

EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS

June 6, 2013

Community News in Your Hands

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Neighborhood children's musician held spring break tour. Here's a review of Mr. Cooper's album, 'I Like Your Hat'

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What's next for St. Francis athletes?

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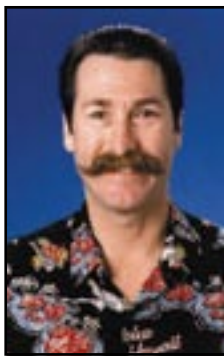
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Janey Way Memories:
Remembering my father



By **MARTY RELLES**
marty@valcomnews.com

With Father's Day approaching, I want to take the time to share some memories of my father, Martin Relles Sr., who inspired me in ways I can't overestimate.

Dad was born in 1915 in Chicago, but soon moved to Sacramento with his family. He lost his dad at the age of five in the great Spanish flu epidemic. His mother re-married soon after that. Being a step-child is never easy, but it proved particularly hard on dad. His stepfather often disciplined him. One day while he played in his front yard on 14th Avenue, his step-father became so angry, he hit dad on the back with a piece of wire.

When that happened, a doctor who lived across the street came over and said this to his stepfather, "If I see you do that again, I will have you put in jail." Thankfully, dad never suffered that kind of treatment again.

As with many children, sports provided a healthy outlet for dad and his older brothers, George and Ross. They preceded him at Sacramento High and excelled at football and baseball. So when dad entered high school, he had high expectations to live up to. He took that to heart.

When he arrived at school on the first day, he wore a sweater emblazoned with the following slogan: "Another great Relles comes to Sacramento High." Fortunately, he lived up to that hoopla. We still have

clippings from the Sacramento Bee describing dad's football triumphs.

Another memory of my dad dates back to 1990. I had just married for the second time and bought a home in College Glen. That winter, rain came pouring through the roof. I was pretty broke, but obviously had to fix the problem, so I told mom I was coming over to Janey Way to borrow some money.

When I got there, I parked the car and came, head down, up to the house. Mom let me in. Dad was sitting at the table with his checkbook in hand. As he wrote the check, he looked up with a smile and said, "I was hoping you would ask." My father was nothing if not generous.

My final memory is from 1999, the year my father died. On the night of his passing, my sister and I called all of the family to let them know what happened. Soon the aunts, uncles and cousins came over to give their condolences. As I stood on the front porch, my aunt Leone came up, gave me a hug and said sincerely and lovingly, "he was a wonderful man." He was that and I am fortunate that he was my father.

A few days later, at the funeral, I stood on the altar of St. Mary's church and eulogized my father. At the end of my speech, I looked up to the heavens and said softly, "uncle George and uncle Ross, you had better make some room up there in heaven, because there is another great Relles coming to join you." That was 14 years ago, and not a day goes by that I don't think about dad. It's another heart rending Janey Way memory.

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Recycling and yard waste changes outlined

By **BENN HODAPP**
benn@valcomnews.com

As of July 1, as many as 14,000 Sacramentans will have to change their weekly waste disposal routine in order to adhere to the city's new service changes. Garbage pickup will go on as it always has, but recycling pickup will change from every week to every other week beginning on that date.

Steve Harriman, Waste General Manager of the Recycling and Solid Waste Division, outlined why some of the changes are taking place.

"The city was on an every other week recycling schedule until 2006," Harriman said. "It was changed to every week because it was believed that the tonnage of collected recycling would increase 30-40% if collected weekly, but really it only increased by five or six percent. It was costing a huge amount of money to put trucks on the street in order to collect this small increase in recyclables."

While the goal is to collect as much recycling as possible, the bottom line is that the city can only do so much within the constraints of its budget.

"It's a little less convenient, but we will save \$1 million a year by changing it to every other week," he said.

In addition to the new recycling schedule, some Sacramento residents will have their day of the week for waste pickup

changed, according to Harriman. Those affected by this new schedule have either already been informed or will be informed before the July 1 change. While recycling is changing to an every other week schedule, green waste pickup will continue to be every week as before.

In order to combat confusion about the new pickup schedule, the city has launched a free app called Sac City 311 for your mobile phone. With the app you can sign up for a weekly reminder to be sent to your phone about recycling dates. The app will also allow you to report broken cans, report illegal dumping or request a new can.

For people who recycle a lot of materials and are worried that the bi-weekly pickup schedule will leave them drowning in recyclables, a second recycle can is available for \$1.76.

The recycling schedule will be broken up into A and B recycling weeks. To find out which week you fall on, you can either download the 311 app, or go to www.sacreycle.org.

Residents may also take advantage of appointment-based neighborhood pickup of large items. Each household is allowed one free pickup of five cubic yards (or about the size of a pickup truck). Each additional five cubic yards will be charged a fee of \$28.60. Appointments can be made through the 311 app or by dialing 311 on your phone.

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Sac Library wants to show how 'Reading is so Delicious' this summer

By **CORRIE PELC**
corrie@valcomnews.com

Write a cookbook. Make a pizza. Learn cooking techniques.

This is literally just a taste of the bounty of programs the Sacramento Public Library has put together for its annual summer reading program.

This year's theme is "Reading is So Delicious," which ties in literacy skills with helping kids and adults learn about food and nutrition in a fun way, says Christie Hamm, manager of youth and community services for the Sacramento Public Library. Plus, Hamm says, the theme ties in with the local eating culture of Sacramento with its community of growers and foodies. "It's a perfect opportunity for us to celebrate the cultural heritage, the opportunities, the different businesses and growers and history that we have in this area," she adds.

Additionally, programs that teach how to read a recipe, for instance, show how literacy is an important life-long skill, says Donna Zick, youth services librarian at Belle Cooleage Library in Land Park. "The literacy part of it is so relevant in so many aspects of their lives, and there are some very direct applications here with cooking, (which are) skills you're going to need for your whole life," she explains.

