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TUESDAY, OCT. 21. · 6 P.M.

See page 13

- Matías Bombal's Hollywood4
- On the Curbs.....5
- Lance Armstrong feature6
- Faces and Places8
- Calendar.....17

Now that's a big dog!
Sighted near Tupelo was
this cute 200-pound pup

■ Read about Indie on page 5



Selland's employee
working to assist
homeless through
shoe drive

■ See page 6

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Neighbor steps up to fund school landscaping

Paige Dunsmore, a 19-year resident of McKinley Park and children's book author, frequently walks her dogs past Theodore Judah Elementary School.

On one of these summer strolls, she realized she could have an impact on her neighborhood. "The front of the school obviously needed help," said Dunsmore. "Although I don't have kids, I have a vested interest in Theodore Judah. This is my community. I wanted the children attending to feel proud of where they went to school."

So Dunsmore got busy – really busy. With school starting in just a matter of days, Dunsmore reached out to Greco Landscaping of Sacramento to overhaul the school's entrance.

With the guidance of SCUSD staff, the volunteer team, including Dunsmore herself, quickly got their hands dirty planting low-water, low-maintenance perennials, shrubs and bushes, as well as overhauling the school's sprinkler system.

"The project was contagious," said Dunsmore. "When Greco found out that I was personally funding the job, they were so impressed that they discounted their services. Neighbors seeing the work that was done,



picked up shovels eager to help, came by with cameras – all wanting to take part."

The results are impressive. "The front of the school has been cherished and worked on by the community for many years," said Judah Principal Corrie Buckmaster Celeste.

"Approximately four years ago, the community worked together to design and enhance the landscaping of the front. Volunteers subsequently contributed hours by pulling weeds and pruning. This summer we were due again for a spruce up. As we were assessing the need, a generous donor came forth. We are incredibly grateful to Paige for her contribution."

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October 2014 Curriculum

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Join Staff Sergeant Norberto Ochoa with the US Army as he takes us through the rich history of the Sacramento Recruiting Battalion. Learn how the Battalion conducts its recruiting operations achieve all missions. If you or a family member is looking for more information with recruitment, we can provide the support you need.

Meet and Greet with Jim Cooper: Wednesday, October 8th at 2:00PM

Please join Jim Cooper for an hour of conversation, Mr. Cooper is the current Elk Grove Vice Mayor/Sacramento County Sheriff's Captain. Mr. Cooper is a candidate for State Assembly District 9.

Yoga Seed Collective: Wednesday, October 15th at 2:00 PM

Come learn the great benefit that yoga can bring to a person's life, whether that is stress reduction, healing, greater capacities for compassion and awareness, or physical benefits like flexibility, strength, pain reduction, or simply a greater ease and comfort in one's embodiment. Yoga makes us happy and we want to share it! The Yoga Seed is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to promoting health consciousness and empowering the community through the practice of yoga.

Eat Your Vegetables!: Wednesday October 22nd at 2:00PM

Please join the Vegetarian Society and learn about the ethical, environmental, and health impacts associated with animal based foods. If you've been curious and considering a vegetarian lifestyle, learn how the Sacramento Vegetarian Society can provide the support you need to pursue your interest.

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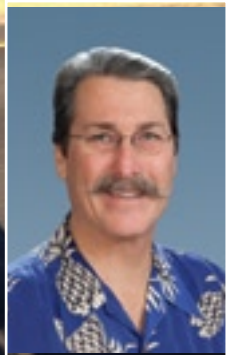
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Matias Bombal's Hollywood

'This is Where I Leave You'

The MPAA has rated this R

Warner Brothers' "This is Where I Leave You" is based on a book written by Jonathan Tropper, who adapted the screenplay himself, offering a playground for the talents of Jane Fonda, Jason Bateman, and Tina Fey.

This snarky comedy is set in the childhood home of a large family whose patriarch has died. His widow, played by Fonda, wants all the siblings under one roof for seven days in keeping with her late husband's wishes.

This movie features several of today's bright quick wits, including Adam Driver, Rose Byrne, Corey Stoll, Kathryn Hahn and, playing someone not so quick, Timothy Olyphant.

The expected childhood rivalries resurface, and lost loves are reinvestigated. The majority of the story follows Jason Bateman's character, Judd Altman, who is trying to conceal from his family a recent personal loss, which is forced out of him at an inappropriate moment by Tina Fey.

This is a fun comedy that will please most people and likely will resonate with movie patrons that came from large families. I was delighted to see Jane Fonda on the big screen again, and enjoyed her "revealing" performance.

Tina Fey, who is a quick and brilliant comedienne, has never been one of my favorites in spite of her enormous and clever talent. However, in this picture, she has some very fine screen moments near the end, which I found most effective. The photography by Terry Stacey is excellent. It is directed by Shawn Levy.

The Boxtrolls

The MPAA has given this a PG rating.

Focus Features offers something for kids and adults with "Boxtrolls", a movie I dreaded to see after having seen the preview, but was pleasantly surprised to find that the actual feature was quite good and lovingly made in the classic style of a George Pal Puppetoon. In this age of CGI and computer animation, to see figures molded in stop motion, not unlike the classic "King Kong" is a rare treat of human craftsmanship.

