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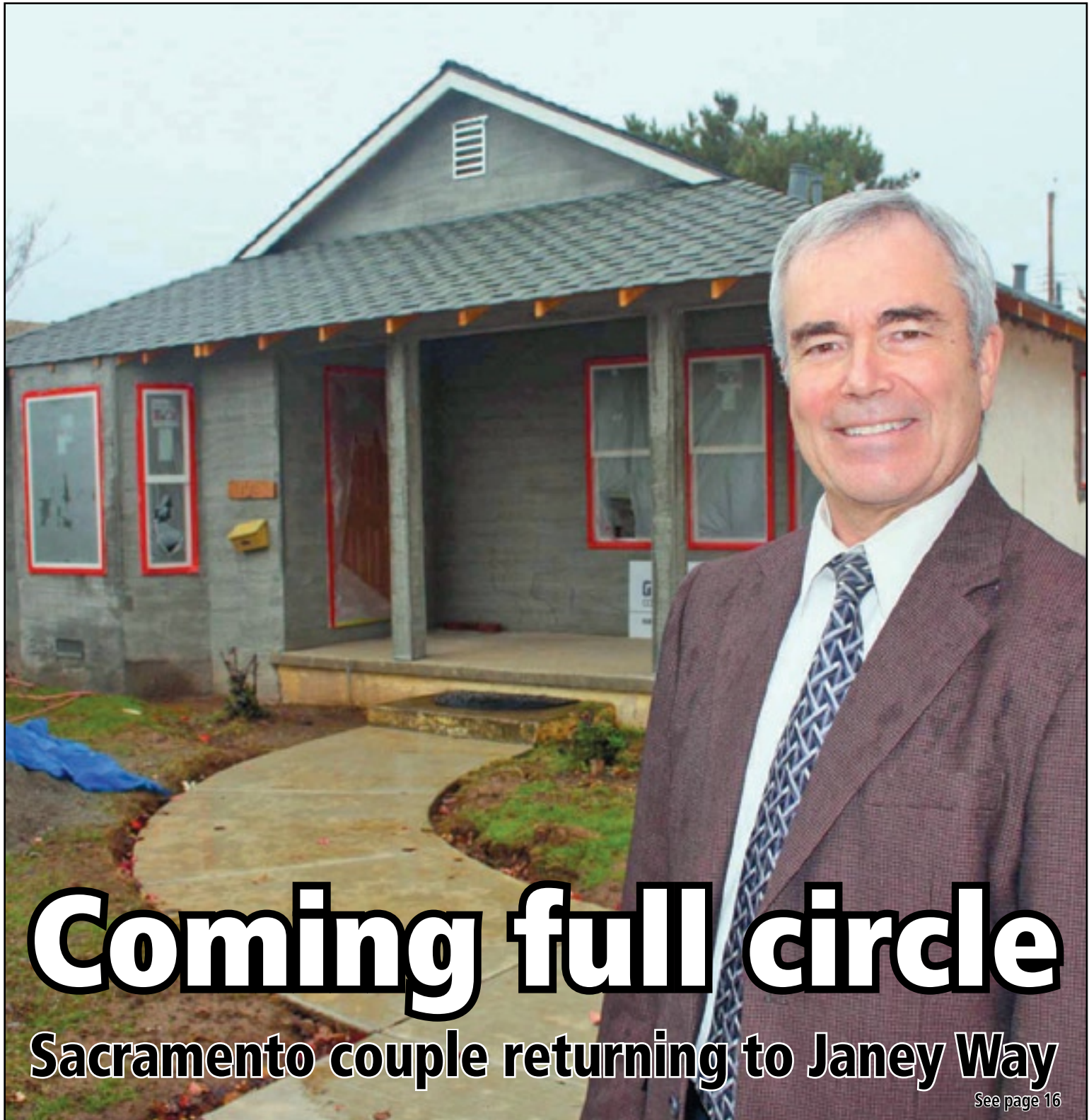
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Vol. XIX • No. 24

East Sacramento News is published on the first and third Thursday of the month and delivered by mail and home delivery in the area bounded by Business 80 on the west, the American River on the north and east and Highway 50 on the south.

Publisher..... George Macko
General Manager..... Kathleen Egan
Editor..... Susan Laird
Art Director..... John Ochoa
Junior Designer..... Ryan Vuong
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Advertising Executives..... Linda Pohl
Marc Harris Desilés, Melissa Andrews
Distribution/Subscriptions..... George Macko

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Cover photo by:
Lance Armstrong
Other photos:
Sally King
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Sutter Memorial Hospital pilots initiative to fight elective premature births

Special to East Sacramento News

Sacramento's "baby hospital" – Sutter Memorial Hospital in East Sacramento – is one of three Sutter Health medical centers in Northern California that are piloting a national March of Dimes initiative calling for the elimination of elective premature births.

The toolkit, called the Elimination of Non-medically Indicated (Elective) Deliveries Before 39 Weeks Gestational Age, provides patients educational materials focused on the adverse consequences of early elective delivery as well as tools for health-care providers and hospital staff to develop efficient and successful quality improvement programs.

Traditionally, pregnancy has been thought of as a nine-month process, and many mothers erroneously added up the number of weeks to 36. However, the accepted benchmark for a full-term pregnancy is 40 weeks. It's during those last four weeks of pregnancy that mothers are feeling their most uncomfortable, and many of them ask – and sometimes plead with – their obstetrician to induce labor. The March of Dimes noticed a disturbing trend in the 2000s showing that doctors and midwives were allowing these early deliveries on a more frequent basis.

William M. Gilbert, M.D., a Sutter Memorial Hospital obstetrician specializing in high-risk pregnancies and director of Women's Services for Sutter Health Sacramento Sierra Region, believes that patient and health provider education is a key factor in reducing rates of early, elected deliveries that are not medically necessary.

Gilbert noted that babies born earlier than 39 weeks are more likely to have difficulties with feeding because they can't coordinate sucking,



Photo courtesy, Sutter Memorial Hospital
Clinicians at Sutter Memorial Hospital receive a certificate announcing their involvement in a pilot program that hopes to prevent elective premature births.

swallowing and breathing; have a higher chance of breathing problems and can have more learning and behavior challenges in childhood. That's because during the last weeks of pregnancy (35-40 weeks gestation), a baby's brain adds important connections needed for balance, coordination, learning and social functioning.

"I urge every pregnant woman to have a conversation with her doctor or midwife to determine if an early induction or delivery is medically necessary," Gilbert said. "If not, ask if the delivery can be postponed until after 39 weeks of gestation. Nine complete months of a healthy pregnancy is the best gift you can give your baby."

Gilbert and Sutter birthing experts admit that there are times when a baby needs to be delivered early, due to medical reasons for the health of the baby, the mother or both. However, too often mothers are being induced for reasons other than medical issues, and those are the ones

See Sutter, page 6

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Magical memories of Janey Way Christmas – past and present



By **MARTY RELLES**
East Sacramento News columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

Christmas on Janey Way was always special. The priests at St. Mary's Church, down the street, decorated the church inside and out. The Viani's – Lou Sr. and Lou Jr. – constructed the nativity scene inside the church, and Christmas carols chimed from the church tower.

On Christmas Eve, our family hopped into our 1957 Chevy wagon and drove over to Grandma Petta's house to eat Italian food, sing carols and exchange gifts.

The food was incredible: home-made pizza, spaghetti, ravioli, cardoni and salad. After dinner, we ate cake and home-made cookies: taralluccis, fig cookies made from Grandma's dried figs and almond cookies. After dessert, we stood around the old piano and sang Christmas carols played perfectly by Aunt Margaret Relles.

At 8 p.m. on the dot, sleigh bells chimed on the front porch,

the door slung open and Santa Claus, played by Uncle Vito Petta, glided through the door to hand out the presents. When we were young, we believed Uncle Vito *was* the real Santa Claus. When we grew older, we kept our suspicions quiet, so the younger children could enjoy same delight we experienced at seeing Santa Claus come to Grandma Petta's house.

