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Bret Harte's new principal discusses challenges

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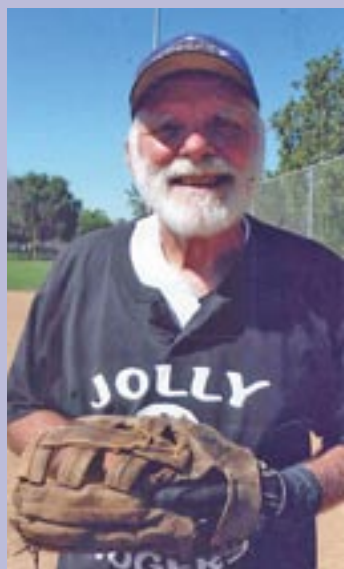
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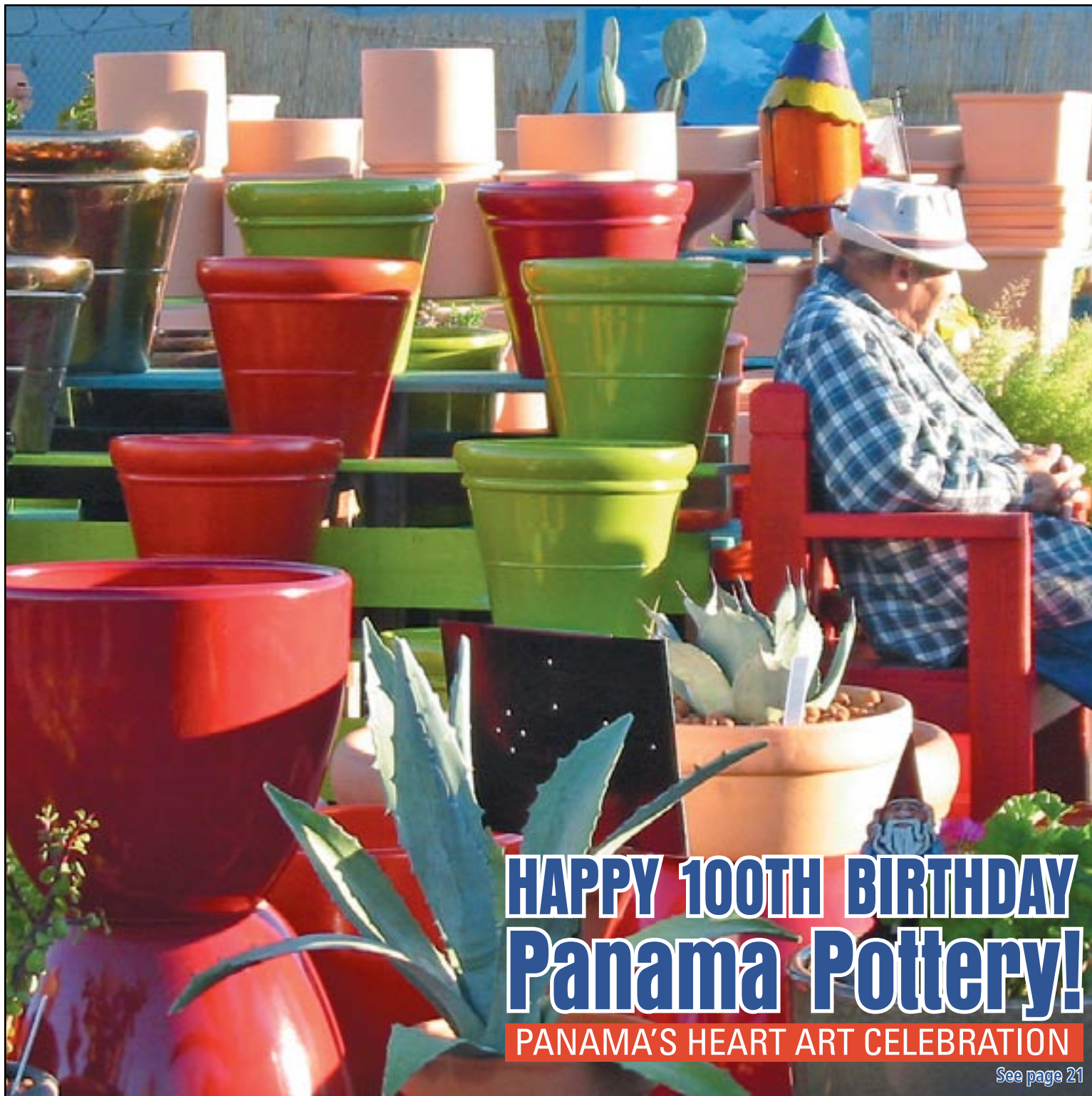
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2709 Riverside Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95818 t: (916) 429-9901 f: (916) 429-9906

Publisher..... George Macko
General Manager..... Kathleen Egan
Editor..... Monica Stark
Art Director..... John Ochoa
Graphic Designer..... Serene Lusano
Advertising Executives
Linda Pohl, Patty Colmer, Melissa Andrews, Jen Henry
Distribution/Subscriptions..... George Macko

Cover by:
Melissa Andrews

Other photos
Monica Stark
Lou Coppola

Bret Harte introduces new principal, Michael McDaniel

By **BENN HODAPP**
benn@valcomnews.com

For Bret Harte Elementary School, two recent surprises have jolted the staff and parents alike. The first surprise came when then principal Santiago Chapa decided to transfer to Kit Carson Middle School in mid-December. Michael McDaniel, who was in the middle of his 10th year as assistant principal at Bret Harte, was promoted to interim principal in the wake of Chapa's departure.

Surprise number two came in mid-January when it was revealed that Bret Harte was on a list of 11 Sacramento City Unified School District elementary schools on a proposed closure list that would go into effect at the end of the current school year if the closures are approved.

Quite the atmosphere in which to welcome new responsibilities for McDaniel, but these challenges are just something he will deal with as he always has at Bret Harte — as a family. That was the term that McDaniel kept coming back to in describing his time at the school.

As for McDaniel, he grew up in the southern California city of Torrance. He made his way up north to UC Davis initially to play basketball. After college, he and his wife decided to stay in Sacramento because it was a better place to raise a family. Together they have three daughters, including 9-year-old twins. Their youngest daughter is five.

After college he and his wife started a sports camp business called McBlack Sports. The program offered low-cost camps for kids who otherwise would not have had the chance to attend such camps. "I look at the prices of camps now and I wonder how we stayed in business so long," McDaniel laughed. The business closed up in 2006 after 10 years.

Before coming aboard 10 years ago as assistant principal, McDaniel was a third grade, fourth grade and P.E. teacher at various times at William Land, Abraham Lincoln, Golden Empire and Natomas elementary schools from 1996-2003.

After arriving at Bret Harte, McDaniel actually held the interim principal tag for a month in 2006 af-

ter the principal before Chapa left the school. During his 10 years at the school, McDaniel has thrived as a caregiver and friend to staff, parents and students alike. He is lovingly referred to by students as "Mr. Mac."

When he was offered the position of interim principal this time, McDaniel took a step back and discussed it with his family and decided that it was a good opportunity. He had been offered positions at other schools with principal vacancies, but he didn't want to cause any more upheaval for students and staff and Bret Harte had become what he calls a second family.

Now that second family is in jeopardy.

