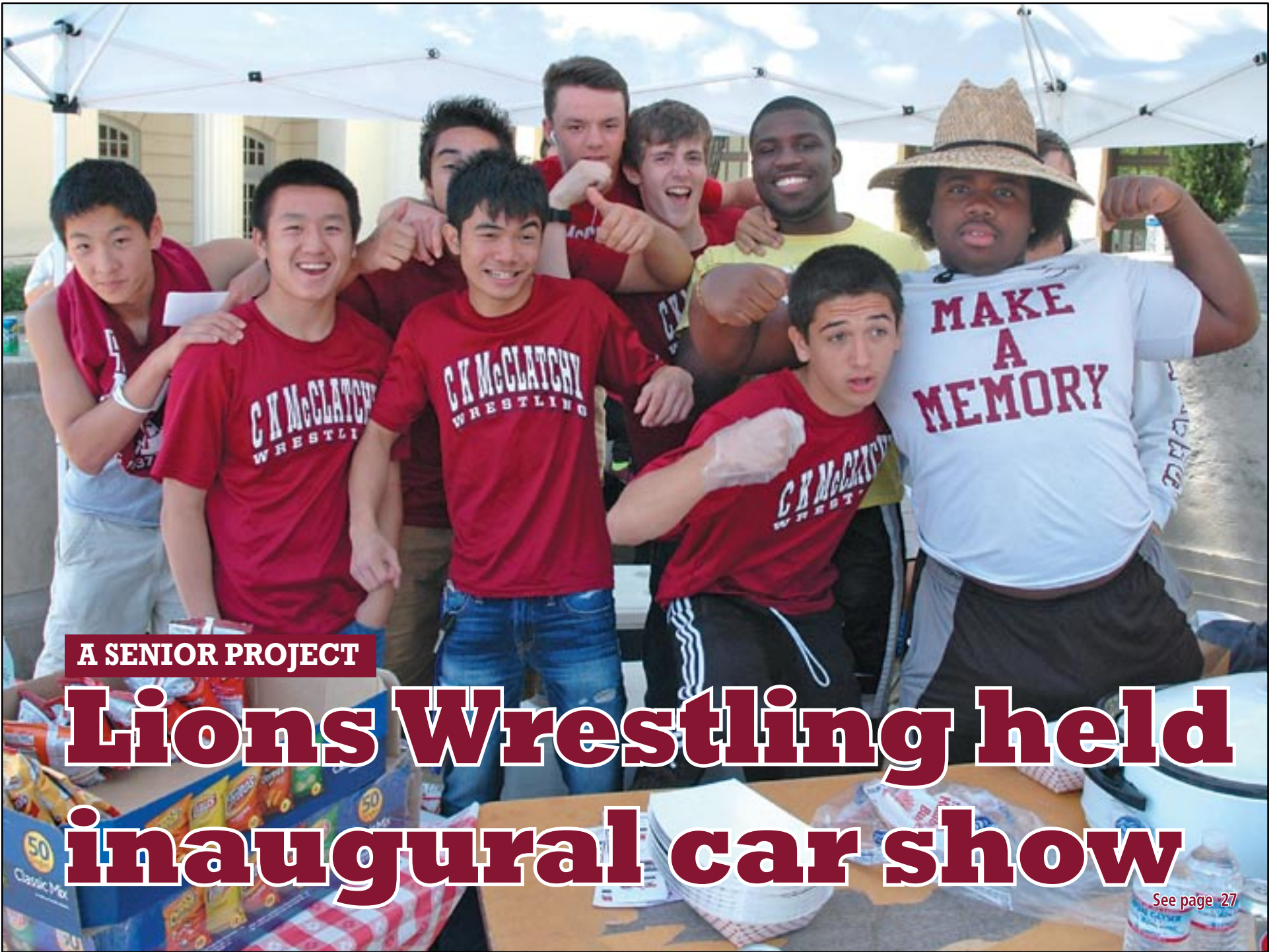


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It's political sign season, which doesn't mean much

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Meet the man inside the Sparky costume

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Over the Fence



with Greg Brown

By GREG BROWN
greg@valcomnews.com

Political Sign Season

Some folks feel so strongly about a candidate they put a political sign in their front yard for the whole neighborhood to see. It's a political endorsement. I've seen them all over. Vote for Fong. Cohn for Assembly. Jay for City Council – political clutter dotting the tree-lined streets of Sacramento.

But what if you were out and about all day and come home to a political sign staked in your front yard without your approval?

Some local residents have told me they have had people from the Kevin McCarty campaign sneaking lawn signs in their front yard without prior approval or knowledge. Council member McCarty is running for State Assembly against his fellow City Council member Steve Cohn.

Local real estate agent Matt Bistis, who lives in Hollywood Park, told me he and his wife were running errands one day, and when they arrived home, somebody had stuck a bright yellow "McCarty For Assembly" sign on their front lawn. Matt told me he "doesn't do political lawn signs"....especially in his line of work. He had to pull it out and toss it in the trash.

Perhaps it's an innocent mistake or just sloppy campaign work. But it doesn't seem to be an isolated incident.

A woman named Melanie from Curtis Park, who didn't want her last name used,

told me she had left for a couple of hours on a Saturday and came home to find a Kevin McCarty sign staked in her front yard after her husband specifically told McCarty's campaign representative "We are NOT OK with signs being placed in our yard." Since the McCarty camp ignored the couple's wishes, they picked it up, took it apart, and placed it in the garbage. She added, "A shame and a wasteful campaign practice...I will not be voting for McCarty!"

Another person who got a "McCarty For Assembly" sign she didn't ask for was Michelle La Grandeur. She actually has one for Jay Schenirer. Michelle said, "The McCarty team came around with leaflets and such. I took one and said I'd probably vote for him, but they didn't ask if I wanted a sign, and I didn't ask for one either."

Michelle got a "McCarty For Assembly" sign on her lawn last week and promptly removed it.

My wife reminded me that we got hit by the rogue McCarty sign placers when he was running against Roger Dickinson in the last election. We never asked for a sign, but my wife had contacted his campaign. No yard sign was ever discussed.

I called McCarty campaign headquarters and asked a woman named Kathryn why res-

See Over the Fence, page 3

Over the Fence:

Continued from page 2

Historic restaurant and building for sale

idents get lawn signs they never request? She told me, "They got it because that address was on a list of people who have requested yard signs."

I told her none of these folks requested lawn signs. She replied, "We are human. Humans do make mistakes, that's why God invented erasers. That's why we put the note on the porch."

The McCarty campaign usually leaves a note that says, "If you didn't request this lawn sign and this is a mistake, please call us and we'll pick it up."

I left a voicemail with McCarty's campaign manager, but she never returned my call.

So if your neighbor has a McCarty sign in their front yard...don't assume they're voting for McCarty. They just haven't gotten home from grocery shopping.

Have you come home to find a political candidate's sign in your front yard without approval? Let me know at Greg@valcomnews.com

Trails Restaurant, with the classic neon sign, old school western wallpaper with lassos, cowboys, and bulls and the wagon-wheel chandelier, is for sale.

When I heard Trails Restaurant was for sale, my heart sank. I'd been noticing the restaurant had been closed a lot lately. I found out about the sale through South Land Park resident and local preservationist Gretchen Steinberg. She had posted on her Facebook page that the historic diner on 21st Street was for sale. My first thought was, "somebody will buy it and turn into something annoying where the Midtown brosephs will gather to be...brosephy."

Even though I have been mocked by foodie snobs, I like old school restaurants like Trails. Trails is an "old man place" and I like it that way, dagnabbit! I like checkered tablecloths, generous portion dinners, and waitresses that call you, "hon." I'm not interested in the latest overpriced

See Trails, page 4

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Trails:

Continued from page 3

restaurant with white linen tablecloths. Trails is not for foodies. It's for folks who like chicken and barbecue ribs instead of fennel pollen and wild seed crust-tuna.

Leave the farm-to-fork fancy cuisine to local restaurant critics who seem to skewer my beloved

comfort eating joints. The Sacramento Bee's Blair Anthony Robertson had a particularly rough review of Trails last year. He murdered the restaurant in his review, which is interesting since most serial killers and presidential assassins usually go by three names.

Trails Restaurant is a Sacramento Institution. The history of the restau-

rant and its Hollywood roots were written about extensively by Valcom's Lance Armstrong back in 2010. Gin Wong bought the historic restaurant in 1979 and has been running the restaurant ever since.

When I called the restaurant, Gin answered. I told him I heard the restaurant was for sale and he said, "Do you want to buy it?" Then he laughed and told

me I should call the broker. He seemed busy and not interested in talking about it.

I spoke with Cole Miller, who is the broker, and he said Gin is looking to possibly retire. He added Gin is a great proprietor and takes a lot of pride in his restaurant.

According to Miller, the restaurant "has gotten quite a bit of traction. There's

been quite a few interested parties. We are just waiting to see who will present the best offer."

Cole went on to say, "I think someone young and vibrant can come in and improve upon what's there and keep it the same way, but there's no reason it can't be improved at the same time." That, I could live with. I'd hate to see the place gutted, remodeled, and turned into fusion cuisine.

He mentioned one interested party talked about getting some sort of outside eating environment. "At places like Tower Café that has proved to be extremely successful. I think that model is something proprietors are definitely looking at," Miller said.

He also mentioned one potential proprietor has talked about putting a deck on top of the building so folks can eat outside.

These ideas all sound great as long as Trails stays the same, keeps the neon sign and the kitsch, and I can still get a "Generous Portions Dinner."

