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Enjoying the holidays on bike

Lance Armstrong history feature2
Eaces and Places 4–5
Janey Way Memories8
Calendar17
Sports19

Art: Current show at FE Gallery is beautiful and unique See page 6



Locals share memories of 2013 and hopes for 2014 See page 13





Запиату 18, 2014 8:00ам to 12:15рм





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EAST SACRAMENTO NEWS VALCOMNEWS.COM

E-mail stories & photos to: editor@valcomnews.com	Vol. XXIII • No. 1
East Sacramento News is published on the first and third Thurs- day of the month in the area bounded by Business 80 on the west, the American River on the north and east and Highway 50 on the south.	2709 Riverside Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95818 t: (916) 429-9901
Publisher George Macko	· · /
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Sales ManagerPatty Colmer Advertising Executives: Linda Pohl, Melissa Andrews, Jen Henry Distribution/SubscriptionsGeorge Macko	Cover photo by: Monica Stark
2 lotto atom o acourt tone initiation and the second of the	Other photos:
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'Cap'n Mitch' had endearing connection to young television viewers, guests of his shows

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Editor's Note: This is part four in a series about Mitch Agruss and other kiddie show hosts, who brought joy to many young television viewers in the Sacramento Valley.

During an interview for this series, Mitch Agruss spoke about a topic that so many locals fondly remember – his time entertaining youngsters on the Cap'n Mitch show.

Agruss said that the show, which first aired in 1968, presented a "perfect match" between himself and Channel 40.

"The owner-manager was in synch with what I was doing," Agruss said. "It was a good mix and it lasted for quite a while. I had a wonderful time with Channel 40. (On the set), it was my cargo room, kind of below decks kind of place. It was the same idea and I had chests program, "Anchors Away." Shown above is an image of a with presents and I had things hanging from

the ceilings. "I carefully formatted (the show), so that there was time to have a few words with each child in between the cartoons, in between the commercials, so they had something to look forward to. The interesting thing was when they came on, they were so used to, from viewing (the show), the pattern of activity that that's what they wanted to do. This is where they wanted to say hi to their schoolmates, this is where they wanted to say hi to their mom and dad, here's where they wanted to talk about this and that, here's where the surprise presents came out. And they would be the ones who introduced the cartoons, they were the ones who held the spyglass that ny Carson, except the children were the guests looked for where the cartoon was, and they would spy it and they would see it. Those were the little theatrical patterns that I would do with the kids."

In speaking about the featured segments of his show, which aired in the afternoons and at times in the mornings, Agruss said, "There fun. (The show) was planned to go on for a was Popeye, Warner Brothers' cartoons, Bugs Bunny and all that kind of stuff. And there were half-hour sequences like 'The Cisco Kid' and things of that nature. The Mickey Mouse Club was one of the elements and the Hanna-Barbera cartoons. All the cartoon packages came by one time or another sailing their way through. It never ceased. It was an endless flow of film entertainment."

Agruss noted that there were many people who thought that working with children on his show was something of a challenge.

"There is this kind of standard idea of What did vou do with all those little kids? Wasn't that a mess or something?' It wasn't. The kids were extremely well behaved as long as you kept their parents out of sight. If the parents were there, the kids were scared a little bit. If the children could see their parents when they and they could play games like tennis. They were on air, they were not as free spirited. learned early on, keep your parents in a sepa-



Mitch Agruss's career at Channel 40 included his road show small promotional item advertising that program.

rate room and they can watch from there. Let them not feel they had to check with mom and dad before they said it. And that made all the difference in the world with the kids."

In addition to his commitment to Channel 40, Agruss also became involved with another children's program in 1969.

And in speaking about that program, which was aired on Saturday afternoons on San Francisco's television station. KNEW Channel 32. Agruss said, "(The 'Meet Mr. Mitch' show) was a format in which the children came on. It was just like (the popular TV program of) Johnand other children ran all the equipment. They ran the cameras and they ran the projectors. They were like television technicians. The kids got to run the teleprompters and the this and the that and they helped me run the show, and they also were my interviewees. It was a lot of while and was going to be very successful, except that there was an economy problem and Metromedia dropped the station. And so, it went off the air after about six months or so. The station was turned over and given to the public television station, and they used that station for public television for many years. ('Meet Mr. Mitch') was my favorite (children's television program) format, but I was unable to see it to fruition, because we weren't on the air long enough."

In returning to the topic of the Cap'n Mitch show, Agruss described the program's short-lived television game show known as "TV Powww!"

"('TV Powww!', which had its Channel 40 debut in 1980) was an interactive program, where (pre-selected) children (contestants) at home could play with me live on television,

Cap'n Mitch:

would activate, (via a telephone) from home, their participation in the game. It was a video game and they would say, 'pow,' and then when they said, 'pow," it launched whatever they were shooting, like a tennis ball or a pong (ball) or something. It was like ping pong, and they would try (to) win some prizes." Agruss recalled that his role at Channel 40

eventually changed. "I was at Channel 40 from 1968 (to) well out until the middle 1980s, until that management changed," Agruss said. "The last year or two or so that I worked at Channel 40, I did my show away from the station on remotes. We would take the cameras out and I would visit schools and events and shopping centers and we would record my programs on site. We would go to Cal Expo, we would go down to the shopping center in Modesto, we would go to the State Fair, all over the place. We're talking about 1984, 1985 and 1986 at Channel 40. They built me a breakaway boat that we could set up, so I could have kids come and sit on the boat with me in schools and at shopping centers and things like that (during the road show program, which was known as 'An-

chors Away.')'

In about 1988, Agruss began his last stint as a children's cartoon host for the fairly new TV station, Channel 58, which is now affiliated with KCRA Channel 3.

"I did a little program there for a year or two, pretty much the same way," Agruss said. "I was called Cap'n Mitch and I had a sidekick called Delta Dog. It was just somebody in a big suit, which was just something to play off with, like I had a big, friend pet. (The program) was doing okay, but once again, management changed. And as the managements changed, my fortunes changed. So, after 30 years, it was time to say so long to that." Agruss said that his departure from the kiddie shows was timely, as he was presented with the opportunity to return to his roots.



