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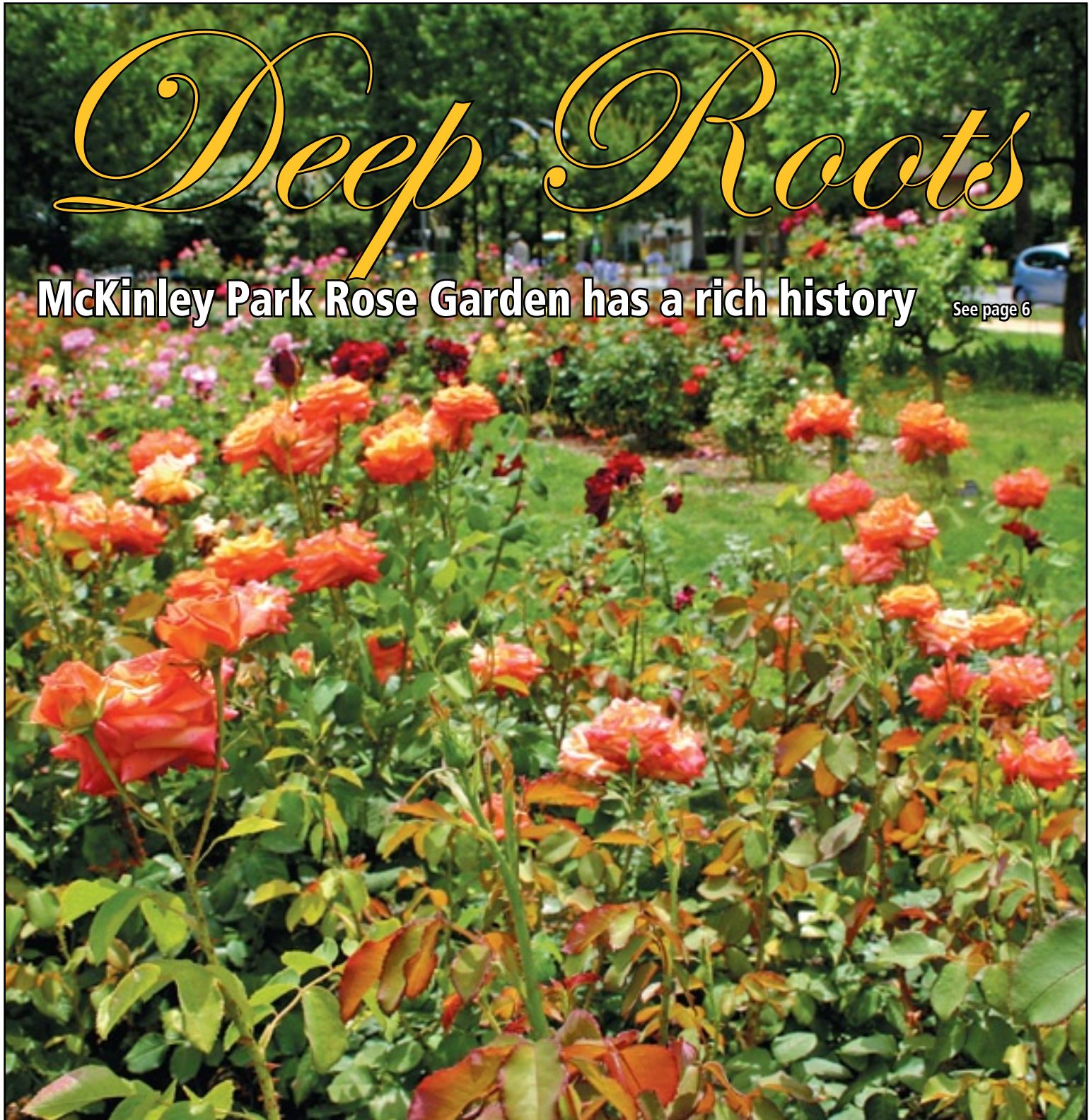
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McKinley Park Rose Garden has a rich history

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Peace Award from Northminster Presbyterian to Cristo Rey teen

Tasvir Singh, a senior at Cristo Rey High School, has been awarded an \$800 grant from Carmichael's Northminster Presbyterian Church in recognition of her efforts to further peace and reconciliation in school, church and community.

While at Cristo Rey High School, which combines a college preparatory education with work-study, Tasvir worked at Sutter General Hospital, maintained a 4.0-plus grade point average for all four years, and was named class valedictorian.

She has been editor of the school paper, a peer tutor in the academic success tutoring program, and played an integral part in the plan-

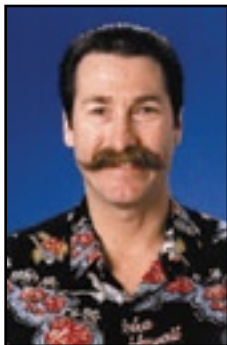
ning, organizing, and participating in the school's Holocaust Remembrance Week. She wishes to become a pharmacist and make a change in the life of others.

Tasvir states that her involvement in the work-study program and the academic success tutoring program "has taught me to appreciate each and every person that I meet, no matter what walk of life he or she may come from. I have learned to look past our differences and more at our similarities, and have realized that I shouldn't be afraid to learn about other cultures because I'm not of that culture, or because I don't want to look out of my element. I have learned to strive to learn more about cultures and rac-



es different from my own because this is what brings us together, and that is precisely what can help us prevent future injustice."

She will enter the pre-pharmacy program at the University of the Pacific in the fall.