Once Santa distributed the presents, we sat on the floor and opened them up. These were small presents (model planes, toy cars, dolls, etc.), but they were special because they came directly from Santa Claus.

Later, we headed home for the long, fitful night of waiting to open our presents. We woke at the crack of dawn to open presents. Mom and Dad dragged themselves into the living room to watch. We didn't receive lots of presents, rarely more than two or three. But, the presents we received always seemed to be exactly what we wanted. After opening presents, we went to morning Mass at St. Mary's Church. The church glistened with red poinsettias and tall fir trees adorned

with red ribbons, and the service was festive, punctuated by lots of traditional Christmas carols.

After Christmas service, we went out to play with our new Christmas toys: cowboy six shooters in a holster set, toy army guns, toy trucks and sometimes even a brand new bicycle. I still remember the new, red Roadmaster Special I received one Christmas.

Finally, around 4 p.m., we returned to Grandma Petta's house for a traditional Christmas turkey dinner with all the trimmings. All our cousins came and we ate and played ourselves into exhaustion. We looked forward all year to enjoying this special occasion with our extended family.

To this day, we celebrate Christmas with the Petta/Relles clan. Since Grandma Petta passed away years ago, we spend Christmas Eve at Aunt Alice Petta's house. Sadly, Uncle Vito passed away two years ago, but our cousin Joe Ficarelli has stepped in to play the role of Santa Claus. A new generation of children now experiences the arrival of the real Santa Claus at 8 p.m. on the dot every Christmas Eve. This is another truly magical Janey Way memory.

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Kiwanis Family House helps families with children in crisis at UCD, Shriners' hospitals

By SALLY KING
East Sacramento News writer

In order to heal, sick children need the comfort of their family.

In the past, when a family in crisis came to UC Davis Medical Center, it was very possible for parents and siblings to end up sleeping in their vehicles or in hospital waiting rooms. No one "plans" for an emergency hospital visit – it just happens.

The Kiwanis Family House adjacent to the UC Davis Medical Center was built on that premise.

The facility is sponsored by local Kiwanis clubs, which are in turn, a part of Kiwanis International – a worldwide community service organization.

The mission statement of Kiwanis House declares:

"The Kiwanis Family House is to provide temporary housing and support to families of seriously ill or injured children and adults being treated at UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento."

Local Kiwanis club volunteers established the facility in July 1984.

Mauda Butte, house director, said Kiwanis House pro-

vides overnight accommodations, food and clothing. There are 32 rooms set up in four sections of the building, with eight rooms in each section. In addition, the House has a kitchen and dining area, a laundry room, a counseling and meditation room, a child's game room, two offices with computers and an outdoor playground area. There are seven R.V. spaces with utility hookups, free long distance telephone service within the United States and access to the Internet and to avoid the \$8 per day hospital parking fee, free shuttle bus transportation.

The Kiwanis Family House is run mostly by volunteers. There are 10 full-time paid staff members to take care of maintenance and housekeeping duties.

The Kiwanis Club, which has fundraisers throughout the year and donates time and money of its own, provides all of the services. Butte said a clothes closet was established because many of the families come with only the clothes on their backs.

"Many times, a child in crisis is flown here and the family does not have time to pack a suitcase," Butte said. "Being able to have a change of clothes and a place to fix a meal is comforting."

Butte said the Kiwanis Family House relies on donations from other Kiwanis clubs and from the



East Sacramento News photo, Sally King
Mauda Butte is the director of the Kiwanis House in Sacramento. Sponsored by local Kiwanis clubs, the facility provides lodging and other services to families of children who are being treated for serious conditions at the UCD Medical Center and Shriners' Hospital.

public to keep the facility running smoothly. She said there are electricians, contractors and computer technicians that volunteer their time and skills. Students at Sacramento State and Sacramento City College donated the paintings on the

See Kiwanis, page 5

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Kiwanis: Additional services include food, clothing

Continued from page 4

walls at the Kiwanis Family House.

There is a \$40 per night room rent fee, but in many cases Kiwanis members pick up the tab. No one is ever turned away because they cannot pay. To cover the \$100,000 annual cost rent, the Kiwanis Family House organization has established a "Sponsor-A-Family Program." Those who wish can send a donation for a family to stay at the Kiwanis Family House. It can be one night at \$40 to however many nights a person wants to donate.

"We welcome donations from the public," Butte said. "We supply food, laundry soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, toys for young children, books, family videos, coats, and other miscellaneous items."

The average length of stay is six days, but sometimes visits last longer. There is no limit on how long a family can stay at the Kiwanis House.

When a family arrives at the UCD Medical Center, a hospital social worker helps to determine the family's tem-

porary housing needs and can refer the family to the Kiwanis Family House. Caring staff members and volunteers greet the family.

Theresa Arciniaga, chief licensed clinical social worker at UC Davis, said the hospital serves patients from as far away as the Oregon border.

"We have specialty doctors and a trauma unit," Arciniaga said. "Having the family with the patient, whether child or adult, is considered part of the treatment."

Arciniaga said there are instances when a patient may use a "Day Pass." The patient does not need to stay the night, but needs a shower or the use of the kitchen. She said some cancer patients just need a place to rest before leaving for home.

Butte said the House often receives families of premature babies where the baby needs many weeks or months of neonatal care. Having a place to stay decreases the stress for these new parents.

There is a growing demand for services. The original Kiwanis Family House was ini-

tiated in 1984 when a partnership agreement between the UCD Medical Center and the Kiwanis Family House was executed. A new center was opened in 2006 that includes both UCD and Shriners Hospital.

"I make out a two-page list every day of things to do for the volunteers that come to help," Butte said. "We welcome walk-ins."

Gary Christensen is the development manager for the Kiwanis Family House. It is a volunteer position. Christensen said his main purpose is to give tours and provide information to businesses about the Kiwanis Family House to gain their support.

"You can find me speaking to a business group one day and pulling weeds the next," Christensen said. "I fill in the holes where needed."

Kiwanis was founded in August 1914 by two Detroit natives, Allen S. Browne, a professional organizer, and Joseph C. Prance, a tailor. It started out as a fraternal club for young professional businessmen.

The name Kiwanis comes from an Indian phrase, "Nun-Keewanis," which translates to, "We have a good time - we make noise." In 1920, the organization decided that "We Build," would be their motto. This was the motto until 2005, when the delegates adopted a new motto, - "Serving the Children of the World."

The Kiwanis Family House welcomes donations of volunteer time as well as donations of cash or stocks. Contributions can also be made through the local United Way. Donations are tax deductible. For more information, call (916) 736-0116 or visit www.kiwanisfamilyhouse.org.



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Sutter: Fewer elective premature births equals healthier babies

Continued from page 2

who need to be educated on the health benefits of waiting until the baby is full-term.

Many Sutter Health birthing experts played a vital role in the toolkit, which was developed in partnership with the March of Dimes, California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative (CMQCC), and the California Department of Health, Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Division. Sutter Memorial Hospital – a campus of Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento – Sutter Roseville Medical Center and Sutter Health affiliate Mills-Peninsula Health Services in Burlingame are the three hospitals in Northern California to pi-

lot the initiative, and among nine hospitals statewide.

Sutter Memorial has a team for collecting information regarding: their new scheduling process for inductions and Cesarean section deliveries. The team consists of: Perinatal Clinical Nurse Specialist Mary Campbell Bliss, R.N.; Labor and Delivery Assistant Nurse Manager Kelli Sattelmayer, R.N.; Clinical Data Coordinator Amy Johnson, R.N.; and OB/GYNs Laurie Gregg, M.D.; and J.C. Veille, M.D.

“Establishment of a consistent process for scheduling births should result in several positive effects, including fewer elective deliveries less than 39 weeks; greater collaboration

about medical indications and plans for these births; and improved infant outcomes,” said Bliss.

