

Land Park Little League teams field top praise

Local baseball teams have remarkable championship run

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Correction: In the May 11 edition of The Land Park News, in a story about the possibility of a Trader Joe's grocery store coming to the shopping center on the corner of South Land Park Drive and Del Rio Road, a parenthetical clarification was added to a quote by Land Park Community Association board member Craig Powell. That addition specified that Terry Grimes was the board president of the LPCA. That was incorrect. Land Park resident Scott Rose is the president. The Land Park News editorial staff apologizes for the error.

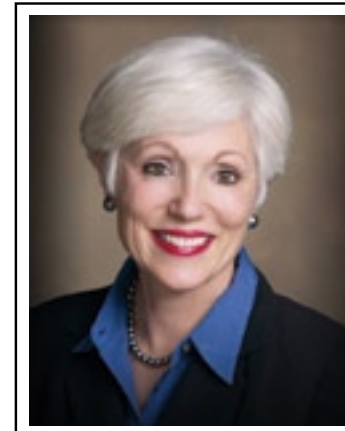
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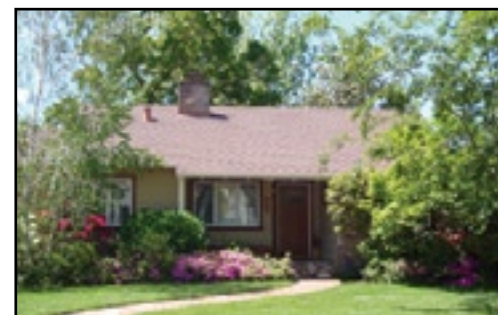
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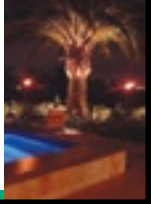


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Local players dominate

Land Park Pacific Little League hits it out of the park

By **BENN HODAPP**
Land Park News Writer
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

With all that's wrong with baseball these days, nothing quite soothes the weary sports fan's mind like a good, old-fashioned story about what continues to be so right about it. No egos, controversy, power struggles or suspensions; just baseball. Such is the story of the Land Park Pacific Little League.

It's nothing new for a local team to win its Tournament of Champions (TOC). But three teams in the same year from the same Little League? That's certainly new.

"As far as the TOC goes I don't know if (the league) has ever done this well," league president Jeff Hinrichsen said.

Three age divisions were represented by the LPPLL in the TOC. The Yankees, the Minors representative, were made up of kids ages 9-11; the Cardinals came out of the Majors with players ages 10-12; and the Juniors Blue team had players ages 13-14.

Hinrichsen, who is also the manager of the Minors' Yankees, talked about what made his team so successful this year.

"I have told this story many times," he said. "I have had more talented teams, but they couldn't play together. These guys were truly a team. There were no internal conflicts and they all listened."

Teams like no other

The Yankees steamrolled the competition on their way to an 18-2 overall record, going 9-1 in both halves of the season. Upon reaching the TOC, they were primed for a run. The single elimination tournament can be a lot of pressure and it showed early on.

"Our first game we had some serious nerves going on," Hinrichsen said. "We made a lot of errors and we were down 6-2 early."

A late charge saw the Yankees score six unanswered runs to take the game 8-6 to move on to the semifinals. They won that game and advanced to the finals where they won by a decisive 7-1 score.



The Yankees steamrolled the competition on their way to an 18-2 overall record.

Photo courtesy

Hand it to the Cards

The Cardinals showed an impressive array of talent in their TOC by winning their championship game by an astounding 19-0 score.

"They worked hard to get better all season," manager Randy Wong said. "From February through last week the players improved their baseball skills."

So it would appear. Their first game was decided late by a score of 3-1. From there it was all Cardinals, all the time. A 13-2 victory in the semifinals set up the offensive explosion that came in the finals. The Cardinals finished their season at 21-2 after their terrorizing run through the tournament.

Nothing to be "blue" about

The Juniors Blue team had to play by a different set of rules before claiming its title. The Juniors

See Little League, page 27

A baseball town: Local goes to big leagues

Special to the Land Park News

Junior outfielder Tim Wheeler became Sacramento State's highest draft pick ever, after he was selected with the 32nd pick in the first round of the 2009 MLB Draft by the Colorado Rockies.

Wheeler, a native of Sacramento, became the school's first two-time first

team all-Western Athletic Conference selection in 2009. The centerfielder hit .385 on the season with 18 home runs and 72 runs batted in, setting the school's single season RBI record in the process.

As a sophomore in 2008, Wheeler hit .330 with three home runs, 43 RBI, and 10 stolen bases. He tied for the longest hitting streak in the WAC on the season, hitting safely in 20 consecu-

tive games while posting 17 multi-hit games. In 2007 as a freshman, Wheeler hit .310 with six home runs.

Prior to Wheeler, Erik Bennett (1989) and Chris Kinsey (2003) were the highest draft picks in the program's history, with both being selected in the fourth round. He was the only player from the WAC to be selected in the first round.



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Know your neighbor

The volunteer queen: Still lending a hand at 95 years old

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Land Park News Writer
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

A well-deserved birthday gathering was recently held at Mercy General Hospital when longtime Land Park resident Raynia Kinniston was greeted by a large group of friends, family and members of the local media.

Present to capture the special moment celebrating her 95th birthday was the East Sacramento News, as well as local television stations.

The June 10 event was far from simply a celebration of human longevity, which Kinniston has seemed to have mastered, but it was also a commemoration of a woman who has dedicated herself to a cause that she feels strongly about supporting.

A model for volunteer work, Kinniston has dedicated herself to the 4001 J St. hospital free-of-charge since 1960, during which time she amassed more than 45,500 hours of service.

And despite volunteering for nearly a half-century, Kinniston said that she is certainly not through with her volunteer work; noting that she will continue to serve the hospital for as long as her body holds up its end of the deal.

As a reflection of how long Kinniston has served the hospital, at the time she began her volunteer work, Dwight D. Eisenhower was serving as the nation's 34th president (Barack Obama is the 44th president), the Vietnam War was in full stride and the



Land Park News Photo/Ryan Rose
Mercy General Hospital volunteer Raynia Kinniston celebrates her 95th birthday with members of her family, (pictured left to right) grandson Al Marshall, great-grandson Brennan Marshall and grandson Paul Marshall, at a special party held by hospital staff.

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Winter Olympics were being held at Squaw Valley.

Furthermore, Kinniston began her work in the hospital's pediatrics unit, which is no longer in existence.

After working in pediatrics, Kinniston began serving in the hospital's gift shop in 1962, where she continues to volunteer. She also volunteers at the information desk and in the emergency section of the hospital.

Kinniston said that she began assisting at the hospital following the death of her husband, Alvin Marshall, who was a patient at the hospital.

"My next door neighbor (the late Nell Cordano) be-

longed to Mercy Guild and at that time you had to have a sponsor (to volunteer at the hospital)," Kinniston said. "She thought it would be a good idea if I would volunteer, so she brought me into the guild and that's how I got started."

