



New digs for Land Parks' lofty females

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VOLUME XVIII, NO. 5



A lesson in time

Monks from the Dzongkar Choede Monastery in southern India visited Sacramento for four days in February, creating a sand mandala at Andy Nguyen's Restaurant, 2007 Broadway. The mandala was carefully assembled with exacting work over three days, then dissolved in a matter of seconds on the final day. The lesson, the monks say, is impermanence. (inset) A 700-year-old Buddha statue was saved from their original monastery, which was destroyed by the Chinese government during the Chinese Cultural Revolution. For more about the mandala, see page 7.

Players head to Div 1 teams

They know baseball at **Sac City**

By Matt O'Donnell THE LAND PARK NEWS

finning 12 of its first 17 and being ranked No. 1 in Northern California may seem like a extraordinary accomplishment, but for Sacramento City College baseball, it's business as usual.

After all, 33 former Panthers have gone on to play in the major leagues, including Larry Bowa, Greg Vaughn, Fernando Vina, Jeff Blauser and F.P. Santangelo. Sac City is tied with Fresno and Long Beach for state championships with five and boasts the most state

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INSIDE





Annual festival heralds spring with great udon

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The Chinese way with diagnosing, treating diabetes

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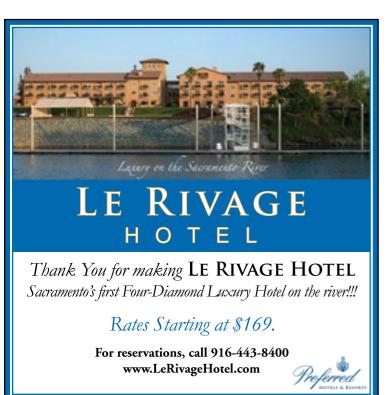
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General Manager George Macko
Assistant General Manager Kathleen Egan
Editor Colleen Truelsen
Production Manager John Ochoa
Graphic Artist Ryan Vuong
Advertising Executives Patty Colmer
Linda Pohl, Marc Harris Desiléts, Melissa Andrews
Distribution/Subscriptions George Macko

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t: (916) 429-9901 f: (916) 429-9906





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Bragging rights for their udon

Spring food fest returns to Buddhist church

Special to the East Sacramento News

he Spring Food Festival returns Sunday, March 15, to the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd.

Hosted by the Adult Buddhist Association and Buddhist Women's Association, the festival means sampling Japanese dishes such as maki, inari and chirashi sushi, udon, salads and sandwiches, and pastries.

The church brags it has the best teriyaki chicken in town – though notes it's a claim that is disputed by every other Japanese church in Sacramento and the Bay Area. Teriyaki chicken is the soy-ginger flavored barbeque chicken that is served in all Japanese restaurants.

"Nonetheless," according to a church press release, "our grilled chicken is cooked in a traditional yakitori (grilled chicken) fashion over a charcoal grill and is marinated while cooking. It does not have that dark caramel glaze that is often added afterwards at most Japanese restaurants."

They stand behind their udon, howev er. The udon is for the "purist" who wants to sample authentic Japanese country-style cooking, they say. "Only a few churches challenge us when we say that ours is best. That's because our udon is basically what you will find when traveling throughout Japan."

The festival begins at 10:30 a.m. and goes until 3 p.m., or until the food runs out.



Preparations last year, and every year, are made by the Adult Buddhist Association and Buddhist Women's Association.

All proceeds fund the Adult Buddhist Association and the Buddhist Women's Association.

For more information, phone 446-0121.



Weekend of events March 13 to 15

Sutter Middle School ready to celebrate its 100 years

Special to the Land Park News

Thile a major celebration of Sutter Middle School's centennial is scheduled for the weekend of March 13, students and staff already began their commemoration of their first century at 11:15 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 6, with a special lunch time celebration.

Sacramento City Unified School District officials and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell joined the event

Sutter was originally located in a brick building in Boulevard Park at 1816 K St. The school thrived at this location for five decades before relocating to its current site on the corner of Alhambra and "I" Streets in 1958.

Sutter is a California Distinguished School and has surpassed the California's 800 Academic Performance Index (API) target for all schools. Sutter has an API score of 868, and is middle school city champions in basketball, soccer, golf, track and field, and softball.

To celebrate its centennial anniversary, Sutter will host several special events on the weekend of March 13.

The weekend begins with a dinner and silent auction on Friday, March 13, at The Dante Club. Other weekend events include a Three-on-Three Basketball Tournament open to current students, alumni, friends and relatives.

On the evening of Saturday, March 14, Sutter families will witness an Air Rock Hall of Fame Battle Royale. Sutter's Annual Air Rock competition has been a school favorite for years, and this battle of former champions will see the winners from previous competitions square off against each other.

The weekend will culminate at 11 a.m. Sunday, March 15, with an Alumni Orchestra performance. Families are invited to come out to the quad for this mid-day concert and picnic.

Sutter Middle School is located at 3150 "I" St., phone 264-4150.



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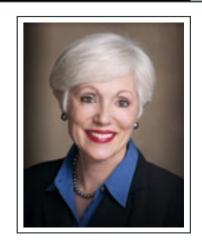
LAND PARK

Charming Tudor, 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, original kitchen with breakfast nook, hardwood floors, large corner lot a& pretty tree lined street. 1801 4th Ave. \$449,000



PARKRIDGE ROAD

Spectacular open floor plan on a lovely park-like street. Four bedrooms, two remodeled bathrooms & updated kitchen w/ large island & family room. The home also has dark wood floors, living room w/ fireplace, built-ins & a large corner lot. 4701 Parkridge Road. \$795,000





SOUTH LAND PARK

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CURTIS PARK

Curtis Park tudor, three bedrooms, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, kitchen with breakfast nook, inside laundry room on a pretty tree lined street. 2641 Marshall Way. \$389,000



LAND PARK

Land Park Dollhouse, european flair, two bedrooms, living room with fireplace, remodeled kitchen with high ceilings and skylight, updated bath, hardwood floors, french doors in both bedrooms and cute yard with deck. 1840 Markham Way. \$439,000

Baseball

Continued from front page

championship appearances with 16.

"Nothing really surprises me when it comes to this program," said head coach Andy McKay, now in his 11th season as head coach and 16th overall with Sac City.

