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Janey Way Memories Cruising again on K Street



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

I read recently that the City of Sacramento had opened up a few blocks of down town K Street to traffic. The hope is that bringing cars back to K Street will help the businesses there.

That brought back memories of when K Street was the main drag in town. Back in the 1950s and '60s, K Street ran one-way all the way from Alhambra Blvd. in midtown down to Front Street on the Sacramento River. My friend, John Waldren, an East Sacramento barber, remembers those times well.

John came of age in the late 1950s when every young man wanted to own a sleek, fast American car. John bought his first car, a shiny, two-toned Chevy sedan, in 1959. He bought it for \$400 because its automatic transmission was leaking fluid. Along with other nice features, the car had a 350 horsepower engine under its hood. John quickly replaced the automatic transmission with a standard transmission and headed down to K Street to show off his new ride.

Over the next several years, John spent almost every Friday and Saturday night cruising there. When night time fell, he'd get in his Chevy, drive down Folsom Blvd. to Alhambra Blvd, turn right, then go two blocks up to K Street.

There, he would drive down town to meet with his buddies and hang out. All the kids with nice cars cruised on K Street at that time. At the stop lights, as the cars idled, they revved

up their loud engines. When the light turned green, they peeled out and moved quickly up to the next light.

Police officers also cruised the drag in their black and whites, sometimes ticketing drivers for "exhibition of speed."

That, of course, was the reason for driving down K Street.

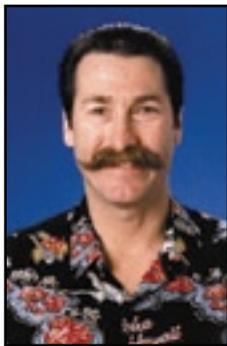
At Third Street, cars usually turned right, then drove one block over to J Street, then back up J Street to Mel's Drive-in on 19th. There, they turned left into the drive-in and then either drove back out for a return trip down K, or parked in Mel's to order a burger and fries. Mel's was the happening place back then.

After leaving Mel's, the young driver usually took another run down K Street, and then often ended up parked in an empty lot across from Sam's Hof Brau on J Street.

John said the kids called that lot the "witness stand." It was where they parked their cars and hung out with their buddies, watching the cars go by and taking in all the action. That empty lot disappeared a long time ago.

These days, John drives a hot rod: a 1931 Model A Ford, with a souped-up engine and a stunning red and yellow paint job. He and his friends from the Italian Hot Rod Association will be showing off their custom cars at the Autorama coming up later this month at Cal Expo.

The days of cruising down K Street are only a memory now. Hybrid cars have taken the place of the muscle cars kids drove back then. Green power has replaced horse power. I guess that is a good thing, but don't tell that to John.



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Know your neighbor

Original Kings owner Greg Lukenbill reminisces on Arco Arena, major leagues

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

Editor's Note: This is part two of a two-part series about East Sacramento native Gregg Lukenbill's many activities in the capital city.

Gregg Lukenbill will forever be remembered for his involvement in bringing a National Basketball Association team to Sacramento. But he has also been active with many other activities during his life.

As presented in part one of this series, Gregg, 57, grew up in Sacramento, graduated from Sacramento High School and attended American River College, Sacramento City College and Sacramento State University.

He was also involved in construction for many years in the capital city, thus helping to make his life story very much a Sacramento story.

And in spending his youth in Sacramento, Gregg was among the many locals who were disappointed with the departure of the Sacramento Solons of the Pacific Coast League.

A lesser known fact about Gregg is that he attempted to bring post-Solons professional baseball to Sacramento.

Baseball efforts

Long before Gregg worked to acquire an NBA team for the city, Gregg placed a lot of his energy toward having a baseball stadium constructed off Bradshaw Road on county-owned property.

County Supervisor Pat Melarkey was essential in having this property used for a stadium, as he informed Gregg that the property was available to be leased or purchased.

A lien had been placed on the property because of unpaid taxes of \$800.

Through Melarkey's assistance, the property was leased by Gregg and his father Frank.

Unfortunately for the further progression of the stadium construction project, this endeavor fell by the wayside due to the passing of Proposition 13 and neighborhood opposition.

This failure to build a baseball stadium off Bradshaw Road led Gregg and his business partners to refocus their attention on ac-

quiring a site that they could purchase for a future sports facility.

Arco Arena

Gregg's business advisor Steve Cippa of Coldwell Banker arranged for the purchase of the abandoned crop dusting airport, where part of today's

Power Balance Pavilion is located in Natomas. Adjoining property was also acquired for the sports facility project.