Kinniston had no idea that she would become so dedicated to her volunteer work at the hospital that her service there would become an integral part of her life.

Driving to the hospital five times per week until she was 90 years old, Kinniston now maintains a three-days-per-week schedule at the hospital, as she walks a small part

of the way to her work and then commutes the remainder of the way via a pair of busses and light rail.

Kinniston's neighbor Vicki Diepenbrock, who also volunteers at the hospital, praised Kinniston for both her volunteer work and her general kindness.

"She is just phenomenal," Diepenbrock said. "We need to have more Raynia Kinnistons in this world. She's just a model for everyone."

Also impressed by Kinniston's dedication to volunteer work at the hospital is her grandson, Al Marshall.

"I think (her volunteer work) is wonderful," Marshall said. "She's just such a spark-plug for the area. People are motivated by seeing someone her age who is so excited and motivated to help people. She really motivates others to do the same and she's a real inspiration to others."

In addition to providing inspiration for others to consider volunteer work through her actions, Kinniston is certainly not shy when it comes to vocally encouraging others to do volunteer work, especially at Mercy General Hospital.

See Mercy, page 7

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Mercy: You can't keep a good woman down

Continued from page 6

"I think that more people who have the time should volunteer," Kinniston said. "It does more for them than they do for it. That's the way I feel. I also wish that more people would volunteer (at Mercy General Hospital), because we need them. There's no doubt about that. If anybody has any extra time, they couldn't spend it in a better place or in a better way."

Remembering early Land Park

As a 70-year resident of Land Park, Kinniston, who graduated from Sacramento High School in 1932, has seen many changes in the area and has continued to carry a place in her heart for the community.

"I love the (Land Park) area and I feel very fortunate to have been able to have moved out in that area," said Kinniston, who moved to Sacramento at the age of 6 in 1920. "We bought a lot, got a contractor and blue prints and we had our (Land Park) home built (on 9th Avenue)."

When asked to describe Land Park in its earlier years, Kinniston said that the area had a much different appearance than it does today.

"I could see from Freeport (Boulevard) down to Land Park Drive," Kinniston said. "They had a bunch of gardens out there. There were no houses. There was nothing from 9th (Avenue) on to where (Sacramento) High School is. It was all vacant and the Holy Spirit Church wasn't built, because my parish was Immaculate Conception out in Oak Park."

Kinniston also recalled a much different time in Land Park when windows were left open during warm summer evenings, because the homes had no air conditioning, and doors on houses were nearly always left unlocked.

"I walked down to the store and went all over and I never bothered to lock my door," Kinniston said.

Kinniston, who remembers shopping many years ago at Safeway, where Taylor's Market at 2900 Freeport Blvd. is now located, and an Asian market in the building where Dad's Kitchen is located at 2968 Freeport Blvd., said that she generally walked to wherever she had to go during her early years in Land Park.

Secret to longevity?

As a person closing in on the century mark, Kinnis-

ton, although she admits to not having a secret to longevity, is somewhat of a model for healthy living.

The only child of Anthony and Mary Betsey, Kinniston has already outlived her mother by 24 years and her father by 12 years.

In addition to walking a lot throughout her life, Kinniston, who did not learn to drive until she was 21 years old, said that she never did anything in excess and was never interested in drinking alcohol or smoking.

"My father even made his own wine, but I had no interest in drinking it," Kinniston said.

A local celebrity

Kinniston, who has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, said that she is honored and humbled that so many people have recently come forward to congratulate her for turning 95 years old and for her longtime dedication to Mercy General Hospital.

"It's just overwhelming all the people who have wished me a happy birthday and congratulated me for my time here," Kinniston said. "I didn't realize I was such a celebrity!"



Photo courtesy Sacramento Zoo

On Saturday, June 27, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Sacramento Zoological Society hosts the King of Feasts at the Sacramento Zoo, 3930 West Land Park Dr. Sacramento Zoo animals, like this flamingo, will act as ambassadors, providing guests with spectacular views.

King of Feasts tasting event at the Sacramento Zoo, June 27

Special to The Land Park News

On Saturday, June 27, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., the Sacramento Zoological Society hosts the King of Feasts. For one evening only, Sacramento's dining scene converges on the beautiful grounds of the Sacramento Zoo, on the corner of Land Park Drive and Sutterville Road in William Land Park. Guests enjoy mouth-watering specialties offered by the area's finest restaurants and experience the richness and diversity of wines from Northern California.

Proceeds from this event benefit zoo improvements, education programs and wildlife conservation. Tickets may be purchased in advance for \$45 for zoo members, \$50 for non-members or \$60 at the door. Adults only, please. Visit www.saczoo.com, or call 916-808-5888 to purchase tickets.

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Memories of a golden age and a silver screen

Locals remember early years of Tower Theatre

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Land Park News Writer
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

It certainly does not take much investigating to discover that the history of cinema venues in the capital city is well-rooted. And within this history is undoubtedly Land Park's very own Tower Theatre.

Although it was constructed long before the advent of motion pictures, the city's first theater was the Eagle Theater, which opened in 1849. This theater was the predecessor of the many future movie palaces, which would dot the landscape of the Sacramento area.

Among these theaters were the still famous Alhambra Theatre at Alhambra Boulevard and K Street, the Senator Theatre at 912 K St., the California Theatre at 2931 35th St., the State Theatre at 1203 J St., the Majestic Theatre at 310 K St. and the Actograph Theater at 918 K St.

Tower is pillar of Sacto

Under the direction of the Tower Theatre Co., which was led by its president Joe Blumenfeld and its vice president and manager Charlie Holtz, the Tower Theatre opened as a then-very modern theater at the corner of 16th and Y (now Broadway) streets on Nov. 11, 1938.

Anticipation for the theater's opening was extended, as it had been advertised that the theater was to open on Sept. 1, 1938.

An article in The Sacramento Bee on this date, however, noted that it would be a month before the \$200,000 "neigh-

On the Cover: The Tower Theatre rises above the Land Park tree canopy, acting as a beacon for those searching for independent, award-winning films. Photo courtesy Nick Ares via Flickr.

borhood playhouse" with a stadium seat arrangement and air conditioning would open.

The theater, which The Bee described in 1938 as "the finest in modernism," was by far a vast improvement from about a quarter century earlier, when the same property was the site of a city dump. Holtz purchased this property in the mid-1930s.

The Tower Theatre building was constructed as much more than a movie house, as it has been home to a variety of retail establishments since its inception.

The most renown of these businesses is undoubtedly Tower Records, which was founded by Sacramento resident, Russ Solomon, within his father's Tower Cut-Rate Drug Store, where the Tower Café is now located.

Moving-picture memories

Fondly remembering the theater was one of its earliest visitors, Darryl VonRotz, who grew up on Vallejo Way in Land Park.