Heading into this week, the Panthers were ranked No. 1 in Northern California in the California Community College Baseball Poll and No. 2 overall in the Junior College Pacific Association Poll.

On to Div 1

Pitching appears to be even deeper this season.

The Panthers' top three starters - Eric Johnson, Troy Watson and Chris Isham, along with reliever R.J. Davis - have already committed to four-year, Division I programs. Johnson and Davis will attend Oral Roberts, Isham will play for nearby Sacramento State and Watson will pitch for Long Beach State, a Big West Conference school

Weather has certainly been a factor the last three weeks. forcing the **Panthers** off Union Stadium, one of the better community college fields in the region.

traditionally ranked in the top 25.

Watson, who transferred to Sac City from Nevada-Las Vegas, combined with Davis on a 7-0 rout of Diablo Valley on Feb. 28. Da-



(from left) Sacramento City infielders: third baseman Michael Marjama, shortstop Shaine Floodman, second baseman Kevin Ito and first base man Mike Sanchez wait out a pitching change in the fifth inning against Santa Rosa. The Panthers lost the game 5-3.

vis has struck out 21 batters and has only allowed two earned runs in his first 20 innings.

McKay, however, did not want to classify the 2009 Panthers as a pitching-only kind of team.

"We are deep in pitching, but I don't think we're pitching dominant," he said. "We can swing the bats."

Waiting out the weather

That hasn't necessarily happened yet, however. The team was hitting .250 heading into

See Sac City, page 5



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Sac City Continued from page 4

play at press time. Only two regulars, Mike Marjama and Eli Hynes, were hitting over .300. Weather has certainly been a factor the last three weeks, forcing the Panthers off Union Stadium, one of the better community college fields in the region.

As the weather warms up, the bats might do the same. Returning outfielder Floyd Given did not want to use the weather as an excuse, however.

"That's not really a factor, I don't think," Given said.
"The weather is going to help us prepare better. We'll be able to get on the field and practice more, but right now it's just a grind for us."

Fleet-footed shortstop Brian Stamps, one of the team's top defensive players, has missed time lately with a groin pull. McKay expects to have Stamps back soon.

Returning outfielder Brian Mouton has showed flashes of breaking out, most notably with three hits against Fresno City on Feb. 14. Mouton said losing so many position players from last year's 30-19 team is showing.

"We have lots of young players (in the lineup)," Mouton said. "I think it will take some time for us to hit our stride."

Bigger, better

Given figures the offense will catch up to the pitching staff eventually.

"Right now we're ahead of where we were last year," he said. "We have better players and more people who want to compete and go out there and play."

Big 8 Conference play began in March. Diablo Valley (2), Sierra (8) and San Joaquin Delta (9) are among those ranked high in Northern California.

The Panthers are looking to win their first state title since 1999, McKay's first season as head coach. He replaced legendary Jerry Weinstein, who won 830 games between 1975 and 1998.

Sac City certainly has the arms. Given even expects to see more of the pitching staff:

"They've done their part. They really haven't had their No. 1 game yet," he said. "They haven't pitched great; they haven't pitched terrible. We've been in every game we've played, so that's a big plus for us."



Sac City College pitcher sophomore Sean Johnson.

The Panthers feature four players who attended area high schools: Sophomore Jared Haislet (sophomore, outfielder), Thomas Dixon (freshman, first baseman/catcher) and Kyle Leonard (freshman, first baseman) all played for Kennedy High School. Freshman infielder Kevin Ito played at McClatchy High.

Dixon has been the most productive of the four with a .276 average, two homers and 10 RBIs in the first 17 games.

For more information about Sac City baseball, check out http://wserver.scc.losrios.edu/ ~physed/athletics/baseball.htm.

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Winter percussion's Mane Event II

Drums and dancing to fill McClatchy High's gymnasium

By Steffi Broski

THE LAND PARK NEWS

hank you all neighbors for putting up with the noise, said C.K. McClatchy High school's music director Brian Aguilar. Having worked at other schools before, he knows: not all neighborhoods love the tunes of a marching band rehearsal.

On Friday, March 13, from 6 to 10:30 p.m., Aguilar and the parent group McClatchy Music Boosters invite the public to visit the Mane Event II in the basketball gymnasium, 3066 Freeport Blvd., to enjoy the fabulous noise of drums and see color guards dancing up a storm.

"This is going to be part marching band, part drama," said Sandy Tsunekawa, president of the Music Boosters.

It's all about drums

Tsunekawa explained that while fall season is mandatory for the marching band kids, winter percussion is optional and really an extra-curricular activity. When low temperatures make it unbearable for the marching band to play outside, the percussionists and color guard have their shining moments in the warmth of an indoor gym.

"Winter percussion and winter guard is an off-shoot of the marching band," said Aguilar. "Usually they all have to share the spotlight, but here the spotlight is on you: there are no flutes and no trumpets, just drums.'

The judged performances last between four and seven minutes, the percussionists and the color guards take turns. As soon as one group is done, the kids get the opportunity to talk to the judges and receive feedback.

"This is very, very unique. Imagine if skaters at the Olympics received feedback from the judges right away," said Aguilar.

Groups from all over

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., but visitors are encouraged to come by whenever they wish and stay as long as they want to. Seventeen performing groups from the Sacramento area, including an exhibition group from Sacramento State Uni-

versity, and a percussion group from Nevada have announced their participation.

The McClatchy "Marching Lions" will send 26 percussion kids and the complete color guard to the event. Tsunekawa said that while traditional clothing is maintained during fall season, the kids are allowed to wear costumes at the Mane Event II.

Nationwide, winter percussion activities have grown over the past 20 years, said Aguilar. Today, 120 schools partake each year just in Northern California.

"It is just a very entertaining event. You see the faces of the kids, you see the emotions. Winter percussion allows for much more connection with the performing groups," said Aguilar.

Last year, the McClatchy percussionists and winter guard were Mane Event champions

in the second highest division. Aguilar is proud that the music students will partake in the highest division this year. He hopes that at the award ceremony, which starts at 9:50 p.m., trophies will again go to the McClatchy students. Aguilar knows that without the help of the Music Boosters, none of this would be possible.

Thanks, Boosters

"Ninety-five percent of our budget is generated by the Music oosters. They raise money, pay for uniforms, organize transportation, volunteer at events and provide meals. This program wouldn't exist without them," said Aguilar.