Although the pilot period is just getting started, Sutter Health views this toolkit as a model and next year plans to implement the initiative across all Sutter hospitals in Northern California as a part of its ongoing efforts to improve care quality for our smallest patients.

For more information on the toolkit, visit www.marchofdimes.com/ca.

Sutter Memorial Hospital, located at 5151 F St., opened as Sutter Maternity Hospital in 1937 and is considered by Sacramentans as the “baby hospital,” with more than 300,000 people born there in its 73 years.

It is one of the acute-care facilities of Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento, which is the foundation of Sutter Health, Northern California’s largest health network with 29 acute care hospitals, more than 5,000 primary care physicians and specialists, home health, occupational health, psychiatric care and more. In addition to Sutter Memorial, the Sacramento medical center also includes Sutter General Hospital, Sutter Oaks Midtown and Sutter Center for Psychiatry. For more information, visit www.sutterhealth.org.

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See Answers, page 21

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Know your neighbor

North area's oldest record store still spinning after all these years

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

In an ever-changing world, it can be nice to see certain longtime businesses continue to survive, especially during more recent times in which a down economy has spelled the end of many once prosperous businesses. And this is only part of the intrigue of the story of one such surviving business, Esoteric Records.

Located at 3413 El Camino Ave. in Sacramento, Esoteric Records may seem out of place for several reasons.

For starters, the store's location within an aging strip mall on the north side of El Camino Avenue and just west of Watt Avenue, coupled with its far from flashy storefront, makes this business's existence somewhat hidden to the average commuter.

Many people traveling from "Point A" to "Point B" can pass by the store on a regular basis, yet would never be able to win a prize for pinpointing the location of Esoteric Records.

Furthermore, many such people would even ask, "What is Esoteric Records?"

The store may also seem out of place for many due to the "Records" portion of its name alone.

A record store?

In a day and age when CD sales have declined by way of newer mediums such as computer downloads and iPods and many of the younger generation have no clue what a vinyl record is, having a name like Esoteric Records can seem a bit antiquated.

But none of these things seem to affect the existence of this longtime-operating record store, as Esoteric Records has both evolved with the times, yet has remained very much the same.

Unlike some older "record stores" around the country that may have kept their "Records" name, yet have almost entirely stepped into the digital age, Esoteric Records still carries a large selection of vinyl records – about 8,000 to 10,000 to be more precise.



Esoteric Records owner Denis Tomassetti stands in front his longtime north area business at 3413 El Camino Ave. *East Sacramento News photo, Lance Armstrong*

But this is not to say that Esoteric Records has bypassed any music mediums postdating the days when vinyl records were considered the most popular form of recorded music.

True to its roots

To the contrary, part of the evolution and success of Es-

oteric Records is its willingness to embrace newer mediums in the recorded music market, while still holding onto its roots.

It is for this reason that shoppers in this 1,300-square-foot retail store can

See Esoteric, page 14

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Trustworthy, friendly service at Land Park Gold & Silver

By SALLY KING
East Sacramento News writer

There is no need for boredom on a rainy afternoon – or any afternoon, for that matter. Just step inside the Land Park Gold & Silver store on Freeport Boulevard to be greeted with smiles, warm

hugs and a wealth of information about jewelry and coins by owners, Jeff and Judy Montgomery.

The store opened last May is fast becoming a popular neighborhood shop.

The Montgomery's opened their first gold and silver store in the

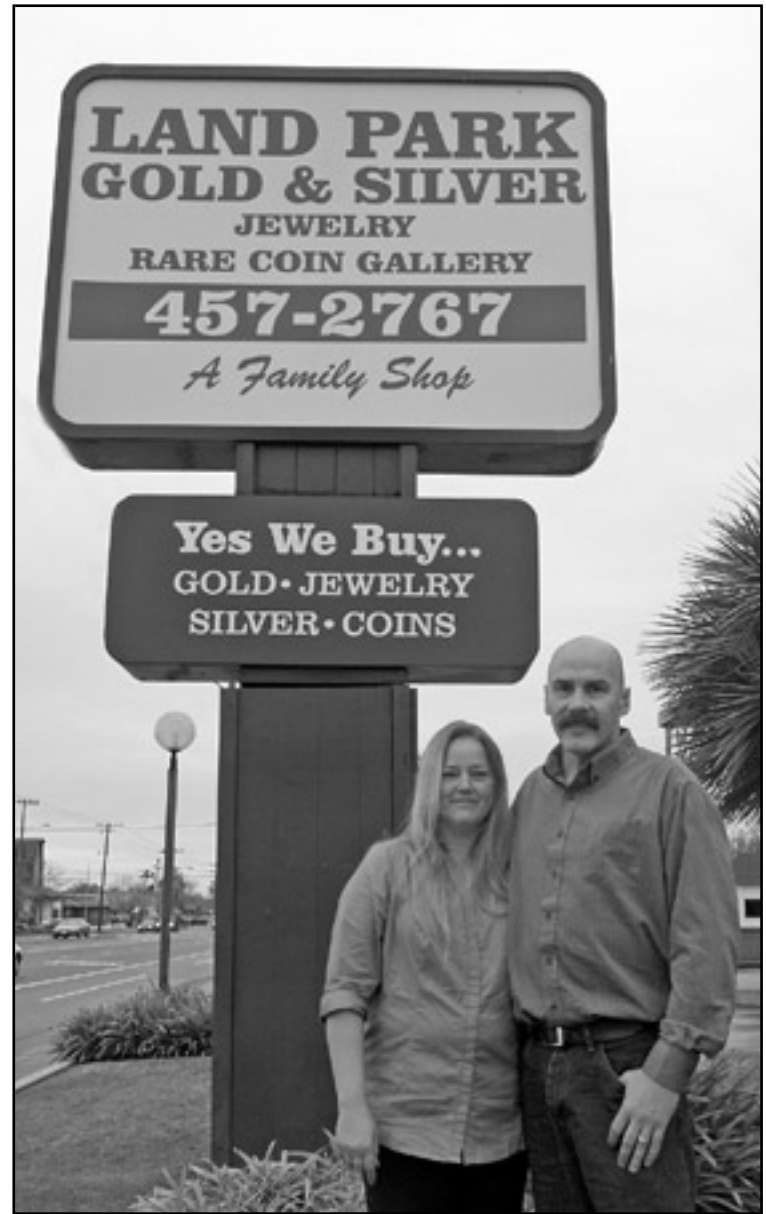
Woodland Mall. When they decided to look for a new place to open in Sacramento, they noticed an empty brick building on Freeport Boulevard where there used to be a bank. Features of the building that stood out to the Montgomerys were a built-in vault and bulletproof windows on the side. The built-in security measures of the building were perfect for their business.

"Customers like the fact that we have a secure bank vault in our shop," Jeff said. "They feel safe leaving their jewelry and coins with us."

The vault is also useful, because the business pays cash for gold and silver.

Jeff started out in the construction business. When he lost his job, Jeff decided to open a coin and jewelry store. He remembered collecting coins with his dad from the time he was five years old.

"As a boy I remember riding up and down the neighborhood on my banana seat bike, offering the neighborhood kids two cents for each wheat



East Sacramento News photo, Sally King
With over 40 years of experience, Judy and Jeff Montgomery offer service with a smile to buyers and sellers of coins and jewelry at Land Park Gold & Silver. Their facility on Freeport Boulevard features a built-in vault and other security features.

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Gold & Silver: Old coin and jewelry appraisals done in a secure facility

Continued from page 8

penny they owned," Jeff said. "I bought a lot of wheat pennies back then."

While some coins are valuable, others are not. This holds true for jewelry items, also. Sometimes customers come in with a box full of old jewelry and coins, only to find out none of it has any monetary worth.