"It was definitely a shock (when told about the closure list). Nobody was expecting it. But we just tried to keep our focus and keep the parents in the know," McDaniel said. "We just told the parents and staff that no matter what happens, they are going to be ok."

When asked what he would miss the most should Bret

See Principal, page 3

Principal: Families will be missed if school closes

Continued from page 2

Harte close its doors after the current school year, McDaniel paused for a moment before saying "The families. To see families that continue to come back and have faith and trust in our staff. As a parent myself, I know what it's like, and they trust us with their most precious gifts. That's really special to me."

McDaniel has developed real friendships beyond mere working relationships with everyone on his staff.

"I consider them all to be my friends. They were there for the births of my kids. I am blessed to be a part of this staff."

The biggest change in his daily duties is due to the fact that no one has taken over the now vacant assistant principal position. He also comes early to the school and unlocks the doors and takes care of any custodial issues there might be between 7-10 a.m. when the custodial staff arrives.

"It can be tough balancing that with being an instructional leader," he said. "But I just roll with it and get it done. It's no use complaining."

As has been the case over the years, teachers, parents and other staff have stepped up to try to ease the burden on his shoulders.

"Somebody is always jumping up to help me out with some of the little stuff. It makes the day enjoyable to work with people who are willing to help if they have a spare moment," he said. "It's really helped to connect parents and staff who normally might not come into contact with each other. It's brought light to a dark situation."

At a community meeting on Feb. 4, McDaniel spoke to parents of his students and let them know how much he appreciates them and that regardless of what happens at the end of the year, the children currently enrolled at Bret Harte will be just fine.

McDaniel said that five members of the board who will vote on the school closures on Feb. 21 were in attendance at the packed meeting. Should the school remain open in 2013 and beyond, McDaniel said that he would consider taking over the permanent role of principal if it were offered to him.

"I certainly wouldn't say no right away," he said, once again chuckling. "I would talk it over with my family and come to a decision that feels right."

In the end it's all about what's best for his family. Both of them.

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The cafeteria was standing room only at the Feb. 4 meeting.

Photo by Monica Stark

Bret Harte closure raises more questions

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

Chanting, "Save Bret Harte, have a heart," the Bret Harte community came out in force at Monday, Feb. 4's meeting to discuss the possible closure of the school. Some lined the sidewalk in front of the school with signs, while others started to pack the cafeteria, where the meeting was standing room only.

Parents, teachers, staff and students -- past and present --

spoke passionately for their love of the school in an effort to convince Sacramento City Unified School District trustees to vote against the closures at their scheduled meeting at the district office on Thursday, Feb. 21.

Bret Harte supporters are trying to convince the board to save their school at the very least. They feel the proposal did not include parent feedback, as they were made aware of the closures in mid-

January, giving them very little time to provide input.

Currently, the action item is to close 11 elementary schools as a package, which the district says are under-enrolled. Over the past decade, the district has lost about 5,500 students and Bret Harte lost 135. Current enrollment is 402. The district says the school can occupy 981.

According to the Frequently Asked Questions packet that

See Closure, page 5

Closure: Parents question safety of students having to walk long distances to school

Continued from page 4

was distributed at the meeting, not all under-enrolled schools throughout the district were targeted for closure.

"Some schools among the 18 most under-enrolled were removed from the closure list because enrollment at these schools will grow with the closure of nearby under-enrolled schools or because the school is a Superintendent's Priority School."

Father Keith B. Kenny and Oak Ridge, two of the new home schools for Bret Harte students, are priority schools. Ethel Phillips is not a priority school.

According to the district's website, Superintendent Jonathan "Raymond" launched the Priority Schools program in the spring of 2010 to accelerate the rate of student learning in low-performing, high-poverty schools ... Because of their specialized training, Priority School teachers are protected from seniority based layoffs."

Meanwhile, Bret Harte Elementary offers the following programs: a site instruction coordinator, Healthy Start Program, a school nurse, extended-day tutoring and mentoring, Advanced/GATE Program and a computer technology lab. Students grades 1-6 benefit from music prep programs.

Father Keith B. Kenny is located in central Oak Park and Oak Ridge is located on Martin Lu-

ther King, Jr. Blvd., south of Florin Road. Parents questioned the safety of having their children walking to those schools, passing high traffic areas and high numbers of registered sex offenders.

Before community members took to the microphone at the Feb. 4 meeting, SCUSD Chief Academic Officer Olivine Roberts showed slides detailing budget reductions over the years, which have cut teachers, custodians, assistant principals, nurses, bus drivers and more.

According to her report, bus transportation will be added for students traveling to Ethel Phillips but not for those going to Father Keith B. Kenny and Oak Ridge. Instead, the district and the City of Sacramento will identify safe routes to school for families.

For some, having bus transportation is irrelevant because they are not available to be home for the arrival of their children due to their work schedules. One parent who uses the after school program at Bret Harte said:

"I, as many parents, don't have transportation. A school bus doesn't help my problem. I don't get home by the time of drop-off and I might not be available to pick up my child. I have researched other potential schools in this area and none of them meet my needs like Bret Harte," she said.

According to Oak Ridge's website, the school is undergoing a redesign plan with a "reform-minded approach." The principal at Oak Ridge, Doug Huscher, has been the principal both at Theodore Judah and Matsuyama Elementary. Ethel Phillips has a transitional bilingual program that utilizes Spanish as the main language of instruction from kindergarten through grade 3.

Questioning children's safety

After Roberts' presentation, mother Becky Torres began reading statistics from the Megan's Law Sex Offender registry, questioning the district's priority of safety.

Oak Ridge Elementary has 25 sex offenders within a 3/4-mile radius.

The district maintains that safety is its number one priority, by providing crossing guards, walking attendants and bus routes to accommodate students who face hazards getting to their new schools. According to the district report provided by Roberts, benefits for children attending larger schools include having "a bigger pool of involved parents to support school activities, such as field trips. With

See Bret Harte, page 6



Students carried signs, protesting the school closure.

Photo by Monica Stark

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Bret Harte: School is a place of pride for families

Continued from page 5

fewer schools, SCUSD will be able to concentrate maintenance and safety for personnel, making schools healthier and safer for all students."

Moreover, the district says that with fewer schools SCUSD will be able to concentrate its resources to improve safety at every campus. "In addition, your child's new school will have the same ratio of adults-to-students on campus as your child's present school. That means that a school with more students will have more adults on campus as well," according to Roberts' report.

Beacon of dignity

Parent Rachelle Ditmore said they see the school as bea-

con of dignity – a place where parents are proud to send their children and an escape from the broken and boarded up windows that characterize the look of their home neighborhood.

According to office manager Jamillah Kirk, many of the students who attend Bret Harte live in Oak Park and the school is the only consistent part of their lives. Many former students have returned to the school to share their gratitude, which Kirk described as "kids who society is not paying attention to. But when they come here, they have smiles on their faces because they remember this was a beautiful place for them."

Under-enrolled but not taking in students? School is overpopulated?

