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Monica Stark

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Stephen Crowley

## Backpacks needed! New Tech High School student looking for your donations

*Editor's Note: The following is a statement from Sacramento New Technology High School senior who reached out to the Land Park News regarding a call for backpacks.*

Hello, my name is Nohely. I am a senior at Sac New Tech High School and for my senior project, I decided to collect school supplies and backpacks for

underprivileged third and fourth graders. I chose this as my senior project for a couple of reasons.

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See Backpacks, page 19

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# Over the Fence

with Greg Brown

By GREG BROWN  
greg@valcomnews.com

## Longtime Land Park Raley's Clerk Retires

Land Park Raley's won't be the same without the affable Tom Tisdale, better known as Tom T. by his customers and fellow employees. After 33 years at the Raley's Supermarket on Freeport Boulevard, Tom decided to hang up his plumb-colored apron.

"After 33 years, it was time," Tom decided.

I heard about it by accident, really. I was in the check-out line and I asked, "Where's Tommy T?" The clerk told me, "He retired." What? Without saying goodbye? After a vacation, he came back just to leave a note saying he was retiring.

When I spoke with Tom over the phone, he told me he didn't want the hoopla of a long drawn-out farewell or party. "There's a small-knit group of people that have been there the whole time, and those are the people I feel obligated to." He mentioned that there may be a little party at the Swiss Buda when "things die down a little."

Then Tom admitted, "I'll miss a lot of the customers

and I miss seeing some of the workers and management."

Loved by customers as well as fellow employees, Tom T. was a Land Park Institution. You can't teach his kind of customer service. You either have it or you don't, and Tom T. had it. He was always friendly, helpful, and easy to talk with. Just a natural at small talk when you're buying a week's worth of groceries for your family.

Customers could occasionally hear him over the speaker system talking about the "Great stuff on sale this week at Raley's." He had a folksy way of telling guests about the beef tri-tip or watermelon that was on sale that day at Raley's. He did it just as good as any commercial voice-over announcer.

I asked Tom T., since he's such a local legend, what he did with his Raley's gear...auction it off on e-Bay or what? He said, "Oh jeez." Then he added, "I left my apron with the girls over at the floral department. It's hanging up in the back room so they can think about me when they walk by."

Land Park Raley's on Freeport just won't be the same

See Over the Fence, page 15

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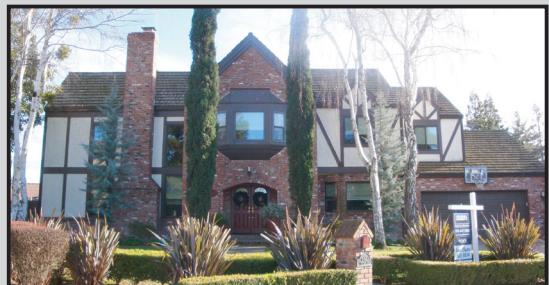
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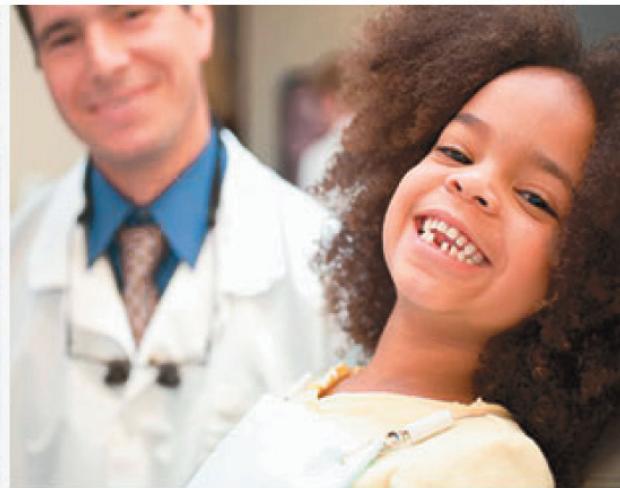
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## **Jessie Ryan brings activist background to the school board**

By KAREN DEVANEY

*Editor's Note: This is the second part in a two-part series about newly elected school board member, Jessie Ryan.*

After graduating high school, brimming with potential and a passion to pursue her mother's predictions, Jessie Ryan applied to local community colleges; the only higher education institutions she thought available to her at the time. After visiting various campuses, she decided on Sacramento City College as it was the one campus that "felt like a real college rather than an extension of high school" with opportunity dripping from the cornerstone of every building. Being unfamiliar with the inner workings of the financial aid machine, Ryan knew she needed a counselor's help to steer her through uncharted territory. For although her mother instilled in a desire for higher education; she knew nothing on the mechanics of making that a reality.

When she arrived at City College's counseling department, there were five offices four of which had no waiting line. Ryan noticed the fifth counselor had a student queue that wrapped around the building—predominantly Latina/o and African Americans. She bids employers to base their hiring practices on race, creed, sex, or ethnicity.

Ryan felt akin to the disenfranchised—those struggling for equal footing in society. She was elated and honored when, because of her advocacy work, she was admitted to

decided that was the person she needed to wait for—and wait she did. Standing for three hours proved to be a monumental cornerstone for she met Lupe Gomez; a person who became a profound beacon.

Gomez listened to Ryan's array of aspirations and interests in Women's Studies and African American History then put a plan in place that in conjunction with communications blended the two. In addition, after having Ryan take the Meyer Briggs test that revealed her capacity for politics, fostered her affinity for activism. Ryan began writing for the Pony Express, the college weekly newsletter, as well as the quarterly literary magazine. Gomez also was instrumental in getting political reporter internships with Dan Walters at the Sacramento Bee. It was during this time in 1996 that Ryan plunged into her political career campaigning for Prop 209, also known as the California Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI), which forbids employers to base their hiring practices on race, creed, sex, or ethnicity.

Ryan felt akin to the disenfranchised-- those struggling for equal footing in society. She was elated and honored when, because of her advocacy work, she was admitted to

the Mezito club —a Latina/o organization. When unable to venture on a field trip to Mexico with her fellow members or who Jessie refers as "my brown skinned brothers and sisters", Gomez once again rose to the forefront and gave Ryan the money she needed. Like the rippling of the tides, seeing the inequities of Tijuana and the lure of the Baja coast, this trip led to a deeper conviction towards politics and advocacy work. Spurred by Lupé's urgings that "I could do anything I wanted," Ryan decided to volunteer for the Democratic Convention, the summer before transferring to San Francisco State University.

At that time, community college students were relegated to welcoming people into the four-day convention. Noticing that there were plenty of others to do this job, Ryan, with "unabashed gumption" and a stealthy dose of naïveté, slid over to the press area. Once there, she scored a liaison position escorting the candidates in before they were interviewed. Panic struck when she realized she would need a suit (which at the time she had none). Her mother took out a Macy's credit card and Ryan took on the job with gusto meeting and discoursing with famous politicians such



Shown here is Jessie Ryan during her campaign

as Senator Paul Wells and Barbara Boxer. Then, it was off to San Francisco State.

At SFSU, Ryan anchored a campus television program, presenting political debates while throwing herself into her studies. She seemed slated for a journalism degree, as she was an excellent speaker and reporter as well as an astute writer. And although she had job offers waiting for her, (after sending Broadcasting tapes out) she decided rather than reporting she preferred "to be part of affecting lasting change."