The story, based on Alan Snow's book "Here Be Monsters" follows a young boy that is raised by Boxtrolls, odd little trolls that use a box as a clothing cover that live in the sewers of an old town that is obsessed with fine cheese.

An evil exterminator, Archibald Snatcher, who looks like Dame Edna Everage, and voiced by screen legend Ben Kingsley, is out to kill them all. He wishes to become accepted by high society and to possess the mark of distinction of that class, a tall white top hat. Our young boy hero, "Eggs", named after the markings on the box that he wears, finds the courage to save the day.

Actor Jared Harris voices the leader of the land, "Lord Portley-Rinde" who looks just like the classic British actor C. Aubrey Smith.

Simon Pegg voices "Eggs" natural father, and Tracy Morgan is Mr. Gristle, one of Archibald's hench men. The sets are cleverly and painstakingly designed with many retro and almost "steampunk" elements. This works well for kids and adults alike, with a positive message for all. Stay through the very end for some neat footage!



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On the Curbs



By MICHAEL SAELTZER

What weighs more than 200 pounds, eats about six cups of dog food a day, not including snacks like pumpkin and other veggie treats, is about 3 years old, and is as furry and as friendly as can be? Meet Indie, an Irish Wolfhound, named after Indiana Jones. I was on my way to Tupelo and could not help but notice Indie and his owner Diane sauntering on the curbs of Elvas Avenue. Indie, you definitely make an impression and welcome to East Sac from your home turf of Folsom!

Did you know that children's reading abilities improve dramatically when they read to a dog? That's right. Researchers believe that it significantly reduces the emotional anxiety that so many children experience while learning to read aloud. Although Indie will not be able to make it on Oct. 7, Tuesday at 3 p.m. children ages 6-12 are invited to the McKinley Library to read to a trained therapy dog and adult volunteer. Children may bring their own books to read to a furry friend or they may borrow a book from the library's collection.

Poetry anyone??? The International Poet: Writing Across Continents (Adult) a class also being held at McKinley Library will involve reading and writing poetry in international styles! Poet and editor

Frank Dixon Graham will show us poetry from around the world in this eight week series. Attend one session or all eight. This week's class - Middle Eastern Poetics. Looking at the poems of Hafiz, Rumi, and other more modern writers. The first class is Oct. 4, Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Elsewhere on the curbs of East Sac residents can find the brand new Village Post Office sign outside of Compton's Market. What this means is that anyone can simply stop by Compton's to mail their packages and boxes right there in the store via the U.S. Postal Service. We now have a neighborhood post office in the store.

Look a bit further down the curb in Compton's parking lot and note the Theodore Judah Annual Fundraiser is being held on Saturday, Oct. 4 from noon to 4:30 p.m. Festivities will include barbecue cooking, gobs of food, a separate wine and beer tasting area, two jump houses, live music, raffles galore, and maybe even pony rides. Sunil and Pam, the owners, get the "tip of the hat" On the Curb Award for community service. When you are there, be sure to thank them for everything they continue to do.

Who remembers Mike Majors and the Electric Bike Shop that was once located on 36th and J near Big Spoon Yogurt? I was quaffing a stein or two with my buddy Barry watching the Giants beat L.A. at The Raven and I fell into conversation with Mike. What a great guy! Mike's background is in Civil Engineering, and, after taking over his family's business, many of his clients were the "Big



Photos by Michael Saeltzer

(above left) Diane and Indie cruising the curbs in East Sac are difficult to overlook.

(above center) Inside Compton's customers will find a new United States Postal Service station where they can now mail boxes and packages.

(above right) Mike Majors of The Electric Bike Shop is still in business. He is just in a new location, 202 23rd St.

Oil" companies. He felt a void in his life and started the Electric Bike Shop which is still in business, but now located on 202 23rd Street (near the intersection of 23rd St. and Blues Alley). So glad you are still in business, Mike. You are a wonderful part of what is on the curbs in our community!

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Local man working to assist homeless through shoe drive

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Ben Conner, a 27-year-old employee at Selland's Market-Café at 5340 H St. in East Sacramento, said that he has overcome personal obstacles in his life, and is finally ready to lend his services to others who need assistance in their lives.

"There was a moment in my life when I realized that I got myself out of the way and I didn't have to work on myself anymore," said Conner during an interview with this publication last week. "I was like, OK, I'm over myself, let's make a difference for other people. And I wanted to make a difference for people without homes. And I know that there are shelters and food drives and clothing donations, and there are all sorts of things going on for the homeless people. And I thought to myself, 'What's

really going to make a difference?' And I was walking home one day from work and I was walking by some homeless people. I don't like the term homeless people. It doesn't seem right to me. So, 'people without homes' were at a bus stop and I asked them what would make a difference for them, and they said, 'Shoes and socks.'" And I go, 'I got it. I'm going to make a difference for you guys.'"

Two months ago, Conner began working on his project – a 'people without homes' shoe drive, which he has dubbed, "These Shoes Were Made for Walking."

Conner explained that his first step in establishing his project was to head to a computer to research shoe and sock drives via the Internet.

"I Googled 'shoe and sock drives, Sacramento' and (an East Sacramento News article about) Jan Wilson was the first one that came up (in that search). What was valuable about her is she's been doing these (drives) for almost 12, 14 years, and she's known as 'the extra layer of clothing lady.'"

