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Neighbors feeding community

Soil Born Farms' 'Harvest Sacramento' is a win for all

By **JULIE FOSTER**
Land Park News guest columnist

By **JULIE FOSTER**
Land Park News guest columnist

Millions of dollars worth of fruit are hidden in plain sight in Sacramento trees. And by 2008, East Sacramento resident Mary McGrath grew tired of seeing the free food go to waste. As a girl growing up in Omaha, the bright orange color and sweet taste of an orange was a treat. Jolted into action by this childhood memory, McGrath and her husband, Robin Aurelius, took action.

"We really felt disgusted to see oranges in the gutters waiting for garbage pick up each week," she said. "Both of us thought it was terrible to waste good fruit, especially when people in our town were going hungry."

The couple identified fruit tree owners in their neighborhood and those wanting to donate their fruit. They recruited friends and



Photo courtesy of Soil Born Farms

These oranges were harvested from a Sacramento backyard tree.

See Soil Born Farms, page 5

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Library program to discuss avoiding winter holiday scams

The Sacramento Public Library and the California Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) will present the *Take Charge California!@Your Library* program, "Have a Safe and Scam-Free Holiday," at 12 noon, Wednesday, Dec. 1, in the West Meeting Room, at the Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento.

It's time to deck the halls and shop for gifts. It's also a time when scams prey upon the unsuspecting. DCA marketing manager Carolyn Balou will discuss how to protect yourself and keep the season merry.

A Sacramento Public Library librarian will also be at the program to provide research tips.

Reservations are not required, and light refreshments will be served.

For more information, please telephone the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit saclibrary.org.



Photo copyright TheSupe87 - Fotolia.com
Shoppers should be careful to protect themselves from scams this holiday season.



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LAND PARK
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Thanksgiving Day for all is coming to Sacramento...

Land Park News photos
by STEPHEN CROWLEY

The Salvation Army received more than 700 pounds of frozen turkeys from the California State Automobile Association of Northern California on Nov. 11. The main course birds were delivered on the backs of AAA's yellow tow trucks.

This marks the 14th consecutive year in which The Salvation Army has received turkeys from AAA. Last year, the donation helped more than 600 individuals receive a Thanksgiving meal. This year, there are even more people in need of aid.

The donated turkeys will be prepared and served for a free Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, Nov. 25 at The Army's Center of Hope shelter in downtown Sacramento. Anyone from the Sacramento community can be served a meal from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. that day.



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A Relles Family Thanksgiving



By **MARTY RELLES**
Land Park News columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

For the Relles family, Thanksgiving usually included football.

My uncle George Relles coached football at Sacramento High when I was growing up, so every year our whole extended family attended the "turkey day" football game at Hughes Stadium. Back in the 1950s and '60s, the whole town showed up for this Thanksgiving Day classic. As many as 15,000 fans filled the stadium for this big game between local high school rivals Sacramento and C.K. McClatchy.

Uncle Ross Relles usually arrived early to reserve seats for our whole family. Prior to the game, the marching bands of both schools paraded out onto the field to play the national anthem. Then the teams poured out onto the field: Sac in its dark purple and white uniforms and McClatchy in red and white. These contests were usually hard-fought and exciting, and when they were over, we were hungry.

So then, we piled into our cars and headed over to Grandma Petta's house on 14th Avenue for our Thanksgiving celebration. She had a wonderful old house that featured a full size lot on one side that had a garden, an old barn and a chicken coop – providing lots of room for kids to run wild.

The living quarters of her home sat on the second floor with a full house basement below. The basement included a pantry filled with the food which Grandma canned; a cooking area with a Wedgewood stove and an antique wooden ice box; Grandpa Petta's wine making room; and an old circular washing machine complete with a ringer for drying out the laundered clothes. Her basement was also piled with old furniture and other items family members hoarded making it a perfect place for children to explore.

Grandpa, however, had other ideas and usually did all he could to expel us from the basement when we snuck down there to play.

The back yard had a full size swing set with a tall slide for the kids to play on. Going to Grandma's house provided lots of play time for all the twenty children in our extended family. We always looked forward to those times.

By 4 p.m., Grandma Petta had set the extended dining room table and adorned it with Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings: turkey, her famous rice stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas, slices of her homemade bread and salad with dressing made from olive oil and Grandpa's own wine vinegar. After dinner came desert – pumpkin pie piled with whipped cream. Then, while the adults drank coffee and conversed at the big table, the kids went out for more raucous play.

By the end of the day, totally satisfied and utterly exhausted, we headed home.

I will never forget the fun we had celebrating Thanksgiving at Grandma Petta's house – another heart-warming Janey Way memory.

Soil Born Farms: Volunteers needed for the upcoming urban harvest

Continued from page 2

neighbors to pick fruit on two weekends. Harvested fruit was donated to the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services.

In 2009, the idea expanded and became a food access program of Soil Born Farms. It was dubbed Harvest Sacramento under the leadership of Soil Born Farm's Food Access Coordinator Randy Stannard. The program is seeking volunteers for the upcoming harvest season to serve as harvest coordinators, harvest leaders and harvesters. Two events are scheduled for anyone interested in learning more.

On Friday Dec. 3 from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., there will be a fundraiser and information session for Harvest Sacramento at the Sierra 2 Center.

A training session for volunteers will be held on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Stockton Boulevard Partnership Building, located at 5625 Stockton Blvd. in Sacramento.

Groups and individuals of all ages are encouraged to participate. High school students can use their participation for their volunteer service requirement. Training, outreach materials, harvest supplies and volunteer recruitment tools are supplied. No special harvesting skills are required.

Sacramento is essentially a food forest, sitting amid one of the largest urban citrus



Photo courtesy of Soil Born Farms
Volunteers from Harvest Sacramento will pick excess fruit from neighborhood backyards. The food is donated to local food banks.

groves in the United States. Harvest Sacramento capitalizes on The City of Trees' bounty by sharing the wealth.

"Hungry people get good fresh fruit, people involved in the harvest make new friends and picking the trees helps create good conditions for the trees for an even better harvest next year," McGrath said.

