

# LAND PARK NEWS

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## Lady Lions leave legacy.

McClatchy women's basketball team becomes first SCUSD state champions

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Ban the ice cream man?

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# Over the Fence



with Greg Brown greg@valcomnews.com

I yelled to my 5-year-old-son, "Ice Cream Man!"

My wife and I looked at each other and thought, "Why not? It's good times."

So we all went out front and waited for the ice cream man to stop at our house. My 5-year-old-son got a Batman ice cream on a stick. He was very excited about picking out an ice cream treat from a passing vehicle. Now every time he hears the Ice Cream Man

## BAN THE ICE CREAM MAN?

The Ice Cream Man brings back memories of childhood, like running after the ice cream truck and waving a quarter I shook from my piggy bank on a hot summer day.

The Ice Cream Man was trucking through our neighborhood the other day. I could hear the familiar ice cream truck jingle.

See Over the Fence, page 3

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# Over the Fence:

Continued from page 2

he thinks it's carte blanche to "get more ice cream." We now have weekly limits on fudgsicle bar consumption.

Whenever I think "Ice Cream Man" I think Van Halen. "Oh my my, I'm your ice cream man, stop me when I'm passin' by. They say all my flavors are guaranteed to satisfy."

Ah yes, more childhood memories.

Unfortunately, Over The Fence has learned that a Hollywood Park resident has officially complained to the city of Sacramento about the ice cream truck weaving through the neighborhood and selling frozen treats.

A woman is actually trying to campaign against the ice cream truck, and believes that it turns the neighborhood into "ghetto city." Her biggest complaint is that the ice cream truck music is "too loud."

I assume she's never been to a Van Halen concert.

Now granted, ice cream trucks aren't what they used to be. But what is these days? Most of the ice cream trucks driving through the neighborhood are beat up old vans. But, c'mon. Trying to shut down a childhood tradition seems NIMBY 3.0.

It's a war against Eskimo Pies!

Perhaps a gated community would be a better location for folks who hate ice cream trucks and the loud tinny music they bring. Over The Fence will keep you posted on the ice cream truck controversy.

## LOCO FOR TACO TUESDAYS

It's Taco Tuesdays at Leonardo da Vinci School during the Land Park Pacific Little League games. Every Tuesday afternoon, League Umpire and Chief Steve Stewart, and his partner and cook, Steve Ysias, offer street-style chicken or beef tacos with beans, rice and chips, too.

Steve Ysias told me he's the cook and Steve Stewart is the mouth. "Works out perfect," he said.

It's only five bucks a plate. That's a cheap meal. Part of the proceeds go to LPPLL.

I had a one of the chicken tacos...delicious! Steve told me he marinades the meat for days. The smell of Mexican street tacos wafted through the crowd of parents watching their kiddos play ball at the LDV baseball field. It seemed to entice them into ordering the taco plate because Steve got cleaned out. No more beans and rice. He had a post game taco rush.

Kenny Romeo was scraping the plate with his fork when I

See Taco Tuesdays, page 9

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## Casa Garden gets new chef with exciting new menu ideas

The Casa Garden Restaurant recently hired a new Restaurant Manager who is bringing some new ideas to the Casa. Upon the retirement of Chef Joan Simmons, CC Curran assumed the Restaurant Manager mantle on Feb. 1. Chef CC has already made some changes. A fish option on Fridays was successful (offered only through Lent), new menu items are planned in months to come, and the Casa will now be open for Mother's Day Brunch on May 10. Reservations for lunch Monday-Friday or for Mother's Day can be made at 452-2809. Remember that tips and net proceeds from the Casa Garden Restaurant help support the Sacramento Children's Home.

Details about the inaugural Mother's Day Brunch are as follows: The meal, which will include traditional buffet offerings, will be held on Sunday,

May 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The last seating will be available at 1 p.m. The fee is \$25 per person (coffee/tea included) and \$3 for mimosas. (Other beverages will also be available for sale.) Call 452-2809 for reservations. Cancellations can be made 10 business days prior to the event.

Asked what her favorite dish to cook, CC said that was a difficult question to ask a chef as it depends on one's mood, jokingly saying that at that moment it would be "fried chicken." CC has worked at banquet-type of facilities before such as at the Del Paso Country Club. She has most recently worked serving food at a daycare center at a local community college. Working at the Casa Garden couldn't be a better fit for CC, as she truly enjoys the mission of the restaurant.



Photo by Monica Stark

Shown here is CC Curran, the new chef at the Casa Garden restaurant, who is making menu changes and starting new events like the dawn of an inaugural Mother's Day brunch for the price of \$25 per person; and \$3 mimosas will be available for sale.

## Lady Lions basketball win state championship

By JIM COOMBS

C.K. McClatchy High School's Lady Lions basketball team won the state championship on Friday, March 27 at U.C. Berkeley's Haas Pavilion after a strong battle against Junipero Serra of Gardena. The Lions are the first SCUSD state champions on record with the California Inter-scholastic Federation.

That monumental feat was one that has garnered community support, extending through out the Land Park neighborhood and beyond. A rally was held in front of McClatchy High School on Friday morning before the team boarded buses and headed for the East Bay. Local businesses, like Land Park Ski & Sports and Raley's on Freeport Boulevard, used their signs out front to cheer lead the team. The ski shop displayed the message: "PLAY BALL/LIKE A GIRL/CKM LADY LIONS/THAT IS"; and, beneath the glowing neon Raley's sign were the words: "Go Lady Lions." That community support before the win has continued after it with extensive media coverage, and as this article was being written, plans of a neighborhood parade were being scheduled for Friday, April 10 at 1 p.m. at CKM. Also as this article was going to press, the team was scheduled to be guests of the Sacramento Kings on Tuesday, April 7. Go Lady Lions!



Photo by Denise Tahara

Shown in the first row are the following: Haley Arakaki, Kelsey Wong, Alex Washington, Sara Shimizu, Kristi Wong and Jordan Cruz. Shown in the second row are Jeff Ota, Jessica Kunisaki, Allison Feickert, Kamaree Donald, Destiney Lee, Gigi Garcia, Lauren Nubla, Jada Fonseca and Que Ngo. Shown in the third row are Rob Feickert, Jay Hansen, Rohit Sharma and Carlos Vicente.

Without further ado, what follows is a recognition of the players and the coach, as well as coverage of the historic state championship.