Because of opposition from the city council and the city planning commission, about eight years passed before the atmosphere and proper zoning for the facility was secured.

Eventually Gregg and his business partners purchased the Kansas City Kings of the NBA and had a 10,333-seat temporary arena constructed.

The second and "permanent" Arco Arena – now Pow-

See Lukenbill, page 9

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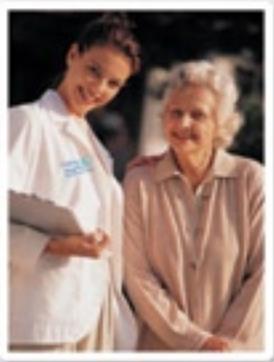
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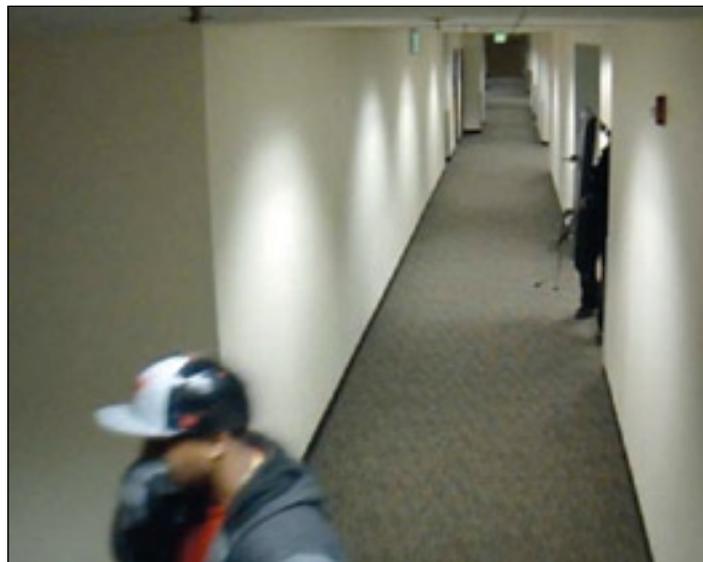
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Sac State Police seek suspects in recent campus burglary

Special to East Sacramento News

The Sacramento State Police Department is investigating the report of a burglary in the early morning hours of Jan. 20 in Folsom Hall.

Descriptions of the suspects are listed below. Sacramento State police encourage anyone with information on the suspects or crime to contact the department at (916) 278-6851.



Suspect 1
 Age: Mid to late 20s
 Gender: Male
 Height: Approximately 6'1"
 Weight: Approximately 220 lbs
 Hair: Black
 Eyes: Brown
 Race: African American
 Additional Identifier(s): Heavy build. Wearing a white and black Chicago Bulls hat. The front of the hat has a red Chicago Bulls mascot head. He was also wearing white and black shoes with red laces.

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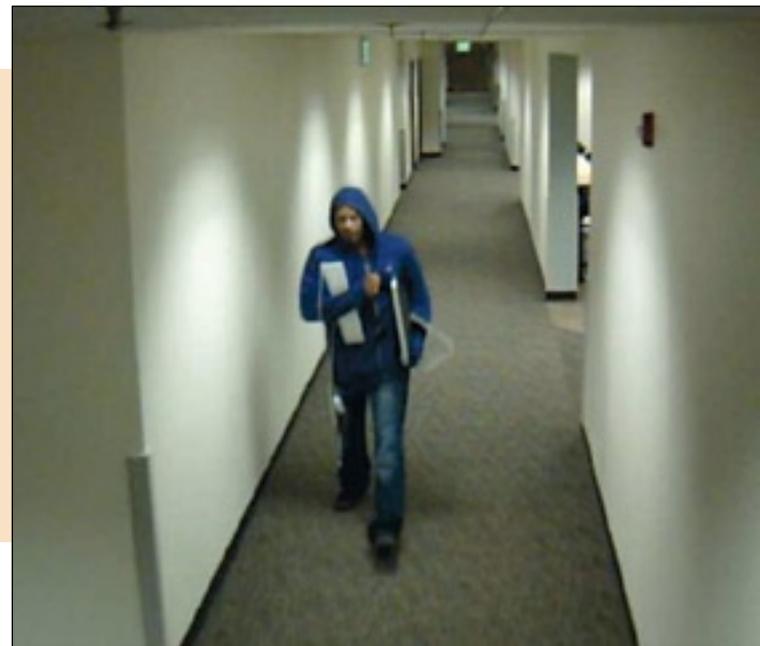
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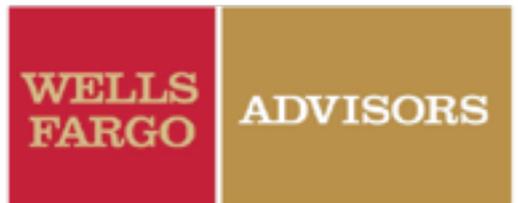
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Suspect 2
 Age: Mid to late 20s
 Gender: Male
 Height: Approximately 5'11"
 Weight: Approximately 170 lbs
 Hair: Unknown
 Eyes: Brown
 Race: African American
 Additional Identifier(s): Thin build. Wearing a blue zip-up hooded sweatshirt.



