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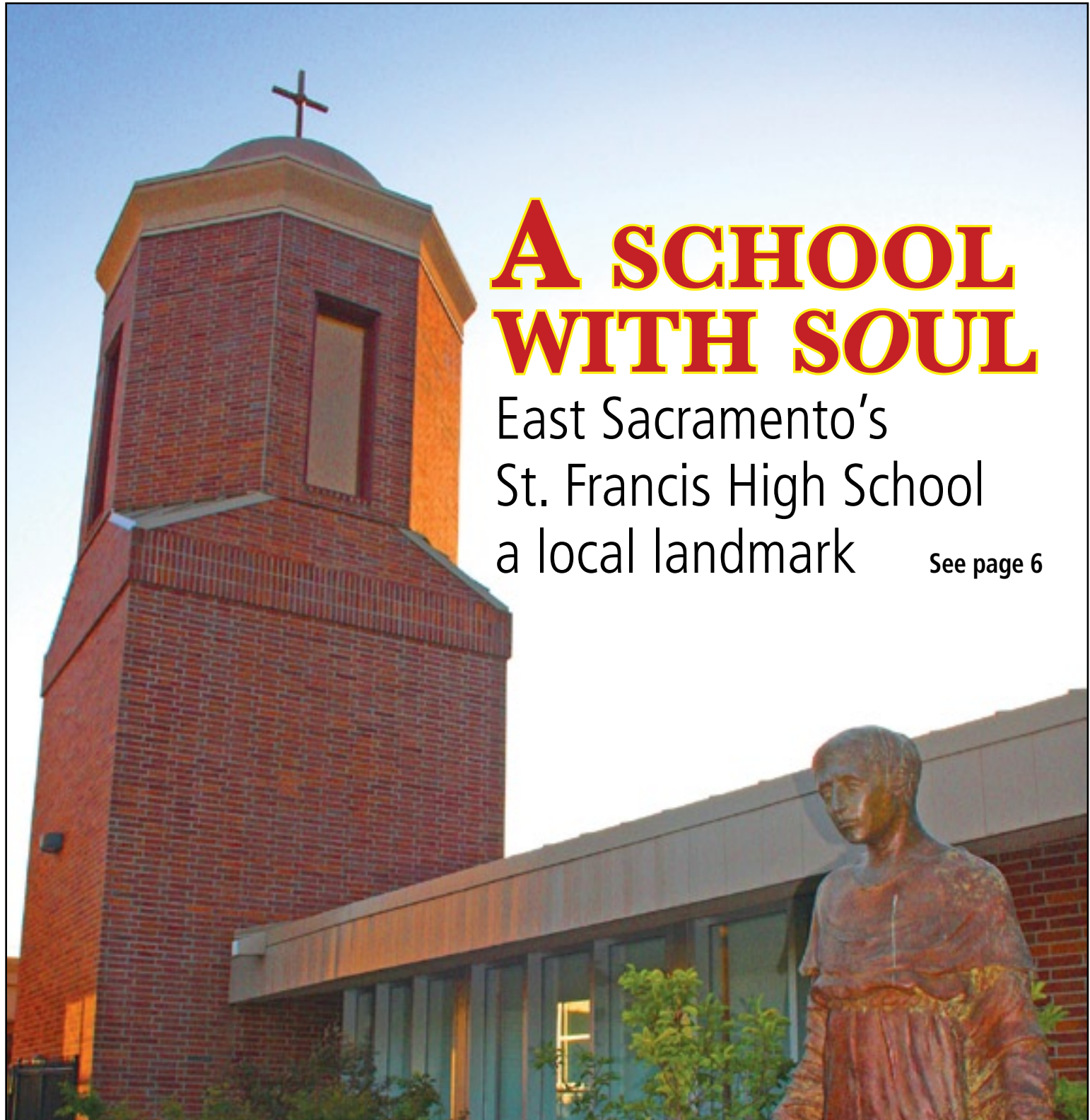
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Sacramento Zoo: A safe and fun Halloween evening

Special to the East Sacramento News

The Sacramento Zoo presents "Boo at the Zoo" for two nights on Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. Come dressed up and join the ghoulish fun. Don't miss out on a spooky good time as the Sacramento Zoo transforms into a kid-friendly place to be for Halloween. Trick-or-treat bags will be available for each child.

Kids can safely trick-or-treat around Lake Victoria at 17 candy stations; as well as enjoy spooky entertainment, creepy creature shows, magic shows, fun crafts, haunted house and tons of ghoulish goodies. There will be pumpkin bowling, a wheel-of-treats and more games 'n'

goodies. Hot chocolate and apple cider will be available for purchase as well. Ride the zoo's Creepy Carousel or the Spooky Train for \$2 per person.

This year, the Sacramento Zoo is working with the Grocery Outlet in Elk Grove to provide candy that is 100 percent palm oil free or contains sustainable palm oil. Palm oil production in Southeast Asia is the main culprit for Orangutans' habitat destruction, which has resulted in their rapid decline in the wild.

The zoo is traffic-free and a natural place to have a safe and happy Halloween. "Boo at the Zoo" benefits the Sacramento Zoological Society. This event is recommended for children 10 and under. General admission is \$9 per person; Sacramento Zoo Members admission is \$5. Children 2 and under are admitted free. Tickets may be purchased at the zoo, call 916-808-5888 for information, or tickets are available online www.saczoo.com.

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Clever, cute costumes?

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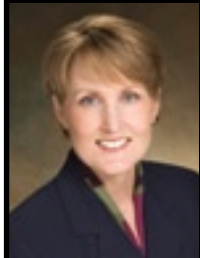
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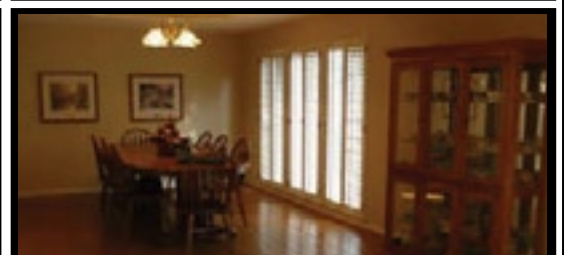
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October 17, Saturday, BBQ & Drinks for the family

Sacramento County recognizes local eateries with best health, food safety inspection record

Special to the East Sacramento News

In recognition of September's National Food Safety Education Month, several restaurants were recognized for outstanding food safety practices at a Sacramento County Board of Supervisors meeting on September 15. These businesses were selected by the Environmental Management Department to represent nearly 700 restaurants that earned an Award of Excellence in Food Safety certificate countywide.