Recently, a woman came to the store with a box of old jewelry, asking Jeff what he would pay her for the jewelry. After carefully examining each piece, Jeff told her there was nothing of value in her box.

"She walked in hoping to make some money," Jeff said. "She walked out crushed because there was nothing of value in her box of hopes."

In most cases, however, the customer is pleasantly surprised by the value of a piece of jewelry or an old coin. Many have become repeat customers.

Dan Fall, a retired truck driver, enjoys discussing old coins with Jeff.

"My wife recently died from cancer and being able to have a place to go to and talk about old coins has helped me," Fall said. "Jeff and I both enjoy the history behind old coins."

Fall said Jeff is extremely knowledgeable and that the Montgomerys are a pleasure to know. Fall has since bought and sold coins many times at Land Park Gold and Silver.

Patti Silva, a recent customer, said she and her sister inherited a coin collection 17 years ago from her father.

Silva said she and her sister did not know how to liquidate the collection, so when she saw the sign on Freeport Boulevard advertising coins, she stopped to check it out. She said Jeff took charge of the situation and after spending six to

seven hours discussing their options. Silva was able to sell the coin collection and felt very good about it.

"Jeff struck me as honest, professional and knowledgeable," she said. "A weight had been lifted off my shoulders when I sold the coin collection and I would recommend him to anyone wanting to sell coins."

Judy said some customers bring in jewelry to sell because a utility bill has to be paid. She said she understands because she was in this same situation in the past.

Judy said their goal at the store is to be fair and to create a personable feeling with everyone who walks through the door. She realizes that some items may have great sentimental value. When a customer is selling jewelry, Judy explains that there are options. For example, if a jewelry setting

is worth more than its stone and the stone has sentimental value, Judy will remove the stone so the customer can keep it. She wants her customers to feel happy about the transaction.

"We want people to know we are trustworthy and a family-run business," Judy said.

Jeff and Judy said they love what they do and enjoy meeting people. They

want to be known as a place where folks can feel comfortable just stopping by to chat for a few minutes as they browse the store and shop.

Land Park Gold & Silver is located at 5100 Freeport Boulevard in Sacramento, next to the Gem Auto Wash. For more information, call (916) 457-2767 or visit www.landparkgoldandsilver.com.



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StatePoint – You've trained him to sit, lie down and obey, but still your dog likes to take an occasional bite out of the sofa. What do you do?

"Many owners might be tempted to reprimand their dogs for what they interpret as bad behavior, such as inappropriate chewing and digging, but often such behavior is a sign of boredom," said Gina DiNardo, spokesperson for the American Kennel Club (AKC) Canine Partners Program.

Here are some of the AKC Canine Partners' best tips to keep your pooch from becoming bored and acting out:

Take preemptive measures

An easy way to keep your dog entertained and prevent unwanted behavior is to give him a variety of toys and rotate favorites. Put "old" toys out of sight for a month or two, then bring

them out again. Items in which you can put a treat will keep your dog extra busy.

Dogs that are left unattended for hours during the day often become restless and act out. Leaving the radio or television on when you are away should keep them company and calm nerves.

Also keep in mind that a well trained dog is a happy dog. A good training program, such as the AKC Canine Good Citizen Program, will teach your dog basic good manners such as sitting and coming when called, as well as other behaviors for daily situations.

Spend time together

Like humans, dogs are social animals. Unlike humans, they rarely complain about where you go, so long as you're with them.

"Owners can ensure their dog is happy and well socialized with some easy steps that will not only curb Fido's boredom but increase the bond you have with him," DiNardo said. "Try incorporating your dog into your daily errands and activities, like exercise, to benefit his health and yours."

Put Fido to work

When in doubt, give your pooch a task. Teaching him to fetch the paper or simply making him sit before getting a treat will give your dog a sense of purpose and accomplishment while keeping his mind occupied and body out of trouble.

For more ideas on having fun with your dog, visit the AKC Canine Partners website at www.MoreDogFun.com.



Photo copyright, Diane Lewis
Keeping your dog entertained will prevent restlessness.

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Investing in equities and fixed income to help create a balanced portfolio

By KEVIN A. SHIMMEL
East Sacramento News guest columnist

Introduction to Asset Allocation

Your investment goals are unique to you. An important step toward achieving your goals is to include the appropriate mix of assets in your portfolio. This mix, known as 'asset allocation' is the balance of equities (stock), bonds (fixed income) and cash (or cash alternatives) within your portfolio. A core objective of asset allocation is to potentially increase the overall return for a given degree of risk, or to reduce the overall risk of a portfolio for a targeted level of return. Although keep in mind asset allocation and diversification do not guarantee a profit, or prevent a loss, in declining financial markets. Before deciding on your asset allocation you should consider your investment goals and your level of risk tolerance.

Investment Goals, Time Horizon, and Risk Tolerance

Are you looking to generate a predictable stream of income to meet living expenses? Or do you want to generate capital growth? Are you investing for retire-

ment? If so, what is your retirement timeframe (five years, 10 years, or more)? You should clearly define your investment goals and horizon.

A key to setting investment goals is to balance return expectations with your willingness to accept risk. It is important that you are comfortable with the amount of risk in your portfolio so that you will be able to stick with your investment strategy even through turbulent times.

You should strive to establish realistic expectations and carefully determine the appropriate investment time-frame for an investment plan. You may have multiple goals impacting your investment strategy, and accordingly may have multiple time horizons. Typical goals include payment of college tuition for your children, purchase of a home and retirement, among many others.

Revisit and Rebalance Your Allocation Regularly

Your investment goals, time horizon, and risk tolerance will evolve over time – your asset allocation

should change with them. At the beginning of your career, you may be willing to take on more risk, as you have time on your side to recoup losses. You and your Financial Advisor may determine that it is appropriate to include a relatively high allocation to equities at this stage, as well as fixed income instruments which focus on capturing high yields.

As you accumulate wealth, your needs may expand to include the purchase of property, the cost of education and impending retirement. You and your Financial Advisor may determine that you should reduce your exposure to riskier equity investments and increase your allocation to more highly rated fixed income securities.

Near the end of your career, you may have a much lower tolerance for risk as you look toward retirement and spending some of the wealth you have accumulated. Your focus may shift to income generation and principal protection at this stage, and you and your Financial Advisor may transition your allocation toward high quality fixed income

instruments and away from more volatile securities.

Equally important is regular rebalancing of your portfolio to maintain your target allocation. As markets change and different assets appreciate and depreciate differently, the relative weightings of each sector, geographic region, and asset class in your portfolio will change. In order to keep your asset allocation in line with your long-term strategy, it is important to revisit and rebalance your portfolio regularly. However, a rebalancing strategy may create tax implications, therefore, please consult your tax advisor before implementing such a strategy.

Investment Strategy

The key to building a diversified portfolio is to

make sure that your investment decisions are consistent with your financial objectives and long-term plans. By taking the time to understand your investment objectives and style, as well as the investment choices available, you can develop an asset allocation strategy that is right for you. Your Morgan Stanley Smith Barney Financial Advisor is available to review your financial goals and level of risk tolerance with you, and to help you build a balanced and diversified portfolio.

Kevin Shimmel, CFP®, ChFC®, CRPC®, is a financial advisor and planning specialist. He is an associate vice president with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney. He can be contacted at (916) 567-2061 or (800) 284-1575.

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Former Sacramento Solons umpire, World War II veteran reminisces about his eventful life

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

Many longtime Sacramento area residents have fond memories of attending baseball games at the original ball park at the corner of Riverside Boulevard and Broadway. And among such locals whose memories extend to America's pre-World War II era in the capital city, they almost undoubtedly have seen Roseville resident P.R. "Tony" Tonelli.

Although the name Tony Tonelli is not a familiar name for the majority of local baseball fans of this era, those who attended baseball games at this local stadium at just about any time during the years 1939 to 1941, likely have at least a vague recollection of seeing Tony.