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Neighborhood pulls out checkbook to save Clunie Hall Community Center

By ELIZABETH VALENTE
East Sacramento News writer
elizabeth@valcomnews.com

When the City of Sacramento announced this fall that the Clunie Hall Community Center, located at 601 Alhambra Boulevard at McKinley Park, was in jeopardy of closing this July due to city budget issues, a community-wide campaign was launched to keep it fully operating. Residents and business owners of East Sacramento, members of McKinley Library, and McKinley Park enthusiasts didn't waste any time to save their 75 year-old iconic building.

"We have \$29,000 for this fiscal year to pay for everyday maintenance such as the heating, air conditioning, janitorial and part time staff for the Clunie Center. We could not guarantee that we could continue to allocate that much for the building," explained Lori Harder, City Administrative Manager of Parks and Recreation. "The potential of closing the community center and eventually the adjoining McKinley Library, those two things happening were very alarming for the community around McKinley Park. So members of the community stepped up to raise funds and manage the building."

Friends of East Sac rally

The initial rally to help raise funds came from members of the non-profit group, Friends of East Sac. According to the organization's Website, the funds represent the committee's commitment to support those in need and the community.

"Friends of East Sacramento – with the support of every of East Sacramento and Midtown neighborhood association, Councilman Steve Cohn, the Friends of McKinley Library, the city, and donations by hundreds of neighbors – has stepped forward with a 3 year plan to provide non-profit management for the Clunie," the Website stated. "This will help ensure that the McKinley Library could continue to stay open. The Friends of East Sacramento will model the operation after the very successful Sierra 2 Center in Curtis Park. The nonprofit model of the operation of public facilities is growing nation-wide. But keeping it open and managed by a nonprofit takes start-up money."

Successful drive

The rebel cry was a success. Within four months, Friends of East Sac, led by East Sacramento resident Cecily Hastings, collected over \$60,000 from local businesses, residents, and park supporters to help pay off the City's \$45,000 operating budget.

"We got the call right before the Christmas break and I can tell you, in the past four years we don't get that kind of good news too often anymore with all the closures of parks and recs. So yea, it was a great Christmas present," said Harder. "Without the group's efforts, the Center was most likely to close in July, along with the library inside."

"We've established a \$60,000 building fund be-



Image courtesy, Friends of McKinley Library. Painting by East Sacramento artist David Lobenberg. **SAVED!** Local businesses and residents stepped up to save the Clunie Community Center, which houses the McKinley Library. The iconic East Sacramento structure celebrated its 75th birthday last October.

Clunie by the Numbers

The Clunie Hall Community Center was named for a life-long Sacramento resident, Florence Turton Clunie, wife of pioneer and state congressman Thomas J. Clunie. She was a notable Sacramento businesswoman in her own right. Upon her death in 1934, her estate donated \$150,000 for the building of a community center and pool in McKinley Park. The City of Sacramento pitched in an additional \$20,000 to establish the McKinley Library at the north end of the new building. Both opened to the public in late 1936.

The Center boasts a beautiful lobby with an art deco look, reminiscent of the 1930s when it was built.

Annual attendance:

Classes organized by Parks and Recreation with private instructors: **5590**

Estimated number of people through rental activity (community and nonprofit meetings and events, weddings/family events, library programming, etc.): **33,753**

Examples of classes:

- Feldenkrais
- Piano for Beginners
- Spanish 4 Toddlers

cause this is an old building and we've already figured out it's a money pit," said Hastings at a City press conference held on Jan. 17 with Mayor Kevin Johnson, Councilmember Steve Cohn and Nancy Cornelius from McKinley-East Sacramento Neighborhood Association (MENA). "We want to restore it to its glory of

probably what it was 75 years ago."