To qualify for the award, a food-service operation must not have any major food-safety violations in its three most recent health inspections. Inspections are unannounced and completed up to three times a year. EMD inspects approximately 5,500 restaurants, retail markets, bakeries, bars and schools for food safety compliance annually.

Mark and Monica's Family Pizza, a family-run business located at 4751 Manzanita Ave, Carmichael, and Save Mart Supermarket, 2501 Fair Oaks Blvd, were chosen to represent Supervisor Susan Peters' district. Peters presented the certificates to Mark and Monica's owner Mark Brooks, manager Debbie Mahnke, and Save Mart's manager John Martin.

Family-owned Vic's Ice Cream, located at 3199 Riverside Blvd. in the Land Park neighborhood of Sacramento, was one of two food facilities in District 2 recognized for their excellent food safety record. District 2 Supervisor Jimmie Yee presented the certificate to Craig Rutledge who manages the ice cream shop. Craig is the son of Ashley Rut-



Photo courtesy Supervisor Susan Peters with John Martin, manager of Save Mart Supermarket, 2501 Fair Oaks Blvd.

ledge who opened Vic's in 1947 with his World War II buddy Victor Zito.

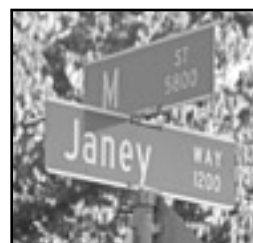
Among the 700 food facilities countywide earning a certificate were Whole Foods Market on Arden Way, Honey Baked Ham on Fulton Ave., Madison Station Café on Madison Ave., Village Drive-In on J Street, and Cupcake Cravings on Arden Way.

EMD director Val Siebal said the award recipients have clearly demonstrated a continuous commitment to high standards of food safety in their establishments.

"The Environmental Management Department recognizes the hard work and diligence of employees and management to earn this award," says Siebal.

Is your favorite food facility a 2009 Award of Excellence for Food Safety recipient? You can view a listing of all award recipients and learn more about the award criteria at www.emd.SacCounty.net/EH/EMDFoodSafety-Awards.htm.

Janey Way Memories



Ghosts of Halloween



By **MARTY RELLES**
East Sacramento News Columnist
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

On Janey Way, back in the early 1960s, we did not celebrate Halloween the way kids celebrate it nowadays. We did not attend neighborhood parties where the children bob for apples and eat sugar-free treats. The malls did not open up their doors and distribute candy to children. Heck, there were no malls then. Mom did not get us a Spiderman, Batman, Superman or Hulk costume. We usually dressed up in old cloths, smudged our faces and went out as hobos. In those days, Halloween was all about trick-or-treating. The more candy the better. The higher the sugar content, the better. A little mischief was usually in order. That meant taking the pumpkins off people's porches and depositing them in the gutter somewhere down the street.

Halloween often meant a visit to the pit to light some firecrackers or to sneak up to Ole Man Charlie's house. He had no light on or pumpkins beaming on Halloween. He just wanted his privacy. Still, we wanted to see what he was doing on Halloween. Sadly, his lights were off and his home seemed deserted. So, we ended up going out into the pit, in the dark, looking for excitement. Then, we headed out into the neighborhood to search for candy, and maybe to harass the O Street boys. They were our rivals.

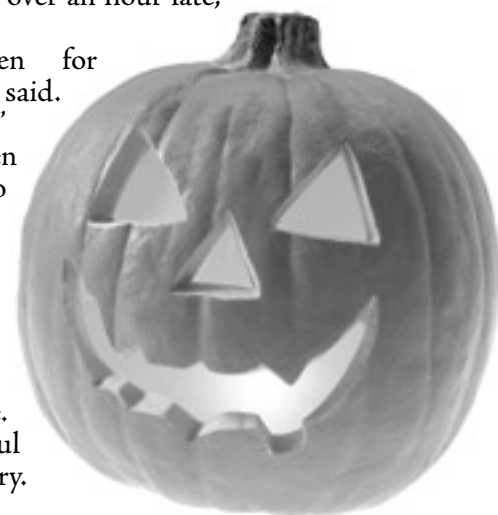
On Halloween, if we ran into the O Street Boys, there was usually an exchange of candy – into the hands of the Janey Way Gang. That was that. Then off we went to fill our bags. By the end of the night, we each had a grocery bag full of candy to be savored over the next few weeks. Fortunately, none of us has suffered ill effects from this practice.

A Halloween nearly missed

I nearly missed celebrating Halloween in the seventh grade. The holiday fell on a weekday that year so I planned to go straight home from school. My plan went awry. Alex Gutierrez waylaid me on the way out of the gate. He decided to wrestle me and I had no escape. He used his size to pin me on the ground and kept me there for well over an hour. Finally, thankfully, his dad drove up. The minute he released me, I bolted home straight away. However, when I arrived home well over an hour late, mom was angry.

"No Halloween for you tonight," she said. "You're grounded."

Fortunately, when the boys came to pick me up and I begged, implored and promised future good behavior, mom let me go. As usual, all had a good time. Another wonderful Janey Way memory.



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Know your neighbor

Seven decades of memories at St. Francis High School

East Sacramento school originally located at 25th and K streets

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

Editor's Note: This is the first of a two-part history feature on Sacramento's St. Francis High School. For part two, see the Nov. 5 edition of the East Sacramento News.

St. Francis High School – the Catholic diocesan college preparatory institution for young women at 5900 Elvas Ave. – has a rich history in East Sacramento, as well as at its previous locations near Sutter's Fort and in Oak Park.

In its beginning, St. Francis High was a much smaller school, as it developed as a 9th grade extension of St. Francis Elementary School at 2500 K St., near St. Francis Church in the fall of 1940.

Although this first class of 9th graders, which consisted of 12 young women who met in part of the elementary school's third floor,

were the high school's first students, their transfer to the three-story St. Joseph Academy at 815 G St. following their sophomore year assured them of losing their future recognition as the school's first graduates.

Instead, the students of the Class of 1945, who began their 9th grade year at St. Francis in 1941, claimed this recognition when they graduated from St. Francis in the spring of 1945.

Erma Elizabeth "Jimmie" (Sutter) Herman of the Class of 1946 said that the high school's first students, who had previously attended earlier grades at St. Francis School, Immaculate Concepcion Parish School at 3230 Broadway in Oak Park and other schools, were transferred, because initially "the bishop didn't think that anyone would support St. Francis on the third floor."