This is a certainty when considering that Tony was a regular at these games, as he called balls and strikes from behind home plate, which was located at what is now the northwest corner of the Target parking lot.

At 88 years old, Tony admits that many of his memories of his days of working as a Pacific Coast League umpire have faded with time.

Love of the game

But that does not take away his love for this part of his life or his place in the grand history of baseball in Sacramento.

As a baseball city, Sacramento was once home to a large, 10,000-seat, mostly wooden stadium that was home to the Pacific Coast League's Sacramento Senators or Solons, depending upon the era.

Originally known as Moreing Field and later receiving the name Sacramento Ball Park, then Cardinal Field, Doubleday Park and lastly Edmonds Field, the stadium stood at the corner of Riverside Boulevard and Broadway from 1922 to 1948. A second Edmonds Field opened at the same Land Park site in 1949.

The PCL years

It was the first Edmonds Field, however, where Tony spent three seasons working behind the plate.

As a PCL umpire, Tony never resided in Sacramento, as he instead lived in Oakland, which was one of the six California cities that were home to PCL teams.



East Sacramento News photo, Lance Armstrong
Following his time as a Pacific Coast League umpire, P.R. "Tony" Tonelli served in the Navy during World War II.

Although the league consisted of eight teams, including teams in Portland and Seattle, Tony said that he only umpired games in California.

In addition to its teams in Sacramento, Oakland, Portland and Seattle, the league, during this time, included teams from San Francisco, Los Angeles, Hollywood and San Diego.

Among the Sacramento players who Tony recently recalled from his years of umpiring were: Art Garibaldi, Gene Handley, Robert "Buddy" Blattner, Walker Cooper, Al Sherer, George "Red" Munger, Max "Milo" Marshall, Herman

See Tonelli, page 13



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Tonelli: A baseball umpire in pre-WWII Japan was viewed as 'upper class'

Continued from page 12

Franks and Averett "Tommy" Thompson.

Tony, who was born and raised in Cottonwood, Ariz. by his parents, northern Italy immigrants Peter Tonelli and Julia (Arigoni) Tonelli, also recalled Pepper Martin, the former Major League All-Star who became Sacramento's manager in 1941.

Although Tony does not immediately recall the names of former Sacramento players and managers, he was certainly quick to name Dominic "Dom" DiMaggio as his all-time favorite baseball player.

Dom DiMaggio, who was the brother of the legendary New York Yankees slugger Joe Dimaggio, played for the PCL's San Francisco Seals from 1937 to 1939. He later had a lengthy Major League Baseball career with the Boston Red Sox.

Despite maintaining a longtime involvement in baseball, Tony said that he did not play baseball during his childhood.

"I was probably 19 when I first started playing baseball," Tony said. "I was a catcher. My father passed away when he was 42 in 1932 and I was the only boy. I was 10 years old at the time. I had two sisters, Margaret and Mary, and one half-sister,

Eleanor. We owned a motel - we called them cabins back then - so, I had to help my mother out with the business."

Tony said that his road to becoming an umpire included his coaching of a youth team in Southern California.

"There were about three complexes in the area and all the kids had one team and we were undefeated for two years," Tony said. "I wish I could remember the name of the kid that was on the team, but he ended up playing on, I think it was the San Diego Padres. His (batting) average in Major League Baseball was about .280."

Pre-WWII ump in Japan

Tony said that his time as an umpire began through his friendship with a man, named Chris, whose last name, to the best of Tony's knowledge, is spelled, "Peliciutus."

"(Chris) asked me to be an official at a baseball game at Korakuen Stadium in Tokyo," Tony said. "He said, 'I have letters from people over there who would like to see an American umpire.' So, we went to Japan. I was (umpiring) behind the plate and (Chris) was (umpiring) at first base. That was something. There were probably 10,000 peo-

ple there. I naturally got butterflies and so did Chris, but we thought it was great."

Tony said that Chris wanted him to work as the home plate umpire due to his ability to speak Japanese.

"I spoke enough Japanese to get by, so that's why I went behind the plate," Tony said.

In addition to learning English and Italian in his childhood home, Tony developed a fascination with languages at a young age and he eventually learned Japanese, Spanish and Portuguese.

Although he was only working as a guest umpire for one game, Tony said that there was nonetheless added pressure to be accurate on his calling of balls and strikes.

"Japanese are very fanatic about being precise on their calls and umpires are considered upper class in Japan," Tony said.

Due to his friendship and baseball experience with Chris, Tony, who also umpired community baseball games in Southern California, was asked by Chris to be a PCL umpire. And to become qualified for this position, he spent six weeks attending an umpire school in Florida.

World War II

Tony's time as a PCL umpire ended with the U.S. involvement in World War II.

Having joined the Navy on June 6, 1939, Tony said that he was called to sea in 1942.

"I had orders (from the Navy) to go to sea," Tony recalled. "I went aboard the U.S.S. Saratoga, CV-3, which went from Long Beach to the Pacific, between the states and Hawaii. I was aboard the ship for two and a half years."

Tony's subsequent duties included assignments on the USS Midway, USS Coral Sea, USS Ticonderoga and a converted carrier, known as USS Salvo Island.

Altogether Tony spent 42 years in the Navy and also worked as an attorney at law and was a dedicated parliamentarian.

Today, Tony enjoys spending time with his wife Dorothy, participating in USS Saratoga Association and Fleet Reserve Association of the West Coast Region gatherings and annually donating funds to Easter Seals.

Reminiscing about his many experiences in life, Tony said, "In knowing what I did, I'd do it all over again. That's how much I loved the work that I did."

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Esoteric: Record store founded forty years ago, now oldest in north area

Continued from page 7

also browse through a selection of about 15,000 CDs.

Remember laser discs?

The store also offers about 2,000 DVDs and even laser discs, VHS tapes, cassette tapes and as Esoteric's owner Denis Tomassetti describes it, "about 20 pounds of 8-tracks."

"We'll sell you 8-tracks by the pound," Tomassetti jokingly – or perhaps not so jokingly – said.

With Esoteric's openness to accepting both the new and the old, this combination makes the store one of the north area's more unique businesses. And with the 2006 demise of Tower Records at Watt and El Camino avenues, Esoteric is currently the north area's oldest record store.

Tomassetti said that in addition to simply offering older merchandise, the store serves as a sort of museum.

Older merchandise popular

But fortunately for Esoteric, the store has a strong enough following that a lot

of its older merchandise sells on a consistent basis, thus continuously making room for new "museum" exhibits.

Tomassetti said that among his store's most loyal customers are vinyl record collectors and those who have discovered the economic value of purchasing vinyl records for much less than a brand new CD.

Records offered at Esoteric generally range in price from 25 cents to \$8 each, although many collectible records sell for more.

Bargains galore

One loyal Esoteric customer, Sacramento resident Mike Parlette, who was recently browsing through the store's bargain records, which sell for 25 cents each, said that he appreciates the many deals he can find at Esoteric.

Parlette, who has been an Esoteric customer for more than a decade, added that vinyl records are still a very important medium, when considering that a very low percentage of all recorded

music was ever made available on CD.

Founded 40 years ago

The fact that Esoteric Records has survived the test of time is an especially intriguing story, when considering that it was founded nearly four decades ago.

The business, which was initially known as John P. Hogue Books and Records, opened at 720 Alhambra Blvd. in 1974.

The following year, Hogue renamed his business, Esoteric Record Service, and apparently no longer sold books.

Esoteric Record Service is described in the 1975 city directory as "an old-fashioned, service-oriented record shoppe, where your request is our specialty."

The following year's directory notes that Hogue's business was a dealer in phonographs and retail records.

For a brief time during the mid-1970s, the store was owned by Bryant Williams, a fan of English folk music, and was known as Dancing Bear Records.



East Sacramento News photo, Lance Armstrong

Store merchandise at Esoteric Records includes laser discs, cassette and 8-track tapes and of course, vinyl records. Left to right, Denis Tomassetti, Jim "Tony" Larejeno and Ryan Samples of Esoteric Records.