Harvest Sacramento's close ties with the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services and the River City Food Bank, turns the concept of "people helping people" into a working reality. For Oak Park resident Matt Jurach, Harvest Sacramento is summed up in three words.

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Preserve good health by canning food properly

Special to The Land Park News

Home canning of fruits and vegetables is regaining popularity thanks to the economic downturn and a growing interest in eating locally grown food. A downside to this practice is that if food is preserved improperly, consumers may become ill or die, according to University of California Cooperative Extension nutrition advisors.

If practiced properly, home canning is a safe method for preserving food. The canning process involves placing foods in jars and heating them to a temperature that destroys the microorganisms that cause food to spoil. During this heating process, air is driven out of the jar and as it cools a vacuum seal is formed. This vacuum seal prevents air and microorganisms from getting back into the jar.

If tested recipes are not followed, food-borne microorganisms can survive and they will spoil canned foods. Worse, consumers can get botulism from eating improperly home-canned foods. Botulism is a rare, but serious paralyzing illness caused by a nerve toxin produced by the bacterium *Clostridium botulinum*. Botulism can kill if not promptly treated.

There are two safe ways of canning food – the boiling water bath method and the pressure canner method. Boiling water is used with high-acid foods such as fruits. A pressure canner must be used with foods such as vegetables, meats and combinations containing these foods such as salsa or spaghetti sauce. Tested



Photo courtesy

Home canning is a safe method for preserving food. Knowing the safe way to preserve foods is important, however, because improperly "canned" goods can become toxic.

See Preservation, page 7

"The only safe method of preserving vegetables, meats, poultry and seafood to prevent botulism is pressure canning."

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Preservation: Proper canning destroys the microorganisms that cause foods to spoil

Continued from page 6

recipes and guidelines must always be followed to ensure safe home-canned foods.

"It is very important to follow scientifically tested canning instructions to avoid illness," said Susan Algert, UC Cooperative Extension nutrition advisor for Santa Clara County.

"The boiling water bath method is safe for fruits, jams, jellies, pickles and other acidic preserves," she said. In this method, jars of food are completely covered with boiling water (212 degrees F at sea level) and heated for a specified amount of time.

High-acid foods such as peaches naturally have a pH of 4.6 or less and contain enough acid to prevent the growth of Clostridium botulinum. High-acid foods can be safely canned using the boiling water bath method.

"Certain foods, such as tomatoes, pears and figs, have a pH value close to 4.6 and must have acid added to them to lower the pH enough to use the water bath method," Algert said. The pH can be lowered by adding commercial lemon juice or powdered citric acid.

When canning homemade salsa or other tomato products, Algert recommends following a scientifically tested recipe and using commercially bottled lemon juice to increase the acidity.

"You can't use juice squeezed from a fresh lemon because we don't know exactly how acidic the juice is," Algert said. "Commercial lemon juice meets a standard acidity."

To can low-acid vegetables such as green beans without a pressure cooker, the vegetables must first be pickled

using a recommended recipe to ensure the final acidity is too high for Clostridium botulinum to grow.

Clostridium botulinum can form spores, a heat tolerant form of the bacteria that can survive boiling. If spores survive because of inadequate processing, they can revive and allow the bacteria to grow and produce toxins. Clostridium botulinum thrives in low-acid foods like meats and vegetables and in the absence of air in canned foods.

"The only safe method of preserving vegetables, meats, poultry and seafood to prevent botulism is pressure canning," Algert said. "These

low-acid foods require heating to at least 240 degrees F for a time specified for each product. This temperature can only be reached using a pressure cooker."

To ensure safety of home canned goods, she recommends using new lids to ensure a tight seal and following scientifically tested instructions.

For more information about safely canning food, visit the University of California's Food Safety website at http://ucfoodsafety.ucdavis.edu/Consumer_Advice and the USDA National Center for Home Food Preservation website at <http://www.uga.edu/nchfp>

Watch a video of safe canning tips at http://stream.ucanr.org/preserving_fruit/canning_safely.html

Low-acid foods:

- + meats
- + seafood
- + poultry
- + dairy products
- + all vegetables
- + combination products using these foods

High-acid foods:

- + most fruits
- + properly pickled vegetables

Foods that require added lemon juice for boiling water bath canning:

- + figs
- + pears
- + tomatoes



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Sacramento city leaders invite residents to attend disaster preparedness meetings

Special to Land Park News

The City of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation Neighborhood Services Division continues its series of public meetings throughout the City to discuss disaster preparedness.

"These meetings are designed to help residents understand the risks of flooding and how they can best be prepared," said Vincene Jones, Neighborhood Services Division manager for Department of Parks and Recreation.

The City-County Office of Emergency Services, Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, City of Sacramento Fire and Police Departments will be in attendance at these events, as well as the Department of Utilities and Animal Care Services. The groups will share information with residents about emergency preparedness and flooding risks in Sacramento.

"Sacramento is a city surrounded by levees and while much of our City has been removed from the floodplain, there is still a risk of flooding. It is something that all of us should be aware of and prepare for," Jones said. "I encourage residents to come, be safe and flood ready."

The final two meetings are Nov. 29 and Dec. 2. Details are listed below.

Disaster Preparedness Meetings
Monday, Nov. 29
 Location: Theodore Judah Elementary School
 Address: 3919 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento
 Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 2
 Location: Thomas Jefferson Elementary School
 Address: 2929 Belmar Street, Sacramento
 Meeting Time: 6:30 p.m.



Meetings held throughout Sacramento will help residents continue to prepare for flooding emergencies.

Photo courtesy

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Crocker Art Museum Launches Thursdays 'til 9

New weekly series presents arts experiences with a twist

Special to Land Park News

The Crocker Art Museum has launched a new suite of weekly programs entitled Thursdays 'til 9. Every Thursday until 9 p.m., the new evening series offers visitors a chance to explore the many forms of art.