And taking part in a summer reading program helps kids be better prepared for the return to school in the fall, says Tracey Joe, youth services

librarian at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library. "Studies have shown that you need to read at least four to five books over the summer to prevent 'summer slide' — the set back kids get when they come back from summer vacation and they're trying to pick up where they left off in school," she explains.

Feast On This!

One of the signature programs at library branches this summer is the "Kids Can Cook" series, which Hamm says is through a partnership with California Food Literacy, "where they talk about nutrition and health facts, they read a story, and then either lead kids in a tasting or they'll get some recipes."

An example of a program in this series includes "The Little Red Hen (Makes Pizza)," where kids will get to listen to a story, make pizza dough from scratch, and get to taste pizza with veggies. "The Little Red Hen (Makes Pizza)" will be at the Arcade Library on June 20, Carmichael Library on June 26, Pocket Library on July 11, and Ella K. McClatchy Library on July 13.

Another highlight for kids is the "Hungry As a Bear for Books!" Puppet Show with ventriloquist puppeteer Tony Borders, where kids get to learn about Gladly the Grizzly who is packing his magic picnic basket with surprising foods and

delicious books. This program comes to the Pocket Library on June 15, Arden-Dimick Library on June 25, Arcade Library on July 13, and Belle Cooleage Library on July 31.

There's also lots of teens to do during summer reading. At Belle Cooleage Library, teens and tweens can learn how to cook Asian and Mexican cuisine through a partnership with the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op. Zick says participants will learn about seasonal produce, how to follow recipes, basic food preparation techniques, and food presentation. "Just some basic things to add to their skills set," she adds. Asian cuisine will be held on June 28, and Mexican cuisine on July 19.

Dig In!

Remember — summer reading is not just for kids, but for adults, too!

Hamm says summer reading can help give adults an opportunity to "unplug" and find time to read for fun. "Also when kids see adults reading, you model for them good behaviors that they'll repeat," she adds. "For parents it's an opportunity to model those skills that kids can pick up on and will have benefits down the line."

Over in Land Park, Belle Cooleage Library is offering a "Whip Up a Cookbook" program for adults this summer. Zick says it's a six part series of workshops where at the end, attendees will end up cre-

ating a family cookbook. The program features a number of speakers and teachers overseen by Maryellen Burns, local food historian, editor, and author of Lost Restaurants of Sacramento and Their Recipes. The workshops will be held June 15 and 22, July 13 and 20, and August 10 and 24 from 11am-12:30pm. No registration is required, however, there may be a list of materials for each class — visit www.saclibrary.org for more information.

And in the Arden area, at Arden-Dimick Library learn how to turn your favorite food memories and boxes of recipes into a family cookbook at "Recipes and Remembrances" on June 22, and on July 20 adults can learn about the music and dance of the Hawaiian Islands and taste sweet treats from the Is-

lands at "Aloha, Hawaii! with the Ohana Dance Group."

"Reading is So Delicious"

This year's reading program runs from June 1 through August 31. Kids and adults can sign up any at library branch location or online at www.saclibrary.org. Participants are given an activity sheet and those that complete them are eligible for a prize — kids and teens receive a free book, while adults receive a reusable book bag. And all are put in a drawing to win an iPad Mini (one per age group) or \$100 Target gift card (one per library location.)

For more information on the summer reading program and a full list of events, visit www.saclibrary.org.

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Former mayors, other notables memorialized at East Lawn Memorial Park

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
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Editor's Note: This is part 12 in a series about the rich history of and associated with East Sacramento's award-winning East Lawn Memorial Park.

East Lawn Memorial Park, as has been presented in other articles of this series, serves as the resting place for former notable Sacramentans. And with a walk around this historic cemetery, one can encounter the names of many more people who achieved noteworthy statuses during their lifetimes. Among those memorialized at East Lawn Memorial Park are city mayors.

William Land

One of these mayors, William Land (1837-1911), had his legacy preserved through Sacramen-

to's grand William Land Park and a local elementary school bearing his name.

Land, a New York native who served as Sacramento's mayor in 1898 and 1899, bequeathed \$250,000 to the city for the purchase of property to establish William Land Park.

This former mayor also founded the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce – today's Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce – and was the proprietor of local hotels.

In addition to his ownership of local hotels, Land also held large real estate interests in stock and grain ranches.

It is quite simple to locate the resting place of William Land, as he was entombed within a large, white, columned, Greek-inspired mausoleum on the cemetery's highest elevation.

Clinton L. White

Another former Sacramento mayor, Clinton L. White (1850-1925), was also interred at this featured cemetery.

Long before he began his term as Sacramento's mayor in 1908, Clinton, who was a native of Iowa, taught school in Placer County.

In 1877, he became an attorney and wrote a criminal law book, which was published in 1879.

Clinton served as secretary of the judiciary committee of the California State Senate in 1880 and 1881.

He was, at separate times, a partner in several law firms, including White, Miller & McLaughlin, which was located in the People's Bank Building at 8th and J streets.

Together with his wife, the former Olive Margaret McKinney, he had two children, Herbert E. and Edith M. White.



Photo by Lance Armstrong
The final resting place of early Sacramento hotel and land owner, William Land, sits on the highest level of East Lawn Memorial Park.

Clinton L. White officially stepped away from his mayoral duties on Jan. 7, 1910, when Marshall Beard began his second term as mayor.

William Alpheus "Jimmie" Hicks

New York native William Alpheus "Jimmie" Hicks (1906-1961) had an eventful employment career, which included working as a newspaper columnist, editor of *The Sacramento Valley Union Labor Bulletin* and a postman.

