

Into the wild blue yonder: Flying a legend back home

Pocket-area pilot returns WWII aircraft to airfield 65 years later

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Season to be sharing

Pocket area residents share memories of the holidays

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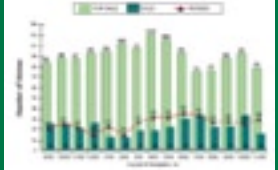
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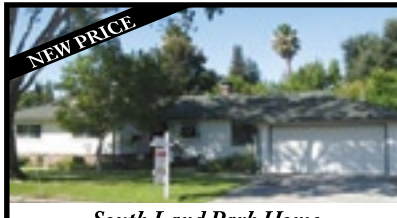
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Renderings courtesy of the Crocker Art Museum

A classic contemporary expansion of the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento will be completed in October of 2010.

Changing face of Crocker Spacious Crocker Art Museum expansion slated to open its doors in 10 months

By **SUSAN LAIRD**
Pocket News Writer
susan@valcomnews.com

It is said that great cities have great museums. If that is so, one might also postulate that great communities have great museums. The Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, as the first art museum established in the Western U.S., is greater than the sum of its parts. It is both a great city museum and a great regional museum.

A \$100 million expansion project, slated for completion next October, will permanently establish the Crocker as a museum of national significance for generations to come. A brilliantly conceived "classic contemporary" structure by the late architect Charles Gwathmey, the expansion will improve visitor amenities, enhance museum operations and provide new resources for collections care. The project also ensures that the Crocker Art Museum, founded in 1885, will enjoy another 125 years of inspiration and education.

The numbers are impressive. The new Crocker expansion adds some 125,000 square feet to the existing museum. The structure will contain: 8,200 square feet of glass, in the form of windows that fea-

ture views that highlight the beauty of the original Crocker and the natural beauty of Sacramento's many trees. The exterior will be covered by 4,000 aluminum panels and 4,500 zinc panels. Underlying it all at the foundation, some 320 auger-cast piles were driven 60 feet deep to support the three-story structure.

Spacious new galleries already have 15 skylights specially designed to let in natural light – but without its destructive effects.

There is 12,000 square feet of exhibition space to display works of art.

"Not only will we have the ability to host some of the larger traveling art exhibits, we will be able to display some of the more massive works of art that were originally intended for display in grand homes or castles," said Kathleen Richards, marketing communications coordinator for the Crocker. "These pieces can be very tall. The new expansion has spaces where these art works will be able to be seen and appreciated."

A 7,000-square-foot open air courtyard at the new museum entrance will allow the Crocker-

See Crocker, page 30



On December 10, 2009, at 5:43 p.m., officers responded to Riverside Boulevard and Ashore Way on an accident involving a pedestrian and a motor vehicle. A pedestrian was killed in the collision.

Pedestrian killed in traffic accident

Special to The Pocket News

The Sacramento Police Department is investigating a fatal collision between a pedestrian and a motor vehicle.

On December 10, 2009, at 5:43 p.m., officers responded to Riverside Boulevard and Ashore Way on an accident involving a pedestrian and a motor vehicle. The pedestrian was transported to the hospital where she later died from her injuries.

Traffic investigators responded to the scene. At this time, it appears that two pedestrians were westbound Riverside Boulevard crossing the street outside of the intersection. The vehicle, a green Jeep Cherokee, was travelling southbound Riverside Boulevard just past Ashore Way when it struck one of the pedestrians. The deceased was a white female, 29-years-old. The driver of the vehicle involved remained at the scene.

The identity of the pedestrian is not being released at this time pending the notification of her next of kin.

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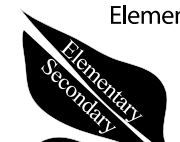
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Greenhaven-Pocket area is rich with Christmas memories

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Pocket News Writer
lance@valcomnews.com

With Christmas approaching in the Greenhaven-Pocket area, green and red decorations are plentiful and the holiday spirit is undoubtedly in the air. Also present are the memories of past Christmases in the minds of many local residents.

Pocket resident June Lang, 79, said that she has been gathering fond Christmas memories since she was 3 years old.

"The first Christmas that I remember is when I was 3 years old in 1933," June said. "We always opened our gifts on Christmas morning, because Santa Claus came the night before. I remember that I received a most special, beautiful, tall doll in a yellow organdy dress. It was about 2 feet tall, so it was just about as tall as I was. It also had a pretty porcelain face. I don't have a picture of the doll, but I certainly remember it in my mind today. It was such a wonderful gift."

June's husband, Jim Lang, 80, said that although he remembers very little from his



Pocket residents Jim and June Lang are looking forward to adding to their many years of Christmas memories.

Pocket News Photo/Lance Armstrong

childhood growing up at the Sacramento Children's Home, he recalls a Christmas outing he took with

children of the home in the 1930s.

"We went to a Christmas program at the Memorial Auditorium," Jim said. "I don't remember anything about the program, but I remember that on the way home, we stopped and got milkshakes at a dairy (called Borden's Capital Dairy Co. at 13th and S streets). As far as the children's home, I can't remember a single (child's) name or much of anything about the place, but I do remem-

ber that they had a Christmas tree there."

A special season

Dave Heitz, who moved to the Pocket area about three years ago, said that the educational gifts that he received for Christmases during about the mid-1950s helped to influence his decision of what he would study following high school.

"I got a Gilbert chemistry set and later on (for another Christmas), it was a Porter dissecting kit and (along with

the kit) I got this crayfish that was in this big bag of formalin, a perch (fish) and some giant nightcrawlers or something," Heitz said. "I went on to (study) sciences in college. I joined the Air Force during Vietnam and I went into civil engineering. When I got out of that, I went back to school. I had two years of pre-med and then I went to pharmacy school."

Another Pocket resident, Chatell Berry, said that for her family, Christmas is a time that is traditionally celebrated with music.

"My family, we get together (for Christmas), we party, we have fun, we dance and we sing," Chatell said. "I have a musical family. My mom sings, my uncle plays the drums, I mean we jam. We have like a concert (with a full band) when we do our Christmas and we're doing one coming up this Christmas. We're going to have everybody get together."

The family's musicians include Lee Artist Neal on

See Memories, page 7

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Memories: 'It's one of the most special days of my life every year'

Continued from page 6

drums, Elaine (Neal) Berry on vocals, Alvin McDonald on bass and Darrell Goodwin on guitar.

Occasionally, one of Goodwin's musician friends will enhance the family's music through such instruments as keyboards and horns.

Elaine said that her brother, Lee, will not be making the family's Christmas gig this year, since he is currently involved in a much larger project.