"B Street Theatre opened up and I became a member of that company," Agruss said. "I've done 10, 12, 13 shows with them, and I did work at Garbeau's theater and I've done plays at the California Stage and the Actors' Workshop of Sacramento. And that's really my life for the last 20 or more years, which, of course, is at the heart of what I do and what I care dren were just great."



This chair was a gift to Mitch Agruss from his longtime employer, television station, KXTL Channel 40.

about the most. And that's been fine. And I picked up a couple of Elly awards, which is soothing to the ego. But I haven't done much (in live theater), since I (had) what they say, "Too many birthdays."

Despite the many years that Agruss has been away from his role as a children's cartoon host, he noted that his shows continue to have lasting memories for many adults who were children during those eras.

"I've had people come up to me who have children of their own and so forth and talk to me about their visits and do I have a copy of the show and things like that, which I don't. They say they remember when they were on (the show) or they remember a friend of theirs who was on (the show) and they won a prize or somebody says, 'I saw you when you went to visit this school or that event. Or people just say, 'Hi, I remember you from television,' which surprises me even until now that people can say something like that. People also remember my voice, which is very interesting to me."

And after being asked what element of the show is most memorable to him, Agruss said, "My main memory is the chil-





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Riding through Elmhurst on bikes decked out with lights. On the bike lanes they went, safely all the way. Bells on handlebars rang, making spirits bright. What fun it was to ride and see some Christmas lights that night.

Oh! Kidical Mass! Kidical Mass! Kidical Mass was a blast! Kids of all ages came out to ride on Dec. 28. They ate pumpkin bread, peppermint bark and played at Coloma Park. They did all that before riding off together into the dark.

> Up T Street, down T Street, two miles in total, they saw many lights neighbors put up to make the darkness bright.

Oh! Kidical Mass! Kidical Mass! Kidical Mass is a blast. ids of all ages come out to ride every fourth Saturday of the month

Three years or so ago the story you must like Elle Bustamante,

she really loves to bike. Her sons are growing up with bikes a part of their lives. Biking from their home to school, they're learning that bikes rule!

Their mom, hence started a group and has a following too! She hopes you join their joyous rides as most the people do!

Oh! Kidical Mass! Kidical Mass! Kidical Mass is a blast. Kids of all ages come out to ride every fourth Saturday of the month. See story, page .













Valley Community Newspapers, Inc.



Photos and words by Monica Stark editor@valcomnews.com

To much needed seriousness though, it seemed like everyone had a jolly good time at the December Kidical Mass bike ride. Curtis Park resident Anna de Kok has two kids Matea, age 6, and Vida, 3. Asked what she likes about the bike rides, Matea said,"I like riding on the bike!" Decked out with orange and blue lights, reused from the Halloween Kidical Mass event, which drew about 70 riders with some in costume. Said Anna: I "like being a part of a bike riding culture and showing our children that riding bikes is fun and giving them a love for bike riding." Her bike related New Years resolution? "I am going to ride to her school (Alice Birney Waldorf Methods K-8 School) every Friday. My goal was to do that in September. It's four miles away."

Also a Curtis Park resident with two children, Melissa Noble said her bike-related New Years resolution is to try to bike commute four days a week. What she enjoys about Kidical Mass is being a part of a group with similar interests and she said she enjoys the safety in numbers aspect. "Sometimes it's scary alone," she said.

rode at the event.

Kidical Mass began in April of 2008 in Eugene, Oregon. A play on the term, "Critical Mass", the founder of Kidical Mass, Shane MacRhodes, wanted to do something different from the typical Critical Mass ride, which has been described as a monthly protest by cyclists reclaiming the streets. Kidical Mass, on the other hand, promotes safety and following the rules of the road and letting motorists know cyclists have just as much rights to be on the road

Editor's note: Valley Community Newspapers will be running their monthly calendar listings in the community calendar.



Faces and Places:

Kidical Mass!

First time Kidical Mass biker Somer Lowery said she was impressed with the turnout. She was excited to see her 6-yearold son enjoy his Christmas present, an Isla bike, which he

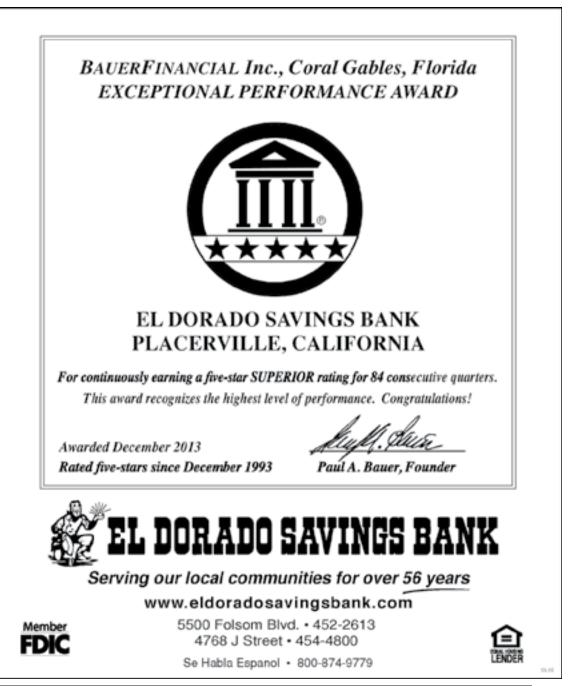
Bustamante's hope is that with the Kidical Mass bike rides, the group is able to share with others the joy of using bikes as transportation, entertainment, and exercise. As she writes on her blog, Tiny Helmets Big Bikes: "Most importantly, I just want to show that it is not only possible to choose pedaling over driving, but it's actually easier than you think."

Coming up, the group will ride off onto the American River Bike Trail to Iceland from Grant Park (22nd and C streets) on Saturday, Jan. 25. Cost for skating is \$7, including skates. Then on Feb. 22, the group is off to the Crocker Art Museum. Times are to be determined. To stay updated, visit www.tinyhelmetsbigbikes.com.



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Now showing at FE Gallery

FE Gallery has a diverse show with a promise of exciting art in the 2014 year, featuring artists: Lady Beaver, Walter Cer-vantes, Darnell Horton, Madelyne Templeton and Omar Thor. The current exhibit runs until Jan. 30.

Gallery hours are: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Second Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. Fe Gallery is located at 1100 65th St. For more information call: 456-4455.

