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90 MPH down a dead end street

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Veteran hotel proprietor William Land, accumulated fortune in Sacramento

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Art Director..... John Ochoa
Graphic Designer..... Ryan Wunn
Advertising Executives..... Linda Pohl, Melissa Andrews, Jen Henry

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

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car show: KUSTOMS & RAT RODS
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Over the Fence
with Greg Brown

RALEY'S GETS A MAKEOVER

The Raley's on Freeport Boulevard has really stepped things up. They have repainted the entire front of the building and spiffed up the classic neon Raley's sign. They have an all new interior; the outdated orange has been replaced with modern brown. "Farm To Fork For You" signs made of dark wood and more tract lighting to set a mood. I also noticed more lighting in the liquor aisle...easier to see the Fireball Whisky! The employees are also using headphones and mics to communicate... no more "Cleanup in aisle 5" over the loud speaker.

Raley's has also been playing hipper tunes over the speaker system, too. I actually heard Prince! I even saw a dad doing some air guitar near the Doritos.

Sue Olson & Teresa Olson
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LAND PARK
Charming single story cottage. Living room with large paned window, classic fireplace and beamed ceiling. Three bedrooms, two baths, small office, family room w/ fireplace and formal dining room. Remodeled kitchen w/ custom cabinetry, plant window over sink, built-in db stainless refrigerator, stainless gas stove/oven. Pretty bricked patio with arbor. 1216 Robertson Way \$760,000

CURTIS PARK
Charming home on a tree-lined street. Living room w/ fireplace, formal dining area with built-in bookcase. Updated kitchen with stainless appliances and eating area. Two downstairs bedrooms with access to backyard patio. Upstairs master suite with sitting area and sliding door to a large deck. 2516 9th Avenue \$565,000

LAND PARK
Classic post-war art deco architecture. Truly a Land Park gem. Spacious entry with curved plaster walls, wide doorways and 10 foot ceilings. Four bedrooms, 2 & 1/2 baths, living room with fireplace, formal dining room, large deco kitchen with eating area, family room, office and finished basement. Master suite with double sized shower and soaking tub. 1531 7th Avenue

SOUTH LAND PARK TERRACE
Beautifully maintained by original owner. Three bedrooms, two baths, formal living room, formal dining room with fireplace, updated kitchen w/ stainless appliances and eating area, in-unit laundry with storage, pretty front courtyard and entry. Built-in pool, patio and side yard. 5210 South Land Park Dr. \$450,000

See Over the Fence, page 16

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Music and crawdad's: Great fun for Father's Day on the Delta

Each spring during Father's Day weekend, the Isleton Chamber of Commerce brings a great music and food festival to the Delta. Thousands of festgoers experience the beauty of the land and waterways for our annual weekend event. We celebrate with music and food--and our rare and beautiful area, This year particularly, we want to raise the awareness of the citizens of the state of California and beyond to the challenges we are facing.

In early 2014, the Isleton Chamber of Com-

merce worked with the Delta Loop Association resulting in our annual Cajun & Blues Festival moving to a new location in the Delta Loop: The Delta Boat Storage grounds at B & W Marina, 950 Brannan Island Road in Isleton.

Marinas, cabins, cottages and campgrounds in the Delta Loop are plentiful. We look forward to encouraging festgoers to stay the weekend-- enjoy the world class Cajun and blues music at the festival, relish the 8,000 pounds of crawfish, and the many area food vendors

and artisans, along with participating restaurants, cafes, shops and museums on the many islands of the Delta-- in Isleton, and our nearby neighbors in the towns of Walnut Grove, Locke, Rio Vista, Grand Island, Courtland, Clarksburg and Ryde. There is free Festival parking and Festival shuttles will regularly cruise the Delta Loop so that folks can leave the driving to us.

In addition to having some of the richest soil in the world, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is also home to a culture

rich in diversity and uniqueness. Home to multi-generational farm families, and farm workers alike, sailing enthusiasts, water skiers, windsurfers, bird watchers, picnickers, hunters, campers, and recreational and subsistence fishermen, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a crossways where each new generation of Californians has made vital contributions that have shaped and strengthened the region. And as each new group has settled within the Delta, all have developed a deep ap-

preciation for the area's natural beauty and the Delta way of life. As these lines in the paragraph above (from Restore the Delta's website) reflect, all of this is worth every citizen's time and effort to keep for generations to come.

So please join us on Father's Day weekend, June 14-15, listen and dance to world class Cajun, zydeco & blues music, visit with family and friends (make some new ones!) and partake of our wonderful Delta.