### Meet the Lady Lions basketball team

Seven members from the McClatchy state champion girls' basketball team were recognized by the Sacramento Bee last week as All-City

players. This must be some kind of record for the Sacramento area.

The McClatchy All-City players were led by junior Gigi Garcia, Player of the Year, senior Lauren Nubla who was chosen to be the second team, and sophomore Jordan Cruz named as a third team honoree.

Senior Destiney Lee, injured most of the season, super-sub senior Alex

See Lady Lions, page 22

See Faces and Places, page 16 for photos of the the Lady Lions rally at C.K. McClatchy HS.

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**COLDWELL BANKER**



# New documentary highlights historic Sacramento film footage

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Lance@valcomnews.com

Matías Bombal, who has been entertaining readers of this paper with his movie reviews under the heading of "Matías Bombal's Hollywood" since last July, is presently enjoying the success of his major contributions to a local, historical film documentary project.

The documentary is a combination of the blending of news and other film footage from various eras of Sacramento's history and modern day recordings of locals speaking about different aspects of the city's history.

During an interview with this publication last week, Bombal, 47, recalled being asked to become involved with the project – an hour and 39-minute documentary, called "The Sacramento Picture!," which was com-

pleted on March 20, after about seven months of work.

"I was approached by the Center for Sacramento History, in the persons of Dylan McDonald and Rebecca Crowther, who were familiar with my movie review work and knew that I had an interest in Sacramento history for many years, being involved in bringing old theaters back to life and knowing about movies," said Bombal, whose theater experiences include working as an usher at the Tower Theatre and managing the Crest Theatre. "They have, at the Center for Sacramento History, one of the largest regional film collections in the nation. There's over 9 million feet of movie film. I mean, it's hard for me to even wrap my brain around 9 million feet of movie film. To put that into perspective, if you watched 24 hours a day, every day of the week without stopping for eating or anything, it would take you at least 11 years before you could really see a good portion of it.



Photo courtesy of Center for Sacramento History  
A still image taken from an old Sacramento film shows the Western Pacific depot, which is presently home to The Old Spaghetti Factory restaurant at 1910 J St.

"So, that film for the last several years has just sat there on shelves and (was) only accessible to the (cen-

ter's) film archivist, Mahlon Picht.

"The purpose, of course, is the city wants to use this footage to license to people doing productions or documentaries, because there's a lot of great news footage there."

The largest portion of that news footage collection, Bombal notes, was filmed by the legendary local television news photographer Harry Sweet (1920-2014), who had maintained a vast collection of news footage

that would later be donated to local archives.

"(Sweet's) donated collection includes) all of the daily news films for each day of the week from 1957 to 1979, when (KCRA) Channel 3 stopped shooting movie film for news stories," Bombal said. "It's just a remarkable collection of the life of this community and the state to a certain degree."

Bombal also commented that the center's film collection includes films dating back to 1910.

And in speaking about the center's local films, in general, Bombal said, "It's a fascinating look at the movie images of our past. So, it brings a fabulous perspective of how our city looked and moved. And it somehow brings to life the past a little bit more than a still photograph might, and with rich detail."

In further explaining the center's interest in contacting him to work on the project, Bombal mentioned that McDonald and Crowther had attended his presentation of a free, public showing of a color film called, "Life in Sacramento 1950," at the Central Library on May 26, 2014.

McDonald and Crowther approached Bombal at that

See Documentary, page 8

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## Documentary:

Continued from page 6

event and expressed their interest in having him assist the center in making the public aware of the center's film resources.

Since that time, the California Audiovisual Preservation Project began to provide grant funding for film collections throughout the state for the purpose of digitizing films to make them available through the Internet.

Bombal said that about 150 of the center's film reels have been digitized. But that is a very small number of the center's reels, considering that Bombal estimates that the center has about 1 million film reels in its collection.

It was at the point when the center had 50 of those reels digitized when Bombal was contacted by the center.

In recalling that moment, Bombal said, "They said, 'Matias, we have 50 reels that are now digitized. Can you come look through all of this film and put together a speaker series lecture for us where you select what you think is the most germane and interesting films of what we have digitized?' I said I would do that, and I had a meeting with them, and they said, 'Well, we want to involve local experts. We want to get William Burg and various local historians to comment in addition to you on this footage. We want to have a stage show and there will be some PowerPoint projection, we'll run the film and then we'll have a discussion.'"

And in reflecting upon one of his thoughts on that approach, Bombal said, "It occurred to me that the trouble that people have at these historical events is you will get some expert that will talk about some bit of minutia and go on and on (with that topic) forever, while half the audience falls asleep."

Bombal made the suggestion of simply making a documentary using portions of the digitized films and brief comments by spokespersons selected to be recorded for such a documentary. Those comments could thus be

used by the project's producers at appropriate points in the documentary.

"(That approach) economizes the time, and then you can get more footage and more talk in and control it to the point where if something starts to get boring or dull, we can make it tighter and a more valuable experience for the audience," Bombal said. "And having the theatrical sense, because I've shown movies my whole life, I have an idea of what people's tolerance level is. To talk about the inside of buttons on coats for 45 minutes, you'll lose some people."

An agreement was made for a documentary to be made, and Bombal spent three months reviewing the digitized film.

In regard to his approach to creating the documentary, Bombal had to develop a concept as to its direction. And one of the decisions in that concept, Bombal said, was "to avoid politics completely."

However, Bombal said that he eventually included brief political footage in the documentary.

"I start with Ronald Reagan and end with Cesar Chavez, so that I can please both the liberally minded and the conservatively minded at the same time," Bombal said.

Bombal further shared details about the approach to the documentary, saying, "I wanted to take the most interesting pieces of film from 1910 to 1970 of what's been digitized and tell the story of our city and people. So, it was important for me to be centric to the downtown. So, I didn't do stories about Roseville or West Sacramento or south Sacramento. Primarily, it was the city core over that period of time."

Bombal expressed much appreciation for Chad E. Williams, who was the editor of "The Sacramento to Picture!"

"We worked hand-in-hand for six (to) seven months to make this movie," said Bombal, who also provides voice-over narration for the documentary.