During her senior year, a profound speaker for AmeriCorps Vista inspired her to join and to work in Lodi where she worked with migrant farm workers writing grants for

a digital storytelling project "which captured the history of the migrant workers specifically." That year, in 2000, Ryan was nominated for the Spirit of Service Award for her community service.

This led to her being hired for The Great Valley Center (an organization concerned with the social and economic welfare of the central valley from Redding to Bakersfield as a circuit writer. The other writer on staff was a young man named Arsenio Mataka. The two were to forge relationships in the communities they served and create leadership from within. There was one huge hurdle though—the language

See Jessie Ryan, page 12

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# South Land Park magician traveled the world

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Lance@valcomnews.com

Sacramento native Robert Forrester "Bob" Brown, Sr. is well versed in geography, having visited six continents of the world.

But he assures readers of this paper that his regular visits to many countries were not simply for leisure. Instead, Bob, 93, was a traveling, professional magician working in high-class venues in those countries.

In telling the story about how he became a magician, Bob, who resides in the vicinity of South Land Park, said, "My mother (Grace Elizabeth Brown, who was married to James A. Brown) gave me a Gilbert magic set for Christmas when I was 9 years old. I instantly became interested in magic and it sparked an inspiration in me."

Because his mother recognized Bob's love for magic, she gave him additional magic sets for the following two Christmases.

After continuing to learn more magic tricks and gaining further confidence, Bob began performing some of those tricks for his neighborhood friends when he was about 15 years old.

"I would have audiences of at least a dozen neighborhood kids," Bob said. "The shows would be held at my house on 23rd Street."

Bob's other activities during his childhood included swimming at the YMCA at 505 J St., watching movies at the Alhambra and Tower theaters and participating in Boy Scout activities with Troop 1. He would eventually earn his Eagle Scout award, as well as one Eagle Palm.

Bob attended Fremont Elementary School, Sutter Junior High School and Sacramento High School. He graduated from the latter school in January 1939.

Although Bob became involved in many activities in life, he never abandoned one of his greatest loves of life — performing magic tricks.

In fact, during much of Bob's life, he cherished learning new tricks and dedicated himself to perfecting his performances as a magician.

In addition to learning magic tricks on his own, Bob also learned tricks from the notable magicians, Dai Vernon (1894-1992), Channing Pollock (1926-2006) and Dr. Harlan Tarbell (1890-1960).

Bob reminisced about those men, saying, "Vernon was considered probably the greatest trainer in slight of hand. Channing, who was from Sacramento, was famous as a performer. And Tarbell, he wrote a course called the 'Tarbell Course in Magic.'

When Bob was about 30 years old, he became a professional magician.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Sacramento native Bob Brown traveled throughout the globe performing magic shows.

Bob mentioned a few places where he performed locally, including at the aforementioned Alhambra and Tower theaters.

He also performed magic tricks at the Clunie Clubhouse on Aug. 19, 1940 during a celebration of his then-future wife's 18th birthday.

Bob was married to Norma at the Fremont Presbyterian Church at 3600 J St. on Dec. 13, 1942, and has four sons, Robert, Jr. ("Rob"), Steven, David and Garrett.

Bob said that he was not married long before he joined the U.S. Army Air Forces.

"I went into the military in 1943," Bob said. "I went back to Florida to basic training, and in about May of 1943, I went to Yale (University) and studied aircraft engineering, repair and so forth. At that point, I was an Air Force cadet. Then I graduated from there as a second lieutenant. I was in (the Army Air Forces) from 1943 to 1946.

"The funny thing was we all graduated in 1943 and I'll never forget there were about 10 of us standing in line and the guy said, 'Now, all those

that want to go overseas right away, take one step forward.' Nobody moved. Nobody wanted to be cannon fodder. He said, 'Well, OK, we're all going to go over there.' So, all 10 of us had to go.

In 1946, I went back to work at Mather Field for two or three months and realized afterward that wasn't what I wanted as a career."

Bob said that he instead chose a career as an insurance salesman, spending most of his years with the Mu-

See Magician, page 7

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(above left) Bob Brown performs a levitating act during one of his magic shows. (above right) Brenda Payne was Bob Brown's longest term magic show assistant.



Photos courtesy of Bob Brown

## Magician:

*Continued from page 6*

al Life Insurance Company of New York, and retiring in about 1985.

During his interview for this article, Bob mainly spoke about his work as a magician outside of his native country.

In recalling his decision to become an international, traveling magician, Bob said, "I wanted to be able to book myself as a magician as part of my lifestyle. I still wanted to be a financial planner, which I was with Mutual of New York.

In addition to being a financial planner, I would like to be able to take time off and travel around the world performing. And with my background training in sales, I was able to do that."

Bob, whose first magic show outside the U.S. was in Madrid, Spain, later commented, "If you can sell insurance, you can sell anything."

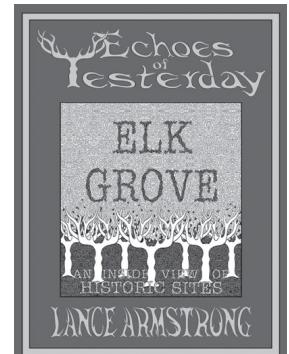
During his days of performing magic shows in foreign countries, Bob continuously contacted newspapers in each city he traveled to around the world in order to build his portfolio with newspaper clippings. He would then use many of those clippings to better promote himself in attempts to obtain additional shows.

As part of his professional acts, Bob would always have a female assistant.

Bob's longest term assistant was Brenda Payne, and he was also accompanied at times by Linda Jonason and Kathy Theire.

While traveling with Linda during one trip to Europe, Bob performed a magic show for Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace (Kelly) of Monaco.

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Bob said that he continued to travel the world as a magician until 2000, when he performed his last professional show at a Hilton Hotel in Germany.

Bob's skill and success as a magician inspired his now 68-year-old son, Rob, and his now 38-year-old grandson, Russell, to also spend time performing as magicians.

Like Bob, both Rob and Russell have performed magic shows in and outside of America.

In reminiscing about his years traveling the world as a magician, Bob said, "It was a great time staying in the finest hotels in the world, meeting unusual people, entertaining the public of the world. It was a great experience."

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# Jimmie Yee remembers Sacramento's Chinatown, political career, more

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
lance@valcomnews.com

Sacramento native Jimmie R. Yee, who officially is now retired from his long run as a Sacramento County supervisor representing District 2, has certainly had many experiences in his nearly 81 years of life.

Those experiences range from growing up near this city's now-former Chinatown and building a career as a structural engineer to serving as Sacramento's first Asian mayor and leaving his position on the county Board of Supervisors three days shy of his eight-year mark.

In an exclusive interview with this publication last week, Jimmie sat down to share some of his memories about his life.

During that interview, Jimmie began by speaking about his parents and siblings.

He initially noted that although he was an American-born Chinese person, his parents, Charles "Sam" Yee and Bau Jung Yee, experienced a much different life during their youth, as they were immigrants from Toishan, China.