The high school, however, eventually expanded to encompass the entire second and third floors of the building.

During the school's earliest years, classes were instructed by Francis Sisters of Penance and Christian Charity. Nuns continued to provide



Photo courtesy of St. Francis High School
St. Francis High School has been a part of the Sacramento community since the fall of 1940. The school opened at its current East Sacramento site 24 years later.

instruction and leadership at the school until about 1999, when Sister Catherine stepped down from her position as principal.

In honor of its extensive history, St. Francis High conducted a series of interviews with its early graduates in 2001.

Early graduates

The earliest of the graduates interviewed were members of the Class of 1946, Herman, Adelia (Dallosta) Large, Mary

See St. Francis, page 7

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St. Francis: 'It was a terrific experience and we were given a very good education'

Continued from page 6

(Desmond) Mastalski and Barbara (McGuire) Taylor.

During her 2001 interview, Herman said that the high school was much different during her time there, specifically emphasizing its lack of clubs and sports teams.

After attending Sutter Junior High School at 19th and K streets, Herman joined the sisterhood of St. Francis High under the direction of its principal, Sister Geraldine, who had a doctorate's degree in English from Columbia University.

Herman also shared other memories of her high school years, including going to school during World War II, listening to music by her favorite singer Bing Crosby and going to Saturday night movies for 10 cents.

A Sacramento native of Italian descent, Large recalled having nuns as teachers, except for her gym class, and wearing a school uniform, which consisted of a one-piece, navy blue jumper and a white blouse.

Large fondly remembered how she and her Portuguese classmate Evelyn Anthony would continuously frustrate their Spanish teacher Sister Peter.

"Evelyn would start speaking Spanish and then all of a sudden she (would) get her Portuguese mixed in with it," Large said. "The same thing would happen to me.

I would get Italian mixed in with the Spanish. (Sister Peter) would get so upset with us that we couldn't keep our languages out of the Spanish. I think she was glad we finally got out of Spanish 2."

Mastalski, who was also born in Sacramento, recalled taking classes such as chemistry, algebra, history, Latin, Spanish, physical education and of course, religion.

Being that she attended an all-girls high school, Mastalski was asked in her interview if she socialized with any high school boys during her high school days.

"Only at dances and things," Mastalski said. "Oh, and we went to Christian Brothers games and things. At Hughes Stadium, they had (Christian Brothers) football games there."

Taylor, who was one of the two fastest typists in her class, said that there were advantages to the fact that St. Francis High was such a small school.

"The first class had 13 (students) and we were 23," Taylor said. "Even though (St. Francis High) was really small, we were all close. To this day, if I passed by some

of them, I could recognize half of the student body."

Of her St. Francis High classmates, Taylor said that a pair of students – Irene Driscoll and Lenore Gabel – later became nuns.

In addition to those interviewed in 2001, Marion (Kaeser) Slakey of the Class of 1948 and Patricia (Merz) Shebert of the Class of 1953 recently shared their memories with the East Sacramento News.

Slakey, who served as the school's student body president during her senior year, said that it was a privilege to attend St. Francis High.

"It was a terrific experience (attending the school) and we were given a very good education," Slakey said. "I always felt that I had a superior education at St. Francis, even though it was so small. Also, I do believe that being in a Catholic environment was an incredible way to grow up. It was just a wonderful experience attending that little, tiny girls' school on the third floor of St. Francis Elementary School."

Shebert recalled serving as editor of St. Francis' monthly newspaper, The Assisian – the predecessor



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

The St. Francis High School Class of 1950 was the school's fifth graduating class.

to the school's current monthly newspaper, The Mandolin.

"The whole process for creating the paper probably took a week," said Shebert, who is the grandmother of current St. Francis High students Sierra "Kia" and Ashley Shebert. "At that time, it was an all black and white, four-page paper, sometimes six if we had lots of news. I was also one of the writers, Sister Miriam, who also taught science, was our advisor and we had about 20 people on our staff. It was

printed at (Capital Printing Co. at 3301 Broadway in Oak Park) and we would go over there and pick up the papers. The big thrill for those of us at St. Francis was to get to deliver it to Christian Brothers (High School), which at that point was an all-boys school. So, I was very popular among people who had cars, because they would vie for positions to drive the paper over to Christian Brothers with me."

Read part two in the next East Sacramento News.

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Collaboration of the sexes as 'Taming of the Shrew' comes to East Sac's St. Francis High this November

By **SUSAN LAIRD**
East Sacramento News Writer
slaird@handywriting.com

The perennial battle of wits between the sexes returns to the stage this November, as St. Francis High School presents William Shakespeare's classic comedy, "The Taming of the Shrew."

In this classic comedy of the theater, Petruchio, a gentleman of Verona, courts the headstrong spinster, Katherine. Petruchio and Kate engage in a battle of wits as he attempts to "tame" his bold and stubborn wife and bring her into line with society's expectations. This romantic farce, full of disguises and role playing, deals with themes such as marriage and duty, reality and illusion, and compromise.

Dramatis personae

What may be surprising to some, however, is the collaboration of the genders at this all-girls Catholic high school.

Four of the 21-member cast are men.

This is a common experience at St. Francis, according to Elisabeth Danielson, arts executive director and producer of the play.

"We have always invited guys from all schools to audition for our plays and musicals," Danielson said. "Sometimes we need children, too. So, we advertise at elementary schools to see if anyone is interested in performing with us. For example, there were children from St. Mary's School who were in the cast of 'Sound of Music' in 2008."

The men in this year's fall education play hail from four area high schools.

In the lead as Petruchio, Elliot Herzer is a senior at The Met Sacramento, which is located in downtown Sacramento at 8th and V streets. The Met Sacramento is an innovative public high school designed and founded by the educational nonprofit The Big



Photo courtesy of Mark Coverdell Photography
Niles Swinney (of CK McClatchy High School) in the role of Hortensio, St. Francis' Abby Williams-Campbell as Bianca, and Nick Merrick (of El Camino High School) as Lucentio.

Picture Company. The school enrolls some 144 students in its project-based curriculum.

Nick Merrick attends El Camino High School. A junior, he is already a veteran thespian, performing in "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat," "Midsummer," "Friday at Five," "Our Town," "The Importance of Being Ernest," "Nightmare Before Christmas," "Sir Gwain and the Loathly Lady," among others. He will portray Lucentio, a suitor for the hand of Bianca, Kate's less intractable sister.