"Thursdays 'til 9 lets visitors choose what kind of art experience they want to have – whether through film, music, social gatherings, or hands-on experiences," said Christian Adame, manager of life-long learning at the Crocker Art Museum.

On the first Thursday of the month, the Crocker presents Film Frame, a series featuring screenings of films from classic to contemporary. Screenings are introduced by directors, filmmakers, scholars, and film enthusiasts, and include discussions and interactive programming. Presented in collaboration with local festivals and organizations, films will relate to the Crocker's exhibitions and collections as well as relevant issues in film, art, and society. Film Frame evenings also include in-gallery tours and activities. In the coming months, visitors can look forward to screenings of "Cleophas and His Own," a film about American painter and poet Marsden Hartley; "Untitled," a comic take on the state of contemporary art; the short films of Northern California-based directors Robert Machoian and Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck; and "The Silence of Innocence," a documentary on artist Gottfried Helnwein, who is the subject of a career-spanning survey at the Crocker from Jan. 29 through April 24.

Art Mix, presented on the second Thursday of each month, will focus on a new aspect of the Crocker's collections or special exhibitions in a social environment. Expect to hear the latest great local band or DJ, sip a specialty cocktail from the Crocker Cafe, and dive into live art demonstrations, short films, interactive installations, photo shoots, special in-gallery tours and spotlight talks. Upcoming Art Mix events feature performances by DJ Rated R, Sea of Bees, Sacramento Sizzling Sirens Burlesque Experience, DJ Mike Colossal, Sister Crayon, and The New Humans.

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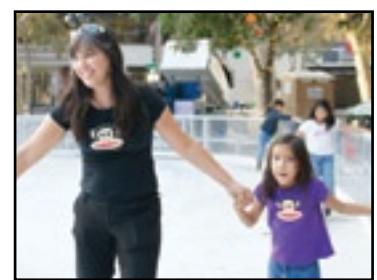


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Faces and places Downtown Plaza Ice Rink open

Land Park News photos by
DANNY KAM

Friday, Nov. 5 marked the grand opening of the 19th annual Downtown Plaza Ice Rink with a ribbon cutting and free admission all day.

The rink is now open daily through Jan. 17. Ice Rink Admission is \$8 for a two-hour skating session. Skate rental is \$2. The ice rink accepts cash only, so come prepared.

The rink is located at St. Rose of Lima Park, 7th and K streets. Regular hours are 12 noon to 8 p.m. Sunday – Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Holiday hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Dec. 13–31, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Christmas and New Year's eves, Closed Christmas Day, and open New Year's Day from 12 noon to 8 p.m.

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Pest detection pooch

Special to Valley Community Newspapers

Retiring pest detection dog Tassie will have time on her paws to smell the roses.

Despite her big heart and talented nose, Tassie, a nine-year-old Lab mix, has reached the mandatory retirement age for pest detection dogs. She was honored by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors with a resolution on Tuesday, Nov. 9.

Rescued from an animal shelter in Florida, Tassie began her career working for Customs and Border Protection at the Port of Long Beach sniffing out foreign plant pests. She was then assigned to Plant Protection and Quarantine working domestic cargo detecting destructive wood borers and hitchhiking snails. In early 2009, Tassie was reassigned to the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner's office as part of their Pest Exclusion Team.

Alongside her handler Jennifer Berger, Tassie worked throughout the region inspecting over 10,000 unmarked packages containing plant material that could have led to infestations and devastating economic loss to the agricultural industry and untold damage to the environment. Tassie intercepted numerous non-native insect pests from Hawaii, prohibited meat from Nigeria, and helped alert Fish and Game authorities to animal shipments of non-native snakes and fish.

Tassie received special recognition from California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary A. G. Kawamura for intercepting an illegal shipment of curry leaves and guavas that were infested with Asian citrus psyllid, a tiny exotic pest that is capable of transmitting a devastating disease that could have threatened California's \$1.88 billion citrus industry.

Tassie has a nose that knows and is described by her handler as a workaholic.

"It's great to work with an animal that is so excited and ready to do her job," Berger said. "Tassie is always in a good mood



Photo courtesy
Handler Jennifer Berger and Tassie, a Lab mix, worked throughout the region, sniffing out dangerous agricultural pests and illegal shipments of non-native snakes and fish.

and shows up to work wagging her entire body."

As the department and program ambassador, Tassie has attended many outreach functions and showed off her skills with demonstrations to raise public awareness of the threat from invasive pests and disease.

Tassie also co-stars in a YouTube video produced by CDFA: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p32hAyVO4XM>

Tassie will live with her new adoptive parents in Pleasant Hill, spending time going on walks, chasing tennis balls, and playing with her favorite toy, a pink squeaky hippo.

Tassie's replacement is expected to report for duty in January, 2011.

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Know your neighbor

Greenhaven Ace Hardware celebrates 35 years in Sacramento

By SUSAN LAIRD
Land Park News editor
susan@valcomnews.com

There are many theories about the secrets to success. One of them is simply: Ninety percent of success is to show up and work hard.

Dennis and Janet Jones would agree. In December, they will celebrate 35 years as owners of the Greenhaven Ace Hardware store in the Pocket area of Sacramento. If they seem a tad young to be celebrating such a significant anniversary – they are. They were in their early 20s when Greenhaven Hardware opened on Dec. 11, 1975.

Dennis, who worked in the hardware industry, was approached by businessman George Tsakoupoulos, who was interested in having a hardware store in the Greenhaven Plaza. The plaza was a new venture, surrounded by fields at that time. Tsakoupoulos liked Dennis' work ethic and encouraged him to venture into business ownership.

"We were only married for three months when we opened," Janet said. "I wondered what we were doing. But my grandfather, John



Janet and Dennis Jones have spent 35 years of wedded bliss as the owners of the Greenhaven Ace Hardware store. In many ways, the store is an extension of their personalities: warm, caring and helpful.

Land Park News photo, Susan Laird

See 35 Years, page 15

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35 years: Multiple generations of customers keep coming back for great service

Continued from page 14

“Mac” McClintock, encouraged us. He founded Michelin Tires in the U.S. when he was 56 years old, and followed his dream. He told us: “Go for it. You have no house, no kids – and nothing to lose.”