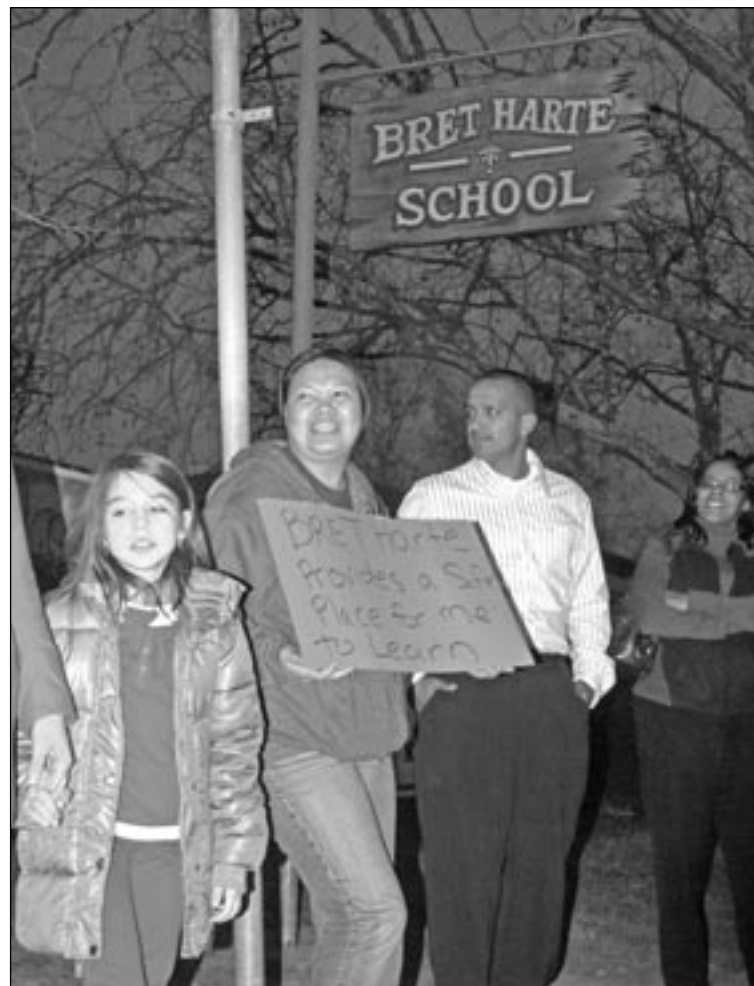
Ditmore took in two homeless children into her home. She tried to get them to attend Bret Harte, but the district wouldn't allow it, until after a bit of a fight, she said. "They were homeless and the homeless have a right to return back to their school, but they weren't going to allow that. They said the school was overpopulated."

While it may seem counterintuitive to be under-enrolled and overpopulated at the same time, Kirk explained the issue has to deal with ending class size reduction. The school now has nine empty classrooms, yet those that are being used are maxed out.

The most students the school has seen was 525 back in 2000-2001, Kirk estimated.

"We were bursting at the seams. There were children left and right," she said. Pod areas were full; the school used to have two morning and two afternoon kindergarten classes and they would have to split the pod, Kirk said.

"Slowly but surely, they whittled it down. They whittled it down. That was back when we had class size reduction, 20 (students) to 1 (teacher). It seems like every year or every other year, they change it again. When they went to 25 to 1, we were like: are you serious? So, we lost one or two teachers and now that they have moved. Now we're at 33 to 1," Kirk said.



Protesting school closure.

Photo by Monica Stark

"... I understand change has to happen. I get it. But it's a set-up. It's a conspiracy.

"I have been here for 13 years, not once, not twice, not even three times did someone say, Miss Jamillah, you know you are supposed to have 981 students here? In the name of Jesus, where are they are all going to sit?" Kirk said.

Notice

According to the California Department of Education, a

committee should gather facts regarding school closures and the district didn't form one this year. The announcement was made in mid January.

According to the CDE: "It is a legislative intent, but not a mandate, for a district to have and use a District Advisory Committee (DAC) before decisions are made about school closure (Education Code Section 17387).

"But whether an intent or a mandate, the advice is good. The job of the superintendent and board members is to evaluate facts, not gather them. And the process of gathering the facts must be as credible, transparent and non-political as possible. So, at the very least, the DAC, often referred to as 7-11 Committee (due to legislative requirements of at least 7 but no more than 11 members) should be involved in the fact-finding necessary for an informal recommendation about school closure."

District spokesman Gabe Ross said on Friday, Jan. 18 that last year, the 7-11 Committee (school closure committee), used a series of "data points and recommendations" but then there "wasn't enough clarity why this school and not that school was going to close."

He called this year's process "streamlined."

SPORTS

Golden Seniors Softball:

A game for the ages and the ageless

By RON ROACH

For more than 30 years, the Golden Seniors Softball Club of Sacramento has been one of the nation's bedrock organizations for slow-pitch players who have reached the age of 50. The club has about 450 members and provides nearly 420 games from mid-March into September.

Close to 100 of these members like it so much that they play in more than one of the club's six leagues. For many, there is no such thing as "enough softball." But there is plenty of room for someone new to the game, or who hasn't swung a bat in more than a decade. "Hey, it can be like riding a bike. Just get back on and enjoy the ride," said the club's president, Tom Sansone. "Softball can really be a game for the ages -- and the ageless."

Anita Kemp, 53, who resides in south Sacramento, joined the club in 2011 and became a fixture at third base, first base or catcher on Tuesday nights. She plays on a couple of coed teams and said she wanted more

Mel Tennyson joined the club in 2009 when he was 55. He now plays in all three night leagues and serves as the commissioner in charge of the club's Tuesday night league. He also plays for a nationally ranked traveling tournament team. Mel, a West Sacramento resident who pitches and plays the outfield, said, "I love the game" and the Golden Seniors club has provided opportunity to play with and against people more his own age while being more relaxed and less-competitive than his tournament team. "It keeps me healthy and I enjoy meeting people. I play softball for athletic and social reasons. My advice to anyone thinking of playing ball is to come out, have fun and stay young."

The Wednesday and Thursday night leagues attract more competitive play-

ers, many who also play on tournament teams. Ernie Kidwell is one of 137 current Golden Seniors "life members" who have played at least 15 consecutive years and attained the age of 75 or 10 years and celebrated their 80th birthday. Kidwell,

so a friend suggested she try the Golden Seniors. How has it worked out? She said she has not been disappointed and felt welcomed as a new member. "It's fun, to be honest with you. My other leagues are real competitive, true 5-women, 5-men coed teams." The Golden Seniors is "really a fun league." And when a guy thinks he can hammer a grounder by her at third, she said she takes a great deal of pleasure in her ability to throw him out.

The GSSCS Tuesday night league has about a dozen women spread among six teams. The club would like to attract more women, and Anita said more women would join if they knew about Golden Seniors. The club needs to advertise." (Note the ad in this newspaper.) "Everyone gets along and gives you a pat on the back. It's a friendly environment."