VonRotz, who continues to hold a special place in his heart for the city's theaters of old, with his favorites being the Tower, the Alhambra and the Hippodrome, where The Crest Theatre is now located, shared his memories of the Tower.

"All the kids went to the Tower on Saturday afternoons," VonRotz said. "Back then, for 25 cents, you could pay for a movie and still have enough money left over to buy a Coke and some candy. I remember seeing a lot

of westerns there such as (films starring) Hopalong Cassidy (played by William Boyd), Roy Rogers and Gabby Hayes."

Sacramento resident Don Conner, who grew up in the Curtis Park area, recalls a special



Land Park News Photo/Lance Armstrong

The Tower Theatre at 16th Street and Broadway is a historic jewel of the Land Park area.



Land Park News Photo/Lance Armstrong

This historic neon sign, located above the Tower Café on the Tower Theatre building, once advertised for Tower Records, when it was located inside the Tower Cut-Rate Drug Store.

promotion that gained him free access into the theater in the 1950s.

"At one point (during the 1950s), I went to matinees when there was a promotion with the bottle tops from Pepsi Cola that allowed entry," Conner said. "It got me in for free for what seems to me was certainly more than

10 (bottle caps). I was probably about 8 or 9 years old, because it was just before I started Little League."

Penny (Anton) Kastanis of East Sacramento said that she has great memories of going to

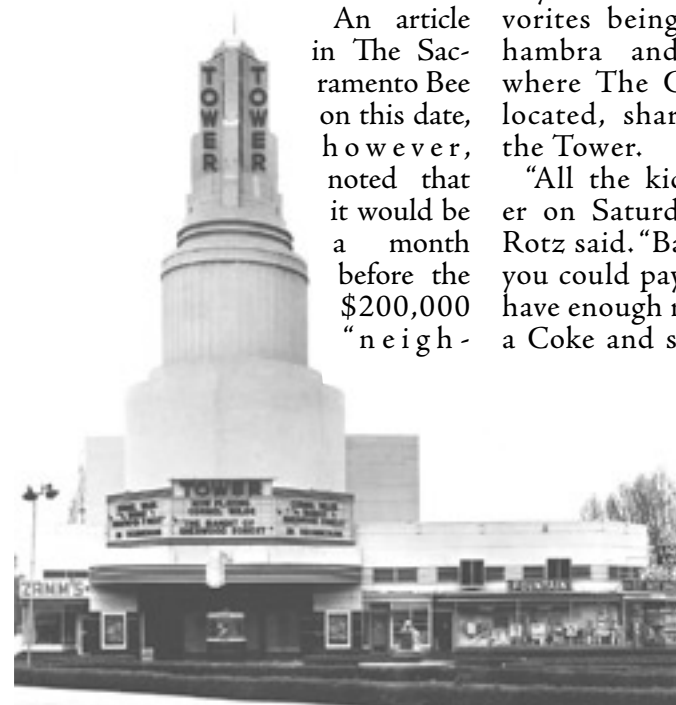


Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento Room
The Tower Theatre is shown in this c. 1946 photograph.

See Tower, page 12

Remember the Alhambra

Community recalls glory years, demise of cherished Alhambra Theatre

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Land Park News Writer
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

When it comes to talking about East Sacramento history, few places conjure up such fine memories as the Alhambra Theatre – the cherished grand movie palace, which once graced the block of land at J and K streets on the eastern side of Alhambra Boulevard.

It is certainly not difficult to find people throughout the city who fondly recall this theater, which opened at 1101 Alhambra Blvd. on Sept. 24, 1927.

But as much as the theater represents fond memories of days gone by, it also carries with it an extremely sore subject in the city's history – its May 4, 1973 demolition.

Still a sore spot

Like an open wound that refuses to heal, the topic of the demise of this locally famous, luxurious theater remains as painful and in many ways more painful to local residents as it was 36 years ago.

Just about any person, who resided in Sacramento anytime from the late 1920s through the early 1970s, speaks of the theater as if it was a family member who had died a horrible death.

Today, whenever the topic of a possible demolition of a beloved, historic Sacramento structure arises, the familiar and very impactful theme of "Remember the Alhambra" rings out loud and clear.

Despite efforts to save the majestic theater, which was known as "The Showplace of Sacramento" and included elaborate gardens and walkways at its entrance, a county bond measure designed to raise \$1.5 million to restore the theater failed on April 17, 1973.

The inability to pass this measure resulted in the Alhambra's demise and less than a month lat-

er, demolition of this historic capital city theater began.

Ever since its razing, the Alhambra has remained strong in the minds of those in the community who remember its existence, as well its death.

But unfortunately, despite all of the Alhambra's many glorious years, the most dominant memory of the late theater is its failure to remain a part of the community.

Sacramento resident Jim France, 73, is among the many people in the city who initially shake their heads in disappointment upon hearing the combination of the words "Alhambra" and "Theatre."

"I remember turning to wife when I first heard that they were talking about tearing down the Alhambra Theatre and saying, 'Oh my God, they're not going to tear that down,'" France said. "But they did (tear it down) and what the hell did they build in its place? A (Safeway) grocery store. Geez, I sure hated to hear that. That place was so beautiful and it is so sad that it couldn't have been saved."

Mirroring France's sentiments regarding the Alhambra, longtime Sacramento resident Al Vegors, 90, recalled his displeasure with the loss of the theater.

"The Alhambra was one classy place and it was such a shame that they tore it down," said Vegors, a 1935 graduate of Sacramento High School. "I remember going there for the first time in 1941 and it was such a beautiful place. It was so sad when we lost the Alhambra. It was such a gala place for Sacramento."

Former Alhambra Theatre usherette Cleo (Thomas) Gier said, "The Alhambra Theatre was a very elegant and ornate theater and if it could have been saved, it would have been a monument to the city."

But instead of having such a monument represent the rich glory years of cinema in East Sacramento,

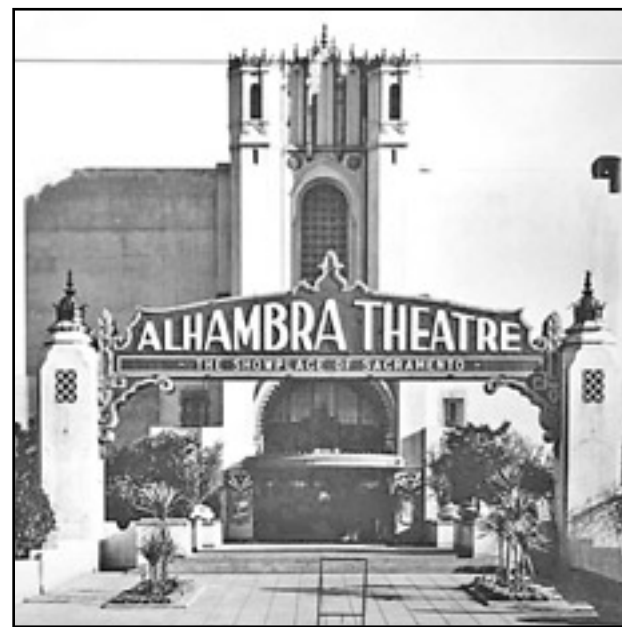


Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento Room
Despite the Alhambra Theatre's recognition as "The Showplace of Sacramento," the community lost the theater to the wrecking ball in 1973.

the memories of this historic capital city entertainment venue continues to fade with time, as many post-1973 city residents are unaware of the location's history prior to its "Would you like paper or plastic (grocery bags)?" days.