Full band links and bios are at www.isletoncajunfestival.net.

Advance tickets online are on sale now at the festival website at www.isletoncajunfestival.net. Tickets are also available in person at Dimple Records in Sacramento, Down Home Music in El Cerrito and the Isleton Chamber of Commerce office (23 Main Street, Isleton, CA), plus a number of the participating Delta Loop marinas and restaurants. (www.deltaloop.com) including the fest location at the B & W Resort Marina, 950 Brannan Island Road.



Thank you to the many businesses that contributed to Crocker Riverside Elementary's Spring Jubilee Fundraiser. We are grateful for your generosity and support.

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Mid Century Modern in Little Pocket

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Sleek and modern with expansive views of the lush yard describe this custom built Streg Brothers home, designed by Carter Sparks. You'll think you are on the set of Mad Men when you step into this ultramodern masterpiece. The home features 3 bedrooms and 2 remodeled baths, living room with breathtaking views of the yard, dining room and a stunning kitchen with breakfast nook. The master bedroom suite has doors to a private outdoor oasis, all situated on a huge .34 acre lot. Located in coveted Little Pocket, a short walk to Scott's Seafood, close to downtown and Land Park. Come see this stunning example of modern architecture that has been painstakingly maintained to keep the original 1965 detail.

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Veteran hotel proprietor, William Land, accumulated fortune in Sacramento

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com



Hotel Land operated at 1106 10th St. from 1910 to about 1960. Photo courtesy of the Lance Armstrong Collection

In being that William Land Park and the Land Park community owe their names to former Sacramento Mayor William Land (1837-1911), it seems logical that from time to time, the community's newspaper, the Land Park News, pay tribute to this locally legendary man.

Land, a New York native who came to California in 1860, once worked as a sweeper and a busboy at the Western Hotel on K Street, between 2nd and 3rd streets. He later became one of the city's most successful and wealthiest residents, as his estate would be eventually valued at about \$2 million.

In 1871, Land had accumulated sufficient savings to purchase the then-nearly 17-year-old Western Hotel from N.D. Thayer, who had opted to exclusively dedicate his time to the local street railway. Thayer had owned the hotel since 1860.

Following that purchase, The Sacramento Union began running an advertisement, which partially read: "Western Hotel, Nos. 43, 45 and 47 K Street. Two hundred and seven large family and single rooms, neatly furnished by the day, week or month. The table always supplied with the best the market affords. Breakfast in time for the cars and boats. "Passengers taking rooms will be called in time for all public conveyances leaving the city.

"Board, \$4 per week; meals, 25 cents; single rooms, 50 cents.

"William Land, proprietor."

A tragedy occurred at the Western Hotel during the afternoon of Jan. 9, 1875, when the building was destroyed by fire.

The Union reported that the fire had begun in the lamp room, which was located in the basement.

It was believed that the fire was started by a fallen match that was stepped on and ignited by a young porter named Charles Ketsel, who had just left the room after filling (oil) lamps for use by boarders.

Land wasted little time in arranging for the construction of a new Western Hotel building.

By the middle of February, work was already underway on the reconstruction of the building.

The new hotel, which was designed by architects Hamilton & Cook and built by contractors Carle & Croly, opened in July 1875.

As the building was being constructed, the front of the new structure was described by The Union.

In part, that description reads: "The main body of the front is to be cemented and made to imitate Connecticut brownstone, and the pilasters, cornices, quoins blocks, window caps, etc., to represent Athens marble. The columns of the first story are of iron, with very tasty capitals, and all the windows and entrances have arched heads with heavy caps. The show windows large and of plate glass; the entrances wide and high. A fine effect is imparted to the whole front of the first floor by the decorative painting. A two-story awning extends the whole length of the front; there is a heavy balustrad-

ing between the chimneys, and high firewalls protecting the roof."

The Union concluded that the structure was the "finest second class hotel on the (Pacific) Coast."

It was also in 1875 that Land purchased the lot to the east of the hotel in order to protect the building from losing natural lighting through some of its windows, in the case that someone might eventually buy the land and have a tall structure built at that site.

Sixteen years later, Land purchased another lot adjoining his hotel for the purpose of having an \$11,000 addition built onto his already large hotel.

The kindhearted nature of Land will always be remembered, especially with his greatest gift, the \$250,000 he bequeathed for what would eventually become William Land Park.

During his tenure as mayor from 1898 to 1899, William Land loaned the city \$80,000, interest-free, for the purpose of reducing taxes and retiring city bonds.