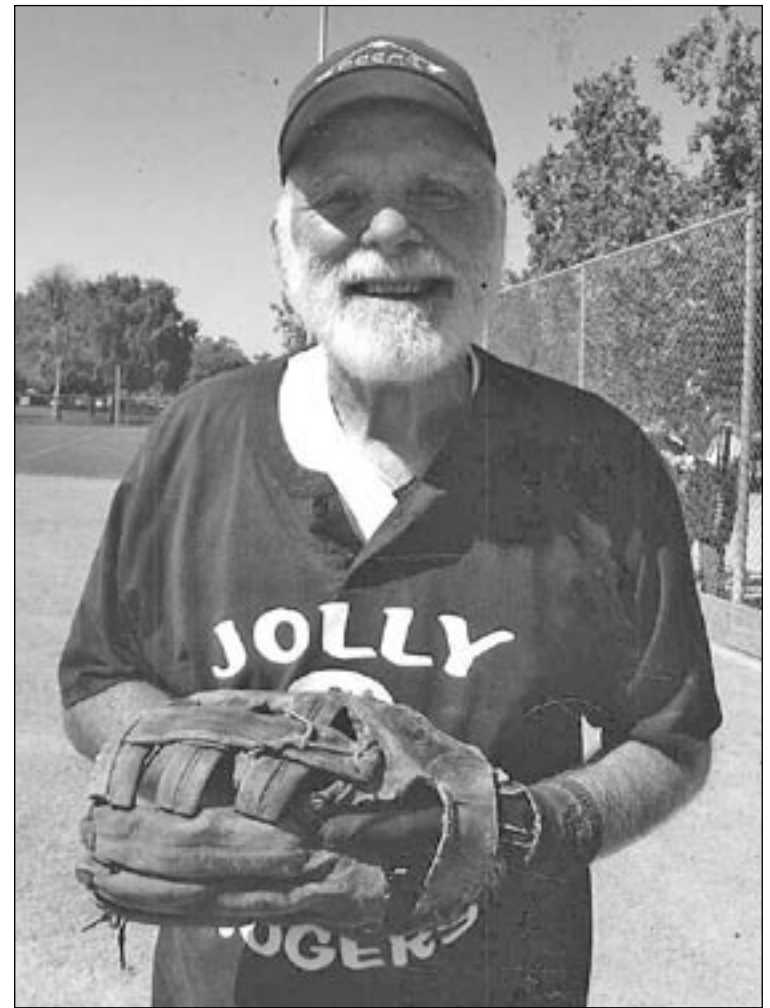


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Golden Seniors: Drafts for the leagues are underway

Continued from page 7

who will turn 81 this year, lives in north Sacramento near Carmichael. He joined the club in 1991. He began playing in the night leagues and for the past decade has been playing Mondays and/or Tuesdays. "Why do I continue to play? Because I just like to play. I like the camaraderie, the fellowship ... Softball is a good reason to get up and go somewhere."

While leagues for the 2013 season are scheduled to conduct drafts in February, the first league games are not scheduled until mid-March. Some leagues may have immediate openings

for those wishing to sign up, or players can sign up, come out and play as substitutes or be permanently assigned to teams as roster vacancies occur.

The club's fees are very reasonable, Sansone said, amounting to less than \$5 a game, and include uniform jersey, cap and umpires. And the fees are prorated for players who come aboard later in the season.

The club has a website, www.gssc.org, where details can be found on how to join. The club's player agent, Myron Dahl (916 451-2450), can answer questions and provide sign-up forms.

Each league plays 22 to 24 games in a season that runs into September and concludes with league championship playoffs and a picnic.

The health and safety of club members is of paramount concern. Anita Kemp said the toughest thing for her was getting used to the base-running rules that are designed to reduce the risk of injury from runner-fielder collisions or from awkward slides into bases. As many men and women join the club not having slid into a base in 20 years, sliding is not allowed.

Besides special base-running rules, members are encouraged to sign up for training in the use of the club's defibrillators, or AEDs, and to become certified by the Red Cross in CPR. According to doctors, more than one Golden Seniors player is alive today because of this program and staying active on the ball field.

Ron Roach is the editor of GSSC's 'Dugout Chatter' and active player in two leagues. Accompanied photos were taken by Lou Coppola.

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Faces and places Girl Scout Cookie rally

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

The Girls Scouts of Land Park held a cookie rally on Sunday, Jan. 13 at All Saints Episcopal Church.



Girl Scout profile: Emma Chang

Emma Chang, a fourth grader at Sutterville has been a Girl Scout since Kindergarten, joining as a Daisy. She is now a junior in Troop 1649.

As a junior, Chang is currently working on her jeweler, government, detective, and scribe badges. She has just completed on the Agent of Change Journey. Upcoming badges her troop will be working on are: Cookie insights, gardening, animal habitats, flowers, and independence. As a Brownie she earned 13 try-its.

With cookie season just around the corner, Emma is gearing up to sell 995 boxes. Last year she sold more than 700.

"My favorite cookie is the Thin Mint because I like flavor of chocolate and mint together. They are really good after being in freezer and eating them cold," she said.

Emma enjoys selling Girl Scout Cookies especially at booth sales because she gets to make change for the customers. She also likes attending the cookie rally her service unit puts on to get the troop excited and prepared to sell cookies.

One of the most gratifying things Emma has done as a Girl Scout was during Scout Night at the River Cats game when she threw out the first pitch.

Emma's goal in Girl Scouts this year is to start working on her Bronze Award. Her troop decides, and acts, on service project that makes a positive change in the community. It the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can achieve.

Emma's mother, Laura Chang, said her daughter has always been a very compassionate and caring person. "She is more concerned for the well being of others than her own well being," she said. Laura said her daughter's sense of humor and love of the outdoors and athletic abilities make her proud.

"All that she has learned and experienced in Girl Scouts, she has been able to carry over to other parts of her life such as school and sports and I believe this has helped her to accomplish personal goals in these areas," said her mother, Laura Chang.



Emma enjoys being outside, gardening, riding her bike, playing basketball and soccer, camping and hiking, her understanding of leave no trace.

Being in Girl Scouts has helped Emma develop her self-confidence, said Laura. "She has become more comfortable expressing her opinion especially when it differs from others," she said. "Her courage has also increased," she said. Laura sees this when her daughter has new experiences such as at Camp Menzies (taking the horse on the trail instead of staying in the arena).

In addition to learning how to ride horses in the arena and on the trail, Emma has done archery, hiked at Calaveras Big Trees, canoed in a lake, and watched a meteorite shower while sleeping under the stars in a meadow.

Emma loves to go to places with her troop such as the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco and overnight trips to Twain Harte to work on badges and bond as a troop.

The Girl Scout Law has helped to build and define her character. As a Daisy, she made a wall hanging with the Girl Scout Law and she still has it hanging on her wall.

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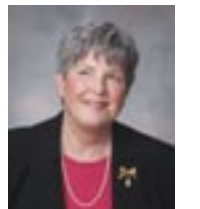


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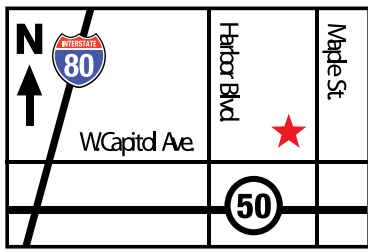
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Sacramento Zoo has provided entertainment, educational opportunities for 85 years

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Note: This is part one in a series regarding past and present details about the Sacramento Zoo.

While the Sacramento Zoo is celebrating its 85th birthday, it is a good time to present some past and present details about this Land Park institution.

Opening its doors to the public for the first time on June

2, 1927, the zoo – which was then known as the William Land Park Zoo – began its longtime tradition of providing a type of educational and entertaining experience that certainly could not be obtained anywhere else in the city.

At the time of the zoo's opening, Sacramento was a much different place than it is today. Within the boundaries of the city, William Land Park was only four years old, the Memorial Auditorium was just two years old,

the Southern Pacific station was merely a year old, and the long lost, but certainly not forgotten Alhambra Theatre was preparing for its grand opening.