Jimmie, who was the last born of his parents' six children, attended Lincoln elementary and junior high schools at 4th and Q streets before beginning the first of his three years as a student at Sacramento High School. He graduated from the latter named school in February 1952.

Like many Chinese who grew up in the city's Chinatown area, Jimmie also attended a Chinese language school during his youth.

In response to being asked to share some of his memories about Sacramento's Chinatown, Jimmie said, "Well, it was a real Chinatown. Back then we all lived on the west end of town, and so, we frequented Chinatown all the time."

"Chinatown went from 2nd Street to around 6th Street, between I and L (streets). Actually, it went to I and J (streets) and then (there were) little small

(Chinese) businesses (to the south). Yeah, it was mostly between I and J (streets).

"Well, there were a lot of restaurants, a couple of poultry businesses, and Chinese family associations were down in Chinatown. Back when I was young, I didn't do too much (with the associations), but my dad was very active in the (Yee) family association. So, every time they had events, I attended the events with my dad.

"Chinatown had everything you needed as far as food is concerned. There was a lot of gambling going on in old Chinatown. They had the pai gow. A lot of the workers saved their money during the year just so they could gamble during Chinese New Year."

And in regard to a particular Chinatown business, he said, "Hong King Lum (at 306 I St.) was one of the bigger restaurants, because that's where we all celebrated Chinese New Year with dinners."

After graduating from Sacramento High School, Jimmie attended the University of California, Berkeley, and graduated from the latter named institution with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1956.

In speaking about that post-high school period of his life, Jimmie said, "At the same time, I went through the ROTC program and was commissioned as a second lieutenant and I graduated. That would be the Army. I did eight years of reserve. It was six months active duty and seven and a half years reserves. My active duty was at Fort Belvoir, Virginia and then some of it was at Fort Ord."

After graduating from UC Berkeley, Jimmie spent three years working for the state.

Jimmie said that his decision to leave his position with the Department of Water Resources came through a job offer from Walter D. Beuhler.

"I met this engineer, Walt Beuhler," Jimmie said. "He and his dad had a structural engineering firm, and he asked me if I was interested in learning building design. So, I left (the position with) the state and went to work for Buehler & Buehler."



Photo by Lance Armstrong  
County Supervisor Jimmie Yee, who officially retired on Jan. 6, is planning to do more golfing and fishing in his retirement years.

Jimmie left Buehler & Buehler in 1966 to become the business partner of Eugene Cole, one of his former co-workers, who had established his own business.

After Jimmie joined Cole, that consulting structural engineering firm became known as Cole & Yee.

Jimmie said that his business partnership with Cole continued until 1988.

"(Cole) decided to retire (in 1988), and I said, 'Hey, if you're going to retire, I'm going to retire, too,'" Jimmie said. "So, we both sold our share in the firm. At that time, we had brought in another partner

See Chinatown, page 19

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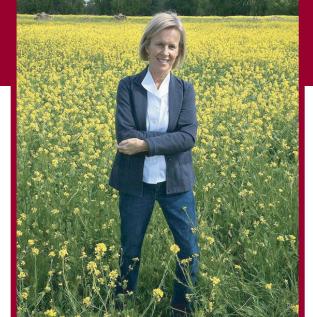
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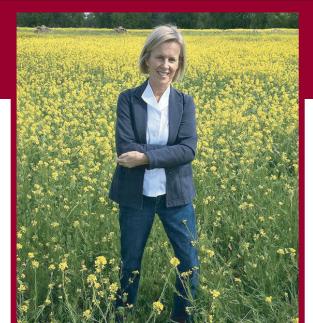
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# Meet the muralists behind the Riverside building makeover

By MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

From techno to Phil Collins, music blasted through the south end of the Target parking lot since the end of January as graffiti artists, Sacramento natives, Ernie Upton and Neal Bergmann grabbed their cans of graffiti and got spraying.

Hired to create a mural for Surfside Kids Dental, the two buddies since their drawing days at Sunrise Elementary (Citrus Heights), have created an underwater paradise featuring large sea turtles, dolphins, and underwater sea plants.

Ernie took a few minutes four days into painting to speak with the Land Park News more about the project and about murals he and Neal have worked together on. When the two met in school, Ernie said for them, drawing "was way better than homework. So that's about it and here we are 18 years later. A lady runs a blog in San Francisco called Street Art SF (streetartsf.com) that I am friends with from painting there. I got contacted by the owners of this new business and she sub-

contracted me and I got my buddies. So it's a tiny little chain through that."

Considering Ernie lives just three blocks from Surfside Kids Dental, he said it's interesting it took a San Francisco connection to get him the project.

Co-owner of Surfside Kids Dental, Daenen Merrill said he was looking for a street artist that is local and once he got in touch with Ernie, "it's been easy going from then on out and it's awesome. (The mural) is unbelievable. Every day, there are more layers and beautiful visuals. I am very very happy with it," he said on Tuesday.

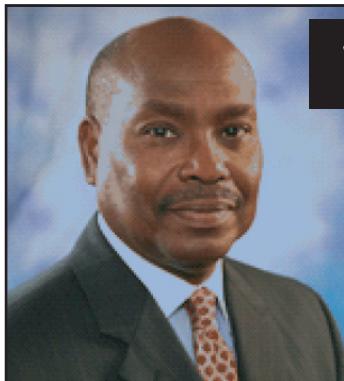
While most of the Surfside Kids Dental mural features an underwater scene, about a third of the wall shows a sunset over a sandy beach with the business's name. The business logo features a "woodie" or a car styled with wooden panels. The Surfside logo has a toothbrush on the back of the vehicle and the business, Ernie said, wanted that image to be as broad as possible through out the mural. "But

See Muralists, page 14



Photo by Monica Stark

Shown here are muralists Neal Bergmann and Ernie Upton in front of their latest masterpiece, a large mural at Surfside Kids Dental, located at 2615 Riverside Blvd. The dentist office is now seeing patients.



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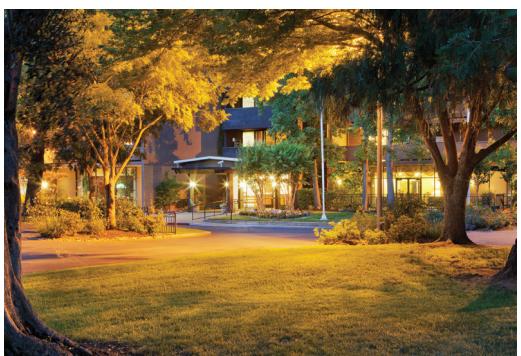
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## Jessie Ryan:

*Continued from page 5*

barrier, Ryan and Mataka (although he was raised by migrant parents his Spanish was minimal) were sent to Mexico for a summer immersion program to learn the language.

The two writers worked hard meeting with local farmers, politicians, and teachers and on the weekends explored the countryside. They learned not only Spanish but discovered one another as well. Like Jessie, Arsenio had come from a family of activists. His mother (while eight months pregnant) and father marched with Cesar Chavez and his grandmother "was part of the Chicano Labor movement Central Valley Environmental Justice."