The young couple threw themselves into the venture with every bit of energy they had. They poured their passion into great customer service and quality products.

There were some times when they didn’t cash their paychecks, so their employees could cash theirs. They didn’t own their own home for the first seven years. They didn’t take a vacation for the first 14 years.

But all this sacrifice paid off with a rich dividend: loyal customers, who returned to Greenhaven Hardware – and eventually to Greenhaven Ace Hardware, when the business

affiliated with Ace some 25 years ago – again and again.

“My grandfather would come all the time to the store,” Janet said. “And he would be so proud of us.”

In the last 35 years, the store has been enlarged three times. Special services offered include re-screening of screen doors, chip keys for automobiles and trucks, recycling of all batteries and fluorescent light tubes, and tool sharpening. Help is always available for those special projects around the home or property, too.

“Our main thing has always been to help the customer with good service and to help them with whatever project they come to us with,” Janet said. “We help with sprinkler systems, electrical projects, plumbing and more.”

When you enter the Greenhaven Ace Hardware store, someone is always quick to greet you. There is an old-fashioned approach to business here: you quickly become part of the store’s “family” of customers.

“There are still regular customers who remember when we opened,” Janet said with a smile.

As the business grew, so did the Jones family. Both daughter Kimberly (now Kimberly Palomo) and son Gregg had their first jobs in the store. They learned a hearty work ethic from their parents. Today, Kimberly owns ClassyBowtique.com, a children’s boutique accessory business, and Gregg works for George Tsakoupoulos.

Dennis and Janet are now greeting new generations of customers.

“We have customers who come in with their children, who were children themselves when they first came here,” Janet said. “It’s fun to hear them say, ‘I’ve been coming here since I was your age.’”

A special 35 year anniversary celebration will be held Saturday, Dec. 11 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be special giveaways all day (including four Webber barbecues), a raffle, “pop the balloon – get a discount,” free popcorn and a special appearance by Santa Claus for the little ones.

Greenhaven ACE Hardware is located in the Greenhaven Plaza at 388 Florin Road in Sacramento. Hours are 8 a.m.–7 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. For more information call (916) 391-3038.

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Stop-N-Shop markets were leaders in city's grocery industry

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Land Park News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Anyone remember Stop-N-Shop grocery stores and supermarkets? It goes without question that just about anyone who resided in the Sacramento area any time from the Great Depression to around the days when the motion picture "Jaws" and disco were considered hot topics certainly answered, "yes," to this question.

One wonders how many longtime, local residents still drive by the old Stop-N-Shop building across from Vic's Ice Cream on Riverside Boulevard in the Land Park area and reminisce about when

they used to shop at this once grand supermarket.

Considering that Sacramento was home to 13 Stop-N-Shop markets, there are undoubtedly many people who remember at least one of these stores.

Furthermore, many longtime, local residents assuredly still remember the store's popular jingle, which featured the familiar lines: "Let's go down to the Stop-N-Shop and push the cart around 'n' round. Let's buy all of our groceries there. They have the best in town. Let's go down to the Stop-N-Shop and push the cart around 'n' round. You get a lot more for your money there than anywhere else in town."



Photo courtesy of the Kassis family
The Stop-N-Shop market at 3231 Riverside Blvd. served the community from 1947 to 1975. The building, which still exists today, was later home to Walter Kassis' Big K Market, which closed in 1982.




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Sacramento grocery leaders

Although there are currently several Sacramento area convenience stores that use the name, Stop N Shop, these stores are not to be confused with the Stop-N-Shop stores that were once leaders in the city's grocery industry.

The Stop-N-Shop stores highlighted in this article were established by the Kassis family, with the first of these stores being opened in 1928 at 2800 Y St. (present day Broadway).

The roots of Stop-N-Shop stores began with A.G. Kassis, who emigrated with his wife, Maggie, from Lebanon to the United States in 1890.

Lebanese immigrants

Upon their arrival in America, A.G. and Maggie, who were Christian Lebanese, made their way to North Dakota, where they eventually had five sons. These sons, in order of seniority, were Frank, Lew, Ed, John and Walter.

A.G., who purchased farmland in Williston, N.D., began his own grain farming operation, which proved to be unsuccessful.

As a result of this failed endeavor, A.G. joined his four

brothers – Abe, Charles, John and Eli – in the operation of a billiards parlor in North Dakota. A.G. also added to his income through other business ventures, which included the operation of a small grocery store.

After about 20 years of living in North Dakota, A.G. and Maggie decided to move their family to Rio Linda, Calif. This decision was based on the poor health of John, who suffered from vitamin deficiency and would be better suited living in a warmer climate.

In Rio Linda, A.G. sold chickens and eggs and raised fruits and vegetables, which he sold from roadside stands.

The source of the majority of A.G.'s income ended abruptly, however, when a fatal disease eliminated A.G.'s chickens.

Subsequently, A.G. attempted to achieve success by operating a miniature golf business and a livestock feed store, but neither were very successful.

Son finds first location

Fortunately, Frank, who regularly took a train into Sacramento and then rode

by streetcar from 12th and H streets to Sacramento High School, was able to find work at the Del Monte cannery at 17th and C streets, where his mother was also employed.

It was also Frank who discovered a commercial corner in Sacramento that, in his own description, "intrigued" him.

This corner at the aforementioned 28th and Y streets proved to be the site of the first Stop-N-Shop store, as A.G. leased a former retail ice business at this street corner from Preston F. Reed, a carpenter and building contractor who lived at 2545 28th St.

After traveling into Sacramento each day, the Kassis family eventually moved to the capital city, residing at 2522 28th St.

Stop-N-Shop, which A.G. operated with the assistance of his sons, was not the first Kassis-owned grocery store in Sacramento, since A.G.'s brother, Charles Kassis, who resided in Rio Linda, had partnered with Rio Linda resident Anna Bohamera to own and operate

See Stop-N-Shop, page 17

Stop-N-Shop: Riverside Boulevard store was one of the most notable of all 13 stores

Continued from page 16

Del Monte Grocery at 1730 C St.