Although the grocery store building replaced the theater and parking spaces, automobiles and shopping carts now dominate the site of the theater's former gardens, a glimpse of the gardens' grandeur can still be seen at the south end of the parking lot, as a decorative fountain from the days of the Alhambra serves as a rare physical reminder of the theater's grounds.

From the Alhambra's opening evening, which appropriately featured a showing of the film, "A Night in Spain," to its final day nearly four decades ago, the theater continuously won the hearts of its guests.

And despite the 36-year absence of this cherished East Sacramento theater, which remains the centerpiece of many local residents' fondest memories, the legacy of the Alhambra is perhaps as strong as ever.



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Connecting with the community and the City Council

By **ROB FONG**
Sacramento City Councilmember
Special to The Land Park News

Spare the water

The city of Sacramento unanimously passed a new water conservation ordinance that came into effect this June 2009. The goal of this ordinance is to educate city residents about the easy things we can do every day to use less water at home and in the garden.

The following are some of the regulations that came into effect with this ordinance.

Odd-Even Watering Schedule: Addresses ending with an **odd** number (1,3,5,7,9) may water on Tuesdays, Thursday and Saturday; addresses ending in an **even** number (0,2,4,6,8) may water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. There is no watering on Mondays.

No watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on your watering days: Spare 20-25 gallons per day due to evaporation.

No washing of sidewalks, parking areas or driveways with water except for immediate fire or sanitation hazards; Spare 8-18 gallons per minute; hoses must have an auto-shut off nozzle; spare 8-18 gallons per minute.

New landscaping may be watered every day for 21 days after installation to allow for plants to root: Seasonal watering schedule limits watering 1 day per week during wet season (after daylight savings time ends): Addresses ending in an **odd** number (1,3,5,7,9) may water on Saturday; addresses ending in an **even** number (0,2,4,6,8) may water on Sunday.

Violations: 1st Violation is a written notification to property owner and tenant; 2nd Violation is a written notification to owner and tenant and \$25 fine (can be waived with attending a water con-

servation seminar); 3rd Violation is a written notification to owner and tenant and \$100 fine; 4th violation is a written notification to owner and tenant and a \$500 fine.

Residents with questions regarding the city of Sacramento's Water Conservation Ordinance are encouraged to dial 311. More details and information about this ordinance and other free city services and rebates to help customers use water wisely are also available at www.sparesacwater.org

Did you know that?

If you have not recently looked at the newly redesigned Sacramento Police Department Web site, we encourage you to do so today! Not only is it nicely organized, making it easier to find what you are looking for, it also has a brand new feature that is sure to be popular: Daily Activity Log. This log displays logs of police activity by date and command (South, North or Central) and is updated daily.

Visit www.sacpd.org today.

International festival at Fairytale Town

This July, Fairytale Town is hosting two international shows a day, every Thursday through Sunday. The shows will include Mexican folk dancing, Serbian dancing, and African drumming. For more

information go to www.fairytaletown.org

Happening at the Sacramento Zoo

Twilight Tuesdays in July-- Extended Hours

Enjoy those warm summer nights at the Sacramento Zoo with extended hours, free live music, and great entertainment. July 7: A Night Across the Pond; British Night; July 14: South of the Border; July 21: Travel in Time – 60s and 70s Car Show; July 28: Journey to Asia.

Music, dinner, and drinks start at 5 p.m., arrive by 7 p.m. – stay until 8 p.m. For more information go to www.saczoo.com

Tip of the Month

Enter the: "Your View of the Estuary, Juried Art Contest"

"How do you see the San Francisco Bay Estuary, that unique place where land, ocean, and fresh waters meet?" The San Francisco Estuary Partnership is holding a contest for "scenes or impressions of the Bay, its marshes, and/or streams or rivers entering the Bay." First place winner gets \$1,000, second place gets \$500, and third place gets \$250.

Entries are due August 1. For more information, contact Lisa Owens Viani at (510) 622-2377 and/or visit www.sfestuary.com for more details.

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Ask Officer Michelle

Connecting with cops

By OFFICER MICHELLE LAZARK
Sacramento Police Department
Special to The Land Park News

Editor's note: Ask Officer Michelle your question by emailing her at mlazark@pd.cityofsacramento.org or visit her online blog at <http://blog.sacpd.org>.

Police program to evaluate home safety

I saw your write up in "The Pocket News" magazine and had a question. I live in the Pocket. I used to live in the Washington D.C. area and the PD there had a program were homeowners could get a

appointment and have a PD officer come over and give a "crime prevention inspection" of their house to show weak areas and give tips on how to protect one's home and family.

Do we have anything like that in the city of Sacramento? Thank you, Pettipaw

Dear Pettipaw,

We certainly do have such a program. We have Community Service Officers (CSO) at

each of the police stations that can accommodate citizens in each part of the city. You can make an appointment with the CSO for your area. Her name is CSO Hutchison, and she can be reached at 277-6079. -Officer Michelle

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Tower: Theater opened in 1938

Continued from page 8

the Tower in the early 1950s.

"My father (George Anton) had a restaurant at 19th and Broadway and after work sometimes, when my dad would close up – or else we'd go with my mom – we'd go down to the Tower," Kastanis said. "We saw movies like Abbott and Costello and other comical movies and we may have even seen Casa Blanca there. That was when I was

younger, but by the time I was 12 years old, I took the bus (from East Sacramento) by myself to the theater. It was a very beautiful theater."

Landmark in Land Park

The Tower, which is the city's oldest continuously operating movie house, was memorialized for its 50th anniversary on Nov. 11, 1988.

Prices were rolled back for this event, which was known as "Tower Theatre Day" and featured the Academy Award-nominated "Algiers," the first film to play at the theater, and a 1938 newsreel and film short.

With the intent to re-create the theater's original opening day, the cost for the event was 25 cents for adults and 10 cents for children.

The anniversary event continued for the following two days with showings of the film, "You Can't Take it with You," starring James Stewart, Jean Arthur and Lionel Barrymore.

Despite being threatened with closure, as a result of efforts to increase the number of movie screens and competition for profitable art films in Sacramento, the Tower remains an active theater in the Land Park community and continues to be the site of many fond memories of longtime Sacramento residents.