Have a local news item for Over The Fence, email greg@valcomnews.com

Correction:

In the last issue of the Land Park News, it was stated in the article about the Land Park Schools Foundation that Gregory Sutcliff works for PRIDE Industries. He used to, but no longer does. He now works for Alcal Specialty Contracting, a local business that provides retrofit insulation services for homeowners all across the state (among several other trades).

LPSF also picked up another member, April Meszaros, who has been "our rock of a board member," said Sutcliff. She's the Director of Communications and has been helpful in getting the website built, managed the design processes for logos, letterhead etc. The website is www.landparkschools.org

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Ground has broken on Northwest Land Park project

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Nearby the Setzer's Forest Products property sits an open plot of land at 5th Street, near the corner of 1st Avenue, behind the Produce Express building, that is undergoing a major transformation. As Land Park News writer Lance Armstrong wrote in 2011: "As the face of the Broadway district has changed throughout the years, no business has been a part of the area for longer than Setzer Forest Products. The company is so old, in fact, that not only did it change its name about 43 years ago, but it predates the actual name of Broadway itself."

But as of Wednesday, May 14, that area will never be the same, as the Northwest Land Park project officially broke ground, introducing a mixed-use community with open-space living, which will be built around a community park and produce farmers' market. At the groundbreaking ceremony, Councilman Steve Hansen discussed upcoming developments and efforts in creating an environmentally friendly atmosphere for this unique downtown setting. California Paving, an exclusive street paver partner, was also onsite conducting a live demonstration of the paver laying process in conjunction with the materials provider, Belgard & Oldcastle Coastal.

The community will feature 825 new residential homes, commercial space, a 2.5-acre community farm and walking trails. In an interview with the Land Park News, Danelle Sherman, public relations specialist at Augustine Ideas, an ad agency representing the project, said the first phase – which will first occupy that open space near Setzer's – will have three to four different styles of homes (including detached, townhouses, and condominiums) with two to four plans per style. Later phases will be refreshed with updates and additions to the styles and plan options based on buyer and community feedback. Because these homes are a year out, Sherman said the prices have not yet been determined. A 14,000-square-foot Public Market with multiple booth spaces will be an open air space but under roof – out of the sun and rain. Anticipate a mixture of fresh fruits and veggies, artisan and lo-

cal foods (such as olives and cheeses, etc.), as well as arts and crafts opportunities. "We are exploring re-use options that could include a teaching kitchen, microbrewery uses, or catering services," she said.

Asked about the trail system for the community and how it will be linked with the surrounding area, Sherman said the trail system will connect through the project from east to west and from south to north; its intended purpose is to enhance a safe route for kids to walk internally to school at Arthur A. Benjamin Health Professions High School and Leataata Floyd Elementary. The east to west connection will run from 5th Street to the underpass that will be converted from rail to trail connecting to Front Street, Miller Park, and the Marina. Sherman said at build-out, they anticipate that the project will represent around \$225 to \$250 million added to the property tax rolls. Produce Express will be relocating to an unspecified area of Sacramento at this time.

Discussions with the Setzers began in the spring of 2007 and that Roseville-based Augustine Ideas purchased the first phase in December of 2009. The planning and entitlement process was completed in September of 2011. In a 2006 Sacramento Business Journal article, Setzer executive Scott Setzer said then that the family believes the time has come to redevelop the site, adding, "it must be done in a way that helps the city and is acceptable to the neighborhood."

According to Sherman, there has been no opposition from the surrounding neighborhood as, "we went through a very inclusive process to work through the concerns around traffic, design, density, and mix of uses." The project received unanimous votes at both the Planning Commission and City Council with no opposition or objections from the neighborhood.

Because these homes are a year out, Sherman said the prices have not yet been determined. A 14,000-square-foot Public Market with multiple booth spaces will be an open air space but under roof – out of the sun and rain. Anticipate a mixture of fresh fruits and veggies, artisan and lo-

attending their meetings and acknowledged the developer for being a Taste of Land Park 2014 sponsor.

Gabe Ross, Sacramento City Unified School District spokesman, said the district is excited about the prospect about the work and the redevelopment in the Northwest Land Park project. In an interview with the Land Park News, he said, "We have two great schools in that neighborhood – Leataata Floyd Elementary School and Health Professions High School – and the investment in that community will really benefit those kids. Health Professions is a small high school. It's a career-themed program with a great track record, but it has struggled with enrollment. This is a huge opportunity to connect students to that program that is preparing them for 21st century careers."

Because these homes are a year out, Sherman said the prices have not yet been determined nor has the home builder.

On its Facebook page, the Land Park Community Association thanked Northwest Land Park for regularly

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McClatchy High School was constructed near site of old Imfeld dairy farm

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

C.K. McClatchy High School, which became the city's second public high school when it opened in 1937, was built in a once very rural area, which included the 40-acre Imfeld dairy farm.

Joseph John Imfeld, Sr., who was born in the German-speaking part of Switzerland on Feb. 24, 1859, began operating that farm on the west side of Freeport Road (today's Freeport Boulevard) in 1904.

Located just south of what would become the site of McClatchy High, the farm operated on a rectangular-shaped property that extended to today's 6th Avenue to the north and roughly between today's more easterly portions of 8th and 9th avenues to the south and to the vicinity of present day Land Park Drive to the west.

As it does today, 6th Avenue, in that area, ended on the east side of Freeport Boulevard.

Furthermore, 8th and 9th avenues did not run in that area and there was no Land Park Drive at that time, as William Land Park was not yet in existence.

As for today's McClatchy High property, it is located on a large por-

tion of the former estate of Theodore Blauth.

That property, which ran parallel with the Imfeld dairy farm, was identical in size and shape to the Imfeld property.

On the opposite, southern side of the Imfeld dairy ranch was another 40-acre piece of property, which was owned by Mrs. J.H. Beach.

The Imfeld dairy farm was described in the 1910 through 1912 city directories as being located on Freeport Road, near De Longe Avenue.

This latter named street was likely located on or adjacent to the property of Jean B. De Longe, who operated a nearby saloon on his 10-acre parcel of land, which was located on the southeast corner of Freeport and Suterville roads.

The 1913 through 1915 directories refer to the dairy as being located on Freeport Road, near Hillcrest Way – today's Weller Way.

The 1916 directory lists the dairy as having the location of Freeport Road, near Sequoia Avenue, which was renamed 6th Avenue in 1917.

It was also in 1917 when Freeport Road was renamed Freeport Boulevard and the dairy received its numbered street address of 3616 Freeport Blvd. This address was changed to 3116 Freeport Blvd. two years later.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

C.K. McClatchy High School was built just south of the site of the old Imfeld dairy ranch.

Joseph John Imfeld, Sr. may have lived in Sacramento prior to moving to his Freeport Road property, which was then recognized as being located in the Riverside area.

The 1888-89 city directory, for instance, lists J. Imfeld of 422 L St. as a fireman for the Pioneer Flour Mill – officially known as the Pioneer Milling Company – at Front Street and the old Yolo bridge.

The 1900 city directory lists a Joseph John Imfeld as a steamboat man, who was residing at 1530 T St.

In about 1910, Joseph John Imfeld, Jr. and John Joseph Imfeld joined their father, Joseph John Imfeld, Sr., to form a dairy business partnership known as Joseph Imfeld & Sons. This business name appears to have been shortened to Imfeld & Sons by 1914.

Also living on the dairy property around that time were Joseph John Imfeld, Sr.'s wife, Frances (Muller) Imfeld, his daughter, Frances T. Imfeld, and Paul J. Bussinger, who was employed as a farm laborer on the property.

According to the 1910 U.S. Census, Frances Imfeld was born in Switzerland in about 1861, Frances T. Imfeld was born in California in about 1891 and Bussinger was born in Switzerland in about 1882.

In the June 28, 1898 edition of The Sacramento Union, Joseph John Imfeld, Jr., who was born in Yolo County on Sept. 13, 1889, was listed among the students of Miss Jeanie W. Govan's second grade class at Jefferson Primary School at 16th and N streets. Govan, who resided

McClatchy, page 7

McClatchy:

Continued from page 6

ed at 600 O St., was also the school's principal.

Additional information about Joseph John Imfeld, Jr. is included on his World War I registration card, which he filled out on June 5, 1917.

Among the details that he wrote on that card were that he was a "dairyman and farmer in business with father" and that he was tall with a medium build and had brown hair and blue eyes.

Additionally, Joseph John Imfeld, Jr. listed his address on the card as Box 467, Freeport Road, Sacramento.

John Joseph Imfeld also filled out a World War I registration card on June 5, 1917.

He listed himself on the card as John Joe Imfeld and noted that he was born on June 28, 1893 and was a "dairyman and farmer in business with father."

John Joseph Imfeld also described himself on the card as a tall, stout and single man with light brown hair and blue eyes.

John Joseph Imfeld moved to 2004 4th Ave. in 1921 and left his family's dairy business two years later, after being hired as a clerk at Franklyn L. Youngman's drugs and dry goods store at 2700 24th St. Youngman lived a fairly short distance from the dairy at 2322 2nd Ave.

The dairy, which retained the name Imfeld & Sons following John Joseph Imfeld's departure from the business, remained in operation until about 1924.

By 1926, Joseph John Imfeld, Jr. was residing with his Switzerland-born wife, Marie S. Imfeld, at 3148 W St. and was operating a gasoline and oil service station on the old dairy property at 3118 Freeport Blvd.