After reading the article, Conner contacted Wilson, who also conducts shoe drives, and arranged a meeting with her to obtain tips for his project.

"I got (Wilson's) whole entire world of all the different places that she went to, how she did it, who she spoke to, the process of receiving the shoes and organizing the shoes. I got really clear on what it was going to take to have this happen."



Ben Conner shows examples of shoes that could be donated to his local shoe drive.

Photo by Lance Armstrong

During the following week after he met with Wilson, Conner worked with Loaves & Fishes to arrange for his present month-long shoe drive.

The distribution of the shoes will occur from Nov. 11 through 15, and the project will culminate with a barbecue/picnic for participants of the drive and those who benefited from the project. That event will be held at Discovery Park on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

In speaking about the beginning of the distribution of the shoes on Veterans Day, Conner said, "A huge percentage of the people without homes are veterans, so it's only more appropriate to have (day one

of the distribution) on Veterans Day."

Conner added that his shoe drive is also a project of his self expression leadership course through Landmark, an international personal and professional growth, training and development company.

A major contribution for Conner's project came from the Sacramento business, Buttonworks, which donated barrels for the collection of shoes.

And to attract attention to the barrels, Crystal Tasker, Joseph Navarette, Kelly Maria and Cindy Strange dedicated time to artistically decorating them.

At press time for the publication of this article, Conner had arranged for the first of those barrels to be placed at Selland's Market-Café and at a bistro inside the California State Highway Patrol headquarters. The second barrel, however, does not have public access.

Conner said that he was working on the arrangements for other drop-off points.

After being asked to share details about his background, Conner began by saying, "I was born in Santa Ana in Southern California and I moved here (to the Sacramento area) when I was 5 years old. I moved to Wilton (near Elk Grove). I attended Elk Grove High

School (and left that school) when I was a sophomore and went to Elk Grove Charter (School) and then I went into advance studies. I ended up getting my GED."

Conner addressed his personal struggles in life, saying, "I got that I had been making up (things) about myself that were not even true. (With) things that happened in my past, I made the decision that I'm a (failure) and that anything I did or tried was just going to get screwed up. And what I got was how much I had been making that up and how that was ruining what's available for me. There was a moment when I just thought that there's nothing wrong with me."

In being that he has changed his attitude about himself, Conner expressed that he is comfortable with speaking more specifically about some of the challenges that he faced in his life.

"I used to be like 270 pounds, but I'm 180 (pounds) now," Conner said. "I was a big, fat goofy, kid and now I'm a tall, skinny, goofy kid. Finally, I looked at myself like there's nothing wrong. There was so much resistance about who I was before, like I would just eat and eat and eat. And when I got that nothing was wrong with me, what naturally showed up was eating

See Shoes, page 7

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Dust off that old instrument: Join the Symphony of 1,000

By **MONICA STARK**
 editor@valcomnews.com

In a never-done-in-Sacramento musical event, Curtis Park resident Michael Neumann is bringing 1,000 musicians to play in concert together on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 12 at Memorial Auditorium. As of press time, 775 people signed up to play in this historic event called Symphony of 1,000.

Dreaming about this concert about two years ago, Neumann's aspiration is quickly becoming a reality. The name of the concert stems from the Symphony No. 8 in E-flat major by Gustav Mahler, which is one of the largest-scale choral works in classical concert repertoire and requires as close to 1,000 musicians as possible.

Retired this year from 10 years directing the Folsom Symphony, Neumann continues full time work with the Sacramento Youth Symphony and sat down with this publication to discuss some more of the details about the event.

"It's a very big community event. One that some 75-year-old woman, who hasn't played trombone since high school, can play in this concert. If you are 7 years old and can play the music on the website, you can participate," he said. "People sign up online, pay their 20 bucks. They get their T-shirt and we do a run-through for rehearsal. We are thinking with this amount of people, it will spread around. If I didn't think this was a good idea, I wouldn't be doing this."

The event coordinator is longtime talk show radio host, Sean Bianco; the master of ceremonies is Capitol Public Radio's Beth Ruyak. Set to start at 4 p.m., the hour-long concert is open to the public. For those participating, the day is a bit longer with check-in and rehearsal from noon to 3:30 p.m. For more information, visit: <<https://sites.google.com/a/sacramentoyouthsymphony.org/1000/>>

Shoes:

Continued from page 6

right and being active and the weight just melted away."

At that point in the interview, Conner said that he had only shared about 20 or 30 percent of his self recovery story.

"There's so much to (the story)," Conner said. "The thing is my dad's the general manager (of a nudist resort) and that's where I moved when I was 5. So, that's where I was raised, and living in there and then going to school in Wilton, which is a very Christian, religious, very conservative community, they didn't take too kindly to that. I always heard that everyone hated me because of that, and I hated my parents because I was raised there. I grew up thinking there was something wrong with me and something wrong with my family and something wrong with peo-

ple. And it was when I was 19 or 20 years old when I took this thing called The Landmark Forum that had me notice that I was the one making all this stuff up about people."

During his time with that program, Conner called his mother and asked her what she was thinking raising him in a nudist resort.

Conner said that through confronting his mother about his feelings, he felt his mother's love, and he realized that he had been making up reasons that led him to believe that his family did not love him.