Tomas Riegos is a junior at Jesuit High School. He will portray Vincentio, Lucentio's father.

Niles Swinney is a junior at C.K. McClatchy High School. He will play the role of Hortensio, suitor to Bianca and friend to Petruchio. Swinney is another stage veteran. Last spring he performed in McClatchy High's production of "Into the Woods." He also appeared in "The Odd Couple," "Beauty and the Beast" and "Picasso at Capin Agile."

Cameron Tapella, who will portray Gremio, an elderly suitor of Bianca. He is also a junior at Jesuit. Last fall, he performed in St. Francis' Elly-award winning production of "Playing for Time."

The inclusion of men in the plays at St. Francis has defi-

nite advantages, Danielson said.

"Guys walk, talk, and move differently than girls," she said. "Sometimes it adds some authenticity - some parts are pretty difficult for a high school girl to play as a guy. Another advantage is that students can learn from each other. It's fun to have the boys around the all-girls campus. They add another dimension sometimes."

The advantage for male performers, in addition to being stars of attention at the school, is access to St. Francis High's award-winning theater program.

"Some of the boys come from schools that may not have as an extensive a theatre program as St. Francis has," Danielson said. "So it's nice to offer this opportunity to them. Some of the boys and children have been in theatre throughout the Sacramento area for many years and just find it fun to work with us on our plays and musicals."

One example of this benefit is the recent visit to the St. Francis campus by Adam Coleman of the Globe Theatre in England. Coleman is the senior practitioner for Globe

See School play, page 9

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School play: 'An Elizabethan play with a millennial flair'

Continued from page 8

education. He travels to share his observations and thespian expertise with students worldwide. St. Francis worked with the Mondavi Center to make the visit with the students possible. Coleman taught a masters class workshop for the play's cast and technical crew.

"The St. Francis Arts Council selects a play and a musical for each year," Danielson said. "The idea behind selecting each one is based on broadening the depth of students' knowledge on different kinds of works so that in the four years that a girl is at St. Francis, she has watched or been a part of eight completely different experiences. For example, last year we performed 'Playing for Time,' which is an historical piece written by an Auschwitz survivor about the Holocaust, and 'Seven' a fun musical written by St. Francis' own music accompanist and recording

director, David Blanchard. It is important to perform a Shakespeare piece for its rich and well-known work."

Shakespeare, today

"The Taming of the Shrew" has been adapted for numerous plays, musicals and films. The St. Francis production is set in the original Elizabethan time frame, but with modern applications in costuming, music and gesture. Much like the film, "A Knight's Tale," the St. Francis production plans to deconstruct the Bard, adding modern applications in costuming, music and gesture. The result is an Elizabethan play with a millennial flair that will be affordable, highly entertaining and well worth attending.

"The Taming of the Shrew" opens at St. Francis High School, 5900 Elvas Ave., Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m., with additional 7:30 p.m. performances on

Nov. 7, 12, 13 and 14. There will be one 1:30 p.m. matinee show on Nov. 14. Admission is \$5 for students under age 19 and \$10 for adults. Tickets are available at www.ticketguys.com/stfrancis or at the box office 45 minutes before each performance.

St. Francis High School presents "The Taming of the Shrew"

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Admission is \$5 for students under age 19 and \$10 for adults. Tickets are available at www.ticketguys.com/stfrancis or at the box office 45 minutes before each performance.



Photo courtesy of Mark Coverdell Photography
Kiss me, Kate: Katherina (Olivia Nice) is less than pleased to be thrown over her husband Petruchio's (Elliot Herzer, The Met Sacramento) shoulder like a sack of potatoes in St. Francis High School's production of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew."

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Faces and places

Art on display in Sierra Oaks office

Windermere Dunnigan Realtors hosts semi-annual art shows at their locations in Land Park and Sierra Oaks. In May, the group hosts the event in Land Park; in September, the event is held at the Sierra Oaks office. This year, the event was held Thursday, Sept. 24. According to realtor Paula Swayne, the Windermere Dunnigan Realtors invite local artists to share their wonderful inspirations with the neighborhood and give them the opportunity to sell their artwork. The event was well attended, with scores of area residents checking out the locally produced artwork.



Artist Gina Leyton proudly placed her work on display at the art show.



These pieces by Leslie McCarron were featured at the Sierra Oaks Windermere Dunnigan art show.

All photos by East Sacramento News photographer Melissa Andrews.



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Bring up the band: Local music acts work to reach fans

By MELISSA CRONIN-BROWN
East Sacramento News Writer
vcnews@valcomnews.com

Before most bands get signed to a major record label, many have to first start playing their music locally in their hometown. Unsigned bands must be recognized and supported by

fellow friends and family before “making it big” and it often takes years for bands to be discovered.

Nonetheless, every band has a personal story on how all each group member met and what influenced the group to create music as a collaborative band.

A band's story

Up and coming: A band from Sacramento known as Running Riot consists of four local males; Cody Howle sings and plays guitar, Kevin Hayes plays bass, Vinnie Guidera plays guitar, and Ian MacDonald plays drums.

“Cody and Kevin started the band in high school at Christian

Brothers. That was with two other friends, Matt and Aaron, who played guitar and drums. When Matt left, Vinnie became the new lead guitar player and when Aaron left, I became the drummer,” said MacDonald.

In five years, the Running Riot band members will be in their thirties and still hope to tour

and promote their music as well as produce a few records.

“As long as it continues to be fun, that's all that matters,” said MacDonald. “We all like different types of music and artists, but the few bands we have in common are Thrice, who are a huge influence on our music, and A Wilhelm Scream. Each of us has our own distinct style.”

Shepton Mallet, another band who lives and performs in Sacramento, is made up of sophomore boys from El Camino Fundamental High School. The band was formed by Max Hopson who plays guitar, and by Austin Leach, who plays bass, back in 2006. After recruiting and dismissing several members over the past three years, the line up today includes Alex Brufladt, Andrew Maino, Dustin Cooknick, Austin Leach and Max Hopson.

“We hope to be a well-established band in the local scene, having some EPs out, and playing at least 100 days out of the year,” the band agreed.

“EP” stands for Extended Play, where bands get to record more songs that they did not include on their CDs. EPs are usually songs that are “singles,” not a song that is part of an entire CD.

“Iron Maiden was our keystone, but after covering bands such as Judas Priest, Black Sabbath, Halloween and Saxon, we found our true sound,” Brufladt, Maino, Cooknick, Leach, and Hopson concluded.