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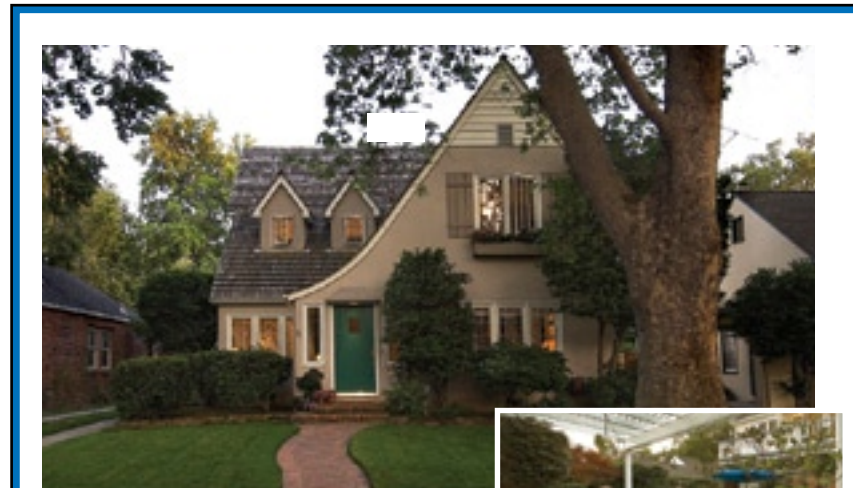
In this photo from Land Park News editor Ryan Rose, we see some of the beautiful wares available at the recently opened Parkside Pharmacy, 4404 Del Rio Rd., in Land Park.

Here is an assignment to all Land Park News' readers out there: We want to see your photos, too. Send your digital pictures to ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Show us your favorite picture of the Land Park area, whether it be of a person, place or thing (any noun will do), and we will share it with our readers. Good luck, shut-terbugs.



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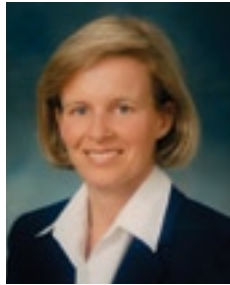
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Cute 2 bedroom with lots of light on a quiet Land Park street. Living room has hardwood floors & brick fireplace. Formal dining area has French doors which open to backyard. Inside laundry. **\$305,000**

Land Park area residents ask, 'Dude, Where's My Yogurt?'

Special to The Land Park News

When it comes to staying afloat in today's current economic realities, two local entrepreneurs have a sweet business plan.

Three years ago, two women, Mary Clark and

Sue Hubbard, decided to go into business together. Both women were established in business prior to this venture. In 2006, they opened a meal assembly business named Super Suppers in the Promenade

Bel Air Center. While initial interest in this concept of prepared meals was high at first, it slowly dwindled due to a steep decline in the economy.

Still, the two women were determined.



Land Park News Photo/Linda Pohl

Dude, Where's My Yogurt? proprietors Mary Clark and Sue Hubbard prepare delicious treats for their customers.

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Clark and Hubbard realized they needed to change to survive – and that's when Hubbard thought of changing the business to a frozen yogurt store.

Thus, Dude, Where's My Yogurt? was born in February.

In early May, the transformation from the old business to the new yogurt store began. After researching other yogurt stores, Clark and Hubbard knew that they wanted to be different from any other yogurt provider. Much of the concept and design of the store came about due to the creative mind of Clark's husband Kevin, who oversaw the complete renovation of the store in less than one month. This quick turnaround allowed the yogurt store to begin serving the Pocket and Land Park areas on May 30.

Dude, what a turnaround

When walking into, Dude, Where's My Yogurt?, the incredible décor is the first thing visible. There are bright colors, palm trees painted on the walls and a full wall mural featuring a beach scene, as well as surfboards and other beach décor items.

Since the store has opened, Hubbard and Clark have noticed how happy the community is that the pair has created a place where customers of any age can come in, have a delicious cup of non- or

low-fat yogurt and visit with friends and family. The goal was to be different and unique; watching young children come in with their parents and stare at the surroundings is proof that the concept (and design) of the store was the right choice.

Many customers ask the Pocket entrepreneurs about the naming of the store. Clark and Hubbard had several names in mind, but Clark's 17-year-old daughter Kasey suggested, "Hey, how about, 'Dude, Where's My Yogurt?'"

After laughing aloud for a few minutes, Clark and her husband and Hubbard and her husband Dave all agreed it was definitely unique and unforgettable.

Dude, Where's My Yogurt? features more than 60 toppings, offering something for everyone. The owners are especially proud of the large variety of fresh fruit that is sliced daily.

If yogurt isn't enough to satisfy your sweet tooth, Dude, Where's My Yogurt? also offers gourmet cupcakes from Cupcake Craving. Cupcake Craving bakes more than 25 different types of cupcakes sure to please anyone.

So, when looking for a sweet treat to beat the summer heat, stop by Clark and Hubbard's shop at 7485 Rush River Dr., Ste 670, and say hello.

In-demand NorCal cake artisan found her start in Land Park

By ELIZABETH KALFSBEEK
Land Park News Writer
vcnnews@valcomnews.com

What do Greek columns and pottery from antiquity, a sombrero, a Native American in traditional headdress and a frog have in common? They are all examples of hand-sculpted cakes designed by cake artisan Katrina Struckmeyer.

Struckmeyer began her career as a journeyman baker at Raley's and Bel Air on Freepoint Boulevard in 1985. After some twists and turns, she landed in rural Arbuckle in 2004 and opened The Sidewalk Café in 2007. The café serves lunch specials and traditional espresso fare, and acts as a front for Struckmeyer's blossoming cake empire, Sophisticakes.

"Cakes can taste as good as they look and you don't have to live in a major metropolis to have access to artistry," Struckmeyer said of the shop's location, about 45 minutes from Sacramento. "It's in your backyard."

Clients often bring an idea or a photo to Struckmeyer and ask her to replicate it as a cake. The artisan first visualizes the project, then stacks cake and finally sculpts. Fondant is easier to work with, but she also sculpts with whipped topping as well.

"It is so satisfying when the customer sees the cake for the first time and it exceeds their expectations," Struckmeyer said. "What a rush!"

Struckmeyer creates cakes for all occasions including weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, dog birthdays, bachelorette parties and baby showers. There is no design or theme that is out of the question – just ask. From a barbecue grill with hamburgers and hot dogs on top to a gun in a holster, the artisan's skill is limitless.

"I enjoy the challenge of trying to replicate something and make it look as true to form as possible," Struckmeyer said. "There's always somebody wanting a design I've never done before. I also take a lot of pride in my work because I'm a perfectionist."

Have a favorite photo you'd love to see on a specialty cake?

No problem. Struckmeyer has a special photo printer, which makes capturing an image in frosting, well, a piece of cake.

"I was always artistic when I was younger," Struckmeyer said. "I never really recognized it until I got older and started doing cakes and could mix my artistic ability with my profession."

Besides the sheer enjoyment of making people happy with cake, Struckmeyer also finds cake decorating therapeutic.