The zoo was also a much different place at that time, as it featured a collection of 40 animals on a 4.2-acre site. In contrast, today's zoo is located on 14.3 acres and includes more than 500 native, rare and endangered animals.

Among the zoo's earlier resident animals were deer, elk,

buffalo, monkeys, squirrels, raccoons and Canada geese.

Some longtime Sacramentans remember visiting the zoo during its earliest years.

Sacramento native Merle (Hendrix) Cale, for instance, recalled visiting the zoo during her childhood.

"It's possible that I went to the zoo as early as 1927," Cale said. "My mother (Elsie) and my father (Jim) shot archery. They had their archery range up by Freeport Boulevard at William Land Park and we would go to the zoo while they were shooting (arrows). My oldest sister (Evelyn) and my youngest sister (Esther) would be with me. (The zoo) had lots of animals and you could watch them. We used to always like to watch the monkeys. They were always so funny. They sat there with their babies and they picked fleas off of them. It was not a big zoo at first. I can't remember all the animals. I know there were always lions there. We always had a fun time. We were a family and we did family (activities) together."

By the 1950s, the zoo was still much smaller than it is today. It was during that decade that Marvin Delfendahl, a 27-year-old student at Sacramen-

to State College (today's Sacramento State University), began working on a special zoo-related project.

At the time, the state college was located nearby the zoo at its original site on the Freeport Boulevard campus of Sacramento Junior College – today's Sacramento City College.

During an interview with this publication last week, Marvin, 88, explained how he became involved with his zoo-related project in late 1951.

"A (professor of life sciences), who is long deceased, his name was (Herbert O.) Jenkins," Marvin said. "He was my advisor (at Sacramento State College), and he asked me one time, what do I want to do in the way of a thesis. And I said, 'I don't know. Do you got any ideas?' And he said, 'Well, how about writing a guidebook about the zoo?' And that's about where it started and that's where it ended."

When completed, the guidebook became the seventh edition in a series of publications written by students and others. The series was initiated in 1950 through a generous monetary donation made

by philanthropist Charles M. Goethe (1875-1966).

85 years: Looking back to Zoo's official guidebook

Continued from page 14

by philanthropist Charles M. Goethe (1875-1966).

Although no attempt was made to issue any of these publications at any particular time, coincidentally, the guidebook to the zoo was published one day prior to the 25th anniversary of the zoo's opening.

In creating the zoo's first guidebook, Marvin desired to present the book's readers with a "fuller idea of our animal world."

But today, Marvin's 64-page publication serves as a window into the past of the city's then much smaller zoo.

One does not have to venture further than the book's cover to observe an image of a notable part of the zoo's history. Featured on the cover is a drawing of one of the zoo's all-time memorable animals – an elephant named Sue.

This animal, which Marvin described in his book as being "perhaps more loved and shared by the people of a city than any other single zoo animal in the world," was purchased for \$4,000 through a drive initiated by *The Sacramento Union*.

In October 1948, Jacquelyn Bolton of Sacramento won a contest to name the elephant. Bolton, who chose the name, Sue, as an abbreviation for "Sacramento Union elephant," was awarded a week's stay at Camp Sacramento.

Marvin divided his book into sections, which included primates, hoofed animals and carnivores.

Primates were listed in the book, as follows: chimpanzee, spider monkey, Cebus monkeys,

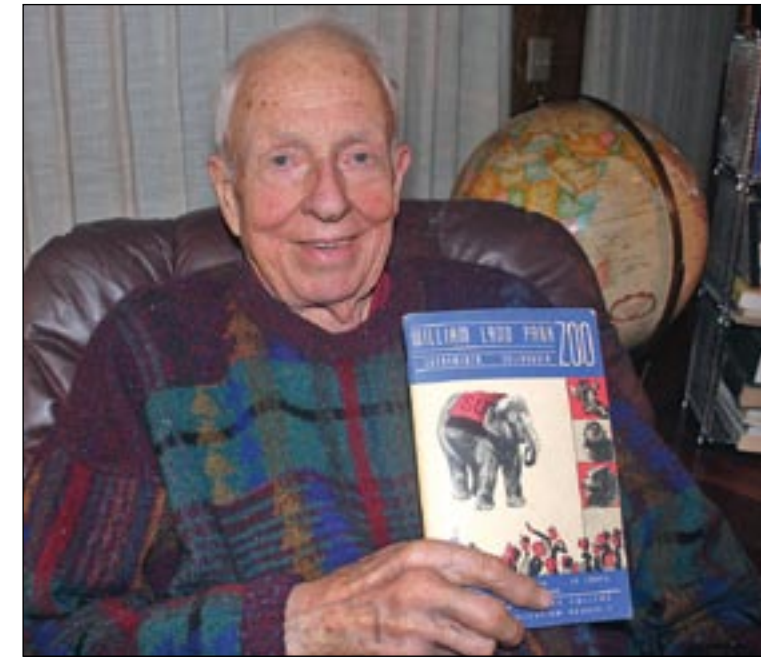


Photo by Lance Armstrong
Marvin Delfendahl holds a copy of his official zoo guidebook, which he wrote as a college student in the early 1950s. The 64-page book was once sold to local zoo visitors for 50 cents per copy.

squirrel monkey, dog-faced baboon, Gibraltar ape, rhesus monkey and red-faced macaque.

The zoo's hoofed animals were recognized in the book as axis deer, muntjac, California deer, wapiti (or elk), mouflon sheep, aoudad, eland, nilgai, giraffe, water buffalo, zebu, bison, yak, camel, llama, donkey and zebra.

Marvin listed the zoo's carnivores as sea lions, African lion, tiger, leopard, cougar, bobcat, black bear, wolf, coyote, foxes, dingo, badger, skunks, ring-tailed cat, raccoon, coati-mundi, beaver, porcupine, kangaroo, ostrich, emu, adjutant stork and alligator.

In his book, Marvin also included various trivial details re-

garding these animals. And among these details were the muntjac is "the deer that barks like a dog" and giraffes, despite their "strange proportions," can carry their half-ton weight more than 30 miles per hour.

Due to a lack of space, the only reptile listed in the guidebook was the American alligator.

In the book's introduction, Marvin, who graduated from Sacramento High School in 1942 and also attended Sacramento Junior College, noted that the zoo had experienced much growth since its "make-shift beginning."

And he added that the "big boom," in which the

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Zoo: How it's changed since opening

Continued from page 15

zoo became one of the city's major attractions within the then-previous decade, had occurred under the direction of its then-superintendent, Anthony A. Spencer.

Spencer, who Marvin noted had "spent much of his life in a world of animals," assisted him with his guidebook project.

"(Spencer) said, 'Talk to whoever you want and I'll help you out on the pictures,'" Marvin recalled. "He was always cooperative. I would run across him, usually just walking around the (zoo). I got to know the zoo's employees. I don't know how many employees they had - 12, 15, 18, 19 or something like that. They were friendly people and I could get all the help I needed, you know, information from them. I used to go over there once in a while. It was kind of a fun place for me. Once you get to know the people working the cages, it's an easy world. The whole (book project) happened in about six or seven months."

Also assisting Marvin with his project were associate professor of English Dr. George

William Creel, who reviewed the manuscripts for the book, and life sciences instructor J. Harold Severaid, who shared his knowledge of the system of animal classification.