At the end of the summer more fluent in Spanish, the two headed back to California taking one last breathtaking adventure before they did. While bouncing down a rutted, one-lane road in route to a romantics' dream, Mulege, a village hemmed in by the Sea of Cortez on one side and an erect row of palm trees line a river; they were nearly hit by a semi-truck. Shaken, the two stumbled into, Mission Santa Maria where Arsenio made two wishes; to get home in one piece and to one day marry Jessie.

Beholden to Mission Santa Maria for granting both wishes, the couple returned for their wedding a few years later, to be married by Padre David in the company of beloved family and friends.

Ryan decided nonprofit work would utilize her passion for activism and decided to work for, Campaign for College Opportunity. The organization's mission is to ensure students in California have an opportunity to attend college with the caveat of staying school until graduation. A tireless worker, Jessie is now the executive Vice President of the Sacramento office. While toiling the ranks at work Ryan extended her advocacy to the home front putting her husband through law school. Arsenio is now the Assistant Secretary for the Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Department.

When this dynamic couple decided to embark on a family, it was a unified decision to be-

come what Ryan refers to as a "transracial family." Both Jessie and Arsenio yearned to adopt, knowing that there are millions of children hungry for a home. Weeks prior to their anticipated baby girls' homecoming, the birth mother, an incarcerated African American woman who Jessie wrote to and visited frequently, changed her mind. Jessie and Arsenio were devastated.

A few days later, they received a call that a 7-month-old baby boy was being returned to his birth mother for the adoptive parents had changed their minds.

In mourning, initially Jessie refused to consider this option. "I was still grieving the loss of my daughter." Lo and behold, fate played her cards and Jessie changed her mind.

As it happened both the birth mother and the baby were in San Diego at the time—the couple drove down and when they laid eyes on their son—dissolved into a pile of tears. Tristin Mateo, with his gorgeous brown skin and full head of hair (think Afro) was officially home. Both Jessie and Arsenio agreed on an open adoption that their son would never have to wonder about his birth mother.

A few months later, when they received another call by the same agency regarding the same birth mother who had an older child, Brooklyn. Living in homeless shelters, she wanted better for her toddler and asked if Jessie and Arsenio would be interested in adopting Tristin's older sister.

After a resounding yes—they began preparations. Jessie would talk to her soon-to-be daughter everyday—they would sing songs to one another; The Itsy Bitsy Spider and Doe a Deer were favorites. The couple also paid for the little girl to be in counseling to help with the transition. On the day, they brought Brooklyn home, "she leapt into my arms." Their seasoned social worker never cried such intense tears of joy.

Their family now complete, Ryan is sworn in to her newly elected post—and as true to her word as ever, ready to ensure not only her children but all of her district's children are guaranteed a better than average education. Out of poverty and a passion to make a difference, born to be an activist, Jessie Ryan, will do just that.



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## Muralists:

Continued from page 11

we weren't going to draw an entire mural based on that thought process. So whatever we could do to get out of that paradise and into something with an imagination, we'd do. We did a bunch of murals for the Beach Hut Deli chain as they opened up a franchise up and down the west coast. So we've done that (beach scene), though not on such a big scale (as Surfside's). We've definitely painted a bunch of weird looking fish and more

palm trees than I ever wanted to paint in my entire life. So we'll do a dolphin right there, a little woodie. It'll be a knock off of some paradise that doesn't exist and there you go. That's about it. Things will grow and turn into something weird."

For Daenen, he said while a purpose of the mural is to advertise the business, he did not want to dictate the muralists' art. He told them he didn't want to tell them exactly what to paint and after seeing some sketches, he told them "it sounds like an awesome idea and to go with it. I've trusted them and they delivered. It's been awesome. One of the things while we are looking at it, we want it to be a successful business but we want it to have much more of a community feel. We wanted to do something that would be a benefit to the community, something that would be really fun. It's what I wanted going in and Ernie made that vision come to life."

Though the Surfside mural is the biggest mural he has produced in Sacramento, Ernie has participated in the large-scale Rikers Island Correctional Facility (New York) mural with "20 to 30 of some of the most legendary graffiti artists on the planet."

Recent projects he and Neal have worked on together have included installations for the New Year's Eve TBD block party in midtown, comic book conventions, and the aforementioned Beach Hut Deli murals.

Speaking about future projects, Ernie said there's always another project coming up, whether it's going to be straight-forward graffiti, a large scale mural or straight forward advertising. "You got to do everything to stay alive. Some of it we do for the fun of it, for ourselves. And other stuff we do so we don't have to work at Radio Shack. We're just out here. We're just some hard working American dudes."

Included in the interior design of Surfside Kids Dental is a beach and underwater theme, featuring a big wave, a sandcastle, palm trees, dolphins on the ceiling, an interior mural, and a game cave.

Surfside Kids Dental started seeing patients on Jan. 29. The business has two pediatric specialists, Jennifer McCarthy and Land Park resident Darcy Owen, as well as one orthodontist, Dan Hulme. Surfside Kids Dental specializes in kids dental work and accepts adults with special needs. "We want parents to know that's our difference. We are different than a general dentist," Daenen said.

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# Over the Fence:

*Continued from page 3*

without Tom T. They really ought to hang his apron up in the rafters for all to see. A little salute to our favorite neighborhood grocery clerk.

## Townhomes Proposed For Upper Land Park

There's a brand new development plan in the works on 500 Swanston Dr. in upper Land Park. It's a 20-townhouse infill project at the end of the road on an empty plot of land. The plan is to rezone the property and build 20 townhouses similar to Tapestry Square on 21st and T, as Russ Patton, who represents Michael Moser Development, told residents at the last LPCA meeting at Eskaton Monroe Lodge.

Currently the parcel is only zoned for one house. Russ called it the "Full Meal Deal of the planning process." Lots of rezoning, remapping, and a whole lot of hearings.

The only access to the townhouses will be Swanston or Santa Buena Way. There will be no roads leading to the back of the proposed development. There was mention of perhaps an emergency road for emergency vehicle traffic.

Patton encouraged people attending the meeting to take a look at the lot, which I did. The first thing I noticed was the loud traffic buzzing by on Interstate 5, especially the big rigs. After a while I guess you'd get used to it. I also noticed plenty of trash, discarded clothing, and graffiti all over the sound wall with a lot of

empty spray paint cans strewn all over the property.

One resident expressed concern about the townhouses being entry-level and ending up as rentals. Others expressed concern about traffic going in and out of the project since there would be no back street.

The good thing about the Moser Development team sharing their preliminary plans with the neighborhood is the transparency and feedback from residents. The discussion was a good give-and-take, and the development team will listen to neighborhood concerns about the design process and also take guidance from the city.

I spoke with Randy Gillum, a neighbor across the street from the property, he told me they had a lot of trouble with the empty grass field. "That's already drug central over there. They just popped three guys about a week ago."

Randy characterized the empty lot and space along the sound wall as a magnet for drug dealing, illegal dumping, graffiti, sexual activity, along with a giant fecal field full of dog poop.

Wouldn't a townhouse development, or even a few single-family homes, be a good way to rid the neighborhood of that sort of activity?

Randy said, "I'd like to see something in there just to slow that kind of traffic down. As soon as we see somebody with a backpack, boom!, we have problems."

"We're fed up with it."