In addition to Burg, other locals appearing as spokespersons in the documentary include Picht, Stan Atkinson, Alan O'Connor, Kevin Wildie, Mar-



Photo courtesy of Matias Bombal

The documentary, "The Sacramento Picture!" will be shown at the Tower Theatre on Wednesday, April 29 at 7 p.m. Shown here, clockwise from the top, upper right are: local historian William Burg, baseball historian Alan O'Connor, adjunct history professor Kevin Wildie, film specialist at the Center for Sacramento History Mahlon Picht, city historian Marcia Eymann, retired news anchor Stan Atkinson, Sacramento High School alumnus Mark Pollock, president of Sacramento Modern Gretchen Steinberg, historian and author Annette Kassis, and retired journalist Ginger Rutland.

cia Eymann, Mark Pollock, Gretchen Steinberg, Annette Kassis and Ginger Rutland.

Thus far, the first two showings of the documentary have sold out.

The premier showing was held at the Crocker Art Museum on March 25, and the second showing will be presented tonight, April 9 at the Center for Sacramento History.

Tickets are available for the third and last scheduled showing of the film in the upstairs theater at the Tower Theatre at 2508 Land Park Drive on Wednesday, April 29 at 7 p.m. An additional three-minute introduction featuring historic footage of the Tower Theatre will be added to the evening's program.

For ticket information for the April 29 showing, visit the website, [www.mabollywood.com](http://www.mabollywood.com).

## Over the Fence:

Continued from page 3

asked him, "How's the food?" He said, "I think the empty plate speaks for itself."

Steve and his crew will be back every Tuesday at LdV in Hollywood Park for more Taco Tuesdays. Drop on by and dinner's done.

### CURTIS PARK VILLAGE RUMOR PATROL

Now it's time for some rumor patrol about the Curtis Park Village proj-

ect. I was told by a Curtis Park activist that developer Paul Petrovich was interested in buying the two properties across from the development on Sutterville Road. One building houses the Sacramento Art Glass and the other is American River Finishing.

Some residents were theorizing that Petrovich wants to use it as a spot for a gas station across the street from the CPV if his gas station permit is denied.

On Nextdoor, Neelie Joyce, who owns Sacramento Art Glass

said, "Petrovich is trying to buy the property my business is on at 2500 Sutterville Road. He's attempting to bypass the CPV problem and tear down our business to place the gas station there, across the street from the current development. I know there have been talks; the property is not necessarily available for sale (at this moment - ask again next week) - but we're pretty scared!! If the property owners decide to sell, there's not much anyone can do!!"

I tried to contact the owner of the two buildings, Paulette Erfert, but she never returned my phone calls.

I reached out to Petrovich via e-mail about this rumor and he wrote, "I looked at Paulette's property a while ago and it didn't make sense due to the enormous amount of infrastructure to develop it."

So there you have it. Rumor squashed.

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

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Faces and Places:  
**Land Park Pacific Little League opening day parade**

Photos by MONICA STARK  
 editor@valcomnews.com

With at least 40 teams, the Land Park Pacific Little League has officially entered the 2015 season as defending District 7 Tournament of Champions for both the Majors and AAA divisions. The season kicked off Saturday, March 14 with the annual parade, which began bright and early in William Land Park and ended at the beautifully revamped Dooley Fields. Shown here is a collection of photographs from that morning's parade.



**Food trucks coming to William Land Park on April 19**

Photo by MONICA STARK  
 editor@valcomnews.com

It's food truck season and that means the second Land Park SactoMoFo event of the year will be held on Sunday, April 19. This neighbor at the McKinley Park food truck event all seemed to have a good time, enjoying good food. Food trucks come to William Land Park the third Sunday of the month. So, don't miss the next event in the neighborhood on Sunday, April 19 from 5 to 8 p.m.

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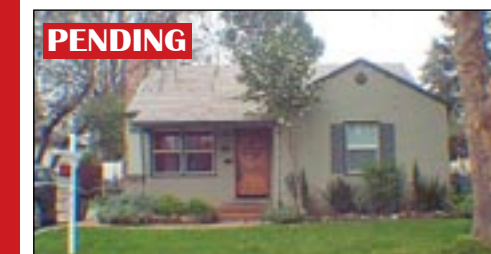
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# Matías Bombal's Hollywood

## Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem

The MPAA has not rated this movie

Music Box Films offers remarkable court room drama set in Israel, in French and Hebrew language, "Gett: The Trial of Viviane Amsalem". It relates the story of Viviane, played by actress Ronit Elkabetz, trying to finalize her divorce from her husband in a rabbinical court, which is not predisposed to view the perspective of a wife with fairness. Compounding the frustration of this strong and beautiful woman are the de-

lays upon delays that occur in the rabbinical court system that prolong her case well over five years.

As a movie, subtitled in English, this becomes a most fascinating character study of a woman whose performance is measured in a fantastic and expressive face. Ms. Elkabetz has the classic look of a silent screen actress, and like them, relays the entire torture of her failed marriage in her expression. The camera rarely leaves the small courtroom or waiting chambers adjacent, offering a long and profound study of all of the actors which include her estranged husband,

Elisha (Simon Ebkarian) and the three members of the Rabbinical court.

Elisha reveals in testimony that he loves all the actors of the cinema, but cites only Charles Bronson and Gregory Peck, saying now there is a problem with indecency showing things he does not want to see. His own closed nature is not unlike the men often portrayed by the actors he offers as favorites. Sibling directors Shlomi and Ronit Elkabetz have crafted a story that brings to light the oppressed role of women in a culture much different than our own. What makes this movie singular is Ms. Elkabetz, who radiates an inner strength so remarkable that you'll not forget this performance anytime soon.



was so good recently in "The Imitation Game".

The stubborn nature of Mrs. Altmann wins him over as does the realization of the historic painting's market value. A judge, played by Elizabeth McGovern, rules in the favor of Mrs. Altmann here in the USA. Two trips to Austria ensure, where they find help from German actor Daniel Brühl as a magazine editor who helps cutting through the red tape as the Austrians are not ready to lose what has become a national treasure.

With the great cast and excellent photography by Ross Emery, wonderful score by Hans Zimmer, and outstanding period recreations, sadly this movie falls flat due to poor writing, specifically the material written for Helen Mirren. It is impossible for me to believe that a woman who survived the torment of Nazi oppression, escaping with just her life and husband could possibly act and behave in the manner in which the part was written. A woman having experienced what the real Altmann experienced would be strong, almost fierce, and not the fickle and temperamental character Ms. Mirren was to realize from this bad material. Further, the cartoonish representation of all Austrians as evil, one-dimensional melodramatic cut-outs is not a fair representation of that country of today. I am sorry this is so one-dimensional, for the picture has much going for it on so many levels, and might have been a much better movie.