In 1978, Rick Da Prato, who resided at 3533 21st Ave., became Esoteric's new owner and operated the store as its sole owner for about four years, at which time Tomassetti, who was 28 years old at the time, became co-owner of the store.

It was also in 1982 that Esoteric relocated to 1716 Broadway.

After about three years, Tomassetti opened a second lo-

cation of Esoteric Records at 3329 Balmoral Drive, where Shelley's Hair Salon is now located. This location was in operation until about 1990, at which time this store relocated to its current location.

The Broadway store relocated to 1427 L St., Ste. D in 1996. This store was closed eight years later due the fact that the property was sold and redeveloped.

Throughout the years, Esoteric has achieved its success through the assistance of its dedicated employees, who have included Jim "Tony" Larejeno, Brian Gould, Tom Darling, Keith McKee and Ryan Samples.

Continuing tradition

Tomassetti, who has been the sole owner of Esoteric Records since 1985, said that he has enjoyed continuing the tradition of the store and hopes to see the business continue to prosper for many years to come.

"I haven't had to work since I became involved with Esoteric Records," Tomassetti said with a chuckle. "I don't know if I'd want to do anything else. It's like the last man standing. I enjoy it and I'll keep doing it as long as I can. It's just been a pleasure bringing music to Sacramento music fans and collectors for so many years."

Esoteric Records is open Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, call (916) 488-8966.

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Both men and women say 'I do most of the chores'

StatePoint – Who does most of the chores around the house? A recent survey by Cozi.com, an online calendar for busy families, found that both men and women claim to do most of the work.

Women say they do 73 percent of the cooking, while men claim they do 48 percent. There must be lots of leftovers.

Apparently the laundry is getting done twice, since Mom does 76 percent of it and Dad does 47 percent.

Mom reported that she does 77 percent of the grocery shopping, while Dad claimed 52 percent. Clearly those cupboards aren't bare.

To keep your family from overstocking and over-washing, be sure to schedule chores on a family calendar.



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Sacramento family coming full circle on Janey Way

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

From an East Sacramento street that already receives much coverage in this newspaper by way of Marty Relles' "Janey Way Memories" column, comes yet another memory of the past, as well as a look at the present and planned future.

For those who either grew up on or near Janey Way or for those familiar with Marty's column, it should come as no surprise that many people have a very deep-rooted love for this local street.

This fact is even more understandable since the street was constructed more than 60 years ago.

But nonetheless, the great number of stories that derive from Janey Way can seem quite remarkable when considering that the street is a mere 909 feet long and never included more than its current total of 32 houses – three of which are actually duplexes.

Certainly, this article is not intended to replace Marty's popular column. So, be sure to read his cur-

rent "Janey Way Memories."

Instead, this first and only edition of "More Janey Way Memories" is presented solely to tell the story of one more person who grew up on Janey Way and his lifelong love for this East Sacramento street and his current project to preserve a portion of its past.

This person is Tom Hart, who grew up at 1156 Janey Way.

Tom, 57, who follows Marty's column, is familiar with many of the column's related stories and people and can sometimes even read about himself, is working on a project that will bring him back to his old neighborhood.

Dust has been flying, machinery has been running off and on and hammers have been pounding at the old Hart house since last July.

This activity, said Tom, who is of Scottish, Irish and English ancestry, is part of a project that will fulfill his dream to move back into his childhood home, where he grew up with his mother Rose (Hawkins) Hart, his sister – the former Susan Hart, now Susan Chevassau – and for a shorter



Tom Hart stands in front of his childhood home on Janey Way in East Sacramento. The house, which is presently being remodeled, is featured through 13 Internet videos.

East Sacramento News photo, Lance Armstrong

period of time, his father, Bernie, who passed away in 1961.

"When my mother (who passed away in the home on Dec. 19, 2001) was sick and I was staying with her, we would talk in the evenings and one of the things that I told her is I wanted

to move back home," Tom said. "That really warmed her heart and made her feel happy that her son was going to be moving back home and back into the neighborhood."

The remodeling project includes the addition of about 400 square feet of livable space with the expansion of the living room and master bedroom, a new master bathroom, a new laundry room and the addition of more closet space

and a covered porch area behind the house. Additionally, the old garage was demolished and replaced with a two and a half-car garage, the roof and windows were replaced and new insulation was installed throughout the home.

Tom, a 1971 graduate of Sacramento High School, said that although he had hoped to move into the house with his wife Diana

See Hart house, page 17

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Hart house: Local man preserves, publicizes remodeling of his childhood home

Continued from page 16

by Christmastime, he is now setting a more realistic goal of once again becoming a Janey Way resident by April.

The upgrading of the old Hart house helps to preserve one of the street's older homes.

Research for this article revealed the following history of Janey Way:

According to the 1949 city directory, the first houses to be built on Janey Way – those of the late 1940s – were the homes of Ross Relles, James Tomassetti, Dante Viani and Jose "Joe" Micheli.

During the time their homes were built, Relles operated his well-known Relles Florist at 2200 J St., Tomassetti was a painter for the Western Pacific Railroad, Viani worked for Koro Products Co. at 2116 19th St. and Micheli was a bartender at the Square Deal Café at 5723 Folsom Blvd., where the Espanol Restaurant is now located.

Apparently, at least two other houses existed on the street during this time, since Louie Viani claims that his house was the first home built on the street and Tom said that he was told by his home's remodel designer that his house was constructed in 1949. Tom added, however, that the house may not have had any occupants until the following year.

Carmen Tomassetti, who married James Tomassetti on Aug. 14, 1948 and raised five children in her Janey Way home, said that

she moved into her then-new house on Dec. 10, 1948.

"My house was built in 1948," said Carmen, who is a native of Monte Porzio, Italy. "The first houses (on Janey Way) were built in 1948, then little by little different companies built different houses."

The 1952 city directory shows the growth of the street by this time, as follows: Olin N. Boggs, Joseph C. Brady, Dominic J. Costamagna, Raymond Cullivan, Adelbert C. Jacobs, Richard Kinzel, Jr., Eugene E. McKnight, Jose Micheli, Gene C. O'Keefe, Virgil W. Petrocchi, Matteo Puccetti, Ralph Puccetti, Ross Relles, Joseph C. Romel, Loren E. Sizemore, Eugene R. Thomsen, James Tomassetti, Dante H. Viani, Louie E. Viani and three vacant homes. As an historical note, Janey Way no longer extended south of M Street to include its 1300s addresses by the late 1950s. This property is presently part of the site of St. Mary's School.

Enzo Costa said that he moved into the neighborhood in 1972 and now lives in the last house that was built on Janey Way. He had the house constructed in 1976.

Tom, who with his wife, has three children, Angela, Rebecca and T.J., said that a prime example that his neighborhood is fairly old is the fact that Costa is considered one of Janey Way's "new kids on the block."



Photo courtesy, Tom Hart

Bernie Hart stands behind his boat and car in the driveway of his Janey Way home in about 1951.

Costa may have had the last house built in the neighborhood, but as a resident of the street, he has much seniority over a family, for instance, who moved to a house on Janey Way about two years ago.

Fortunately, due to modern technology, most readers who are interested in seeing the old Hart house do not have to go further than their own computers to do so.

In order that Tom's sister could observe various remodeling stages of the home, Tom has placed footage of

these remodeling stages on the Web site www.youtube.com. The short videos, which currently present 13 remodeling stages, can be found using the search words: "Hart Janey Way remodel."

Tom plans to load seven more videos onto the site to show a full-range summary of the project. He also plans to eventually take the main highlights of all his videos and combine them to create a 15-minute video that he will also post on the Web site.

Tom said that the simple fact that he desires to

move back to his childhood house shows how special the home and its neighborhood and residents are in his heart.