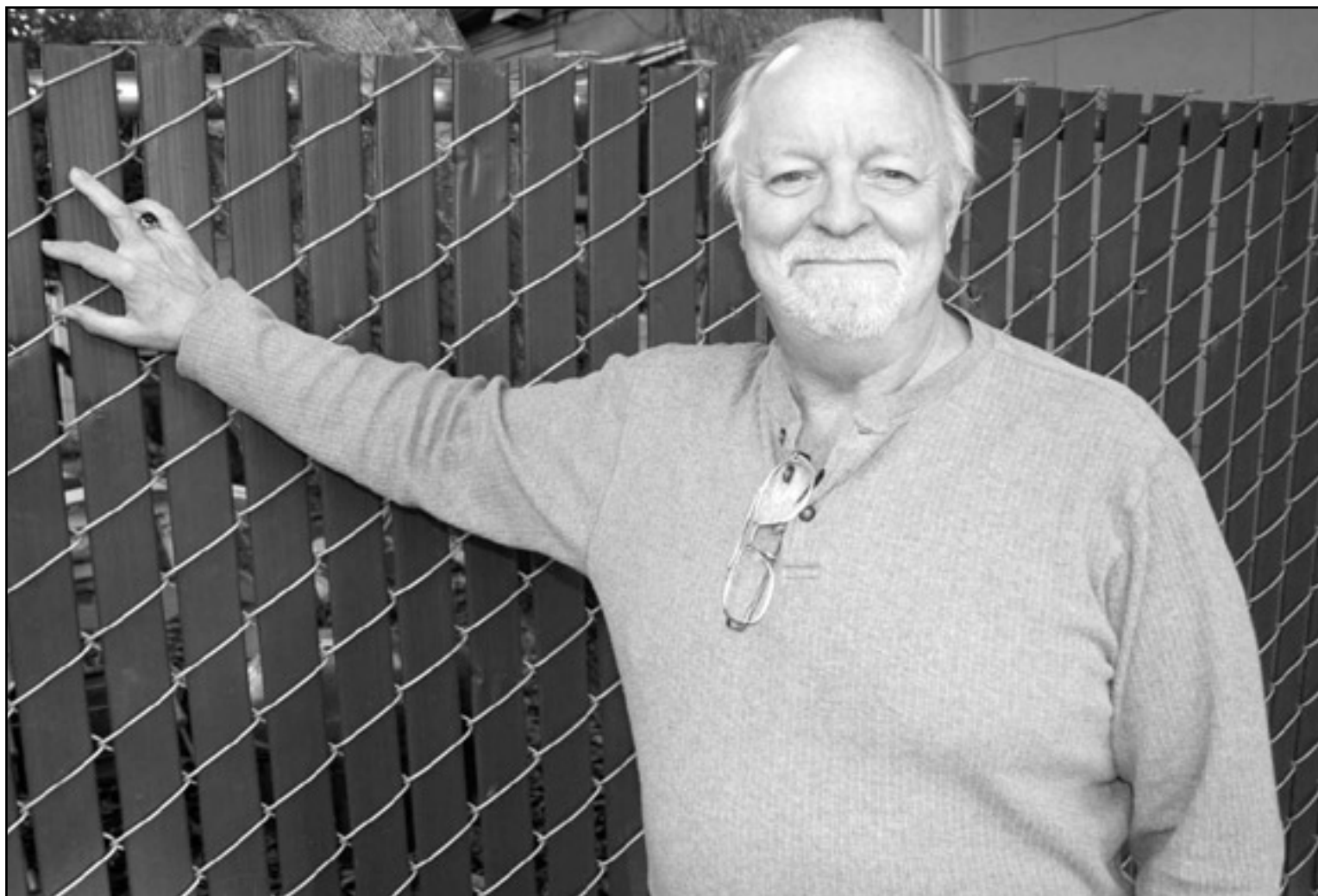
"Actually, he's (playing drums) with Earth, Wind and Fire right now in Singapore," said Elaine, who has sang for a few local bands, including the band, Prophesy. "He has also played with other bands. He played with The Whispers, he played with Janet Jackson, he played Chaka Khan, he played with a lot of bands."

The family will also be without its percussionist Ronald McDonald, who passed away last July, as well as Elaine's niece, Sheila, who died a year ago this month.

Known as a good natured and humorous member of the family, Ronald was undoubtedly a professional quality musician, considering he taught Neal how to play the drums.

Elaine, whose son Larry Berry III has his own record label, Pride Entertainment, which includes her nephew, whose rap stage name is HBO, said that getting together for Christmas with her family and playing music is, in part, a tribute to her late parents, Artist and Ovia Neal.

"When we were younger, we used to get together every Sunday with all the family and we would sing," said Elaine, who also has a son who is a deejay. "Our parents put (the music) in us, because my dad used to sing with a gospel quartet. When my mom first passed, we kind of all split up and then we were like, 'We can't do that.' So, me and my sisters got together and decided, we have to keep this going and so we started cooking (Christmas) dinners and getting everybody together to try to keep the family close."



Dave Heitz, who moved to the Pocket area about three years ago, said that his childhood Christmas gifts helped to influence what he studied in college.

Pocket News Photo/Lance Armstrong

In honor of the family's Christmas memories, Darrell's wife, Denise (Neal) Goodwin, is presently working on a project to compile segments of the family's Christmas videos to create a single video of the family's past Christmas gatherings.

Best gift ever

Reflecting upon past Christmases and the gifts that he received, Gerald Silva, a 16-year-old student at the School of Engineering and Sciences, which is located on the former Bear Flag Elementary School campus on Gloria Drive, said that Christmas means more to him than just a time to receive gifts.

"The best (Christmas) gift I ever got was a PS3 (video game console)," Silva said. "It felt good (to receive it), but what Christmas means to me is getting the family together."

Pocket resident Fame Kavagalu, who remembers receiving a Huffy 10-speed bicycle for Christmas during her childhood, said that she has taught her four children that Christmas is not centered around receiving the best gifts.

"Christmas is a time to celebrate Jesus' birthday," Kavagalu said. "My children are taught to be appreciative of whatever (gifts) they get."

Greenhaven resident Jim Doyle, who grew up in Minnesota, said that unlike children who are raised in the Sacramento area, his earliest Christmastime memories always involved snow.

"I remember the snow and the cold weather and sliding down the hill in a sled," Doyle said. "I know Christmas is coming up, but since I grew up in Minnesota, it never really felt like we had a winter here or that it was Christmastime."

Carolyn Jordan, who admits to experiencing much loneliness in her one-bedroom Pocket area apartment, said that she is never lonely come Christmastime.

"I always look forward to Christmas," Jordan said. "Christmas is about spending time with my family. It's one of the most special days of my life every year when my family comes to visit me for Christmas."

Helping to make Carolyn's Christmas more special, her

daughter, Angela Thompson, is presently visiting her home with her English-born husband and her two children.

Because of the size of Carolyn's home, Angela and her family are briefly living in a houseboat along the Sacramento River, near the Garden Highway.

Carolyn plans to enjoy a Christmas day, which will include an English-style brunch and dinner, with about 10 of her closest relatives.

And with yet another Christmas day approaching, it will once again be time for the community to create new Christmas memories to last a lifetime.



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Out and about

From dreams to reality: How one local artist brings his world to ours

By **BENN HODAPP**
Pocket News Writer
benn@valcomnews.com

"I like to think that I'm walking down a dream path, taking pictures of what I see."

That is how local artist Mark Niemeyer describes his creations. His ability to create these dream-like scenarios has just always been there, he said.

"My interest in art wasn't taught," he said. "It just poured out of me."

Niemeyer, a native of Nebraska, moved to northern California 25 years ago. "Friends told me that my art was strange enough to sell in California," he chuckled.

His first stop was Marysville and then Woodland. He realized quickly that if he was going to make a dent in the art world that he needed to make his way to Sacramento. Within a month of moving here, he had some works in a gallery.

Many of his paintings are surrealistic, taking real-life images and warping them in some way.

"I'm proud that I don't get stuck on one form," he said. "I'm doing a series of birds right now and when I'm done with that I'll move on to something else."

Along with his many works that include people and animals, Niemeyer has developed a fascination with parts of California that Nebraska simply didn't have to offer.



Photo courtesy Mark Niemeyer
Artist Mark Niemeyer, a native of Nebraska, moved to northern California 25 years ago.

"Being in Nebraska you don't really see any rocks," he said.

This created his motivation to start doing some landscape paintings of rock formations in the area. Also not present in Nebraska is a certain type of tree.

"I did a series of paintings called 'Midtown Palms' and ended up with about 10 or 12 of them," he said. "Those sold pretty well, actually. I sold half of them."