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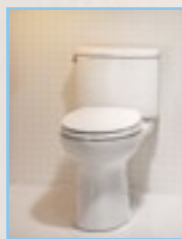
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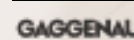
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Thank you, loyal readers: ValComNews editor makes exit

By RYAN ROSE
East Sacramento News Editor
ryanrose@valcomnews.com

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my departure from the Valley Community Newspaper group. It has been my honor and sincere pleasure covering our community for the past 18 months. Being the editor of such a beloved newspaper has been such a splendid privilege.

When I arrived at the newspaper last year, I was quick to set a personal tone in our reporting style. Our papers have increased coverage of those unique events and special individuals that make our communities so great. With your help, reader, we have grown this paper, helping to make it the authority when it comes to local news and features.

Now, as I move on to a new career, I know I leave this paper in good hands: your hands. This newspaper is, as always, eager to hear from you about the direction of our newspaper. Have a story suggestion? Give us a call. Have a news tip? Write us an e-mail. Want to chat about local events?

Then stop by anytime. The Valley Community Newspaper offices are located at 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818. Our phone number is (916) 429-9901 and our new editor, Susan Laird, can be reached at susan@valcomnews.com.

I am so happy to introduce our new editor. Susan is the past news editor of Life Newspapers, and has been a contributing writer to Valley Community Newspapers for the past year. She is a talented writer and a brilliant editor. Yet her greatest skill is not in her abilities as a reporter, but in her gifts as a listener. I encourage you to share your stories with Susan as you have shared your news with me. Her professionalism and experience is matched only by her warm hospitality and sincere generosity.

On a final note, I must say that leaving this newspaper is one of the hardest career shifts of my professional life. You, our reader, have made me feel so welcomed. Thank you – thank you for reading, thank you for writing, thank you for inviting our paper into your homes and businesses. It's a special thing, writing local news



Ryan Rose

– you can't help but become closely connected to the community. Thank you all for being such good neighbors and friends. Farewell and good reading.

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Big Value: California State Fair hopes discounts will woo families

By SUSAN LAIRD
East Sacramento News Writer
susan@valcomnews.com

Had a craving for food on a stick lately? Or have you wanted to take the kids to the State Fair, but just never found the time because of school activities? On a budget?

The 2010 California State Fair at Cal Expo is taking all of those challenges into consideration, and is taking an unprecedented step: it is opening a month early, with discounts on admission, specials on rides and reduced food prices.

Opening day at the fair is July 14, and the fair will run through Aug. 1.

Fair officials hope that this change in date will help families to re-establish the tradition of going to the fair together before the start of the school year. Fair attendance has been down significantly – some 45 percent – since 2002. Most of the decline was attributed to families being unable to attend the fair, due to earlier and earlier starts to the school year in California school districts. Gone are the days – for most – of school starting the day after Labor Day.

Ticket prices slashed

Pre-sale admission to the fair and its attractions has been slashed from 13 to 87 percent, depending on what packages are purchased. Discounts are available until July 13. Then, regular admission rates will apply.

A pre-sale “Poppy Pack” includes admission for four, tickets for four rides and one parking pass. It retails for \$39.95, a savings of 43 percent. Poppy Packs are available online at bigfun.org. They are not available at the gate.

The best buy for fair lovers is the State Fair Season Pass, which is discounted 87 percent to \$29.99 per person. The season pass is a new creation, and includes admission to Raging Waters during the run of the fair.

Those who love the rides on the Midway can purchase an Unlimited Rides Wristband that is valid on most rides for \$28, a pre-fair savings of 20 percent.

Pre-sale discounts on general admission for youth (\$6), seniors (\$8) and adults (\$10) are good until the day before the fair. On opening day, admission will go up an ad-



Poppy the Bear is the mascot of the California State Fair, and is a big hit with children of all ages.

Photo courtesy of California State Fair

ditional \$2 for all categories.

Tickets can be purchased at www.bigfun.org.

Read 2 Ride

Kids in the eighth grade and younger who read two books and fill out an online form (available at tinyurl.com/2f7phcu) will receive tickets for two free rides at the fair. Children should bring their complet-

ed forms to the main gate. Avid readers will want to know that they can only redeem one form per day.

Cheap(er) eats

Here's news: all food at the State Fair will be 25 percent less than last summer. This should make the decision-making easier for those who can't decide between choosing a traditional corndog or a deep-fried Twinkie on a stick. Families on a budget may be able to treat the kids a little more easily, too.

Scaly things are cool

Reptiles are definitely “in” at the State Fair this year, as two new exhibits are unveiled: a “Days of the Dinosaur Exhibit” and an all-new “Jungle and Reptile Adventure.”

These exhibits are family-friendly, fun and educational.

The indoor dinosaur exhibit is impressive – it will feature more than a dozen life-sized dinosaur robots. There will be skeleton replicas, hands-on activities and more. For a preview of the exhibit, visit YouTube at tinyurl.com/2aryv23. Admission to this amazing exhibit is free to fair visitors – a great value by itself alone.

The outdoor “Jungle and Reptile Adventure” will be located in the Floriculture tent. It will feature a

See State Fair, page 5

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State Fair: Dinos and Dachshunds are 'Big Fun'

Continued from page 4

variety of birds, amphibians and reptiles – including colonies of alligators and large tortoises.

Big Fun

The standard favorites are all there for those who love the fair: the agricultural exhibits, the farm animals, the racing horses and dachshunds, the arts and cultural exhibits, the rides on the Midway, the contests of skill, the vendors hawking amazing products and more. It may be wild, wacky and fun...but that's what summer fairs and family outings are for. This summer's California State Fair promises to make some wonderful memories. And that's priceless.



Photo courtesy of California State Fair
Kids and critters: The California State Fair highlights the state's number one industry: agriculture. Young people who are involved in programs such as 4-H and Future Farmers of America will show the animals they have raised this year at the fair.