With his new outlook on life, Conner graduated from culinary school about three years ago and says "now I live my life for others."

Furthermore, Conner shared his philosophy and approach to life, saying, "There's a new way of life, like life can be a different way. Life doesn't have to be full of all that stress

and worries that we give ourselves. Life is actually quite simple, if we just take a moment and just look at it, and put something in place where something is not working and honor that."

In returning to his main topic of his shoe drive, Conner said, "There's a huge part of (the project) where I'm just looking (at it) like everyone in the community gets a chance to (make) a contribution and make a difference. There are people in this town that we completely forget about. And here we are talking about trying to make it a better community while there are still people without homes and they're not striving. And anything we can do to have a community where no one is forgotten is what I'm about."

For information regarding Conner's other shoe drive drop-off locations, write to Conner at the email address, Benjamin.c.conner@gmail.com.

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Faces and Places:
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Photos by MONICA STARK
 editor@valcomnews.com

The Rooftop Alliance for the second year in a row transformed a Midtown parking garage into a pop-up urban park for an unforgettable garden party. In addition to showcasing Parking Day displays, event organizers had free yoga classes, corn-hole competitions, and a performance by the Sacramento Ballet. Rooftop Alliance is a team of green space loving Sacramentans who are working to make rooftop gardens more common and more accessible right here in our urban backyard. For information about the group, visit www.rooftopalliance.com




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Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 2:00pm

Presented by: **William J. Au, MD**

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Sutter Neuroscience Institute &
Revere Court Memory Care Consultant

Dr. Au will be here to answer questions that you may have as it pertains to your loved one with Alzheimer's Disease/Dementia & his views on this subject based on years of observation and experience.

Refreshments & Appetizers will be provided

Please RSVP by October 17, 2014 or contact us for more information at **(916) 392-3510**

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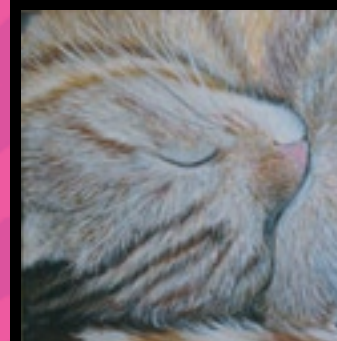
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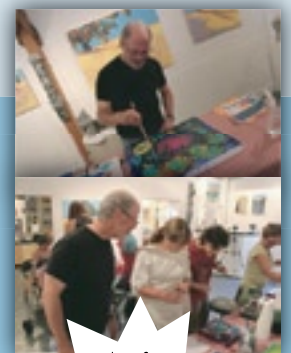
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Introducing the new superintendent of schools: Mr. José L. Banda

(Editor's note: Look for ongoing guest columns from school officials, teachers, students in this publication. This first column is an introduction for the new year from the new Sacramento City Unified School District Superintendent, José L. Banda.)



José L. Banda

Sacramento is a city on the move, a rising and diverse urban center known for smart leadership, innovation and creativity. It's a city that respects its past while pushing toward a brighter future. As Superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District, I am honored and thrilled to serve a community so rich with history and brimming with possibility.

Our goal at Sac City is to prepare every student to work, thrive and participate in the community in which they were raised. As such, I am committed to ensuring equitable access, closing pervasive opportunity gaps and providing an excellent education to every single student. Sacramento has embraced local sourcing in food and other products. Our schools are working to develop locally sourced innovators by educating the leaders of tomorrow.

Implementation of Common Core State Standards will help us ensure that every student graduates from high school fully prepared for college and careers. These standards, adopted by the state Board of Education in 2010, detail what every student should know and be able to do at every grade level. The math standards challenge students to think by emphasizing problem-solving over memorization. The English language arts standards focus on academic writing and deep reading. Although the new standards are more rigorous, we believe our teaching staff and our students are up for the challenge.

Of course, staff and students cannot perform at their highest without the support of families and the community. Engagement and involvement – by families, neighbors and community partners – is critical to our success as a district. There are many ways to become involved: Volunteer at a campus, attend school functions, join the PTA or PTO and support fundraisers. Most importantly, take a few minutes to ask the children in your life what they are learning.

Finally, I'd like to thank once again the many voters who helped pass Measures Q and R two years ago. We are leveraging these funds to make our schools healthier, more sustainable and better equipped to meet the needs of these high-tech times. Our students deserve the best learning environments we can give them. Thank you for supporting their futures.

Sacramento has the potential to be one of the best mid-size cities in the country. It already has a truly great school district to get it started.

José L. Banda
Superintendent

Meet your school board candidates

Dear readers: In an effort to help get out the vote and provide the public with relevant information regarding our area's city council and school board candidates, the following is the first of two (or more) parts of our education question and answer special, featuring incumbent Jeff Cuneo and challenger Ellen Cochrane. Also, the East Sacramento News has teamed up with East Sac Give Back to provide the public the opportunity to witness a debate between Jeff Harris and Cyril Shah for council and Cuneo and Cochrane for school board. An in-depth interview with Harris and Shah was published in this publication

Set to begin at 6 p.m. at the gymnasium at Theodore Judah Elementary School (3919 McKinley Blvd.) on Tuesday, Oct. 21, the debate will be moderated by California State University, Sacramento debate team coach Jared Anderson. Following introductions, the debate will start with school board candidates. A question will be asked to candidate one (which will be determined by a coin toss). That candidate will have four minutes to answer. Then, candidate two has two minutes to cross examine candidate one, after which time candidate two has four minutes to answer that same question. That format repeats but candidates take turns answering the question first. There will be time for six questions for each race. Council candidates start approximately at 7 p.m.