Nearly all of his paintings are done using oil pastels, which he refers to as "adult crayons."

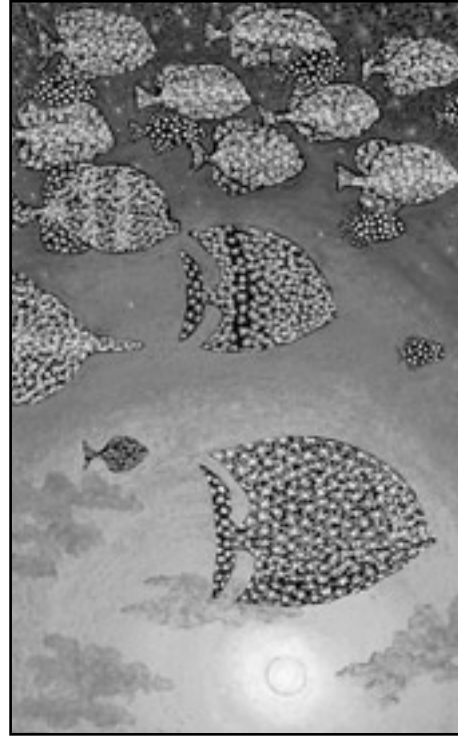


Photo courtesy Mark Niemeyer
This piece is part of Mark Niemeyer's Fishboy and Flowergirl series.

He discovered them nearly 30 years ago and he remains an avid user.

Prominently displayed

Niemeyer's works can be seen all over the Sacramento area. He has pieces in The Supper Club on Del Paso Boulevard; Crepeville at 18th and L streets; Burgers and Brew at 15th and R streets; and Matteo's at Arden Way and Fair Oaks Boulevard.

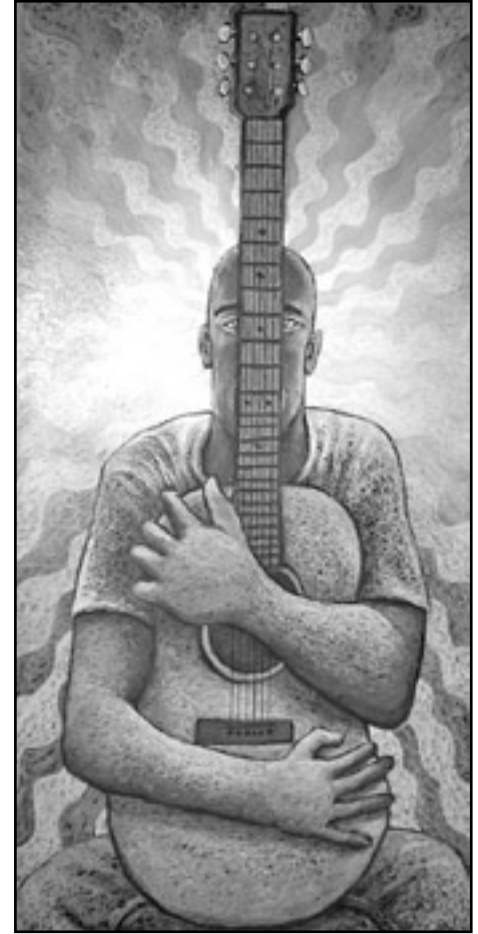


Photo courtesy Mark Niemeyer
This piece is Mark Niemeyer's "Hiding behind his music."

As far as how he was able to get his art featured at these locations, he said he was largely in the right place at the right time.

Niemeyer works at The Supper Club as a cook. He describes himself

See Artist, page 9

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Artist: 'I always try to put some humor in my art, especially in the titles'

Continued from page 8

as "a chopping and cutting machine" and he assists the chefs in preparation for their creations. The owners, Matt and Yvette Woolston, took notice of his art and decided to put some of his work up. At first Niemeyer thought they put them up just to be nice, but with the opening of Matteo's in Carmichael, he knew that they really enjoyed his work.

"Yvette asked me if I could do three flower paintings for the opening of Matteo's," he said. "The problem was that it was opening in three weeks."

The 15 feet of flowers that adorn the walls at Matteo's is one of his proudest works.

"I didn't have time to go back and measure out what I wanted to do, I just had to do it and I think it turned out really well."

The title of the paintings is "Bee's Dream." He described it as what a bee would dream about, a vast expanse of flowers.

Conversely, there is also a painting of a rooster and hen in the restaurant entitled "Bee's Nightmare."

"I always try to put some humor in my art, especially in the titles," he said.

The pieces that hang in Crepeville and Burgers and Brew can be purchased. Each has a card accompanying the piece with his number on it.

"There are plenty of ways to get a hold of me if you need to," he said.

Most of his pieces range in price from \$400-\$700.

He is also featured at the new Maiya Gallery at 2220 J St. As of now, he has four pieces hanging inside and he has been penciled in to be a featured artist sometime in 2010. Some of his newest creations include a series



Photo courtesy Mark Niemeyer

This picture is Mark Niemeyer's Big Kob Buck in the "5 Bucks" series.

of warped faces. One of the most striking is a piece titled "Yellow Nose Man."

"I like the human face," he said. "People are instantly drawn in by the eyes. 'Yellow Nose Man' was one of the first times I cut down the face into sections using different colors."

To find out more about Niemeyer's work, e-mail him at elzoharm@att.net or see some of his pieces at www.myspace.com/markharmart. Or, for a live encounter, perhaps just look up the next time you're out to eat. You might just find yourself staring into a dream.

Season's Greetings: See special holiday insert

How the season changes Sacramento

By RYAN ROSE
Pocket News Editor
ryanrose@valcomnews.com

It's chilly out, and temperatures have reached record lows. At dusk, as the malls and shopping centers fill, the streets of Sacramento are bare and empty – residents scurry about to fireplaces, blankets and warmth. The sun, too, seems timid in the winter weather, dipping below the horizon earlier each day. Sometimes gray, often freezing, the region has undergone its winter transformation, slowly becoming a refrigerator that chills its warm-weather-loving denizens to the bone.

Yet, this season offers a space and time for connection and interaction; bundled-up for warmth and huddled together around heater vents, we are all more likely to stay inside than go out, spending more time socializing with friends and family members. As noted author (and one-time Sacramento news reporter) Mark Twain once said, "The Xmas holi-

days have this high value: that they remind Forgetters of the Forgotten, & repair damaged relationships."

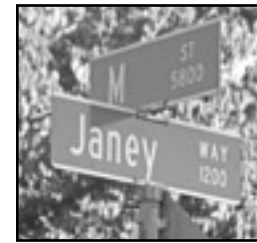
Twain was as correct then as he is now: The holidays are a prime opportunity (if not an excuse) to connect with those around us.

In an effort to drum-up some Christmas cheer in the midst of these cold days, the Valley Community Newspaper group has developed a special "Holiday Greetings" section featuring members of the community wishing well their fellow Sacramentans. This special eight-page insert can be found in the middle of this paper.

In that "season's greetings" spirit, allow me to wish all of you readers out there a very special (and safe) holiday season; we here hope that all of you receive those things that are the most important: peace, love and goodwill.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Holidays.

Janey Way Memories



Christmas Tree wars



By MARTY RELLES
Pocket News Columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

In Hollywood, they had "Star Wars." In Los Angeles, they have gang wars. On Janey Way, when I was growing up in the 1950s, we had a Christmas tree war. This is the story of that epic neighborhood conflict.