## Woman In Gold

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

The Weinstein Company offers "Woman in Gold", which tells the true story of Mrs. Elena Altmann, played by Helen Mirren, who seeks to claim that a portrait of her aunt, Adele Bloch-Bauer, painted by Gustav Klimt, should be returned to her, the rightful owner.

It had been in the possession of the Austrian government and displayed at Vienna's Belvedere Palace since the end of World War II, when it had wrongfully been taken by force by the national socialists, who were raiding the art of the world for Germany.

The story begins in the late 1980s where Mrs. Altmann meets with a lawyer, the grandson of composer Arnold Schoenberg, played by handsome Ryan Reynolds. The road to justice proves long and hard for Mrs. Altmann, and young Randy Schoenberg is not so easy to initially convince in taking the case, with a pregnant mother at home played by Katie Holmes, and a new boss in a legal firm that is no nonsense, played brilliantly by Charles Dance who

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# Eagle Scout gave back to the First Tee for teaching him to play golf at an early age



Photo courtesy of Matthew Signorotti

Shown here is Land Park resident Brian Rugne of The First Tee of Greater Sacramento and Land Park resident Matthew Signorotti.

Congratulations are in order to Land Park resident, Matthew Signorotti, a high school sophomore who earned his Eagle Scout after improving the facilities at the First Tee of Sacramento, a youth golf program based out of the William Land Golf Course.

Matthew is a member of Boy Scout Troop 259 and received his award at the Court of Honor on March 22 at the Elks Lodge No. 6. Also recognized were Cameron Vansoest, Abraham Fong, and Zachary Kazee. The award requires years of active participation in troop activities, pursuing study in a wide variety of interests by earning merit badges, and many hours of community service including the planning and completion of an Eagle project. Fewer than six out of 10 scouts in the nation are awarded the Eagle Scout rank per year, and Troop 259 is proud to honor four of its members who have risen to the challenge.

During Matthew's Eagle Scout service project, he led a team of 24 volunteers across three work days to rebuild a wooden stage, restore wooden bleachers, paint 20 golf stalls and safety rails, and install new signs for The First Tee of Greater Sacramento. The First Tee's golf facilities are located at William Land Golf Course.

He wrote the Land Park News describing why he chose The First Tee for his service project as follows: "I chose The First Tee as the beneficiary for my Eagle Scout service project because the organization taught me to play golf starting at age five. The First Tee teaches Nine Core Values very similar to the values of the Scout Law."

During the process, Matthew learned how to lead many volunteers to complete complex tasks, how to make critical decisions wisely, and how to raise large amounts of funds. "My project required about \$625 of fundraising. My volunteers and I worked a total of 172 hours to complete the project," he said.

Matthew began organizing his Eagle Scout service project in June 2014, leading a team of volunteers and completing the first phase in October 2014 and the second phase in January 2015.

Before the Court of Honor, Matthew told Valley Community Newspapers that, to him, Eagle Scout rank means hard work, dedication to scouting, and leadership skills. "Scouting guides its boys to go above and beyond what they believe they can do. Every boy who likes to learn new skills and meet new challenges should take up scouting," he said.

Troop 259 meets most Mondays at the Elk's Lodge No. 6, located at 6446 Riverside Blvd.

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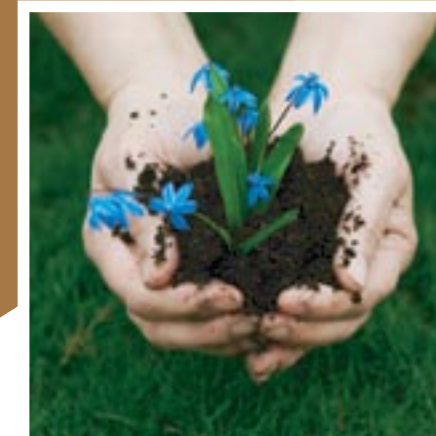
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## Faces and Places: Lady Lions pre-game rally

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY  
photosbycrowley@yahoo.com

Shown here are photographs from a pre-game rally held at C.K. McClatchy High School for the Lady Lions basketball team on Friday, March 27. The rally was set prior to the team heading to the East Bay for the CIF Championship at the U.C. Berkeley Haas Pavilion for their big win. There will be a parade at 1 p.m. this Friday, April 10 to honor the team.



Shown here are the 9/10 All Stars from 2014 with manager Ron Carello and coaches Jeremy Busch and Jeff Hammond. In the front row are Carson Schmit and Collin Montgomery. In the middle are Tyler Busch, Simon Cooper, Daniel Carello, Milo Navarette, Joseph Macias, Gavin Wilhelm, Jack Herrera. In the back row are Jeremy Busch, Josh Cerejala, Jackson Colgrove, Ron Carello, Jeremy Rodriguez, Adam Hammond and Jeff Hammond



Shown here are the 11/12 All Stars from 2014 with manager David Enos and coaches Doug Dierlam and Gary Jakobs. In the front row are Hunter Dierlam and Luke Jones. In the middle row are Carson Kaye, Zach Enos, Adam Greenlee, Ryver Voyles, Jacob Edwards, Clark Jacobsen, and Sebastian Babin. In the back row are Doug Dierlam, Joseph Fong, Nate Jakobs, David Enos, Isael McCall, Stephen Sedleniek and Gary Jakobs.

# Land Park Pacific Little League kicked off season, new president speaks about recent developments

The Land Park Pacific Little League season kicked off Saturday, March 14 with the annual parade, which began bright and early in William Land Park and ended at the beautifully revamped Dooley Fields.

Opening day ceremonies were spectacular and exceeded by the league's very own parent, coach and local celebrity, News10 Anchor, Walt Gray. Notable attendees were Councilman Steve Hansen who threw out the first pitch, as well as Kevin Schanz, whose father Charles Schanz was the original groundskeeper for Dooley Field. Several past LPPLL alum were in attendance as well. This past season 2014, LPPLL sent teams of All-Stars on to play District-Wide and 2 came out District championship winners, the 9-10 and 11-12 teams. This year, there is a total of 43 baseball and five softball teams and 587 players.

Dedicated to promoting and embracing the partnership with the Positive Coaching Alliance, the league's new president Karen Leon thanks numbers people in the community for their dedication in making the LPPLL experience "the best it can be. Parents, community members, the board of directors, businesses, and residents all are willing to lend a hand whenever and wherever needed."