Also, we are looking for a child master of ceremonies! That's right, someone in the second or third grade with excellent reading skills who would like to kick off the night. A script is being written. Because that's what it is all about – the children and bringing the community together. Contact me at 429-9901 if you know of the perfect child MC! (One of the lines will be: "Let's get ready to rumble. May the best candidates win!")

Sincerely, Monica Stark

See School Board, page 18



Challenger Ellen Cochrane



Incumbent Jeff Cuneo

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– EVENT LISTING SECTION –

Advertise your craft fairs, holiday bazaars, school fundraises, church events, etc. in your Community Newspapers.
Call (916) 429-9901 for rates.

All Saints Concert Series
Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 4:00pm
Wolfgang Woodwind Quartet presents...
Peter and the Wolf by Sergei Prokofiev
a musical fairy tale with narration
\$15 suggested • Children under 12 free
Overflow parking across Sutterville Rd. at City College
All Saints Episcopal Church
2076 Sutterville Road, Sacramento, CA 95822



Holiday Craft Faire
Saturday, November 1
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Mission Oaks
Community Center
4701 Gibbons Drive,
Carmichael
972-0336
MORPD.COM

45th YEAR REUNION of the JFK Class of 1969
October 18, 2014
Dante Club– 6 p.m.
2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento, Ca 95825
<http://www.danteclub.com/>
\$65 per person, includes entertainment–
by our own alumni–Al Skinner (not to be missed)
RSVP: Mark Carlos 6751 Swenson Way,
Sacto, CA 95831– (916) 870-3154
or email: mdcarlos@gmail.com
Alumni should also visit the
class website and complete
profile information: www.jfk69.com

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

JFK Class of '74 - 40 Year Reunion
October 11, 2014 6 p.m. - 11 p.m.


Mix Mingle and Catch Up With Classmates!

Embassy Suites
100 Capitol Mall
Sacramento CA 95814

\$75 per person
(if purchased by Oct. 3rd)
100.00 per person
(if purchased at the door)

To stay current on reunion information, follow the reunion Facebook page at John F. Kennedy HS, Sacramento CA Class of 1974
For Further Information, contact Kevin Scott at Kevin.scott@norne.com or at (213) 926-2626.

BOOK SALE
sponsored by All Saints Church Women
Thursday, October 16–Saturday, October 18
11 AM–2 PM each day
Fiction, non-fiction, children's books, collector items
next to new. Priced \$.50–\$2. Come and browse!
All Saints Episcopal Church
2076 Sutterville Road, Sacramento, CA 95822



Sacramento Suburban Kiwanis presents
23rd Annual Beaujolais Plus Wine Tasting and Silent Art Auction
Sunday, November 2, 2014
Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.
A reservation of 10 tickets may reserve a table
(916) 972-7337
Proceeds benefit the Kiwanis Family House
and other Community Service Projects



\$40 per TICKET

CALL AND PLACE YOUR EVENT TODAY!
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CALENDAR

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

OCTOBER

Toddler / Pre-school storytime at McKinley (Family/All Ages)

Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23: Songs, fingerplays and stories especially for ages 18 months to 5 years old. Storytime is followed by playtime! Make new friends and play with toys at the McKinley Library, located at 601 Alhambra Blvd. The fun starts at 10:30 a.m.

Sacramento Aloha Festival

Oct. 4: From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander exhibits, workshops, presentation, arts and crafts, merchandise, food and entertainment will be offered for free at Cal-Expo.

Asian food and cultural bazaar

Oct. 4: The Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church will host its annual Asian Food and Cultural Bazaar at 6929 Franklin Blvd. from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The bazaar will feature teriyaki chicken, sushi, sesame chicken, chow mein, udon, Korean short ribs, a variety of baked goods and more cooked on-site by church members and friends. Free entertainment will include performances by Na Aikane (a ukulele group) performing at 11 a.m., and Sacramento Taiko (noon). The event will also feature handmade items crafted by the Boutique Committee. For more information about the Asian Food and Cultural Bazaar or any of the SJUMC programs, please go to our website at www.sacjumc.com or call (916) 421-1017.

Monster University Movie at McClatchy Library

Oct. 4: Mike and James are an inseparable pair, but that wasn't always the case. From the moment these two mismatched monsters met they couldn't stand each other. "Monsters University" unlocks the door to how Mike and Sulley overcame their differences and became friends. Rated G 104 min. Disney/Pixar copyright. Movie starts at 3:30 p.m., movie is rated G. The McClatchy Library is located at 2112 22nd St.

The International Poet: Writing Across Continents (Adult)

Oct. 4: Read and write poetry in international styles! Starting at 10:30 a.m., poet and editor Frank Dixon Graham will show poetry from around the world in this eight week series. Attend one session or all eight at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd. This week's class - Middle Eastern Poetics. Looking at the poems of Hafiz Rumi and other more modern writers, attendees will have material to consider. Our own writers will form their own Ghazal poem in class or at home.