Darnell L. Horton

"I have been an artist the beholder." all my life. I was born in Brooklyn, NY and later attended the Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts. After my service in Operation Lady Beaver Iragi Freedom I decided to dedicate myself to my artwork. I will work with any medium I can get my hands on. I like to recycle my materials in any way I can. I



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believe art is in the eye of www.oneandonlyarts.com dhortini1@gmail.com

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new balance

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am often directly influenced by the people around me in my environment. https://www.facebook. com/pages/Lady-Beaver/188546037976179 http://www.ladybeaver.com thelady@ladybeaver.com

Madelyne Joan Templeton

Watercolor is a beautiful and very unpredictable medium, which gives such an expression of color with unforgiving results. I use Dr. Martin's watercolor inks because they provide a unique quality that demonstrates a more concentrated and transparent look to each art piece. These colors help capture the simplest emotions. The reason in why I draw females in most of my paintings is because they represent a "mask" of a beautiful figure, each hiding a true darker meaning. I usually hint each piece with a symbolic meaning of an animal or plant to express my real feelings of everyday strug-

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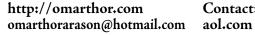
A collage of the pieces by the various artists

Omar Thor Arason

Omar Thor Arason has lived and worked in Iceland, England, Norway, Denmark, and now the USA. He has a master's in studio art from CSUS in studio art. His work is an atgles; moreover, my focus is to tempt to synthesize and recal balance of art elements of relate a sense of "disguise" we oncile, in pictorial form, the line, shape, texture and de- all use when confronting our different ideologies and mythologies he has explored in his short, nomadic life. Arason's work has received many awards cial Arts program, Fairy Tale and scholarships including, a Town, and as a private instruc-CSUS Purchase Award, an In- tor. Walter currently works crease Robinson Fellowship, a as a community representa-Witt Scholarship Award, and tive at the MIND Institute. an Award of Excellence at the Cervantes lives in Sacramen-California State Fair Fine Art to, and continues to exhibit in Exhibition.

Walter Cervantes Walter Cervantes was born

in Michoacan Mexico. He received his BFA from California College of the Arts in 2005. Cervantes has exhibited in the United States and abroad including in the Cultural Center of Zamora Michoacan. His past experiences include working as an art instructor for the Very Spenorthern California. Contact: wcervantes21@





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Janey Way Memories:

The best New Year's eve party ever



By MARTY RELLES nartv@valcomnews.com

In October of 1971, I returned home to Sacramento after a two hitch in the U. S. Army. I had no more than a few dollars in my pocket, so I chose the only option available to me. At age 23, I moved back in with my parents on Janey Way. I didn't stay long, though.

Within a few weeks, my friend Jim Ducray told me that he had signed a lease for a four-bedroom house on 7th and S streets. He needed some others to help pay the rent. I said, "Great, when do we move in?" He told me to be ready to move in on Dec. 1, and we moved in on that day.

The house was in an older neighborhood, but it was a beautiful Victorian in good condition. We quickly settled into our new digs. Things were going really well for me. I had found a house

my old roommate Dick Grimes and Jim's friend Walter. Later that month started work with the State of Cali-31-year career in state service.

great idea. We need to have a party to celebrate moving into our new home. "Let's have a New Year's Eve party," he and other people we knew. It seemed like we invited quite a few people, but you never knew who would show up.

Christmas came and went and soon New Year's Eve arrived. We went out that day to buy beverages and snacks py New Year, Marty." and when evening came we awaited the onslaught of party goers. Things started off slowly until a special guest arrived. His name was Robby and he great time. played guitar in Mick Martin's band. He pulled out his acoustic guitar and

to live in with old friends I knew re-ally well: Jim, his girlfriend Angel, and sang all original songs. We all got into it, listening intently to his lyrics and guitar styling. Hey, if no one else came, we would still have a fornia for what would turn out to be a good time. But soon, however, the guests began arriving, so we began Soon after we moved in, Jim had a playing records on Jim's Sansui music system. The house filled with people. Spirits were high. The new year, 1972, promised to be a great year said. So, right then and there, we start-ed inviting friends from Janey Way and we were bringing it in with style. Beverages flowed freely. We danced and celebrated the occasion.

> When midnight brought the New Year in, I remember kissing the girl next to me and wishing her a happy new year. She smiled and said, "Hap-

In the end, our party had been a smashing success. It was like spontaneous combustion. Everyone had a

By 1 p.m., the house began to clear out, so we cleaned up a little, and



opened a bottle of champagne to toast the New Year.

I can't remember a better New Year celebration then the one we had that night, yet another unforgettable Janey Way memory.









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Arts & Activities

9 www.valcomnews.com • January 2, 2014 • East Sacramento News

Flintmobile Stolen: World's Best Comics Cartoons and Toys offer reward

By STEPH RODRIGUEZ

No prehistoric birds sounded off alarms when World's Best Comics Cartoons and Toys store owner Dave Downey's "Flintmobile," a fullsized model inspired by "The Flintstones" cartoon series was stolen on Friday, December 13 from outside his shop.

Downey just happened to drive past the comic book store on the Sunday morning after the theft occurred only to discover his Flintmobile, a gift from a customer just weeks prior, was no longer parked out front. The sight left him puzzled as the vehicle, with its two, 55-gallon oil drums for wheels and heavy wood frame is completely immobile.

"I wasn't too worried about it getting stolen because it was really heavy," Downey said. "The tires weren't on ax- a mysterious truck. The timeles, so my Flintmobile did not stamp of the photo alone led roll across the ground."

After he filed a police report, Downey posted the morning's events on the store's website and Facebook page. A flood of support and condolences poured in not only from longtime customers, but also from strangers, who all rallied behind the store's unfortunate occurrence. "I've had lots of help from peo-

ple all over the place," Downey said. "There's even been some great key evidence brought forth y a number of individuals."