Blueprint to follow

At the press conference, Mayor Johnson said the work in East Sacramento is "a blueprint that challenges other areas of the city."

Harder expanded on the Mayor's sentiments by

See Clunie, page 7

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Clunie: Residents, businesses waste no time in taking action to save building

Continued from page 6

adding that this action by residents and businesses in East Sacramento is a community model that the City hopes will continue to emerge to help keep parks and community centers open as the budget deficit continues to chip away at those assets.

"We do have several other community centers that are (scheduled) to close, so we put out calls to non-profits and big local corporations if they want to talk to us about taking over responsibility of other community centers, to keep them open for community meetings, programming for kids, teens and adults," Harder said. "A great example of this model is the Sierra 2 Center, run by the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association. It makes the Curtis Park neighborhood one of the most unique communities in Sacramento."

Negotiating a transition

Currently organizers of Friends of East Sac are in negotiations with the City to take over the Center and run the facility at a lower cost than the city has. Organizers believe that, with proper management, the Clunie Hall Community Center could bring in \$100,000 a year.

"We are working with their advisory committee to finalize the lease and transition base. They have people with facility management, grant writing, and marketing skills," Harder said. "We hope the transition will be sometime by this spring or by July. We have great faith this organization will do a superb job in maintaining this center."

"I bring my family out here to enjoy the park all the time, and this Center has served the community and has enhanced the lives of others in so many ways," said supporter Robert Schmitt. "We know these are difficult times for many people, but this is a place that anyone can come and benefit from such as the McKinley Library, and the events held inside. I'm glad we have a community that cares so much."



East Sacramento News photo, Stephen Crowley
THE CLUNIE HALL COMMUNITY CENTER is an icon built in memory of a Sacramento businesswoman who served the community. In 1934, Florence Turton Clunie's estate bequeathed \$150,000 to build the center – over \$2.5 million in today's dollars.

'We got the call right before the Christmas break and I can tell you, in the past from years we don't get that kind of good news too often... Without the group's efforts, the (Clunie) Center was most likely to close in July – along with the library inside.'

–Lori Harder

City Administrative Manager,
Sacramento Parks and Recreation



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Book by Sacramento author celebrates children of immigrants

Special to East Sacramento News

Some 40 people who grew up as children of immigrants in the United States are featured in a new book entitled "Proud Americans: Growing Up as Children of Immigrants." The book is the work of Sacramento resident Judie Fertig Panneton.

Inside is a collection of inspirational stories about people's joys and struggles while coming of age in the United States.

Included are Hollywood stars, high-profile business and media people,

award-winning athletes, members of the President's cabinet, elected officials and those whose names may not be recognizable but whose stories are filled with wisdom and inspiration.

According to Fertig Panneton, the children of immigrants are different. They are their parents' bridge to American ways, their translators, their support system and their hope for a more promising future. They have fought to live independent lives while being true to their families' roots and expectations.

The stories in "Proud Americans: Growing up as Children of Immigrants" are based on research and extensive interviews with people who live across the United States and whose family roots stretch around the globe. During each personally conducted interview, the subjects tap into their memories about growing up in America and how being children of immigrants has affected their lives.

Also featured, based on research, are: Hines Ward, Dr. Mehemet Oz, Jay Leno, Ann Curry, George Stephanopou-

los, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, Leonardo DiCaprio, Rahm Emanuel, Jennifer Aniston, Christina Aguilera, Michael Savage, Ivanka Trump, Apolo Ohno, Maria Menounos, Maurice Sendak, Timothy Geithner, Michael Dukakis and Margaret Cho.

Fertig Panneton is herself a child of immigrants and an award-winning journalist. This is her second book based on a collection of stories.

"Proud Americans: Growing Up as Children of Immigrants" is available on amazon.com. Also visit www.proudamericanspeak.com.



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Lukenbill: Unwavering love for Sacramento and its history

Continued from page 3

er Balance Pavilion – opened in 1988.

In addition to the arena's typical events, one of the earliest attractions at the arena occurred in 1989, when Gregg arranged for one of the venue's most unusual events.

"We were looking for some creative thing we could do to raise money, so I said, 'Why don't we make the world's largest drive-thru?' It was my idea. I knew that we could open the doors and create a drive-thru."

As a result of this idea, cars lined up for several hours on a Saturday, as people ordered food and beverage from a very unique McDonald's drive-thru.

Gregg, who was also very involved with the construction of downtown's Hyatt Regency Hotel, sold his share of the Kings to Jim Thomas in 1992.