The Christmas season was always special on Janey Way. The priests festooned Saint Mary's Church with decorations. The sound of Christmas carols rang out from the church tower. All the neighbors had cookies and candies for the kids to eat. Everyone looked forward to Christmas vacation. Then after Christmas day when the trees were taken down and dumped in the street for pick-up by the yard waste truck, the Janey Way kids picked them up and dragged them over to the two vacant lots in the middle of Janey Way. There we constructed a splendid Christmas tree fort. The fort usually measured 12 feet long, by 4 feet wide, by 5 feet high. We used the fort as a place to hang out and just get away from the hustle and bustle of the season. One Christmas, however, there seemed to be a shortage of usable trees in the neighborhood. What to do?

Someone had an idea. The 58th Street kids had built their fort on the grassy entrance to the National Guard Armory at 58th and M streets. "Let's go over there at night and take their trees." So, late that night, by cover of darkness, we crept across the armory parking lot. We climbed over the gate at the 58th Street entrance, and one by one, took all the trees making up that fort. Then we hauled them back and used them to significantly improve our fort. When the 58th Street kids went to their fort the next morning, the structure had disappeared as if by magic. To the best of my knowledge, they never figured out where the trees went.

That success led us to try yet another Christmas tree caper. "Let's take the trees from the O Street gang's fort." They were set up in Bob Pesce's backyard. That night, we walked over to N Street, then up Mike Pesce's (Bob's cousin) driveway, over the fence and into Bob's backyard. One by one we confiscated those trees until, all of a sudden, the backyard light came on and out of the house stormed Bob and his brother Eddy. Naturally, we fled with all due haste.

The next day we met at our fort to decide what to do next. As we met, we heard a great roar coming down the block. "What's that?" someone yelled. We rushed outside the fort to find the O Street gang standing in the vacant lot yelling angrily about the theft of their Christmas trees and threatening violence. Once the uproar calmed down, we proposed a powwow to settle the matter. After some discussion, we reached an agreement. The Janey Way gang returned the stolen trees to the O Street gang. And the O Street gang would not take any trees from Janey Way.

So ended the great Christmas tree war. In the end, no blood was spilled. Both gangs retained their honor. Life returned to normal on the block, and the Christmas tree war went down in the annals of history as another unforgettable Janey Way memory.

Pocket-area woman pilot returns WWII aircraft to airfield 65 years later

Special to The Pocket News
Story courtesy Wild-Bills.com

In March of 1944, a P-17 Stearman biplane came to Eagle Field, near Dos Palos, and was stricken from U.S. Army Air Force records in June 1945 at the end of the war. The plane disappeared from the official records and went missing from all documents relating to its whereabouts.

This past summer, this plane flew out of a cloudy history and back home to Eagle Field.

Ultimately, the plane came into the hands of former Pocket-area resident (and pilot) Nancy Ginesi-Hill in 2008. It is particularly interesting that Ginesi-Hill is the current owner of this aircraft, as she lived and worked at Eagle Field for several years. Now she owns an aircraft that was once attached to the famed airfield.

"I have been coming to Eagle Field for many years, and I have always wanted to own and fly a Stearman," says Ginesi-Hill, "But never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever own one

that had been stationed at this particular field. When I bought the aircraft in Santa Rosa from Jacques Gandolfo, I had no idea it had been at Eagle Field. But once I got it, and started going through the log books, I found these entries indicating it had been there."

Although the plane is normally housed in a hanger in Lincoln, Ginesi-Hill felt a flight to the plane's former home field would reconnect the plane – and its pilot – to a part of history that defined U.S. aircraft development and solidified a woman's role in the wild blue yonder.

Connecting to history

During World War II, women pilots who were part of the Women's Army Service Pilots, or WASP, moved aircraft from the factories and depots to the active bases. These young women, first organized by Jackie Cochran, flew all types of aircraft, in all kinds of weather. With all of the qualified men at war, Cochran, a race pilot, proposed that women be taught to fly the trainers, fighters, bombers and transports, and it proved



Photo courtesy Wild-Bills.com

Ultimately, this P-17 Stearman biplane came into the hands of former Pocket-area resident (and pilot) Nancy Ginesi-Hill in 2008.

very successful. Many of the WASP have been and are currently members of the Ninety-Nines International group of Women Pilots. As a member of the group, Ginesi-Hill has had the fortune of meeting some of them.

Ginesi-Hill joined the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the Ninety-Nines Inter-

national group of Women Pilots 20 years ago. She is vice chairman of the chapter and she adds that the group is very active in promoting aviation in young and old alike and is a big part of the FAA Safety Team at which Ginesi-Hill is a representative. She also attends air shows with her Stearman

P-T 17, organizes and volunteers at various shows throughout the year.

Ginesi-Hill is also on the board for the Lincoln Regional Aviation Association, vice president of the Grey Eagles and a member of the P-38 Fork Tail Devils.

"Sitting there listening to WWII aces and pilot stories I could do all day long," said Ginesi-Hill. "I love the history of our men and women of the military and I proudly fly my Stearman in their honor."

At one time, Ginesi-Hill seriously considered starting a military style flight school in partnership with Joe Davis, owner of Eagle Field. The plan was to teach students using "tail draggers," which many say is the "only" way to learn to fly.

Bringing the Stearman home

Ginesi-Hill brought the Stearman back to Eagle Field June 12 for the first time in 65 years. She departed Lincoln Airport at 11:00 a.m. and arrived just in time for the big dinner, dance and Fly In. The plane, its pilot and the flight were all welcomed eagerly by the airfield, as one of their own had come home.



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From left: Wes, Ted, and Henry

New Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library designed for all ages

Special to The Pocket News

The Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library has been designed for users of all ages, including adults and older adults.

Our technology and reference area includes seating for 24, and eight Internet-enabled desktops. Twenty additional laptops will be available for use, as well. The browsing area has six additional areader seats, and four additional computers.

A special feature of the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library is a quiet reading room. This room, furnished in sedate earth tones, and with six club chairs and additional seating for eight at tables and carrels, provides space for reading or studying. Large-print materials and magazines will be housed in the quiet reading room for easy browsing.

Two study rooms, with seating for up to six, will be available for small groups.

Larger community groups will be well served by the library's community room. With seating for 100, the room will be available for open community meetings and events. In addition to seating, the room will have a projector, retractable screen, and assistive listening system. A kitchenette, adjacent to



Photo courtesy City of Sacramento

Your suggestions for the future Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library are welcomed and can be sent to sdentan@saclibrary.org

the room, will allow organizers to provide refreshments for attendees if desired.

This community room will also be used for library programs. Each library branch develops a slate of programs in response to community needs, so specifics are not available at the moment, but adult programs are likely to include computer classes, film

screenings, and other educational and cultural and activities.

Your suggestions for the future library are warmly welcomed and can be sent to sdentan@saclibrary.org.

We look forward to seeing you when the new Sacramento Public Library branch opens in 2010.

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Not in my backyard — Curtis Park Village Project derailed?

By **KATY GRIMES**
Special to The Pocket News

Editor's Note: The following is a special commentary by local political columnist Katy Grimes, publisher of the online political journal "The Sacramento Citizen" (thesaccitizen.squarespace.com). Grimes is a well-known Sacramento political analyst, having been published in The Sacramento Union and The Sacramento Bee.

One of the bigger problems with social "do-gooders" is that they always think that their solutions are good for everyone else. Affordable housing, water restrictions, solar power, healthy eating, bicycling to work, public transit are all great ideas — for other people. The satirical newspaper The Onion exemplified this syndrome years ago with their own headline: "A study released Monday by the America Public Transportation Association reveals that 98 percent of Americans support the use of mass transit by others."