One man, who prefers to remain anonymous, snapped a random photograph with his smartphone while driving one night. The sight was simply humorous: a Stone Age replica of that pedal-powered vehicle from the '60s—in the bed of someone's truck.

fered more than just a comical snapshot of his Flintmobile piggybacked in the bed of to some key details about the



This Stone Age replica of that pedal-powered vehicle from the '60s was stolen from World's Best Comics Cartoons and Toys on Friday, Dec. 13.

when he estimates the Flintmobile was taken. According and its surveillance cameras. to Downey, the incident happened around 9:45 p.m. What's ture, using its timeframe we more is, for the past 13 years, narrowed down the times to World's Best Comics Cartoons

try Club Lanes bowling alley—

"The big lead was that piclook at in the security cameras

For Downey, the image of- theft, like a general timeframe and Toys' neighbors the Coun- at the bowling alley," Downey said. "We've got footage of the six people that were involved."

Country Club Lanes shared the footage with police on Friday, December 20. Now, Downey and his "Mystery Gang" of comic shop employees wait for more answers to unfold from the investigation. A six-pack of Cactus Cooler, a pineapple and or-ange-flavored soft drink, is still offered as a reward for any further information that concerns the Flintmobile.

Still, Downey admits if he returns to work one morning and discovers the cartoon-like prop in its usual place outside the store, he'd be content, but also theft-proof the Flintmobile.

"My plans would be to cut a tiny hole in each of the drums and fill them with cement," Downey said."That alone will make it from an unlikely object of theft to an impossible object of theft."

Witnessed a Flintmobile parked in a driveway, backyard or rock quarry under the watchful eyes of Mr. Slate? Post any tips on the World's Best Comics Cartoons and Toys' Facebook page or send an e-mail by visiting the store's website.

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South Land Park, just steps from the park with a granny flat behind the RV height garage. \$349.950 W<u>AÛK</u>ER









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By LANCE ARMSTRONG

As local residents are preparing to ring in the New Year, it is certainly a timely endeavor to find out what a few of these people, and some visitors of the area, thought about 2013 and what their hopes are for 2014.

Ånd in following through with this idea, the Vallev Community Newspapers spent a few hours interviewing people, and portions of their answers, many of which were very straightforward, are presented, as follows:

Will Vunibola

The first person approached by this publication for this article was American River College student Will Vunibola, visiting the Arden area.

Vunibola said that what sticks out in his mind about 2013 is this winter's weather, which he referred Eric Celava to as "unusual." And in regard to the up-

job openings."



Eighty-three-year-old River Park resident Gene Geraty, shown with his pair of walking sticks, said that he hopes to meet his goal of having a better year next year than he had in 2013.

Gene Geraty er Park resident Gene Gerain the Arden area to speak about 2013. Gene, who is a member of

Locals share memories of 2013, hopes for 2014



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Eighty-three-year-old Riv-



Photo by Lance Arm Although he said that he made no New Year's resolutions, Eric Celaya is continuously concentrating on improving his health and appreciating his life.

in East Sacramento, said that 2013 was "a bad year" for him, because Marilyn (Hilliard) Geraty, his wife of 58 years, passed away on Jan. 26.

In discussing his goal of working toward having a better year, Gene said, "In 2014, hopefully I can get to a better an Antelope resident who was place than I'm in now."

Gene added that he is appreciative of his supportive family and friends.

East Sacramento resident Eric Celaya said that he is focoming year, he added, cused on assisting his daugh-"Hopefully, there are more ters to obtain careers through college educations.

"We would like our (two) daughters to finish college and be what they want to be and be more successful than (their parents)," said Celaya, a 1981 graduate of San Juan High School.

As opposed to making any New Year's resolutions, Celaya, who overcame a serious health issue, said that he is instead continuously concentrating on improving his health and appreciating his life.

Bret Johnson

Bret Johnson did not speak kindly about the fading year, as he said, "I hate pretty much everything about (2013)."

But he added that for 2014. he is looking forward to graduating from Sacramento State University.

Michael Cortopassi

In speaking about 2013, ty, who walks an average of Michael Cortopassi said, "It five miles per day, took a was a bad year. I lost my job, break from one of his walks I'm on unemployment, got to move, you know, all that. I'm just hoping to get back on my feet (in 2014) and enjoy life. the East Portal Bocce Club My New Year's resolution is

mouth.

Pete Tencati

Pete Tencati chose to direct his answer beyond 2013 and 2014 and toward the topic of the future revitalization of downtown major entertainment and sports facility.

"I hope and pray that finally they straighten up downtown," said Tencati, who complimented Vivek Ranadive which means Court Appointand Mark Friedman's involvement toward bringing a new arena to Sacramento. "If they have this deal where they vote doing stuff that's meaningful. on the arena and everything So, 2013 was a good year and

goes in. It will bring in jobs. It area, like (in) San Diego and traveling." so many other places."

Linda Sabraw

In reviewing 2013, Arden area resident Linda Sabraw now resides in Sacramento, Sacramento through a new, said, "I had a better 2013 than 2012, because my husband died in 2012. I retired in September (from 17 years at AT&T) and I'm doing some nesiology major with an emvolunteer work for CASA, ed Special Advocates. I'm a special advocate for child and foster care systems. I've been going to be a physical thera-

I'm going to try to stop cuss-ing. I've got a real bad potty like that, I pray to God that I look forward to 2014 and they lose. I hope that the arena being able to do more things like golfing, taking guitar leswill revitalize the whole core sons and some art lessons,

Kate Culley

Eighteen-year-old Kate Culley, a Bay Area native who said, "(Two thousand thirteen) was a good year. I started college at Sac State, so this is my first semester. I'm a kiphasis in physical therapy. (For 2014), my resolution is to stay focused in school and just have fun. I'm hopefully

See Resolutions, page 14

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Resolutions:

Continued from page 13

pist somewhere and help people get back to moving around.

Rav Martin

Árden area resident Ray Martin said that despite some "family challenges," 2013 was "generally good" for him.

And he added that he hopes to have an even better year in 2014 and beyond.

"For me, I'm looking forward to better things coming in the future," Martin said.

Lisa Roe

In discussing her highlights of who grew up in Chico, said, "Well, my son ran cross country and he loved it. He's in the 5th grade. We had some great camping trips in olutions, Taylor added, "I want to the summer with friends. We go up get more focused on my studies on the coast – Santa Cruz, Olema, and I also want to better my rela- tends Sacramento State, also shared mer off since I was 16. (The sum-Point Reyes, Calaveras Big Trees, tionship with Jesus Christ and get her recollections of 2013, as she mer) was full of Jet Skiing, boating Big Sur. And we went to Tahoe for our (11th wedding) anniversary, swam in Lake Tahoe. We're going to Amanda Chastain Hawaii on the 28th (of December) and we're looking forward to that."