While some bands spend hours and hours struggling to come up with a creative band name, others find it more useful to devote their time creating lyrics and a melody and thinking of a collaborative name afterwards. This applies to Nick Micheels, Josh Reeder-Esparza, and Matt Swartzendruber, who temporarily refer to themselves as “the trio.”

“The three of us all plan to study at the Berklee College of Music, and will continue to play music together there,” explained Swartzendruber. “We have many influences since we all listen to a wide variety of music, so we enjoy Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jimi Hendrix, John Mayer, The Meters, Cherry Poppin' Daddies, Michael Buble, and Steely Dan.”

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Gender: Female Hair: Short

Age: 2 years

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Locally produced 'Sacramento Kids Corporation' celebrates first anniversary

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

For the many of us who were forced into taking public speaking classes in either high school or college (or both), we know all too well the problems many people have in front of a small group of 20 or so people. This inability of some teenagers and adults to perform in front of peers makes what the stars of Sacramento's Kids Corporation all the more impressive.

The group, which has a weekly television show that runs on public access, focuses on kids being kids as well as giving the participants real experience for their futures as actors.

Carmichael resident Mike Martin, producer of Kids Corporation, detailed how the show came to be a reality.

"I always liked working with kids," he said. "I joined a film group a couple years ago and met a mother who had a child who wanted to be in a movie. I saw that she had talent and that gave me the idea for the show."

The show, which is shown every Saturday at 10 a.m. on cable channel 17, is comprised of children aged 7-17. Since the first show a year ago, 120 children from all around California (and as far away as Florida) have taken part.

"We put an ad out for kids to audition and we got tons of responses," Martin said. "At first we mostly just let everyone join."

At any given time, Martin explained, there are about 20 kids on regular rotation for the show.

Substance and style

The kid-friendly show is made up of comedy skits, celebrity interviews and song and dance numbers performed by the kids. And while the show is largely for fun, a number of the kids are involved because they see themselves as future stars of stage and screen.

"A lot of them have career aspirations for this," Martin said. "Many of them are in drama, have acted in plays and played parts in movies."

One such child is seven-year-old Claire Oldham who uses the stage name Claire Elizabeth. It's easy to see that a future in the business might truly be a possibility.

Claire, who would one day enjoy being on "a comedy show or a reporting show," said that she has enjoyed her time with the group.

"It's really fun," she said. "I like acting, singing and dancing."

And let's not forget interviewing. Claire had the opportunity to interview 2008 American Idol winner David Cook when he made a stop in Sacramento. The clip of

"There are so many kids who want to be on TV and these kids are really talented, And kids like to watch other kids."

the interview as well as several others can be found on the show's Web site, www.kidscorporation.net.

Claire got her start in children's theater and has since made many new friends who share her enthusiasm for acting.

Claire's mother Rachel, a co-producer of the show, talked about how she got involved with the program.

"She had gone on a music video for Kids Corporation and was asked back," Rachel said. "I really liked what (Martin) was doing. He really listens to the kids' ideas. He gives them a lot of freedom to express themselves and uses their ideas if he can."

Claire's love for the spotlight is no sudden occurrence, according to Rachel.

"Since she was two and could say full sentences she wanted to be on TV," she said.

One of the reasons that Rachel allowed Claire to do the show was because it is so very kid-friendly.

"I think that it's a fun show on the silly side, but there is always an educational aspect whether the kids know it or not," she said. "I can let (Claire) watch it and not worry about having to change the channel for something inappropriate."

In addition to the show, there is what is known as Kids Corporation Live where the children go out and perform at community events like Omnifest, an event to help keep young people away from drugs.

The show is generally performed at Access Sacramento at the Coloma Community Center in East Sacramento's Elmhurst neighborhood and the Hawkins School of Performing Arts in Folsom.

The overall message that Martin wants to convey is that there are a lot of talented kids out there and that the show gives them an outlet to showcase that talent.

"There are so many kids who want to be on TV and these kids are really talented," he said. "And kids like to watch other kids."

Archived episodes of the show can be found on Comcast OnDemand through the "Get Local" tab. From there go to "Access Sacramento."

For parents who are interested in having their child becoming a part of Kids Corporation, the group can be reached via e-mail at info.kidscorp@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy Kids Corporation

Sacramento's Kids Corporation, which has a weekly television show that runs on public access, focuses on kids being kids as well as giving the participants real experience for their futures as actors.

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When they were warriors

Local Chinese World War II veterans receive recognition, share vivid memories

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

Chinese World War II veterans received a special public recognition this past weekend at the Chinatown Mall Culture Fair in downtown Sacramento. And following this recognition, they individually met one-on-one with The East Sacramento News to share some of their personal wartime memories.

Their meetings with the newspaper fulfilled a two-fold purpose of preserving history, as well as drawing further attention to these men who gave the ultimate sacrifice of serving their country during this war.

Freeman Lee, event coordinator and commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Chung Mei Post #8358 in which local Chinese World War II veterans are members, led the event's recognition ceremony.

Standing before a large crowd in the Chinatown Mall plaza, Lee introduced the Chinese-American World War II veterans in attendance.

And speaking about Chinese-American World War II veterans, in general, Lee said, "On behalf of the Chung Mei Post, I want to honor the Chinese-American World War II veterans who fought and died for the freedom and liberties of all Americans."

Lee continued his speech, noting the many efforts of both local and nation-

wide Chinese-Americans, who were drafted and volunteered for the war.

"A Sacramento newspaper reported during the war that three Yee families in Sacramento sent 12 sons to fight in World War II," Lee said. "In total, 13,499 Chinese-Americans fought in the war for the United States. They fought in Europe, Asia and Africa. They saw action in the invasion of Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, invasion of Okinawa, the Philippines, India and China. Chinese-American soldiers also helped build Gen. (Joseph) Stilwell's highway in Burma - also known as the Burma Road - and they flew with Gen. Claire Lee Chenault's Flying Tiger."

Lee explained that it was not uncommon for a large percentage of Chinese-Americans to participate in military activities during the war, considering that by U.S. law men with no dependants were the first to be drafted and that the Chinese Exclusion Act had created a bachelor's society of single Chinese men in America. Furthermore, many other Chinese-Americans volunteered for service during World War II.

Various local officials, including Mayor Kevin Johnson, District 4 Councilmember Rob Fong and District 2 County Supervisor Jimmie Yee, also participated in the event.

Meeting men of history

In a brief, exclusive interview with The East Sacramento News, Johnson said that he ap-

preciates the local Chinese-American community's efforts to pay tribute to Chinese-American veterans and veterans, in general.

