of Regional Parks, has continued to gain importance in the community and region since its opening in 1976.

Established as a place to showcase the natural environment of the Sacramento area, this award-winning environmental and cultural education center is a popular destination spot for people of all ages.

The center, which meets California curriculum standards for elementary school students and is visited by many groups of students throughout the year, includes wildlife exhibits, resident animals, a 77-acre nature preserve, native plant landscaping, a Nisenan Maidu summer village and a nature-themed Discovery Shop.

Although the center, which is located at 2850 San Lorenzo Way in Ancil Hoffman County Park in Carmichael, opened 33 years ago, its story begins much earlier.

The woman behind it all

During the 1950s and 1960s, local elementary school teacher Effie Yeaw laid the foundation for the then-future center through her natural and cultural history walks, which she led in an area, which was known as Deterding Woods, along the American River. These walks were located in the same area where the center would later be built. One of the creative teaching methods of Yeaw was to present tales of animals to children using human names and trivial facts about the animals. Among the animal character names were Polly the Opossum, Carlyle the Crow and Sammy the Snake.

Yeaw, who was born in Chico on May 15, 1900, understood the importance of appreciating and preserving this natural woodland area along the river for both the people of her era and future generations.

As an environmental educator and conservationist, Yeaw was also part of the drive to establish the American River Parkway, the Save the American River Association and a county tree preservation ordinance.

An educator throughout her life, Yeaw, who graduated from both Sacramento High School and Sacramento Junior College, passed away at the age of 69 on Jan. 3, 1970.

But her name, inspiration and leadership for protecting and educating people about Sacramento's natural environment lives on through the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, which was built on the edge of the former Deterding Woods and formally dedicated on June 19, 1976.

The construction of the center was made possible through a variety of actions, including the director of parks' 1960 reception of a Land and Water Conservation Fund grant to purchase the land that is now Ancil Hoffman County Park. This marked the beginning of a variety of parkland purchases in the area.

Five years later, a land use and development plan, which included a future natural and cultural resource interpretive center in Ancil Hoffman County Park, was approved by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors.

A special place

Betty Cooper, interpretive specialist of the center, said that because of its age, the center is a very multigenerational place.

"Kids come here with their parents, who came here when they were kids," Cooper said. "We occasionally have people who come here and say they had Effie Yeaw as their teacher."

Despite the center's ensuing difficulties as a result of the upcoming budget cuts, Cooper said that the center is striving to maintain its existence as a place that Yeaw would be proud to see.

"We're not going to go off in a corner and cry," Cooper said. "We're going to continue to be active as much as we can. We don't expect any big safety net to fall out of the sky, so we're going to be working real hard to obtain fundraising and grants to support our programs."

Meanwhile, as the center's staff is preparing for tougher times ahead, it continues to plan for various center activities.

"We'll be maintaining our operations at a minimal level and we still have (this year's) summer camps, because we have already committed to them," Cooper said. "Because of the budget cuts, we'll be looking at some partial closures of the center and a serious reduction of services."

In addition to this year's summer camps, another of the center's summer activities will be the Night Owls program.

Using visual and sound aids, Denise Booth, the center's naturalist, will lead an up-close presentation of these birds of prey, which are residents of the center.

The presentation, which will be held on June 5 at 7 p.m., will be followed by a short hike in search of owls in the wild. Admission is free and light refreshments will be served.

For additional information regarding the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and its special programs and activities, call 489-4918 or visit the Web site www.effieyeaw.org.



Photo courtesy of markdm4805 via Flickr.com

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center's tradition of meeting its main objective to educate the people of the region about the importance of preserving nature continues.

Mission of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center

To create greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources of the Sacramento Region, the need to conserve those resources and their interrelationships and interdependencies within the Earth's ecosystem.

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A peek into the past East Portal Park: A remnant of early 'Little Italy'

By LANCE ARMSTRONG East Sacramento News Writer vcnnews@valcomnews.com

East Sacramento is rich with history and among its many historical features is East Portal Park – the neighborhood park, which has been a popular site for recreation and leisure for about the past 70 years.