In referring to a much lesser known act of kindness by Land, The Union, on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 1891, published the following words: "Credit where credit is due. A contemporary, in making mention of kindnesses shown the kindergarten children on Saturday, mentioned proprietors who furnished omnibuses for the free conveyance of the children. William Land of the Western Hotel was one of those who sent an omnibus to carry the children to the church, and the fact that he did so should be duly credited."

Furthermore, Land, who was the county's wealthiest resident and a philanthropist in life and death, loved his city and county, and despite being pres-

ured for financial assistance from residents of other cities, he was steadfast in his approach of keeping his money in Sacramento County.

In 1892, Land added the State House Hotel at the southwest corner of 10th and K streets to his assets.

Land sold the Western Hotel to two of that hotel's longtime employees, W.A. Morrison and Ferguson Burns, in about 1904.

In planning for the future, Land closed the State House Hotel on Oct. 12, 1909 and had the structure torn down.

The 5-story Hotel Land, which had the address of 1106 10th St., was built at the same site and was opened on Aug. 20, 1910.

Although Land died 16 months later, Hotel Land remained in operation until about 1960, and as previously noted, William Land Park and the Land Park community, as well as many other local places, businesses and organizations, pay tribute to his name and legacy today.

Got News?

Send your story ideas to,
editor@valcomnews.com

Zoo Saddened by the loss of Dr. Murray E. Fowler

The Sacramento Zoo and the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine are saddened by the recent death of Dr. Murray E. Fowler. Dr. Fowler is considered by many to be the father of zoological medicine. He played a large part in the advancement of animal care in zoos, and is fondly remembered for his 46 years of service to the Sacramento Zoological Society.

"In Murray Fowler's 85 years, he revolutionized zoological medicine," said Dr. Ray Wack, senior veterinarian at the Sacramento Zoo and clinical professor at the Wildlife Health Center within the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. "He started the first residency program in Zoological Medicine in 1974 and is responsible for training many of the zoo veterinarians around the world. Always a gentleman, an advocate for animal welfare, a gifted clinician and father, Murray will be missed."

In 1958, he became an instructor at UC Davis. A few years later, Dr. Fowler agreed to head the first veterinary program to specifically serve the needs of non-domestic animals, whether in captivity or in the wild, a field for which he coined the term "zoological medicine." In 1967, he be-

came the Sacramento Zoo's first regular veterinarian, and this allowed him to pursue his passion for teaching by allowing his veterinary students to gain hands-on experience with zoo animals outside of the Veterinary Medicine Teaching Hospital.

In 1974, Dr. Fowler reached out to the Sacramento Zoo to propose a joint venture that became the Residency in Zoological Medicine program at UC Davis, the first of its kind in the country. Over the years he actively pursued research to understand and improve the health of zoo animals and wildlife; he published more than 200 articles in peer reviewed scientific journals and authored or edited 27 books, including the Zoo and Wild Animal Medicine textbook series, considered the definitive resource for the discipline. Dr. Fowler was an international authority on zoological medicine, traveling to more than 60 countries as a lecturer and consultant.

He received numerous awards in recognition of his expertise and lifelong contributions to promoting animal health. Dr. Fowler was certified by the American Board of Veterinary Toxicologists, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and

the American College of Zoological Medicine, which he helped to establish as a charter diplomat. Dr. Fowler retired from the University in 1991 remaining active in the profession and with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV). After retiring, he became Director Emeritus of the Sacramento Zoological Society Board of Trustees and Professor Emeritus of the School of Veterinary Medicine at UC Davis.

"Dr. Fowler was an icon in the zoo profession whom I was fortunate to get to know as a warm and compassionate ambassador for the animals he loved," said Mary Healy, Director/CEO of the Sacramento Zoo. "He will always be remembered at the Murray E. Fowler Veterinary Hospital at the Sacramento Zoo. The Zoo is honored to have a place to celebrate his legacy."

In 2006, the Zoo dedicated its state-of-the-art, on-site veterinary hospital to him in honor of his lifelong contributions to zoological medicine and animal health.

Dr. Murray E. Fowler was a forerunner in his field, an outstanding and gifted teacher, a prolific author and international authority in zoological medicine. He was an advo-



Dr. Murray E. Fowler

Photo courtesy

cate for advancing the purpose of zoos to include the support of wildlife conservation as well as provide people a place to get close to nature. The Sacramento Zoo is proud to have a long history of caring for animals and is especially pleased to have counted Dr. Fowler among the Zoo's closest friends.