Quick growth

The area around the first Stop-N-Shop store grew quickly with the assistance of the opening of the Shasta Ice Cream Co. at 2814 Y St. Additionally, Scotty's Service Station, which was located across Y Street from these two businesses, aided in bringing people to the area.

Pocket area resident Dick Ryder, a 1947 graduate of McClatchy High School, said that he remembers seeing the first Stop-N-Shop location during the 1930s.

"I lived (at 2800 Regina Way in Land Park), near California Junior High, and I remember the first Stop-N-Shop," he said. "It was kind of like the picture at the (California Automobile) Museum of the first Raley's (grocery) store in Placerville. It had all the fruits and vegetables out in front of the place."

The success of the Y Street store, which had a dirt floor and initially sold cold watermelon, ice, beverages and wood blocks, was achieved through the Kassis family's reputation for providing quality food and service.

This success led to the establishment of Stop-N-Shop,

Store #2, at 1330 16th St. in about the early 1930s.

As the prosperity of the Stop-N-Shop stores increased, A.G. Kassis transferred ownership of his stores to four of his sons.

Of the five sons of A.G., only John ventured outside the family's grocery business, as he instead opted to go to medical school. Eventually becoming Dr. John Kassis, John practiced family medicine in Sacramento for nearly a half-century.

The number of Stop-N-Shop stores continued to increase as a Del Paso Heights store was added in about 1939 and three years later, the 2000 I St. market opened.

Following his service in the Army during World War II, Eli's son, Bill Kassis, who formerly worked at the 16th Street store and opened the 20th and I streets store, opened the Land Park area Stop-N-Shop store, which was located at 3231 Riverside Blvd.

'Store of tomorrow'

The two-story Riverside Boulevard building, which was built by the Erickson Construction Co. and included a warehouse elevator, opened in late 1947.

The Riverside Boulevard store, which Theodore H. Richards of the Bercut-Rich-

ards cannery referred to as "the store of tomorrow," was locally unique for its time, as this early supermarket served as the anchor of a wide variety of businesses.

Doris (Lopes) Yager, a 1938 graduate of McClatchy High School, said that her mother, Gloria Lopes, was one of the very first customers of the Riverside Boulevard store.

Doris added that by 1950, she had moved into her mother's house at 1250 Marian Way in the Land Park area and had begun to shop at the Riverside Boulevard store.

"When I got married, I lived with my mom for sever-

al years and I did all my shopping at (the Riverside Boulevard) Stop-N-Shop," Doris said. "It was the only grocery store in the neighborhood, so naturally everybody shopped at Stop-N-Shop. It had such things as a meat counter, a fruits and vegetables department, a post office, a drug store and Swanson's Cleaners was there, too, so you had everything in the one store. And Bill Kassis was there all the time and he was a very nice gentleman, as I recall. It was quite the grocery store for its time."

Bill, 88, who is now the patriarch of the Kassis fami-

See Stop-N-Shop, page 23

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CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
www.valcomnews.com

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

NOVEMBER

'Wayne Thiebaud: Homecoming'

Through Nov. 28: Exhibit of Sacramento's most famous artist, Wayne Thiebaud, as he begins his 90th year. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.com

Beginning bridge lessons

Through Dec. 7: Learn party bridge procedures with the Greenhaven Community Bridge Group. Lessons on evaluating hands, bidding, card play and coaching, keeping score, partner support strategies. Become more comfortable and confident in playing bridge socially. Meet new people; bring a spouse, friend or neighbor. All are welcome. \$10 for materials. 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Greenhaven Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 475 Florin Rd. (across from Kennedy High School). Dale or Barbara, (916) 424-3925

'Tomorrow's Legacies'

Through Jan. 9: "Tomorrow's Legacies: Gifts Celebrating the Next 125 Years." Exhibit celebrating the Crocker Art Museum's 125th anniversary and 125,000 square foot expansion. 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.com.

'A Pioneering Collection'

Through Feb. 6: "A Pioneering Collection: Master Drawings from the Crocker Art Museum." The finest early collection of European drawings in the U.S. Works by Dürer, Fra Bartolommeo, van Dyck, Fragonard and Ingres. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.com.

'The Vase and Beyond'

Through Feb. 6: "The Vase and Beyond: The Sidney Swidler Collection of the Contemporary Vessel." Comprised of some 800 vessels by 300 artists, this collection showcases the wide-ranging, innovative practice of contemporary ceramic artists with a gorgeous array of forms, techniques and glazes. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.com

Tai Chi

Daily, except Sundays: Meditation, breathing, forms and various styles of Tai Chi are taught. No experience necessary. Everyone welcome. Free. 8 a.m.-9 a.m. Reichmuth Park, 6135 Gloria Dr., Sac. (601) 559-5481

- EVENT LISTING SECTION -

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

Perfect Holiday Gift for the Reader

The Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library will be selling bookplates. For \$25, you can have a bookplate placed in the library book of your choice. Everyone who checks out that book will know you are a supporter of reading and the library. 20% discount on all Book Store purchases that day for members with card.

Saturday, December 11 - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

Sacramento Children's Chorus

Calling all Singers
Grades 2 - 12 for
January Auditions

Questions? Email:
info@sacramentochildrenschorus.org

sacramentochildrenschorus.org
(916) 454-1141

Pancake Breakfast Santa Claus, & Craft Faire

Sunday, December 5th
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
\$5 in advance - \$7 at the door
For Info contact
Julie Taylor at 837-3122

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Sacramento Children's Chorus HOLIDAY CONCERT

• 12/4/10 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.
First Church of the Nazarene
1820 28th Street

• 12/5/10 4 to 6 p.m.
Carmichael 7th Day Adventist Church
4600 Winding Way

Purchase tickets online at
sacramentochildrenschorus.org
General \$15 - Students \$10

Sing Joyfully

Presented by River City Chorale

• Friday, December 3 - 7:30 p.m.
Christ Community Church
5025 Manzanita, Carmichael

• Saturday, December 4 - 7:30 p.m.
Faith Presbyterian Church
625 Florin Road, Sacramento

• Sunday, December 5 - 4 p.m.
Pleasant Grove Community Church
1730 Pleasant Grove Boulevard, Roseville

Plus Orchestra & Bel Tempo Handbells
Tickets by Phone: (916) 331-5810
Adults \$12 advance, \$15 at door,
Children \$5 (under 12)

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Cornish Christmas Release Party
At Scribner Bend Vineyards
November 28 - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Enjoy great food, music, wine
and lots of great items
you can purchase for the holidays.