All proceeds of the event will benefit the Music Boosters. Tsunekawa, who has been a passionate Music Boosters parent for five years, said becoming part of the marching band is especially great for kids who are not into soccer and football. Tsunekawa, Aguilar and the other Music Boosters have been working hard to organize the Mane Event II.

"Come out and see what it's about. Everyone knows what a concert is and everyone knows what a play is. This is a chance to see something different," Tsunekawa said.

Tickets for the Main Event II are available at the door. Cost is \$8 general admission; \$5 for students and seniors 60-plus; free for kids 5 and under.

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Creation – then dissolution

Monks share their teachings with a sand mandala at local restaurant

By Corky Oakes

¶he Dzongkar Choede Monastery is located thousands of miles away from Sacramento -- in southern India. But for four days in Februry, five monks visited here to build a sand mandala and exhibit holy ob-

Sponsored by Andy Nguyen's Restaurant, 2007 Broadway, the mandala was carefully built over three days, from Feb. 11 to 14, then dissolved on the 15.

A mandala is a tantric teaching (tantras are considered by Buddhists as the highest form of teaching) expressed by painting with colored sand. The mandala follows a prescribed system of icons, which includes a variety of shapes and sym-

What it means

The monks explain that the mandala theme exemplifies the internal and external worlds -- the world of consciousness and the universe. The monks of Dzongkar Choede Monastery creat-

Dr. Jill Whitney

known as the Avalokiteshvara Mandala. The sand they used is marble ground to a fine consistency. The monks purchased the sand and added various color dyes in ad-

On the first day, the monks drew the design on a wood board. Over the next few days they layered the colored sands using a metal tool shaped like a long, narrow funnel with a grated surface. Rubbing this tool with a rod against the grated surface causes vibrations "pouring" the sand out of the tunnel as if it were flu-

In the four-gated mandala, the center symbolizes the lotus blossom, in Buddhist teaching a symbol of impermanence. Lotus blossoms like other flowers in time wilt and fade away. The concept of impermanence is reinforced when a mandala undergoes dissolution.

Nothing lasts...

Such was the case on Feb. 15, when the monks wiped away the four-gated mandala. In a matter of seconds

Dr. Eva Adams

ed a four-gated sand mandala

what took days to create was gently swept into a small pile of multi-colored sand in the center of what, only moments before, had been the center, the lotus blossom icon in the mandala.

The monks lovingly scooped sand into plastic bags and distributed the bags to the audience.

The monks of Dzongkar Choede Monastery are Tibetan Buddhists who want to keep the Tibetan Buddhist history and tradition alive. Their monastery was once one of the oldest in Tibet. Only 5 percent of the monks survived the razing of the original monastery during the Chinese Cultural Revolution, which displaced thousands of Tibetans. The

reconstructed monastery was built in 1972 in southern In-

The monks invited all who journey to India to visit them.



Visiting monks wipe away their mandala creation, later scooping the colored sand into plastic bags for the audience.



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Get going on gardens now

Jump in after winter rains with a good nitrogen kick-start

arch is the month that spring breaks out in earnest here in Sacramento with trees budding out, most plants starting growth and spring blooms are everywhere you look by later in the month.

Although there is still a chance of frost here in the valley (especially in colder areas) and the higher areas may still have snow, for many of us it is time to plant many things including all the hardy perennials (not real tender stuff yet), hardier annuals and cold hardy veggies such as potatoes (Talini's usually has a good selection) carrots, peas, beets, radish, chard, etc., so they will mature before the real heat of summer veggies.

And most summer bulbs (except caladiums, which need starting indoors or held until soil is warm. They hate cold).

No -- not heat lovers like tomatoes, peppers and eggplants – the nurseries may get them in but it is WAY to early outside of a greenhouse. They like warmth.

Need for nitrogen

With all the new growth comes the time to think of

SACRAMENTO GARDEN NOTES

BY ROBERT HAMM

feeding the garden – light and more frequent is better than heavier, less frequent feedings.

After all the winter rain, the biggest need for most soils is nitrogen (the first number) since it is water soluable and washes out. I always use a higher nitrogen fertilizer for the first feeding of the year to give things a kick-start and then switch to a more balanced fertilizer.

For those who don't want to worry about remembering a schedule, time release fertilizers that last for six or eight months are a great way to go, especially for containers.

Early in the month you may find some good deals as nurseries clear out bare root material, but be careful about dried out material, material with long stringy shoots that will burn or die when put out or material that has rotted in the packages

Another reminder for you is that snails and slugs are out early, and will often eat the new shoots breaking ground before you even see them. Be

sure to start baiting for snails early to prevent this. Especially sensitive to this are echinacea, brugsmansia, hosta, some lilies, hardy hibiscus and others with soft tender new growth.

While many plants are in active growth, there are a few things that are normally late breaking dormancy, though they grow rapidly once they do. The most common are the hardy mallow-type hibiscus, some varieties of the large flowered dahlias and Chocolate Cosmos, these probably won't emerge till later next month or even later in cool springs.

Surviving the times

Sales since last fall have been dismal, and at this point I am looking at the possibility that this may be the last season for the Benefit Plant Sales.

I will stay open and growing plants through June in the hope things may improve enough that we can continue, but at this point it is question-



Above is the newer Sedum 'Cloud Walker' and below is the older dependable Sedum spectabilis

able that things will improve that much.

I understand everyone is under financial pressure, and accept the fact that all I can do is try to go as long as I can, paying the plant sale bills down as I go.

I'm still propagating lots of new plants for sale this season and will have as wide a selection as always, though perhaps fewer of each.

One of the ways I'm conserving money is cutting the monthly newsletter back by one page. This should cut printing costs. Also sale flyers will no longer be in full color.

As for downtown sales, I will wait to see how the Feb. 28 and March 1 went and how March 14 and 15 sales go before I decide if I have to cut them back further.

Here's hoping things improve for all of us. Sunburst has had to lay off personal, and make further cuts to the kids' summer camp, from the three sessions two years ago, there will only be one session this year.

I and my fellow AIDS patients have lost our food

vouchers due to budget cuts, so just eating is more of a problem with \$70 less a month. Plus it makes it harder to get to medical appointments and such when they've taken away bus tickets also.

Still, I'm trying to be hopeful while at the same time preparing for the worse. It seems to be the only way to live in these times.

Some observations

Flowering quince, flowering pears, flowering plum are all coming into bloom in various locations around town.