Twilight Thursday Schedule

Sacramento Zoo presents Hot Rod Night

June 19: Hot Rod Night, the first of the Twilight Thursdays at the Zoo, will feature live music by Elvis and the Experience, Elvis tribute band, as well as a car show featuring hot rods and a dinner special featuring Memphis style BBQ pulled pork and sweet potato fries. Featured nonprofit: TBD. 5:30 to 8 p.m. 3930 West Land Park Dr. 95822; 808-5888.

Sacramento Zoo presents Reggae Night

June 26: Reggae Night, the second of the Twilight Thursdays at the Zoo, will feature live music by Arden Park Roots, as well as a car show featuring Volkswagens and a dinner special of Caribbean jerk wings with garlic fries. The featured nonprofit: TBD. 5:30 to 8 p.m. 3930 West Land Park Dr. 95822; 808-5888.

Sacramento Zoo presents Red, White & Blues

July 3: Red, White & Blues, the third of the Twilight Thursdays at the Zoo, will feature live music by: Mick Martin and the Blues Rockers and a car show featuring muscle cars and a dinner special of a bacon cheeseburger sliders with red and blue fries. The featured nonprofit is TBD. 5:30 to 8 p.m. 3930 West Land Park Dr. 95822; 808-5888.

Sacramento Zoo presents British Invasion

July 10: British Invasion, the fourth of the Twilight Thursdays at the Zoo, will feature live music by Mania, Beatles tribute band and a car show featuring British and Euro cars. The dinner special is fish and garlic chips. The featured nonprofit is TBD. 5:30 to 8 p.m. 3930 West Land Park Dr. 95822; 808-5888.

Sacramento Zoo presents Rockabilly Night

July 17: Rockabilly Night, the fifth of the Twilight Thursdays at the Zoo, will feature live music by The Nickelslots and a car show featuring Kustoms and Rat Rods, as well as a dinner special of beer battered deep fried hot dogs with fries. The featured nonprofit is TBD. 5:30 to 8 p.m. 3930 West Land Park Dr. 95822; 808-5888.

Sacramento Zoo presents Classic Rock

July 24: Classic Rock, the sixth of the Twilight Thursdays at the Zoo, will feature live music by The Count and a car show featuring vintage trailers and classic cars. Dinner special could include Buffalo wings with sweet potato fries. The featured nonprofit is TBD. 5:30 to 8 p.m. 3930 West Land Park Dr. 95822; 808-5888.

July 31 - Old Skool Groove

Live music by: East Wind
Car show featuring: Lowriders
Dinner special: Patty Melts with onion rings
Featured nonprofit: Front Street Animal Shelter



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Pre-Registration is \$10 per vehicle; car entry includes admission for four that night, six ride tickets good for the carousel or the train, 10% off purchases at the Zoofari Market and 10% off at Kampala Café! Pre-Registration cut-off is 5pm the day before the event. Cars arrive at the front entrance of the Zoo between 4 pm and 5 pm. Space is limited; advance registration is recommended.

Registration after 5pm the day before the event is \$10 per vehicle and includes four admissions for that night.

Call (916) 808-5888 to reserve your spot today!

The summer weather was just about perfect for the thousands of visitors who came out for Twilight Thursdays!



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Matías Bombal's Hollywood:

"Maleficent"

The MPAA has rated this PG.

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures brings us a fairytale on an impressive scale, "Maleficent." Based on the tales of the brothers Grimm that had also inspired Tchaikovsky to write his famous waltz for the tale of sleeping beauty, this story offers a different perspective on what happened before the bad fairy cast her famous curse that set beauty to slumber.

The vindictive fairy is given life by Angelina Jolie in a role she's wanted to play with an ambition that rivals Joan Crawford's, who may have inspired the make-up artists in this picture. The young baby that would become the sleeping princess is brought up by fairies, but always observed by the evil eye of Maleficent.

I don't care for much of the Disney output after the classic studio era, but this movie is magical in its fairytale feel and made me smile with a sense of wonder, something I don't often get to do with new movies. It was far better than my anticipation. The girl, named Aurora here, is played by winsome Miss Elle Fanning, who will win your heart with her angelic face. You really see all of the \$200 million spent on the production right there in front of your eyes. This movie is a joy for children of all ages. Young children may find some scenes a little frightening, which is why the motion picture association of America has given this a PG rating in the United States. "Maleficent" is directed by Robert Stromberg.