"I just have so many fond memories of the place," Tom said. "I'm coming full circle. My kids have grown and now I have a chance to come back home to be where still many of the neighbors live. Where, when I was smaller, these neighbors would take care of me, now I'm coming back home, so I can take care of them."

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DECEMBER

'Tomorrow's Legacies'

Through Jan. 9: "Tomorrow's Legacies: Gifts Celebrating the Next 125 Years." Exhibit celebrating the Crocker Art Museum's 125th anniversary and 125,000 square foot expansion. 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum

'A Pioneering Collection'

Through Feb. 6: "A Pioneering Collection: Master Drawings from the Crocker Art Museum." The finest early collection of European drawings in the U.S. Works by Dürer, Fra Bartolommeo, van Dyck, Fragonard and Ingres. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum

'The Vase and Beyond'

Through Feb. 6: "The Vase and Beyond: The Sidney Swidler Collection of the Contemporary Vessel." Comprised of some 800 vessels by 300 artists, this collection showcases the wide-ranging, innovative practice of contemporary ceramic artists with a gorgeous array of forms, techniques and glazes. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum

Tai Chi

Daily, except Sundays: Meditation, breathing, forms and various styles of Tai Chi are taught. No experience necessary. Everyone welcome. Free. 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Reichmuth Park, 6135 Gloria Dr., Sac. (601) 559-5481

Big Band Dance

Dec. 16, 21, 23, 28, 30: Dance to the rhythms of the Big Band era. Every Tues. & Fri. \$5 admission. 1:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Mission Oaks

Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. (916) 972-0336

Food Addicts Anonymous

Dec. 16, 23, 30: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Thursdays. 9 a.m. St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 6201 Spruce Ave., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Make a feltie

Dec. 16: Teens, your creativity will soar as you make your own feltie. They can be creepy, cute, cuddly, odd - or somewhere in between. Free. 4 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Public Library, 7335 Gloria Dr., Sac. (916) 264-2700 www.saclibrary.org

Playlist: Chelsea Wolfe performs

Dec. 16: Explore the dark sound of California-based Chelsea Wolfe, who will perform songs from her LP *The Grime and the Glow*, released in August on the Brooklyn-based Pendu sound label, as well as new material from a forthcoming release. This concert will be held in the Auditorium. Purchase tickets at crockerartmuseum.org or the Admission Desk. \$6 for members; \$10 for nonmembers; \$12 for nonmembers including Museum admission. 6 p.m. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum

Rotary Club of East Sacramento

Dec. 16, 23, 30: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m., every Thurs. Salvation Army Dining Hall, 2550 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. www.rotary.org

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Dec. 16, 23, 30: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Kelly Byam (916) 684-6854.

Sutterville Heights Optimist Club

Dec. 16, 23, 30: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Cliff (916) 427-2698 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

Toastmasters

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6:45 p.m. 2118 K St., Sac. Teri Bullington (916) 723-6232, teri.bullington@gmail.com, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Dec. 17, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28: Come listen to an interesting guest speaker weekly; community service, serving the children of the world. Visitors welcome, first breakfast "on us." 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. Fridays. 2875 50th St., UC Davis Med. Ctr., Sac. (916) 761-2124 www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com

Rotary Club of Point West

Dec. 17, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. Red Lion Inn, 1401 Arden Wy., Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com

Soroptimists of Sacramento

Dec. 17, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28: Soroptimist International of Sacramento South, a service club for business and professional women, meets Fridays. 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. Barbara McDonald, (916) 363-6927

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Arts Q&A

Dec. 18-19: Join other art lovers and discover the essence of the art on view in tours that emphasize looking, conversation and group interaction. Free with Museum admission. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum

Food Addicts Anonymous

Dec. 18, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Saturdays. 8 a.m. Mercy General Hospital North Auditorium, 4001 J St., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Gardening on the Internet

Dec. 18: Learn about websites on soils, climate and garden design. Gardening newsletters, blogs, more. Reservations recommended. Free. 10:15 a.m.-12 noon. Sacramento Public Library, 828 I St., Sac. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Banned Book Club

Dec. 19: "A Separate Peace" by John Knowles will be discussed. All adults welcome to discuss why this book has been banned, why and the merits/demerits of the book. 10 a.m. Carmichael Public Library, 5605 Marconi Ave., Carmichael. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Christmas concert

Dec. 19: The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation will host its annual Christmas concert. Reception to follow. Freewill offering. 7 p.m. Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, 600 Alhambra Blvd. (916) 443-2033

Classical concert

Dec. 19: "Classical Concert: Susan Lamb Cook, cello and Natsuki Fukasawa, piano." The Classical Concert Series kicks off with a performance by two local favorites performing works by Schumann, Villa-Lobos, Cionco, Busoni and Chopin. \$6 for members; \$10 for nonmembers; \$12 for nonmembers including Museum admission. 3 p.m. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Dec. 19, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: 12-Step group for those who struggle to maintain healthy relationships. Meets Sundays. 2 p.m. Heritage Oaks Hospital, 4300 Auburn Blvd., Rm.101, Sac (866) 794-9993.

Community Sunday breakfast

Dec. 19, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Enjoy a delicious breakfast of eggs Benedict, corned beef hash, Joe's scramble, pancakes and more. 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m, every Sun. \$9. Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. (at Florin Rd.), Sac. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. www.elks6.com

Drop, Yak, Splat!

Dec. 19: A museum adventure for families. Different artworks will provide inspiration for a stimulating gallery experience for families and children of all ages. Free with Museum admission. 11 a.m. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Dec. 20, 27: 12-Step group for those who struggle to maintain healthy relationships. Meets Mondays. 7:30 p.m. Friends Community Church Fireside Room, 4001 E St., Sac. (866) 794-9993.

Hatha yoga

Dec. 20, 27: Align the body through breathing techniques, postures and deep relaxation. 3 p.m.-4 p.m. Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Sac. (916)808-5462. Meets every Mon. Repeats Wed., Fri.

Newcomer's Buffet

Dec. 20: All widows, widowers invited to The Widowed Persons Assn. of CA

no-host "Newcomers" buffet. 5:30 p.m. Meets third Mondays. Plaza Hof Brau, 2500 Watt Ave. (corner El Camino). (916) 972-9722.

Rotary Club of South Sacramento

Dec. 20, 27: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 11:30 a.m., every Mon. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. www.rotary.org.

Tai Chi & Chi Keung

Dec. 20, 27: Chinese exercise combines specific movements and relaxation. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Sac. Meets every Mon. (916) 808-5462

Toastmasters

Dec. 20, 27: Have fun while improving speaking & leadership skills. Klassy Talkers Toastmasters. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Mondays. Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Jan (916) 284-4236, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

Rotary Club of Arden-Arcade

Dec. 21, 28: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 12 noon, every Tues. Jackson Catering and Events, 1120 Fulton Ave., Sac. (916) 925-2787, www.ardenarcaderotary.org

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Contact Person: Sara Zeigler at 996-1572 or zeiggy05@earthlink.net

This Pillow Party Service Project is sponsored by Central United Methodist Church and The Table at Central, in conjunction with the nonprofit, Necessities Bag Sacramento.

Sudoku answers

Continued from page 6

9	2	3	4	7	1	8	5	6
8	4	1	6	5	3	7	9	2
7	5	6	8	2	9	1	4	3
1	6	8	5	9	7	3	2	4
2	7	5	1	3	4	9	6	8
4	3	9	2	8	6	5	1	7
3	1	2	7	6	5	4	8	9
5	8	7	9	4	2	6	3	1
6	9	4	3	1	8	2	7	5

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Three Stages' regional arts complex set to open

By MARC MALONEY
East Sacramento News writer

The stage —make that *stages*—are set for the opening next spring of a new 80,000-square foot regional arts complex on the campus of Folsom Lake College that promises to bring national and international acts, local performers, and student-created works of art together in one state-of-the-art venue overlooking the Sacramento Valley. Three Stages promises to be a jewel in the crown of the Los Rios Community College District.