"It's total therapy for me," she said. "It's fun and challenging at the same time. I believe when one is given the gift of creativity, it's essential to express yourself as often as possible. This is an outlet for me with my art."

Leaving Land Park

After baking for 15 years in Land Park at Raley's and Bel Air, Struckmeyer pulled a 180 and decided to do something completely different. She worked as a psychiatric nurse for the following six years, during which time she met her almond farmer husband, Mark, on a blind date.

"I joke that I went crazy and got married and had a child late in life," Struckmeyer

er said. "I stopped working as a nurse and wanted to do something more flexible after I had my son. Owning my own business was a pretty obvious choice."

After taking some time off to be a mother to her son, Colt, Struckmeyer opened The Sidewalk Café in 2007 and rediscovered her passion for cake decorating and designing.

"It's very gratifying working in a small town because you can build wonderful relationships within the community," Struckmeyer said. "Everyone has been so supportive. I really enjoy the social interactions the coffee shop has to offer."

Still, there are drawbacks. "You can only do so many wedding cakes if you only have 1,500 people in the whole town," Struckmeyer said. "Expanding the business regionally would bring more cake business, which is what I ultimately want to focus on. Bring it on!"

To contact Struckmeyer, call (530) 476-3663 or e-mail ohbabykat@yahoo.com. The Sidewalk Café is located at 311 5th St., Arbuckle and is open Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Land Park News Photo/Elizabeth Kalfsbeek
Now making cakes for a business of her own, Katrina Struckmeyer began her career as a journeyman baker at Raley's and Bel Air on Freepoint Boulevard in 1985.

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From left: Wes, Ted, and Henry

Belle Cooleage Library ice cream social a sweet time

Delicious ice cream flavors and family entertainment was served up at the 11th annual Barbara Jeanne Hansen Annual Ice Cream Social scheduled Friday, June 19, at Belle Cooleage Park, adjacent to Belle Cooleage Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr.

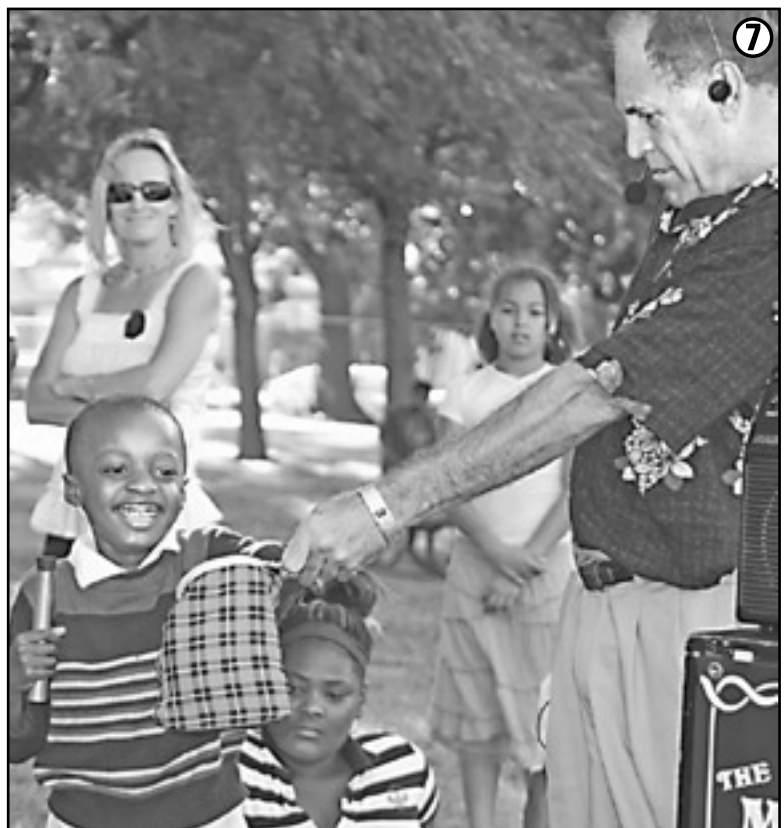
Guests to the social enjoyed a performance by Bosco the Magician, a fascinating small-scale railroad in the library's community room (presented by the Sacramento Modular Railroaders), and a big, bright red fire engine from Sacramento Fire Department's Station 13.

According to Millie Torrance, Belle Cooleage Library manager, this annual event attracts hundreds of local residents and has become a favorite family tradition in the South Land Park area.

Photos by Kati Garner



Pictured are: 1. Al and J.R. Morales play soccer with Jordan Williams during the ice cream social; 2. Joy the Clown kept busy painting faces on the young kids; 3. Ken Wing puts some muscle into scooping out some creamy cold ice cream; 4. Bosco the Magician entertained the crowd with the help of a volunteer assistant; 5. Ryan Trevena seems mesmerized by the small-scale railroad presented by the Sacramento Modular Railroaders during Belle Cooleage's ice cream social; 6. Eric and Ryan Trevena keep a close eye on the railroad; and 7. Bosco the Magician finishes his eye-catching illusion.



CALENDAR

GET IN THE CALENDAR

Is your club, group, church, school, or organization having an upcoming event? Let us know. Send information about your event—including date, time, location, a brief description, cost (if any), and contact information—to Calendar, c/o Valley Community Newspapers, 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, or e-mail ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Deadline is one week before publication. Priority is given to events that are in the community and/or of little or no cost.

JUNE 27

Singles Summer Dance

Christian Singles Network, will hold a Summer Kickoff Dance for single adults Saturday, June 27, from 7 PM to 11:30 PM. at Carmichael Presbyterian Church, 5645 Marconi Ave., near Fair Oaks Blvd, Carmichael. The ticket price of \$15 presale or \$20 at the door includes hors d'oeuvres and the dance lessons. Most attendees fall between the ages of 35 to 65 but all ages are welcome. For more information, call 658-0606.

Annual Rummage Sale

Parkside Community Church's Annual Rummage Sale and Flea Market is Saturday, June 27 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Booths available to outside groups and individuals for \$25. Proceeds from the rummage sale benefit the non-profit Parkside Community Church at 5700 S. Land Park Dr. For more information, call 421-0492.

Skate Park fun

The La Sierra Skate Park, 5325 Engle Rd. in Carmichael, will host a day starting at 2 p.m. of music, skating and fun for kids of all ages. Music groups include local bands such as Ambrosia Caprice, The Captains of Spaceship Earth, Baconhawk, Takilma, Jeepster and Fishcatfish. There will be food, vendors, skate demos, raffles and more. The cost is \$5 and sponsors include Alien Workshop and Habitat. For information, call Bob Kerr at 480-0700 or Elizabeth Crisante at 483-7826.