"We as a country have not done as good of a job as we should of valuing, appreciating and supporting those who have fought and given their lives for the freedom that we all enjoy," Johnson said. "I am fully committed that we, as a city, do our part to lobby to make sure that all of our veterans get the respect, recognition and support that they deserve."

Lee said that World War II veterans continue to lose their lives at a rate of 2,000 per day and that because of this statistic, the need to preserve their memories of the war is becoming increasingly important.

Through the efforts of Lee and Steve Yee, who also assisted in coordinating the event, interview appointments were arranged, which resulted in the following information that was gathered through exclusive interviews with the following veterans:

Milo Chun

The eldest of this veteran group at 91 years old, Chun, a 1939 graduate of McClatchy High School, went to Camp Roberts for Army basic training in 1942 before going to Fort Lewis in the state of Washington, where he joined the 3rd Infantry Division. Later, he was transferred to San Francisco's 30th Infantry Regiment, which



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong
In addition to his World War II military background, Greenhaven area resident Ping Leong is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Chung Mei Post #8358 Honor Guard.

eventually led him to Rome, Italy. His involvement also brought him to southern France to the Division of Artillery headquarters, Morocco and Austria.

While in combat in Morocco, Chun lost one of his close friends, who died in a battle.

In a separate battle, Chun, who later worked for about 26 years as an aircraft

See World War II, page 21

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World War II: 'I am happy and proud that I was able to serve'

Continued from page 20

technician at McClellan Air Force Base, was hit by shrapnel from artillery shell and received a Purple Heart.

Ping Leong

A Greenhaven area resident, Leong, 87, who was born in Phoenix, Ariz. to his Chinese-born parents, Quong and Chin Leong, said that he was drafted into the Army in December 1941, yet he was already serving as a volunteer in the Navy.

Opting to stay in the Navy, Leong studied aviation mechanics in aviation school in Oklahoma and was later sent to the New Hebrides islands, where ammunition and bombs were stored.

Leong, who was the lone person of Asian descent in his group, said that he was very fortunate to survive a nighttime air attack by the Japanese in New Hebrides.

"The Japanese generally came at nighttime to survey the island," Leong said. "They couldn't see much at night, but there was enough light that they could drop bombs there every now and then. One time a bomb came so close to the ammunition storage that it could've blown the whole island apart with all the inhabitants there, so I was lucky to come back."

Like Chun, Leong also made a career working at McClellan, as he spent about 25 years there as an aircraft mechanic.

Lawrence Chew

A native of Courtland and a former student at Galt High School, Chew, 84, is the grandson of Ah Chew, who came to the Sacramento Valley in about the 1850s.

Lawrence recalled his early transition from his former life to his wartime life.

"I got on a ship in the New York Harbor somewhere, passing by the Statue of Liberty and I looked up there and thought, 'What a sight,'" Lawrence said. "Here I was a farm boy who never left the farm and hardly went to a movie and here I was just looking at (the statue). It was beautiful. It was a sight to see."

Trained to use an M1 rifle during his basic training in Little Rock, Ark., Lawrence, who was the only Chinese-American in his company, described what it was like to enter the battlefields at the age of 19 in 1944.

"I was the only Chinese in the company and I was the shortest one, too, but I kept up with the big guys," Lawrence said. "I was fighting in combat, mostly in Germany, and it was a scary thing. At times I was so scared that I was shaking all over and I just couldn't move."

Reflecting upon his war service, Chew said, "I am happy and proud that I was able to serve (the United States), but as far as (receiving personal) recognition, I don't know. It's just something that had to be done in those days."

Kern Chew

Like his brother Lawrence, Kern, 87, also joined the military during World War II.

Drafted in 1944, Kern completed 17 weeks of training at Camp Roberts and

later became an infantry replacement for the 96th Division.

After completing aircraft landing training, Kern participated in the Battle of Okinawa.

Describing this battle, Kern said, "On April 1, 1945, we went in and there was not much opposition. We were lucky. The Marines, they got some, but we didn't have too much."

Kern added that his battalion was later involved in a noteworthy conflict.

"About 800 (Japanese) came in and our battalion took them all, but we lost a lot of people that night," Kern said.

With only six soldiers remaining out of his platoon of 40, Kern was involved in another combat on April 27, 1945, in which he was injured.

"I got shrapnel in my lung, shrapnel in my shoulder and I had some go into my neck and cut my vocal chord," Kern said. "I talk real low now, but my voice came back to me, so I was lucky."

After returning from the war, Kern, who now resides in the South Land Park area, eventually established a farming business, which he ran for 32 years in Sacramento, Yolo and Solano counties with his oldest brother, Chester.

David Yee

A former member of the Army Air Forces, Yee, 88, was drafted into the service in November 1942 after graduating from Sacramento High School.

After spending about a year at McClellan, Yee reported to a recruiting center in San Francisco.

Trained to work with B-24 bombers, Yee, who currently lives in the Land Park area, joined the 455th Bombardment Group of the 15th Air Force.

Yee said that during his time with this group, he was shot down over Austria and became a Prisoner of War.

"We were shot down in German-controlled Austria and I was about the next to last person to parachute out of the plane," Yee said. "I was picked up by an old man with a rifle and I was escorted into town and was kept for two weeks in solitary confinement in a dark room. Overall, I was kept for approximately 11 or 12 months. I was finally able to break camp when all the guards disappeared."

Yee said that he believes that the German prison guards were killed during the night by Russian soldiers, who had arrived from the Eastern Front.

Thinking back on his years in the war, Yee said that he feels honored to have served his country.

"Something like (serving in World War II) doesn't come around every day," Yee said. "When Uncle Sam calls you to do something like that and you



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Land Park resident Joe Wayne Fong was one of several Chinese World War II veterans honored at the Chinatown Culture Fair last Sunday.



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Sacramento residents Kern Chew (left) and his brother Lawrence Chew served the United States military during World War II.

fulfill what he asks you to do, it's definitely a really big honor."

Joe Wayne Fong

A Land Park area resident, Fong, 85, was drafted into the Army in August 1944.

After reporting to the preliminary induction office at the Japanese church at 4th and O streets, Fong was sent to San Francisco and then to the Presidio in Monterey.

Traveling by train across the same tracks that were built by his Chinese ancestors, Fong arrived at Fort Knox, Ky., where he received his Army training.

Fong said that before leaving the United States, he had a strong feeling that he may not survive the war.