"Edge of Tomorrow"

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

From Warner Brothers, Tom Cruise returns amid a shower of Sci-Fi 3-D in "The Edge of Tomorrow" This visual effects smorgasbord could be best expressed in food terms that sound like 1950's science fiction: Giant calamari fry Tom Cruise a la Déjà-Vu. The story follows the near future tale of a recurring day experienced by an army officer that is caused when he comes into fatal contact with one of the whirling calamari shaped aliens and/or other combat death scenarios. This process resets the story line, yet his character keeps the memory of what transpired the previous times, so he's able to make better decisions and eventually get to know his enemy.

Emily Blunt plays Rita, as super female soldier that seem to have an inside track on how to conquer the aliens without getting killed, with much greater success than legions and legions of soldiers. Each day Tom dies, he gets to know her a little better. The two team up for the cause and take on the alien enemy with their gifts. This is strictly kid's stuff, aimed at the Sci-fi or gamers crowd. Although the whole thing is a little too loud and ridiculous, the screenplay was based on a clever premise and story line by Hiroshi Sakurazaka in his book "All You Need is Kill." Bill Paxton has some good moments as a drill sergeant. It's loud and fun in 3-D, but will likely be forgotten in a year or two.

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

Impressive diver brings the sport back to the forefront at C.K. McClatchy

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

In the hours before a meet, Nevada Schultz visualizes himself performing each dive better than he's ever done before, but as he steps onto the diving board, his mindset changes. Thinking only about the dive he's about to perform and forgetting about the competition, the Sac-Joaquin Section Finals champion gets into a highly focused state of mind.

And then in a couple seconds, the dive is over.

But, it's the adrenaline rush from the excitement of completing a difficult dive that pushed Nevada to perform his best against great competitors.

At the section finals held at C.K. McClatchy High School on May 10, Nevada performed a backwards dive in a pike position so well it gave him momentum throughout the meet. His win was the first time a McClatchy student won Sections since 1979.

At the competition each diver performs 11 dives for Sections, each with a degree of difficulty rating which is

then multiplied by the judges score. Nevada's dives ranged from a forward dive to a 1-1/2 somersault with two twists. Another dive included the challenging backwards (flip-toward-the-board) plunge.

Speaking about the day's excitement, Nevada said, "The pressure to perform was heavy; so completing all my dives at a high level felt great."

Competing against the divers on his Junior Olympic team who compete for other high schools, undoubtedly was Nevada's toughest competition. "They are all very good divers and any of us are capable of winning any meet," he said.

For a sport that normally doesn't get a lot of attention, Nevada said coming home a champion to long-time C.K. McClatchy's coach Dee Robbins was the best part this year. "The highlight of my season was making my coach, Dee Robbins, proud by winning Sections. It made all the hard work and training worth it to reach my goal for the season. It feels glorious to represent McClatchy successfully and bring home the championship after such

a long drought (since 1979). Diving doesn't normally get a lot of attention, so this really helped bring attention to the sport at my high school," he said.

Diving for only three years this summer, Nevada said he found his passion for the sport a little later than most divers his age. Asked about his training regimen, Nevada said he jumps on a trampoline at home, dives year-round five days a week for at least two hours, and conditions on dry land with ab, leg, and stretching exercises.

Asked to describe what he likes most about diving, Robbins spoke on this very work ethic, exemplified by Nevada's hard work. "I enjoy watching kids improve and enjoy what they are doing. Diving takes commitment and hard work, but at the same time it is very satisfying and rewarding. The skills learned in the sport of diving carry over to help kids be successful in all aspects of their lives."

The highlights of Robbins' career continue to be the many deep and lasting friendships he's had with many of his divers.



Nevada Schultz and Dee Robbins.

Photo courtesy

Coaching for about 38 years, Robbins described how the sport has changed since then. "In 1976, there used to be many recreational diving teams. My team (The Sunrise Sharks) would compete against Park Terrace, Davis, Auburn, Placerville, Rosemont, and Arden Manor. Each team was

limited to 40 participants per meet. I had about 80 kids on my team. Now, we have basically no recreational teams and very few beginning classes that teach diving. It also seems that the sport is evolving into a rich person's sport because of how expensive it is to participate," Robbins said.

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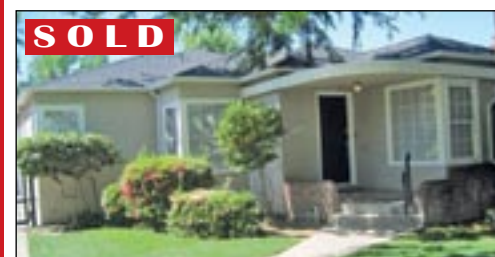
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Over the Fence:

Continued from page 3

There's an old Bob Dylan song called "Ninety Miles An Hour (Down a Dead End Street)." That's sort of what's happening on Larson Way next to Leonardo DaVinci School according to Darcy Crouse and her husband Matt.