Doubts about Anaheim

As many Kings fans and residents of the Sacramento region are well aware, the Kings were on the verge of being relocated to Anaheim after the end of the season last year.

In discussing the topic of this well-documented potential move to the south, Gregg said, "I have my doubts about Anaheim," Gregg said. "If you put three (NBA teams) in L.A., why wouldn't you

put three in New York and maybe even four, another one in Chicago? What you're dealing with is a situation of the structure of the league – from a television market standpoint – and its economic advantages of being a large market. It goes back to that whole competitive balance relationship. How do you create a bicameral competitive balance in sports? What do you do in the NBA? The NFL solved the problem by basically taking all revenues and distributing equally to every team. It's essentially socialism, socialized capitalism. It's a battle for the (NBA) to try to sustain the illusion of competitive balance."

On a new arena

And in regard to the ongoing arena issue in Sacramento, Gregg stressed the necessity of approaching the problem on a wider spread scale.

"I still think that they need a regional solution to this thing, but maybe they'll get it done (through the city)," Gregg said.

History, travel buff

When it comes to the topic of history, one would find it difficult to encounter someone who is more passionate about the subject than Gregg.

Gregg is so intrigued by history that he said that he would likely have taught history had he not become involved in the local construction industry.

Some of Gregg's personal hobbies alone demonstrate his love for history.

"I have a thing for national parks and monuments," Gregg said prior to naming some of the many national parks and monuments that he has visited.

In his East Sacramento home, Gregg has a map that shows lines on it that represent most of the places he has traveled to in the United States.

Gregg also has a collection of hundreds of pinback buttons from both Sacramento and places where he has visited throughout the world.

Many of the buttons are from national parks and monuments that he has visited.



East Sacramento News photo, Lance Armstrong
GREGG LUKENBILL points to a map that shows lines representing most of the places he has traveled to in the United States.

Traveling with his wife, Sally, is one of Gregg's greatest passions. And together Gregg has visited 46 state Capitol buildings and has been to all 50 states more than once.

Another one of Gregg's hobbies is collecting history books and his ability to discuss the lives of past U.S. presidents provides evidence that he has also

read many of the books that he owns.

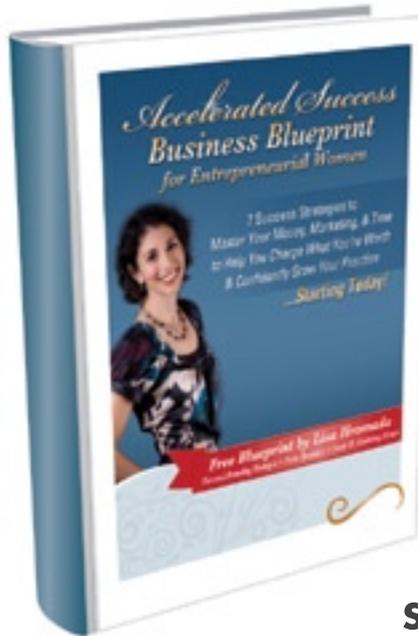
Although Gregg does not shy away from diplomatically voicing his opinions regarding his frustrations with various actions taken by the city, one thing is for sure; he maintains an unwavering love for his hometown of Sacramento and its storied history.

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How sweet it is

Local spots offer chocolatey concoctions perfect for your Valentine

By CORRIE PELC
East Sacramento News writer
corrie@valcomnews.com

Ah, chocolate. If ever there was a food with magical powers, this would be it. It has the ability to turn any frown upside down. And it's a treat enjoyed by everyone – male or female, young or old, rich or poor.

Chocolate has a very rich history. According to Wikipedia, a form of drinking chocolate can be traced all the way back to 1900 BC. Chocolate was used in the religious rituals of the Mayans and Aztecs, leading eventually to European explorers being introduced to the sub-

stance. From there the production of what we know as chocolate did not evolve until the 18th century, thanks to the Industrial Revolution and machinery that began producing large quantities of chocolate treats.

In the US, chocolate is purchased by 97.3 percent of households and chocolate candy sales totaled about \$7.5 billion in 2009, according to Nielsen. Of those sales, about \$345 million occur during the week of Valentine's Day, with consumers purchasing more than 58 million pounds of chocolate candies, Nielsen adds.

Sweet Sacramento

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, it is fortunate that there are quite a few options in our community to pick up the perfect chocolate sweet for your Valentine.

For example, Midtown's Ginger Elizabeth Chocolates will be offering a decorated heart-shaped box made of chocolate that is then filled with "chocolate pearls" and their signature truffles.