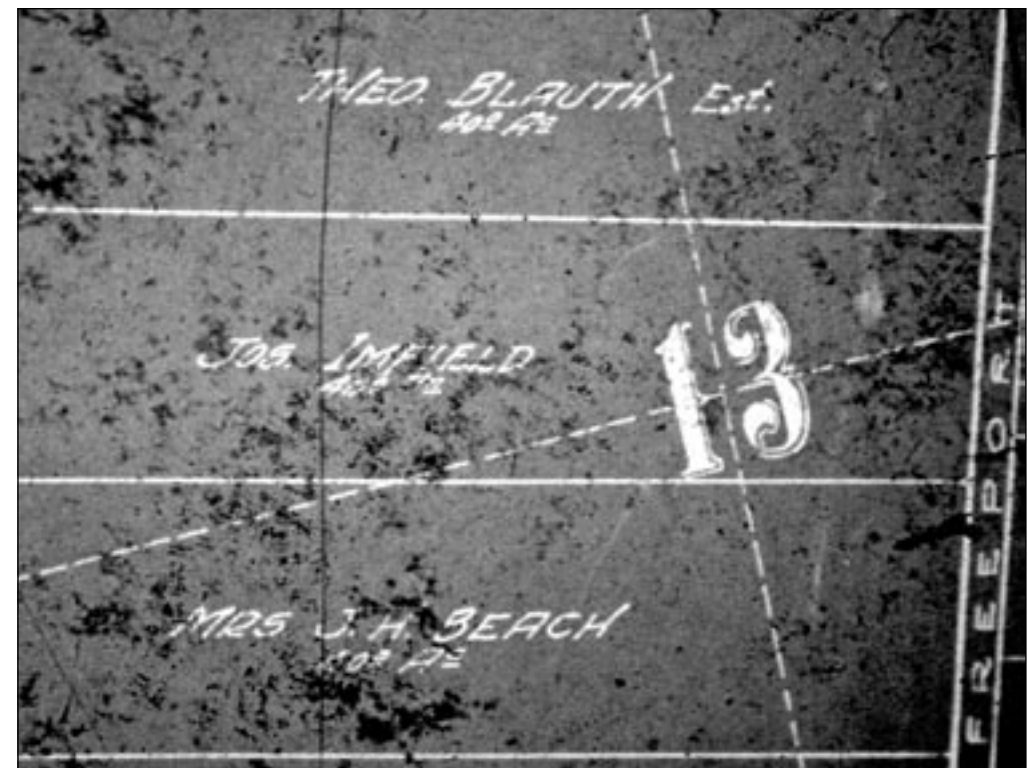


Photo by Lance Armstrong

This portion of a 1918 map of the city of Sacramento and vicinity, shows the location of the old Imfeld dairy ranch (13), which was flanked by the properties of Theodore Blauth and Mrs. J.H. Beach.

In 1929, after spending about a year working as a carpenter in Sacramento for Paul R. Opdyke, John Joseph Imfeld, who was married to the Michigan-born Rosamond Imfeld, moved to Santa Cruz. He died there on Feb. 28, 1984.

Joseph John Imfeld, Sr. continued to reside in his house at 3116 Freeport Blvd., near 7th Avenue, on the old dairy property until 1933.

In 1936, Joseph John Imfeld, Jr. sold his service station to Raymond E. Petee of 1616 N St.

The service station was closed by the following year, at which time Joseph John

Imfeld, Jr. was working as an ice puller at Consumers Ice & Cold Storage Company at 831 D St. His wife also worked at the plant as a cook.

Joseph John Imfeld, Sr. died in Sacramento on Feb. 15, 1942 and Joseph John Imfeld, Jr. died in Sacramento on May 21, 1978.

Although the old Imfeld dairy ranch is only a memory now, having ceased its operations about 90 years ago, its property and neighborhood, which includes McClatchy High, the Freeport Bakery, Marie's Donuts and Taylor's Market, has since become one of the more notable places in the city.

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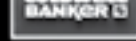
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Kiyo Sato to speak at Eskaton Monroe was once all too common

The Sato family quest for the American Dream

Not many books make such an impact on a community as Sacramento native Kiyo Sato's "America: Dandelion Through the Crack." Eskaton Monroe residents have recently been passing along Sato's book and chatting about it while at dinner and in the lounge over a cup of coffee. Staff overhears their conversations and the book got passed along to the staff and it has been making its rounds through the entire building.

"Dandelion Through the Crack" tells of a family formed both by ancestry and by the American way of life. Interwoven throughout are the haiku of the author's father and his wise fables, drawn from his old and new homelands.

"America: Dandelion Through the Crack," is the compelling story of starting a family in California, coping during the Depression, being swept off to concentration camps, and ultimately surviving and succeeding despite terrible odds and oppressive prejudice.

Because of the popularity of the book, Eskaton Monroe will be hosting Sato on June 19 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. for an "Afternoon with the Author" event.

Scott Okamoto, the sales counselor at Eskaton Monroe, said he thinks this book really speaks to the residents because it is built upon the experiences they've shared within Japanese internment camps. "Giving an insider point of view allows everyone to experience that period of time from a different stance and maybe with a different mindset," Okamoto said.

"Being a generation that did not really want to talk about camp, as my grandparents were, it is nice to be able to understand more about what they may have experienced, what they lived through and how they persevered under tough conditions," Okamoto said.

Walking alongside Kiyo when honorary diplomas were given at Sacramento City College a few years back, to accept on his passed grandfather's behalf, was one of the great honors of Okamoto's life and really started his passion of learning more about internment camps and what they experienced.

Check your local bookstore for the book's availability.

Eskaton Monroe is located at 3225 Freeport Blvd.



A collage Sato Family photos.

Recapping "The Candidates' Forum" at The Sierra 2 Center

By GREG BROWN
greg@valcomnews.com

It was Jay Schenirer versus Ali Cooper at a candidates' forum in Curtis Park on Monday, May 5. It was held inside a jam-packed Curtis Hall at the Sierra 2 Center. The two candidates are running for Sacramento City Council District 5.

The forum was moderated by the League Of Woman Voters and sponsored by the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association.

The moderator of the forum was Suzanne Phinney who gave a long-winded introduction about rules and regulations and added she was "glad people came to the candidates' forum instead of partying on Cinco de Mayo." Actually I think some folks in attendance could have used a couple shots of tequila and a mariachi band because this was not exactly a barn burner.

Vice Mayor Schenirer kicked things off with his opening statement. He verbally listed his impressive resume for the audience and mentioned how he's been a Curtis Park resident with his wife for 24 years. They raised their children in the neighborhood. He described Curtis Park as the model neighborhood and the model neighborhood association in the city.

Then Ali Cooper stood up and told the folks about himself. He mentioned how "his views are a bit different than Mr. Schenirer's." Cooper spent 18 years as a progressive community organizer bringing communities together for all sorts of causes. He told people to check out his website votealicooper.com and went on to say this is a defining moment for Sacramento and a "tale of two cities."

During the forum, candidates discussed a wide array of topics, including: public schools, the fire department budget, minimum wage increase, the Downtown arena, Curtis Park Village, public libraries, the privatization of city services, small business, bicycle planning, Wal-Mart and strong mayor.

One of Cooper's applause lines was, "The single greatest failure of the council is the Downtown Arena project. We're being asked as taxpayers and as council members to make a decision to ship \$300 million in subsidies to wealthy developers."

He added, "It's reckless and irresponsible" and that's when there was a smattering of applause. The moderator quickly tamped down any life from the audience by saying, "please no applause, thank you very much."

Cooper went on to say this is what the election comes down to. "Are we going to continue to reseat a City Council that makes reckless decisions?"

Jay responded by saying there are risks in any large project that you do and that the risks have been mitigated and minimized.

"We've taken a close look at it and brought in experts from around the country in to help us with this decision and to help us structure the arrangement that we have with the ownership group of the Kings."

"When you look at the risk and reward, the reward is much greater. Eleven thousand jobs and 4,500 construction jobs, 6,000 permanent jobs in ancillary development -- that's going to provide an economic boost to the city."

Jay went on to say, if the Kings had left town, we would have lost 300 union jobs at the Arena and 700 jobs

around the arena. "I don't think that's something we can afford in this kind of economy," Jay said.

Jay thinks the Downtown Arena is an investment in our future. He touted the \$700 million that the ownership group is investing in the Downtown area that will revitalize Downtown.

In the absence of state redevelopment dollars, "If you can show me another way that we can keep downtown from continuing to die, I'd love to talk about it because I don't see any other way," Jay told the audience at the forum.

That's when I would have liked to have seen the two candidates DEBATE the issue -- go toe-to-toe instead of moving on to traffic mitigation, which is what happened.

Both candidates agreed that traffic on Sutterville and surrounding areas is going to be a nightmare when Curtis Park Village is at full throttle. Jay proposed more bike lanes and public transportation options. Ali agreed and added that developers have a responsibility to contribute financially as well.

Then a question about Wal-Mart being built at Curtis Park Village came up. Cooper pounced on that by saying "my opponent is taking tens of thousands of dollars in support from the same poverty employers who, in fact, are seeking to curry favor at City Hall and that's certainly a problem."

Then it was Jay's turn. He told the crowd there would be no Wal-Mart coming to Curtis Park. There's nothing going into Curtis Park Village that is more than 60,000 square feet. He wanted to be clear about that.

Jay then addressed Ali Cooper's assertion that he took tens of thousands of dollars from Wal-Mart.

Jay told the crowd that he has "not personally taken any money from the

Wal-Mart Foundation." In fact, he has taken money for his WayUp program in Oak Park, which helps revitalize the neighborhood.

He has raised \$1.4 million privately from corporations that goes to youth leadership camps and the "100 Covered Campaign," which helps children with medical coverage. Some of the money also goes to school gardens. The grants from Wal-Mart all go towards Jay's WayUp program.