Karen has one son, Jax Leon, age 9 who, she said, enjoys playing for his AA Hooks Team this season. "He looks forward to the camaraderie, meeting new teammates and the great french fries at the snack shack."

To Karen, youth sports are such an incredible time for kids and families.

They provide so many opportunities to learn valuable life lessons, she said. Unfortunately, more and more kids are quitting sports, and particularly baseball because they aren't having fun and that, she said, "is a trend that needs to stop."

"Our culture has become one that is focused on the final scoreboard and that winning is all that matters. Unfortunately, this is a short-sighted view that can rob kids and adults from having the opportunity to become better athletes and better people.

"(The LPPLL has) partnered with PCA because we believe that kids deserve an opportunity to play the game for the love of the game and to continue to learn and develop not only as players, but as people. If we can all work together to create a culture at Land Park Pacific Little League that is all about the kids and their development, we will help these kids have fun, become better ball players, continue to come back to play again, and develop the skills to thrive in life. I want to do my best to ensure that we have an outstanding 2015 season and do my part in making The LPPLL Experience a fun and positive learning and development zone for our kids and parents," Karen said.

"One of PCA's philosophies is that coaches coach, players play, parents cheer and officials officiate," she added. After 10 years, Dooley Fields have been re-done to grand measures that LPPLL folks are proud of.

Karen discussed the recent work that has been done to revamp Dooley

Fields as follows: "The fields have been re-done over the last 10 years, but never to the extent that we just completed. This field project started last off season in September with over a month of researching, planning, and carefully choosing turf and dirt. The real work began in October when both fields were scraped down and about 12 inches of dirt was removed due to years of field chalk buildup underneath (We now have switched to water base field paint only). Next, 280 yards of custom mix infield dirt composed of a 60/40 blend was carefully chosen to not include any foreign debris or excess rock. Each field was professionally laser leveled for the exact dimensions and specifications recommended by Little League International in Williamsport. The infield dirt was also applied using a special tractor drag that was remotely laser operated to spread the dirt to make sure it was leveled evenly. We also dug up, repaired and moved our irrigation patterns (field sprinklers) to ensure that they were placed evenly to cover/water efficiently without waste or over coverage to areas not needed.

"On Nov. 21, the turf/grass that was grown specifically for this project was cut and installed, and is a Bermuda overseeded with Rye. It was chosen to be best for our Land Park specific Dooley facility grounds conditions. It is hardy, sturdy and classic. The Bermuda is hardy and sturdy and the Rye pops up and through the Bermuda and gives it the perfect green blades that can be mowed to a specific 1 inch height

with a greens mower. It is the same blend from the same grower as River Cats, and Dooley's pitching mounds were also designed and built by the same crew that has done work for the River Cats.

"I was blessed to have found the masters at their crafts for each category of tasks for this project, who were willing to provide labor and materials at a fraction of the regular cost. I couldn't be happier with the outcome. With proper care and maintenance, these fields will last another 20 years or more.

"I am extremely excited about this season at our own little field of dreams!"

LPPLL is host to the District 7 Challenger Games on April 26 with games being played from 12:30-3 p.m. This year's annual pancake breakfast fundraiser will be held on May 2 from 8 to 11 a.m. For only \$5 a plate, you get fresh, hot-off-the-griddle pancakes, sausages, fruit, coffee, juice served up at Dooley Field Snack Shack with plenty of extra seating for the event. The highlight is always the raffle. Creative raffle baskets donated by LPPLL teams always are a hit with each individual teams uniquely chosen themed items. The home run derby is May 3 from 1 to 4 p.m. The Dooley Championship Series begins May 16-30 with LPPLL Majors and AAA Teams vying for a spot to represent the league in the 2015 District level TOCs. LPPLL will host the District 7 9-10 All Stars Tournament June 27.

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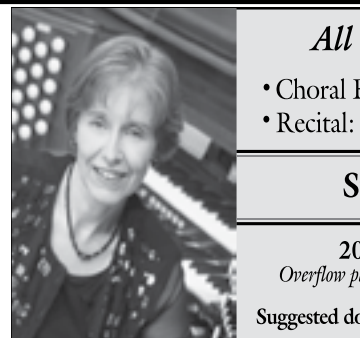
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*All Saints Concerts presents . . .*

- Choral Evensong - 4 p.m.
- Recital: Patricia Grimm, Organist - 4:45 p.m.

**Sunday, April 26, 2015**

2076 Sutterville Rd, Sacramento  
Overflow parking available across Sutterville at City College  
Suggested donation of \$10 - Child Care provided - Reception follows



# CALENDAR

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

Proceeds will go towards the school's music program.

## APRIL

### April is Poetry Month

#### Knit Together! - Pocket Library (Adult)

April 10: Knitting with Carrie Parker starts at 1 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

#### Science Craft: Marshmallow Catapults @ McKinley (School Age (6-12))

April 10: Starting at 3:30 p.m., come learn about science by doing! First, make your own catapults out of plastic spoons, popsicle sticks and rubber bands. Then, learn about velocity as you use your catapults to shoot mini-marshmallows to knock down towers of paper cups. McKinley Library is located at 601 Alhambra Blvd.

#### Deadline for scholarships for Sacramento Youth Symphony

April 10: Attention all oboe, bassoon, string bass, and brass players! The award-winning Sacramento Youth Symphony is now offering several merit-based scholarships to new SYS members who audition on select instruments and are placed in the Premier Orchestra or the Symphonic Winds Ensemble. Deadline to apply for a scholarship is April 10. Visit us online at www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org or call Robert at 731-5777 for details.

#### Sutterville Elementary School rummage sale

April 11: Sutterville Elementary School is in need of your help. They are looking for gently used items to sell at their annual rummage sale. You can drop off items at the school on Friday, April 10 from 2 to 8 p.m. Sutterville Elementary is located at 4967 Monterey Way. The rummage sale is set for Saturday, April 11 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

#### Library Week during Poetry Month celebrated with reads at McClatchy Library

April 12-18 is Library Week, one week during Poetry Month that is dedicated to libraries. In conjunction with both, the Ella K. McClatchy Library is scheduling a poetry reading on April 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. with poets: Victoria Dalkey and Ann Menebrocker (both local, notable published authors, and friends) who will read selections from their respective work. Ella K. McClatchy Library is located at 2112 22nd St.