The \$50 million center, funded primarily by a combination of a State Educational Facilities General Obligation Bond, Local Measure A Bond, and private donations to the Folsom Lake College Foundation, includes three theaters, an art gallery, educational facilities, faculty offices, and much more.

David Pier, the center's executive director, said the facility's design, in the curvilinear lines of its lobby, reflects the diverse feel of Folsom Lake College's modern campus.

"The lobby is a conflux of many different design elements coming together," Pier wrote in an email. "A large curved wall with a beautiful wood finish echoes the arcs and radiuses (sic.) that are common design elements throughout the campus. As in other buildings on campus, a slate wall with stone tiles from quarries in northern India cuts through the lobby. Bricks that make up the campus side of the facility come into the lobby around one of the theaters, bringing the outside in."

The facility was designed by LPAS, a Sacramento-based architectural firm, in conjunction with Shalleck Collaborative, a theater consultant out of San Francisco that provided guidance on the performance spaces. Another local firm, Kitchell CEM, acted as construction manager, overseeing the work of 17 primary con-

tractors and more than 50 specialized companies.

Construction began in summer 2008, and the project was completed on time and on budget, despite it occurring during a recession. Pier believes the project's timing proved favorable.

"Building during this period of a down economy has benefited this project, allowing more to be built within the project's budget than might otherwise have been the case," he reasoned. "At the same time, construction of the facility has had a strong positive effect on the local economy, keeping all of these firms busy building this amazing community asset."

Stage One

As its name "Three Stages" indicates, the arts center includes three very different performance spaces. Stage One is an 850-seat theater with a 46-foot long proscenium, a full stage house, and an orchestra pit. It will accommodate performers from across the artistic spectrum, from Broadway touring shows to symphonies to modern dance performances. Its design is modeled on one of the world's most famous and venerable theaters.

"This theater-in-the-round setting is reminiscent of the Globe Theatre in England," said David Webb, marketing consultant for Three Stages, referring to the theater of Shakespeare's London, built in 1599. The similarity, he said, is intentional, given Folsom Lake College's participation in a program that allows instructors to visit England and the Globe Theatre.

Stage One's interior features include the use of comfortable blue cloth seats and warm wooden accents, giving the auditorium an inviting feeling absent in more sterile-feeling performing arts centers.

"A Venetian plaster was used on the interior walls, together with large wood finished surfaces and curtains which can be drawn to adjust the



East Sacramento News photo, Tom Paniagua
The Los Rios Community College District's latest facility, Three Stages at Folsom Lake College, benefited from construction during a down economy. The district was able to build more within the project's budget than might otherwise have been the case.

acoustics of the theater," Pier noted. "The carpeting and upholstery on the seats help to give the space a warm sensibility. The balcony and its box seats wrap around the theater, similar to the Globe Theatre, emphasizing the intimacy of the venue."

Stage One also boasts excellent acoustics and sightlines for audience members.

"This hall can do all of the things the Mondavi Center (at UC Davis) can do, and it seats half the number of people," marveled Webb, who was the Mondavi Center's first marketing director.

Stage One's first season highlights include the national tour of "A Chorus Line," the Joffrey Ballet, the Harlem Gospel Choir, singer/songwriter Rickie Lee Jones, husband-and-wife jazz musicians John Pizzarelli and Jessica Molaskey, The Pink Floyd Experience, and Roseanne Cash, daughter of the late Johnny Cash, known for his "Live at Folsom Prison" album. And yes, Pink Floyd fans, Webb promises the show will feature a 12 foot long pig blimp.

Stage Two

The 200-seat City Studio Theater, situated next door to the larger theater, offers gently raked seating and excellent viewing opportunities. This smaller, more intimate venue will feature performances by regional community partners like the Folsom Symphony, the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sacramento Ballet, the California Theatre Center, Sierra Community Chorus, plus student productions and presented programs.

Stage Two, which Webb calls his favorite space within the performing arts center, is known for its versatility and practicality. It includes multiple doors and stage rigging setups to regulate the size of the space, adjustable overhead lighting, and a fully functional costume shop.

Stage Three

The arts center's most intimate venue, Stage Three is a 100-seat recital

See Stages, page 23



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East Sacramento News photo, Tom Paniagua

Stage One boasts excellent acoustics and sightlines for audience members.



East Sacramento News photo, Tom Paniagua

Stage One is an 850-seat theater with a 46-foot long proscenium, a full stage house, and an orchestra pit. It will accommodate performers from across the artistic spectrum, from Broadway touring shows to symphonies to modern dance performances. Its design is modeled on the famous Globe Theatre in England.

Stages: Arts complex already being called 'Mondavi Center East'

Continued from page 22

hall that will be a great place to see and hear acoustic music and vocals. It features a gorgeous hardwood floor that any basketball team would be proud to call their home court, plus a state-of-the-art 48-track digital recording studio Webb said is rumored to be the biggest in the region.

"We can record audio and video from any stage in the hall with the press of a button," he said, before adding, with perhaps a hint of envy and incredulity in his voice, "And students are going to learn in this room."

Opening festivities

Three Stages' doors will open to the public next Feb. 4 with a ribbon cutting and open house. The following day's community showcase will feature more than a dozen local performers. The facility's official grand opening weekend will run Feb. 11 through Feb. 14 and will showcase performances of "A Chorus Line" on Feb. 11 through Feb. 13 and "Sugar and Spice," a special Valentine's Day pops concert by the Folsom Symphony.

Great expectations

Pier and Folsom Lake College President Dr. Thelma Scott-Skillman are both understandably excited about the arts center's pending opening. Pier believes the facility will bolster the region's overall quality of life.

"A regional arts center like Three Stages can be transformative for the community it serves, raising the quality of life for everyone," he wrote in his email. "It provides a safe gathering place where people can meet, share experiences, and learn more about each other and the cultures of the world. It's a place where excellence is regularly on display – something you can

viscerally touch, experience, and reflect on."

The center also is expected to be a regional economic driver.

"Once up and operating, the center will employ more than 50 people on an ongoing basis, which will have a direct ripple effect on the local economy," noted Pier. "Another boon for local businesses relates to the more than 100,000 people who will attend events at the center each year, many of whom will want to go out for dinner before or after the show. Based on economic impact studies of the arts in communities around the country, the center's long-term operating budget of \$3 million per year could result in an economic impact on the region of upwards of \$7 million annually."

A regional 'change agent'

Dr. Scott-Skillman expects the facility to improve as it grows into its own skin.

"Three Stages will build upon its offerings during the next few years to ensure the diversity of performances and entertainment," she said. "At full capacity we are planning to offer approximately 400 performances, events, and activities a year, including four or five art exhibits and many exciting programs for young children."

A musician herself, Scott-Skillman appreciates the comforting effect music and the arts can provide, and she looks forward to other artists seeing and appreciating everything Three Stages has to offer.

"As an educator, immersed into an exciting and productive position as a college president, I am also able to lean upon my passion for music as therapy for my soul; my piano truly is a comfort zone for me," she said. "I

am so very proud of this facility. It has truly been a labor of love, taking nearly nine years of planning, researching, and collaborating with many, many people at the college, in the Los Rios district, and across the entire United States to gather as much information to present a gift of the arts to our region."

Having led tours of the facility, Scott-Skillman knows the impact it can have on visitors.

"I get completely energized when I tour people through this facility. Just watching the sparkles in their eyes, responding to the myriad questions that

are generated, and watching the utter disbelief on their faces brings a smile to my heart," she said. "I know that from the moment people embrace this facility, it has a profound impact on them. Three Stages is clearly a transformer; a change agent. Three Stages will attract new patrons of the arts and reintroduce arts lovers to a wonderful environment for decades to come."

For more information on Three Stages and complete information about upcoming performances, show times and ticket prices, visit www.threestages.net.

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