Jeff Berger

Jeff Berger was brief in his response, as he said, "I thought 2013 was better than 2012, economically that is, and I'm hopeful that 2014 can be better, because (the economy) certainly is not great. And personally, I want to lose 25 pounds."

Jenelle Taylor

Another Arden area resident, Jenelle Taylor, who graduated from Florin High School in 2006 and is presently majoring in Spanish at Sacramento State, said, "I think 2013 was an interesting year. I think that it was kind of a challenging year, but at the same 2013, River Park resident Lisa Roe, time, I think it was very enlightening for me."

And although she said that she did not make any New Year's resbetter spiritually."

Amanda Chastain, a 2008 Fol-

Please



Photo by Lance Armstrond Sacramento State University graduate student Amanda Chastain had an eventful 2013 that included beginning graduate school, obtaining a new job and establishing a new relationship.

Living with Memory Loss

som High School graduate who at- days a week. I had my first sum- ly know if 2014 can top it."

said, "For me, (2013) was eventful. and was the best real summer ever. I started graduate school (study- It was new job, new boyfriend, first ing behavioral analysis) and it was summer, and starting school. (The my first year not working seven year) was very eventful. I don't real-



Linda Pohl linda@valcomnews.com www.valcomnews.com

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

Editor's note: City Councilmember Kevin Mc-Carty told the East Sacramento News the city council has likely postponed the vote for the controversial student housing project, Campus Crest, to Jan. 14. It was previously scheduled for the Dec. 10 meeting.

ONGOING

AARP tax aide seeks volunteers for 2014

The nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers for tax assistance/preparation and leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. Each year from Feb. 1 through April 15, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers prepare federal, state, and local tax returns for low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteers are especially needed to assist with electronic filing of tax returns. You do not need to be an AARP member or retiree to volunteer. For more information on how you can join the AARP Tax-Aide team in Northern California, contact Ron Byrd at NoCalTaxAide@Outlook.com or visit website at; www.aarp.org/taxaide

Attn. students: Submit now for

High school students can win cash prizes and the chance to view their video on the Raley Field Jumbotron by entering the 2014 Water Spots Video Contest. The contest, sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Sacramento Bee Media in Education (MIE) program, challeng es teens to create compelling and original 25-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos on a select water efficiency topic. The 2014 water efficiency theme is Don't be a gutter flooder: Prevent overspray and runoff. Judging will be based on creativity, entertainment value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the water efficiency topic. Finalist videos will be displayed on the Raley Field Jumbotron screen and winners announced at a Sacramento River Cats game in April 2014, Winning students and their teachers will also get cash prizes. The grand prize winner's spot may become part of RWA's 2014 television ad campaign. Submissions due Feb. 28. Visit www.BeWaterSmart info for more information and tips

CALENDAR

water efficiency video contest

on using water more efficiently and to sub mit entries or get more information about contest rules, judging and prizes, visit www. sacbee.com/water-spots

California Youth Basketball League taking applications

CYBL is a non-profit year round league for ages 4 through 18 that prides itself on being well organized that aims to develop basketball skills, sportsmanship and self-esteen through coaches, gym official and organizers Visit www.cybhoops.com or call 391-3900.

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meet ing on Fridays at 7 a.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. Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984. volinteers always welcome

The Sacramento Capitolaires meetina

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Hall (Sierra Arden United Church of Christ), 890 Morse Ave., Sacramento. Info www.capitolaires.org, call 888-0877-9806, or email info@capitolaires.org

Artisan holds Food Drive

Artisan Salon is participating in the Spirit of Giving Food Drive. Over the last 17 years, the Spirit of Giving (SOG) drive has helped Sacramento Food Bank collect and distribute over 4.6 million pounds of canned and non-perishable food items for local families in need. Help support families in need by participating in this year's drive! Artisan Salon is located at 3198 Riv erside Blvd.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento South meetings

A service organization dedicated to insure the status of women and girls, the group meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. The meetings discuss our fund raising Projects and Community Service, often with speakers from our community.

Polar plunge for Clunie Pool

Jan. 4: Have you ever wanted to jump in a pool in January or just have fun watching others? Plunge into Clunie Pool at 10:30 a.m and take the prize plunge at 11 a.m. Take pictures with Sir Burr Pants, the polar bear and enjoy carnival games. \$5 to take the plunge and free to all other guests. Two plunge for the price of one for all public safety personn and City of Sacramento employees. All proceeds benefit the Sacramento Swim League. For more information call: 808-2306 or email aquatics@cityofsacramento.org

Annual McKinley Rose Garden prune-a-thon

Jan. 4: The Sacramento Rose Society will hold its annual McKinley Rose Garden prune-a-thon from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the McKinley Rose Garden. (At H and 33rd Streets). No experience is required as expert rosarians will be there to teach volunteers how to prune. Help will also be needed in removing the rose bush trimmings, raking where needed in the garden, and pruning the bushes around the garden. If there are enough volunteers folks will also help rake the leaves in the park, especially around the children's playground and the Clunie Center. And as a special treat, after the prune-a thon, there will be a hot soup lunch for the volunteers, thanks to the kindness of Evan and Laurette Elsberry from the restaurant Evan's Kitchen. If you have garden clippers or rakes that you could bring with you that would be a big help. Also, please bring your garden gloves, dress warmly and be sure to wear closed toed shoes.

ACC offers a computer class open house

Jan 7: From 10:30-11 a.m., at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., check out the classroom and try the computers. Friendly computer instructors will be available to answer questions about upcoming classes or questions about your own computer and any specific problems or issues you are having. Photography, ipad, iphone classes and more. Free. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330. www.accsv.org/cl/.

ACC presents: "A Veteran's Journey' Jan 9: From 6 to 7 p.m., at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., fol-

low the steps of a daughter as she guides her Veteran father through the deep and complex landscape of end of life. Learn the issues that are unique to Veterans and their families at end of life. Discover the support that is available for Veterans. Free. Pre-registration requested. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330/www.accsv

ACC offers free health evaluations

Jan 10: From 10 to 11 a.m., at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., discover your 9 body composit (weight, body fat percent, body water percent, bone mass, muscle mass, visceral fat level, metabolic age, BMR, physique rating) Free. Pre-registration requested. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/cl/.