Those who are familiar with the story of East Sacramento's Little Italy, the historic Italian neighborhood featured in the May 7 edition of The East Sacramento News, understand the strong connection between the park and those of Italian descent.

The 7-acre park is located within the vicinity of Little Italy, which was at its height from the 1920s to several years after World War II. This neighborhood is roughly located from 48th to 58th streets, between H Street and Folsom Boulevard.

From pit to park

Located at 1120 Rodeo Way and also bordered by 51st and M streets and Dover Avenue, East Portal Park is recognized for its unique bowl-shaped appearance.

Delina (DaPrato) Skarles, an Italian-American who grew up just minutes from the park on 48th Street, just north of Folsom Boulevard, explained the background of the park's sunken-in characteristic.

"When I was just a little girl, the park wasn't there," Skarles said. "There was nothing out in that area, just little plots of land with gardens and open land and where the park is today, the ground was being worked as a gravel pit. That's why the park has its bowl-shaped look."

Skarles, who said that the park dates back to about the early 1940s, added that one of her favorite early memories is when she used to fly kites at the then-new park, which she said "was just starting to get its green features."

John Sherratt, 60, who grew up on 45th Street, near B Street, and attended Kit Carson Junior High School at 1324 54th St., said that because of its unique shape, the park has had the misfortune of experiencing repeated flooding.

Sherratt added that he recalls that on one occasion, the water reached such a high level that people were maneuvering through the park in canoes and kayaks, as well as bringing out sandbags to block the potential flow of the water outside of the park.

East Sacramento resident Jeanette Pieruccini, who was raised directly across the street from the park on M Street with her brother, John, and her sister, Joan, by her father, William, and her mother, Alma, said that the park was once a popular site for ski clubs.

"Ski clubs would place fake snow on those slopes and practice skiing right there in the park," Jeanette said.

Jeanette also recalls attending potlucks at the park with about 10 other families during the holidays, playing hide-and-go-seek, basketball, baseball, football in the mud and crocket.

And when the park was once lined with bushes in many places, Jeanette said that she participated



Above, The park's playground was upgraded in about the late 1980s. Previously, the park's playground consisted of two swings and a slide; left, East Portal Park has been a popular East Sacramento neighborhood site for recreation and leisure for about the past 70 years.

in one of her favorite childhood pranks, which she referred to as "the purse trick."

"There would be about 40 people and we would hide in the bushes and we'd put a purse attached to fishing line at the stop sign and when a person would stop to pick it up, we'd yank it away before they could grab it," Jeanette said. "We definitely had a lot of fun times at that park."

John Pieruccini, 67, who said that he climbed every tree in the park during his youth, said that had it not been for a petition that was signed by many people in his neighborhood, the history of East Portal Park may have ended a half-century ago. "A big unifying thing of the neighborhood in the late 1950s was the blocking of the plan to put Fai-

rytale Town at East Portal Park," John said. "The

neighbors petitioned against it and Fairytale Town

ended up being built in William Land Park. Had

Fairytale Town been built there (at the park), my

parents would have sold out (of the neighbor-

hood). It brought the people of the neighborhood

together so much that certain people who would

never talk to each other were talking and having

potlucks together every other week."



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Sacramento City Unified School District employees Rob Hannigan and Donna Lopez spend their lunchtime at East Portal Park. They both began visiting the park in their younger years in the 1970s