My Dutch Master Daffodils are bigger by the day, and should open their flowers within a few days.

Ipheon are in bloom, and the scilla peruviana are budded and about to bloom.

The smaller scabiosa forms are budded and the first blooms open.

Rodents have been a problem this season, digging up and eating tulips, Dutch Iris and rhodohypoxis bulbs and even the rhizomes of violets around





Garden

Continued from page 8

the yard. I've never had such problems with them before.

Take an advanced class

There is still room in the Advance Topics class on Tuesday, March 10.

This is a set of miscellaneous topics that will cover a number of topics partly directed by questions from the attendees. Special propagation/ growing techniques, winter protection, trends in the nursery industry, why some plants are so hard to find, why so many gardening rules aren't always good for the average gardener, common misconceptions about plants and wherever else your questions lead. It is a chance to pick my brain of more than 35 years of gardening experience in several different climates.

The class is four hours (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.) and are held at the house, 1689 Vallarta Circle. Cost per person, per class is \$40. Reservations should be sent, with payment, to: Robert Hamm, 1689 Vallarta Circle, Sacramento CA 95834

First come, first served; all classes have limited availability. For more info e-mail me or call, numbers are at the end of the column.

Benefit Plant Sale

Downtown: March 14 and 15, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the

There will be a benefit plant sale downtown, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 14 and 15, in the covered parking area on 18th Street, behind the Gifted Gardener at 18th and J streets. I'll have new items and about 200 varieties of perennials.

covered parking area on 18th Street, behind the Gifted Gardener at 18th and J streets. I'll have new items and about 200 varieties of perennials.

South Natomas: March 7 and 8, and March 28 and 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1689 Vallarta Circle off of Truxel, just south of the I-80 Truxel exit. More plants and variety than ever.

Sacramento Garden Notes is written by Robert B. Hamm, P.O. Box 189211, Sacramento, 95818-9211. Phone 923-3745. E-mail: gardennotes@sbcglobal.net. His monthly plant sales benefit the Breaking Barriers and Sunburst programs. Breaking Barriers assists with caring for people living with catastrophic illnesses, primarily AIDS and breast cancer. Sunburst serves children with AIDS.





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From diagnosis to diet

A Chinese medicine perspective on the 'silent killer' in diabetes

iabetes is a very common health problem. It's not a fearful disease in itself, but the complications from it are silent killers.

You may not feel the diabetic onset stewing in your body for years before your doc-

tor discovers it. Most people don't know it can affect the eyes, kidneys, nerves, feet, heart and the teeth. None of this is good news:

Eyes – High sugar from diabetes can lead to blindness.

Kidneys – High blood sugar and high blood pressure can



Mamie Woo

HEALTHY LIVING - THE CHINESE WAY

lead to kidney failure and other kidney disease.

Nerves – Among adults with diabetes, 60 to 70 percent of them have damage to the nerves in their legs and feet. Feet – Poor blood circulation and nerve damage will bring on infection in the legs and toes. In severe cases it leads to amputation.

Heart – Disease of the heart and blood vessels (cardiovascular disease) is the major cause of death in Type 2 diabetes, because it elevates cholesterol plaque in blood vessels, leads to high blood pressure, or both.

Teeth – People with diabetes most likely have teeth and gums problem.

Early onset reports

You can see that we must work hard to control blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol development to help lessen this condition. That means we must control our sugar and fat intake and exercise regularly regardless of our age.

Recent reports from the Diabetic Foundation show that diabetes is attacking the younger generation -- from children to teenagers – because of insufficient exercise and too much starchy and sugary food in their diet. Insufficient protein, mainly found in meat and nuts, hinders their mental development.

Since diabetes is a silent killer, how do we know the problem is stewing inside your body?

In Chinese medicine, we can detect it from the early symptoms such as a dry mouth, constant thirst no matter how many glasses of water you drink, always hungry and eating bigger portion often without weight gain, or urinating often during the day and night. Itchy skin and cracked heels are two skin symptoms that are hardly mentioned in many diabetic publications.

Diagnosing diabetes

In Chinese medicine we see the causes and symptoms of diabetes as:

- 1. Heat in the Lung burns out the moisture so you feel thirsty constantly. (Remember when I capitalize the name of the organ, I am talking about the organ's energy in Chinese medicine, not its organic function. It's different from Western thought).
- 2. High heat in the stomach metabolizes the food quickly, so you need to eat more often to satisfy the hunger.
- 3. Kidney Yang deficiency. Kidney controls the bow-
- els and urine flow. When Kidney Yang energy is low, you need more bathroom trips to release the pressure in your bladder.
- 4. Yin deficiency results in insufficient body fluid, making the skin dry and cracked.5. Yin and Yang deficiency leads to many dysfunctions of other organs in addition to di-

Regardless whether you choose either oral or injection methods to control diabetes, the most important step is watching your diet. The right

abetes.

See Woo, page 11



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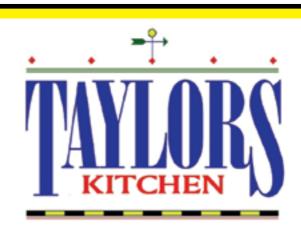


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Land Park News March 12, 2009 11

Woo

Continued from page 10

type of diet will elevate your cure; the wrong diet will create severe problem.

Diet instructions

What herb or food is beneficial for diabetes? Let's talk about the food first.

High protein is needed. It's in all type of lean meat, egg and nuts. Walnuts are

High fiber, too. Eat plenty of dark green vegetables and multi-colors of fruit. Eat orange oranges, purple plums; red strawberries, blue berries, green grapes, and such, not just one type of fruit. Avoid starchy food like white rice and white bread. Instead use

brown rice, multi-grain bread and wheat flour.

Eat a low fat diet by avoiding deep fried food like french fries and fried chicken. Instead bake or broil your lean meat and fish. And eliminate completely sugary food like cake, cookies and even Diet Pepsi. Yes, including Diet Pepsi. Too many sweet-tasting foods make the Spleen lazy to help the pancreas produce insulin and the pancreas becomes insulin deficient.

There are many Chinese herbs that can help, too.

Korean or American ginseng can nourish Qi (energy) and lower blood sugar. Sang Bai Pi, or mulberry bark, Di Gu Pi, or wolfberry fruit tree bark, and Zhi Mu, or anemarrhena rhizome, reduce heat and lower blood sugar.