Then Vice-Mayor Schenirer threw out a "warm and fuzzy" by saying, "As long as the government cannot supply what these young people need, I will go raise money to provide those supports and services because those young people deserve everything that we can provide in our community for our children."

That's when there could have been more of a debate style forum. I would have liked to see the candidates face one another and discuss their differences in front of the audience.

The residents of Curtis Park are politically savvy and deserve a more compelling political forum.

It would make for a livelier debate instead of just two-minute talking points on a particular subject. By the end of the forum, a lot of people had already left the room. Perhaps they wanted to get in some last minute Cinco de Mayo partying.

For more information on the candidates for District 5 you can check out their websites: www.vote4ali.com and www.jayschenirer.com. The primary election is Tuesday June 3. The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. To find your polling place look on the back of your sample ballot or on the web at www.elections.saccounty.net. You can also call 875-6451.

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The Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

1 Balance sheet item
6 Blueprint
10 Liveliness
13 Take to task
14 Wavy silk pattern
15 George's bill
16 Promotional play
17 Nostalgic number
18 Eccentric
19 As a proxy
21 Bewildered
23 Trawler need
24 Head lock?
27 Twine fiber
28 Metric weight
30 Street lingo
32 Cave in
33 Imitate
35 Hallway
37 Roll-book notation
40 Regatta entrant
41 Table silver
43 Place to be pampered
44 Moreover
45 Usurer's offerings
47 Frying medium
51 Violinist's supply
53 Carpentry tool
55 Fish delicacy
56 Like citrus fruit
58 Scrutinize
60 Washed out
61 Subject for debate

DOWN

1 Thespian's job
2 Fight souvenir
3 Sonora snooze
4 Blue-pencil
5 Position
6 Neighbor of Ger.
7 Pot cover
8 Opera feature
9 Must-haves
10 Cabana's locale
11 Industrious effort
12 Hawker
14 Runway walker
20 Bag of tricks
22 Like modern cameras
25 Wisconsin tribe
26 Nose-in-the-air type
29 Bone near the ear
31 To the extreme
34 Mass seating?
36 Gavel action
37 Earmark
38 Baby's berth
39 Trampled (on)
41 2005 Nickelback love song
42 Stud site
46 Eleanor, to Teddy
48 Fit to be tiled
49 Painting aid
50 Computer key
52 Gunpowder component
54 On the level
57 Sonata finale
59 Big blowout
62 Snub-nosed dog
63 Bar supply

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Sacramento Buddhist Church announces rummage sale

The 2014 Sacramento Buddhist Church Rummage Sale, sponsored by the Legacy Endowment Fund Board, takes place on Saturday, June 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Buddhist Church social hall and courtyard located at 2401 Riverside Blvd.

With the social hall and church courtyard filled with several quality items, shoppers have much to choose from. Many of the goods are new or nearly new, such as clothing, shoes, and accessories for men, women, and children; kitchenware including dishes, appliances, utensils; a huge collection of books, video media, music; toys and games.

Specialty Asian items will feature pottery, lacquer ware, dish sets, and artwork. The outside courtyard has larger items including furniture, sporting goods, tools, gardening equipment, electronics, seasonal, craft, and art items.

The Boy Scouts Venture Crew will be selling food items so shoppers can rest and recharge.

The LEFB Rummage Sale provides a great opportunity for donors to pass on items no longer used or needed and makes them available to others. They will be sold to raise funds for church projects benefiting various programs while providing shoppers great bargains. Anything unsold will be donated to charitable organizations to extend the benefits to others in the community. The goal is to keep as little as possible from going to the landfill. With the current emphasis on re-purposing and reusing, this becomes a winning situation for everyone.

Donations may be dropped off on Thursday June 5 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Friday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Buddhist Church.

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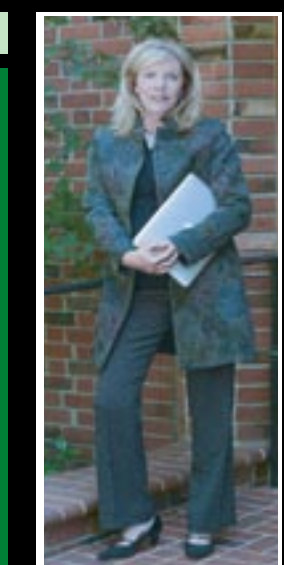
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Check out these server outfits: 40 years of restaurant service uniforms

By: JEAN BELL
Special to Valley Community Newspapers

Editor's note: In celebration of its 40th anniversary Casa Garden Restaurant held a fashion show during lunchtime on Wednesday, May 7. Sporting the fashions of days past, current volunteers surely put on a show that was humorously presented by one of the servers today, Jean Bell. What follows is Bell's speech with accompanied photos taken by Art Scotland.

It all started back in 1974. After much discussion and probably some arguments, the decision was made for the first Casa restaurant uniform. **Brenda** sported an outfit made of indestructible double knit polyester in an "attractive" chocolate brown, with a brown and white striped apron. For those of you who don't know about double knit polyester, it has a shelf life of plutonium. It never wrinkled and kept all the volunteers nice and warm, especially in the summer.

As presented by **Fayne**, the coordinator at this time didn't have to wear the apron, but did get two pockets and a belt. **Carol Williams**, a long-time Casa volunteer, told me that when she wore this uniform in the summer, she almost had heat stroke!

Rebellion took place as a slightly "cooler" uniform was adopted. The coordinator, as presented by **Judy** during this period wore a "coordinated" dark brown/milk chocolate wrap dress so as to be differentiated from the sweaty servers.

After much discussion, crying and wailing, a new uniform was designed – something that was a bit cooler for the volunteers, more lightweight and comfortable. So they reused the striped apron material, to make (ta-dah) our "prison matron uniform" as elegantly worn by **Charlotte**. It did not come with a stun gun. It was a more comfortable outfit, and that's about the one good thing I can say about it!

Another choice was made, a lightweight, but still ugly "dirt" colored outfit, because hey!

Who doesn't look good in a dirt color? **Sheri** donned the coordinator outfit, a bright-red dirt colored uniform, enhanced with a princess cut.

Polly is shown in a choice 1980s outfit, as at that time a new improved uniform was voted in. In honor of Little House on the Prairie and **Laura Ingalls**, volunteers chose the "apron-uniform," a waist-to-toe outfit that came complete with a "back air vent," which necessitated servers to wear a slip and white blouse. It took several volunteers to help each into this contraption. The crossover apron straps were not the easiest thing to climb into, and the term "watch your back" had a whole new meaning!

Next uniform change. As shown in the outfit **Nancy** is wearing, a decision had been made to move away from the brown, dirt and rust colored uniforms. Hello, faded red jumper! To add to this attractive color, a dress pattern was used to make sure no one looked good in this – nothing like wearing a "tent" to serve in. Added, a lovely sash to



help with the tent and possibly cut off circulation.

We don't want to leave out the kitchen staff! During this time, all the volunteers in the kitchen were asked to wear this cobbler's type apron. As worn by **Sue**, a nice coverall in red and orange tones supported the faded red tent dress of the servers. We were so coordinated!

During the 1990s, our new uniforms came from the blending of the "Age of Aquarius" and a square dance group! The dress, fashioned after a milkmaid outfit, was enhanced with the psychedelic plaid apron. Prototypes choices were Easter Egg Yellow, as worn by **Chris**, or lipstick pink as worn by **Judy**. Also, the dark turquoise was chosen, as worn by **Ginger**. A note about this uniform. **Carol** and one other volunteer

had to make an emergency run to the grocery store during serving hours and the check-out clerk wondered if they were on a dance team...or part of a Sweet Adeline's quartet!

One more apron, as worn by **Carol**, shows the old name of the restaurant: "Casa de Los Ninos." We changed to the Casa Garden Restaurant because customers though we only served Mexican food.

Our most current uniform is white shirt, black pants and the Casa apron (which **Jean** is shown wearing). Many of our volunteers waited until this uniform became the norm before joining!

So, there you have it. From then until now – 40 years of service. It doesn't make any difference what we wear...it's what we do here to help the children "over the fence."

Land Man Relives Memory of 'Yesterday'

Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus
Original Multi-Media Show June
6-7 at Crest Evokes Beatles Mania

Land Park resident **Don ReGester** remembers the first time he heard the Beatles sing—the song was "Yesterday," released by the "Fab Four" in late summer 1965. "It is the first Beatles song that I remember from my childhood," ReGester says.

ReGester, a baritone and sometime soloist with the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, will be part of an original multi-media production of "Come Together—A Tribute to the Beatles," at 8 p.m. on Friday, June 6, and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 7, at the Crest Theatre in Sacramento. The show will incorporate the sights and sounds of the 1960s and the "British Invasion." General Admission tickets are \$25; VIP Reserved Seating \$40, available online at <http://www.sacgaymenschorus.org/buy-tickets.php>.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Beatle's historic appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," "Come Together" will feature the chorus' interpretation of Beatles favorites against an original compilation of vintage still photos and video footage of

Beatle-mania and U.S. popular culture of the last five decades, as well as historical images of Sacramento's LGBT community. Photos and video will be displayed on a stage backdrop of multiple 70-inch screens suspended behind the chorus. Featured Beatles songs include "We Can Work It Out," "This Boy," "Hard Day's Night," "Yellow Submarine," "When I'm 64," "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away," "Nowhere Man," "Hard Day's Night," "Hey Jude," "Imagine," and many more.