FREE ADMISSION
EVERYONE WELCOME

Scribner Bend Vineyards
9051 River Rd. Sacramento, 95832

"Nutcracker Ballet Performance"

Dec. 15 & 16: Ballet performances
of "Christmas Angels" & "The
Nutcracker Suite," both choreographed by
Don Schwennessen & coached by
the esteemed faculty members of the
Crockett-Deane Ballet Co. &
the Deane Dance Center. Admission:
Adults \$15, Seniors/Students \$12,
Children \$10. Hiram Johnson High
School Auditorium, 6879 14th
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No job too small. Make your "to-do" list and give me a call. Electrical, Plumbing, Tile, Sheetrock, Plaster, Stucco, Repairs and Remodeling, you name it! Lic# 908942. Call Steven at 230-2114.

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Dinosaur days

Nov. 26-28: Prehistoric fun, dino specimens, crafts, more. Appropriate for kids ages 4-12, families. Admission \$4-\$6. 12:30 p.m.-4 p.m. Discovery Museum Science & Space Center, 3615 Auburn Blvd., Sac. (916) 808-3942 www.thediscovery.org

Free admission day

Nov. 26: Bring a donation of canned or packaged goods to benefit the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services' Holiday Spirit of Giving Food Drive in exchange for free admission to Fairytale Town. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairytale Town, 3901 Land Park Dr., Sac. (916) 808-7462 www.fairytaletown.org

Rotary Club of Point West

Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, 17, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. Red Lion Inn, 1401 Arden Wy., Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com

Soroptimists of Sacramento

Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, 17, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28: Soroptimist International of Sacramento to South, a service club for business and professional women, meets Fridays. 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. Barbara McDonald, (916) 363-6927

Alternative Christmas Gift Market

Nov. 28: Featuring handmade items from around the world including jewelry from Kenya, unique crosses, greeting cards, etc. Homemade goodies will be offered. 11 a.m., Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3235 Pope Ave., Sac., (916) 487-5192

Banned Book Club

Nov. 28: "Lady Chatterley's Lover" by D.H. Lawrence will be discussed. All adults welcome to discuss why this book has been banned, why and the merits/demerits of the book. 10 a.m. Carmichael Public Library, 5605 Marconi Ave., Carmichael. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: 12-Step group for those who struggle to maintain healthy relationships. Meets Sundays. 2 p.m. Heritage Oaks Hospital, 4300 Auburn Blvd., Rm.101, Sac (866) 794-9993.

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27: 12-Step group for those who struggle to maintain healthy relationships. Meets Mondays. 7:30 p.m. Friends Community Church Fireside Room, 4001 E St., Sac. (866) 794-9993.

Community Sunday breakfast

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19, Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Enjoy a delicious breakfast of eggs Benedict, corned beef hash, Joe's scramble, pancakes and more. 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., every Sun. \$9. Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. (at Florin Rd.), Sac. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. www.elks6.com

Hatha yoga

Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27: Align the body through breathing techniques, postures and deep relaxation. 3 p.m.-4 p.m. Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Sac. (916)808-5462. Meets every Mon. Repeats Wed., Fri.

Jesuit Christmas Tree Lane

Nov. 29, 30: Come join us for the 54th Annual Christmas Tree Lane to benefit Jesuit High School. Admission free to shop the holiday lane with unique gifts and gourmet foods on Mon. 5 p.m.-10 p.m. and Tues. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Reservations required for fashion shows: Mon. gala dinner \$100; Tues. breakfast \$50, and luncheon \$60. Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sac., (916) 204-9282 or www.jhsac.org/ctl

Rotary Club of South Sacramento

Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 11:30 a.m., every Mon. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. www.rotary.org.

Tai Chi & Chi Keung

Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27: Chinese exercise combines specific movements and relaxation. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Sac. Meets every Mon. (916) 808-5462

Toastmasters

Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27: Have fun while improving speaking & leadership skills. Klassy Talkers Toastmasters. 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Mondays. Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Jan (916) 284-4236, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

Basic English language class

Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14: Non-native English speakers can improve English language proficiency. Free. Every Tues. Practice reading, writing, listening and speaking English with others in the class. Through Dec. 14. 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Belle Cooleage Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr., Sac. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Big Band Dance

Nov. 30, Dec. 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30: Dance to the rhythms of the Big Band era. Every Tues. & Fri. \$5 admission. 1:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. (916) 972-0336

Rotary Club of Arden-Arcade

Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 12 noon, every Tues. Jackson Catering and Events, 1120 Fulton Ave., Sac. (916) 925-2787, www.ardenarcaderotary.org

Rotary Club of Carmichael

Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 6 p.m., every Tues Palm Street Pub & Grill, 6416 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael. www.rotary.org

DECEMBER

Scam-free holidays

Dec. 1: "Have a Safe and Scam-free Holiday." Learn valuable tips and hints about protecting yourself from rip-offs from Dept. of Consumer Affairs information experts. Sponsored by Take Charge California @ Your Library. Free. 12 noon. West Meeting Room, Central Library, 828 I St., Sac. (916) 264-2920

Senior Wednesday Club

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: The Senior Wednesday Club meets to chat, play bridge, pinochle or bingo. Free. Bring a brown-bag lunch. Free coffee, tea and dessert. Meets Wednesdays. 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Mission Oaks Community Building, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. Judi (916) 247-6020