To nourish Yin and lower blood sugar try Yu Zhu, or polygunatum rhizome; Bai He, which is fresh or dried lily bulb, Shan Zhu Yu, or dogwood fruit; and Tian Men Dong, or asparagus root.

Try yoga or tai chi

All forms of exercise are good for muscle flexibility and to elevate the heart beat and improve blood circulation. I personally strongly recommend yoga and tai chi. These two types of exercise are low-impact, slowly stretching your body and limb muscles, creating balance in the internal organs and coordination of mind and body movements, which in turn achieves ultimate health.

I am sure your doctor can provide tons of material and many websites you can check out for ways to control the problem.

These organizations are helpful:

- American Association of Diabetes Educators, 1-800-832-6874 or www.diabeteseduca-
- American Diabetes Assocation, 1-800342-2383 or www. diabetes.org.

• Medicare, 1-800-633-4227, or www.medicare.gov/health/diabetes.asp.

Mamie Woo trained at China's Guangzhou College of Traditional Chinese Medicine. She is a Tai Chi instructor, Chinese herbalist and certified massage therapist. Contact her at 616-1688; website: www.mamiechineseherb.com.

Please send your updated 2009 Calendar Announcements

...especially if you host monthly events! e-mail to colleen@valcomnews.com

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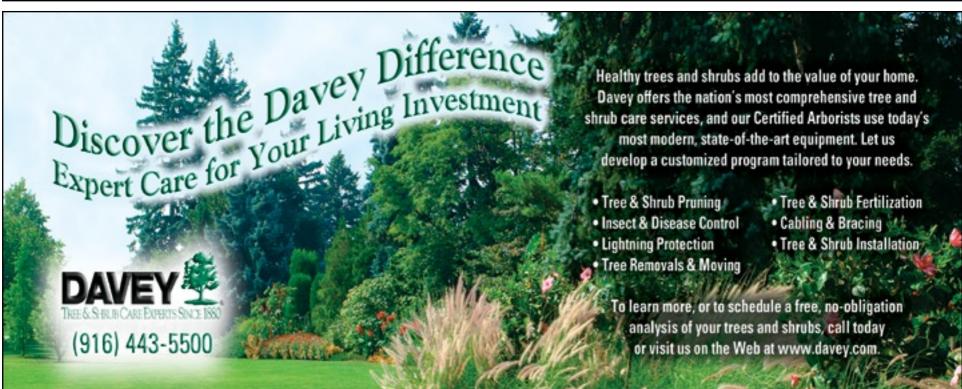






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floor plan flows from front to back affording views of the picturesque front yard to the inviting pool and patio in back. This home has beautiful hardwood floors, central heat & air, dual pane windows and a 1-year old roof, Formal living room with fireplace, dining room with beamed ceiling and family room with dining bar. Just steps away from Crocker Riverside Elementary School and public transportation.

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Land Park News March 12, 2009 13



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MEENA CHAN LEE • 837-9104



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Bring on the boys

Lofty female giraffes getting new digs at the Sacramento Zoo

uring more than 40 years in Sacramento's South Land Park area, my wife and I have come to realize that we're indeed lucky to be living in a great location for making our way to the city's zoo. And this is certainly a destination that needs to be high on everyone's list.

Two houses north of our place on South Land Park Drive, we can board the No. 6 bus and get off two miles down the road directly across from the entrance to the zoo. There's no need for us to drive



ART GERMAN

TOWN TALK

there if we don't want to. All in all, we've found the zoo to be a great and shady place to stroll during the sunny days of spring, summer and fall while renewing our acquaintanceship with nervous chimpanzees, doughty lions, skittish lemurs and fastmoving anteaters.

But in many ways, my favorite animals of all are the giraffes, which have always impressed me as very pleasant critters, seemingly content with their lot of quietly looking down from on high to ogle the people who pass by all day long.

New giraffe generation?

As it turns out, even happier days lie ahead for the giraffes as they crane their lengthy necks to contemplate the workmen and machines carrying out a \$1.75 million

The construction project
will raise the giraffe
compound's breeding
standards to the level
required by the Association
of Zoos and Aquariums.

project to expand and improve their entire compound.

All this was described to me by Lara Kirkendall, the zoo's outreach coordinator, whose duties include public education involving the zoo and its worldwide animal population. She said that a public fund-raising campaign -- still a bit short of its \$1.75 million goal -- made it possible to begin the giraffe project early this year. It's

due to be completed before the close of 2009.

Highlights include replacing the 50-year-old drafty, wooden barn with a concrete structure that will include separate stalls for as many as nine giraffes. That, Kirkendall said, will make it possible to arrange for the importation of one or more male giraffes -- Valyntine, Skye and Gudrun as the Sacramento giraffes are named

See Giraffe, page 15



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Giraffe

Continued from page 14

are all females. As a result, a new giraffe generation may eventually become a reality.

How does one arrange for such a tryst among giraffes? It is done, Kirkendall explained, through the AZA, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, with which the Sacramento Zoo is affiliated. The construction project, she added, will raise the giraffe compound's breeding standards to the level required by the AZA.

Other improvements will include a new viewing ramp that will raise the vantage point for spectators to about 18 feet above the ground -- high enough for an eyeball-to eyeball confrontation between people and giraffes. That is not likely to bother the giraffes, animals that

Kirkendall said routinely radiate perpetual serenity.

Carousel for kids

While I was outside the compound, it was being shared by the three giraffes and a construction crew hard at work on one side of a wire barricade while the giraffes were lined up on the other side, peacefully watching what was going on and no doubt anticipating happier days in the future.

Kirkendall also reported that another zoo project is being planned for the near future on the site of a building near the main entrance that was occupied last year by a temporary penguin exhibit. She said the building will be replaced by a carousel that will carry children on wooden reproductions of endangered animals, such as pandas. The attraction hopefully will remind young people and their parents of the

fragile nature of the animals' hold on earth, said Kirken-

As far as adding real-life pandas to the Sacramento Zoo population, that is not too likely, Kirkendall said. The Chinese government has set a million dollar figure as the price for one of the cuddly, but increasingly rare animals that are native to China.

One of Kirkendall's top responsibilities is the daily animal show offered for visitors at 11 a.m. at the outdoor theater near the zoo's entrance. It's a great place to have a close look at such stage-savvy critters as parrots, snakes, serval cats and turtles as zoo attendants describe to visitors how they go about their lives.