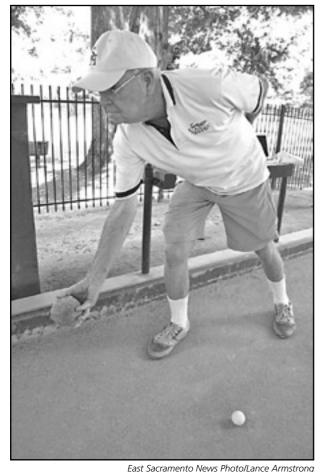
Bocce booms

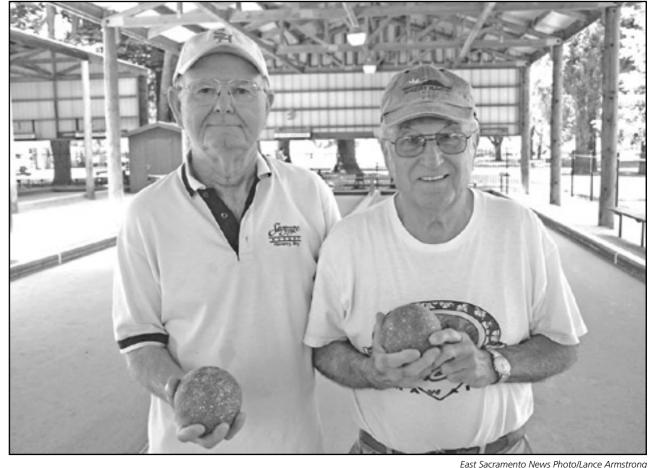
Certainly, when reviewing the history of East Portal Park, one word that cannot be ignored is the word, bocce.

The centerpiece of the park is undoubtedly the East Portal Bocce Club courts, where on just about any given day one can view games of bocce ball, a sport that is heavily-rooted in Italian culture.

This game is mostly played at the park during the afternoons and early evenings, although it is not un-

See East Portal, page 17





Bocce ball player Gene Geraty demonstrates his approach to the sport, which has been played at East Portal Park since the 1940s.

Gene Geraty, left, and Bill Bordisso are among the dedicated members of the East Portal Bocce Club.

East Portal: Park connects families

common to see club members practicing the sport during morning hours.

Although the Egyptians are credited with inventing the sport, which is so old that an ancient painting of a primitive version of the game was once found in an Egyptian tomb, bocce ball has its definite Italian connections.

Italians are recognized for creating the first bocce clubs in modern times and naturally, as Italian immigrants arrived in masses to America during the turn of the 20th century, they brought the game of bocce along with them.

And with the heavy influx of Italians in the earlier years of Sacramento, bocce, which is generally played in groups of two or four and is most closely related to bowling, made its way to the capital city.

Éast Portal Park was not the first place in Sacramento to have bocce courts, explained 81-year-old East Portal Bocce Club member Bill Bordisso.

"When I was a kid in the 1930s, there used to be bocce ball courts on R Street, between 8th and 9th streets," said Bordisso, who describes bocce as a good sport for all types of people.

Although bocce has been played at East Portal Park since the park's early years, it was not until the 1970s that the club was founded.

About a decade later, the club benefitted from a popular upgrade, as roof coverings were placed above the park's courts.

The club, which proudly displays its 2004 U.S. Bocce Federation national

championship banner at the entrance to its bocce facility, continues to carry forth its longtime tradition, which includes its annual Fourth of July Tournament.

Although the majority of the club members are men of Italian descent, who average 60 years of age, it is not uncommon to see others who have picked up the game, including women and people of other cultures.

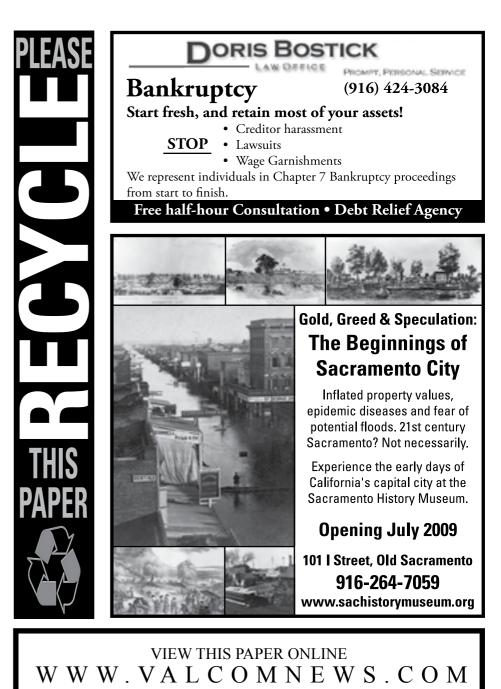
Regarding bocce, 79-year-old Gene Geraty, who points out that he is one of only two Irish-Americans in the club, said, "It's more fun than you've ever had in your life, once you get into it."