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Monday - Thursday: Noon to 10 p.m.

Friday - Sunday: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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Youth (ages 5-12): \$8

Child (ages 0-4): Free

Janey Way Memories



Old Joe on Janey Way



By **MARTY RELLES**

East Sacramento News Columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

Old Joe lived across from our house on Janey Way. His house sat between the Ducray house on the south and the Thomsen house on the north. A short wire fence separated his house from the Ducray home, but only frontage separated his home and the Thomsen house. I guess that is why Gene Thomsen, his neighbor and a very nice man, always went out of his way to keep peace with old Joe.

Even though he had two daughters of his own, Joe's relationship with the children of Janey Way was not good. Joe had a manicured front lawn with carefully maintained flowerbeds. He did not want the Janey Way children anywhere near his landscape. Naturally we had different ideas. We played football in the street in front of Joe's house. Sometimes the ball found its way onto the property. When that happened, we walked onto his lawn to retrieve the ball. That agitated him. At first, he just yelled at us. Subsequently, he stood guard on his porch when we played. If the ball landed on his lawn, he tried to confiscate it. However, we always beat him to the ball, which made him even angrier.

To make matters worse, we played tricks like doorbell ditch on Joe. That is where we snuck up to his house, rang his doorbell, then ran away and hid. When he answered his door and found no one there, he sensed foul play and made a big fuss. We loved this and over time continued to do it.

I recall many confrontations with old Joe, but one in particular stands out in my memory. One summer day we had played poker at the Ducray house. When the game ended, we piled out onto the street. We eventually sat down under a tree in front of Dan Rosenblatt's house. Soon Joe came out on his front porch and stared at us. Then, Dave Jurin stood up and began running a comb through his hair. As Joe was bald, he took this as an insult and began grumbling at Dave. Dave continued to comb his hair. Finally, in disgust, Joe yelled, "Jurin, you the bastard always." We soon bored of the confrontation and went off in different directions.

On another day, Joe became angry with my brother Terry and me and walked across the street to confront my dad, a Sacramento city policeman. After Joe finished complaining, my dad responded, "Joe, I know my boys are no angels, but they are not bad kids either. You should just ignore them." So, unsuccessful in his effort to get us in trouble, Joe walked back across the street with his head down.

Toward the end of the 1960s, Joe became ill with cancer and soon died. When he passed, our parents all expressed sincere condolences to his wife. We in turn comforted his daughters. By that time, we had all grown up and our confrontations with Joe had long since cooled off. I often wonder if Joe ever looks down from the heavens and wonders where all the Janey Way gang has gone.

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McKinley Park Rose Garden a cherished community landmark

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

Although not as old as the park itself, the renowned rose garden at McKinley Park has a very rich history.

The roots of the McKinley Park that people know today date back to 1871, when the park opened as the privately-owned East Park — a name given to it for its location in the then undeveloped area, just east of city limits.

East Park, which was purchased by the city in 1902, was renamed in honor of President William McKinley, who was assassinated on Sept. 14, 1901.

The park has undergone a wide variety of transitions during its history, including the initial development of the current garden site in the spring of 1928.

The idea of establishing beds of flowers in the park was presented as early as 1906 by Mrs. J. Henry Miller, who was known as “the mother of McKinley Park.”

According to an article in *The Sacramento Union*, Miller,

who raised private funds and managed the park from 1902 to 1908, proposed such a floral site in February 1906, in order to assist in making the park a beautiful site that the people of Sacramento would be proud to call their own.

Around this time, the park had a much different appearance, as is indicative by a 1908 report presented to the city by Charles Mulford Robinson, a nationally-renowned city planner.

In the report, Robinson described the park as “very incompletely and poorly developed.”

The park, however, experienced many improvements in a short period of time, leading to a circa 1914 city guide to celebrate the site as a “delightfully refreshing and attractive spot” with such amenities as a clubhouse, a “pretty lake with boats,” tennis courts and a baseball and football field.

By early 1929, under the direction of Frederick N. Evans, the city’s first parks superintendent, work began on improvements to the garden.



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

Carmichael resident Ellie Longanecker founded the Friends of McKinley Park Rose Garden, a non-profit organization, with other Sacramento Rose Society members in 2009.

The project, which was noted by *The Sacramento Bee* in January 1929 to be part of Evans’ drive to “make the garden a showplace of the city park system,” included adding to the gardens’ rose bush collection and the labeling of plants in English and Latin for the benefit of the park’s visitors.

In November 1929, *The Bee* reported that Evans announced that a complete revision of the park’s garden would be made.

Prior to this time, the garden, which then included an under construction pool at its

center, had been established with no particular planting plans.

Evans, however, presented a plan to have the garden rearranged into definite patterns.

Additionally, all rose varieties would be labeled, rose arches around the garden’s edges would be placed in order and the pool would be completed and would include goldfish and aquatic plants.

The Bee reported that it was Evans’ intention to have the garden created as an educational garden “where Sacramentans inter-

ested in flowers and plants may come and study their culture.”

On Dec. 13, 1946, the garden was named after Evans, who was also an original member of the Sacramento Rose Society. The society was founded on June 27, 1940.

The society, which meets on the second Thursday of each month, with the exception of July and August, at the park’s Shepard Garden and Arts Center at 7:30 p.m., has for many years assisted the

See Rose Garden, page 7

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Rose Garden: 'Upgrades, volunteers are needed'

Continued from page 6

garden by providing winter-pruning of its roses.

Adena Kalal, a past president of the Sacramento Rose Society, said that the society has been very dedicated to the garden through other activities such as donating roses and giving additional care and advice regarding the roses.