ACC offers a cooking demonstration

Ian 10: From noon to 1:30 p.m., ACC Greenhaven Terrace, 1180 Corporate Way, learn to prepare delicious marinated Korear Flank Steak and make savory Japanese Egg Rolls, a rolled omelet that can be served for breakfast, as a bento item, or used for sushi \$11. Pre-registration and pre-payment requested. Call: (916) 393-9026 x330, www. accsv.org/cl/.

Polar plunge at Greenhaven Cabana: Calling All Polar Bears!

Jan. 11: It's time for the annual Polar Bear Swim at the Greenhaven Cabana Club North! Everyone is invited to take the plunge into the cool waters from 11 at 1 p.m. The Greenhaven Cabana Club North is located at 6207 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, 95831. The entry fee of \$10 (for members and nonmembers) will earn the polar bear a t-shirt, certificate of Polar Bear Membership, hot chocolate and s'more's in addition to the opportunity to take the plunge into polar bear stardom! For more information contact the club at swimcabanaclubnorth@gmail.com.

ACC presents workshop on spring/ summer garden preparation

Jan 14: Learn how to get a jump on spring and ner vegetable and flower gardening, including soil preparation, site selection, water rvation, fertilizing, attracting pollinators and pest control, from 11 a.m. to noon, ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Drive. Free. Pre-registration required. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330/www.accsv.org/cl/.

ACC presents "DMV Driver Safety and the Aging Driver"

Jan 16: In a continuing effort to assist seniors in maintaining their driving independence for as long as they can do so safely, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has created the Senior Driver Ombudsman Program which will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m., at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Drive. Learn methods for prolonged driving from the local DMV Senior Driver Ombudsman, who will also cover related topics such as driver license renewal strategies, how DMV assesses Alzheimer's disease and oth

er cognitive impairments, and the potentially unsafe driver reporting process. Free. Pre-registration required. Please call 1-800-272-3900 or e-mail ptardio@alz.org.

Hands on History: Trappers, Trades and Treaties!

Jan. 18: As part of a special and continu ing interactive program happening on the third Saturday of each month. Sutter's For State Historic Park (SHP) will present a spe cial ÒHands on History: Trappers, Trades, and TreatiesÓ event in January. Visitors to the Fort will step back in time to the 1840s to learn why trappers were considered Oiacks of many tradesÓ and experience how they lived worked, explored new territory and traded with local Native Americans. Fort visitors will see, handle, and hear about many items that were commonplace in the middle of the 19th century but seem strange now. Guests will also learn about many fascinating aspects in the life of a trapper, see examples of game traps and how they work, plus learn about the important Òbarter processÓ Sutter used to hunt and trap on Native lands. Fort visitors will also have the opportunity to examine fur pelts, cr ate souvenir documents with a quill pen and oak gall ink, string trade beads and watch how flint and steel can be used to start a fire. As an event highlight, an original oil painting of Sut ter's Fort -- titled Welcome -- will be unveiled that was created by local historian and artist Mark Davidson. In fact, hundreds of hours of research went into creating an accurate depiction of the Fort (and daily life) before the Gold Rush. To provide insight, two special presentations will be offered that day by Davidson and Steve Beck, History and Education Programming Lead at Sutter's Fort, about the painting, its nuances and the research that went into its creation. For more information about this event or Sutter's Fort SHP call 916 445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org; Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, 2701 L Street, Sacramento. Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., special presen tations: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., cannon firing demonstrations: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., Musket demonstrations periodically throughout the day. Cost:\$7 per adult, \$5 per youth (ages 6-17), free for children 5 vears and under

ACC presents forum on cervical health Jan 23: Every Women Counts will be offer ing women education on Breast & Cervical Cancer prevention, early detection, free screening services from 1 to 2 p.m., ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Drive, Learn valuable information about the risk factors for breast cancer; importance of early detection; eligibility requirements to qualify for free screening and/or treatment Free. Pre-registration requested. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/cl/.

- EVENT LISTING SECTION -

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17th Annual Crab Feed Fundrais

Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society's Annual Rent Party January 12, Noon - 5 p.m. Dante Club 2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Sacrament Members \$10, Non-members \$15 Students \$5 This mini-festival will feature 15 bands

Call (916) 444-2004 for further information

CALL AND PLACE YOUR EVENT TODAY! (916) 429-9901

18 St. Francis student-athletes commit to university sports teams

St. Francis High School had 18 student-athletes sign National Letters of Intent or commitments to play sports next fall at colleges and universities across the country. They were celebrated with a ceremony at the school today to highlight their outstanding achievement.

"We are really proud of our girls," said Athletic Director Mark Mc-Greevy. "It really says a lot about their hard work, the support of their parents and the wonderful school we have at St. Francis. It is a great accomplishment to be able to achieve at a high level and earn the opportunity to compete at the next level. It is reflection of their dedication in their sport and academics, balancing the demands of being a student-athlete. We cheer them on in the future but they are always part of the St. Francis red and gold."

The Troubadour signing day was highlighted by seven players from the volleyball program and six athletes who compete for local rowing clubs. Student-athletes from the golf, softball and swimming and diving programs also made commitments on Wednesday.

Volleyball showcased the talent in the program with seven players recruited to play at schools in Arizona, Oregon, Hawaii and California. Anna Baytosh (Chico State), Karson Bisharat (Central Arizona), Lea sections." Felton (Hawaii Pacific), Chloe Hakim (UC Irvine), Ali Koumelis (Portland), Noa Nightingale (UCSB) and Megan Sullivan (UCSB) will play collegiately next year. They are currently in the midst of the Sac-Joaquin Section playoffs with a third round game on Thursday.