"The music of the Beatles is quite diverse, and it speaks to us on many levels," said chorus Artistic Director **Steven Johnson**. "The chorus has really enjoyed working on this show. I have particularly enjoyed sharing this music with the younger members of the chorus, many of whom were not familiar with the Beatles. Regardless of one's age, we think that 'Come Together' is going to be a real crowd pleaser."

A member of the chorus for the past six years, ReGester has also sung bass and 2nd tenor for the chorus. "This concert has a great mix of numbers performed by the full chorus, soloists, and small groups," ReGester says. "I am in the quartet that will be singing

'Yesterday,' as well as in the small group, 'Boy Howdy,' which will be doing several songs and has some surprises planned."

ReGester says he likes many things about singing with the chorus. "It is multifaceted," he says. "The fellowship, being a positive role model, and the making of great music." What he most looks forward to for the June 6-7 Beatles tribute concert, he says, is "sharing the music with the audience."

"That's what it is all about." "Come Together" will feature soloists, a capella groups, and the nearly 70 voices of the full chorus. A special "Come Together Combo" has been assembled to accompany the chorus and includes SGMC's own **Kay Hight** at the piano and **Harley White, Jr.** on bass.

The multi-media production will include footage and still photographs from the U.S. Civil Rights and gay rights movements of the 1960s, images from rallies and rock festivals, and scenes paying homage to the era of the Beatles invasion, the overwhelming excitement of American audiences and the frenzy that energized the early '60s. Other images will depict the struggle for LGBT equality,

including images of same-sex weddings and commitment ceremonies set to the songs "We Can Work It Out" and "This Boy," LGBT parents and kids set to "Hey Jude," and celebrations of being gay and gray with "When I'm 64." Choreographer is **Darryl Strohl**, who is creating and teaching both the "choralography"—the movements of the chorus—and the choreography for the onstage dancers, many of whom are regulars at Runaway Stage Productions.

Founded in 1984 as a singing group aimed at fostering a sense of community and providing support for Sacramento area gay and lesbian people, the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus performs numerous concerts and community benefit appearances each year. Over the past 30 years, the group has become an integral part of the Sacramento arts community as well as a voice for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality. The chorus strives for musical excellence and maintains a vigorous rehearsal schedule and music education program. For more information about the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus, or to purchase tickets to the "Come Together" concert, visit sacgaymenschorus.org.

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Curtis Park women help local homeless women

By KRISTIN THEBAUD

Two Curtis Park women are working hard on Women's Empowerment's 13th Annual Celebration of Independence Gala that raises funds to help Sacramento women who are homeless find homes and jobs so they can support their families. The event will take place June 26 at the Red Lion Woodlake Hotel in Sacramento. Guests will mingle with graduates from the program and enjoy a formal dinner, live and silent auctions, live music and presentations from the graduates.

Curtis Park resident Jean O'Sullivan has helped plan the last three galas, recruiting her coworkers at Na-

tionwide to volunteer at registration. She is soliciting auction items, promoting ticket sales and helping with decorations. She also has helped recruit mentors for the organization throughout the year.

"I volunteer at Women's Empowerment because they truly live up to their mission of educating and empowering women and giving them the tools they need to step out of homelessness for themselves and their children," O'Sullivan said. "The success rate of graduates and the stories of their individual journeys, including




Emily Sanson-Smith, middle, is shown at last year's gala.


Photo courtesy

See Empowerment, page 17


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Empowerment:

Continued from page 16

setbacks and accomplishments, are remarkable and inspirational."

Emily Sanson-Smith, also of Curtis Park, is O'Sullivan's colleague on the planning team for the gala. This is the first year she has helped plan the gala, but she brought a group of friends to last year's event. This year, she will help set up for the event and also help auction winners check out by processing payments and ensuring they receive their purchases. She also is collecting wine to serve at the event and auction off. She plans to help with the group's resume and interviewing workshops throughout the year.

"I wanted to get involved with an organization that made a real and measurable impact in the local community," Sanson-Smith said. "Women's Empowerment is providing the career training and life skills that women need in order to gain and maintain a job, and be able to provide for themselves and their families in the long-term. Where else can women get child care, job training, life skills coaching, access to clothing for interviews and jobs all under one roof?"

Women's Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically for women who are homeless and their children. The 2014 Organization of the Year has graduated 1,144 homeless women and their more than 2,500 children. In 2013, 81 percent of graduates found homes and 90 percent found jobs or enrolled in school or training. The program combines self-esteem courses, job training, health classes and support services to help homeless women across diverse ages, races and cultures. Women's Empowerment is funded solely through private donations from the community.

"Each year, the gala grows as more community members come celebrate the amazing women in our community who have broken the cycle of homelessness for themselves and their children," said Lisa Culp, executive director. "We hope to include even more guests this year. Those who can't attend can sponsor a graduate to have a night where she will shine and be celebrated for her accomplishments."

To purchase tickets to the gala or sponsor a graduate, visit www.womens-empowerment.org.



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Land Parker discusses the importance of animal blessings

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

East Sacramento's affinity for their furry friends prompted the congregation at First Christian Church on Folsom Boulevard to ask their pastor if he'd offer blessings to animals from outside the church.

In an interview with the East Sacramento News, Pastor Ted Firch discussed the urging by churchgoers to have animal blessings, noting the church has offered blessings before, though they've been geared mainly to its congregation. Open to the entire community, a hamster, cat, or dog can be blessed in the name of God and continue its happiness with the human family. "We are inviting all to come," Pastor Ted said.

"(East Sacramento) is a big dog walking community. In the morning, you will see lots and lots of dogs going around with their humans," he said.

"A lot of our folks and a lot of people in East Sacramento are very attached to their pets and they have a deep connection. That was a request from members of our congregation who do not have biological children of their own, and who talk about their fur babies.

"They don't generally bring their fur babies to ministry, but they feel like their dogs and their cats are a part of their spiritual family and they want them to be connected to their human spiritual family," Pastor Ted said.

As to the importance of the blessings, Firch explained they are performed to affirm that human beings are not the only ones on the planet that matter. "All species are blessed and beloved by God. All over the world, people of faith seek to recognize and affirm the great bond and affection between human

beings and our animal companions. Blessing the animals is a way to express all of that," he said.

Parishner and event volunteer Dave Hosseini enjoyed bringing his pitbull Jesse to previous animal blessings held at First Christian Church. "The blessings have a real community feel, as song unites the attendees. It's beautiful how the event comes together. Each gets an individual blessing and it was somehow meaningful."

Upon recalling the details of the day when Jesse was blessed, the congregation invited a chorus, which happened to sing a song the got the dog barking to the tune. "(The song) wasn't anything too religious, but it started off with the words - 'Everything that has breath, praise the Lord.' - and, at the end of the verse was the sound of a drum, and our dog Jesse would bark at that part. Everybody has remembered that ever since," Dave said with a chuckle.

Sadly Jesse died a month ago at about 14 years of age, which has not only brought grief to Dave and his partner, Gary, but has affected the temperament of the family cat, 4-year-old Huckleberry, as the feline hid around the house showing signs of depression.

Both Jesse and Huckleberry were rescue animals. Found four years ago in a pipe in the greenbelt near their home in the South Land Park area, Dave said they could hear it crying. "We went over the fence and found it; we brought it back and Jesse was like a mother to Huckleberry. He would wash Huckleberry from bottom to top."

As precious as Huckleberry was when they found him, so was Jesse. "She came from the streets also. Gary was working at a mental health center in Oak Park and found the cat. She was maimed. Gary's boss took her for a little while and then brought her back

(to work). Gary told me it's a pitbull. And I said, 'Are you crazy?' So he brought her home one night and that was that. She was just a wonderful dog."

Because of the loss of Jesse, Huckleberry will be brought by Dave and Gary to the animal blessing to help the cat recover emotionally. "It's definitely something we will ask for," Dave said.

At the May 31 blessing, Pastor Ted will meet each pet owner and ask them about their pet and what makes their pet special, what they love about him or her, if there is anything that is going on in the life that needs extra attention, like an illness or a death in the family. If so, he'll pray for healing or strength, after the follow blessing he says over each pet: "God, and Wisdom and Love You brought All Creatures into Being."

To Dave, the blessings increase the bond between a person and their companion. "Animals are a part of the family now. I believe in blessings for myself, and so I believe in blessings for my dog," he said.

Pastor Ted said whoever comes to the blessing will be welcome. "We'll be ready," he said. "We encourage people to bring their cats in carriers, since frequently cats and dogs don't mix well, especially if cats don't feel protected."

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What: Blessing of the Animals: Each fur child will receive an individual blessing and a commemorative certificate. Please bring dogs on leashes, cats and small animals in carriers, and please leave snakes at home. Pet treats, coffee and lemonade will be served.

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Where: First Christian Church, 3901 Folsom Blvd.

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Meet your neighborhood movie critic: Matías Bombal

By MATÍAS BOMBAL
matias@valcomnews.com

Letter of Introduction:

No, not the classic 1938 film of that name that starred Adolphe Menjou, Eve Arden and Edgar Bergen, but my own introduction to you here in The News. I warmly greet you from these pages of Valley Community Newspapers with the greatest pleasure, for this is news from your own neighborhood and a city you call home. It has been my home since 1976. I may have been born in Santiago, Chile, and spent some formative years in Berkeley, California, where my parents were teaching and working, but for the most part I've been in this pleasant Sacramento neighborhood, following my elusive dreams of the cinema.