Randy isn't opposed to townhouses, but he doesn't like the idea of one entrance going in and out of the development. He said if there's

only one entry and exit, "I'll fight it tooth and nail. We have more traffic than a residential neighborhood needs."

## Safeway Gas Station Faces Vocal Opposition in Curtis Park

There was a big meeting at the Sierra 2 Center about the Safeway Supermarket and fueling station being proposed for Curtis Park Village. Council member Jay Schenirer even brought "clickers" by Meridia Audience Response for residents to take a poll after the meeting. Like he needed to take a poll on how those in attendance felt about the proposed Safeway gas station. They were loud and clear with their voices and sarcastic laughter.

Petrovich Development has said, no Safeway fueling station, no Safeway grocery store and the high-end retail that would come with it. Steve Berndt, who's in charge of Safeway real estate for the Northwestern United States, addressed the crowd and restated that fact during the Q & A portion of the meeting.

Berndt introduced himself by mentioning he worked with Petrovich on the Safeway at 19th and R streets and was also instrumental in remodeling the Alhambra Safeway years ago... and that's when the cat-calls came out. He interrupted the cat-calls with "I didn't actually tear down the theater; that was my ex-boss Ray Oswald. He left the state. He's in Carson City now."

A little black humor to kick things off, I guess.

Berndt went on to say that Safeway is up against a lot of competition and that's why

they need the gas station along with the grocery store. "In order for us to compete in Sacramento, we feel we do need fuel."

He added, "Fuel can be a good quiet neighbor." More cat-calls.

Patrick Soluri, representing the SCNA, discussed why the gas station is not a good neighbor and warned those in attendance about the "red herring of economic infeasibility."

Soluri mentioned the city received a \$10 million grant to construct a pedestrian over-crossing. Petrovich Development also received more than 10 million in grants in order to construct "one of the regions per-eminent transit-oriented developments."

"Millions of public funds have been spent to facilitate transit-oriented development. What public policy is being promoted to allow a gas station where city policy specifically says they should be prohibited because they (gas stations) do not support transit?"

That's when the crowd roared with applause.

Soluri also mentioned the SCNA found four instances of recent Safeways being opened without a gas station: one in Oakland, Los Altos, Cupertino, and Petaluma. So Safeway does open grocery stores without fueling stations.

It's just not going to happen in Curtis Park Village.

The powerful neighborhood and its residents were very clear with their voices and with their clickers. Eighty percent of those in attendance were opposed to the Safeway gas station according to the audience survey.

What's next?

The conditional use permit for the gas station will soon go to the planning commission. If they deny it, that's the end of the story. If they approve it, it will most certainly be appealed, before reaching the city council for a vote.

If you have a tidbit for Over the Fence, email Greg@valcomnews.com.

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Faces and Places:

## The 34th Annual Capitol March for the Dream

Photos by MONICA STARK

*"Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals."* —Martin Luther King Jr.

On Monday, Jan. 19, Sacramento hosted the 34th Annual Capitol March for the Dream, Northern California's largest celebration to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The celebration attracted about 28,000 participants for the Capitol March and Diversity Expo. The walk took them through some of Sacramento's most historic neighborhoods, passing the State Capitol to the Sacramento Convention Center on J Street.

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# Unique Valentine's gift: Singing Valentines

By MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

When love is in the air, a beautiful serenade from a Capitolaires Barbershop Chorus quartet might be the perfect surprise for your sweetie. Along with a performance of love songs between "Let Me Call You, Sweetheart" and "Story of the Rose: Heart of my Heart", members will present the lucky one with a silk rose, box of chocolates and a personalized greeting card from the sender. In the past, such gifts have come with marriage proposals, with future grooms on bended knee.

Besides singing to the romantics, the Capitolaires have received requests to perform their Singing Valentines in schools, usually by the request of a teacher for her class and also in businesses where coworkers have gotten to enjoy the harmonizing of a tenor, baritone, bass and lead. Simply put, singer Joe Samora told Valley Community Newspapers: "We do songs for men and women."

Last year, the Capitolaires sold 47 valentines. One quartet had 16 valentines to sing in one day, with 12 being the typical amount. While they generally stick to the greater Sacramento area, Samora said last year they accepted a

request from a military officer serving in Afghanistan for a Singing Valentine for his sweetheart who was living in Yuba City. Also in the past, the Mayor's office has asked the Capitolaires to come to the Blood Bank and sing.

This year, the organization is hoping to sell 60 valentines and performed amongst the five quartets.

With more than 30 members of local singing phenomenon, the Capitolaires turns 70 years old in 2016. Formed in 1946, it is the second oldest barbershop harmony chorus along the Northwest coast with Reno being the first. Besides the annual Singing Valentines fundraising event, the group performs for children and their families each December at the Polar Express event where Santa and trains mixed with Christmas music gets visitors in the holiday spirit.

The Capitolaires is a nonprofit, sponsored by the Metro Arts Commission and the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce. From events like the Singing Valentines and the Polar Express, they raise funds to help pay for teaching four-part harmony to high school boys at a camp in Pollock Pines each September. The boys memorize the words and the noets.



Photo courtesy

From left to right, Don and Rosey Salz, Jim Brennan and Wendy, Blair Reynolds and current president of the Capitolaires, Steve Allison.

The quartets will deliver the Singing Valentines on Friday Feb. 14 and on Saturday, Feb. 15 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. with a four hour delivery window for \$50. If you're interested in giving the gift of song, all you have to do is call (888) 877-9806 or order at [www.capitolaires.org](http://www.capitolaires.org) and express where you want the quartet to show up.

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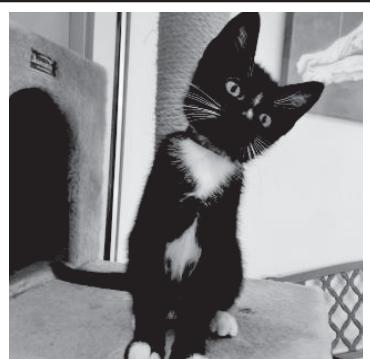
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\* For additional information on adoptions, call the SPCA at 383-7387. Adoptions occur daily and it is not guaranteed the above featured animals are still available. If they are not, the SPCA has many other loving pets available to suit you and your family. The SPCA is located at 6201 Florin-Perkins Road.

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## Home Improvement Guide: a "Keeper" by our readers

Great exposure in these four upscale neighborhoods:

Arden-Carmichael, East Sacramento, Land Park & Pocket/Greenhaven.

Contact Melissa at 916-429-9901

## Chinatown:

*Continued from page 8*

(named) Carl Schubert, so (the business) was called Cole, Yee & Schubert. And my desire was to stay on for another five years as an advisor. And they were so busy, I stayed on for another 12 years, right up to the year 2000."

Certainly, no summary of Jimmie's life would be complete without some details about his involvement in politics.

In speaking about his initial years as a local politician, Jimmie said, "What happened was I got involved in politics. In 1992, I was elected to the city council, and I was on the council for 12 years. When Joe Serna, (Jr.) died (on Nov. 7), 1999, he was the mayor of the city of Sacramento. I was selected by the city council to succeed the late Mayor Joe Serna, Jr."

Jimmie said that he believed that his time as a politician had ended in 2004, following his service as a member of the city council.