"(The society) has had a very good relationship with the garden," said Kalal, who joined the society about 25 years ago.

The well-known garden, which grew from its initial 400 rose plants to about 944 rose plants in 1940 to more than 1,200 rose plants today, is a popular site for daily visitors and weddings. The McKinley Park Rose Garden is one of only 130 All-American Rose Selection display gardens.

Kalal said that throughout the years, the garden has survived through the efforts of park superintendents and many volunteers, as well as more recent work performed by Sacramento County Sheriff's Department work release crews.

"The parks superintendents have always tried to do their best," Kalal said. "They have been restricted money-wise from doing things and sometimes it has been really difficult for them to do what they would really like to do, because there either wasn't money or manpower. I don't really fault the staff for the condition (of the garden). But like any other garden, it does need to be improved and upgraded from time to time and I think that's where the garden stands at this point."

Sacramento Rose Society volunteers, led by soci-

ety member Ellie Longanecker, founded the Friends of McKinley Park Rose Garden non-profit organization. The purpose of the organization is to assist attempts to upgrade the popular, 1.5-acre garden.

An informational Friends' handout describes the garden as needing volunteers for planting, pruning and feeding, a new irrigation system and Americans with Disabilities Act updates.

Kent Duncan, the society's president, said that the city has committed to funding both the irrigation system and the ADA-compliant upgrades to the garden's walkways by 2012.

"About eight months ago, the city committed to making these improvements and we are excited about this commitment, because without these upgrades the garden will never reach the potential that it has," Duncan said.

In the meantime, however, more volunteers are being sought for watering, weeding and deadheading in the garden. Deadheading is the simple process of trimming the spent blossoms, which encourages new blooms.

From now through late October, the rose garden needs deadheading on a regular basis.

Watering by volunteers at the garden includes hand-watering some of the newer roses that have a greater water requirement until their roots expand and hand-watering some of the areas, where the old irrigation system is broken.

Loganecker, who resides in Carmichael, said that there are various benefits to volunteering at the park's rose garden.

"Volunteers are needed and appreciated," Longanecker said. "Not only can you sharpen your gardening skills, but you can feel really good about working in such a beautiful park and contributing to make Sacramento a more beautiful community."

Longanecker added that she is very appreciative of the many people who have assisted the garden in its recent years.

These people, Longanecker said, include Duncan, Jason Davis, Barbara Lane-Piert, Joanna Boettcher, Charlotte Owendyk, Linda Knowles and Park Supervisor Tiger Badhan from the Sacramento Rose Society, and volunteers of the Friends of McKinley Park Rose Garden for their continued support in volunteering to care for the rose garden.

Longanecker said that she also appreciates the contributions of about 400 new roses by Star Roses, Weeks Roses and members of the Sacramento Rose Society.

The Sacramento Rose Society also contributed to the garden by donating all of its 2009 fundraising revenue for the purchase of roses, fertilizer and materials.

Those who are interested in assisting with the current volunteering efforts at the park or are interested in providing monetary donations to upgrade this longtime popular, local garden and to help make it a "world-class rose garden," can call Jason Davis at (916) 721-0377 or Kent Duncan at (916) 408-3455 or visit www.sactorose.org or www.facebook.com (Friends of McKinley Park Rose Garden page).

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Tower Records founder Russ Solomon to be honored at new Dimple Records Land Park location July 17

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

Land Park and other city residents have been noticing something quite different about the corner of 16th Street and Broadway lately, as the upper, front portion of a certain very famous record store building has for the first time in 45 years been painted something other than a combination of yellow and red.

As signs of an end and a beginning, the building, which once housed a landmark location of Russ Solomon's legendary Sacramento-based business, Tower Records, and until recently, his later business, R5 Records, is being replaced by another well-known Sacramento area-based business, Dimple Records.

On the last day of R5 Records' existence last month, Solomon was present to see the closure of the store, which marked the end of an era for his nearly 70 years in the recorded music selling business. Solomon started out in the record-selling business by offering 78 rpm records for sale in his father's drugstore in the Tower Theatre building.

Also present on R5 Records' last day was John Radakovitz, who is very well acquainted with Solomon.

Blending two brands

In late 1965, as Solomon was expanding Tower Records, which relocated from the Tower Theatre building to its longtime 16th Street and Broadway location and even-

tually became an international success, Radakovitz was supplying records through the Pasadena-based wholesale/retail record business, Canterbury Records, which had established a northern branch store managed by Robert Garcia at 1715 Arden Way in the then-less than a decade-old Arden Fair Mall.

As a record distributor at the time, Radakovitz, 65, said that among the many places where he delivered records was Tower Records stores.

Since this time, both Solomon and Radakovitz had continued to work in the recorded music-selling business, with the exception of the past month, since Solomon closed R5 Records.

Radakovitz's longtime connection to Solomon



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong
Dimple Records owner John Radakovitz shows off his business's newest store site at 16th Street and Broadway.

was far from the only reason that he paid a visit to the store on its closing day.

Instead, as the owner of Dimple Records, Ra-

dakovitz was stopping by the store due his personal connection to the building, which would become

See Dimple, page 9

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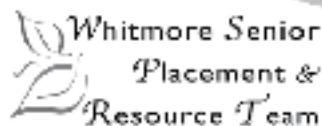
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Dimple: 'Wear something cool and come on down and see what's happening'

Continued from page 8

home to his seventh store in the greater Sacramento area.

Radakovitz's road to owning these stores began with his three-year involvement with Canterbury Records.