"It was amazing," said Sullivan. "I could not wait for this day to come and it finally came. UCSB is a dream school for me and I get to go with my best friend (and teammate) Noa Pacific, Alejandra Garcia for softball (Nightingale). It is a great program ally amazing. I love all the girls on the team. I am really excited."

for several St. Francis students at the two local rowing clubs, earning six student-athletes opportunities across the While not a school-sponsored sport, swimming at Dartmouth, Alexis Marthey represent the talented student body at St. Francis. Caroline Boals (USC), Hannah Gasser (San Diego State), Jacqueline Holben (California), Sophia Kershaw (Georgetown), Nina Obaldia (California) and Jullisa Romani (San Diego) will all row at the collegiate level.

"It meant the world to me to be able to sign with a school I have wanted to go to since the seventh grade," said Obaldia, who will compete for Cali-



fornia. "And to do it for a sport I love the team to a 2012 CIF State Chamso much. Go Bears."

Three swimmers, who will compete for St. Francis in the spring, also signed. Maddison Johnson (TCU), AnnClaire MacArt (Dartmouth) and Alexis Martinez (Seattle) will continue their careers next year.

The team spirit in all sports, especially swimming, is great," said Johnson. "There are so many of us but we all come together for champs and for

Golfer Emily Laskin will play golf representing the U.S. Naval Academy, while softball player Alejandra Garcia will compete for Cal Poly.

"I have been waiting my whole softball career for this," said Garcia.

2013 St. Francis fall commitments/ signees include: Anna Baytosh for volleyball at Chico State, Karson Bisharat for volleyball at Central Arizona, Caroline Boals for crew at USC. Lea Felton for volleyball at Hawaii at Cal Poly, Hannah Gasser for crew with great new coaches. They are re- at San Diego State, Chloe Hakim for volleyball at UC Irvine, Jacqueline Holben for crew, Maddison Johnson Crew has become a popular sport for swimming at TCU, Sophie Ker- lings: Mackenzie, Aja and Beau. shaw for crew at Georgetown, Ali Koumelis for volleyball at Portland, Emily Laskin for golf at the U.S. Nacountry from Georgetown to USC. val Academy, AnnClaire MacArt for tinez for swimming at Seat-tle, Noa Nightingale for volleyball at UC Santa Barbara, Nina Obaldia for crew, Jullisa Romani for crew at San Diego, Megan Sullivan for volleyball at UC Santa Barbara.

Anna Baytosh

Vollevball, Chico State

Anna is a two-year letter winner

pionship runner-up finish, Nor Cal Championship, Sac Joaquin Section title and two Delta River League titles. She has led the team with 287 kills while hitting .259 with 247 digs. She saw action in 29 sets as a junior, recording 35 kills and 37 digs. She has a 3.5 GPA and has been an Honor Roll recipient every year. She has par-ticipated in the Freshman Overnight, Freshmen and Sophomore retreats. Parents: Michael and Jenifer Baytosh. Siblings: Christopher and Joey.

Volleyball, Central Arizona

Karson is a starter and two-year letter winner. She is fourth on the team in kills while hitting .304 with 45 blocks, the second-best total on the team. She was a member of the 2012 CIF State Championship runner-up, recording 18 kills and 16 digs in 38 sets. She has helped win two Delta River League titles, the 2012 Nor Cal Championship and the 2012 Sac-Joaquin Division 1 North title. Parents: Charlie and Brenda Bisharat. Sib-

Lea Felton

Vollevball, Hawaii Pacific

Lea is a two-year starter and threeyear letter winner for the Troubadours, helping the team to three Delta River League titles, two section titles, 2012 Nor Cal Championship and 2012 CIF state championships runner-up finish. She has recorded 145 kills in the season while hitting .304 with a team-best 47 total blocks. She was named to 2013 High Sierra Invitational all-tournament team. In 2012, she was named to the Delta River Allfor the volleyball program, helping League team. She has a 3.6 GPA and

received High Honors every year. She has attended the Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior retreat. She has volunteered at the local food bank and was a member of San Francisco service trip Parents: Sue and Mark Felton. Siblings: Adam and Luke.

Alejandra Garcia

Softball, Cal Poly

Alejandra is a four-year starter for coach Al LoGuidice and Kevin Warren, playing shortstop and catcher. She earned all-league honors as a junior, hitting .364 with a .982 fielding percentage to help the team reach the playoffs. She was the co-MVP as a sophomore after batting .305 for the season and received the Coaches Award as a freshman. She plays for the Lady Magic Fastpitch club. She has a 3.9 GPA. She has attended the Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior retreats and has volunteered with Mercy MacMahon Terrace and the Elk Grove Girls Softball clinic. Parents: Ben and Kristy Garcia. Siblings: Isabela and Azalea.

Hannah Gasser

Crew, San Diego State Hannah will sign with San Diego State for rowing. She has competed for Capital Crew for Head Coach Toby Johnson for three years. She recently placed second at Youth Nationals in Tennessee in the Lightweight 4 boat. She has a 3.47 GPA and is a member of the Honor Roll. She has participated in numerous retreats and volunteered with St. Vincent de Paul and Loaves and Fishes. Parents: Sheila and Jim Gasser. Sibling: Robert.

See St. Francis, page 19

St. Francis: Continued from page 18

Chloe Hakim Volleyball, UC Irvine

Chloe is two-year starter and letter winner, helping the team to backto-back Delta River League titles. She was a key member of the 2012 Nor Cal Champion and CIF State Championship runner-up team. She has recorded 468 digs on the season to lead the team. As a junior, she recorded 340 digs. She attended the Bronx, N.Y., Christian service trip, assisting the elderly and working at a soup kitchen and has taken part in the Freshmen, Sophomore and Junior retreats. Parents: Cornelis and Chitra Hakim. Sibling: Chazel.

Jacqueline Holben

Crew, California

ben. Sibling: Celeste.

Maddison Johnson

Swimming, TCU Maddison is a three-year standlas, Jacob and Hayden.