Darcy Crouse and her husband have lived in their house on Larson Way in Hollywood Park for about three years. Darcy says she loves it and they have "amazing neighbors."

Unfortunately, some parents dropping off and picking up their children at the school have been flying in and out of the neighborhood. Making wide u-turns, blocking their drive-way, driving too fast, and putting a large dent in the Crouse mini-van.

She thinks the kids and the cats are in danger. It has caused Darcy to get frustrated with the whole thing and created a lot of tension between her, parents and the administration.

There's been middle fingers flying, parents sticking their tongues out and cuss words exchanged... and remember...this is from parents not children.

The Crouses have a big window in the front so they can see everything on Larson Way.



Photo by Greg Brown
A minivan owned by the Crouse family of Hollywood Park got a dent from a parent driving recklessly away from LdV School. The school has been encouraging better driving from parents.

One lady in a grey Jeep Cherokee, who came flying up, whipped around and went on the sidewalk right where the driveway is. Darcy ran outside and asked the driver to slow down. She admitted, "I wasn't being nice but I definitely wasn't being rude."

The woman asked, "Who are you, the Police?"

This was the first of many frustrating responses and incidents according to Darcy.

Mrs. Crouse had felt the woman in the Jeep came in at an inappropriate speed for a dead end street. She used both sidewalks to turn her car around.

They have contacted LdV about the problems on Larson Way through e-mails, calls and personal visits. It hasn't curtailed the problem.

I reached out to Principal Devon Davis, via

e-mail, and she told me that they run articles in their school newsletters, discuss parking needs at the PTC meetings, and have actively worked with parents to demonstrate proactive community relationships. Unfortunately she wrote, "a few rude and disrespectful parents have given the Crouses an overall negative feeling about the school and entire parent body."

Darcy said, "we're not looking for parents to stop dropping their kids off from school." She just wants an overall awareness that there are children running around that run out in the street and "it's our job as parents to make sure that they're safe," she said.

Got an item for Over The Fence? Greg@valcomnews.com

School News with Jay

By JAY HANSEN

When students return to C.K. McClatchy High School in the fall, they will find that the venerable 77-year-old campus has been upgraded with modern features that will make the Moderne-architectural gem a healthier, more sustainable and more accessible learning environment.

The bulk of the renovations are funded by Measures Q and R, facilities bonds passed by voters in November 2012.

The biggest construction project underway is a \$2 million remodeling of the gym, home court to the Lion's winning basketball programs. The gym renovation includes:

- A new heating and air conditioning system
- New Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant bleachers
- Upgrades to gym restrooms, locker rooms and the offices of coaches
- New basketball backboards and hoops
- A repaved gym parking area

In addition, the main campus will be getting restroom upgrades such as low-flush toilets and hand dryers, important features as California braces for another drought-plagued summer.

Those upgrades are the result of hard work by McClatchy's Eco Club, which last June won \$150,000 in bond funding from Project Green, Sacramento City Unified School District's groundbreaking program that awards allocations to student "green teams" to pay for projects that make campuses healthier and more sustainable. Last month, the Eco Club team won another \$35,000 for variable speed fans in the HVAC system.

Another exciting project: The three-basin tile-and-terracotta fountain near the Media Center is being restored to working order. The fountain was a gift to the school from two of C.K. McClatchy's daughters, and the unique tiles are inscribed with scenes of early California history.

Finally, much of the school is getting a deep cleaning this summer that will freshen up hallways, lockers, classrooms, the lobby area and all offices.

As the trustee for Area 1, I am grateful to residents for supporting bond measures that help improve our schools and make them better "homes" for our teachers, staff, students and

families. Our community has a long history of supporting schools: The construction of McClatchy during the depths of the Depression in 1937 was partially funded with voter-approved bonds. Thank you to everyone who is keeping this Sacramento tradition going!

I'm also proud of CKMs Eco Club for its dedication to measures that help our planet. Thank you to the teacher advisors and parents who support this work.

With so much construction ongoing – and because water and electricity will be shut off intermittently during construction – there will be no formal school activities on campus this summer. In addition, restrooms will be locked and unavailable for use.