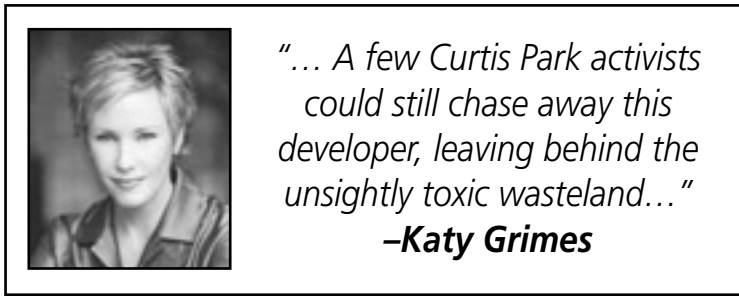
Usually we see this occur on neighborhood association boards where a few like-minded bullies can prevent developments, impose unrealistic traffic calming measures, randomly decide land use, and even impose remodeling requirements and restrictions on homeowners.

Local developer Paul Petrovich has been working for more than 5 years and invested more than \$40 million in his proposed Curtis Park Village development, currently home to the unsightly, old Union Pacific railyard located behind Sacramento City College, between the neighborhoods of Land Park and Curtis Park.

The proposed development appears to have all of the necessary elements that concerned citizens say they want: A mixed-use project, urbanized community structure, in-fill development (utilizing land within the city limits); a public transit oriented development with two light rail stations, while being pedestrian-friendly offering a pedestrian foot bridge to connect the neighborhoods and City College; neighborhood retail (no big-box stores); office space; a health club; a 7-acre park; tree-lined streets; and 240 affordable, subsidized, multi-family housing units, 184 single family homes, and 90 senior housing units, all utilizing a design that integrates with architecture in the surrounding neighborhoods.

What's the beef?

The project has turned personal. Area residents have made the Curtis Park Village project about Paul Petrovich the man, instead of fo-



"... A few Curtis Park activists could still chase away this developer, leaving behind the unsightly toxic wasteland..."

—Katy Grimes

cus on the project, which takes a blighted piece of land and gives it life, turning it into homes, businesses, parks and pretty streets.

With most of the 32 design changes that Petrovich made to the plan at the behest of five vocal members of the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association, it appears that they are now requesting changes to their original requests for changes. This can only lead one to believe that they are nothing more than attention-starved obstructionists who should take up a hobby instead. The space-efficient street grid Petrovich originally designed was replaced with meandering streets and a traffic-calming roundabout; now the opponents of the development want a street grid again. The cries about increased traffic are based on three-generation-old plans that included a hotel; even the Draft Environmental Impact Report showed a minimal traffic increase at major intersections and no traffic increase on most Curtis Park streets.

Support for Petrovich's development seems to cut across socio-economic, political, philosophical and environmental lines and has received support from some unlikely sources: The Smart Growth Leadership Council, Friends of Light Rail, Assemblyman Dave Jones, state Sen. Darrell Steinberg, Mayor Kevin Johnson, and even the once

contentious Land Park Community Association.

Given that area residents have to get in their cars and drive to other neighborhoods for most services, for a residential area of more than 10,000 households, the Curtis Park, Land Park and Hollywood Park neighborhoods are underserved in retail services when compared to other Sacramento areas. This seems to defy the environmental green movement as well as Petrovich's development plans, which presents a mix of residential, retail, office, park space, even a health club for residents, and will be pedestrian friendly.

Four of the five vocal opponents are on the Sierra Curtis Neighborhood Association board of directors and several of the project opponents write for the neighborhood newspaper, "The Viewpoint." Three of the five opponents are attorneys. With the Curtis Park neighborhood made up of 2,500 households, and neighboring Land Park with 7,000 households, the neighborhood association should take a poll of the area if they are truly interested in taking the pulse, in order to sincerely represent the neighborhood. The Land Park Neighborhood Association offered support for the project as well as some suggestions.

Ironically, when the need for multi-family low-cost housing came up, the opponents

of the project insisted that the low-cost housing be removed from the original prominent locations nearest Curtis Park, and placed instead, in the rear of the development by the railroad tracks, demonstrating that their involvement is not for the greater good, but instead the Not-In-My-Backyard attitude — living in low-cost housing and riding the bus is good for other people.

Petrovich has made clear that while he has a great deal of time, money and emotions invested in this project, it is already zoned industrial. Opponents disingenuously have tried to claim that he threatened to rezone it industrial and build warehouses on the land. If the land does not become a lovely, welcoming neighborhood, it still needs to have the toxic dirt removed and something eventually built, and no developer or city can afford to put another park on land that can generate income and property taxes. There are already two large parks in the vicinity — William Land Park and Curtis Park.

The city requires that a certain percentage of high density and low income or senior housing be built into all projects of this scale. Petrovich has melded the city's requirements, neighbor input as well as his own, to come up with a project that appears to have a good balance. But a few Curtis Park activists could still chase away this developer, leaving behind the unsightly toxic wasteland, ripe for any national developer specializing in big box stores or warehouses.

Have an opinion on Katy Grimes' article? E-mail your thoughts to the editor at ryanrose@valcomnews.com.

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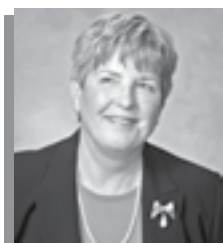
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to News, The Land Park News, The Pocket News, The Valley Shopper quarterly publication and the California Kids! monthly magazine.

We appreciate your comments on these developments. Send your thoughts, comments and news tips to ryanrose@valcomnews.com.



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You and your teen

Surviving the holidays



By STEVE DEBENEDETTI-EMANUEL
Pocket News Family Columnist
steve@rivercitycounseling.com

Normally this space is reserved for advice for parents with teens; this week will be different. I'm speaking to adults who plan to spend the holidays with their parents and siblings and giving tips to help them survive and enjoy the holidays.

Recently, my client "Dave" has been worried about his yearly visit to Southern California. He and his wife and kids are spending Christmas with his parents and siblings and staying for a few days afterwards.

As Dave is a chef, the unspoken expectation is that he's going to prepare a lavish feast. And for the last eight years, he has. While others relax, he spends the entire day cooking, getting little help from anyone but his mother and wife. By the time the celebration starts, he's resentful, exhausted and in no mood to celebrate.

And others fulfill their roles. His brother socializes, doesn't even offer to help, and drinks too much. His sister snaps at everyone and leaves in a huff. His father tells loud, inappropriate jokes that make others uncomfortable.

Dave wants things to be different this year. He has already told his parents that he's taking the year off from cooking. He has suggested either a potluck or going to a restaurant. He has also made plans to take his wife and kids to Disneyland for a couple of days. He then plans to return to his parents' house for their last night before heading home.

Just as Dave is trying a new strategy this year, each of us has to figure out what to do differently, to increase the chance of enjoying the holidays with our families. Here are some thoughts to keep in mind as you prepare to go.

It's OK to break lifelong patterns of behavior. There's nothing like time spent with family for you to suddenly find yourself talking and acting like you did when you were a teenager living at home. When you realize you're doing this, gently remind yourself that you are now an adult, and as long as you aren't rude or inconsiderate, you are free to behave however you want.

Be aware that your siblings and parents are also likely to repeat their lifelong patterns. The brother who has always said mean things in order to knock you down will probably try to do the same this year. Remind yourself not to take his bait. Instead, take a deep breath and respond to him as calmly and kindly as possible. Eventually, he'll lose interest and pester others.

Despite the inevitable pressure to be together for EVERY MINUTE of your visit, take breaks from your family. Be it spending an evening with a friend, heading away overnight, or just taking a walk around the block after dinner, if you spend some time away from your family you're more likely to enjoy your time with them.