While serving as Sacramento's mayor in 1954, he resigned after being ap-

pointed deputy director of the state Department of Employment by Gov. Goodwin Knight.

William was married to the former Bertha Vivian Nelson for 30 years and together they had two children, Betty Marie (Hicks) Hogue and Nancy Anne (Hicks) Parson.

Hiram H. "Hi" Hendren

Hiram H. "Hi" Hendren (1903-1977), who served as the city's mayor in 1954 and 1955, began his political life when he was appointed to fill

See Cemetery, page 7

Cemetery: Among notables, a gypsy king was buried at East Lawn

Continued from page 6

a vacancy on the city council in December 1948.

Among his notable accomplishments was his founding of the Sacramento Valley Insurance Agency in 1934.

Additionally, Hiram, who was a native of Sacramento, provided much assistance to the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce and the Volunteers of America.

He also served as co-chairman of the Citizens Committee for Good City Government and played an essential role in construction planning for the Sacramento Community Center.

In a timely awarded honor, Hiram was named "Sacramentan of the Year" by the chamber of commerce six months prior to his death at Sutter Memorial Hospital on July 4, 1977.

Joe Serna, Jr.

Joe Serna, Jr., who was interred at East Lawn Memorial Park following his death at the age of 60 on Nov. 7, 1999, passed away during his sixth year as the city's mayor.

He was considered one of Sacramento's most popular mayors and has the notoriety of being the city's first and only Latino mayor. He was also a professor at Sacramento State University.

Serna, who was the son of migrant farm workers and a supporter of the United Farm Workers of America, worked toward revitalizing downtown Sacramento and renamed the park across from city hall, Cesar E. Chavez Plaza.

In 2001, in honor of the life of Serna, the 25-story Cal EPA Building at the northeast corner of 10th and I streets was renamed the Joe Serna, Jr. EPA Building.

Additionally, the Sacramento City Unified School District's office at 5735 47th Ave. is known as the Serna Center.

William Albert Curtis

Massachusetts native William Albert Curtis (1857-1914), who was interred in a family mausoleum at East



Photo courtesy of East Lawn Memorial Park

(above left) Former Mayor Joe Serna, Jr. was laid to rest at East Lawn Memorial Park in 1999. (above right) The gravesite of Newton Jasper Earp (1837-1928) is located on the west side of the cemetery.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Lawn Cemetery, came to the Sacramento area when he was about 14 years old.

About a decade later, Curtis, with W. H. Wood, established the Sacramento wholesale produce and fruit packing and shipping firm, Wood, Curtis Co.

Curtis, who later founded a similar firm, the William A. Curtis Company, in San Francisco, was an extensive land owner in the Sacramento Valley and served as vice president of the California National Bank, of Sacramento.

Prior to his death on Dec. 27, 1914, Curtis had established himself as one of the city's wealthiest residents.

Newton Jasper Earp

Many visitors of East Lawn Memorial Park enjoy visiting the gravesite of Newton Jasper Earp (1837-1928), the half-brother of Wyatt Earp (1848-1929), the notorious deputy town marshal who participated in the legendary gunfight at O.K. Corral in 1881.

The employment history of Newton, who was a veteran of the Civil War, included working as a farmer, a saloon manager and a carpenter.

Newton had a wife named Jennie, and five children, Effie May, Wyatt Clyde, Mary Elizabeth, Alice Abigail and Virgil Edwin.

At the time of his death, Newton was residing at 4426 10th Ave.

RAF Officers

Four Royal Air Force officers were interred at the cemetery in 1943 after being killed in a crash of an American aircraft in the Fair Oaks area.

The men, Fred Hodge, John R. Latour-Eppy, John H.G. Moriarty and James A. Paterson, had been testing the aircraft, and RAF pilots and co-pilots had made 12 successful flights prior to the crash.

Although these men's graves are occasionally inspected by a British official, no attempt has been made to return their remains to their native land.

Gypsy king

On Feb. 1, 1947, *The New York Times* published an article with the headline, "Gypsies bury leader."

The Associated Press report noted that during the previous day, "laughing and crying" Serbian gypsies gathered at the East Lawn Cemetery to pay tribute to the life of Dushon John (1879-1947), their "unofficial western king."

The laughter, according to the article, occurred because it was the gypsies' custom to "send their peo-

ple into the hereafter under joyful circumstances."

The gathering included the toasting of beer and soft drinks to the music of a 12-piece band from Sacramento.

John, who was a native of Belgrade, was buried with a mirror, hair oil, a toothbrush and other such items for his journey into the future.

Other notable people interred at East Lawn

East Lawn Memorial Park is the resting place of many other notable people, including Florence Clunie, who willed \$150,000 to the city for the construction of a clubhouse and swimming pool at East Sacramento's McKinley Park.

Also interred at East lawn are James R. Garlick (1888-1962), a former funeral director, county supervisor and city Board of Education member; Frank M. Jordan (1888-1970), who served as the secretary of state from 1942 to 1970; and B.T. Collins (1940-1993), who served as a state assemblyman, chief deputy to the state treasurer and a director of the California Youth Authority and the California Conservation Corps.

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St. Francis High School graduate Kaitlin Zablotsky receives prestigious appointment to Fulbright Summer Institute in the United Kingdom

Kaitlin Zablotsky, a graduate of the St. Francis High School class of 2012, has received an appointment to the Fulbright Summer Institute to study at Durham University in the UK on one of the most prestigious and selective summer scholarship programs operating world-wide.

Kaitlin, a rising sophomore at Santa Clara University, was selected from a strong applicant pool to study in the UK on a four-week summer program where she will participate in a major archaeological project. Kaitlin will play an active part in the excavation of one of the richest archaeological landscapes in the world, the Roman Empire in Britain at Binchester, and gain first hand knowledge of UK archaeological professional practice. In addition to field work, Fulbright participants will engage in a rigorous academic program as well as experience the rich culture of the UK.