Tea and Talk Book Club

Dec. 1: Adults, bring a tea cup, sip tea and discuss this month's featured book, "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout. Free. 10 a.m. Belle Cooleage Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr., Sac. (916) 264-2920, www.saclibrary.org

Toastmasters

Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: All area business people invited to hone their speaking skills. Noon-1:15 p.m., every Wed. River City Speakers Toastmasters Club, Coco's Restaurant, 1830 Arden Way, Sac. (916) 747-8282

Arts lunch & learn

Dec. 2: Join other art lovers for an in-depth 30 minute talk about one or two works of art on view. This discussion will focus on the bis poles by the Asmat of New Guinea. Free with museum admission. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.com

'Christmas Memories' musical lunch

Dec. 2-3: Back by popular demand, the VoCALs' musical presentation of "Christmas Memories" at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. seatings at Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. Entrée choices: Roast Chicken Breast with Apricot Wild Rice or Greek Salad with Shrimp; dessert Chocolate Lover's Cheesecake. \$20/person. First come, first served group reservations by one person, one check. Reservations a must. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Children's Home. (916) 452-2809

Cleophas and His Own

Dec. 2: Film Frame: "Cleophas and His Own - A North Atlantic Tragedy." While living with a Nova Scotia family in the mid-1930s, American painter and poet Marsden Hartley suffered a great personal loss that would affect his painting for the last seven years of his life. This is Hartley's story in his own words - a story of love, secret devotion and sexual passion. Intro & discussion with film director Michael Maglaras. Reservations required. 5:30 p.m. Purchase tickets at crockerartmuseum.org or the Admission Desk. \$6 for members; \$10 for nonmembers; \$12 for nonmembers including Museum admission. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000

Disabled American Veterans

Dec. 2: Ray Clark Chapter No. 35 of the Disabled American Veterans. First Thursdays, 7 p.m., Veterans' Memorial Building, Carmichael Park, 5750 Grant Ave., (corner Fair Oaks Blvd. & Sue Palm Dr). All disabled veterans invited to attend. (916) 635-7608

See more Calendar, page 22

Santa Paws
"For the love of animals"
Sunday, December 5, 2010
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Tres Chic Boutique- 2228 J Street Midtown

Please join us for an afternoon of FREE joyous holiday PHOTO FUN with SANTA and your "other" family members. Please join us to raise needed funds for a favorite Midtown animal charity - United Animal Nations (www.uan.org) also known as the Red Cross for Animals here at home and nationwide.

Tres Chic Boutique MIDTOWN SACRAMENTO

Give Aways All Day • Santa Will Visit

You're invited to
Greenhaven ACE Hardware
35 Year Anniversary
Saturday, December 11, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
4 Weber BBQ's to be raffled

BALLOON POP DISCOUNT
Get a discount at our register valid towards your total purchase. Discount will be hidden inside a celebration balloon each customer will receive at time of purchase. Restrictions may apply. See store for details. Limit one balloon per purchase.

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Del Camino Theatre Groups 31st Annual
NEW YORK THEATRE TRIP
January 4, 2011 - January 10, 2011 (5 days, 6 nights)
RT Sacramento - New York

5 NEW YORK SHOWS:
• Billy Elliot • Opera at the Met • La Traviata
• A Life in the Theater (with Patrick Stewart)
• A Free Man of Color (A new musical just opening at Lincoln Center) • One Off-Broadway Production

Tours: Walking Tour of the Theater District
• Lower East Side Tenement Museum • The J.P. Morgan Library
• The Museum of Finance • Harbor Boat Tour of Manhattan
• Metropolitan Museum of Art

For details, please call tour director (916) 447-9236

"Holiday Show of Hands"
CRAFT FAIR
Over 150 Crafters

Friday, Dec. 3 5 - 9pm (\$3 at door)
Saturday, Dec. 4 9am - 7pm (Free)
Sunday, Dec. 5 9am - 3pm (Free)

- Unique, hand-crafted gifts
- Silent auction
- Hot lunch
- Shuttle service from Elks Club

St. John the Evangelist School
5701 Locust Avenue
Carmichael

CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
www.valcomnews.com

Food Addicts Anonymous

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Thursdays. 9 a.m. St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 6201 Spruce Ave., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Rotary Club of East Sacramento

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m., every Thurs. Salvation Army Dining Hall, 2550 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. www.rotary.org

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Kelly Byam (916) 684-6854.

Sutterville Heights Optimist Club

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Cliff (916) 427-2698 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059.

Teen Advisory Board meeting

Dec. 2: TAB is all about teens creating their own service projects - whether that means organizing fun programs for teens or other community outreach programs. 10 a.m.-11 a.m. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Public Library, 7335 Gloria Dr., Sac. (916) 264-2700 www.saclibrary.org

Toastmasters

Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Improve your language skills and lose fear of speaking in front of people with Toastmaster club Los Oradores. Una oportunidad unica para mejorar sus habilidades bilingues y super-

ar el temor de hablar delante de gente con nuestro club Los Oradores de la organizacion de Toastmasters. Thursdays/Jueves, 6:45 p.m. 2118 K St., Sac. Teri Bullington (916) 723-6232, teri.bullington@gmail.com, www.sacramentoastmasters.com

River City Chorale Christmas Concert

Dec. 3: The 60-voice River City Chorale, chamber choir, and orchestra, and Bel Tempo Handbells will perform festive holiday music. 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets \$12 adults (\$15 at door), \$5 children under age 12. Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave., Carmichael. (916) 331-5810

Advent Craft Faire

Dec. 4: Come join in for a fun day of making crafts. There will be a variety of "make and take" crafts including charm bracelets, gift tags, Christmas ornaments, floral arrangements, decorating a Christmas house, etc. There is something for everyone. Bring the whole family! Enjoy a light lunch served around noon. Admission free. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Northminster Presbyterian Church, 3235 Pope Avenue, Sac., (916) 487-5192

Arts Q&A

Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19: Join other art lovers and discover the essence of the art on view in tours that emphasize looking, conversation and group interaction. Free with Museum admission. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.com

Bariatric Surgery Informational Seminar

Dec. 4: Learn all about what bariatric surgery is and is not. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Bruceville Terrace Multipurpose Room, 8151 Bruceville Rd., Sac. Rondi Crowley (916) 423.5909.