Art German is a veteran newsman and a 40-year resident of the Pocket. Contact him through this newspaper's email: colleen@valcomnews.com.



Giraffes at the Sacramento Zoo: What's not to love?

Other improvements
will include a new
viewing ramp that
will raise the vantage
point for spectators
to about 18 feet
above the ground





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March 12

Voice Masters Class

The Sacramento City College Choral Department will present its Spring Voice Masters Class, 7 p.m., under the direction of guest artist Jacqueline Victorino. Soloists from the SCC Intermediate and Advanced voice classes will perform and then be critiqued. An open Q & A session will follow. Room A27 of the Music Building at Sacramento City College, 3835 Freeport Blvd. Contact Doreen at 558-2496 for more information.

An eclectic mix

The Sacramento City College Community Jazz Band will entertain you with pieces by Count Basie and Chuck Mangione, Latin pieces, Bebop-inspired tunes and more, 8 p.m., SCC Little Theater, 3835 Freeport Blvd. Contact Kurt for more information at 558-2243.

Evening with Richard Price

California Lectures presents an evening with author Richard Price, 7:30, Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. Price is known for such works as Bloodbrothers, Clockers, Freedomland and The Wanderers. Books will be available for purchase and book signing after the event. For information, call 737-1300.

Communication and dementia

Learn to communicate effectively and compassionately with a loved one who is suffering from dementia, at Primrose, 7707 Rush River Drive., 2 p.m. RSVP by March 7. For information, call 392-3510.

March 13

All about geranium care

Carmichael Geranium Society meets, 10 a.m., Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave., for a geranium workshop featuring "ABC's of Geranium Care." Visitors welcome. More information at the website: www.thegeraniumpage.com.

March 14

Teachers Fight the Bite

Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District workshop for local educators to learn more about mosquitoes and West Nile virus, then transition this knowledge into fun classroom activities, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Esquire IMAX Theatre, 1211 K St. Free. Register at www.fightthebite.net.

Tsubaki Spring Dance

The Tsubaki Dance Club will hold its spring dance, 7:30 to 11:30 p.m., at the Scottish Rite Temple, 6151 H St. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$23 at the door.

Refreshments will be available. For information, call Frank at 684-9289, Harry at 395-0587, or Eric at 647-3360.

Fe Gallery

Watercolor artist Anna Rolin, metal artist Stephen Lyman and fused glass artist Sheena Wolfe will be honored at an artist reception, 6 to 9 p.m. at the Fe Gallery, 1100 65th St. For more information, call 456-4455.

Choral concert

Sacramento State University's Chamber Choir, Concert Choir and University Chorus perform, 8 p.m., at Sacred Heart Church, 1040 39th St. Advanced tickets are strongly suggested; \$10 general and \$5 students/seniors. Call the CSUS Central Ticket Office at 278-4323, or visit www.csus.edu/music/choral.

Pipe organ concert

Pipe organ concert with Stephen Janzen, 4 p.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, 1701 L St. Free parking at the garage on 18th and K Street. Suggested donation of \$20 per person. Call 444-0874.

Recycle to raise money

Bring your unwanted electronic equipment to be recycled, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sam Brannan Middle School, 5301 Elmer Way. Raises money for the music department, which is planning a trip to the Forum Festival in May.

Celebrate Pi Day

The Sacramento Walking Sticks invite everyone to help celebrate Pi Day by walking about 3.14 miles. The noncompetitive event will start at Starbucks, 458 Howe Ave., 3:14 p.m. and go until 6 p.m. Everyone will get to eat pie

at the finish line. Families are encouraged to walk, strollers are welcome and dogs will love it. Please bring one can of food to donate. To find out more, go to http://mathforum.org/dr.math/faq/faq/pi/html, or http://www.piday.org.

All about astrology

Free lecture by spiritual astrologer Taylor Lynne Smith called "What Can Astrology do for Me?," 7 to 9 p.m., SMUD Auditorium, 6201 S. St. Call 635-6724 for more information.

Family history seminar

All-day, free seminar for beginning, intermediate and advanced classes on African-American Genealogy and family history research, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Family History Center, 2745 Eastern Ave. Keynote speaker Electra Price on "Clues and Analysis in Genealogy Research." Reservations at 487-2090 and 966-3460.

Laughter Yoga class

Laugh out loud at Belle Cooledge Library, 9 to 9:50 a.m., 5600 S. Land Park Drive, in a Laughter Yoga class. Free. The exercises have been shown to relieve stress, help you sleep and lighten your mood. Guided by Certified Laughter Yoga leader Judy Knott. Information by e-mail at knottmorris@ hotmail.com or phone 539-1716.

March 14, 15

Master Singers turn 25

Sacramento Master Singers celebrate their 25th anniversary with "Sing On 'Till I Am Filled With Joy"-- works that highlight the choir's past, rejoice in the present, and look toward the future, 8 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, First United Methodist Church, 21st and J streets. Tickets, \$18, available online at www.mastersingers.org., by phone at 788-7464, or 30 minutes before each concert at the door.

Broadway show concert

Sacramento City College Choral Department present great songs from some of your favorite Broadway shows, 8 p.m., Saturday, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 7595 Center Parkway; and 8 p.m. Sunday, at the Lutheran Church of the Master, 1900 Potrero Way. Admission is \$5. Contact Doreen at 558-2496 for more information.

Trout derby

SMUD semi-annual trout derby at Rancho Seco Lake, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., 14440 Twin Cities Road. Reel in the heaviest trout and win a cash prize of \$100 for adults and \$50 for children under 16. A pancake breakfast will be available to derby participants beginning at 6 a.m. both mornings. Call 732-5111.

March 15

Folk dance concert

Camellia International Folk Dance Concert features international groups performing folk dances from around the world, 1 to 3:30 p.m., Sacramento State University Student Union Ballroom. Cost, \$7, free to CSUS students and people under 18. Free parking in Parking III. Information at www.folkdance.com/sacramentocouncil or 536-9809.

March 17

St. Patrick's party

Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District St. Patrick's Day party, noon to 3 p.m., with live music by Delta Breeze, dancing and traditional corned beef and cabbage served from noon to 1 p.m. Cost, \$5. At the Swanston Community Center, 2350 Northrop Ave. Information at 333-6464.