"We specialize in a French style truffle. It's a cut truffle, called bon bon," explains owner Ginger Elizabeth Hahn. She



Photo courtesy

CHOCOLATE MOUSSE PIE from Vic's Ice Cream in Sacramento's Land Park is a classic treat for Valentine's Day. It features a chocolate cookie crust, Vic's signature chocolate mousse ice cream, fudge and it's topped by chocolate whipped cream and chocolate flakes.

adds the shop will also be offering a special Valentine's Cake featuring rum-soaked banana cake layered with banana Bavarian cream and crunchy chocolate pearls, all wrapped in bittersweet chocolate mousse. Hahn says pre-ordering is a must for these items.

In the Arden area, Capital Confections will be offering chocolate-dipped strawberries both the day before and on Valentine's Day, as well as their 24 flavors of handmade truf-

fles packaged in handmade boxes made from mulberry paper.

Looking for a unique gift?

"One of the fun things we do for Valentine's Day is our handcuffs and I have little printed ribbons on the handcuffs that say 'Prisoner of Love' and it's very cute," suggests owner Teresa Higgins.

Additionally the shop can make your Valentine

See Chocolate, page 13

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Chocolate: The taste, texture – how it melts in your mouth – Sacramento loves chocolate

Continued from page 12

a special chocolate from one of the 700 chocolate molds they have in stock. Higgins suggests placing Valentine's Day orders at least a week in advance, including for the strawberries.

Cool treats

If it's chocolate ice cream that your love craves, Vic's Ice Cream in Land Park has you covered with its chocolate mousse pie.

"It has a chocolate cookie crust, chocolate mousse ice cream – which we make here – fudge on top, chocolate whipped cream, and then chocolate flakes on top of that," details Craig Rutledge, president of Vic's Ice Cream. Rutledge says Vic's can also create bon bons, which are hand-scoops of ice cream dipped in Guittard chocolate, or create a "party cake" with 10 scoops of any ice cream they have available. And he said the shop is getting ready to bring back its famed Jik Jak flavor – a light chocolate with cinnamon, malt, almonds and fudge ripple. Rutledge advises placing orders at least a week before Valentine's Day.

Dine out

Over in the Pocket area, no dinner is complete without dessert. The Pocket Bistro has this cov-

ered with a special cake they will be serving only on Valentine's Day, according to chef and owner Edmund Abay.

"We'll be doing a chocolate decadence cake that's going to be stuffed with a chocolate ganache, warmed up, and served with fresh strawberries," he says. Abay says the special dessert is house-made by their pastry chef and will feature semi-sweet Ghirardelli chocolate. For Valentine's dinner, he suggests making reservations as soon as possible.

Make me melt

With the obvious chocolate infatuation most Americans have, what is it that draws us in? What is it about chocolate that makes it so hard to resist?

Hahn says it's the color of chocolate that actually draws people to it subconsciously, the mouth-feel, and how it melts in your mouth.

"One of the biggest perks of chocolate is that if it's a good quality one, it melts on the human palate perfectly," she explains.

Abay believes people are drawn to chocolate for its richness as a comfort food.

"When people were growing up, as a child chocolate has always been there and I think

when people order chocolate on the menu, it's more a comforting thing," he adds.

Happy memories

Rutledge agrees, citing both nostalgia and comfort. In fact, he says Vic's sells more chocolate ice cream flavors in the winter than any other season. And when it comes to chocolate ice cream, he says it's also a texture thing.

"Since you already have a butter fat product with the dairy and if you're adding the butter fat from the cocoa in there, it actually makes it a smoother, creamier product than if we just put like vanilla extract in it," he says. "You're getting a much smoother texture, so I think that drives people to like it."

And when all of these elements are added together, it boils down to one thing for why people love chocolate so much, Higgins says.

"It's a treat, it's like a moment on vacation," she said. "It's like going and treating yourself to something small that makes you feel good."



Photo courtesy

LOVELY IN ALL ITS FORMS, people all around the globe love chocolate. These cut truffles are a specialty of Ginger Elizabeth Chocolates in Midtown Sacramento.

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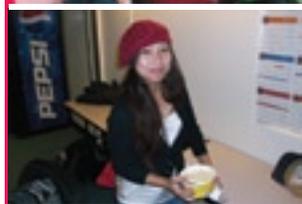
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Taking care of business

Sacramento Animal Care Services' manager takes 'unconventional' approach for positive results

By CORRIE PELC
East Sacramento News writer
corrie@valcomnews.com

Gina Knepp is one busy woman. A City of Sacramento employee for the last 25 years, she is public information officer for the Department of General Services, division manager of Sacramento City 311, and, since July 2011, the acting Animal Care Services manager for the City of Sacramento Animal Care Services.