Portal to the past

Also drawing much attention is the park's annual Pops in the Park concert series, picnic areas and gated playground, which was built in about the late 1980s.

East Sacramento resident Shasha MacCurdy said that she enjoys the playground because it is "kid-friendly, shaded, fenced and easy to watch the kids."

While the heyday of early Little Italy has long since passed and few people remain who can relate firsthand stories of some of the formative years of this area, it can be comforting to know that as the years go by, East Portal Park seems destined to continue many longtime traditions of this important East Sacramento neighborhood.



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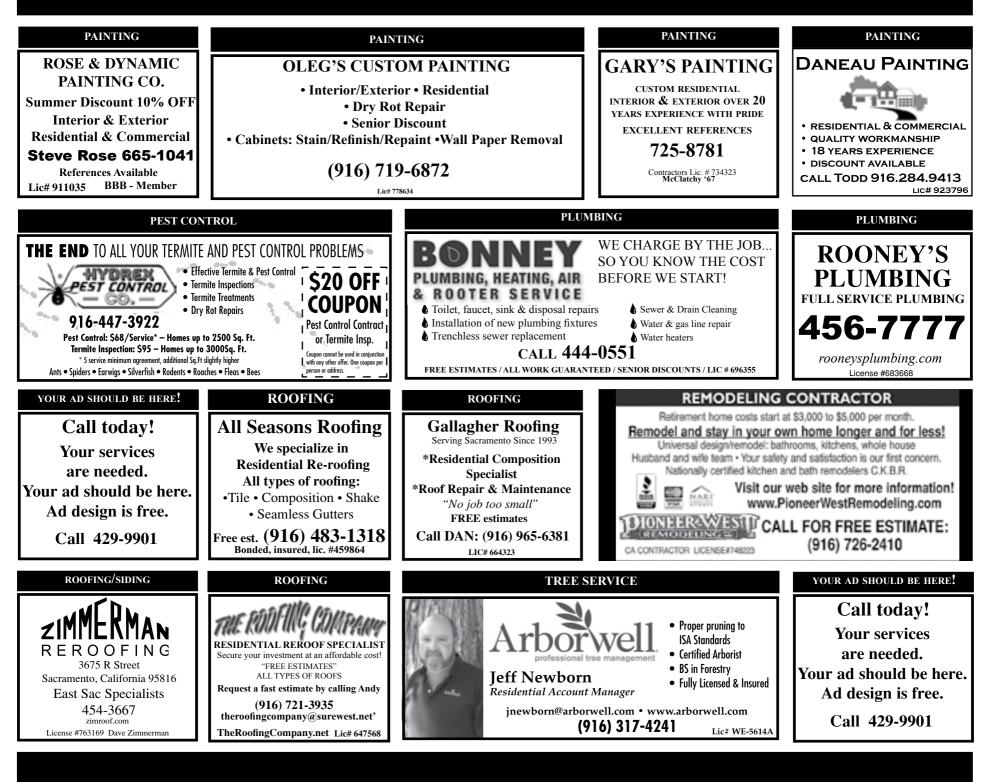
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CALENDAR

Get in the calendar

Is your club, group, church, school, or organization having an upcoming event? Let us know. Send information about your event—including date, time, location, a brief description, cost (if any), and contact information—to Calendar, c/o Valley Community Newspapers, 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, or e-mail ryanrose@ valcomnews.com. Deadline is one week before publication. Priority is given to events that are in the community and/or of little or no cost.