As a boy, I wanted to make movies, so I watched and read everything I could, beguiled by being there in the dark. A chance trip after school one day to downtown and the K Street mall opened my eyes to the still standing derelict theaters there, including the Crest. Then the theater bug got me. I started a 25 year career as a film exhibitor, showing other people's movies. I worked in several of the last standing great theaters in Sacramento, and then went on to radio and television work, introducing movies on TV 58 and few years as a jazz announcer on Capital Public Radio. The movie exhibition world in which I worked in the last days of motion picture film has now been lost in the swirling mist of time, and my skill set of 25 years, with it.

It hit me that in this new digital movie age, my experience and amassed knowledge of the movies could be channeled into movie criticism, and I could remain relevant to a modern world.

"Matías Bombal's Hollywood" was born from this idea, and I started first on the internet (at www.mabhollywood.com) with reviews that you may see and hear, like a newsreel, with clips of new movies and me speaking from an old radio studio set, a familiar location for me and my past work. We branched out to Facebook (Matías Bombal's Hollywood) and Twitter (@MABHollywood) and recently, radio, on KAH1 AM 950, Auburn, where I have a dialogue with Mary Jane Popp about each week's new movies on Thursdays and Fridays on the air. My movie reviews in visual form are now shown theatrically in movie theaters in Australia instead of previews before feature films.

Local boy makes good- internationally.

How fitting then, that my very first movie review column should then appear exclusively here, from my own home town and neighborhood. There will be times that we may not agree, and other times where I may just find the right turn of phrase to motivate you to go out and enjoy a movie again. The reviews here will be short and to the point. For additional information, and for a chance to see and hear scenes from the same films to help you make up your mind if you want to see it, I'll invite you to find more in-depth and up-to-the-moment, exclusive-to-you information on my website. It's also the home of the MAB Archives, years of rare film and television treasures from my career in the world of radio, movies and television. I'm also happy to answer your movie questions. Reach me at mabhollywood@gmail.com. To paraphrase a line from "Casablanca" - This looks like it's going to be the beginning of a beautiful friendship...



Matias Bombal at age 21 at the Crest Theatre in 1988

Photo by Hank Daniel

Short takes on 2 movies in theatres now:

Godzilla The MPAA has rated this PG13

The latest movie reframing of the famous monster Godzilla, first introduced in 1954, which has now appeared in 28 movies, has appeared in many forms, most often as a metaphor for nuclear weapons. Now from Warner Bros. in 3-D, and directed by Gareth Edwards, this "tail" of Godzilla relates the story of malevolent creatures known as "Mutos" who slowly surface from their hiding places buried underground, to feed on nuclear energy. Of course, our favorite monster is not going to let that go on, and the battle is on! When I was a kid, the reason we really wanted to see Godzilla was to enjoy the mass destruction that lay waste in Tokyo or other cities.

There was a mental disconnect that was clearly understood that this was definitely fantasy and could not happen. The clever artists and model makers would delight us with the tiny detail work needed to make us think this massive terror and mayhem was realistic in appearance. If you view this latest version with that same eye, you'll have loads of fun.

Alexandre Desplat gives us a very good musical score, and I'm so encouraged to find him working so often. His tasteful use of music in his scores is subtle and well crafted. In the picture: Ken Watanabe, Elizabeth Olsen, Juliet Binoche, Sally Hawkins (who you may remember from "Blue Jasmine") and Bryan Cranston. The male lead, a maturing Aaron Taylor-Johnson, who got his start in the "Kick Ass" movies, has turned in a very good performance. Here's hoping he gets meatier roles. I had a terrific time enjoying the massive battles and adventures with destruction everywhere. I was 13 again, waiting to see to those models being crushed. You'll have fun with Warner Bros.' Godzilla.

Fading Gigolo The MPAA has rated this R

Millennium Entertainment and QED International brings us a picture directed, written and star-

ring John Turturro: Fading Gigolo. Right at the outset I'll say this is now my second favorite movie so far this year, following on the brilliance of "The Grand Budapest Hotel" Set in the Chasidic neighborhood of New York City, Turturro plays Fioravante, who in the opening scene is saddened to learn that his friend of many years, Murray, played by Woody Allen in a good acting role, is closing his book shop.

In order to help Murray out, he's convinced to become a gigolo to entertain Dr. Parker, radiantly played by Sharon Stone, and Murray's own dermatologist. At first hesitant, becomes encouraged, Murray and Fioravante form a business partnership. In due course, he encounters sexy Sofia Vergara. He also meets a soulful Chasidic Rabbi's widow, Avigal, stunningly rendered by Vanessa Paradis, who is the suppressed desire of a neighborhood security patroler, Dovi, played by Liev Schreiber. Both Murray and Fioravante do their part to comfort and support this widow, resulting with Dovi tracking the activity of Murray and Fioravante obsessively. The photography is by Marco Pontecorvo who creates indelible images and marvelous uses of color. The popular, jazz and continental tunes selected for the soundtrack show the most exquisite musical taste. The dialogue is witty and sophisticated. The depth of the character development is splendid. I was moved by this touching movie and find it to be a high water mark for the year in outstanding production values all around. You must, absolutely must see it!

Until next time, this is your pal, Matias Bombal, bidding you a fond farewell.

For more in-depth, complete reviews of these same movies and many more in theatres now, with scenes shown from the movie reviewed, you may see and hear "Matias Bombal's Hollywood" at www.mabhollywood.com. Find us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter: @MABHollywood

-Exclusive to Valley Community Newspapers

Meet the man inside the Sparky costume

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Children love Sparky The Fire Dog. Seen hugging children and showing them the ropes at just about every local fire department station open house, the mascot has been bringing along happiness and fire prevention awareness to Sacramento children for five years.

Underneath the costume, Arturo Camacho is a man whose dedication to fire prevention and safety began in 1999 in Tequila, a town of about 45,000 people, located in the state of Jalisco, Mexico. He was all dressed up for a parade, as he was to chauffeur young women in evening gowns. But suddenly, he saw a flame blasting from "at least two miles away."

And as he said in an interview with this publication, "Like an Indian, I followed the smoke. Its color was not just from the grass (burning). It was something like chemicals."

Arturo and others found the source – a house that was caught on fire. Arturo recalls the ceiling being made of plastic, bamboo and tile. Inside was a blind elderly woman who didn't want to leave her animals. "I said to a guy, who was with me, to just grab her. As he was carrying the lady, she was holding the doors. I said, 'Ma'am we need to leave. We need to go now. I had to hit her hands. As soon as we went out, the ceiling fell on the backs of our feet. The animals got out too.'"

Born in Tucson, but raised in Tequila, Arturo returned to Arizona when he was in high school. He worked for his brother doing electrician work. Not too long after that, he began taking fire department academy classes in Tucson, where he got his first opportunities volunteer firefighting. After dreaming about a childhood friend in 1996, Arturo recalled the next morning: "I called my sister and I asked, 'do you mind calling to find out where she's at? My mom in the back says he's looking for Norma.'" Thinking the situation was odd, considering he didn't think she could possibly have heard the question, he was even more surprised his mother had Norma's phone number. "Norma was in L.A. We got together. We met at Hollywood. It felt like a soap opera. It just happened. We talked for a month, then I asked if she would marry me. We got married and went back to Mexico."

Fast forward three years. It was at that time the young fire fighter experienced the incident of the burning house. It was also the turn of the millennium. Celebrations filled cities and towns until the New Year with many fireworks and candlelit events. One of the traditions includes playing with a bull-shaped, firework-filled piñata, which in the wrong hands means disaster. Arturo recalls a young boy getting caught on fire from it, but the firefighter had water and put the fire out and took him to Red Cross. "There were no parents with him. I just picked him up," recalled Arturo.

With Arturo's fire fighting knowledge he obtained by taking courses in the United States and the first hand experiences he's had putting out fires, the lack of resources in Tequila and elsewhere in Mexico, inspired him to beg the city to get a fire department. After approaching the mayor, he was disheartened when he was told there was no money for one. "(The mayor) said, 'We already tried this and we were unsuccessful.'"

The words were deafening and Arturo was not going to give up so easily. "Can you give me a chance?" were his words then. "Tequila needs a fire department. While the Sauza and Jose Cuervo factories have them, their fire fighters just put out fires on the inside (of the factory walls). But, if something happens on the outside, how are you going to take care of people? By the time fire fighters come from Guadalajara – which is an hour away – how are you going to do it? By that time, it's going to be a mess."

As resourceful as he is, Arturo said he was able to obtain old fire fighting equipment from departments in the United States. "We were getting all the old stuff. (In the U.S.) they can't use it, but in Mexico, they have no restrictions. At least (with the old equipment) we had something to protect us." He was able to obtain a "Jaws of Life" rescue tool, an old ambulance donated by Cathedral City (near Palm Springs).

Remembering the early days of the fire department, Arturo said, "With the ambulance, we were carrying shovels, picks, chains, fire extinguishers. The first fire we had was a truck, but that truck didn't have any water. We started using dirt. We couldn't save that truck. That's how we started. I got in contact with Cathedral City. I told them what was going on. With the help of the Rotary club in Mexico and Cathedral City, we decided to make both of them sister cities and they found us an old truck. For us, anything was good."

With family in the United States and in Mexico, Arturo and his wife made many trips back and forth, until really settling down in the 2000s, when they came back to Denver in 2005, and then ventured West to Sacramento a year later.

While the Sparky costume was made by a specialty costume company, Arturo and his family – his wife Norma and his kids, Carmen Maria Camacho, 20, Miguel Arturo Cama-



Photo by Linda Pohl

Here's Sparky in action at a Fire Department Open House last year. The first open house of the year started last weekend. See story for upcoming dates.