"I figured I was retired in 2004," Jimmie said. "That was my second retirement. I had already retired from my business, and I was enjoy-

ing (that second retirement) until a year later. Illa Collin, (District 2) county supervisor, after serving 28 years on the county board, decided that she would retire and she called me to ask me to come out of retirement and run for her position."

Jimmie accepted the challenge and was elected to serve as the District 2 representative in June 2006. He was sworn into office on Jan. 9, 2007.

In speaking about the topic of the end of his political career, Jimmie said, "I enjoyed the political world. There are a lot of issues and you get a lot of heartburn on some of the more difficult ones, but I enjoyed it. There's no question. There is a lot of power in it, but you don't go into that seeking power. In fact, many times, I don't even consider myself a politician. Well, I'm out of office at the (beginning) of this year, so I'm enjoying it right now."

Jimmie, who has a wife named Mary, six children and 17 grandchildren, said that he plans to fill his additional leisure time during his third retirement with such activities as playing golf once a week and fishing with my son, Kenneth, and his grandson, Miles.

## Backpacks:

*Continued from page 2*

school and learning is already difficult for some and I believe that when equipped with the right supplies, things can be easier. That is why I decided to start this backpack and school supply drive. You may donate any gently used backpack and school supplies such as wooden pencils, pink eraser, sharpener, a box of crayons, a folder, and a notebook.

You may donate this items at Sac New Tech High School which is located at 1400 Dickson St. or at Starbucks located on the corner of Freeport Boulevard and Sutterville Road by William Land Park. If you have any questions, you may contact me via email at [nohely.alcala@snths.org](mailto:nohely.alcala@snths.org).



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# CALENDAR

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

## FEBRUARY

### Disney On Ice presents "Let's Celebrate" at Sleep Train Arena

Feb. 11–14: Feld Entertainment invites families to turn an ordinary day into an extraordinary one at its new ice extravaganza, Disney On Ice presents Let's Celebrate! – Presented by Stonyfield YoKids Organic Yogurt, featuring more than 50 classic and contemporary Disney characters in a captivating compilation of favorite holidays and celebrations from around the world. Audiences will experience the ultimate celebration of celebrations as they join Mickey Mouse and friends on a delightful tour of festivities jam-packed with fun surprises, spectacular skating and vibrant costumes. The production's original storyline transports audiences to exciting events with their favorite Disney characters, including a Valentine's Day Royal Ball with Princess Tiana; a Very Merry Un-Birthday Party with Alice and the Mad Hatter; Jack Skellington's frightfully festive Halloween party with the Disney Villains; and a Hawaiian luau with Lilo and Stitch. "Let's Celebrate! is all about experiencing the holi-

days through the eyes of the Disney characters. There are variety of celebrations from all over the world. With Mickey's Digital Global Destinator, you will travel to far-off places like China for the Chinese New Year and to Brazil for Carnival. One Sports Parkway. Dates and times are as follows: Wednesday, Feb. 11–Friday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 14 and Sunday, Feb. 15 at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m.; Monday, Feb. 16 at noon and 4 p.m. Prices range from \$17, \$23, \$42 (VIP), \$70 front row; kids tickets available for only \$10 on weekday shows. Opening night discount tickets are available for \$12. For more information, visit [www.disneyonice.com](http://www.disneyonice.com), ticketmaster.com, by phone at 800-745-3000 or in-person at Ticketmaster retail outlets or the box office.

### Root Cellar Genealogical Society Membership Meeting

Feb. 12: Root Cellar Genealogical Society Membership Meeting will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave., Carmichael. Program TBA by Glenda Lloyd. Plus, genealogical "Show & Tell" Root Cellar Members share their family heirlooms and family history displays. A pre-meeting open discussion will be offered from 6:15 to 7 p.m. Visitors always welcome!

### Toddler/ Pre-School Storytime at McKinley Library

Feb. 12: Songs fingerplays and stories especially for ages 18 months to 5 years followed by playtime! Make new friends and play with toys. Storytime starts at 10:30 a.m. 601 Alhambra Blvd.

### Explore & More! at Colonial Heights Library (School Age (6-12))

Feb. 12: Looking for something fun to do after school? Join us for some homework help and fun with the Explore & More program, presented by the Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association! Each Thursday afternoon we'll have an hour of homework help, as well as an hour of arts, crafts, board games, Lego building, science experiments, and more! The program starts at 3:30 p.m. at Colonial Heights Library 4799 Stockton Blvd.

### Mission Oaks Computer Club meeting

Feb. 12: The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet on Thursday, Feb. 12 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. The meeting will include a problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information visit our website at [www.missionoakscomputerclub.org](http://www.missionoakscomputerclub.org) or send an email to [mocc@missionoakscomputerclub.org](mailto:mocc@missionoakscomputerclub.org).

### Toddler Storytime

Feb. 12: Starting at 9:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park

Dr., toddlers and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. After the storytime, there will be a stay and play group or a simple craft. To ensure that storytime is a positive experience for all, attendance is limited to 40 children (they can bring as many adults as they want!).

### Preschool Storytime @ Belle Cooledge (Early Childhood (0-5))

Feb. 12: Starting at 11 a.m., preschoolers ages three and older and their caregivers are invited to join the Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr., for fun songs, stories, fingerplays and a craft or play activity—all designed to build early literacy skills.

### One-on-One Technology Help

Feb. 12: Starting at 2 p.m., get some help navigating email, the internet, various applications, tablets or eReader at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr. Registration is required.

### Homework Zone

Feb. 12: Starting at 3:30 p.m., free drop-in homework help is available for students in grades 1-8 with trained teen volunteers at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr. Help is available in all subject areas, including support to develop reading skills.

### Valentine's Craft for Kids at McKinley Library

Feb. 13: Come celebrate Valentine's Day by making your own play dough hearts! We will

roll out large blocks of play dough in Valentines colors, then use cookie cutters to make Valentine hearts. We will then decorate our creations with sequins, glitter, and other art supplies. Come make your own Valentine masterpiece or other artistic play dough creation to give to your special Valentine. Crafts start at 3:30 p.m. at McKinley Library 601 Alhambra Blvd.

### Community PTSD awareness event

Feb. 13: The invisible wounds of trauma survivors affect not only the individual but their families and their communities. Whereas Sacramento County is home to more than 90,000 veterans, approximately 30 percent of women experience domestic violence, 1-in-3 women and 1-in-5 men have been sexually abused prior to age 18, and whereas heart attack and cancer survivors are at an increased risk for PTSD. Hear from guest speakers, Ben Palacio a U.S. Marine Corps Viet Nam veteran and Bill Hart a community chaplain for the U.S. Army. The event takes place inside the large fellowship hall at First Baptist Church Fair Oaks, 4401 San Juan Ave., Fair Oaks. Everyone is welcome to gather information and resources at this free-admission event. For more information email John Holmes, LMFT and Jan Sharp, LMFT at [2counselors@att.net](mailto:2counselors@att.net).