As an alternative, online credit recovery classes will be held at Capital City School, 7222 24th St. Athletic teams will be using the fields at California Middle School and the running path at William Land Park, where there are drinking fountains and restrooms.

Neighbors who wish to use the fields, track or tennis courts may continue to do so with the understanding that water fountains and restrooms will be unavailable. We also ask that anyone who comes onto the campus during these weeks of construction avoid the gym area and other areas where people will be working. If you have any questions about any of the work or our schools in general, feel free to email me at jay-hansen@scusd.edu.

SCUSD schools are truly the pride of our neighborhoods. As such, it's up to everyone to respect our campuses and help keep them great places for children to learn. In closing, I ask that you help us keep an eye on McClatchy and all of our campuses during the long summer months. All SCUSD campuses will be locked and alarmed during the break, and all security cameras will be monitored.

Neighbors are asked to be on the lookout for suspicious activity on SCUSD campuses and to report it by calling 264-5471. School security can also be called 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 643-7444.

Jay Hansen is the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education Member for Area 1, which includes Land Park area schools.

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Land Park area pools to open June 16

Living in Sacramento, you know how hot the summers can be. Swimming has always been a great way to cool off. Thanks to the City of Sacramento's Park and Recreation Department, William Land Park's play pool, as well as the pools at Southside and Mangan parks will open on Monday, June 16. Most (if not all) of the city-wide swimming pools will be offering swim lessons. The only city park pool not operated this year by the parks department is Tahoe Pool, which like last year, will be operated by the YMCA. Funds from voter-approved Measure U are paying for operation costs at the other pools.

Check the park department's website for a complete pool and swim lessons schedule at (<http://www.cityofsacramento.org/parksandrecreation/>).

Did you know you can rent out a pool? Pools can be rented for private use when it is not programmed by the Department of Parks and Recreation. Pool rentals are available at swimming and play pools. Minimum rental is two hours and includes lifeguard staff. All reservations must be made 10 business days prior to the event, in person at the Coloma Community Center. Late fees of \$10 per day will be applied if reservation is made within the 10 business day deadline. All fees (including deposit) are due at the time the reservation is made. Reservations can be made at the Coloma Community Center, 4623 T St., Plymouth Room, Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Check for pool availability by calling 808-2306.

The city of Sacramento Department of Parks and Recreation wants everyone to consider safety when choosing to swim in public or private pools, lakes, rivers and open water.

Most drowning injuries and deaths are preventable: Please familiarize yourself with these water safety tips:

Swim in lifeguarded areas and designated swim areas. Actively watch children while they are swimming. Don't leave unattended, even for a moment.

Teach kids never to swim alone. Children under age 12 should be escorted by a responsible adult.

Don't dive into water less than five feet deep. Know that any child can get in trouble in the water, even if he is wearing a life jacket or has taken swimming lessons.

Make sure kids take swimming lessons when they're ready, usually after age 4.

Sign up for CPR and First Aid classes. Use lifejackets (U.S. Coast Guard-approved) whenever possible. (Do not use water wings or swim suits with built-in flotation.) Free in certain river areas in Sacramento.

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Shown above right, 2012 Varsity Coaches Gordy Lahann, Coach Mike de Necocea and Kenny Munguia.

Photos courtesy of C.K. McClatchy baseball

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McClatchy baseball 'Coach D'

By RUSSELL PRESTON
russell@valcomnews.com

"We've won some amazing comeback games over the years that really stand out to me..."

-Coach Mike de Necocea

The baseball field of McClatchy High School has been the backyard of Mike de Necocea since he was a kid. Now as a father of seven watching his youngest child and only son preparing to embark as a freshman at his alma mater, he plans on staying around at least for a few more years.

"The joke was that I'd coach until my son got to high school, but I can't believe that's next year already," de Necocea said. "With my son and his friends entering high school, I hope I can keep coaching here for another four years."

De Necocea, graduate of 1985, has been the head varsity baseball coach for McClatchy for the past 10 years and was even a three-sport athlete during his high school days on the very same campus.

This year, he lead his team alongside assistant coaches Kenny Munguia and Steve Correa (father of previous assistant coach and player Dom Correa) to the playoffs, only to fall short of the second round with a 4-0 loss to Oakmont High School.

De Necocea said though this year was the year his



2005-2006 Varsity Coaches Dom Correa, Mike de Necocea and Mike Carras.

team could go far in the Sacramento Section Division II playoffs, the overall team effort wasn't there.

"We expect to go far in the playoffs but we haven't the last two years," de Necocea said. "It doesn't annoy me, it motivates me. To me, my goal is to always win the last game of the year. The only way to do that is to win the section championship."