Not coming from a shelter management background, Knepp has been busy making some "unconventional" changes to how Animal Care Services operates.

"One of the philosophical shifts for us is (focusing) on the people in Sacramento – we have to look at our community as the solution to our problem," she says. "We have to take an approach in running our shelter like a business and recognizing that it's the people that are going to do the adoptions, it's the people who run the rescue groups that are going to partner with us to pull animals here so they leave with a heartbeat."

'Leave with a heartbeat'

Having animals "leave with a heartbeat" is one of Knepp's constant messages to her staff in managing their animal population and keeping a steady flow of adopted animals out the front door.

"I'm really proud of the fact that our adoptions have risen and the number of animals that we are sending out to rescue groups is going up," Knepp adds. "We're working feverishly to improve every single aspect of what we do here."

To help with this philosophy, Knepp is having all her staff undergo behavior evaluation training and has volunteer professional photographers taking what she calls "glamor shots" of adoptable animals, which she says has been a huge boon to their pet adoptions.

To help new adopters keep their animals, Knepp is starting to give each new family a free book on taking a pet home for the first time, plus the shelter has started providing information in Spanish. The shelter just started a program offering free ID tags and collars and free microchipping for lost pets.

"My goal is A: reducing intake, and B: if I get your animal I really want to get it back to you," Knepp adds.

Knepp has even been helping the homeless population in Sacramento by taking care of their pets free-of-charge if they find themselves jailed or hospitalized, including vaccinations, altering and microchipping.



Photo courtesy

HELP NEEDED. The Sacramento City Animal Shelter can use the help of 200 volunteers this year. With the help of these volunteers, more animals will be able to leave the shelter to go to "fur-ever" homes.

"If you're homeless, your dog is your companion, your friend, your family – that's all you've got," she explains. "We all come from different walks of life, but the love of our animals is universal."

Next for Knepp

Right now Knepp is working to achieve a 75 percent leave-live rate for the Shelter by August.

"The highest that I've gone, that was about two weeks ago, was 57.7 (percent)," she says. "Right now I'm at 49.6 (percent). Historically, it's been much lower and I want to get to 75 percent."

Call for volunteers

Additionally Knepp would like to have 200 active volunteers at Animal Care Services by this time next year.

"I think the most important component of successful sheltering and getting animals out alive is your volunteer program – it's the people in the community who come in here to augment what staff do," she says. And she is working on grant opportunities to expand the shelter's current surgical capacities to spay and neuter adopted animals so they can go home with their new owners sooner.

However, Knepp is quick to point out that when it comes down to it, it's not about how much money you have, but how much passion that makes the difference.

"It's not about the dollars and it's not about the number of people that work here. It's about do you have passion to essentially do whatever it takes to get these animals adopted," she explains. "Six years ago when there was money and more staff, their statistics weren't better. So I really do believe it's a shift in thinking that, 'Yes, we can do this.'"

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Kids enjoy 'Blast from the Past' at Discovery Museum

Photos by **BILL CONDRAY**
East Sacramento News photographer
bill@valcomnews.com

Rain or shine, these kids and their families knew what to do to stay busy and engaged on the weekend – they went to the Discovery Museum in Sacramento!

Kids who went to the museum in recent weeks learned about creatures who lived far in the past, including some who are with us today. Sheila Montgomery introduced kids to "Bump" the turtle and "Boris" the desert tortoise.

During the "Rockin' Rock Pets" program, kids got to choose and dec-

orate their own pet rocks to take home.

Included in the exhibits were dinosaur bone replicas and a life-size baby woolly mammoth. Kids can add yarn to its coat. "Woolly Wonders" weekend at the museum was Jan. 28 and 29.



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- What can I do to give my loved one quality of life?
- When is it time to place my loved one?

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CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
www.valcomnews.com

Send your event announcement for consideration to: susan@valcomnews.com at least two weeks prior to publication.

Oradores. Every Thursday/Cada Jueves 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Sutter Cancer Center 2800 L Street, Sac. Teri Bullington (916) 723-6232 teri.bullington@gmail.com, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

Bingo!