JUNE

African art at Central Library

A special exhibition of traditional African art will be on display, now through Sunday, June 14, at the Central Library, 828 I St., Sacramento. The beauty of African art is simply an element of its function. Objects of daily use, such as bowls, containers, baskets and boxes, are also aesthetically pleasing, being carefully made and often beautifully decorated. For more information, telephone the Sacramento Public Library at 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Pops in the Park

Councilman Steve Cohn and the Pops in the Park Committee are pleased to present the 15th annual "Pops in the Park" summer concert series. All concerts are free and open to the public and begin at 6:00 p.m. Food and beverages will be for sale. People should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. The concerts are June 6 with the "The Q Balls" at East Portal Park, 51st and M streets; June 13 with

"Aaron King and The Imperials" at Glen Hall Park, Sandburg and Carlson drives—and a Second Saturday showcase featuring Robin Leddy Giustina; June 20 with George Bruno Big Band at Bertha Henschel Park, 45th Street and Brand Way—also Sidney Pope and Onion Awards and wading pool open for free; June 27 with Kate Gaffney at McKinley Park, 33rd and H streets. For additional information, please visit www.eastsacpopsinthepark.com or call (916) 808-5240.

Art at SFCA

The Sacramento Fine Arts Center presents "Inner Views" from June 9 through June 27. The event is sponsored by the Northern California Arts. The show will present original artwork by local artists. Visit the Sacramento Fine Arts Center at 5330-B Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. Visit them online at www. sacfinearts.org.

JUNE 4

Pocket Coalition Meeting

Please join Councilmember Robbie Waters and Neighborhood Services staff Thursday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. School multi-purpose room, 480 Little River Way, to get ideas and share strategies. There will be a question and answer session with Officer Bill Hutcheon from City Code Enforcement (Pocket Area). Bring your questions on overgrown lawns, junk & debris, garage sales, fruit vendors, old cars, driveways, fences, RV's, trailers, vacant houses and more. They're creating a network in the Pocket area, asking all Neighborhood As-

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sociations and Neighborhood Watch groups to join them. Want to start a Neighborhood Association or Neighborhood Watch? This is a great place to begin!

Homeless Benefit Show

Jodette presents the 27th Annual Homeless Benefit Show "Fee the Hungry" and "Queen of the Nile" Contest and Evening Show featuring Sac Super Star Dancers Jewels of the Nile. Held at Lavlina Restaurant 1596 Howe Ave.. tickets are \$20 and will allow guests access to a Middle Eastern Buffet with full bar (does not include drinks and tips). All proceeds go to buying food, blankets, coats and sweaters for the homeless. For more information, contact Jodette at 2132 K St. or at 447-3793.

JUNE 5

Riverboat Casino Night

The Historic Old Sacramento Foundation is proud to present Riverboat Casino Night: Old Sacramento Tournament of Chance aboard the Delta King Riverboat on June 5, 6-9 p.m. Guests will learn 1850s-type gambling games such as Three Card Monte, Shut the Box, Faro and more. Tickets are on sale now: \$45 Member of the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation, \$50 Non-Member and can be purchased by calling (916) 264-7059, e-mailing lmyers@cityofsacramento.org or visiting the museum at 101 I St. Tickets will be available at the door for \$55. All proceeds will go toward the educational programs and exhibits at the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation/Sacramento History Museum.

JUNE 6

Learn to cool home efficiently A SMUD Energy Specialists will provide information about your home's energy effi-

ciency possibilities and recommend strategies to help you keep cool during the hot Sacramento summer, Held at the SMUD Customer Service Center, 6301 S St. in the Rubicon Meeting Room, the workshop will run from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The workshop is free. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. Customers can register online at smud.org, e-mail etcmail@smud.org, or call 732-6738. For more information, email Paul Gillaspy at pgillas@smud.org.