Following his time with Canterbury Records, Radakovitz was hired as a distributor by the Emeryville-based wholesale record business, Pic-A-Tune, to work at the company's Del Paso Boulevard store.

Around the time when Pic-A-Tune was purchased by United Artists in 1974, Radakovitz began his own wholesale record company, called River City Record Distributors, and his own retail store, called Cordova Records. Both operations were located in Rancho Cordova.

After only a year of operating his Rancho Cordova businesses, Radakovitz ended these endeavors and moved to Roseville, where he opened the first of his Dimple stores at 1701 Santa Clara Drive, off Douglas Boulevard.

After about 18 years of heading the Roseville store, Ra-

dakovitz expanded his business to include a second store at 313 E. Bidwell St. in Folsom, a third store at 2433 Arden Way in about 1996 and a fourth store at 6099 San Juan Avenue in Citrus Heights about two years later.

Dimple also opened a store at 9692 Elk Grove-Florin Road in Elk Grove in about 2005 and following the late 2006 closure of Tower stores, Radakovitz closed the San Juan Avenue Dimple store and in March 2007 opened a store in the old Tower Records building at 7830 Macy Plaza Drive in Citrus Heights.

Dimple – a name given to the store by Radakovitz because music brings smiles to the faces of many people – also opened a store in another old Tower Records site at 212 F St. in Davis in the summer of 2007.

History in Land Park

Radakovitz, whose wife Dilyn and sons Ollie and Andrew also work for Dimple, said that acquiring the Land Park store was in a way a fulfillment of a personal dream.

"I kind of always wanted this store," Radakovitz said. "I would have preferred this store more than probably any of them, just because of where it's located."

And because of the Land Park store's location in a historical sense, Radakovitz said that he felt that the store's opening, which will be held on July 17 from noon to 4 p.m., presented the perfect opportunity to honor Solomon.

"I thought that it would be kind of a nice event for Russ to say somewhat of a farewell to the community, at least in regards to music," Radakovitz said. "There are going to be a whole lot of former Tower people (present) on that day (and) there will be a lot of record company executives. It's not so much as a Dimple grand opening, although we will open our doors and we're not going to turn down anyone who wants to buy something, but we're going to dedicate this location to Russ in that our plans are to unveil a painting of him, which will be permanently placed prominently in the store with

a plaque (which will include such wording as) '1941 to 2010, this site dedicated to the founder of Tower (Records).'"

The event, which will be emceed by longtime rock music fan and radio announcer Dennis Newhall, will also include a food vendor, a large cake, live music by the Bath-tub Gins from noon to 3 p.m. and an appearance by Solomon from 1 to 3 p.m., during which time Radakovitz will play his guitar and sing a country music-style song about Solomon that he wrote.

When asked if he would give a sneak preview to the song's lyrics, Radakovitz provided the following words: "I've sold records for most of my life, didn't even have to think twice. There was music and I sold it everywhere. Now I'm listening, not selling, that music so dear."

Humbly commenting about his own upcoming celebration at the store, Solomon, who will turn 86 in about two months, said, "It's a little much I think, but it's fine and any-

thing I can do to help (Dimple) open up is great with me. I think they're really nice people and I'm very happy that they are taking over the store down there."

Since the Solomon-honoring event will mark only a soft opening for Dimple's Land Park store, Radakovitz said that the store will also hold a separate grand opening at a later time.

But in the meantime, the store will begin its venture in the old 16th Street and Broadway Tower Records site, as it honors Solomon on this special day.

In being that Solomon brought so many "dimples" to local music lovers through his record stores, Radakovitz encourages the community to pay tribute to a man who is considered by many to be an icon of the capital city.

"Wear something cool and come on down and see what's happening on this fun day," Radakovitz said. "Everybody's welcome, so hear some music and have a good time while we honor Russ, the father of retail music – that's what I call him!"

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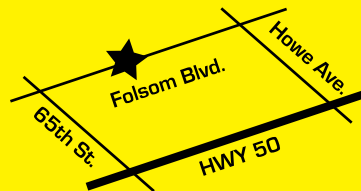
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Effie Yeaw Nature Center finds new caretakers

American River Natural History Association to run 'gem of Carmichael'

By PETER HAYES

Associate ARNHA Board Member
Special to the East Sacramento News

American River Natural History Association members will soon kick off a spirited new fundraising campaign to invigorate their takeover of the beloved Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Meanwhile, newly elected members of ARNHA's Effie Yeaw Nature Center Advisory Committee pressed negotiations with county parks officials on a long-term lease to operate the center and its 78-acre preserve after it was formally cut loose July 3. Sacramento County, facing a budget crisis, had requested proposals from nonprofit groups to run the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, located at 2850 San Lorenzo Way in Carmichael, and only ARNHA stepped up to prevent the 34-year-old center from closing.

ARNHA's proposed 2010-11 budget for EYNC listed anticipated expenditures at \$307,000 including costs for 7.25 fulltime-equivalent employees. Revenue to balance expenses will be an ongoing endeavor from now

on. ARNHA normally has given between \$40,000 and \$60,000 annually back to the county, and President Larry Washington made it clear that, while no longer giving to the county, ARNHA must embark on an accelerated fundraising campaign to significantly augment that amount in order to sustain and improve the center's programs.

The question of funding is central to ongoing negotiations between the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Advisory Committee and Sacramento County for a long-term lease, but parks officials have ruled out any help.

ARNHA past president Greg Voelm, who led the ARNHA effort to win county support of ARNHA operation of the nature center, indicated in a June 29 article in the Sacramento Bee that at this point its only offer is nothing at all. It is possible that an appeal directly to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors could result in some transitional funding.