#### The Fairytale Town Troupers present: "Once Upon A Time 1959"

April 18 and 19: Fairytale Town's most famous and beloved storybook characters come to life in the Fairytale Town Troupers first production of the season! The year is 1959 and Robin Hood, Cinderella, Jack and Jill and more colorful characters are lost in a fantastical fog after being swept away from their storybook homes. Working together, they overcome their erratic eccentricities to uncover the mysterious force that united them and find a way home. This show features original songs set to a 1950s beat. Tickets are \$2 for nonmembers in addition to park admission, and \$1 for members. There are two shows each day, one at noon and the second at 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit fairytaletoyn.org or call 808-7462. Sponsored by ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

#### Books at Lunch: Middle School Book Group at Pocket Library (Teen)

April 21: Seventh and eighth graders are invited to talk about books over lunch at 11:25 a.m. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library is located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

#### Mad Hatter Meets The Great Gatsby Fundraiser

April 23: From 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Fairytale Town mixes the zaniness of the Mad Hatter with the glamor of "The Great Gatsby" in its

third annual fundraising event. Held at the elegant Masonic Temple in Downtown Sacramento, the Mad Hatter Party features desserts and chocolate delicacies, wine and food tastings, live music, mad hats, live and silent auctions and a raffle with exciting prizes. Proceeds benefit nonprofit Fairytale Town's programs and park improvements. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$90 per couple and go on sale March 1 at fairytaletoyn.org. Cocktail or business attire. For more information, visit fairytaletoyn.org or call 808-7462. Sponsored by Mark III Construction, Delino Madden O'Malley Coyle & Koewler LLP, Otto Construction and Yelp. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

#### Curtis Park Home Tour

April 25: The annual Curtis Park home tour will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advance tickets are \$25 (\$20 Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association members. The cost the day of the tour is \$30, SCNA members \$25. Dozent tickets are \$10. Purchase inside the SCNA office, 2791 24th St. For more information call 452-3005.

#### California Middle School rummage sale

April 25: Cal Middle School is also in need of donated items. They will be holding their own rummage sale on Saturday, April 25 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. You can drop off donated items in front of their auditorium on Vallejo Drive on Friday, April 24 from 1:30 to 8 p.m.

#### Sacramento Valley Scottish Games & Festival

April 25-26: held at the Yolo County Fairgrounds, Woodland. Gates open at 9 a.m. both days. To organizers, the "Games" means anything that is a competition related to Scottish culture; athletics, highland dance, piping and drumming, and drum majors. "Festival" represents activities that are to be enjoyed, participate in, and watch; children's area, entertainment, vendors, country dance, fiddling and harps, kirkin', historical area, Scottish animals, and eating. There is something Scottish for everyone, and you don't have to be Scottish to have fun. The theme this year is: A Little Scotland in Your Backyard. It means that you can experience a taste of Scottish culture without having to travel thousands of miles. There will be entertainment, dancing, pipes and pipe bands, music, animals, athletics, drum majors, vendors, and other colorful elements. For more information, visit sacallie.org / sacramentoscotgames.org

#### The Fairytale Town Troupers present: "Once Upon A Time 1959"

April 25 and 26: Fairytale Town's most famous and beloved storybook characters come to life in the Fairytale Town Troupers first production of the season! The year is 1959 and Robin Hood, Cinderella, Jack and Jill and more colorful characters are lost in a fantastical fog after being swept away from their storybook homes. Working together, they overcome their erratic eccentricities to uncover the mysterious force that united them and find a way home. This show features original songs set to a 1950s beat. Tickets are \$2 for nonmembers in addition to park admission, and \$1 for members. There are two shows each day, one at noon and the second at 1:30 p.m. For more information, visit fairytaletoyn.org or call 808-7462. Sponsored by ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

#### Fire Station 1 Open House

April 25: Fire Station 1, located at 624 Q St. will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

#### Sacramento Youth Symphony Premier Orchestra Spring Concert:

April 26: Come hear the award-winning Premier Orchestra play professional repertoire from renowned and beloved composers at 7 p.m., at the Sacramento City College Performing Arts Center. 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. We offer beginning through advanced orchestral ensembles and present 20+ concerts per year under the baton of some of the best music educators and conductors in the region. Visit us online at www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org or call Robert at 916-731-5777 for ticket information.

#### Rio Americano High School's Race for the Stars

April 26: Race for the Stars is sponsored by the San Juan Education Foundation to raise money for teacher grants for the San Juan Unified School District. The cost to participate is \$30 for adults and \$15 for students. Race for the Stars is a great opportunity for you to raise money for Rio Americano High

School while having fun with your family and friends. By participating, \$10 of every adult entry fee and \$5 of every student/child entry fee will directly benefit Rio Americano High School. Race for the Stars will take place at Rio Americano High School at 8 a.m. The registrations will start at 7 a.m. Families are welcome to participate in a 5k walk/run. A kids run will be available for young children as well. In addition, there will be kids activities, entertainment, bike raffle and giveaways. Food and drinks will be available as well. For more information, visit http://www.sanjuan.edu/domain/6703.

#### Baby/Toddler Stay & Play at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5))

April 28: Fun starts at 10:15 a.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

#### Sci-Fi Book Club (Book Club)

April 28: Sci-Fi book club will explore the exciting and diverse field of science fiction and fantasy: from aliens and space-ships to dragons and wizards. Please bring a snack to share and join us. This month's title is The Dragonbone Chair by Tad Williams. 6:30 p.m.; Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Ave.

#### Mr. Cooper's Sing-a-Long Club at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5))

April 28: A family-friendly performance by local singer/guitarist Mr. Ken Cooper. This program is made possible by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library. Fun starts at 11 a.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

#### Books at Lunch: Middle School Book Group at Pocket Library (Teen)

April 28: Seventh and eighth graders are invited to talk about books over lunch. Meeting starts at 11:25 a.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

#### Books at Lunch: High School Book Group at Pocket Library (Teen)

April 28: Ninth through 12th graders are invited to talk about books over lunch, starting at 12:30 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

See Calendar, page 21

## Calendar:

Continued from page 20

#### Homework Zone at Pocket Library

April 28: There will be free homework help for grades 1 through 8 on a drop-in basis at 3:30 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

#### Homework Zone at Pocket Library (School Age (6-12))

April 29: There will be free homework help for grades 1 through 8 on a drop-in basis at 5:30 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

#### Music at noon free concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church

April 29: Bring your lunch and enjoy fine music. This week there will be music featuring Bay Area pianist Miyuki Otani. Upcoming concert information and "printed"

programs can be accessed from www.westminsterpresbyterian.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 1300 N St.