As chance had it, one day, Arturo recalled driving on Highway 99 near the Fruitridge Road exit. He saw smoke, and like he's done in the past, he was driven to approach it and help put out the fire. Recalling the day's event, he said, "I looked at the smoke. I said that's not just grass, but a house. I went down on Fruitridge (Road), got onto Franklin (Boulevard) and somewhere in there, people were there trying to put it out. I started helping them. Then when the fire department got there, I talked to the engine guy. I asked about a volunteer program. He said there is one, so I went to the office, let them know who I was and everything."

That's when he was told a voluntary prevention program was underway, but that no one wanted to be Sparky. "I said I'll try it," Arturo said.

And that's the short of it. He tried, liked it, and continues to be the man inside the Sparky outfit. Recalling the first time he donned the costume and met with the children, he said: "It felt so good because the kids were smiling. It's been (five) years since I've been Sparky. Now everyone at the fire department knows me not by my name but as Sparky. One of my things – I am an electrician, so the name Sparky has a double meaning. I love to be Sparky. It's one of the things that makes me happy. I try my best to make them like me. I got my kids involved. (People) don't see me when I smile. I am really happy inside the costume. My kids have been helping me to teach other kids the 'Sparky Salute' – a hand shake for the children and a muscle (bump) for the adults."

While the Sparky costume was made by a specialty costume company, Arturo and his family – his wife Norma and his kids, Carmen Maria Camacho, 20, Miguel Arturo Cama-

cho, 14, Melissa Anahi Camacho, 10, – wash it and keep it safe at home. Arturo said he and his son are trying to make a small fire truck for Sparky. He thanks his parents for teaching him the values he has today. He wants to someday become a fire fighter for the Sacramento Fire Department, but he said he needs to work on his English skills a bit. In the meantime, he said he will try to help out with wildfires throughout the state.

The Sacramento Fire Department will begin hosting Fire Station Open Houses starting in May. You are invited to bring your family and friends to visit with firefighters, take a tour of the fire station, get an up-close look at a fire engine, and more! The following is the schedule for the remaining 2014 open houses. All open houses go from 2 to 4 p.m.

- May 31: Station 20, 2512 Rio Linda Blvd.
- June 7: Station 1, 624 Q St.
- June 14: Station 12, 4500 24th St.
- June 21: Station 56, 3720 47th Ave.
- June 28: Station 43, 4201 El Centro Road
- July 12: Station 19, 1700 Challenge Way
- July 19: Station 57, 7927 East Parkway
- July 26: Station 11, 785 Florin Road
- Aug. 2: Station 13, 1100 43rd Ave.
- Aug. 9: Station 18, 746 North Market Blvd.
- Aug. 16: Station 60, 3301 Julliard Dr.
- Aug. 23: Station 8, 5990 H St.
- Sept. 6: Station 4, 3145 Granada Way

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Brookfield School owner reveals his stake in The Trap bar

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

John C. Sittner, owner of Brookfield School, revealed he owns 50 percent of The Trap business. At a community meeting on Monday, May 19 inside the multipurpose room at John F. Kennedy, where City staff discussed many of the safety and parking issues surrounding the large 5-acre property, a concerned neighbor asked about the specific ownership of The Trap business.

In a quick interview with the Pocket News after the meeting, Sittner said he bought 50 percent of the business from the Deolinda Lacey Trust, as an investment last December, about a year after he got approval from the city for the building of the school. Not involved in the day-to-day operations of The Trap, Sittner, upon describing his intention of the purchase, said, "My interest in The Trap is an investment. I have no interest in The Trap going away. It was a neighboring property

and it was convenient to purchase, so I did, and I got a return on my investment. It was personal."

Sittner said he had been looking for years to find a property that would be appropriate for moving the school. "We've been wanting to relocate for quite a long time. We needed to find a location that was going to be convenient to the families who attend (Brookfield) currently," he told the Pocket News.

Looking at once-closed schools, like the Bear Flag Elementary, which, since 2003 has operated as Sol Aureus College Preparatory, Sittner said he has not been in a position to acquire them, since they go first to other public entities like charter schools. The 5-acre open space surrounding The Trap is ideal for Brookfield's new home, as it will have the opportunity to feature baseball and soccer fields. Moving from the space they lease from Congregation B'nai Israel (3600 Riverside Blvd.), he said the space there has not been ideal for the school. "We don't have adequate security;

don't have adequate safety for the drop off of the children; we don't have control over the maintenance over the facility," he said.

Despite the advantages Sittner sees for the relocation, most of the attendees at Monday night's meeting were against the school moving near the bar. One neighbor asked why the site was chosen for a school. "This is a high traffic zone. There are going to be serious, serious problems in the future. The other thing, too, is that the community doesn't feel like they were notified at all," he said.

Also at the meeting, questions regarding road improvements were asked. Ron Fong, City of Sacramento engineer, said road improvements on 43rd Avenue, adjacent to The Trap will have curb, gutter and sidewalk extended from the boundary of the school to the west. In addition, he said, a traffic signal will be required by Brookfield at the intersection of 43rd Avenue and Riverside Boulevard to allow pedestrian crossing, as well as public

parallel parking spaces will be put on 43rd Avenue.

While located in the Pocket-Greenhaven neighborhood, The Trap and Brookfield site is actually within the boundaries of Sacramento's District 4, represented by Councilman Steve Hansen. Included in his summary of the situation, Hansen said: "Hindsight is 20-20. I know a lot of you here would have liked to have been a part of the conversation. At some point when it's all done, when this all blows over you will be very glad this is something you have."

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CALENDAR

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ONGOING

The Chautauqua presents The Fat Cat and Other Tales

Now through through May 31: Saturdays at noon and 2 p.m. The Fat Cat eats everything. He starts with the porridge, an old woman, seven girls, eight boys, but the Fat Cat was surprised. Who surprised the Fat Cat? Tickets for The Fat Cat are \$7. Chautauqua Playhouse is located at 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael. For more information, call 489-7529 or visit www.cplayhouse.org

Sacramento Zoo needs wheelchairs

The Sacramento Zoo is looking for a few "gently used" wheelchairs. As the weather gets warmer, more families want to visit the zoo. The Sacramento Zoo generally has wheelchairs to loan at no charge. However, at this time, we have none. If you would like to donate a "near new" wheelchair that you no longer need, please call 808-5888. Your wheelchair can be a tax deductible donation, and we'll give you four zoo tickets as well for your generosity.

Emotions Anonymous

Meets regularly Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Meeting information is available at www.emotionsanonymous.org. Free 12-step program/support group for those who desire to live with unsolved emotional problems. Meets Tuesday 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Parkside Community Church 5700 South Land Park Dr.; Tuesday 6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Sierra Arden Church of Christ, 890 Morse Ave (at Northrup), Room F-4. Thursday 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd, 1615 Morse Ave. (at Arden Way), left of choir room. Saturday 1 to 1:30 p.m. at the Wellness Recovery Center, 3851 Marconi Ave. (at La Paz), Suite #1. Saturday 1:30-2:30 p.m., 3851 Marconi Ave (at La Paz).

AARP tax aide seeks volunteers for 2014

The nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking volunteers for tax assistance/preparation and leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. Each year from Feb. 1 through April 15, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers prepare federal, state, and local tax returns for low and middle income tax-

payers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteers are especially needed to assist with electronic filing of tax returns. You do not need to be an AARP member or retiree to volunteer. For more information on how you can join the AARP Tax-Aide team in Northern California, contact Ron Byrd at NoCalTaxAide@Outlook.com or visit website at: www.aarp.org/taxaide

Mahogany Urban Poetry Series

- Queen Sheba - poetry readings
Each Wednesday from 8-11 p.m. at Queen Sheba in Sacramento, local talent makes it way to the restaurant for weekly open-mic events. \$3-\$5. 1704 Broadway.

Brain Gymnasium

Exercise your mind and have some fun at this on-going Brain Gymnasium class! Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freepoint Boulevard, 9:20 a.m. Thursdays. \$6 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

Women with Good Spirits monthly meeting

Women With Good Spirits is a networking group that engages women in the Sacramento community with non-profit organizations that make contributions to our quality of life and care for our fellow residents. Each month, Women With Good Spirits invites a community non-profit to present on its mission work. The meeting is held at Revolution Wines on the second Tuesday of

each month and starts at 6:30 p.m. The presenter will start their presentation promptly at 7:15 p.m. and will last 15-20 minutes with an open question and answer forum after. RSVP is appreciated as well as a \$5+ donation per person that will go directly to the non-profit presenting that month. Revolution Wines is located at 2831 S St. Visit www.womenwithgoodspirits.com or find the group on Facebook.

Davis Art Center invites teen girls to write and publish

The Davis Art Center is offering a six-week creative writing class for girls ages 13-18 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays starting February 11. The class will offer a positive, supportive space for girls who love reading and writing and are interested in discovering and developing their individual voices. Participants will use short stories by a diverse range of contemporary women writers as jumping off points for their own writing sessions. Each student will pick her best writing to include in a class-produced literary magazine. The class will be taught by Elise Winn Pollard, who earned her M.A. in creative writing from UC Davis. The fee is \$95 for Art Center members and \$105 for the general public. To enroll, stop by the Art Center at 1919 F St., call (530) 756-4100 or register online at www.davisartcenter.org. Students must be registered at least two weeks before the first class session.

Gentle Qi Gong

Learn powerful relaxation techniques reduce stress, reduce physical pain and emo-

tional suffering, lower blood pressure, increase immune response and improve balance. Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freepoint Boulevard, 3 to 4 p.m., Wednesdays. \$7 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

California Youth Basketball League taking applications

CYBL is a non-profit year round league for ages 4 through 18 that prides itself on being well organized that aims to develop basketball skills, sportsmanship and self-esteem through coaches, gym official and organizers. Visit www.cybhoops.com or call 391-3900.