St. Patrick's parade

Old Sacramento's 13th annual St. Patrick's Day parade, 6 p.m., with more than 500 marchers including bagpipe and drum corps, Irish step dancers, school bands, police and fire representatives and more. Free. Information at 646-1545 or e-mail info@mallorypr.com.

HATitudes luncheon

Sacramento Christian Women's Connection luncheon, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lions Gate restaurant in McClellan Park, 5640 Dudley Blvd. Vicky Septor from The Village Hat Shop will show off the latest hat styles, and Donna Taigen, retired school principal, will be the guest speaker. Reservations must be made by March 11. Call Fran at 332-1461 or Sharon at 361-1642 or e-mail SacCWC@aol.com. Childcare will be available by advance reservation only.

Music ensemble

Listen to the music of the Beatles, Sheryl Crow, Natalie Merchant, Don Henley, Bob Marley and more, presented by the Sacramento City College Commercial Music Ensemble, noon, in the SCC Campus Quad, 3835 Freeport Blvd. Free. Contact Kurt for more information at 558-2243.

'Growing a Concert'

Building on last semester's theme of "Growing a Concert," where each concert consists of a recently composed piece, the Sacramento City College Community Concert Band presents its second of four concerts for the spring semester, 7 p.m., in the SCC Auditorium, 3835 Freeport Blvd. Contact Kurt for more information at 558-2243.

Memory retention

Primrose Special Alzheimer's Living presents "How to Make the Most of Your Memory, Part 3," 2:30 p.m., at Mercy McMahon Terrace, 3865 J St. Second in a four-part Tuesday, 2:30 program called "Use It or Lose It," presented by Kim Winters, Primrose community education director. Free. Information, reservations at 733-6510.

March 18

Veggie know-how

Learn how to best use winter and early spring veggies like beets, cauliflower and asparagus with the Sacramento County Master Food Preservers, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Sacramento County UC Cooperative Extension office, 4145 Branch Center Road. Cost is \$3 and no pre-registration required. All facilities are handicap accessible. More information at 875-6913.

Research your ancestry

The Genealogy Association of Sacramento will meet, 1 p.m., at the Colonial Heights Library on 21st Avenue and Stockton Boulevard, to discuss the all-day research trip to the Sutro Library

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Land Park News March 12, 2009 1

in San Francisco on March 25. Cost for the trip is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Everyone is invited. Call Melanie at 383-1221 for details.

Fibromyalgia hope, truth

Dr. Tony Baratta, who has successfully treated patients with fibromyalgia will present a class Fibromyalgia: Truth, Hope and Results, 6:30 p.m., at the Fibromyalgia Centers of America, 6728 Fair Oaks Blvd., suite 306. Reservations at 979-0716.

Senior Day at SPCA

Sacramento SPCA hosts Senior Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the SPCA shelter, 6201 Florin Perkins Road. Features senior-focused SPCA information booths, demonstrations, vendors, entertainment by the Rotary Rooters, guided tours, refreshments and more. Free. Information at 383-7387 x 9051.

March 19

Alaska birding review

Meet a Bristle-thighed Curlew when Chris Conard revisits a trip last sum-

mer to some of the best birding spots in Alaska, 7 p.m., at the Sacramento Audubon Society's meeting, Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd. Free, public welcome. More information at 649-7600 or www.sacramentoaudubon.org.

Music Ensemble

Listen to the music of the Beatles, Sheryl Crow, Natalie Merchant, Don Henley, Bob Marley and more, presented by the Sacramento City College Commercial Music Ensemble, 7 p.m., in the SCC Little Theatre, 3835 Freeport Blvd. Free. Contact Kurt for more information at 558-2243.

Hearing aid services

Atlas Hearing Aid Services will give a presentation at Primrose Alzheimer's Center, 7707 Rush River Drive, at 5:30 p.m. For information, call 392-3510.

Volunteer training

Senior Peer Counseling, a nonprofit outreach program that matches volunteer visitors with isolated seniors, is offering a five-week volunteer training beginning today. Dinner is included at

each training session. Call 855-5444 for information

'Fall and Injury Prevention'

"Fall and Injury Prevention" health presentation for seniors, 1:15 p.m., Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Blvd. Free. Presented by the Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services – Senior Health Education Program. Information at 875-6041.

March 20

Taize prayer service

Taize prayer and worship, a lay personled, contemplative and meditative service to end the week, 7 p.m., Greenhaven Lutheran Church, 475 Florin Road. Information at 428-3213.

March 21

Victory Garden

A healthy garden begins with the soil. Learn how to evaluate your soil, improve its structure and feed it to grow the summer garden of your dreams, 9 a.m. at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center in Fair Oaks Park, 11549 Fair Oaks Blvd. Free, public welcome. More information at 875-6913. In case of rain, call 875-6818 to hear a recorded message.

Christian Brothers auction

Christian Brothers High School hosts its annual charity auction, 6 p.m., 4315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Silent and live auctions with dinner. Tickets, \$75 per person if purchased before March 3, \$90 if purchased after March 3, or \$700 for a table of 10. Visit http://cbhs-sacramento.maestroweb.com or call 733-3605

Dinner dance for FFA

Silent and live auctions, dinner, dessert and drinks, entertainment by The Jay Rolerz Band at the annual Delta Ag Boosters' Dinner Dance, 6 p.m. to

midnight, at Thornton Hall, 29650 N. Sacramento Blvd. Donation, \$30, all proceeds benefit the Delta FFA. Must be 21. For tickets, call Elaine at 719-6655, Karen at 955-1133, or Laurel at 214-4683.

Free loan counseling

HUD-approved NID Housing Counseling Agency offers free loan modification counseling, 10 a.m. to noon, American River Community Church, 3300 Walnut Ave., Carmichael. Reservations required at 483-3465 or e-mail info@arcconline.org

Composting class

U.C. Master Gardeners teach how garden clippings can be transformed into compost, 9 a.m.,

Fair Oaks Park, Fair Oaks Boulevard and Madison Avenue. Free. Bring a lawn chair. Information at 875-6913.