#### Baby/Toddler Stay & Play (No Storytimes in April) at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5))

April 30: Fun starts at 10:15 a.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

#### Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library Board Meeting (Adult)

April 30: Interested in knowing how you can help your library? Attend the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library month-

ly Board meeting (usually held on the fourth Thursday each month) for more information. Meeting starts at 6 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

#### Minecraft Gaming @ McKinley (Teen)

April 30: Like building and creating new worlds in Minecraft? Come to the library at 3:30 p.m. for Minecraft gaming! Each player will be given their own computer to build new creations in either Creative or Survival Mode. Players of any level of experience are welcome to join. McKinley Library is located at 601 Alhambra Blvd.



**Baroque & Beyond (Chapel)**  
Sunday, April 19th, 3:00 p.m.



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# Lady Lions:

Continued from page 5

Washington, who hit the final four points to cement the state title, and juniors Kelsey and Kristi Wong, members of the all-hustle team, were all chosen to the honorable mention team.

Nubla was chosen by all of her teammates as a "coach on the court" for her unselfish play and being the hardest worker on the team. She brought constant energy to the court and often guarded the other team's best player. "She was a great communicator and always talked to her teammates with respect."

Nubla: "I enjoyed playing the role as leader. I've never been the leading scorer on any of my teams, but I think I brought some intangibles as senior to help the younger players." Lauren has two brothers and a sister and hopes to play basketball next year at Cal State Fullerton as a walk-on.

Sophomore Cruz was not afraid to shoot the ball from any place on the court at any time. On good nights, she was unstoppable. Jordan's game consists of "shooting, scoring, boxing out, crashing the boards, and ball handling. She is a complete player and an incredible competitor."

She almost single handedly broke Oakridge's back in the second half of the Northern California finals with her 3-point shots. She considered her best game to

be against Davis in the playoffs. Jordan hopes to go on to play college basketball.

Lee had her best game of the year in the state finals scoring 12 key points after returning in March from a November foot injury. All of the team members said she is definitely the team clown and keeps everything light. Lee has a basketball scholarship to play at University of Nevada Las Vegas next year.

Washington, also a senior, was often the first person off the bench, a tenacious defender, and a person the team could count on for about six points a night. With many of the Lions being on the short side, she was counted on for rebounds and guarding taller opponents.

Now for the Wong twins, often the smallest players on the court against far taller opponents each night. They were tenacious, with their non-stop harassment of the other teams' guards. Kelsey, the oldest, always guarded the point guard and wore each one down every night by the fourth quarter with help from sophomore backup Sara Shimizu.

Kelsey considers her best skills to be ball handling, passing, and pressure defense. She considers her best game was against Pleasant Grove, but against Oakridge, she put so much pressure on the guard, she would not dribble the ball up the court in the 4th quarter and passed off to other players who folded under McClatchy's pressure.

Kelsey is proud of her 4.0 GPA and her favorite classes are AP biology and AP Calculus. Besides her twin, she has an older brother Kramer. She also plays volleyball.

According to coach Kunisaki, Kristi is an excellent outside shooter who does all of the little things for the team. She hustles after every loose ball and makes key steals because of the pressure from her sister. "Whenever we needed a key basket or defensive stop, she always stepped up."

Kristi considers her best game was against Oakridge in the fourth quarter at Sleep train when she drove to the basket for a score and then later hit a 3-point shot. Kristi plays volleyball in the fall and is also an outstanding student. Both sisters say that McClatchy graduate John Warren is their favorite teacher. Both will be back next year to out-hustle everybody in the Metro League again.

Other members of the team included senior Haley Arakaki and sophomores Sara Shimizu and Ka'Maree Donald. Even though Arakaki was not a starter, she was an extremely hard worker, and she said, "These girls and the coaching staff have had such a positive impact on my life."

Shimizu split time with the Wong sisters and defense was her specialty. "I understand that this is a team sport, and I try to look for open players when I am on the court. I

don't personally need to score to contribute."

Coach Kunisaki commented that Shimizu's speed and tenacity was a big spark off the bench. Jade Fenseca was brought up from the junior varsity team for the playoffs and was a big help on the scout team.

Donald, according to coach Kunisaki, was the best all-around athlete on the team. Her speed was her best asset and she could really drive to the basket. She has six brothers and sisters, and she should be a major contributor the next two years. She will run track in the spring.

Assistant coaches were Jeff Ota, a McClatchy Sports Hall of Fame member and men's varsity coach, and Que K. Ngo, a former head coach, who came on board to help at mid-year. "Jeff and Que help our team tremendously, especially in practices. Their attention to detail and our different coaching styles allowed us to work as a very effective team."

## Garcia honored

Gigi Garcia was named The Sacramento Bee's 2014-15 Player of the Year after leading the McClatchy Lions to the state title last week. Gigi, a 6'3" forward, averaged 17.7 points per game, 11.3 rebounds, and 2.5 steals. She was also an excellent passer and considered by her peers a team leader "who always had their backs in a game."

Gigi's parents Aaron, a local football star in high school and college and record-setting passer in the Arena league and Shelby, a basketball star at El Camino and Sacramento State, played major roles in nurturing her drive and talents.

Her dad encouraged her to practice, run, and challenge herself. Before basketball she was an outstanding youth soccer player.

Practicing against her mother on the basketball court toughened her into becoming an immediate starter on the basketball court as a McClatchy freshman. Gigi joked that "Mom no longer challenges me to games in the park anymore."

Gigi has a younger sister Isabella and brother Anthony. On the court she sees herself as the big sister to her small-

er teammates. "I protect my teammates." My strengths are rebounding and defense, but her shooting touch has improved each year.

Her best game of the year "was the state title game," where she had 19 points, 20 rebounds, 6 blocks, and dribbled the ball up the court against the press. "Winning the title was emotional and amazing. I almost cried."

returns to CKM next year and is being courted by many of the top college basketball teams to play for them after she graduates. Going to college and having a successful life are at the top of her list along with "possibly marrying Blake Griffin."

GO LIONS. "I love my team."

## Meet the coach

Jessica Kunisaki, McClatchy state champion coach, was named the Sacramento Bee Coach of the Year. Jessica, a McClatchy star guard in the early 2000s, led the Lions to a 27-7 state title record in only her fourth year as head coach.