Upon receiving the appointment, Kaitlin said, "studying in the United Kingdom is a dream come true for me. I've always loved British culture and history and can't wait to experience it firsthand."

Each year, the Commission supports around 50 UK and US undergraduate students to undertake a demanding academic and cultural summer program at leading institutions in the US and

UK. The Commission selects participants through a rigorous application and interview process.

In making these awards the Commission looks not only for academic excellence but a focused application, a range of extracurricular and community activities, demonstrated ambassadorial skills, a desire to further the Fulbright Program and a plan to give back to the recipient's home country upon returning. Created by treaty in 1948, the US-UK Fulbright Commission is the only bi-lateral, transatlantic scholarship program offering awards and summer programs for study or research in any field, at any accredited US or UK University.

The Commission is part of the Fulbright program conceived by Senator J. William Fulbright in the aftermath of World War II to promote leadership, learning and empathy between nations through educational exchange.

Award recipients and summer program participants will be the future leaders of tomorrow and support the special relationship between the US and UK. Notable alumni of the US-UK Commission include: Malcolm Bradbury, novelist; Liam Byrne, politician; Milton Friedman, economist and Nobel Prize Winner 1976; Charles Kennedy, politician; John



Lithgow, actor; Tarik O'Regan, composer; Sylvia Plath, poet; Lord William Wallace, politician; Ian Rankin, novelist; Sir Christopher Rose QC, judge; Baroness (Shirley) Williams, politician; Vanessa Heaney, journalist BBC World Service; and Toby Young, journalist and playwright.

The Commission is funded partially by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills in the UK and the US Department of State, with additional support coming from a variety of individual and institutional partners.

Online auction fetch \$325,000

When the online auction of local antique and fine art dealer, Witherell's, closed May 7, the price of the 300-plus items has risen from an expected \$200,000 to \$325,000.

The Maynard Dixon painting expected to sell for \$50,000 sold for nearly \$70,000—or \$69,000.

"We were very pleased with the sale," said Brian Witherell, well-known television appraiser and Witherell's Art & Antiques co-owner. "We brought in more than we expected, which is always good."

Witherell's usually sells to museums and private international collectors, but put their entire catalogue online for the auction April 23.

A Tiffany Daffodil lamp brought in \$35,460 with a Seymour Guy painting coming in next at \$34,560.

Local Davis artist Robert Arneson's painting, "The Professor," sold for \$15,721.

At \$4,920, a Louis Vuitton trunk found in someone's basement sold for nearly \$5,000.

Even advertising memorabilia like the Buffalo Brewing charger brought in \$3,300.

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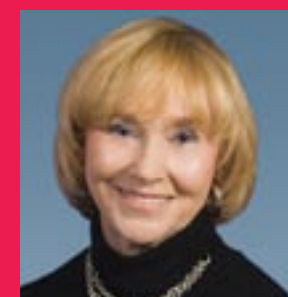
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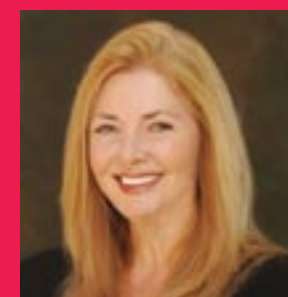
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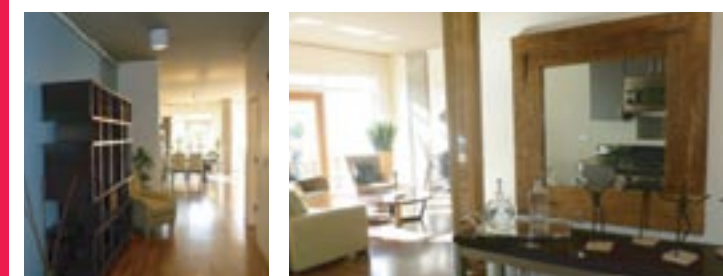
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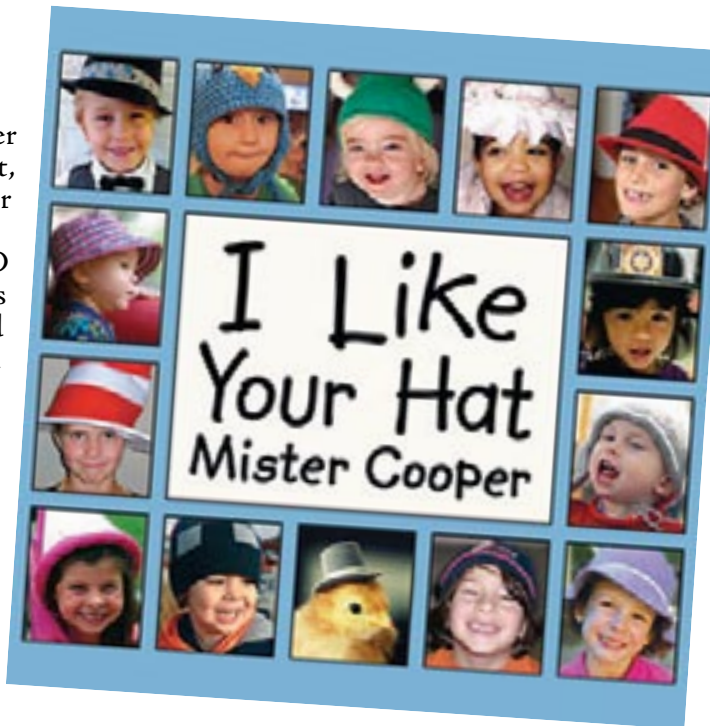
By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Liked by kids and parents alike, Mister Cooper is always a hit and a hoot to boot, whether he's at your local library or at your child's school.