Consumer computer class

Held Saturday at 10:15 a.m. at the Central Library, 828 I St., is the forum "Medical Information on the Internet." Attendees will learn to find medical information they can trust and become better health consumers. The class will cover several medical online and library databases which have current medical information, video footage, diagrams and articles that can further augment consumers' medical and health information needs.

Community Father's Appreciation Fair

The third annual Community Father's Appreciation Fair will take place at Riverside Wesleyan Church, 6449 Riverside Blvd., from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be cars, boats, trucks, U.S. Army, Marines and Navy, kid's face painting, bounce house, food, Western Martial Arts Academy demonstrations, Lexus of Roseville, Sacramento Sierra Red Cross, Hubacher Cadillac, live music by the "Riverside Rockers," and more. Would you like to show your special car, boat or truck? Call 391-9845 to reserve your space. There is no fee to participate.

Pioneer Grove History Tour

This Saturday morning tour will feature a narrated walk to the "Pioneer Grove," owned and maintained by the Sacramento Association

of Pioneers since 1861. The tour commences at 10 a.m. from the Cemetery's main gate at Broadway and 10th Street. Visitors may park across the street from the 10th Street Gate and meet at the cemetery entrance. For tour information, please call (916) 448-0811. Tours are free though donations for the restoration of the cemetery are greatly needed and appreciated.

Jensen Garden Volunteers

Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden hold garden workdays one Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The next workday is Saturday June 6. Bring work gloves, hand pruners and your lunch. Come join with other volunteers to keep the garden beautiful all year. Other workdays in 2009 are July 11, August 8, Sept. 5, Oct. 3, Nov. 7, Dec. 5. The Jensen Garden is located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. For more info, call Tracy Kerth at 485-5322 ex23 or email tracy@carmichaelpark.com.

SPCA Thrift Sale

The Sacramento SPCA Thrift Store Annual Spring Boutique Sale will feature specially-selected high-end merchandise including silver jewelry, gifts and collectibles, fashions, books, housewares, linens, electronics and more. The event is Saturday from 10 a.m. -5 p.m. and Sunday, June 7 from 12 – 5 p.m. The Sacramento SPCA Thrift Store is located at 1517 E Street in Sacramento. Proceeds from the SPCA Thrift Store support animal care and spay neuter programs at the Sacramento SPCA. The SPCA provided care to more than 12,000 homeless animals and altered nearly 13,000 animals in 2008 alone. For more information: Call the SPCA Thrift Store at (916) 442-8118.

Critter Carnival

Held Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Greenhaven Lutheran Church, 475 Florin



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JUNE 6-7

Carmichael Band Festival

The Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band Association presents the annual Carmichael Park Community Band Festival at the Carmichael Park Amphitheater, 5750 Grant Ave. in Carmichael. This is a free event. There will be a community band, one every hour on the hour, both days from 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday. Bring the entire family, a picnic, lawn chairs, and enjoy a lovely afternoon of music under the shade trees. For more information, call 489-2576 or visit www.sacwinds.org. More information is also available at 485-5322 or www.carmichaelpark.com.

JUNE 7

Special local speaker

Held Sunday at 11:30 a.m. at the Sierra Arden United Church of Christ, 890 Morse Ave., come Hear Local Author Ted Robinson read from his book,"Water in My Veins: the Pauper Who Helped Save a President." This event is free admission. For more information. call 483-5501.

JUNE 9

Travel abroad

Attend a free information session about the Oaxaca, Mexico, Travel Study Program offered through Sacramento State, College of Continuing Education, 6 to 8 p.m. in Napa Hall, 3000 State University Drive East. Participants of the two-week program will attend educational seminars, guided weekend tours to archeological sites, and strengthen their Spanish language skills while earning three units of undergraduate or graduate credit. For more information, call professor Peter Baird at 278-4916, or visit www.edweb.csus.edu/bmed/mexico.

Caregiver fitness

More and more Californians are becoming caregivers to family members in need. Care manager Larry Dawes will speak on juggling personal and care giving responsibilities and how to develop care-giving muscle. This free class will be held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Eskaton Adult Day Health Center, 5105 Manzanita Ave., in Carmichael. For more information, call 334-1072.