Negotiating for ARNHA with the county are the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Advisory Committee's Chair, Greg



East Sacramento News Photo/Lance Armstrong

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center is located on the same site that former Kindergarten teacher Effie Yeaw took her students to learn about local, cultural and natural history during the 1950s and 1960s. Due to Sacramento County budget cuts, the American River Natural History Association will now operate the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Voelm, members Carol Doersch, Noah Baygell, Betsy Weiland, and Lou Heinrich. Also representing ARNHA is newly-designated Nature Center Executive Director Marilee Flannery, who has served as the director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center

under county management. Other Advisory Committee members are David Wade and Liz Williamson.

The committee was nominated by ARNHA past president Carol Doersch, who authored most of the 15-page ARNHA proposal

to the county, during a talk concerning the new operation of the Nature Center at the June 23 meeting of the ARNHA Board. Doersch said the committee would play a "collegial" role, reporting to and requesting major funding from the ARNHA Board of Directors to operate the center, and have "a close and supportive relationship with the executive director."

"It will develop, in cooperation with staff, policies that will further enhance the image of ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center as a competent, well-run organization – that maintains a unique sense of joy and camaraderie in our work together," she added.

Doersch also told the board that ARNHA was seeking help from three other nonprofits, the American River Parkway Foundation, the Sacramento County Office of Education, and the Discovery Museum, to help support the operations of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

"We hope they will work with us in an advisory capacity and eventually in mutually beneficial programs and financial ventures," she said.

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Dachshunds will have their day at California State Fair

By Maxwell von Crumpmeister
Guest Canine Columnist

Eleven years ago, the California State Fair started up a new event, called the Dachshund Derby. The purpose of this event is to provide humans with great entertainment and to highlight the fact that we dachshunds don't think we are big dogs...we know we are big dogs.

My human mom, Susan, asked me to write this article, because I have first-hand knowledge of the Dachshund Derby – even if this keyboard is a challenge for my tiny paws.

I ran in the Dachshund Derby every year for the last six years. I loved my racing career. Even though I am retired now (by something my humans call "mild arthritis"), I never tire of the sights and sounds of the racetrack at Cal Expo. There is something thrilling about the thunder of tiny paws, the cheer of the crowd and the T-R-E-A-T-S at the finish line.

Sixty-four wiener dogs of every shape – well, every long and short shape – and size will run in eight races on Saturday,

July 17 at the fair's Miller Lite Grandstand, starting just before 2 p.m.

The races are run "smallest to largest." So, the smallest mini dachshunds will run in the first race. The second through the seventh races will run dogs from mini to "schmini" to standard dachshund size, right up until the eighth race, when the largest dogs will run.

After all eight "heats" are run, the winners from each heat will compete in the final race, the Grand Championship.

Between each dachshund race, the fair will run thoroughbred horse races. I think it is funny seeing a human riding on a horse's back, going fast.

Speaking of fast, dachshund racing is all about fast. And focus. I've seen many a race lost by a nose distracted by the scent of food on a stick. Hey, we're hounds after all.

My friend, Frank, won the Grand Championship three years ago. He has finished first in his "heat" for the last five years. We raced in the championship together, and let me tell you, I've never seen a more focused dog. Frank lives with his mom, Heidi Clark. Frank is nearly blind. When I asked him his se-

cret, he told me, "Experience, my friend. And use your nose. My human has bacon in her pocket. Works for me."

I admit, running a straight line to my Dad was a challenge for me. The first year I was in the Derby, I ran around the starting box to my human sister. After all, good dogs aren't supposed to run away from their humans, are they?

I realized that there was a human family member across the field at that thing called "the finish line" the next year. Even though I was the last dog in my heat, my family made a great fuss over me. All for going over a ribbon. Imagine.


The third year, I knew my job. I ran like the wind, my tiny ears bobbing in the breeze, my athletic little body flexing like a greyhound. I focused on Dad and the bell he was ringing. I was running in second to Downtown Beans, when Beans suddenly became distracted by a cameraman...and veered off course. To my great astonishment, I won my heat – and \$25. You can see my big moment at tinyurl.com/nbv-3vo.

Frank blew all the other dogs away that year, with his keen nose and twinkling toes. Truly, the Fastest Wiener in the West.

Dachshunds are wonderful, but to be just, all dogs are great dogs. The California State Fair knows this. That's why the fair is once again partnering with Blue Buffalo Foundation for Cancer Research as the 11th annual Dachshund Derby's signature charity. Cancer is seen in about 1,100 of every 100,000 dogs who get regular checkups by a veterinarian. Cures for canine cancer may eventually lead to cures for humans, too.


We dachshunds think this help to the canine kingdom is much needed, so we encourage dog lovers everywhere to come to the races. Purchase an "I picked a Wiener" blue ribbon at the races for \$1 and support the cause.

There will be lots of dog lovers on hand at the fair on July 17 at 1:30 p.m., and it's really a lot of fun. So come to the fair and cheer your favorite canines on. You know you want to.



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CALENDAR

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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 susan@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.

JULY

Latino Dance and Culture Group

Come dance to the beat of all types of Latin music on July 13 and July 20. Featuring DJ music and delicious Mexican food. Donations of \$3 or more to enter. Held at the Ethel Hart Community Center, 915 27th St., from 6:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call Barbara Alarcon at (916) 400-4514 for more information.

JULY 17

Bee Workshop

Come hear the "buzz" about native bees and their place in the urban landscape on July 17, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. Join bee experts to identify and learn about bees at the beautiful Hamilton Square Garden in the cemetery. Park across the street from the cemetery on Broadway and walk due south. There is no charge, but donations toward the beautification of the cemetery are appreciated. Call 916-455-8166 for more information.