In his time as coach, de Necocea and his assistant coaches can be considered a success, winning the Metro League title five times and making the playoffs nine out of 10 years (the only time missing the playoffs was 2006).

Since the 1990s, McClatchy has produced a few major league players such as Steve Holm, Nick Johnson and Vance Worley - the latter being a star player under Coach de Necocea in 2005.

De Necocea said his coaching style is relaxed and organized with a special ingredient mixed in: chemistry. "I think the head coach sets the tone for [chemistry] early on when you pick your team and decide who the key guys on the team are going to be and who the leaders are," de Necocea said.

He said the way he organizes groups in practice is important, even competing at practice against each other can build some solid team chemistry. "We've won some amazing comeback games over the years that really stand out to me," DeNecocea said. "There have been games where most teams would have mailed it,

but because of that chemistry, one pitch at a time, one at-bat at a time got us the win."

He began coaching baseball when his younger brother's Pony team needed a coach. De Necocea was only 19 at the time and got the job - better yet, they won the championship and he coached the league's All-Star team.

"That was my first taste of coaching and I really enjoyed it," de Necocea said.

His time coaching would take a brief pause as de Necocea started a family, attended school and worked full-time. Coaching was an afterthought.

"When I started coaching again, my daughters would be coming through

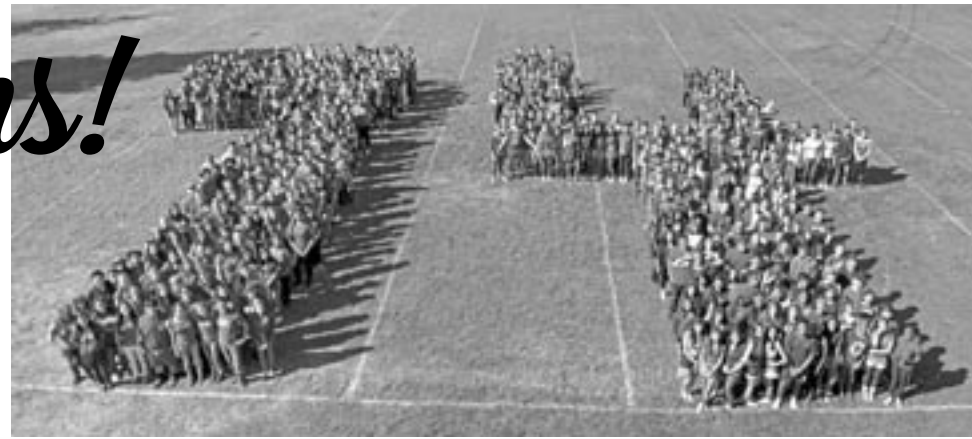
McClatchy, so it was a good opportunity to get to view around the campus, get to know the boys a little better with all these daughters coming through - it was a good strategy," de Necocea said with a grin.

Now with his youngest daughter graduating from McClatchy and heading to Sacramento State, de Necocea said he could shift his focus to his son who plans on playing baseball at the JV level as a freshman.

"I'm really excited to the future of the program with the new group of kids coming in, they already have a great chemistry, but it'll take a little more time to build it," de Necocea said.

Congratulations!

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Faces and Places:
Fashion show benefited Holy Spirit

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
 stephen@valcomnews.com

Moms with model bodies strutted their gorgeous selves at a fashion show on Friday, May 16 at Park Terrace, 5500 Parkfield Court to benefit Holy Spirit Parish School. Organized by Pocket resident and fashion consultant, Debbie O'Hearn, the moms started their day Macy's for makeovers, which were donated by the department store.

Faces and Places:
Ice Cream social at Belle Coolidge Park

Photos by MONICA STARK

On Friday, May 30, children and their families enjoyed free ice cream from Vic's, face painting by Happily Ever Laughter Fairies and entertainment and tricks by Busy Bee Dogs, an organization that reminds people to "adopt not shop" when looking for a new pet. There was also a huge book sale inside the library community room where volunteers reminded folks to vote "yes" on Measure B, which voters did! Happy summer reading everybody!



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SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



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ROOMY 4 BEDROOM

Hard-to-find roomy 4 bedroom 2½ bath home on large lot. Lovely living room/dining room combination with corner fireplace. Kitchen opens to large family room, built-ins, lots of light and door to patio and yard. Large master also has a glass door to patio and backyard. \$379,000

CHARLENE SINGLEY 341-0305



CURTIS PARK CLASSIC

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