JUNE 10

Keeping your license

Having a license to drive means freedom to any motorist. But what factors do the DMV and highway patrol consider to determine the driving fitness of older adults? Speakers from the DMV and the CHP share information that may help you to keep your license safely. This free class will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Eskaton Adult Day Health Center, 5105 Manzanita Ave., in Carmichael. For more information, call 334-1072.

JUNE 11

Computer Club Meeting

Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet from 1-3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael.

Subject will be Picasa 3 Update to the free Google program for managing digital images by Ann Kerr. A question and answer session will follow the meeting. Visitors are welcome. For additional information, call 366-1687 or visit http://missionoakscomputercub.org.

JUNE 13

Rummage Sale

The Sacramento Buddhist Church at 2401 Riverside Blvd. is having a huge church benefit Rummage Sale on June 13 from 8 to 4 p.m.

Enjoy the art

Glass Artist Rene Steinke, Bronze Artist Darby Patterson and Multi-Media Artist Lynnette will be featured in at Fe Gallery in June, along with Metal Artist Stephen Lyman and Fused Glass Artist Sheena Wolfe. An artist reception will be held Saturday June 13 from 6-9 p.m. There will be glass blowing demonstration and a bronze molding demonstration throughout the evening. Fe Gallery is located at 1100 65th Street (north of Folsom Blvd., corner of 65th and Elvas), East Sacramento. For more information about the artists and the gallery visitwww.FeGallery.com. Fe Gallery, (916) 456-4455, is an extension of Fence World Iron World and daytime gallery hours are currently from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to noon.

Saint Michael's Yard Sale

Saint Michael's Indoor Yard Sale is back. The best prices in town! A sale lovers delight, featuring thousands of wonderful, slightly used bargains, easy parking and air conditioningcollectables (including old records), jewelry, art, silver, china, decorator items, books, linens, kitchen items, sporting goods, slightly used clothing, lots of sizes (children's up to 24W) toys and hundreds of books. Join us for fabulous finds. Sale begins 8 a.m. Saturday at Saint Michael's Episcopal Church, 2140 Mission Avenue, Carmichael.

Hiram Johnson class reunion

The Hiram Johnson Class of '79 is having their 30-year reunion aboard a luxury yacht cruising the Sacramento River. For more in-

Art show gets colorful makeover

An annual exhibition at Sacramento State is unveiling a new artistic flair this summer.

For the first time, the Alumni Association Art Chapter invited both members and non-members alike to celebrate the arts by displaying their creativity during the open invitational and membership show.

Providing an opportunity to all alumni, students, faculty and staff who meet academic prerequisites, the chapter president is pleased with the diversity of skills and talent.

"They're all very accomplished artists in their own right, which makes it a show worth seeing," says Florence Jones. A total of 28 pieces of art - ranging from photog-

formation, contact Jeanette Galvan, 397-2315, wandafun@pacbell.net.

Effie Yeaw Ice Cream Social

Held on Saturday from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., this event is a fundraiser to benefit the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. The event will also feature stories from Ted Robinson, a well-known speaker and author of "Water in My Veins: The Pauper Who Saved the President," his memoirs of serving in the military with JFK. Ice cream and other refreshments in the Robinson's lovely garden in the Arden-Arcade area. Call (916) 489-4918 to make your reservations. Tickets are \$25 per person and limited to ages 14 and older.

"Legacy Trees Project" Fundraiser Party

Come celebrate The Second Annual "Legacy Trees Project" Fundraiser Party on from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. upstairs in the open courtyard at 1801 L St. in Sacramento during June's Second Saturday Artwalk. This event is free to the public.

Susan Peters at the Park

County Supervisor Susan Peters will be holding "Office Hours" on Saturday afternoon in East Sacramento immediately before the popular "Pops in the Park" summer concert begins at Glen Hall Park in the neighborhood of River Park. Peters will set up a table at the park for residents who wish to drop by and discuss with her items of interest between 4 and 5:30 p.m. No appointment is necessary; visits will be handled on a first come first served basis.