While he describes his most recent CD "I Like Your Hat" as an album about kids not necessarily for kids, my 17 month old and her playmates at daycare boogie down when the adults put it on. Listening to it in the car definitely helps trips fly by. There is one song on the album that even my dad recognized, though. It's a kind of blue-grassy cover of The Who's "Pinball Wizard." It's a great song and Mister Cooper does it justice. He says he's been playing it that way for 20 years and it was recorded with the Loose Acoustic Trio for their, "Sorrow Be Gone" CD.

One mom at a recent storytime at the Colonial Heights branch agreed, telling him something to the effect of: "We were in traffic in San Francisco for three hours, so it was a Mister Cooper marathon." To wit, he replied: "I'm so sorry. That sounds terrible."

That's the kind of fun guy this musician is. Ken Cooper has been making kids' music for 17 years, ever since his son, John Cooper, (who did a little bit of writing for Valley Community Newspapers and now works for the state) was in kindergarten and the school asked parents if they have any skills or talents they could share.



the entire CD for \$9.99. If you prefer the physical CD, you can get one from CDBaby.

As he says online, the best way to get a copy of the new songs for your listening pleasure is directly from him. "Come to a show, sing along, do the freeze dance, and pick up a CD for the ride home."

Here are the lyrics to his most recent album's title track, "I Like Your Hat" which is one of the four songs he sang on a Loose Acoustic Trio CD. "I had to re-write the lyrics to make them kid friendly. I like the new lyrics better," he says on his website. I like them too!

I like your hat
I used to have a hat like that
Now I don't know where it's at
I like your hat
I'd like another hat like that
Oh, I wish I had my old hat back
I like your hat
I like your hat
My friends and I spent Fridays after school
Playing baseball in the park
I lost a bat, my glove and favorite cap
No one could find them after dark
A lid like yours makes a great disguise
Where you can hide a bad haircut
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your eyes
I'd buy one now, but the price went up

That was the first stepping off point, so to speak. And "Mister Cooper is for the birds" album is what he calls the gateway CD with songs more for kids than about them.

Mister Cooper seems to keep relatively busy, going from libraries to schools to even performing at special events like festivals and birthday parties. His schedule for public events is on his website, www.mistercooper.com, which is where you can also find his music. You can go to iTunes and listen to a sample of every song. You can get a song for 99 cents or

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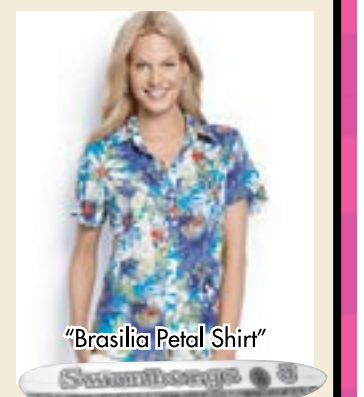
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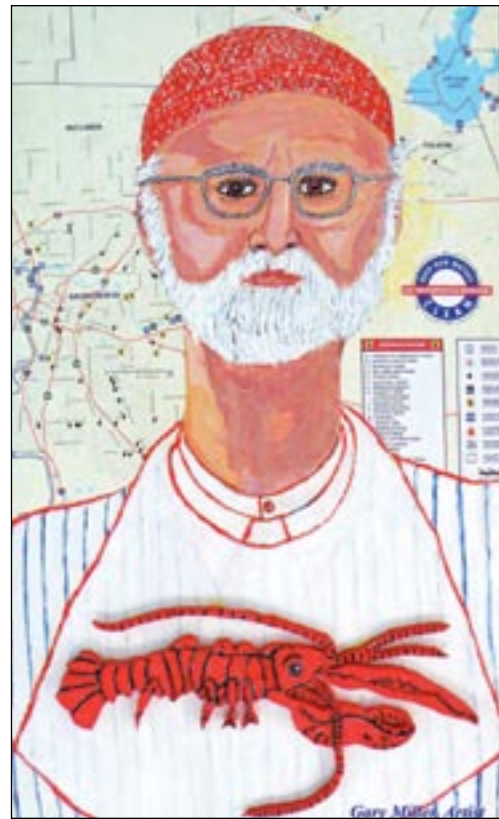


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State Indian Museum celebrates native California heritage with 'Gathering of Honored Elders' event

36th annual celebration commemorates esteemed keepers of traditions and offers complimentary admission for special event on June 8

To honor and commemorate California's Native Elders, the State Indian Museum will host the 36th Annual "Gathering of Honored Elders" on-site at the Museum on Saturday, June 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. During the special event, an annual celebration of the California Indian Heritage Center Foundation and the State Indian Museum, the California Indian community Elders—the keepers of the traditions—will be honored for their role in passing down the important history and culture of Native California people.

In addition to complimentary admission for the special day, a sponsored lunch will be provided to the tribal Elders and Indian foods will be available for purchase by Museum visitors. Native American dancers, guest speakers, community service organizations, and arts and crafts vendors will also be on hand to enrich the experience.

An official proclamation from the Governor's office in celebration of the contributions of California's Indian people will be shared by Cynthia Gomez, Tribal Advisor, Office of Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. In addition, the event will include door prize drawings of unique, native-made arts and crafts donated by local Native artisans.

The Gathering of Honored Elders event is co-sponsored by California State Parks, California Indian Heritage Center Foundation, Buena Vista Rancheria, Hutuanape Foundation, Jackson Rancheria, Native American Health Center, Shingle Springs TANE, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk, the United Auburn Indian Community and the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The special "Gathering of Honored Elders" event hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the Museum is open until 5 p.m. that day. For more, call 324-0971 or visit www.parks.ca.gov/indianmuseum.