JUNE

Pops in the Park

Councilman Steve Cohn and the Pops in the Park Committee are pleased to present the 15th annual "Pops in the Park" summer concert series. All concerts are free and open to the public and begin at 6:00 p.m. Food and beverages will be for sale. People should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. The remaining concert is June 27 with Kate Gaffney at McKinley Park, 33rd and H streets. For additional information, please visit www.eastsacpopsinthepark.com or call (916) 808-5240.

Art at SFCA

The Sacramento Fine Arts Center presents "Inner Views" from June 9 through June 27. The event is sponsored by the Northern California Arts. The show will present original artwork by local artists. Visit the Sacramento Fine Arts Center at 5330-B Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. Visit them online at www.sacfinearts.org.

JUNE 24

Get OrderLee

Educate your mind via Carmichael Oak's educational series. Learn professional tips to simplify, clean clutter and better use your space and time at a seminar at 3 p.m. at Carmichael Oaks, 8350 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. The event is hosted with Lee Mahla. RSVP to 944-2323.

JUNE 25

Senior Legal Hotline Workshop

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as "food stamps". Learn about how the program is changing, and how you may be one of the thousands of seniors missing out on this extra assistance. 1pm. Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th Street. Free. 808-5462.

JUNE 26

Phonebill workshop

Free Phone Bill Workshop and Clinic, presented by Susan Sarinas of the Asian Community Center. Bring your phone bill and learn how to spot fraudulent charges that can save you money. Individual bill review offered. Event runs from 1 to 2 p.m. Ethel Hart Center, 915 27th St. Sign up in advance by visiting or calling 808-5462.

Sacramento Zoo

25th Annual

Ice Cream Safari

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Saturday, July 25
4:00 to 8:00 pm

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July 14 South of the Border Los Elegantes Ritmos, non-profit for cultural education	July 28 Journey to Asia Second Wind For nightly dinner specials go to our website. Adults \$9.00, kids 3 and up \$6.50. Sacramento Zoo members are free.

saczoo.com

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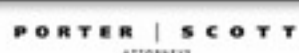
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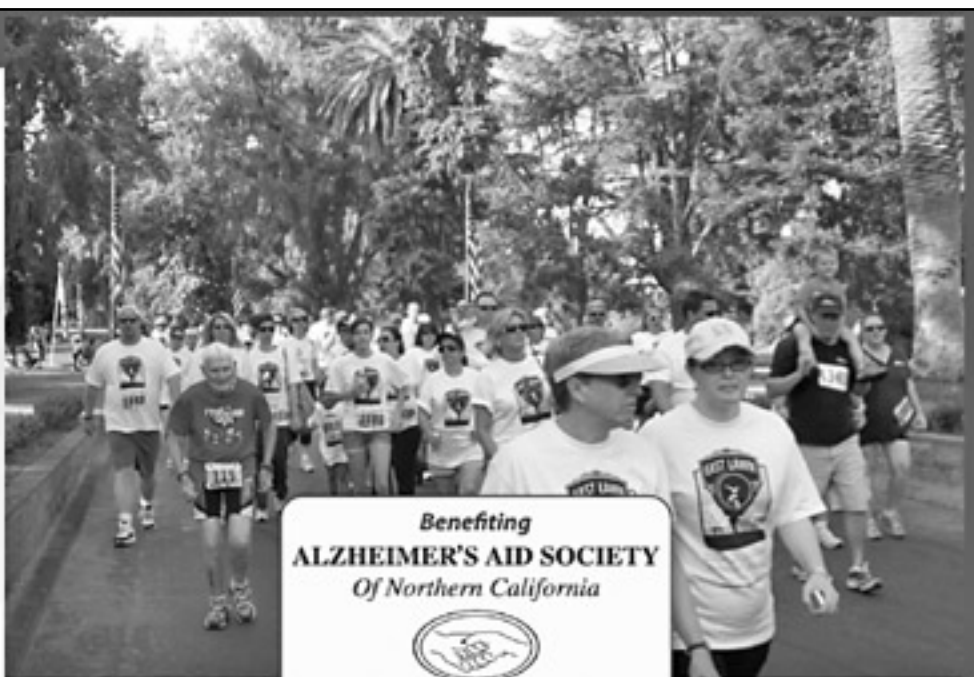


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CALENDAR

JUNE 27

Bow-Wow Beauties

Kay Burton's Bow-Wow Beauties dog fashion show is coming up. The annual event, during which dogs dressed in canine fashions model their fancy duds, is a benefit for the Sacramento SPCA. The event starts at 11:30 a.m. and will be held at Gold River Bel-Air Shopping Center, at the south end of the complex next to

the Hallmark store. Admission is \$5.00 (children and dogs are free). For more information: Email: Kayburton1@comcast.net.

2009 Pet Expo

Held 10 a.m.-12 p.m. by the Meadows Senior Living of Elk Grove, 9325 East Stockton Blvd. in Elk Grove, experience SPCA Senior Citizen Services, mobile pet grooming,

JUNE 28

Auditions for new season

The Chautauqua Playhouse, 5325 Engle Rd. in Carmichael will conduct general auditions for local actors on Sunday June 28, from 5-9 p.m. Directors for the 2009/10 productions will be on hand to recruit for their upcoming shows. Auditioning actors are asked to present a monologue (two minutes or less - please no accents or dialects) or prepared reading.

These auditions are for the Adult Theatre productions only and minimum age to audition is 18 years old (auditions for our Children's Theatre will be held at a later date). Callbacks will be arranged by directors for a later date. Auditions will be scheduled on an appointment basis. To schedule a time or for more information, please email your request to auditions@cplayhouse.org. Please be sure to include your name and return email address.

JULY

Small works, miniatures exhibition

Small Works, miniatures and maquettes features a broad array of small works, from turn of the

century female sculptor Camille Claudel, shown currently in the Louvre, to young college students Christopher Dubois and Wesley Wright. This free exhibition, which runs from July 8 through August 23, attempts to display the diversity of miniatures as a whole, and will include a number of well-known national and international phenomena. A juried collection, Small Works provides emerging artists the opportunity to showcase their work among established greats.

Music Camp

Northminster Presbyterian Church is offering a week-long music camp for 2nd - 12th graders from July 6 to 10, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 3235 Pope Ave. Children will have the opportunity to learn to play musical instru-

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ments including guitar, percussion, song flute, and chimes, do drumming, work with props and set decorations as well as participate in singing and movement. They will also be putting a musical together. The musical, Fruit for Thought, will be performed on Sunday, July 12, during the worship service (9:55 a.m.) Children are asked to bring their lunch. Snacks and drinks will be provided. The cost is \$25. For more information, call 487-5192 or visit Northminsteronline.org.

JULY 4

Fun Run/Walk

It's time for the 14th annual 4th of July Fun Run/Walk at Matsuyama Elementary. Everyone is invited to attend this community and family oriented event, which raises funds for the 2009-2010 sixth graders to attend the Sly Park Environmental Science Camp. The Fun Run/Walk is a 5K/8K event that take place on Saturday, July 4th. The race begins at Matsuyama Elementary School, 7680 Windbridge Drive. Check in begins at 7 a.m. and the race start time is 8 a.m. Fees are \$15 includes event T-shirt before May 22; after May 22, the fee is \$20. For more information, please contact Poh-Ling Oon at 424-0873.