Hiram Johnson Class Reunion

The Hiram Johnson Class of '79 is having their 30-year reunion aboard a luxury yacht cruising the Sacramento River. For more information, call Jeanette Galvan at 397-2315

annual Nichiren Bazaar will feature games, raffles, ice cream, chicken teriyaki, tempura, noodles, sushi, music, hula and more. The event is open to the public.

AIDS benefit plant sale

raphy to 3-D sculptures using an array of

Beginning on Tuesday, June 2, and run-

ning through Thursday, June 26, visitors

can admire the display at Robert Else Gal-

lery in Kadema Hall. During the first week,

viewing hours will be Tuesday through

Thursday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Afterwards, the

hours will be extended to Monday through

Friday. A reception, including judging of

the entries by Professor Dan Frye, will be

no reservations are necessary. For more in-

formation, contact the Art Department at

(916) 278-6166 or www.al.csus.edu/art.

The exhibition and reception are free and

held from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 5.

materials – have been submitted.

The June AIDS Benefit Plant Sale, benefitting the summer camp program with kids with HIV/AIDS of Sunburst Projects (Sunburstprojects. org), will be held in the covered parking area on 18th St. behind The Gifted Gardener at 18th and J streets in midtown Sacramento. The sale will be 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days and will feature more than 200 varieties of hardy perennials including many new, rare and hard to find varieties. This will be the only downtown sale in June. If you can't make the sale, but would like to donate to the cause, contact Jennifer at Sunburst Monday thru Friday at (916) 440-0889 or Jennifer@sunburstprojects.org.

To register for this FREE or visit mercymobility.org.

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or e-mail wandafun@pacbell.net. JUNE 13-14 **Annual Nichiren Bazaar** Held on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 5191 24th St., the

120

event, call 916.851.2110

Faces and Places Elks deliver awards to exceptional students, teachers





Held May 28, the Elks Lodge No. 6 held its annual scholarship dinner where its membership presented some of Sacramento's finest students and teachers with awards for their excellence in achievement. Among those honored were, pictured at left from left to right, teachers Judy Anne Miles of C.K. McClatchy High School, Nina Vigil of Sutter Middle School, and Judy Hecomovich of Bowling Green Elementary School; and above, from left to right, Elks Lodge No. 6 Exalter Ruler Richard Cherry and culinary scholarship winner Alison Janigian of C.K. McClatchy High School. All photos by Linda Pohl.

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School: Enrollment low at proposed Marian Anderson school site

Continued from page 3

the former Marian Anderson Elementary School facility at 2850 49th St. Looking for just 150 students for the first year, the district did an open enrollment.

"We only got 75 (students) and only half were confirmed to be registered by the deadline," said Tom Barentson, CFO and deputy superintendant of SCUSD. "Therefore, the board decided not to open a high school because of financial reasons."

Future plans

The district has since put a group together to study just how great a need there is for a new high school, and what type of school that should be.

"There are a lot of families with young children moving into the downtown area and they are concerned that there's no neighborhood high school," Barentson stated. "They want a conclusion about where their kids will go."

For now, Barentson is encouraged with the fact that students who live in the former attendance area of Sacramento High have other "excellent" high schools in the area to go to, such as Mc-Clatchy, Hiram Johnson and others.

"Sac City is a great district," he said. "It's just heart wrenching what's happening (with the budget), but we have far more schools than most, so they need to be pared down and we need to do this with a plan, so that's what we're doing."



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

In this East Sacramento News file photo, Sacramento Charter High School students, left to right, Doshea Price, Marlin Jones and Shavanté Smith found a home in the new charter school founded in 2003 by now-Mayor Kevin Johnson on the campus of his alma mater through his St. HOPE Academy non-profit organization. However, the loss of Sacramento High School as a public school has left East Sacramento without a high school.



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