Theodore Judah Elementary fundraiser

Oct. 4: Compton's market is hosting a neighborhood barbecue and carnival from noon to 4:30 p.m. There will be food, wine tasting, live music, raffles and a giveaway.

Friends of Sacramento Public Library Warehouse Sale

Oct. 4 and 11: More than 100,000 "gently used" books, videos, and audio books will be offered for prices from fifty cents to \$2 at the

Saturday, Oct. 4 and Saturday, Oct. 11 sale at the warehouse of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. There will also be a \$6 bag sale outside the warehouse on sale days.

The warehouse is at the rear of the Friends' "Book Den" store at Suite E, 8250 Belvedere Avenue, just south of 14th Ave. between Power Inn Rd. and Florin-Perkins Rd. Plenty of parking is available, but visitors should be careful not to park between the "No Parking" signs on the south side of Belvedere. Sale hours will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will also be a preview for Friends members only on Friday October 3 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. (You can join at the door for \$15). Income from the sale helps pay for programs, equipment, and materials local libraries need but can't afford. The "Book Den", with most items priced individually from \$3 up, will be open during the sale, as well as weekly on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. For more information, call 731-8493 or go to fspal.att.net.

Meditation and More with David Roberts

Oct. 6: Meditation is a great way to maintain well-being and promote good health. This free workshop consists of physical relaxation exercises, group discussions on topics relevant to our daily and inner lives, and simple and practical meditations. Join us at the Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. in midtown Sacramento, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Reserve your space by calling 808-5462 or visiting the Hart Senior Center front desk.

Read to a Dog at McKinley (School Age (6-12))

Oct. 7: Read to a Dog is a fun and proven method for boosting a child's reading skills by reading to a trained therapy dog and adult volunteer. Children may bring their own books to read to a furry friend or they may borrow a book from the library's collection. Session starts at 3 p.m. and is held at the McKinley Library, located at 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Measure L and SMUD WARD 3 candidate forum

Oct. 7: A community forum on the "Strong Mayor" or "Community Checks and Balances Act of 2014" will be held on October 7th at the Clunie Auditorium, 601 Alhambra Blvd. At 6:30 p.m. in the Clunie Auditorium. Measure L would revise the Sacramento City Charter and change the city's current "council manager" form of government to a "mayor-council" form. The event will have Sacramento Tomorrow speaking for Measure L and the Sacramento League of Women Voters opposing it. The public will be invited to present questions on the measure to both groups. Also present at the forum will be candidates for SMUD Board, Ward 3. Candidates Kevin Ferreira, Gregg Fishman and Mark Guerrero have been invited to make presentations on their candidacy and answer audience questions. The forum is sponsored by the McKinley East Sacramento Neighborhood Association (MENA). Questions on the forum can be directed to Deane Dana, dd3gov@gmail.com, or Martin Katz, martyakatz@gmail.com.

Preschool Storytime at McClatchy Library

Oct. 7: Starting at 10 a.m., come for books, songs, stories and fun. Everyone is welcome to "stay and play" time with our great toys. Looking forward to seeing you there! McClatchy Library is located at 2112 22nd St.

Political forum at Clunie Clubhouse

Oct. 8: There will be a political forum featuring a question and answer session with Cyril Shah and Jeff Harris at 6 p.m., and Steve Cohn and Kevin McKarty at 7 p.m. Clunie Clubhouse, 601 Alhambra Blvd. The event is sponsored by East Sacramento Preservation and the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association and will be moderated by the League of Women Voters.

Baby Storytime at McKinley (Family/All Ages)

Oct. 8, 15, 22: Babies from birth to 18 months old and their parents/caregivers can enjoy great books, lively songs, and rhymes and meet other babies in the neighborhood.

Starts at 10:30 a.m. at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Advanced ESL Conversation (Adult)

Oct. 8: Toni Chapralis will lead a conversation group for advanced ESL learners starting at 5 p.m. at the McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St. Toni Chapralis formerly taught at the Fremont School for Adults. Teens and adults are welcome.

All Sacramento Public Libraries closed

Oct. 9: All Sacramento Public Libraries will be closed all day for staff training.

Food truck festival at McKinley Park

Oct. 10: Enjoy food from local food truck vendors from 5 to 8 p.m.

Enjoy a free concert during "Hart in the Park"

Oct. 10: Looking for something new to do at lunchtime? Stop by Marshall Park on 28th and J Streets in midtown Sacramento for a special performance by "Singers with Hart" and other musical performers from the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center. Presented by the Hart Senior Center and the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, the "Hart in

Calendar continued on page 19

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School Board:

Continued from page 13

PROVIDE A SHORT BIOGRAPHY/TELL ME ABOUT THE EDUCATION YOU RECEIVED AND HOW YOU GOT INTERESTED IN EDUCATION TO BEGIN WITH.

Ellen Cochran: I was born in Mercy Hospital 52 years ago, attended David Lubin Elementary School, Sutter Middle School, Sacramento High, and Sacramento City College. I graduated from U.C. Davis with a degree in Russian in 1984. I worked overseas in Moscow as an attaché in the American Embassy Press and Culture section. There, I was privileged to witness the historic unraveling of communism.