Baseball and beer tour

Sacramento's love affair with America's favorite past-time traces its roots to the early days of the city. Find out how it all began on this Saturday morning tour at the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery! 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. Held under the auspices of the City of Sacramento Division of History & Science, the Old City

Cemetery Committee, Inc. presents this tour as a public service. For tour information please call (916) 448-0811. Tours are free though donations for the restoration of the cemetery are greatly needed and appreciated.

Free E-waste drive

Looking for a way to get rid of all that outdated equipment piling up around the house at no cost to you? Northminster Presbyterian Church, located at 3235 Pope Avenue, offers one an opportunity to do so in its fundraising drive (to update its computer equipment). The drive will be on Saturday, July 17, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Items can be dropped off easily at the church. Please call if you need an item picked up. For further information call 487-5192.

JULY 21

Genealogy Brick Walls

Root Cellar-Sacramento Genealogical Society workshop - July 21, 2010. Do you have a Brick Wall in your family research? Come share it with other researchers to get suggestions that will help bring new life to your search. Host: John Jay. Merrill Gardens (Garden Square Room), 7418 Stock Ranch Road, Citrus Heights, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.. Sign-in at front desk, get a guest badge, sign out when you leave. Free, everyone welcome. Contact John Jay (916) 331-0963, jksljay@sbcglobal.net, or www.rootcellar.org.

JULY 24

E-waste collection

Free E-waste collection fundraiser for the Drowning Accident Rescue Team (DART), Saturday, July 24, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at 1601 Garden Highway, near Chevy's and Virgin Sturgeon. For more information, call (916) 806-0118.

JULY 25

2010 Pear Fair

Always the last Sunday in July, the 38th annual Pear Fair will be Sunday, July 25, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Sacramento River Delta town of Courtland, located just 20 minutes south of Sacramento, off Highway 160. Last year, the fair drew in more than 7,000 people. Make sure and arrive early to enjoy all the festivities. For more information, visit www.pearfair.com.

Todd Morgan and the Emblems

Todd Morgan and the Emblems are performing in the Carmichael Concerts in the Park series, July 25, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Carmichael Park Bandshell, located the corner of Grant Avenue and Fair Oaks Boulevard. This is a free event.

JULY 31

Alzheimer seminar

Chinese Community Church will host a seminar on Alzheimer. Saturday July 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Our address is 5600 Gilgunn Way, 95822 located on Fruitridge Road between Freeport Blvd and South

Land Park Dr. Everyone is welcomed. Free. For more information contact 424-8900.

AUGUST

Art show

"Pin-ups", Sacramento Fine Arts Center, August 3-14. The "Pin-ups" Show is where you will find gems of original artwork in a huge selection of unframed work pinned to the Sacramento Fine Arts Center walls. Also showing in our second gallery is the "Docents Art Show". Docents of the Sacramento Fine Arts Center get to show their stuff at this annual show honoring them. You will find award winning art by our talented docents at this all media show. 5330

B Gibbons Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608 Gallery Hours, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturday. For more info www.SacFineArts.org.

Dine for Shrine

What it is: Dine for Shrine exists as a fundraising campaign for Shriners Hospitals for Children in the Sacramento and greater Northern California region. The campaign invites patrons, benefactors, and philanthropists alike to join in to support and generate awareness around the noble services of Shriners Hospitals for Children. Dates of event: August 2, 2010 - August 6, 2010 How people can get involved: Simply bring in a Dine for Shrine flyer to any of the participating restaurants and

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JULY 27: UP

AUG 10: BEDTIME STORIES

AUG 24: FACING THE GIANTS



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CALENDAR

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enjoy a night of fine dining while helping Shriners Hospital for Children*. Flyers and a list of participating restaurants are available at www.dineforshrine.com. For more information: Call Mike Nguyentat at 916-947-2119, e-mail fundraising@dineforshrine.com, or visit www.dineforshrine.com

"Three Wine Company" will pour wine during hors d'oeuvres, to be followed by lunch (choice of Chicken and Spinach Crepes or Grilled Chicken and Nectarine Salad) and dessert Heavenly Raspberry Torte -- \$20 per person, including tax and gratuity. Reservations a must -- call (916) 452-2809. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The next workday is Saturday, August 7, 2010. Bring work gloves, hand pruners and your lunch. Come join with other volunteers to keep the garden beautiful all year. Next workdays in 2010 are 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/4. The Jensen Garden is located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. For more info: Tracy Kerth (916) 485-5322 ex23 or email tracy@carmichaelpark.com.

– call (916) 452-2809. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

gested at the door, or \$25 in advance to the church, reserved seat Patrons. Info at 916-455-0643 or www.allsaintssacramento.org.

AUGUST 3

Casa Garden Restaurant

Tuesday, August 3: 11:30 a.m. wine social featuring "Three Wine Company" at the Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road.

AUGUST 7

Jensen Garden workdays

Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden hold garden workdays one Saturday of every month

AUGUST 10

Casa Garden Restaurant

Tuesday, August 10: The VoCALs' musical presentation of "Malt Shop Melodies 2" at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. seatings at Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road. Entrée choices: BBQ Beef Brisket with Garlic Roasted Potatoes or Grilled Chicken and Nectarine Salad; dessert Belgian Cream Cake -- \$20 per person, including tax and gratuity. First-come, first served group reservations by one person, one check. Reservations a must

AUGUST 15

St. Mary's Church 79th Annual Festival

Come join the fun August 15, 2010 at St. Mary's Church (1333 58th Street Sac, CA 95819). Our Annual Festival operates from 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. and has something for everyone. Water play & Bounce houses, games & prizes for the kids, Bingo for all and Great food & drinks. Join us in fellowship and fun! All are welcome.