Sophie Kershaw

Sophie has competed for Capital Crew and Head Coach Toby Johnson for four years. She has been a captain for two seasons, earing the Captains Award. She was part of a Lightweight 4 that finished second in Youth Nationals in 2013 and second on a Light-

Jacqueline has been am member of Capital Crew since 2011. As the Coxswain, she coxed the varsity 8 to second-place finishes at the Head of the Port and Head of the Lakes this fall. Varsity 8 boat placed first at the Pacific Invite and all three races at the Stanford Invitational last spring. She was named to the US Rowing Junior National Development Camp in 2012, one of just four coxswains born in 1996. She has volunteered with the Center for Contemporary Art since 2005. Parents: Chris and Cheryl Hol-

out for Head Coach Richard Levin, helping the team to three Delta River League titles and a section championship as a freshman. She was named an Academic All-American by USA Swimming. She won the DRL titles for the 100 fly and 200 IM in 2013 and has been named one of the team Most Valuable Players each season. She also competed with the Arden Hills National club tam, participating in Junior Nationals and NCSA Junior Nationals. She has attended Freshman, Sophomore and Junior retreats and volunteered with Specials Olympics, Loaves and Fishes and Davis Community Meals. Parents: Tammy and Larry Johnson. Siblings: Nicho-

Crew, Georgetown

weight 8 at the same event in 2012. She has a 4.33 GPA and is a member of the Honor Roll. She has volunteered with the Sac State Aquatic Center. She is a member of the Native American Culture Club and Guitar Club. Parents: Gary and Tracey Kershaw. Siblings: Edward and Charlotte.

Ali Koumelis

Volleyball, Portland

Ali has been a leader on the Troubadour team as four-year letter winner and two year starter. She is one of three captains on the 2013 team that won the Delta River League title with a perfect 10 mark. Overall, she has led the team to three Delta River League titles, two section titles, 2012 Nor Čal Championship and 2012 CIF state championships runner-up finish. She has recorded 764 assists, averaging 9.6 per set (17th in California). She was named to the 2013 High Sierra Invitational All-Tournament team. As a junior, she recorded 847 assists (8.5 per set) to lead the team and rank eighth in the Sac-Joaquin Section. Parents: Dave and Cathy Koumelis. Siblings: Daniel, Andrew and Lauren.

Emily Laskin

Golf, U.S. Naval Academy

Emily was a four-year letter winner and two-time captain for the Troubadour golf team. She helped the team to two state championship appearances (2010-6th, 2012-6th), six section titles and three Delta River League titles (2010, 2012, 2013). She posted a 79.7 scoring average over six rounds and carded an average of 35.8 in five Delta River League matches. She was twice named the Delta River League Most Valuable Player. She is the senior class president and attended Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior and Kairos retreats. Emily as a 4.38 GPA and was a member of the Honor Roll member each of her first three years. She was a product of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and received the Girls Most Athletic Award after playing basketball, volleyball and golf. Parents: Alan and Julie Laskin. Siblings: Sonia and David.

AnnClaire MacArt

Swimming, Dartmouth

AnnClaire is a three-time varsity letter winner for Head Coach Richard Levin, helping the team to the section title in 2011. She has received the St. Francis Most Outstanding Swimmer three times. She garnered all-league honors in 2013 and was named to the Sacramento River Cats all-city team in both 2012 and 2013. She also won the 100 freestyle at the CIF Section meet in 2012. USA Swimming has named her a Scholastic All-American in both 2012 and 2013. AnnClaire has a 4.31 GPA and is member of the that broke seven minutes for 2K at nanti. Siblings: Joey.



National Honor Society. She has at- Southwest Regional Championships tended the Freshman, Sophomore and Junior retreats and volunteered with Loaves and Fishes and the Davis Community Meals program. Parents: Marilyn and Gregory MacArt. St. John's and Loaves and Fishes. Par-Siblings: Jonathan and Patrick.

Alexis Martinez

Swimming, Seattle

Alexis is a standout for the St. Francis swimming team and was named the MVP on the 2013 team. She reached the 200 and 400 freestyle relays at the Delta River League meet, earning allleague honors. She was part of the re- Port (V4+) and third at the Southcord-setting 400-free relay at the Delta River League meet last season. She seasons, including two seasons at placed first at the Pacific Invitational honors in the 200 free relay in 2012. Parents: Nicole and Michael Martinez. Siblings: Andrew and Ashley.

Noa Nightingale

Volleyball, UC Santa Barbara

Noa has been a two-year varsity member for Alynn Wright. She has been part of two Delta River League titles, a Sac-Joaquin section title, Nor Cal Championship and 2012 CIF Delta River League titles, a Sac-Joa-State Championship runner-up fin-ish. She has 168 kills on the season, 88 sets played. She has volunteered at named a PrepVolleyball.com Se-St. John's Shelter in Sacramento and nior Ace: The 150 and Just Missed. owns a 3.7 GPA. She also attended the Freshman, Sophomore and Junior retreats. Parents: Jeff and Cheryl Nightingale. Sibling: Zoe.

Nina Obaldia

Crew, California

Nina competed for River City Rowing Club for coach Tricia Blocker. She is the stroke on the varsity 8 Sanctuary in Sacramento. Parents: and varsity four. She was part of V8 Lori Sullivan Abinanti and Joe Abi-

at Lake Natoma in 2013. She has attended Frosh, Sophomore and Mother-Daughter retreats and participated in volunteer activities at River City, ents: Berman and Vivian Hernandez-Obaldia. Sibling: Natalie.

Jullisa Romani

Crew, San Diego

Jullisa has been competing for Capital Crew under Head Coach Toby the finals in both the 50 free and 100 Johnson for the last four seasons as free at the CIF State Championships a rower and starboard. She has been in 2013. She won individual titles in part of four successful boats in 2013, recording several high finishes. They finished first at the 2013 Head of the west Junior Championships. They were fourth in the nation at the Youth was swam on the varsity for all four Nationals in Tennessee. She also Granite Bay. She earned All-America in V8+ to win the gold medal. She has a 4.05 GPA and has received General Excellence and Honor Roll accolades. Parents: Bruce Romani. Siblings: Bri-an, Brett, Shelley and Ashley.

Megan Sullivan

Volleyball, UC Santa Barbara

Megan has been a two-year varsity member for Head Coach Alynn Wright. She has been part of two quin section title, Nor Cal Championship and 2012 CIF State Chamrecording two games of 10 or more in pionship runner-up finish. She was She has 182 kills on the season, hitting .372 (51st in California) with 51 blocks. She was a member of NCVA team that went 18-1 in 2013-14 and placed 22nd at the 2013 USA Junior National Championships. She earned a silver medal with the 18 and Under team at 2012 USA Junior Beach Vollevball Tour. She has volunteered at St. John's Shelter and Happy Tails Pet



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