Christmas Tree Lighting

Dec. 4: Come enjoy coffee, cookies, cocoa, the Children's Chorus, Christmas tree raffle, music & other entertainment and meet Santa himself. Free event. 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for a child between the ages of 0 and 16 for the Sac Co. Sheriff's Dept. Toy Project. All gifts will be given to kids in the Arden-Arcade area. Fulton Avenue Association, Tognotti's Auto World, 2509 Fulton Ave., Sac. www.fultonavenue.com

Day of Percussion

Dec. 4: Sac State hosts the Northern Calif. Day of Percussion. Guest artists include Anthony Cirone, Kevin Murray and percussion groups from Sac State and Fresno State. Free admission during the day, Evening admission for concert with Hands On/Semble is \$5 students & seniors, \$8 general. 10 a.m. Capistrano Hall, Sac State Campus, 6000 J St., Sac. (916) 278-7988

Food Addicts Anonymous

Dec. 4, 11, 18, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Saturdays. 8 a.m. Mercy General Hospital North Auditorium, 4001 J St., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Jensen Garden workday

Dec. 4: The Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden will hold its next workday to keep the garden beautiful. Bring work gloves, hand pruners and your lunch. All welcome. Free. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Jensen Garden, 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael. Tracy Kerth (916) 485-5322 x23, tracy@car michaelpark.com

River City Chorale Christmas

Concert
Dec. 4: The 60-voice River City Chorale, chamber choir, and orchestra, and Bel Tempo Handbells will perform festive holiday music. 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets \$12 adults (\$15 at door), \$5 children under age 12. Faith Presbyterian Church, 625 Florin Rd., Sac. (916) 331-5810

SAT Test

Dec. 4: The SAT college entrance exam will be administered. Visit www.collegeboard.com to register and for locations near you.

River City Chorale Christmas

Concert
Dec. 5: The 60-voice River City Chorale, chamber choir, and orchestra, and Bel Tempo Handbells will perform festive holiday music. 4 p.m. Advance tickets \$12 adults (\$15 at door), \$5 children under age 12. Pleasant Grove Community Church, 1730 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville. (916) 331-5810

Pet foto fun with Santa

Dec. 5: Enjoy an afternoon of free holiday photo fun with Santa and your furry family members. Pet parents welcome in photo, by photographer Hope Harris. Warm beverages, pet treats, human treats, too. Donations will benefit a favorite Midtown animal charity: the United Animal Nations (www.uan.org). 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Tres Chic Boutique, 2228 J St., Sac. (916) 444-3668 www.femininefrocks.com

History book club

Dec. 7: The Carmichael Library History Book Club mixes fact and fiction for a clearer picture of world history. This month's book is "The Bridges of Toko-ri" by James Michener. Bring a snack to share. First Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Ave., Carmichael. (916) 264-2920, www.saclibrary.org



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Stop-N-Shop: Kassis family pioneered 'stores of tomorrow,' early food court

Continued from page 23

ly, remembers the store with much passion and detail.

He emphasized that the Riverside Boulevard building, which also included a barber-shop, a beauty shop, a Green Stamp redemption center and a location of the locally-famous Hart's Pastry, was fortunate to have Ash Rutledge and his Vic's Ice Cream across the street at 3199 Riverside Blvd.

"We were very good friends and actually, we depended on each other," Bill said. "I'd have lunch there every day."

A 1965 city directory shows the continued expansion of Stop-N-Shop, as the number of its store locations had reached 11 by this time. These stores included the River Park store at 5491 Carlson Drive and stores at 4065 McKinley Blvd. and 5815 Stockton Blvd.

Lucky No. 14

Overall, the Kassis family eventually operated 13 stores, yet in a similar theme to buildings that do not designate a 13th floor, the store numbers jumped from Store #12 to Store #14.

Surpassing the popularity of the chain's Riverside Boulevard location was one of the last Stop-N-Shop stores to be constructed – the then-very modern Fort Sutter Shopping Center supermarket at 2815 L St., where Sutter General Hospital was later built. The market structure also included candy and coffee shops and laundry and shoe repair businesses.

Bill said that Stop-N-Shop was well represented in the north area of Sacramento.

In addition to the Del Paso Boulevard store, north area Stop-N-Shop stores were located at 4120 El Camino Ave., Fulton and Marconi avenues, where Honey Baked Ham is located at the present day address of 2875 Fulton Ave., 2312 Watt Ave. at Country Club Plaza and 1765 Arden Way at the Arden Fair Mall.

Greg Kassis, the son of Lew Kassis and a Stop-N-Shop employee for most of the years of 1954 to 1975, said that he most fondly remembers the Fulton and Marconi avenues store.

Greg added that he first provided assistance at this store when he was 7 years old.

"I used to ride my bike to work (at the Fulton and Marconi avenues store)," Greg said.

Food court pioneers

When asked about the north area Stop-N-Shop locations, Bill was quick to describe the uniqueness of the Watt Avenue site's Gourmet

Lane, which included Frank Fat's restaurant, La Fies-ta Mexicatessen Restaurant, Hart's Restaurant, Frank's Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant, T&T Burger Bar, Farmer Joe's Restaurant and Keller's Doughnut Shop.

"As far as I remember, (Gourmet Lane) was one of the first food courts that was

opened anywhere in the country," Bill said.

Although Stop-N-Shop stores once held a very high position in the world of Sacramento grocery stores, their heyday gradually ended as the stores were individually sold at separate times due to competition from other grocery stores

and financial struggles related to other Kassis family business ventures.

Despite the absence of any Stop-N-Shop stores in Sacramento by 1975, the fond memories of Stop-N-Shop markets continue to live on today in the minds of the Kassis family and their stores' many former customers.

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