### Sacramento Guitar Society presents Michael Chapdelaine and Motoshi Kosako

Feb. 14 – Sacramento Guitar Society presents Michael Chapdelaine and Motoshi Ko-

See Calendar, page 21

## - EVENT LISTING SECTION -

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### Save the Date!!! SPRING CRAFT FAIRE

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4701 Gibbons Drive,  
Carmichael  
  
972-0336

### ALL SAINTS CONCERTS presents DUO HARPSICHORDISTS

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### Spring Arts & Crafts Fling Artists & Crafters Welcome!

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9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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# Calendar:

Continued from page 20

sako at the Harris Center, Folsom at Folsom Lake College 8 p.m. Chappelaine is a National Fingerpicking Champion guitarist and Kossako is a Jazz harpist. For more information, visit [www.SacramentoGuitarSociety.org](http://www.SacramentoGuitarSociety.org), [www.HarrisCenter.net](http://www.HarrisCenter.net) or call 608-6888.

## Saturday Sleuths Book Club

**Feb. 14:** Join Belle Coolege Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr., each month as popular and classic mysteries are discussed, starting at 2 p.m. The February selection is *The Bookman's Tale* by Charlie Lovett.

## One-on-One Technology Help

### McKinley Library

**Feb. 14:** Are you curious about ebooks but not sure how to get started? Is your tablet or ereader a mystery? Do you need basic computer help such as creating e-mail accounts and using the internet? Come by the McKinley Library and meet with a Technology Assistant! Sessions are first come, first served and last 30 minutes. Tech help starts at 10 a.m. 601 Alhambra Blvd.

## PERS Fizz Brunch at the Elks

**Feb. 15:** Enjoy fizzes at 10:30 a.m., followed by brunch at 11:15 a.m. for a cost of \$18. There will be a beef and ham carving station, fresh fruit, platter with fruit bouquet, pastries, croissants and, muffins, eggs and omelets to order, country potatoes and hash browns, sausage and bacon, French toast, waffles with berry compote and whipped cream. Tickets are on sale in Lodge Office, 6446 Riverside Blvd.

## Celebrate Chinese New Year with the River City Chinese Music Ensemble

**Feb. 15:** Starting at 2 p.m., join the Sacramento Public Library, central branch, located at 828 I St., for a musical performance by the River City Chinese Music Ensemble, a local group that specializes in traditional Chinese musical instruments. The River City Chinese Music Ensemble was established by a combination of local residents and overseas Chinese artists in 2009. The musical group is considered one of the premiere Chinese music groups in the region. Making up the group are Chinese musicians specializing in flute, erhu, pipa, guzheng, ruan, yangqin. The group has played at several

events and locations spanning the Sacramento area to the Bay Area. This musical performance is the first of a four part series emphasizing the cultural contributions of Chinese and Chinese Americans in the Sacramento region.

## 13th annual American Heritage Day

**Feb. 16:** Come and see history come alive at Mount Vernon Memorial Park, FD 1154, 8201 Greenback Lane, Fair Oaks. Some event highlights include: Classic cars on display, Wells Fargo Stage Coach on display; the Delaware Regiment will set up camp, display and fire muskets; there will be the Red Circle Organization, featuring Percy Edwards; Old Time High Wheel Bicycle, Gold Rush Puppet Show, Consolidated Drum Band will march and play patriotic songs, there will be a walk through a "Gold Rush City" Red Barons R.C. Model Airplane Club will display and fly ware planes; there will be a U.S. Army Huey Vietnam Helicopter on display; there will also be an opportunity to pan for gold at a price of \$3 to cover the cost of gold; visitors can meet with George and Martha Washington, Abe Lincoln, Amelia Earhart, Rosie the Riveter and others. It's a free public event.

## Camellia Embroiderers' Guild meeting

**Feb. 17:** The Camellia Chapter, Embroiderers' Guild of America will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. at the Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Ave. Guests welcome. Free. For more information, call 223-2751.

## Locke and the Sacramento Delta Chinatowns

**Feb. 17:** Starting at 6:30 p.m., local historian Lawrence Tom will talk about his recent book, "Locke and the Sacramento Delta Chinatowns," and offer copies for sale at the central branch of the Sacramento Public Library, 828 I St. Learn about the Chinese pioneers of the Sacramento River Delta.

## Baby Storytime

**Feb. 17:** Starting at 12:30 p.m., join the Belle Coolege Library (5600 Land Park Dr.) for nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys.

## Noni's Knit-Wits @ Belle Coolege (Adult)

**Feb. 17:** Starting at 1:30 p.m., enjoy a relaxing afternoon of knitting with fellow yarn enthusiasts at Belle Coolege Library, 5600 Land Park Dr. Anyone interested in knitting and crocheting, even beginners, are welcome to join in. This is not an instructional class, but assistance is available. Bring your own supplies and a project to work on.

## Why Mosquitos Buzz with The Puppet Company

**Feb. 17:** The African drums begin to pound as the jungle awakens our storytellers – the stone idols of Kwaku, Aleka, and Mammo to a new day. These stone carvings tell the tale of poor Mosquito and how he commits a terrible crime in the jungle - without even knowing it! With the use of authentic African music and stunning jungle scenery, the puppets come to life and cast their magical spell. This program, held at Belle Coolege Library is for all ages, starting at 4 p.m. 5600 South Land Park Dr.

## Open House at Sacramento Youth Symphony:

**Feb. 17, 19:** Come learn about the Sacramento area's premier youth organization for musicians (ages 6-21)! Sit in on a rehearsal,

talk to our conductors and orchestra members, enjoy refreshments, and see what all the buzz is about. Founded in 1956 as a 55-member youth orchestra, the Sacramento Youth Symphony will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2016! Under the artistic direction of Michael Neumann, SYS now has a membership of 400-plus talented young musicians from all over the Sacramento Valley region. SYS offers beginning through advanced orchestral ensembles and presents 20-plus concerts per years under the baton of some of the best music educators and conductors in the region. Learn how you can be a part of this award-winning organization, which recently produced Symphony of 1000 on Tuesday, Feb. 17, and Thursday, Feb. 19, at Rosemont High School. Visit the website at [www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org](http://www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org) or call Robert at 731-5777 for details.

## Mister Cooper at the library

**Feb. 18:** Join neighborhood favorite Mr. Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years, starting at 4 p.m. at Belle Coolege Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr.

## Baby storytime at McKinley Library

**Feb. 18:** Babies from birth to 18 months old and their parents/caregivers can enjoy great books, lively songs, and rhymes, and meet other babies in the neighborhood. Fun starts at 10:30 a.m. Suitable for ages 0-5; 601 Alhambra Blvd.

## Storytime at Colonial Heights Library (Early Childhood (ages 0-5))

**Feb. 18:** Join us at the library for Wednesday morning storytimes for toddlers, preschoolers, and their caregivers! Each week we'll read three different stories, sing songs, do some activities, and meet afterward to play. Get ready to celebrate reading from your fingers to your toes! Fun starts at 10:30 a.m. at the Colonial Heights Library, 4799 Stockton Blvd.

## Music at noon free concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church

**Feb. 18:** Bring your lunch and enjoy fine music. This week there will be music and poetry featuring: Fauré, Schumann, Sibelius, and more; George Hayes, violin; Susan Lamb Cook, cello; John Cozza, piano. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from [www.musicatnoon.org](http://www.musicatnoon.org). Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 1300 N St.