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: Enjoy a great local charity game of bingo every Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. Benefits projects in the community. Early bird for \$5, Regular game buy-in of \$20. Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., Sac. (916) 422-6666

FEBRUARY

Bilingual Toastmasters

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: Una oportunidad única para mejorar sus habilidades bilingües y superar el temor de hablar delante de gente con nuestro club Los Oradores Toastmasters. Improve your language skills and lose fear of speaking in front of people in Spanish and English with Los

Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market
Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, year round. 8 a.m. - noon. Florin Rd. & 65th St., Sac. www.california-grown.com

Food Addicts Anonymous

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: 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.

Living Positive with Chronic Disease group

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: Meet-up group for people living with chronic disease who honor how important a positive mindset is. If you want to complain - this isn't the group for you. The group will discuss and support: best practices for managing your condition, communication strategies, ways to laugh, have fun, engage with life and more. Free. Meets Thursdays 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. Starbucks, 1401 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. Danae Horn (503) 319-4247

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd., Sac. Kelly Byam (916) 684-6854.

Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, May-Sept. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 4th & K streets, Sac. www.california-grown.com

Sutterville Heights Optimist Club

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Golden Corral, 7700 W. Stockton Blvd., Sac. Charlie (916) 427-7136 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

Ballroom Dances

Feb. 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28: Enjoy dancing to a live band every Tuesday and Friday. 1:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. \$5/person. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael

Best Friend Fridays

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24: Enjoy a fun, no-pressure, no-risk networking environment that benefits the local community non-profits. Hors d'oeuvres, wine & beer, games, raffle drawings, door prizes. Bring your best friend and make new ones. \$5 admission. Each Friday is hosted by a different non-profit group with all proceeds from the raffle donated. Garden Room and Courtyard, Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St., Sac. (916) 452-3005 www.sierra2.org

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24: 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

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way., Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com

Soroptimists of Sacramento

Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24: 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

Country Club Plaza Farmer's Market

Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25: Country Club Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Saturday, year round. 8 a.m. - noon. Watt & El Camino, Butano Dr. parking lot, Sac. www.california-grown.com

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'Music of the Heart' concert to include poignant tribute

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

At this season's opening concert for the Folsom Symphony, Maestro Michael Neumann conducted a brief experiment with the audience.

"Listen to this passage from Tchaikovsky's 'Symphony No. 4,' he told them before the symphony performed a few brief phrases of the piece.

The music was beautiful.

"Now, close your eyes," the Sacramento conductor said. "And this time, I want you to think of someone you love very much...someone you have not seen in a very long time."

The symphony repeated the music. But this time, eyes were tearing up – and many were reaching for the Kleenex.

Neumann's point to the audience that evening was this: Music is able to communicate on a variety of levels. It has the unique ability to reach into the deepest parts of the human soul.

February's annual "Valentine's" concert is appropriately dubbed "Music of the Heart." But this year's performance will have an additional component: the symphony is mourning the loss of one of its own.

On Dec. 15, Alexander Ashton, the assistant principal cellist, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 27. He was a founding member of the symphony, much beloved by his colleagues. Mr. Ashton was a member of the Sacramento Youth Symphony Premier Orchestra for eight years, and he also played with the Sacramento Valley Choral Society for seven years. He was a member of the Broken Iris and Green Audio, both popular Sacramento area bands.

The symphony will dedicate a selection from the Feb. 11 performance to Mr. Ashton's memory. Sir Edward Elgar's "Enigma Variations" was dedicated by the composer "to my friends pictured within." Composed from 1898 to 1899, this work has fascinated musicians ever since. What is the mystery about the people portrayed in the music? Elgar said there was a hidden theme that is "not played," but no one

guessed it during his lifetime. He took the secret with him to the grave. It is entirely appropriate that this most popular of Elgar's works be dedicated to Alex Ashton.

In keeping with the theme of immortal love, Neumann will conduct the symphony through 11 soul-stirring and romantic works from both the

classical and popular repertoire, including: "Romeo and Juliet" (Tchaikovsky), "Pavane" (Fauré), "Moonlight Sonata" (Beethoven) and "Marriage of Figaro" (Mozart).

Audience members can expect a performance of the first order at this concert that has so much significance for members of the Folsom Sympho-

ny. Always thinking of others, these talented musicians will also be performing for one of their own. And that is music from the heart.

"Music of the Heart" will be performed one evening only, on Saturday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. The main Three Stages theater at the Folsom Lake College Per-

forming Arts Complex is located at 10 College Parkway (just off East Bidwell Street) in Folsom. Parking is free.

Single tickets are \$25 to \$55. Discounted season tickets and student rates are available. To purchase, call (916) 608-6888 or visit www.folsomsymphony.com.

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