Courtesy of the State Indian Museum

If you go:
What: 36th Annual "Gathering of Honored Elders" Event
Where: State Indian Museum State Historic Park, 2618 K Street in Sacramento
When: Saturday, June 8. Event hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Museum hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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A true sense of community:
McKinley Park playground gets rebuilt with help from thousands

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Volunteers young and old were having fun working hard in the spirit of giving back to McKinley Park at the community build of the playground. The youngest had played there when they were children and their elders remember the last community build 19 years ago.

The spirit of the community cannot be overstated. The community vowed to rebuild the playground and the community is doing it as we go to press.

From neighborhood lemonade stands to Sutter Health's \$50,000 donation and the countless fundraising events, the community build for the McKinley Playground is underway until Sunday 5 p.m., at which time a celebration will be had to thank all of the countless volunteers. A grand opening for the playground is set for June 27.

The East Sacramento Park, located at 601 Alhambra Blvd., was destroyed by an early morning fire on July 28, 2012. The fire took nearly two hours to fight. Firefighters battled flames nearly 60 feet high and a third of the playground, mostly, in the center, was destroyed.

Despite the heartache, the community came together, stayed together and grew to the thousands.

The build scene is now like an elaborate assembly line over at the playground—working westward from the east was the prep area, staging, prefab, construction and a place to eat at the far end. The build crew has been working in three shifts, since Monday, June 3: 8 a.m. to noon, 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Then there were those who had other skills besides building to donate their time with, including child care workers who watched the children of volunteers nearby; food service folks who donated and served food to the volunteers, artists who made elaborate animal sculptures. Some large companies like Intel had some of its staff volunteer four-hour shifts.

And not to mention before the community build even took place, a pre-build was underway since Mother's Day, with Granite Construction, Teichart and Livingston who helped with concrete and rocks.

And then there's the child care area, where volunteers there are trying to make it so much fun that the parents want to volunteer extra shifts with the build. They are going to have Python Ron visit, science lab experiments, a visit from Cinderella, Dinger on Saturday, Sparky, plants to garden donated from Talini's Nursery, and even live performances by St. Francis grads. Acting on the green!

Some of the features that are going to make the new playground so much fun include a rock wall, the playhouse, trolley, steamboat, a big turtle to climb on, swings, an archway resembling the old Alhambra Theatre. One of the big takeaways from community input in terms of design is that the new playground look like wood and be modern and accessible. A few of the downfalls with the old playground included poor visibility and frequent maintenance. The new playground should need less maintenance and have better visibility, officials have said.

"The minute the fire happened, we took a minute to grieve and move on and think about what to do," said councilmember Steve Cohn, who was on the original build. He said they wanted to quickly form a committee.

His chief of staff Sue Brown took the helm and got the website up and soon after offers started coming in and a decision was needed to be made—to replace the entire thing with a community build

or just rebuild the third of it that was damaged. Cohn said park staff said the playground would have needed to be rebuilt anyway or was it going to be the kind of playground you see all over—the kind build with metal and plastic. But the consensus was that this is a very special playground. So kids helped in the design process and the committee took 9 out of 10 of their recommendations.

Once the design and date was set, then the fundraising started, volunteers began helping out, and donations of equipment all started rolling in. "We wanted to get this done by summer," Cohn said, which made the rebuild process just eight months, four months sooner than the suggestion from Play by Design's that it take one year.

But in the end, everyone had the same goal to get the project done as quickly as possible. So volunteers and donors have been extremely flexible with their time and money to meet the committee's needs schedule wise.

As of last week, organizers were still looking for volunteers to fill the evening shifts and on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, they are looking for artists to do decorative scrollwork to accompany a playhouse.

With Sutter's most recent donation, the City will build new bathrooms to go next to the playground. The bathrooms, which are near the basketball courts, will likely be turned into a storage area.

Over the last few weeks, the playground has seen a good amount of site work. To prepare for the community build, concrete was laid and for a few days sticks poked out of the ground.

So what now? Any donations that will be made at this point will be saved for maintenance of the playground. Until Sunday, people are still needed for evening shifts. Artists are welcome to help out with some of the mosaic work or design of the rubber footing, which will be laid after Sunday.

Visit www.cityofsacramento.org/rebuildmckinley/ or the Facebook page for more updates.

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CALENDAR

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

JUNE

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

June 6: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thursday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

Twilight Thursday at the Zoo

June 6: Zoo open until 8 p.m. Enjoy warm summer nights at the Sacramento Zoo with extended hours. The Zoo is open from 9am to 8pm for your whole family to enjoy. Dinner specials, live music and activities start at 5 pm. Regular daily admission rates apply. General admission is \$11.25. Children ages 2-11 are \$7.25. Children under one are free. For more information call 808-5888 or visit saczoo.org.

The California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch meeting

June 7: The California Writers Club, Sacramento Branch's Writers Network presents Harry Leman whose topic at the breakfast is "Marketing with a Facebook Business Page." He will present a Business Facebook Page

(Timeline); show how easy it is to get started; point out some areas that may be overlooked; demonstrate posting events and pictures; and give pointers for getting noticed by Google and other search engines, no matter what your product or service is. The CWC Writers Network is held the first Friday of the month at the International House of Pancakes (IHOP), 2216 Sunrise Blvd., Rancho Cordova, 9 a.m. Meetings are free. Attendees pay for their own breakfast.

Bi-Polar Anonymous

June 7: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7-8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786.

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown meeting

June 7: Visitors welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on first, second and third Fridays at 7 a.m. and dinner meeting on fourth Thursday at 6 p.m. Topical weekly speakers and 'first meal for visitors on us'. Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com, 761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

Pops in the Park presents Mercy Me at Glenn Hall Park

June 8: Free music event starting at 6 p.m.