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on Fridays at 7 a.m. Topical weekly speakers and first meal for visitors on us. Meet at The Kiwanis Family House. (at UC Med Ctr/50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com. Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

The Sacramento Capitolaire meeting

A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Hall (Sierra Arden United Church of Christ), 890 Morse Ave., Sacramento. Info: www.capitolaires.org, call 888-0877-9806, or email info@capitolaires.org

Artisan holds Food Drive

Artisan Salon is participating in the Spirit of Giving Food Drive. Over the last 17 years, the Spirit of Giving (SOG) drive has helped Sacramento Food Bank collect and distribute over 4.6 million pounds of canned and non-perishable food items for local families in need. Help support families in need by participating in this year's drive! Artisan Salon is located at 3198 Riverside Blvd.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento South meetings

A service organization dedicated to insure the status of women and girls, the group meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freepoint Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. The meetings discuss our fund raising Projects and Community Service, often with speakers from our community.

JUNE

ACC presents "5 Wishes: California Advanced Medical Directives"

June 5: Cori Deck, Community Liaison, VISTA Innovative Hospice Care, will discuss your rights and medical decisions, including the right to decide what medical care or treatment to accept, reject, or discontinue. Learn about a free legal document which gives your medical decisions a voice when you may not have the ability to express them. 1 to 2 p.m. at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr. Free of Charge. Pre-registration required. Call 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org.

The Beatles commemoration at The Crest

June 6-7: "Come Together-A Tribute to the Beatles," incorporating the sights and sounds of the 1950s, '60s and '70s, at 8 p.m. will hit The Crest Theatre on Friday, June 6, and at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 7. In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of The

Beatles' historic appearance on "The Ed Sullivan Show," "Come Together" will feature the chorus' interpretation of The Beatles favorites against an original compilation of vintage still photos and video footage of Beatlemania and U.S. popular culture of the 1950s, '60s and '70s, as well as historical images of Sacramento's LGBT community. Photos and video will be projected on a stage backdrop of six 70-inch screens mounted on a steel frame.

Doggy Dash

June 7: Doggy Dash, 7:00 am - 1:00 pm, Village Green, located in William Land Park at the corner of Sutterville Road and Freepoint Boulevard..

Kids Camp \$2.50 Perennial Sale

June 7: A special clearance sale benefiting The Kids Camp Program of Sunburst Projects (Camp is this month), with a large selection of Perennial starters all marked down to \$2.50 each to raise funds for the camp. This is the last downtown sale until fall. For more info call Bob Hamm at 617-7516. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Gifted Gardener is located at 18th Street between J and K streets in Midtown.

Women of Life Picnic and Songs

June 7: Women of Life Picnic and Songs, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm. Land Park Amphitheater.

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Far surpassing a personal best:

C.K. McClatchy's Tino Luigi hits 3 homers in one game

By RUSSELL PRESTON

After 13 years of playing organized baseball, McClatchy senior second baseman Tino Luigi had better odds of beating cancer than hitting a home run in a game – let alone three.

As of April 23 during a much-needed win over Florin to keep play-off hopes alive, Luigi had done both.

When Luigi was 5 years old, he was diagnosed with stage-4 neuroblastoma, a cancer in the nervous system. Doctors said he had just a 7 percent chance of surviving.

"I remember being in the hospital and not really being told what was wrong with me," Luigi said. "They said I was sick and they were giving me medicine to help get rid of the bad stuff inside of me. They kept it in kids terms and didn't tell me that I could die."

Luigi and his parents were told he had cancer in 90 percent of his body, but now that he has been cancer-free for 12 years, Luigi said he has no fear of it coming back.

Since he was diagnosed, his focus shifted from hospital beds to baseball diamonds. He has played every year beginning in t-ball up through his senior year in high school. Throughout all those years, he had hit a grand total of zero home runs.

Coming into this year, a personal goal of his was to finally round all four bases with one mighty swing.

"I told all my friends 'this is the year I hit a home run – I can feel it,'" Luigi said. "But three in one game? I never had that feeling."

In a 14-2 win over Florin in Luigi's big game, his first three at-bats resulted in home runs – something neither he nor his teammates had ever seen.

After the first home run, Luigi said his teammates were excited for him, cheering loudly from the dug-out.

"They knew it was my first homer so they were just happy for me, but when I hit the second one they were like 'holy crap, he just hit two!'" Luigi said. "I did not expect a third one – nobody did."

After the second homer, Luigi said a father of another teammate leaned over to his dad, Perry Luigi, and asked him, "Do you think he can hit a third one?" Perry said, "Definitely not." Then he hit another one and blew everyone away.

The 5-foot-10 second baseman is not known for his power or speed, but for his defense and contact. He ranks second on the team in hits and runs, fourth in runs batted in and now first on the team in home runs.

Now that Tino's personal goal has been achieved (three times), Luigi is focused on his team going far in the playoffs.

Last season, McClatchy left the playoffs disappointed after failing



Tino Luigi.

Photo courtesy

to reach past the first round. Tino and his team hope to go even further.

Recently named to the All-Metro First Team, Tino has made himself a leader on his team in the best way he knows how: quietly and effectively.

"I'm not a leader," Tino said. "It's not something I do – I'm not good at getting people pumped up, I don't have good speeches. The only thing I'm good at is leading by example and being a quiet leader."

In practice he is almost silent, working through the drills, per-

fecting his swing or backhand grounders. He's not having a bad day, or upset of any kind – he's Tino.

In the fall, Tino will be attending Sonoma State, hoping to walk onto the baseball team, but if he doesn't make the cut, he's determined to join a team on campus that's a good fit for him.

"I can't see myself not playing a sport – I need to be doing something," Tino said. "I've been playing sports all my life, so if I weren't playing anything, I wouldn't know how to spend my time."

Lions wrestling team held first classic car show

Story by MONICA STARK
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Fifty seven cars, the oldest a 1923T-bucket Ford, entered into car show to benefit C.K. McClatchy's Wrestling Team on Saturday, May 10. Organized by wrestler Beau Smith for his senior project, the team raised more than \$2,500 for a cash-strapped team that despite using old mats and coaches' personal money for first-aid kits and cleaning and disinfectant supplies for the wrestling room, has made amazing strides over the last few years. This past season, the team was undefeated in the Metro Conference and won the championship outright. The Lions had not won Metro Conference in wrestling since 1985.

Passersby, cruising down Freepoint Boulevard on the Saturday of the car show, enjoyed an amazing array of classic and custom cars, ranging in years from 1915 to 1972, as well as barbecue tri-tip sandwiches provided by T&R Taste of Texas. Lions Team Pick and People Choice Award winner, Tony Antonucci, showcased his red, 1957 Chevy at the event that raised more than \$3,000 for the wrestling program at the school.

In an interview with the Land Park News, coach Shawn Smith discussed how the car show came about. After speaking with Jeff Norene, owner of Lee's Vintage Auto in West Sacramento about what a pain fundraising has been and how badly the team has needed new wrestling mats, Jeff told the coach that someone had done a car show at McClatchy a few years ago. "(He) wondered why no one had done one since. Beau thought that a Car Show could be a great fundraiser for the wrestling team and volunteered to do it for his senior project and Jeff agreed to mentor Beau," Smith said.

Since Beau will be graduating this year, and the fact that the event was promoted as "the first annual," the obvious question loomed: Who will carry on the torch next year to guarantee it remains an annual fundraiser? Smith said fortunately, Norene's son, Cody, is a junior on the wrestling team and he is interested in taking over next year and that one of the sophomore wrestlers is already looking down the road to his senior season. "So it looks like we're good for the next couple of years," Smith said. "There are no guarantees, but as long as I am associated with the team, I will find someone to carry the torch," he said.

The lack of funding has caused the team to wrestle on mats that are many years past their useful state, Smith said. They have been reconditioned so many times the mats are no longer regulation size and the team cannot use them in high school competitions.

"We have to pay our own way into wrestling tournaments – at usually around \$350 a pop. I come out of pocket to buy first-aid kits and cleaning and disinfectant supplies for the wrestling room. We have to raise money to pay for our uniforms and spirit wear. We get one coaching stipend between the two coaches (we really need at least three coaches) and that usually goes right back into the program," he said.

On the team's modest wish list, they hope to pay off the wrestling mats coaches bought from their personal credit cards. Smith said with the proceeds from the car show, they are about halfway there. "We need new singlets (uniforms) and there is a ton of training gear and equipment that would be beneficial to our program. But first priority is to pay off the mats and then we'll go from there," he said.

Smith and Coach TS Hamilton took over the program in the 2010-11 season. The Athletic Director at the time was going to fold the program and there was no funding or coaching stipend. The McClatchy program had not had any real success since the mid-1980s, but over the past two seasons C.K. McClatchy wrestlers have broken school records.



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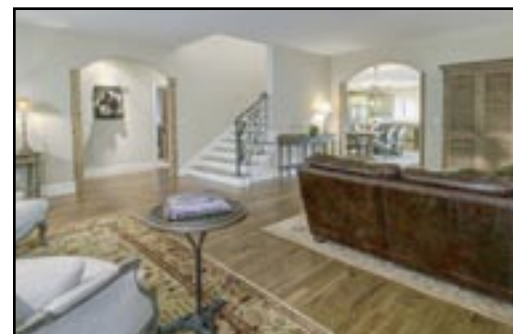
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