As reference materials for his book project, Marvin used George Gaylord Simpson's "The Principles of Classification and a Classification of Mammals" (1945) and Ernest Thompson Seton's four-volume, eight-book set, "Lives of Game Animals" (1925-28).

Marvin said that prior to his interview for this article, he had not discussed details about the zoo with anyone for about 20 years.

And in thinking back on the zoo during the 1950s, he said, "Everything has changed there. I don't think there are any vestiges of any animals or animal families or anything like that. It's so changed. And the entrance has also changed, (among) other things."

Today, Marvin, who has two daughters and three grandchildren, continues to reside in Sacramento with his wife, Jeanne, who he married on June 23, 1951.

Celebrate Black history! Events continue throughout the month

By **CORRIE PELC**
corrie@valcomnews.com

February is Black History Month, and there are a number of opportunities for you and your family to celebrate in the Sacramento area. Here's a look at just some of the events happening this month!

Quilt Exhibit to Highlight African-American Quilters & Quilts

Sisters Quilting Collective (SQC) will host its second annual quilt exhibit, "A Stitch in Time: The Past, Present and Future," from February 2 through 28 at The Brickhouse Art Gallery, 2837 36th Street, in Sacramento.

The exhibit will highlight African-American quilters and quilts with a variety of programs, including quilting demonstrations, children's activities, quilt displays, lectures and film screenings.

For more information, call 916-475-1240 or visit www.thebrickhousegalleryoakpark.com.



Photo courtesy of Vivian Lee.
Jazz vocalist and recording artist Vivian Lee.

- Carmen McRea, Billie Holiday, Nancy Wilson and Dinah Washington. Hear the music and learn about the lives of these amazing African American women of the jazz world. The jazz concert is one of numerous Black History Month programs scheduled at Sacramento Public Library locations throughout February.

For more information, call 916-264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Black History Month Family Festival

The Crocker Art Museum will celebrate Black History Month with a showcase of the art, culture, history and traditions of the African Diaspora through its Black History Month Family Festival on Monday, February 18, from 11am-3pm. This free event will feature performances by musical storyteller Asheba, the Vukani Mawethu Choir, and the Sacramento/Black Art of Dance.

The Crocker Art Museum is located at 216 O Street. For more information, call

916-808-7000 or visit www.crockerartmuseum.org.

Sacramento State Celebrates Black History Month

California State University Sacramento is offering a number of programs in celebration of Black History Month.

On February 16, award-winning author Eva Rutland, 95, will lead a discussion about her life from her book, *When We Were Colored: A Mother's Story*, at 12 noon in the Union Redwood Room at Sacramento State.

On February 19, representatives from Sacramento State and the California State University system will visit churches in Sacramento's African-American community to urge young people and their parents to begin planning for college. President Alexander Gonzalez will visit St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at 10 am, and Joseph Sheley, Sacramento State's provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, will visit St. John Missionary Baptist Church at 10:45 am.

A photo exhibit by Felicene Ramey, "We Stand On Their Shoulders," featuring images of elder African Americans, will be on display from February 12 through March 15 at the Sacramento

State Library lobby. The exhibit is open during Library hours: 7:15 am-11 pm Monday through Thursday; 7:15 am-7 pm Friday; 8 am-5 pm Saturday; and 11 am-10 pm Sunday.

And Sacramento/Black Art of Dance will celebrate its "20th Anniversary Concert: Past, Present and Future" in the Solano Hall Dancespace. Performances are at 8 p.m. Feb. 16-18, 24 and 25; 2 p.m. Feb. 19 and 26; and 6:30 p.m. Feb. 22-23. Tickets are \$5-\$12 and available at Sac State's Ticket Office, 916-278-4323 or www.tickets.com.

For more information, call 916-278-6943 or visit www.csus.edu.

Sacramento Library Celebrates Black History Month

Local branches of the Sacramento Public Library are offering a number of programs throughout February to help celebrate Black History Month. Here's a look at a few - to find more, visit www.saclibrary.org or call 916-264-2920.

• **Find Your Black Ancestors** - Genealogy expert Lisa Lee will offer tips of tracing your family's black history roots on Friday, February 15, at 3 pm at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, in Sacramento.

• **The Black Kitchen** - Cooking from Our Heritage - Join a discussion about the rich culinary heritage and diverse recipe sources of the African American kitchen on Tuesday, February 19, at 6 pm at the Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Avenue.

• **Tar Beach**: Faith Ringgold's Story Quilts with ArtBeast - Hear a reading of Faith Ringgold's book, *Tar Beach*, and explore the author's story quilts celebrating family heritage on Thursday, February 21, at 4 pm at Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Avenue, in Sacramento.

• **WaZoBia** with Mr. Sunny - WaZoBia means "Come! Come! Come!" in three distinct Nigerian tribal languages and is an invitation of togetherness and unity. Mr. Sunny shares the spirit of Africa with a cultural drum and dance program on Saturday, February 23, at 1:30 pm at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, in Sacramento.

• **African American Inventors** - Magician Forrest Barnes introduces African American inventors who have changed our lives with their remarkable inventions on Saturday, February 23, at 2 pm at McKinley Library, 601 Alhambra Blvd., in Sacramento.

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Free Tribute Concert to Famed Female Jazz Singers

The Sacramento Public Library will present a musical tribute to famed women jazz singers at a free family concert at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, February 20, in the Tsakopoulos Library Galleria at the Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento.

Jazz vocalist and recording artist Vivian Lee and her quartet will celebrate divas of jazz

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING:

Celebration Arts presents A Life a drama by Anne Peters.

Shows Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. through March 2 Eunice Katem, a feisty, 74 year old, Jamaican and former school teacher has lived a strong and independent life. Now recuperating from a heart attack, her independence is in jeopardy. Eunice has been removed from her home by her daughter. Eunice is adamant about returning and is determined to have her way even though she recognizes the realities of old age. The production features Patricia Coleman, Debbie Reeves, Cynthia Drumbor and Mericus Adams. Tickets are \$15 general, \$13 students and seniors. On Thursday night all seats are \$8. Tickets on-

line at mycommunityevents.com. Call (916) 455-2787 for information and reservations. Celebration Arts Theatre is located at 4469 D St. Sacramento.

The Sacramento Rose Society meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., in East Sacramento. For more information, visit www.sactorose.org/sacramentorosesociety.

Fair Oaks Library to unveil a new Families and Books Center

Feb. 16-March 23: The Sacramento Public Library will be renovating the children's room at the Fair Oaks branch, 11601 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Fair Oaks, February 16 through March 23. The children's area will become the new Families and Books Center. For more information, call the Sacramento Public Library at (916) 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Kit Carson schedules additional IB info nights

Parents are invited to learn about the International Baccalaureate program. Come learn about Kit Carson's transition to an International Baccalaureate school for grades 7 through 12. Campus tours are held every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Tours are a great opportunity to see a school in action. There is no need to call in advance. 5301 N St, Sacramento. 95819. For more information, call 277-6750.

Travel club meetings slated at Arcade Library

The Sacramento Public Library invites all travelers to its monthly "No Reservations Travel Club" meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Arcade branch, 2443 Marconi Ave. The free adult meetings feature a speaker, plus time for exchanging travel information within the group. 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

FEBRUARY

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Feb. 14: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors

welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thursday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

Mission Oaks Computer Club meeting

Feb. 14: The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. The meeting topic will be "Future of Health Care and Telemedicine." A problem solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow. 366-1687, www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

North Franklin Business District Association Meeting

Feb. 14: Meeting to be held at 8 a.m., 5383 Franklin Blvd., Suite F.