## Explore & More! at Colonial Heights Library (School Age (6-12))

**Feb. 19:** Looking for something fun to do after school? Join us for some homework help and fun with the Explore & More program, presented by the Colonial Heights Neighborhood Association! Each Thursday afternoon we'll have an hour of homework help, as well as an hour of arts, crafts, board games, Lego building, science experiments, and more! The program starts at 3:30 p.m. at Colonial Heights Library 4799 Stockton Blvd.

## Toddler Storytime

**Feb. 19:** Starting at 9:30 a.m. at Belle Coolege Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr., toddlers and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. After the storytime, there will be a stay and

play group or a simple craft. To ensure that storytime is a positive experience for all, attendance is limited to 40 children (they can bring as many adults as they want!).

## Jumping Spiders topic of free

### Sacramento Audubon Program

**Feb. 19:** The public is invited to a free program on jumping spiders at the meeting of the Sacramento Audubon Society. The tiny creatures, some found in our own backyards, don't lie in wait like others of their kind, but stalk their prey like cats, speaker Tim Manolis says. And they're remarkable mimics of ants, bees, and wasps. Male jumpers can also be brilliantly colored, with courtship displays rivaling those of birds of paradise, notes Dr. Manolis, illustrator of the recently published *Spiders of California* and the *Pacific Coast States*. Manolis will also touch on spider biology and the types of spiders found in Central Valley homes and yards.

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[www.YoungActorsStage.com](http://www.YoungActorsStage.com)



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### Faces and Places: **Shrek Jr., the Musical**

Show here are children actors who performed in Runaway's production of Shrek Jr., the Musical. These photos are from the dress rehearsal, which was held on Jan. 20.

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# Shrek, the Musical JR entertained packed crowd at the 24th Street Theatre

By MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

Donning a green hat with ogre ears and his sister's pillow stuffed inside his shirt Jason L. Bradley II, a 13-year-old at Sutter Middle School, starred in the recent Runaway Stage production of Shrek, the Musical JR. Jason's voice carried flawlessly throughout the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Theater at the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community on Wednesday, Jan. 21 and Thursday, Jan. 22.

Speaking about his lead role, Jason said Shrek "is a suitable character for me because when I watched the movie I acted the part out. You have to audition. So I walked like him, talked like him ... I like that Shrek is independent and that I can be independent too."

Enrolled in acting and singing classes, Jason has aspirations to be an actor. "I like to sing all types of things. I would say Michael Jackson is my idol."

For just being 13 years old, Jason has quite the acting resume. For the following productions, he's worked with Runaway Stage: He has previously played Willy Wonka in Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, the Lion in the Wizard of Oz JR, a lollipop guild member in the Wizard of Oz, the Caterpillar in Alice in Wonderland. He's also played Rock Lobster in the Young Actors Stage production of Alice in Wonderland. He is currently in a short film titled "Eliyah's Silence." Produced by Jessica Kudlski, the film is about Eliyah, an innocent young deaf slave who attempts to give his mother a present.

Speaking proudly of his son, Jason's father, also named Jason Bradley said, "(Theater) keeps him

busy, it keeps his mind busy. It builds confidence for him not only as he tries to be an aspiring actor, but also in school, giving presentations and stuff of that nature." Additionally, Jason has been seen at school singing the National Anthem in front of more than 1,200 students.

The local musical, which was held at the 24<sup>th</sup> Street Theatre at the Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and Community, featured a cast of about two dozen children many of whom played more than one role.

Patti Marcotte, mother of child actress Stelle Marcotte who played the role of a Duloc performer and Dwarf, said she has enjoyed watching her daughter excel at acting with Runaway Stage Productions. "This is her third performance. She did Hairspray and Blue's Clues musicals. For her, this is her passion. She loves it. She's only 7 (years old) but she doesn't really dig sports. This is like the sport that she loves. It gives her great confidence. I don't have to ever have to ask her to practice. She just does it on her own. And I feel like she's made some great friends. I feel like the instructors are helpful and she's learned a lot."

After the opening night performance, actress Arianna Nevis spoke with this publication about her experience playing Pinocchio, a Duloc performer, and a knight. "It was really fun having the nose on the stage (for her part as Pinocchio). It was really sweaty having the nose, but I got used to it. I used a lot of hairspray in place so no one could see it. And I thank everyone for coming and it was really fun, getting in the quick changes. That was an experience I will never forget."

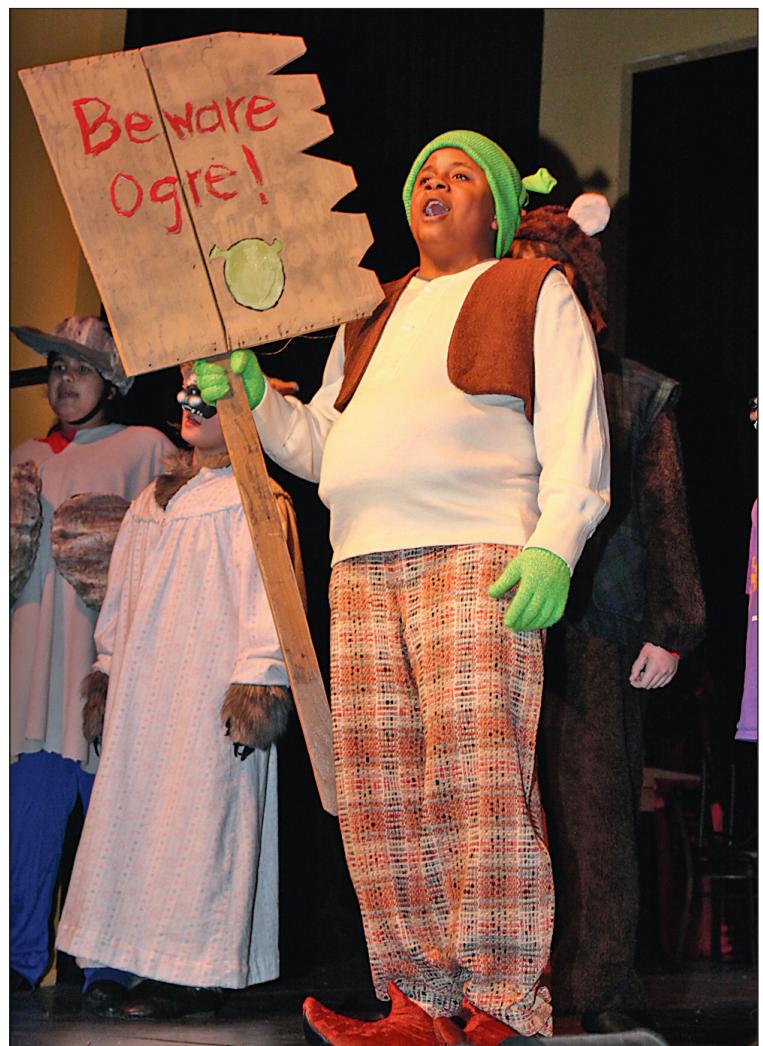


Photo by Stephen Crowley

Donning a green hat with ogre ears and his sister's pillow stuffed inside his shirt 13-year-old Jason L. Bradley II starred in the recent Runaway Stage production of Shrek, the Musical JR.



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