Jessica is truly an amazing coach. With tough love she pushes the girls in practice to challenge them to become their best. "We returned 10 players which made it easy to build on because we already had a foundation."

As a game coach, she coaches with a quiet confidence and makes instant decisions, substituting freely, with a feel for game situations well beyond her 28 years.

One Sacramento basketball aficionado commented, "Watching Jessica coach is like watching an impresario conduct a concert. She is one of the very best I have seen in the Sacramento area. She learned well from her mentor, Harvey Tahara."

In watching the Lions the last two years, she just has "IT" when it comes to understanding the flow of the game. She is always in control of her emotions. She was assisted by veterans Jeff Ota and Que K. Ngo.

The TV commentators for the state title game remarked numerous times about her ability to make key substitutions, and also

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# Champions:

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how she rallied the team after the 3-point shot that tied the game at the buzzer.

"Having Gigi Garcia (Player of the Year) and Lauren Nubla (2nd team All-City) also didn't hurt." Sophomore Jordan Cruz was also named 3rd team All-City.

"Lauren is such a great leader for our team." She was able to communicate with her teammates in a meaningful way. "She was a 4-year starter and always knew what I wanted from her and the team."

Gigi is a leader by example. "Her competitiveness and determination allows the girls to feel at ease anytime they step on to the court." Jordan had a huge game against Oakridge to win the Northern California championship.

Jessica's parents Rodney and Julie, both McClatchy graduates, along with twin brother Joel and younger brother David, are a true Lion family.

"I loved growing up with brothers because we would always play together. Joel's friends would never take it easy on me, so it forced me to toughen up."

As a player Jessica always wanted to play at ARCO but in her junior and senior years, the Lions lost in the playoffs at UOP.

Rodney is known throughout the Asian community for helping to raise money to build the Asian Sports Foundation facility off Laguna Boulevard and helping Bob Sertich start Restore the Roar, the Lions booster club.

"I never imagined I would come back and coach at McClatchy after I left college." A 3-year player at Chapman, where she broke the single game assist record her sophomore year, Jessica returned to Sacramento where she attended Sacramento State to get her counseling credential.

She was immediately asked to coach the Genevieve Didion middle school team and CKM athletic director Christine Latino asked her two months later to help varsity coach Harvey Tahara coach the junior varsity girls at McClatchy. She coached both at the same time.

I took over the varsity position when coach Tahara told me to, and I still did not feel I was ready."

When asked about coach Kunisaki, ALL of the girls commented that she pours her heart and soul into making us better players. "She truly cares about us as individuals and as a team. She wants our team to succeed and she has total confidence in us that we will succeed."

## Revisiting the monumental game

The CK McClatchy Lions mighty girls basketball team fought off a slow start and two terrible calls by the officials in the last minute of regulation to beat Serra of Gardena in double overtime 65-61. McClatchy is the only school in the Sacramento Unified School District to win a state title.

Two thousand and three hundred loyal noisy McClatchy fans showed up at UC Berkeley after a big send-off rally on the Freeport campus. Restore the Roar, the local booster club, gave each of the players state playoff tee shirts.

Jessica Kunisaki's Lions, led by junior Gigi Garcia, seniors Destiney Lee and Lauren Nubla, fought back time and time again to defeat the top Southern California team.

Garcia, the six-foot-three-inch-junior, had 19 points, 20 rebounds, six blocks, many altered shots, excellent passes for easy shots, and often dribbled the ball up the court against the press.

Lee, who was injured much of the season, had her best game with 12 points while Nubla, the outstanding senior point guard, had another excellent floor game scoring 15 points.

The Wong twins, Kelsey and Kristi, again played tenacious defense against much taller opponents and hit key baskets to change the Serra defense. Jordan Cruz had an off night shooting, but again played outstanding defense and rebounded against bigger players. Senior Alex Washington made a key basket late in the second overtime and hit two free throws to clinch the game.

Kunisaki, a 2004 McClatchy graduate and all-

league point guard under mentor Harvey Tahara, took over the job four years ago thanks to Tahara's urging. She is presently a career center counselor at McClatchy.

Three years ago Garcia and the Wong twins showed up as freshmen and the building began. A year later Cruz, an outstanding shooter and all-around player, arrived on campus. All four will be back next year.

Kunisaki's coaching was again outstanding as she substituted often and kept the team up after each setback. At 28, she is truly an outstanding coach. Her team is tenacious on defense, going for every loose ball and beating down bigger teams with hustle and fitness.

Boys basketball coach and assistant girls coach Jeff Ota said, "They're the sweetest kids and then they get on the court and it's Jekyll and Hyde."

Against Oakridge in the Northern California finals, the Lions found themselves down early against a much taller team who kept getting every early rebound. By the fourth quarter the Lions had worn them down, creating 30 turnovers, and outscored Oakridge 16 to 7 to win by nine.

Against Serra, down 9-1 and 14-3, the Lions clawed back late in the first quarter to cut the lead to 14-12. The Lions were behind at the end of each quarter but jumped out to a 10-point lead with 1:11 to go.



Photo by Bob Sertich

Lady Lions celebrate after their big win on Friday, March 27.

A horrible call by the officials that allowed Serra to score a unique 5-point play, and an extremely quick 5-second-count on an out of bounds play cut the lead to three points. A last second "Hail Mary" 3-point shot by Serra tied the score at the end of regulation.

Nor folding with disappointment, both Kunisaki and Garcia rallied the team not to let down or give up. Garcia was very adamant in the huddle about not giving up even though momentum had shifted in the game.

In the second overtime Garcia drove to the basket for a layup and passed to Lee for an easy basket. Washington finished out the night in the last 30 seconds with her only 4 points and the Lions were state champions.

Afterward CIF Executive Director Roger Blake

approached Kunisaki and applauded the Lions' efforts, moved that her players were quick to help Serra players off the floor as *champions with character*. The CIF also gave Cruz "Outstanding Sportsperson of the Game."

The Lions (27-7) who finished the season bruised and battered with their hustle-style of play were red-faced from fatigue and emotion and many players and fans cried from the emotion.

Kudos to Athletic Director Rob Feikert who handled all of the playoff paper work, and organized a brunch at McClatchy's cafeteria before the Nor. Cals. He also got district vans to drive the team during the playoffs. Hats off to Feikert, coach Kunisaki, and the Lion girls for a great winter season on Freeport Boulevard.

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