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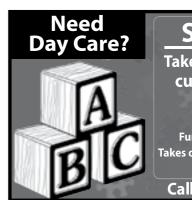
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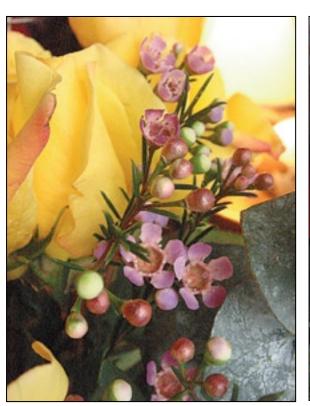
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Flowers in Land Park

Ron Henson, former owner of Celeste & Company, is back after four years at home with his young son, with Land Park Flowers and Gifts in the South Hills Shopping Center. 'People keep stopping by just to say 'We're SO glad you're here! We needed a florist in the neighborhood," Henson said. An award-winning designer, Henson stresses his desire to create arrangements that reflect his own style and creativity. 'I believe flowers make people happy. They fill an empty spot.' Last-minute orders don't phase him, he said, and delivery is local, regional or out of state. Land Park Flowers is located at 5874 S. Land Park Drive (at 35th Avenue). Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, phone 392-ROSE.

McKinley Children's Song Circle

irela Sendreya plays Irish Harp in honor of St. Patrick's Day and children will be able to try stepdancing at this month's free Children's Song Circle.

If you have a favorite Irish song suitable for children, let the Shadechasers musicians know ahead of time.

Songbooks and simple instruments are always provided for singers and dancers the song circle happens from 3 to 4:30 p.m., Sunday, March 15, in the McKinley Park's Clunie Clubhouse, 601 Alhambra Boulevard at F Street.

Future song circle Sundays are April 19, May 3, June 7 and July 5.

For more information, phone Robin Aurelius at 531-4110.



Are you one of the 5.6 million Californians and 46 million Americans who suffer from arthritis?

Learn about the causes and treatment for arthritis and how you can better manage your condition. Our free seminar will help you understand treatments for your joint pain, including medications, nutrition, exercise and surgical options.

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Daily Excellence





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Do you need to sell your home but owe more than the current value? You've heard about foreclosures and bank owned properties.

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A short sale is typically executed to prevent a home foreclosure. Often a bank will allow a short sale if the bank believes that the short sale will result in a smaller financial loss than foreclosure.

For the homeowner, advantages include avoidance of a foreclosure on their credit history and partial control of the monetary deficiency. A short sale is typically faster and less expensive than a foreclosure.

In a short sale, the bank or mortgage lender agrees to discount a loan balance due to an economic or financial hardship on the part of the mortgagor. With a short sale your credit recovery time is shorter than a foreclosure.

This negotiation is all done through communication with a bank's loss mitigation department. Costs for the process typically include Realtor's commission; the bank absorbs title and closing costs.

Hire a Realtor with short sale experience. It's one strike against you if the listing agent has never handled a short sale. A short sale is a complex, litigious process. Call Helen Tarasco to schedule your free private consultation.

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Wine label education

Casa Garden Restaurant, the fund-raising site for the Sacramento Children's Home, hosts a Wine Tasting Social, 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 7.

Tickets, \$16, include wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres, lunch entrees of either beef tips in

cabernet sauce or turkey cobb salad and desert. "What's on a Label," is the topic for the guest speaker.

All proceeds go to help support the Sacramento Children's

Reservations are required at 452-2809.

The restaurant is located at 2760 Sutterville Road, on the grounds of the Sacramento Children's Home.

Citrus harvest offer

Looking at all the oranges and grapefruits in the street, along with clippings, encourages one man to offer up his group to come pick your fruit trees and leave you some, giving the rest to the food bank.

Call Robin Aurelius, 531-4110, to arrange to have his McKinley neighborhood group, well experienced with poles and mesh bags, come to your yard. Each picker has signed a liability waiver.

The next fruit-picking date is Saturday, March 14. The group will meet at the tennis courts in McKinley Park at 8:30 a.m., rain or shine, and will work from 9 a.m. to noon.

Experience culture

The Academic Foundation for International Cultural Exchange

is looking for Community Representatives and Host Families.

Community Representatives will help find host families and work with students during the school year. They must enjoy working with teenagers and have good communication skills.

Host families will host foreign exchange students who speak English and are between the ages of 15 and 18. Students come with their own spending money and medical insurance.

For information, call Anne or Dianne at 1-866-462-3423, or visit www.afice.org.

Green art needed

Submissions of "green art" are needed for "Fairytale Town Goes Green!," a new environmental education event.

Tabletop art can include sculpture, paintings, pottery and more; must be constructed from 100 percent recycled materials; and has to meet certain size specifications.

The deadline to submit an application is Saturday, Feb. 28, and the deadline to submit finished art is 4 p.m., Friday, May 29.

For more information, or to obtain an application, please call

Sharlene at 808-7979, or e-mail: programs@fairytaletown.org.

Free portraits available

With a slowing economy, rather that increasing his prices, photographer Ron Nabity is doing the opposite. Nabity is accepting nominations for people who need high-quality portraits, but cannot afford them.

Knowing how important family photos are, Nabity doesn't want people to miss the opportunity to create a wonderful keepsake. Each month Nabity will select one nominated person and provide a free portrait package.

For more information or to submit a nomination, call 769-3019, or visit www.nabityphotos.com.

Plant recycling

The Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition will recycle your unwanted plants by placing them in new homes, community gardens, school gardens and green space projects.

Small trees, shrubs and bulbs can be picked up by appointment. In addition, unwanted garden tools and other items can be donated to the coalition.

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PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715



HOLLYWOOD PARK

This warm and inviting home has been well cared for. You'll love every detail from the hardwood floors, the updated kitchen and bath, the crown molding and baseboards to the meticulously landscaped yards and great location. Don't miss the numerous fruit trees. The large corner lot, two car garage and a covered patio for evenings outside. Enjoy! See 2208MurietaWay.com \$300,000

KELLIE SWAYNE 206-1458



LAND PARK COTTAGE

Charming 2 bedroom with pride of ownership on display at every corner. Lush landscaping with brick walkways, shaded secluded decks and tree canopied lawn. Classic arches, recessed ceilings, plantation shutters, fun country kitchen with brick wall. Second bedroom welcomes the outdoors in with 2 walls of brick. See www.2615FreeportBlvd.com \$309,000

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Open and inviting floor plan flows from front to back affording views of the picturesque front yard to the inviting pool and patio in back. This home has beautiful hardwood floors, central heat & air, dual pane windows and a 1-year old roof. Formal living room with fireplace, dining room with beamed ceiling and family room with dining bar. See www.937RobertsonWay.com \$485,000

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