Carmichael's Gala Parade and Fireworks Show

Begin your 4th of July celebration by attending the pancake breakfast (7am -11am) at Carmichael Park, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Carmichael. After, walk over and enjoy the Annual Elk's Club Parade (10:30 am) featuring many wonderful community floats, marching bands, equestrian entries, military units, antique automobiles, and much more! The parade route starts at Marconi/Fair Oaks and continues down Fair Oaks Boulevard to Cypress/Manzanita. The Grand Stand is located across the street from Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Avenue. Don't miss out on one of the Largest and Oldest parades in the region! For more information on float registration email Jim Warrick at jdwarrick@lanset.com or call the Elks Lodge at 489-2103.

Carmichael's Fourth of July Fireworks Show

The evening will culminate with the annual Fireworks Show at La Sierra Community Center, 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael, CA 95608. Beginning at 4pm the Sacramento Firefighters Association will host free kids' activities, fire trucks, demos and music. Inflatables and free kids' activities will continue throughout the evening along with a performance by the Sacramento Valley Symphonic Band at 7pm a Touchstone Theater performance at 8 p.m. and the fireworks at approximately 9:15 p.m. The Fireworks display is sponsored by the Carmichael Recreation and Park District and Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District and new this year, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Fighter Association. For more information: call (916) 485-5322 or visit www.carmichaelpark.com

JULY 8

Lower House Payment

Attend this free seminar to get answers on short sales vs. loan modifications. The meeting is 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on 4305 Freepoint Blvd. RSVP Deb Luna or Anthony Carrillo at www.cookrealty.net or 834-1947 or 833-6266.

JULY 9

Computer club meeting

Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Alan Drew with Wireless Toyz, will pres-

ent: Everything you wanted to know about cell phones whether you have one or not. A question and answer session will follow the meeting. Visitors are welcome. For additional information call 366-1687 or visit our Web site: <http://missionoakscomputerclub.org>.

JULY 11

Ice tea tasting program offered

Anne Evans, a certified tea consultant, will present a free ice tea tasting program at 2 p.m., Saturday, July 11, at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Avenue. As well as sampling tea, participants will learn the history of iced tea, find out what bubble tea is, and play a

game of TEAGO. Registration required by calling (916) 264-2920 or online at www.saclibrary.org. The program is sponsored by the Friends of Arden-Dimick Library.

See the Art

Glass and Clay Artist Evan Michael Barton, and Clay Tile Artists Vincent Monrel and Chris Kubi will join Fe Gallery Resident Artists Stephen Lyman (metal art) and Sheena Wolfe (fused glass) for a Second Saturday Reception July 11 from 6-9pm. There will be an art demonstration at 7:30 p.m. Fe Gallery is located at 1100 65th Street (north of Folsom Blvd., corner of 65th and Elvas), East Sacramento. For more information about the artists and the gallery visit www.FeGallery.com or

call, (916) 456-4455. Daytime gallery hours are currently from 8:30am to 4pm Monday through Friday and Saturday 10am to noon. The current show will run throughout July.

Free E-Waste Collection

Held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Northeast YMCA, 3127 Eastern Ave. Funds raised will help send children to Jujitsu Summer Camp. Items Accepted Include your old or broken electronic equipment: monitors, TVs, computers, laptops, VCRs, stereos, speakers, keyboards, PDAs, cameras, telephones, cell phones, printers, copiers, scanners and fax machines, etc. For your security, CEAR Inc will shred all hard drives at their secure facility. Visit www.cearinc.com.

For information, call the YMCA at: 916-483-6426

JULY 14

Special senior seminar

Talking to Your Doctor, presented by Lisa Smith-Youngs from Senior Connection. Learn how to get answers to your most important questions, how to keep notes and ways to prepare for effective appointments. Leave your next medical appointment feeling empowered and satisfied! 1:30-3:00 p.m. Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Sign up in advance by visiting or calling 808-5462.

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SOLD



Curtis Park Tudor Cottage

Works all done in this nicely updated Curtis Park 2 bed, 2 bath Tudor cottage close to park. Remodeled kitchen and laundry room, features sunny Mediterranean colors. Master suite with lots of storage. Both baths have been remodeled. Bonus attic space, perfect for office or play room. with skylights. Large newer 2-car garage with pulldown stairs for storage and pretty backyard. \$399,000

Little League: Three teams conquer local baseball scene

played in a double elimination tournament, meaning that one loss would not end their season. A loss in the second game of the tournament was not enough to derail the season for the Blue team as they came back to win their next three games and earned the Juniors title in impressive comeback fashion.

It was defense that stood out in their run to the title, according to manager Shawn Smith.

"We made some pretty crucial defensive plays," he said. "We threw runners out at home and in the championship game there was a huge double play."

The Blue team ended up with a 15-3 record after the championship run.

Baseball was not the only sport represented in the TOC however. The Minors' softball team was eliminated in the first round of its TOC by the Parkway Stingrays by a score of 10-6.

In a league alone

The LPPLL, established in 1954, had arguably its most successful season ever despite tough economic times.

"We had 540 kids in baseball and softball this year," Hinrichsen said. "We had 540 when other leagues barely had 200."

As far as the success of the league this season, Hinrichsen embraces the chal-

lenge of making Land Park a powerhouse of baseball once again.

"Land Park has been the baseball hub of Sacramento," he said. "It was in a lull for a while but we're on our way to bringing it back."

The first-year president and sixth-year man-

ager also explained why getting kids involved in Little League is beneficial to their growth.

"There is a lot to say in respect of socialization and teamwork," he said. "It's hard to teach kids that hard work can equal success without showing them they can do it."

For 2009 at least, it appears that the kids learned that lesson pretty well.

Editor's note: In the July 9 edition of the Land Park News, writer Benn Hodapp will profile the community effort behind the transformation and revitalization of Dooley Field, the home of the Land Park Pacific Little League.

"I have had more talented teams, but they couldn't play together. These guys were truly a team. There were no internal conflicts and they all listened."

**- Little League president
Jeff Hinrichsen**



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LAND PARK SPANISH

From curbside to inside you will fall in love with this 3-4bd 2 bath home. With its classic 1920's Spanish design and touches and electrical, plumbing, kitchen, A/C and sewer line upgrades, this home offers timeless architecture with modern conveniences. Beautiful refinished hardwood floors throughout. See www.LandParkSpanishHome.com \$585,000

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SOUTH LAND PARK

Spacious and open living areas look out to the private gated courtyard area that surround the home with beautifully landscaped grounds. The remodeled kitchen features newer cabinetry and appliances, granite counters and tile floor. Features a brick fireplace in the living room as well as the master suite. See www.WindermereDunnigan.com \$499,000

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