After that, I traveled widely, met many people from different countries and cultures. That is how I developed an "internationalist perspective."

I returned to Sacramento to become a teacher in our public schools. I was drawn to education because I saw so many young people around the world whose lives were changed with education. Because I speak Spanish and Russian, I became an English Language Learner instructor and Program Coordinator, and here the internationalist perspective of my 20s came into good use. I've been a classroom teacher for 17 years.

I have received three great honors while teaching. I was runner up for Elk Grove's Teacher of the Year. The other two are the most important awards I've ever received. Two different students chose me as their most influential teacher. The handful of students who get to select the award are multitalented and are the top GPA earners in the entire district. I was so proud that these immigrant girls did so well and remembered me, their English Learner teacher from middle school. I helped Karina get documented and she is now studying to be a doctor. Liang graduated with honors from Berkeley with a degree in Political Science.

I'm also the outgoing President of East Sacramento Preservation, the largest neighborhood group in East Sacramento.

Jeff Cuneo: I was born and raised in Sacramento and have lived the majority of my life in this city. I attended public schools. I am married to Carrie, also a longtime Sacramento resident, whom I met in high school. I have two children, Charlie and Haddie.

In 2010, I was elected to the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education for Area 2. Since that time, I have collaborated with parents, teachers and district staff to support our local schools. I helped the district become financial-

ly stable while targeting spending on students and the classrooms. Student achievement has risen throughout the school district and our local schools are the highest performing in the city. I supported facility upgrades at our schools, created partnerships with non-profits that have brought needed programs to students and communities, and increased opportunities for parent engagement.

I have an undergraduate degree in political science and philosophy from University of California, Santa Barbara. I received a master's degree in government and public policy from California State University, Sacramento. I obtained a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

Since 2006, I have been a juvenile justice attorney representing youth in delinquency proceedings. I am committed daily to making a positive impact on young people's lives. I work with school districts, mental health services, community organizations and other legal systems to improve the lives of my children clients.

I founded and managed a legal clinic at WIND Youth Center that brought innovative and necessary services and counsel to homeless and disadvantaged children. I mentored a foster youth for almost 10 years and remain friends with him today. I co-chaired the Sacramento County Children's Report Card in 2006, 2008, and 2011. My work helped document more than 45 issue areas, including education, social well-being, economics, safety and health, in regard to children in Sacramento County. I led approximately 100 community members in developing data metrics, discussing policy, building consensus and publishing the Report Card.

My entire professional life and community involvement focused on supporting children and students in the Sacramento area. I saw first hand the inadequacies and failures of our local education system. I felt that I could provide the necessary leadership and direction to make our system more responsive to students, engage parents in a more comprehensive way, and provide the necessary supports to teachers. I wanted to ensure all our children are prepared for college and career.

I have spent the last four years as a school board member putting those ideals into practice.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD? WHAT ARE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES?

Jeff Cuneo: I believe that being a school board member is a special, trusted community position. The school board is not a "steppingstone" or simply another political office to me. I knew and continue to know how

important the position is, not only to my children's future but our community's as well. Being a school board member is and has been my passion.

School board is my first choice and the only community position I have sought.

I will continue to represent the interests of my community, provide leadership on important educational issues and always ask, "What is best for our students?"

My three priorities continue to be:

(1) Expand educational options for students and families. This includes supporting the K-12 International Baccalaureate educational pathway at Caleb Greenwood and Kit Carson. I will find new options at the high school level to ensure that parents and students have the educational experience they want. I will support unique programs that keep our neighborhood schools the highest performing in the city.

(2) Accountability to students, parents, taxpayers, and community members. I saved the district millions of dollars by ending unnecessary contracts with outside consultants that were not being spent on our schools. I helped end deficit spending and support a more inclusive, community-based budget process. I have made sure that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely and with accountability to our community. I will continue to ensure transparency in our budget. I will continue to demand fiscal responsibility and focus district spending on classrooms and schools.

(3) Changing the culture of our school district. When I arrived at the school board, the school district was defined by bickering, infighting and personality conflicts. I have worked, and will continue to work to change that culture, focusing on what is best for our students. I held board hearings on student achievement. I will continue to focus board debates on public policy issues and its affects on our schools and students. This continues to make a positive impact on our school district's responsiveness to students and communities. And it has helped increase student achievement, graduation rates and the overall climate and culture of our district. I will continue to improve our district's culture and how it relates to students, parents and communities.

Ellen Cochran: Many teachers, parents and neighbors asked me to run because they know that I care about the schools in our neighborhoods and will work hard to restore trust between parents, teachers and the board. Here are my priorities:

One, to work respectfully and openly in partnership with parents, the community and teachers to achieve results we can all celebrate; two, to work to bring our area a truly comprehensive high school (small, boutique schools do not answer this need); and three, to defend our system of free public education, open to all, from any who would exploit or privatize it for profit. Our public schools are guardians of democracy itself. I believe passionately in making them thrive. To that end, I will bring 17 years of hands-on classroom experience. I will also bring leadership experience as president of the largest neighborhood group in East Sacramento.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SCHOOL REFORM MOVEMENT? AND, WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF IT LOCALLY?