Old Sugar Mill debuts Second Saturday reception

June 8: Old Sugar Mill is partnering with the downtowngrid association to bring Second Saturday to the Old Sugar Mill from noon to 5 p.m. There will be many artists featuring multiple medias of art. They are looking forward to hosting Installation Receptions, Hands on Demonstrations, and Artist in the Round Curations. The Old Sugar Mill is located at 35265 Willow Ave., Clarksburg, 95612.

Reducing Gun Violence: What Can We Do?

June 8: Nick and Amanda Wilcox, Legislative and Policy Chairs for the California Chapters of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, will lead a discussion on this topic on Saturday June 8th from 10 a.m. to noon in Curtis Hall at the corner of 24th Street and 4th Avenue in Curtis Park, at the Sierra 2 Center. The presentation is free. A question/answer discussion will follow. Questions: RGVSAC@gmail.com or 916-304-6180.

2013 Doggy Dash to benefit Sacramento SPCA

June 8: Mark your calendar and join us for the Doggy Dash and Bark at the Park Festival and help make a difference in the lives of homeless animals. Walk, stay, play. Walk for the animals and party with the pets. It's the 20th anniversary for the Doggy Dash at William Land Park. The 2- and 5k Doggy Dash walk will be followed by festivities where you can enter your pup in the Pup Show, high-flying disc contest, or the ever-popular pug races! Or you can visit with pet friend-

ly businesses, learn about Sacramento-area animal rescue organizations, or just have lunch while watching all the action. And enter for your chance to win an iPad mini, or one of dozens of raffle prizes. Register at SSPCA.org.

Japanese food bazaar (chicken teriyaki, noodles, sushi, more)

June 8-9: The Nichiren Buddhist Church Bazaar will again be having their annual food bazaar from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The bazaar will be held at the church, located at 5191 24th St. (2 blocks north of Fruitridge Road). For more information, contact Gail at 422-6449.

Kline Music 50th Anniversary Party

June 9: From noon to 6 p.m., there will be live music, food and drawings for musical prizes to celebrate Kline's 50 years in business at Sierra II, Curtis Hall.

Low-cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

June 9: TEAM (Teaching Everyone Animals Matter), the nonprofit affiliate of the Sacramento County Animal Shelter, has scheduled its next low-cost spay/neuter clinic and space is still available. The clinic is open to income-eligible Sacramento County residents and pre-registration is required. The cost is \$20 cash per pet, which includes vaccines as may be needed. The clinic is held at the Sacramento County Animal Shelter, 3839 Bradshaw Road (between Highway 50 and Kiefer), in Sacramento. Check-in is at 8 a.m. To submit an application, leave a brief message at 875-5160 and a volunteer will follow up with specific clinic requirements and scheduling information. 3839 Bradshaw Road, Sacramento, sacanimalshelter.org, contact@sacanimalshelter.org

Sacramento Suburban Writers Club will meeting

June 10: The meeting goes from 7-9 p.m., at Crossroad Christian Church, 5501 Dewey Drive, Fair Oaks. All are welcome to attend. See sactowriters.com for more information or call 530-878-7304.

Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael

June 11: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Jackson Catering and Events, 1120 Fulton Ave. (916) 925-2787. Carmichael meets at 6 p.m., Palm Street Pub & Grill, 6416 Fair Oaks Blvd. www.rotary.org.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento North meeting

June 11: An organization for the betterment of women and children meets at the atria El Camino Gardens at 2426 Garfield, Carmichael. Call Sheila at 624-4643.

East Sac Rotary

June 12: Meets at noon, Evan's Kitchen, 855 57th St. Sacramento. www.eastsacrotrary.com.

Twilight Thursday at the Zoo

June 13: Zoo open until 8pm. Enjoy warm summer nights at the Sacramento Zoo with extended hours on Twilight Thursdays, June 6th through July 25th. The Zoo is open from 9am to 8pm for your whole family to enjoy. Dinner specials, live music and activities start at 5 pm. Regular daily admission rates apply. General admission is \$11.25. Children ages 2-11 are \$7.25. Children under one are free. For more information call 808-5888 or visit saczoo.org.

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

June 13: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thursday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

Mission Oaks Computer Club meeting

June 13: The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. The meeting topic will be "Navigating the Sacramento Public Library's New Website", presented by Ann Owens. A problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow the meeting. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information call 366-1687 or visit www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.



FACES AND PLACES:

The first



of the season

Photos by Monica Stark
editor@valcomnews.com

Summer has arrived and the first of four Pops in the Park concerts in June began Saturday, June 1 at 6 p.m. The concert took place at East Portal Park, featuring Tom Rigney & Flambeau. Buck Busfield and Bill Blake joined in the fun as emcees. Food and drinks are available for purchase with proceeds to benefit neighborhood projects. Vendors this evening included Burr's Fountain, Clark's Corner and the Midtown East Sac Kiwanis Club.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Saturday, June 8 Mercy Me at Glenn Hall Park

Saturday, June 15 The John Skinner Band at Bertha Henschel Park

Saturday, June 22 Mick Martin & the Blues Rockers at McKinley Park
Each concert starts at 6 p.m.



Saturday, July 27th
Sunday, July 28th

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St. Francis student athletes graduated, now preparing for college sports

The following students who recently graduated from St. Francis are getting excited about next year. Each of these student athletes have committed to playing a sport at her choice college. Here's what they have to say about their experiences playing sports at St. Francis.

Bailey O'Mara

University of the Pacific - softball
The opportunity to play softball at the collegiate level is a dream come true and I couldn't be more excited. I am looking forward to the next four years at UOP. Go Tigers!