"I had a feeling that I may not come back, but that didn't bother me much, because as a soldier I wanted to help the country," Fong said.

A member of the 3rd Army, 90th Infantry, 773 Tank Destroyer Battalion Recon Co. under General George Patton, Fong was involved in several battles along the Rhine River.

Fong, who was a member of one of the first troops to go to Czechoslovakia in April 1945, said that he is proud to have served in the war.

"I feel that I have done something for the country and the people of the battalion and we all came out equally in one piece," Fong said. "I think we were sleeping with the angels."

Fighting men

With the assistance of Chun, Leong, the Chew brothers, Yee, Fong and other Chinese-Americans during World War II, America's freedoms were preserved and the United States continues to prosper from their efforts.

CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
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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. There is no guarantee that events submitted will appear in the calendar. To ensure placement within the newspaper, please call 429.9901 to place an advertisement.

OCTOBER

Free pole walking clinics

Organized by Cure Arthritis Now, free pole walking clinics will be hosted Wednesdays (at 6 p.m.), Oct. 7 and 21, and Fridays, Oct. 9 and 23, at the Sierra 2 Community Center, 2791 24th St. Interested people need to call the group directly for times and specific locations, to pre-register and reserve the walking poles for the clinics. For more information, call 208-8700.

Managing health conditions class

Healthier Living is an award-winning program designed by Stanford University to help you better manage chronic health conditions and lessen their impact on your life; reduce fatigue, anxiety, sleep loss and gain; communicate better with your doctors, friends, and family; and set goals and problem solve to make positive changes. This class is also recommended for caregivers of people with chronic conditions. Classes are held at Asian Community Center- October 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov 5, and 12 from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. To register, call Lucy at 393-9026 x 322.

Straw into Gold

The Hart Senior Center will once again host the "Straw Into Gold" poetry writing workshop for Seniors. Led by Julia Connor, Sacramento Poet Laureate 2005-2009, this workshop offers an outstanding opportunity for seniors to hone their writing skills in a creative, spontaneous environment. The workshop will be held Thursdays from 3:00 to 5:00, now through November 12. Registration is required, but there is no cost for this workshop. Please contact the Hart Senior Center at (916) 808-5462 for more information.

Past Tents exhibit opens

"Past Tents: The Way We Camped" is a humorous excursion through one of our favorite pastimes, exploring camping in Cal-

ifornia from post-Gold Rush times to the mid-1900s. Through three exhibit themes - Round the Campground, Hitting the Trail, and Open Roads, Open Fires - visitors enjoy contemporary prints of rare historic photographs and objects from the collections of the California Historical Society and the Bancroft Library. The Sacramento History Museum invites all to enjoy this exhibition beginning Friday, Sept. 4, closing January 3, 2010. The Sacramento History Museum, operated under the auspices of the Historic Old Sacramento Foundation, is located at 101 "I" Street, Old Sacramento, CA. The museum is open every day (excluding major holidays) 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone: (916) 808-7059.

OCTOBER 15

Genealogy Club meeting

On October 15, Mission Oaks Genealogy Club will meet from 1-3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. The program will feature membership publications, source books, heirlooms and artistic creations. Refreshment will be served. Visitors are welcome. For more info, call Robert Noyes (916) 332-5753 or visit website at: <http://missionoaksgenealogyclub.org>.

Latino Dance and Culture Group

Come dance to the beat of all types of Latin music! Featured DJ music and delicious Mexican food! Held at the Ethel Hart Community Center, 915 27th St., from 6:15-8:45 p.m. Suggested donation: \$3. For more information, call Barbara Alarcon 400-4514.

OCTOBER 17

Food festival

Chinese Community Church will hold their 26th annual Fall Fellowship and Food Festival Oct. 17, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The event will be located at the church 5600 Gilgunn Way. There will be Chinese food, entertainment and games. Admission is free. For more information, call 916-392-7875 or 916-424-8900.

Aging in place week

In honor of National Aging in Place Week, Eskaton Village Roseville is hosting this entertaining and educational event highlighting programs and services that can help older adults live independently. This event will feature: tours of Eskaton's award-winning national demonstration home; seminars by professional speakers; cooking and health demonstrations; resident art show; and flu shots. Eskaton Village is located at 1040

Unique gifts and local economic stimulus in East Sac

Vote with your checkbook and support the local economy and community by making a conscious decision to start your holiday gift shopping at the 4th Annual St Mary Fine Art & Craft Show, Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Not only will your dollars support a local artist or craftsperson, but shopping locally keeps your dollars in the community because these independent business people spend their dollars in our community as well. And the family members and friends on your gift list will also benefit with a unique gift that you purchased directly from the creator.

This fabulous fundraising event for St. Mary's School will feature 50 artists and contemporary craft vendors exhibiting in Giovanni Hall and the School Gym locat-

ed at 58th and M Streets in Sacramento. Admission is \$3.00 for tickets purchased in advance or \$5.00 at the door.

Shoppers will find ceramics, wearable and decorative fiber arts, specialty food, glass, metalwork, jewelry, painting, fine art photography, watercolors, woodwork and so much more. At the kid's craft area children can create their own art while their parents find unique pieces for every one on their gift list. Delicious and healthy snacks and lunch will be available, too.

"As the show has matured we have been able to attract some amazing local artists. We have a great balance of talented individuals who are excited to show off their products and designs," says Mary Willett, chair of the event.

Cabris Ln., in Roseville. For more information, call (916) 771-5151.

OCTOBER 19

Medical Decisions

Do you know who you want to make medical decisions for you when you can't? Are you facing important decisions about medical care for yourself or loved one? Come to this seminar and learn about communicating important medical decisions from a Compassionate Care Alliance speaker. Cost: Free. When: Monday, October 19 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Where: Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Contact: 808-5462.

OCTOBER 20

Sleep and senior health

On Tuesday, October 20, there will be the Sleep and Senior Health, presented by Steven Brass, M.D., M.P.H. Co-Medical Director of the Sleep Division of UC Davis Health System. Dr. Brass will explain reasons which we sleep, and age-related sleep changes and problems. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Ethel Hart Center, 915 27th Street. (916) 808-5462. Please sign up in advance.

OCTOBER 21

Free real estate seminar

Do you qualify for a loan modification? Visit the seminar held at 6 p.m. and hosted by Cook Realty at 4305 Freeport Blvd. RSVP to Deb Luna or Anthony Carrill at 833-

6266. For more information, visit www.cookrealty.net.

NARFE meeting

The Town & Country Chapter No. 1674 of NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employees) will hold its monthly meeting on Oct 21, at Sam's Hof Brau, 2500 Watt Ave. (cross street El Camino Avenue). Lunch at 11 a.m. Speaker at noon with business meeting to following. For further information, contact Clarence Howard, 972-9348.