Regardless of what you plan to do differently, be aware that you will probably feel the pressure to act like you always have. If you stick to your guns and do what makes you (and your spouse and children) happy, rather than giving in and feeling badly afterwards, it's likely that you'll leave feeling satisfied and (almost) ready for next year.

Steve DeBenedetti-Emanuel is a licensed marriage and family therapist based in the Sacramento area. Steve's columns appear periodically in the Valley Community Newspapers. Ask Steve your questions – e-mail him at steve@rivercitycounseling.com.



Pocket News Photo/Ryan Rose

Students at Crocker Riverside Elementary Schools got an advanced peek at the "theatrical magic" of "The Nutcracker" when Land Park resident Ron Cunningham, artistic director of Sacramento Ballet, visited the schools on Nov. 30.

A Christmas classic

Local students get a magical preview of 'The Nutcracker'

By SUSAN LAIRD
Pocket News Writer
susan@valcomnews.com

Students at Hollywood Park and at Crocker Riverside elementary schools got an advanced peek at the "theatrical magic" of "The Nutcracker" when Ron Cunningham, artistic director of Sacramento Ballet, visited the schools on Nov. 30.

The hour-long presentation to second and third graders is something Cunningham, a Land Park resident, has been doing for the past 20 years. In addition to discovering some theatrical magic, the kids add some large, new words to their vocabularies and learn a little history.

"What's a choreographer?" Cunningham asked the second graders at Hollywood Park. A few hands went up, but no one guessed correctly.

"A choreographer is someone who makes up the dances," he explained. "In a ballet, the dancers don't just improvise on the stage. Someone has to teach them all the steps in the dance."

"The Nutcracker" was composed in Russia by Pyotr Illych Tchaikovsky some 150 years ago, Cunningham told the students.

"What was going on in Sacramento 150 years ago?" he asked the third graders at Crocker Riverside.

"The Gold Rush!" said one student.

"That is correct," Cunningham said. "Sacramento was a brand new, rough and tumble town back then. The people here were very poor, pioneering people for the most part. But Russia was a very elegant, sophisticated place at that time. People had beautiful homes, nice things to eat and beautiful clothes. That's where the story of 'The Nutcracker' takes place."

In addition to producing and creating the choreography for "The Nutcracker," Cunningham also plays a key character in the ballet: Dr. Drosselmeyer.

"I have to play a really old character," he explained to the students. "I wear an eye patch and a tall top hat. I have to create a special 'face' and a special walk."

Giggles erupted from students as Cunningham "transformed" into Dr. Drosselmeyer before their eyes. The kids learned that a lot of work goes into each role in the production, whether one is a performer onstage, a choreographer, or a technical person working the lighting and special effects. Students were impressed.

"I liked how the choreographer in 'The Nutcracker' is also an actor," commented Natalie Leclerc, age 8. "He just doesn't sit around telling people what to do."

Cunningham went on to show students a few of the magic tricks that his character performs in the ballet, and how some of the special effects in the ballet are accomplished.

"Most magic tricks are actually very simple," he told the kids. "Remember, when you are doing a trick on stage, you need to divert the eye."

Students learned how Dr. Drosselmeyer is able to conjure up flowers from a cane, pull a giant candy cane from his top hat...and how he transforms a wooden nutcracker into a flesh-and-blood dancer. It was exciting and engaging for the students.

"I liked the magic stuff," said Collin Macias, age 7.

"I liked the part when he made his magic cane into flowers," said Rebecca De La Cruz, age 7. "It was a surprise because no one saw

See *Nutcracker*, page 23

Nutcracker: This annual production is something Cunningham looks forward to every year

Continued from page 22

when he took the top off of his cane.”

“My favorite part was when he pulled the big candy cane out of his hat,” said Javarri McDaniel-Wily, age 8.

“I liked how he showed us his magic, because I watch plays and I’ve always wanted to know how they do that,” said Maddie Haggard, age 9. “It will be a fun ballet.”

Students got to see the actual masks that are used for the central character and the Mouse King in the ballet. They learned how the actors see through the masks (not very well), and how hard it can be to keep one’s mask in place while dancing.

“I really liked the cool costumes,” said Carson Kaye, age 8. “I liked how the colors blended in (so the audience can’t see where the actors look out).”

Cunningham explained the technical side of some of the special effects in “The Nutcracker,” including the math calculations that are necessary to make a hot air balloon “fly” across the stage with two actors on board.

“It’s exciting and cool to see,” said Cesar Garcia, age 8. “He showed us the props and stuff that goes on behind the scenes.”

“I didn’t know how the balloon flew or how the magic box (containing the wooden nutcracker) worked before,” said John Laugenour, age 8. “It’s amazing how that works. I think everyone should see ‘The Nutcracker.’”

The elaborate sets for “The Nutcracker” were designed in France and made in Russia. One special canvas that weighs hundreds of pounds involves a Christmas tree that Cunningham’s character enchants. There is another special canvas that plays a key part in “weather effects” on stage.

“I liked how he showed us how the Christmas tree grew,” said Lucie Scantlebury, age 9. “Everyone should come to see how much work goes into this.”

“I liked how he showed us how they make it ‘snow’ on the stage,” said Melissa Ng, age 7.

The students who attended Cunningham’s presentation at both schools will be attending an upcoming performance of “The Nutcracker.” There is tremendous excitement.

“They are so excited,” said Suzanne Womack, who teaches second grade at Hollywood Park Elementary School. We’ve been earning

money so they can all go to see “The Nutcracker.”

“Each year the third grades attend the Nutcracker matinee performance, and Mr. Cunningham’s presentation at our school prior to the trip truly enhances the experience for the children,” said Sharon Sommer, who teaches third grade at Crocker Riverside. “We really consider it part of the field trip. He explains what happens behind the scenes so they have a special appreciation for what they are going to see. They get to see the special effects and learn how the scenery and props work, so that when we finally go to the ballet, the children are looking for those things and are completely engaged throughout the performance.”

Cunningham’s production of “The Nutcracker” is one of Sacramento’s most cherished holiday traditions. Over 200 costumed characters enthrall the audience to the majestic Tchaikovsky score played superbly by the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra. Magnificent dancing, sumptuous scenery, and spectacular choreography combine in festive celebration. The production includes nearly 500 children,

from Teeny Tiny Mice to swirling Candy Canes, making it the largest cast of children in any “Nutcracker” in the world.

Whether it is sharing the magic of “The Nutcracker” with elementary school students, or teaching youngsters the steps in the actual ballet, this annual production is something Cunningham looks forward to every year. To him, it’s all about the kids and the magic they bring to the stage.

“One of my great pleasures of the season is working with the beautiful children that make our ‘Nutcracker’ alive,” he said. “Alive with energy and joy.”

The Sacramento Ballet’s 22nd season of Ron Cunningham’s “The Nutcracker” opens on Dec. 11 and runs through Dec. 23 at the Sacramento Community Center Theater. For tickets, visit the box office or www.tickets.com or call (916) 808-5181.

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Connecting with the City Council, the community

By **ROBBIE WATERS**
Sacramento City Councilmember
Special to The Pocket News

Parks and Recreation Commission opening

There is one opening for a District 7 resident on the city's Parks and Recreation Commission. The commission deals with policies and projects related to parks, recreation, trees and other related matters. They provide recommendations on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, provide advice to the City Council, and meet with neighborhood associations and other park user groups.

The commission meets once per month and the term is four (4) years. See information sheet on the city website for more details. Please follow the application instructions carefully. Submission of the application and any questions should be directed to the City Clerk's Office at 808-7200. Please note that the deadline is 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2009 - even though the application says 5:00 p.m. (the Clerk's Office will be closing at 4:30 p.m. due to the holiday). If you pass this application on to a friend, please tell them of the 4:30 p.m. deadline.