Ellen Cochran: The word, reform, has been misappropriated by charter advocates who want to privatize our public schools. I believe that free public education is the foundation of America. It should be improved and updated for the 21st Century. It should not be torn apart. The charter operation leaves children behind, especially vulnerable populations like special needs kids and English Language Learners, not to mention kids in the middle.

Jeff Cuneo: I have been a school board member who listens to my community and makes decisions in the best interests of students. I am a pragmatic policy-maker and focus my attention on improving our local schools and our school district.

I do not believe any "movement" or ideology has the right answers for my community or the issues I have championed over the last four years. I am not an ideologue nor do I adhere to a rigid set of beliefs. Rather, I talk to my constituents, listen to our local educators, digest the facts about any particular issue, and make the best decision for my schools and school district.

As a school board member, the "school reform movement" has never been a topic of conversation. In fact, no local representatives of the movement have involved themselves in the numerous policy debates I have participated in over the last four years. Locally, the "school reform movement" is a non-entity.

If you go:

What: Debate between Ellen Cochran and Jeff Cuneo for school board and between Jeff Harris and Cyril Shah for council

When: Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.

Where: Theodore Judah Elementary Gymnasium, 3919 McKinley Blvd.

CALENDAR

Continued from page 17

the Park" concert series showcases the singing talents of a group of adults age 50 and older, led by professional music director, Christiana Quick-Cleveland. The concert is free and open to the public.

The International Poet: Writing Across Continents (Adult)

Oct. 11: Read and write poetry in international styles! Poet and editor Frank Dixon Graham will show poetry from around the world in this eight week series. Attend one session or all eight. This week's class - The Latin American Lyric. Taking a close look at the countries of Mexico, El Salvador, and Chile in particular, attendees will take a brief look at the place of poetry in the region, as well as Spain's lasting historical influence on literary community of the Americas. Attendees can learn to write an ode in the tradition of Pablo Neruda. Event starts at 10:30 a.m. at the McKinley Library, located at 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Pirate Treasure Scavenger Hunt at McKinley & McClatchy (Family/ All Ages)

Oct. 11: Put on your pirate costume and join us for a fun-filled afternoon! Festivities

will begin at the McKinley Library where we will be making pirate maps, eye-patches, hooks, and hats from 11 a.m. to noon. Then join us for a scavenger hunt through midtown, finding clues along the way until you reach the McClatchy Library. Scavenger hunt finishers will find prizes at end their journey along with pirate games and snacks from 2-3 p.m. Come for any or all parts of our Pirate Treasure Hunt Extravaganza! The fun starts and ends at the McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd.

Tolkien Book Club at McClatchy (Book Club)

Oct. 11: Starting at 1:30 p.m., the Tolkien Book Club is open to all who enjoy the works of R.R. Tolkien. All are welcome to this book club meeting the second Saturday of every month at the McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St.

Preschool Storytime at McClatchy Library (Early Childhood (0-5))

Oct. 14: Every Tuesday at 10 a.m. children and their families are invited for to read books, sing songs, tell stories and have fun. Everyone is welcome to "stay and play" time with our great toys. McClatchy Library is located at 2112 22nd St.

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3 bedroom 3 bath home just a couple blocks from the park. Living room has high ceilings and lots of natural light. The kitchen is large enough for family dining or entertaining and overlooks the large family room with high ceilings and a gas log burning fireplace. Both upstairs master bedrooms are spacious with walk-in closets. \$549,900

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4 or 5 bedroom 3 bath home on beautiful tree-lined 36th Street. First time on the market in years. Beautifully refinished hardwood floors in the living and dining room. Brand new carpet in all four bedrooms as well as the paneled den and guest cottage. Roof and windows have been replaced too! The possibilities here are endless. \$550,000

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East Sacramento at its best!! Completely remodeled 3 bedroom, 2 bath home located minutes from McKinley Park. Amenities include new electrical, HVAC, plumbing, newer sewer line, tankless water heater, and a gourmet remodeled kitchen with island. Master suite with a large closet and finished bath. Backyard is perfect for entertaining. \$599,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



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2 bedroom home with updated kitchen featuring granite counters, stainless appliances, new stainless refrigerator. New central heat & air, updated bath with new tile floor and granite counter, freshly painted, hardwood floors, separate laundry room with washer and dryer included. Near Med Center. \$347,000

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**DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495
PAMELA ANDERSON 502-2729**



CHARMING

This charming East Sacramento three bedroom home is minutes from McKinley Park and is on a great street. This home includes a gourmet kitchen, hardwood floors, a vintage fireplace, a spacious floor plan, and a large indoor laundry. The backyard is perfect for family BBQs and entertaining. \$419,000

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PENDING

RIVER PARK CHARMER

2or 3 bedroom home, newly refinished hardwood floors, dual pane windows and recessed lights. Updated kitchen opens to den (what was once a third bedroom) with slider door to the brick inlaid patio and yard. Remodeled bathroom features cute tile floor with glass tile accents. New central heat and air. \$354,900

DAVID KIRRENE 531-7495



MIDTOWN LOFT

Beautiful two story loft with stained concrete floors on 1st floor and bamboo hardwood on the 2nd floor. Open layout with spacious living room / kitchen and dining areas as well as high ceilings and a fully upgraded kitchen with granite counter-tops. Upstairs and downstairs baths, indoor laundry room. New urban living at its best! \$479,000

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