Stockton Boulevard Partnership Meeting

Feb. 14: Meeting to be held at 9 a.m. at the Stockton Blvd Partnership Resource Center 5625 Stockton Blvd.

Bi-Polar Anonymous

Feb. 15: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7-

8:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786.

Crab feed fundraiser to benefit Horses, Hope and Healing

Feb. 15: Starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Horseman's Association, located at 3200 Longview Dr., the crab feed will benefit Horses, Hope and Healing, a nonprofit that provides free horseback riding lessons to inner city youth.

'A Stitch in Time: The Past, Present and Future'

Feb. 16: Presented by the Sisters Quilting Collective in celebration of Black History Month. "Stitching from the Soul". Alice Calhoun, hand quilter will hold a presentation from 1 to 2 p.m. and Jan Hollins, textile designer/quilter will present at 3 p.m. 2837 36th St. Sacramento. 613-7401, 475-1240.

Sacramento Tet Parade

Feb. 16: Starting at 10 a.m., starting at corner of Stockton Boulevard and Fruitridge Road.



Faces and Places:

Panama Pottery's first Centennial Celebration of 2013

Photos by Monica Stark
editor@valcomnews.com

It was a beautiful afternoon on Saturday, Feb. 9, as hundreds of people danced in the Panama Pottery yard to music by Jerry Lopes, celebrating the business's hundredth year of existence. Revelers got to tour the facility and visit with artists from the Panama Artists Collective. Food trucks and miniature cupcakes satisfied the appetites of the hungry. Panama Pottery will be offering various classes starting in April. For more information on that, call 452-7181. Panama Pottery is located at 4421 24th St.

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11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Christ Community, 5025 Manzanita Ave., Carmichael 95608
Guest Speaker: Marcos Breton, Sacramento Bee Columnist
Lunch available for \$15. Open to All.
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CALENDAR

Good Fortune Concert with Sacramento Youth Symphony and Comedian Paula Poundstone to benefit library

Feb. 16: Comedian, author and panelist Paula Poundstone will join forces with the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library to raise funds for the Library during her appearance in Sacramento. The Friends will be selling Poundstone's book, "There's Nothing in This Book That I Meant to Say," at the show and will receive a percentage of the proceeds from the sales. Paula Poundstone is well known as a stand-up comedian, author, Emmy-winning television performer and regular panelist on the popular National Public Radio quiz show, "Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me." The event is scheduled for the Crest Theatre, 1013 K Street, at 7:30 p.m. Advance ticket prices range from \$27 to \$42. To purchase tickets, contact www.tickets.com online or call 800-225-2277. For more information about the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library call 916-264-2880 or visit the

web site, <http://saclibrary.org/About-Us/Friends-of-The-Library/>.

Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra

Feb. 16: Celebrate The New Year with traditional Western and classical Chinese instruments and music with the Youth Symphony, Premier Orchestra and Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra presents the Good Fortune Concert at 7 p.m. at Hiram Johnson High School, 6879 14 Ave., Sacramento, 95820. www.sacramento-youthsymphony.org or call 916-731-5777. The Premier Orchestra of the Sacramento Youth Symphony under the direction of Michael Neumann joins Gordon Lee and the Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra of San Jose with east and west flavor. Works by Californians Gordon Lee and Pablo Ortiz will be performed.

NorCal Big Band Preservation Society

Feb. 17: First band 1-2 Laguna Creek Jazz band, Major band 2-5 Swing Masters (16 PC) Big



Once upon a time there was a tree

PHOTO CREDIT: Copyright by Susanne George

Once upon a time there was a tree. That's the title of the above art piece by Susanne George, which is now on display at the Coffee Garden gallery, located at 2904 Franklin Blvd. Inspired by the trees of Sacramento, George has created a collection of pen and ink drawings that bring a new awareness to how we look at trees. George moved to Sacramento in the 1990s to pursue her love of art from Montana. She started a greeting card business of which the tree collection is a popular line.

Band. Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, located 6446 Riverside Blvd at Florin Rd. Dance will go on from 1 to 2 p.m. Tickets now for as low as \$10. Call 444-6138 for more information.

Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael

Feb. 19: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Jackson Catering and Events, 1120 Fulton Ave. (916) 925-2787. Carmichael meets at 6 p.m., Palm Street Pub & Grill, 6416 Fair Oaks Blvd. www.rotary.org.

'Hands on History: By Land and By Sea' event at Sutter's Fort

Feb. 16: Through exciting demonstrations and fun hands-on activities, docents will help Fort visitors understand the two different ways emigrants originally came to California -- by land or by sea -- while sharing the unique challenges they faced and what daily life was like during their journeys. As an event highlight, the Mexican-American war fife and drum corps will be visiting Sutter's Fort SHP to take part in special activities that include a visually-exciting flag raising ceremony, marching demonstrations and more. Multiple hands-on activities await Fort visitors as they will help pack a wagon or trunk, make choices about what to bring along for their "journey of a lifetime," learn how to use a nautical compass, hoist a laden barrel, weave rope and simple knots, create maps with available resources, and even

join the Navy and receive pay in Stonington Bank \$2 bills. For more information about this special "Hands on History" event, or other events and activities at Sutter's Fort, call 445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org. Sutter's Fort State Historic Park is located at 2701 L St., Sacramento. Fort hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Cannon firing demonstrations: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., Musket demonstrations periodically throughout the day. \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per youth (ages 6-17), free for children 5 years and under.

Community discussion on veganic farming

Feb. 17: Steph Litus a volunteer for Animal Place, a Sanctuary and Education Center in Vacaville, will speak at the Sacramento Vegetarian Society's potluck at the Grange located at 3823 V St. (Corner of Stockton Blvd. and V St.). She will talk about the veganic farming taking place at Animal Place and their plans for starting a veganic CSA, with a drop-off location in Sacramento. Veganic produce is grown without animal fertilizers.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento North meeting

Feb. 19: An organization for the betterment of women and children meets at the atria El Camino Gardens at 2426 Garfield, Carmichael. Call Sheila at 624-4643.

East Sac Rotary

Feb. 20: Meets at noon, Evan's Kitchen, 855 57th St. Sacramento. www.eastsacrotary.com.

Basic computer classes offered Feb. 13 and 20 at Sacramento's Central Library

Feb. 20: The Sacramento Public Library invites first-time computer users to learn the basics of the computer, keyboard and mouse

at a free class at 10 a.m. at the Central Library, 828 I St. No experience is necessary in this relaxed, fun Oasis Connections class. Registration is required by calling the library at 264-2920.

Sacramento State's Symphonic Wind Ensemble performance

Feb. 20: Starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall on campus, 6000 J St. Tickets are \$10 general, \$7 seniors and \$5 for students, and are available at the University Ticket Office, 278-4323 or www.csus.edu/sfsc/ticketoffice/.

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Feb. 21: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thursday. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd. (916) 684-6854.

Rev. Jesse Duplantis to speak at Victory Life Bible Church

Feb. 21: Victory Life Bible Church invites you to come hear Rev. Jesse Duplantis at the Double Tree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way at 7 p.m. Musical praise begins at 6 p.m. Arrive early for free on-street parking. Hotel provides gated parking for \$4. Call Victory Life Bible Church for further information, 331-8306.