Genealogical society meeting

The next meeting for Genealogical Association of Sacramento (G.A.S.) will be held the third Wed October 21 at 1 p.m. in the Belle Cooledge Library 5600 South Land Park Drive Sacramento Our speaker will be Pam Dallas She will present Collateral Research: what your siblings tell you your ancestors won't. Beside being active in the Roseville Genealogical Society she is the Director of the California State Genealogical Alliance as well as Vice President of the Genealogical and Historical Council of the Sacramento Valley.

American River College Orchestra

Don't miss the 60-member symphonic orchestra from American River College as they perform light classics in a warm, intimate atmosphere. All ages are welcome for this informal hour of music. You'll feel as though you are sitting among the musicians. The event will be Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 3344 Mission Ave., Carmichael. The event is free.

OCTOBER 23

Harvest Festival

There will be a Harvest Festival at Matsuyama Elementary School, 7680 Windbridge Dr., from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is free. Guests will enjoy foods, crafts, and entertainment.

OCTOBER 24

Baby fashion show

Baby Oh Baby! Fashion Show, Lyon's Village, 2580 Fair Oaks Blvd., (corner of Fair Oaks and Fulton). 2-4 p.m. call Cottage Affair 480-0971 for info. Arts and Craft vendors will be present with their crafts.

OCTOBER 25

Nor Cal Big Bands Preservation Society will hold its 9th annual Autumn Ball, 1-5 p.m. at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. For ticket information and event info, call Lou Coppola at (916) 444-6138.

OCTOBER 27

Embroiderer's meeting

Embroiderer's Guild of America is 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 27, SMUD Building, 6301 S St. Par Godlove will teach our second annual petite Christmas Stocking. Visitors welcome. (916)961-3558

Governors' Day living history event at the State Capitol Building October 17

Get a glimpse into turn-of-the-20th-Century California living history Saturday, Oct. 17, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the California State Capitol, 10th and L streets.

The California State Capitol will be turned back to the years 1899-1917, when volunteers and staff of the Cap-

itol Museum costumed in the attire of the period portray Governors Henry Gage, George Pardee, James Gillett, and Hiram Johnson and their wives reenacting important events from their administrations. Each of these notable politicians discusses the issues and events that defined his term of office,

such as the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire and the era of the Southern Pacific Railroad abuses.

Guided tours run every 15 minutes from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This glimpse into California history is free for everyone, with special activities for children. For more information, call (916) 324-0333.



Holiday Craft Faire
Saturday, November 7, 2009
9am-3pm
Free Admission!
Door Prizes!
Mission Oaks Community Center
4701 Gibbons Drive
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 972-0336
www.mocpd.com

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Don't let the outside fool you. 4 bedrooms and 3 baths with over 2400sq.ft., including a full basement under garage that would make a great wine cellar or use your imagination to create your own perfect use. Plenty of storage. Large master bedroom & bath with private patio. Designer colors TOO! See www.windermereDunnigan.com \$719,000

LISA HAVARD 698-3323



PENDING!

MINT CONDITION

Rare four bedroom two bath home in mint condition. Remodeled approx 7 years ago includes a beautiful kitchen with granite counters, dual paned windows, new flooring recessed lights, newer roof, two car garage, spacious bedrooms all on a nice tree shaded street. See www.1849-41stSt.com \$339,000

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



CHARMING COTTAGE

3 bed, 2 bath w/master suite - French doors fill this home w/light. Spacious living room - formal dining room features original leaded glass hutch - remodeled kitchen w/granite counters - French doors open to a lovely patio. See www.4127HSt.View24Hours.com \$435,000

CAROLE GOODIN 718-0875



CLASSIC FRENCH NORMANDY ESTATE

Loaded with charm! Breath-taking from the moment you walk into the formal entry w/stunning staircase & beautifully refinished random plank hardwood floors. Large living room w/inviting fireplace & beamed ceiling. Outdoor fireplace & patio. See www.1432-45thStreet.com \$1,199,900

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



A MUST SEE

Impeccably maintained home built in 1946 original owner property. Hardwood floors under carpet have been covered for over 50 years. Newer dual pane windows and central heat/air. This could be the cleanest home around. Pictures don't reflect how this home shines. Come see it in person! See www.1519ChristopherWay.CanBYours.com \$359,000

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6489



OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

This 2 bedroom, 1 bath home is located one block away from East Portal Park. Remodeled kitchen, dual pane windows, inside laundry and detached one car garage. Excellent opportunity for a first time home buyer or investor. See www.5278LStreet.com \$335,000

**KARA LABELLA PARKER 716-3313
LIBBY LABELLA NEIL 539-5881**

DESIRABLE COLLEGE GREENS

3 Bd, 2 Bath w/ open floor plan. Remodeled - feels like a new home - all new roof, paint inside & out, baseboards, carpet & tile. Kitchen features new granite, stainless appliances, sink & garbage disposal. Both baths remodeled. Large Master Ste w/deck overlooks yard w/pool. See www.8159CarribeanWay.com \$309,000

LINDA WOOD 802-8042

YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED

Charming College Greens home with a great room concept and separate living room. 3 bedrooms, including a large master suite. New A/C, dual pane windows thru-out, replaced plumbing w/copper to the street. Great low maintenance backyard that inc. orange, lemon and pomegranate trees. Move in ready. See www.8379MediterraneanWay.com \$310,000

SUE BALDO 541-3706

FABULOUS HOME, FABULOUS STREET!

Beautifully restored 1930's Colo **PENDING!** kitchen w/top of the line appliances (warming oven, 6 burner stove, wine refrigerator, food steamer, sub-zero.) Relax in the beautiful family/theater room wired for audio and HD or in the backyard pool! Loaded w/storage - outside shed, basement & full upstairs attic! See www.1026-43rdStreet.com \$925,000

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495

WONDERFUL CONDO

Wonderful 3brdm Woodside Condo! Freshly painted! New tile floors kitchen and bath. Shows very well!!! No cottage cheese ceilings! 2 covered parking spaces deeded to property. Light and bright!! Beautiful country-club like grounds. 3 pools, tennis courts, clubhouse and more!! See www.661WoodsideSierraLn.com \$239,900

ROSLYN LEVY WEINTRAUB 952-6602



Windermere

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