Allie Wegener

UC Davis - volleyball
Playing volleyball at St. Francis has given me such a good experience because of all the amazing athletes that have pushed me to get better. I could not be any happier to get to play at the college level at such an amazing school. Go Aggies!!!

Loni Kreun

Montana State University - volleyball
Playing volleyball at St. Francis has made me into a better student-athlete. I am blessed to have the opportunity to participate in volleyball at MSU.

Amy Crayne

Western Kentucky University - diving
I have had a blast being a part of the dive team at SFHS. I have met amazing people and have formed relationships that have bettered me in my sport and as a person. I am grateful to have the opportunity to dive at WKU thanks to the support of my mom/coach, and the encouragement of my teammates.

Dana Vestman

Montana State University - volleyball
My volleyball experience at St. Francis has taught me more than just the game. It has taught me the key elements of teamwork, perseverance, and sacrifice. All of these are essential skills that will help me thrive in my upcoming journey as a collegiate student-athlete.

Hannah Liserra

Cal State University of San Bernardino - volleyball
Playing volleyball at St. Francis has challenged me in so many ways. Not only have I grown and improved my skill levels in my sport, but I have acquired a higher standard for myself, as well as self-discipline, commitment, and a very strong drive to become the best that I can be. I am very excited to



See St. Francis, page 23

St. Francis: School fostered these students' athletic and academic talents

Continued from page 22

play in college, and I am excited to use all of the skill sets I have learned to accomplish, achieve and reach my highest potential for my future.

Gaby Palmeri

Pepperdine University - volleyball
My Saint Francis athletic experience has allowed me to develop leadership skills and has supplied me with lessons in determination that have successfully prepared me for my collegiate volleyball career.



Tessa Oliaro

Chapman University - Lacrosse
Lacrosse is a unique sport that not millions of people play. St. Francis has given me the opportunity to develop into a well-rounded athlete and student. I am very excited and blessed to be able to play at Chapman next year. I can't wait to see what God has in store for me in this new chapter of my life!

port you throughout not only your season, but throughout all aspects of high school. I am confident that if I hadn't played water polo at SF I would not be the athlete I am today and definitely not be going on to be a Division 1 athlete at an Ivy League university.

Marisa Kolokotronis

Brown University - water polo
The St. Francis athletic program provides teams that shape and sup-



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Sunday, June 16

Bobbiefield Series Giveaway
COURT SUZUKI FIRST 2,500 FANS

RIVER CATS VS. TACOMA RAINIERS

1:05 p.m. Game Time

Stick around after the game to play catch on the field

Win Adults \$38 • Kids \$34
a chance to have your father throw out the first pitch by purchasing a Baseball & BBQ ticket package. For more information go to rivercats.com/specialoffers.



MCKINLEY PARK TUDOR

Charmingly renovated 3 bedroom 2 bath home with beautiful high ceilings, restored leaded glass windows in the living and dining areas, dual pane windows in the rest of home. New cabinets and counter tile in kitchen, laundry and both bathrooms. Fully landscaped front and back with new deck and walkways. \$655,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



A SLICE OF HISTORY

The "Didion House" in Poverty Ridge! 4 bedrooms 2 full baths and 2 half baths with 3rd floor media room that features state-of-the art equipment. Turn of the century woodwork and detailing; new kitchen and full basement. Nicely updated while preserving original style! \$1,650,000

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



FABULOUS 40'S NEW

Completely remodeled 2-story 5 bedroom 4½ bath home is very spacious with over 3400 square feet on a large lot. An amazing kitchen with large island; master suite with his and hers walk-in closets; great room with fireplace and hand scrapped hickory floors. Large porches and Juliet balcony! \$1,275,000

NATHAN SHERMAN 969-7379



CONTEMPORARY

Built in 1978, this unique contemporary styled home features 3 bedrooms 2 baths, a large open space providing views of beautiful, mature gardens. Living room, dining room, kitchen, family room and master bedroom all have views and access to the gardens. \$689,000

RICHARD KITOWSKI 261-0811



WONDEROUS EAST SACRAMENTO

4 bedrooms 4½ baths, nearly 5000 square feet, this home has it all ... a gourmet kitchen, a formal dining room, a large living room and an open breakfast room. The home also features a family room, a sauna/steam room, a full gym, and a workshop. Outside is your own private sanctuary on a big lot with a newer pool and built in kitchen; perfect for entertaining \$1,895,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



FABULOUS HOME

This beautiful home has been remodeled to the last detail. Every room's a showpiece: detailed custom moldings, hardwood floors with inlays, recessed lighting, whole house speaker systems, imported Italian tile throughout. 4 bedrooms, 3½ baths. Spacious master with 13' ceilings, fireplace & dual 90sqft closets. \$1,499,500

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



MEDITERRANEAN MASTERPIECE

One of East Sacramento's finest homes! Wake up to the tree tops filtering the morning sun or entertain in rooms that invite the outdoors in. Unique features, a spacious artist's studio, guest wing complete with kitchen and an apartment over the 3 car garage. \$1,375,000

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483 • PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715



SUTTER BROWNSTONE

Unique and modern, many green features, 2 bedrooms 2 baths featuring stainless appliances, honed granite countertops, slate and hardwood flooring. Family room with lots of space (30' X 13') on lower level, pre-plumbed for bath, and iPod docking station. Well located in popular Midtown, near restaurants, and transportation. \$425,000

COLLEEN WIFVAT 719-2324



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Fabulous new home being built in the heart of East Sacramento!!! This 3 bedroom 2½ bath will have all the classic signatures of a Mike Paris home... high ceilings, large rooms, open floor plan, indoor/outdoor living, gourmet kitchen, and an old world style and charm. \$765,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048

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