SES & Library construction on track

Preparations are under way for the School of Engineering & Sciences to move from its interim campus on Gloria Drive to the permanent campus over the winter break. Library construction teams have completed the winterizing work on the library and work will continue inside through the win-

ter, working towards a construction completion date around June 2010.

Holiday news

There is a new ice skating rink on 20th Street between K and J Street, replacing the rink previously at 7th and K. This rink will be open from November 20 through January 18. Holiday shoppers can take advantage of free on street parking at metered spaces starting at 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and all day Saturday and Sunday. The Free Parking Zone runs from I Street to L Street, Front Street to 29th Street and only applies to metered spaces.

Old Sacramento also features a "Theatre of Lights" and Mark Twain stories Thursdays through Sundays at 6:30 and 8 p.m.; see www.oldsacramento.org for more information.

New Year's Eve fireworks

On New Year's Eve, two free fireworks shows are scheduled for Old Sacramento at 9 p.m. and midnight. Entertainment begins at 6:15 p.m.

Peripheral Canal & Bay Delta Conservation Plan Update

The State of California plan for a peripheral canal to convey water around the Delta, ultimately to the Bay Area and Southern California, and five new water intakes on the Sacramento River continues to move forward. The state's two proposed intake sites across from the Pocket area in Yolo County are still in consideration but they do not appear to be the preferred intake locations for the state

at this time and have had no geotechnical exploration work to date. Several sites from Clarksburg south to Walnut Grove have had geotechnical exploration work performed in October.

The project, known as "BDCP," continues to move forward and the preferred intake locations could change again. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) has been delayed and is now anticipated to be released in late 2010. For more information on this project, visit the project Web site at www.baydeltaconservationplan.com or see my website and join my email list.

North Bay Aqueduct Alternative Intake project

Meanwhile, yet another proposed water intake project has surfaced. This project seeks to locate a 240 cfs intake on the Yolo County side of the river immediately across from the Pocket area to supplement water taken from the river and sent to Napa and Solano Counties. State Department of Water Resources is accepting public comments until January 8, 2010 on this proposal as part of the public scoping process for the environmental document. See the BDCP tab on my website for more information on this proposal including where to send your comments.

Freeport Regional Water Project test pumping

As the construction of the new water intake next to South Pocket winds down, test pumping is underway and nearly finished. The \$1 billion project is slated to

begin pumping water to East Bay Municipal Utility District in the spring when the Folsom South Canal connector point is completed. The bike trail on the levee is anticipated to re-open in the spring when access to the public plaza at the water intake structure is available. EBMUD and Sacramento County Water Agency are planning a Grand Opening event for their facility in April.

Kennedy High School Theatre

Construction on the new theatre at Kennedy High School is expected to be complete after the first of the year. The Performing Arts Center will be just under 14,000 square feet and seat 465 persons. The entrance foyer will be on the east side of the building, facing the main school campus. The new theatre is clearly visible from the Florin Road side of the campus.

Captain Jerry Traffic Safety

This program is designed to teach elementary school age children about traffic safety in a fun and interactive atmosphere. Presenters teach the children about bicycle safety, bus safety, seatbelt safety, and signal/crosswalk safety. At no cost to any of the city's elementary schools, the Captain Jerry Team presents the Traffic Safety Program to more than 10,000 children annually, teaching them about staying safe on the streets. For more information, or if you would like your child's school to receive a visit from the Captain Jerry program, please contact John "Bucky" Perez at 808-7607.

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CALENDAR

For more Calendar entries visit
www.valcomnews.com

GET IN THE CALENDAR

Is your club, group, church, school, or organization having an upcoming event? Let us know. Send information about your event—including date, time, location, a brief description, cost (if any), and contact information—to Calendar, c/o Valley Community Newspapers, 2709 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, or e-mail ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Deadline is one week before publication. Priority is given to events that are in the community and/or of little or no cost. There is no guarantee that events submitted will appear in the calendar. To ensure placement within the newspaper, please call 429.9901 to place an advertisement.

DECEMBER

Travel to Spain

Ole, Espana! Come to a free informational evening about a fantastic Grand Tour of Spain in June of 2010. From the beaches of the Costa del Sol to the Moorish fortress of La Alhambra in Granada to the royal palace of Madrid we will explore the glories of Spain. Escorted by Spanish instructor Norma Petta. Go to ask_norma@spaineasy.com or call 916-457-1220. Two meetings: Dec. 16 at Oakmont High School in P33 at 6 p.m. and Dec. 17 at Border's on Fair Oaks Blvd at 6 p.m.

Christmas services

Faith Presbyterian Church at 625 Florin Road welcomes you to its Christmas Services: Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 27 – Sunday Services, held at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Dec. 2, 9 and 16 (Wednesday) Advent Dinner at 6 p.m., followed by worship at 6:45 p.m. Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Winter Wonderland at Fairytale Town

Winter Wonderland 2009 is here! Fairytale Town has expanded their family-friendly holiday tradition to two consecutive weekends of after-hours music, magic and merchandise. A festive display of holiday lights and decorations throughout the park will welcome one and all ages to four enjoyable evenings of traditional songs, strolling, shopping and fun. Winter Wonderland at Fairytale Town will be held Saturdays and Sundays, December 5, 6, 12 & 13 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. (this is a special ticketed event and Fairytale Town will close early at 3PM on these dates to prepare). Admission to Winter Wonderland is only \$5 (Children 2 years of age and under will be admitted free). Fairytale Town Members receive 2 for 1 tickets for this event. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 916-808-7462 or visit our website at www.fairytaletown.org.

Sacramento Opera Carolers

The Sacramento Opera Carolers will perform at Pavilions Shopping Center, 563 Pavilions Lane, Sacramento, CA 95825 on December 5, 12, and 19, 2009 from 1 to 3 p.m.; at The Fountains at Roseville, Roseville Parkway and Galleria Boulevard on December 20, 2009 from 3 to 5 p.m.; and The Town & Country Village, corner of Fulton and Marconi Avenues in Sacra-

mento on December 6 and 13, 2009 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The Sacramento Opera Carolers are members of the Sacramento Opera Chorus.

DECEMBER 17

Latino Dance and Culture Group

Come dance to the beat of all types of Latin music! Featured DJ music and delicious Mexican food! Held at the Ethel Hart Community Center, 915 27th St., from 6:15-8:45 p.m. Suggested donation: \$3. For more information, call Barbara Alarcon 400-4514.

DECEMBER 18-20

Christmas celebration

Everyone is invited to enjoy St. Joseph Catholic Church's celebration of the birth of Jesus. This 45-minute non-denominational event is celebrated through the use of real animals and people in a "live nativity scene." Local bell ringers, musicians, and choirs add their talents to each performance. Dec. 18, 7 p.m.; Dec. 19, 7 p.m. and Dec. 20, 4:30 p.m. are the dates to mark on your calendars. St. Joseph's is located about 2 blocks north of the Freepport bridge on the west side of the river. The performances, lighted parking, and goodies after each performance are free. Merry Christmas. Although not required, non-perishable food items for the less fortunate in the area would be greatly appreciated.

DECEMBER 20

Christmas Concert

The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation Choir invites you to our Christmas Concert Sunday, December 20, 2009, 7:00 p.m. at the Annunciation Church, Alhambra & F Street. A holiday reception will follow in the Hellenic Center

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve service

You are invited to experience God's love and peace – Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m. Faith United Methodist Church, 3600 J Street, 452-7637

DECEMBER 27

River Park Blood Drive

The next River Park Blood Drive will take place on Sunday, December 27, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at 5458 Carlson Drive across from the school. Coffee Donuts and BBQ.