The basics of bees discussion

Feb. 21: Bees never sleep, work 24 hours a day, need sunshine to harvest nectar, and usually stay inside the hive at night. The Sacramento Public Library invites all ages to learn more about bees at 3:30 p.m. at the North Natomas branch, 4660 Via Ingoglia. Bee behavior will be discussed and fun bee facts shared. Sponsored by the Friends of the North Natomas Library. 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Area 4 Agency on Aging public hearing

Feb. 21: The Area 4 Agency on Aging is holding a public hearing from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at 2260 Park Towne Circle, Ste. 100, Sacramento. The topic of discussion "How to Spend Federal Money for Senior Programs (including nutrition, transportation, caregiver support and others)."

Extreme couponing workshop presented at North Natomas Library

Feb. 21: The Sacramento Public Library will provide money-saving tips at the supermarket at 7 p.m. at the North Natomas branch, 4660 Via Ingoglia. Adults can learn how to take full advantage of grocery discount coupons at the free program, presented by Golden1 Credit Union. 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Bi-Polar Anonymous

Feb. 22: Free 12-step program/support group, for people who have Bi-Polar and those who love them. Meets every Friday, 7:30 p.m. 4300 Auburn Blvd., Room 106. (916) 889-5786.

Community Fruit Harvest

Feb. 23: From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Community Fruit Harvest, Colonial Heights library, located at 4799 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95820. Please register online in advance of the events. For more information and/or to register, please contact Randy Stannard at rstannard@soilborn.org or (530) 204-8082

'A Stitch in Time: The Past, Present and Future'

Feb. 23: Presented by the Sisters Quilting Collective in celebration of Black History Month. Keynote speaker Alice Beasley, quilter and artist to present from 1 to 2 p.m. Alice has been creating fabric portraits, quilts and wire sculptures since 1988. She is a member of the African American Quilt Guild of Oakland and the Studio Art Culture Association. 2837 36th St. Sacramento. 613-7401, 475-1240.

Race to help San Juan family find cure for childhood disease

Feb. 24: Kate Mathany, a San Juan Unified alum and teacher started the Getty Owl Foundation to honor her daughter, Getty, who was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy, the top genetic killer in children under the age of 2. The foundation works to spread awareness about SMA, advocates for and supports families affected by SMA and raises funds to help find a cure. The foundation is holding its second annual Getty Owl 5k/10k run/walk next month to raise funds for the nonprofit. The event includes a 1/4 mile kids run at 8:05 a.m.; 5k and 10k at 8:30 a.m. The race will be held at Crocker Park, downtown Sacramento on O Street between Second and Third Streets (next to the Crocker Art Museum). To register, visit: <http://gettyowl.org/events/run/race-information/>

Bamboo flute artist Shantala Subramanyam performs

Feb. 24: As part of Sacramento State's World Music Concerts. The concert is at 7 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 24 in the Music Recital Hall on campus, 6000 J St. Subramanyam has toured extensively across South India, America and Europe. Tickets are \$15 general, \$12 seniors and \$8 students and are available at the University Ticket Office, (916) 278-4323 or www.csus.edu/sfsc/ticketoffice/.

Free golf lessons offered at Bing Maloney Golf Complex

Feb. 24: Are you interested in starting to play golf, but not sure where to begin? Bing Maloney is offering Free Family Clinics for 2013. These clinics are family oriented for any level of golfer. Each clinic will be held on Sundays from 1 to 2:15 p.m. at the Bing Maloney Golf Course: 6801 Freepoint Blvd. in Sacramento. Call 808-2283 for more information.

Valencia Young Pianist Competition free concert

Feb. 25: The finalists from Sacramento State's annual Valencia Young Pianist Competition will present a free concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall on campus, 6000 J St. The competition draws artists between the ages of 15 and 22 competing for three cash prizes. 278-5191.

Rotary Clubs of Arden-Arcade, Carmichael

Feb. 26: Guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome, every Tuesday. Arden-Arcade meets at noon, Jackson Catering and Events, 1120 Fulton Ave. (916) 925-2787. Carmichael meets at 6 p.m., Palm Street Pub & Grill, 6416 Fair Oaks Blvd. www.rotary.org.

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Authors on the Move - the Library Foundation's annual gala event and Sacramento's premier literary event - celebrates its 11th anniversary with an evening of excitement, entertainment and story telling. **Authors on the Move; There is Still the Story will be held from 5-10 p.m. on Saturday, March 9, 2013 at the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Sacramento.**



Featured speaker, Gail Tsukiyama will speak about her new novel, *A Hundred Flowers*, about an ordinary family facing extraordinary times at the start of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Capital Public Radio is this year's media sponsor, and Beth Ruyak of *Insight* will be the mistress of ceremonies for the event.

The evening begins with a complimentary champagne reception and book signing, followed by a four-course gourmet meal (including a bottomless glass of wine!) and the opportunity to talk with local authors at your table. The live auction features several exclusive Author experiences, providing one-of-a-kind opportunities for guests to indulge their literary passions.

If you ever wanted to talk to an author and find out what makes them tick, this is your chance. Participating authors have dinner with the guests, rotating tables with every course and discussing their writing experiences and latest work. Tickets to *Authors on the Move* are \$200 each (\$1,500 for an eight-person table). The event sells out every year, so be sure to reserve your tickets today. Proceeds from the event go toward Foundation operations and the Sacramento Public Library's Summer Reading program.

For more information on *Authors on the Move*, including the current list of participating authors, or to purchase tickets or make a reservation, visit www.saclibraryfoundation.org or call 916.264.2711.

Participating authors have dinner with the guests, rotating tables with every course and discussing their writing experiences and latest work.


Serving:
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Lunch, Tuesday - Friday, 11am - 2pm
Dinner, Tuesday - Sunday 5pm - 9pm
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ERIN STUMPF 342-1372



LAND PARK SPANISH

Stylish 2 bedroom 2½ bath home in the heart of Land Park. Oversized rooms, granite kitchen, family room and pretty hardwood floors. Bonus room off of the garage is perfect office or art studio! Newer central heat & air system. Just steps to William Land Park! Don't miss this one. \$529,000

PAULA SWAYNE 443-1229



LAND PARK CHARMER

Adorable two bedroom home with a classic living room featuring hardwood floors and a cozy fireplace. The kitchen has been remodeled with newer cabinets and flooring, stainless appliances and Quartz countertops. Don't miss the bonus room with kitchenette and full bath! \$329,000

KELLIE SWAYNE 206-1458



LOVELY S LAND PARK

Handsome 3 bedroom 2 bath home with updated kitchen, pretty hardwood floors and family room with cozy fireplace. 2-car attached garage, all beautifully maintained and waiting for you! \$279,500

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



WALK TO LAND PARK

This spacious three bedroom home has all the classic charm with a vintage fireplace, hardwood floors, dual pane window, an open floor plan, and sweet yard on nearly a third of an acre. The kitchen has been remodeled and has a large eating area. Also included is a large 2 car garage. \$515,000

TIM COLLOM 247-8048



SPACIOUS CURTIS PARK

Perfect family home with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths! Newer home close to Curtis Park. Walk to Gunthers Ice Cream and various coffee shops. Close to downtown and transportation. Deep backyard is great for family fun. Move in ... and enjoy! \$239,900

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