AUGUST 22

Harpisichord Recital

Harpisichord Recital is 5 p.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 2076 Sutterville Rd. Fundraiser for Concert Series. \$10 sug-

AUGUST 28

Kitten adopt-a-thon

It's "kitten season" — and Happy Tails Pet Sanctuary is partnering with Extra Space Storage to find loving, permanent homes for Sacramento's homeless kittens. The "Kitten adopt-a-thon" runs from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Extra Space Storage, 3000 B St. For more information, please visit www.happy-tails.org.

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JUNE						
		TAC	TAC	TAC	TAC	FRES
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
FRES	FRES	FRES		POR	POR	POR
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
POR	RENO	RENO	RENO	RENO	SL	SL
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
SL	SL	LV	LV	LV	LV	TAC
27	28	29	30			
TAC	TAC	TAC				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
JULY						
				FRES	FRES	FRES
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
RENO	RENO	RENO	RENO	POR	POR	POR
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
POR	ALL-STAR BREAK			SL	SL	SL
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
SL	COL	COL	COL	COL	TAC	TAC
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
TAC	TAC	COL	COL	COL	COL	LV
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
AUG/SEPT						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
LV	LV	LV	ALB	ALB	ALB	ALB
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
RR	RR	RR	RR		OMA	OMA
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
OMA	OMA	IOWA	IOWA	IOWA	IOWA	SL
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
SL	SL	SL	FRES	FRES	FRES	FRES
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
FRES	LV	LV	LV	COL	COL	COL
5	6					
COL	COL					

ALB Albuquerque Isotopes OMA Omaha Royals ■ HOME GAME

COL Colorado Springs Sky Sox POR Portland Beavers ■ AWAY GAME

FRES Fresno Grizzlies RENO Reno Aces ■ OFF DAY

IOWA Iowa Cubs RR Round Rock Express

LV Las Vegas 51s SL Salt Lake Bees

MEM Memphis Redbirds TAC Tacoma Rainiers

NASH Nashville Sounds

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38th Annual Courtland Pear Fair

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Mariachi Los Gallos - 4:00 - 6:00pm

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"photo courtesy of Patty Colmer"

Faces and places
Scenes of Fourth of July in East Sacramento

Photos by Noah Winn



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BILL HAMBRICK 600-6528



CUSTOM HALF PLEX

Custom Half Plex in Riverlake Dutra Bends upscale neighborhood. Walking distance to the Sacramento River, walk/jog walkway, Marriott Park, Garcia Bend Park & boat launch. Plantation shutters, gas log fireplace. Hardwood floors in kit & breakfast area. 1 bedroom & full bath downstairs. Newer tile type roof. Inviting pool & spa in backyard. See www.7706RioBarcoWay.com \$299,000

CONNIE LANDSBERG 761-0411



RIVERLAKE HALF PLEX

Sparkling half plex home in private gated Bridgview in Riverlake. Lake access w/picnic tables & boat dock. 3 master suites. One bed & full bath downstairs. New carpet & fresh interior paint. Newer tile type roof. See www.7724BellBridgeway.com \$299,000

CONNIE LANDSBERG 761-0411



CLASSIC RANCH

On a nice tree shaded street w/in blocks of Land Park, Crocker Elem, Vic's Ice Cream. From the beautiful hdwd floors, designer colors, cozy LR fireplace & spacious master suite, this home has been meticulously cared for. Cool off in the blt-in pool. Energy efficient features include newer dual pane windows, ceiling fans, new dishwasher drawers & other kit appliances. See www.937RobertsonWay.com \$439,900

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



BACKS TO SACRAMENTO RIVER

Quality Harris built home in quiet, highly desired location. 4 bed single story w/remote bedroom. Dual pane windows, large peaceful private yard. Sale includes two parcels (.47 acres for both parcels). Some neighbors built boat docks within the last few yrs on the levy parcel. Buyer to consult w/city re-permit process & availability. Rare opportunity to own on the river. See www.715ClipperWay.com \$317,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555

POCKET

Absolutely charming home near the river in the highly desired Pocket neighborhood. Remodeled kitchen with gorgeous granite, newer appliances & floors. Beautiful tile floors and designer carpet. Wonderful interior paint colors. Roof, dishwasher, microwave, disposal, paint in/out & carpet in 2005. This is a wonderful home! Please stop by to see. See www.412BlueDolphinWay.com \$205,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555

DIDION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Beautiful updated 1 story home. Upgrades include new HVAC, flooring throughout, Kitchen appliances, and interior paint. Bathrooms remodeled with granite & new flooring. Other features include updated roof, spacious yard, wonderful floor plan & much more. See www.6754ParkRivieraWay.com \$275,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555

GREENHAVEN BEAUTY

Immaculate, Spacious, Single Story Home in Lovely Location. Custom home with updated kitchen & baths, beautiful yards, newer central heat & air, fresh interior & exterior paint. Wonderful curb appeal - This home shows like a model. See www.924GreenstarWay.com \$359,000

NANCY WEGGE 600-5458
LISA MARTIS 612-7548

SHOWS LIKE A DREAM!

This great family home features beautiful **PENDING** entry and living room fireplace, fresh interior paint, pretty new wood floor & new tile floors in both bathrooms. Family room is bright & cheery with all glass windows and doors welcoming you to the backyard. The kitchen is lit by day by a wonderful skylight. See www.windermereDunnigan.com \$259,000

PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715



Windermere

Dunnigan Realtors

4215 Freeport Blvd.
454-5753

Visit Our Web Site: www.windermereDunnigan.com