Computer Gardening Class

Class is 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. at 828 I St. Dig It! - A guide to gardening information on the Internet. Join us for this free class as we look at Web sites that provide information on plants, soils, climate and garden design. We will explore sources such as newsletters and weblogs, as well as information from plant and garden societies and educational and governmental sources. At the Central Library, 828

I Street. Free parking on Saturdays in the lots of Sacramento Public garages at Tenth & I streets and Tenth & L streets. To reserve a space, call 264-2920.

All Saints music

Nine Lessons and Carols music presentation will begin at 4 p.m. at the All Saints Episcopal Church, 2076 Sutterville Rd. Scott Nelson conducts.

Big band ball

Dancers are invited to bring noise-makers and their festive spirits to the Annual Pre-NYE Ball presented by Nor Cal Big Bands Preservation Society, Sunday, December 27, at the Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. beginning at 1 p.m. The Dave Chelini (a favorite Sacramento accordionist) Plus his Sound Box magic plays from 1:00-2:00 p.m. with an array of standards for great dancing. From 2:00-5:00 p.m. a legendary bandleader and reed-man George Bruno leads his 13 members Big Band. Tickets (sold only at the door) are \$14 per person, \$12 per in groups of ten persons, and \$9. to the Society's Gold Card Holders. For more details, call 444-6138 (evenings & weekends),

JANUARY 5

Alzheimer's Support group

Are you looking for someone to talk to – someone who understands what it is like to deal with Alzheimer's disease? Join an Alzheimer's Support group hosted by Carmichael Oaks Senior Living. Ongoing sessions provide families and caregivers guidance and training to assist them in caring for a person with the disease. Our program will offer tips, resources, and the ability to connect with fellow caregivers. The free event starts at 6 p.m. at Carmichael Oaks Senior Living, 8350 Fair Oaks Blvd. Information: Refreshments served. RSVP at 944-2323. For more information, visit www.carmichaeloaks.com.

JANUARY 9

Free Electronic-waste Collection Fundraiser

Proceeds to benefit Kit Carson Middle School's 8th Grade G.A.T.E. Class. Students are planning a 4 day-three-night trip to Washington, D.C. Drop off on: Saturday, January 9, 2010, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kit Carson Middle School parking lot, 5301 N St. You won't even need to get out of your car, we will unload for you! We will accept: monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines. We cannot accept: Household appliances (i.e. refrigerators, washers/dryers, etc), furniture, hazardous household waste, including fluorescent light bulbs, paint, pesticides, used oil, cleaning supplies, tires, etc. If you need something picked up, or have additional questions, please contact Shawn D'Alesandro at 658-2701 ext. 12#.

Senior Ball

Hart Senior Center cordially invites people 50 and older to attend our semi-formal Senior Ball on Saturday, January 9 at 2 p.m. This event is sponsored by the U.C. Davis Health System with all proceeds benefitting the Ethel Hart Senior Center. Please join us for 3 hours of catered appetizers and desserts, 50's and

60's music, free Senior Ball portrait, ballroom dancing and much, much more. Tickets are limited. No door sales of tickets. No refunds. Tickets cost \$5. Event at Ethel Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Call 808-5462 for more information.

Jensen Garden Workday Volunteers

Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden hold garden work days one Saturday of every month from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The next workday is Saturday, January 9, 2010. Bring work gloves, hand pruners and your lunch. Come join with other volunteers to keep the garden beautiful all year. Next workdays in 2010 are 2/6, 3/6, 4/10, 5/8, 6/5, 7/10, 8/7, 9/11, 10/9, 11/6, 12/4. The Jensen Garden is located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. For more info: Tracy Kerth (916) 485-5322 ex23 or e-mail tracy@carmichaelpark.com.

Falling seminar

A four-hour seminar to educate seniors on how to avoid the dangers of falling while carrying out their day-to-day activities will be held on Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Belle Cooledge Community Center, 5699 South Land Park Drive. The South Land Park seminar, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., is one of six being presented during December and January at various locations in the Sacramento area by the City of Sacramento with the participation of Kaiser Permanente, according to Kim Metcalf, who heads the city's 50+ Wellness Program. The seminars, entitled "Stand Up to Falls," are open without charge to seniors, who must make advance arrangements to attend by phoning Metcalf at 808-1593 or via e-mail, fiftypluswellness@cityofsacramento.org.

JANUARY 10

Seminar on Estate and End of Life planning

Parkside Community Church is offering a free workshop entitled "It's Not Over When It's Over" on Sunday, January 10 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The workshop will focus of estate and end of life planning and will feature guest speakers Mark Lamb and Beatrice Bailey. Attendees will receive informational handouts and Ms. Bailey will have books for purchase.

JANUARY 12

Gray Panthers meeting

The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Northern California will conduct the Tuesday, January 12, meeting of the

Gray Panthers of Sacramento. The Funeral Consumers Alliance is a nonprofit organization whose objective is to protect a consumer's right to choose a meaningful, dignified, affordable funeral. The meeting will be held at 1 PM at the Hart Senior Center, 915 - 27th Street, Sacramento, between I and J Streets. Further information can be obtained by calling 916-921-5008.

JANUARY 13

Sacramento Genealogical Society meeting

Root Cellar – Sacramento Genealogical Society General Membership meeting, Wednesday January 13 from 7pm – 8:30pm at Citrus Heights Community Clubhouse 6921 Sylvan Road, Citrus Heights. Program: "Land Records" presented by Lynne Roberts. Free. Visitors welcome. Contact Sammie Hudgens (916) 481-4830 or www.rootcellar.org.

JANUARY 14

Computer club meeting

The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet on Thursday, January 14, 2010 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. The meeting topic will be "Digital Photography." A problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc, will follow the meeting. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information call (916) 366-1687 or visit our Web site at www.missionoakscomputerclub.org.

JANUARY 18

MLK Jr. march

Monday, January 18th, 2010 Martin Luther King Jr. March and Celebration, Get Involved and Make a Difference. Visit www.mlk365.org for more information or call 920-8655.

JANUARY 20

Genealogical Association meeting

The Genealogical Association of Sacramento will have its regular meeting on Wednesday January 20, 2010 in the Belle Cooledge Library at 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento. The meeting is at 1 PM The speaker will be Karen Paige from the California State Library. She will teach us how to navigate the many resources held at the California State Library. Members are encouraged to attend and please bring a friend. Interested guests are welcome too.

See more Calendar, page 28

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Calendar

Continued from page 27

JANUARY 22

Annual hot crab feed

Annual HOT Crab Feed & Auction Benefitting Courtyard School. Featuring the Captain Bob's famous HOT CRAB! Delivered live to the event, prepared onsite and served HOT to your table. All you can eat HOT crab, pasta, bread and salad! No to go bags, please. Tickets are \$50 per person; limited seating at 300. \$450 if you order a table of 10. The event will benefit Courtyard School and will feature raffle items, live and silent auction as well as a dessert auction. The evening starts at 6pm with a social/cocktail hour followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Located at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. Tickets can be purchased at the school: 205 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95816. For more information contact the school at 916-442-5395.

JANUARY 23

Women's Self-Defense Class/WEAVE Fund Raiser

Held Saturday, Jan. 23, at the Coloma Community Center, 4623 T St., from 1 to 2 p.m., learn the tools necessary to increase your awareness, defend yourself from bodily harm, and turbo-charge your life by becoming self-empowered in this safe, fun, and non-embarrassing seminar for women. The instructor has taught active law enforcement and security guards the same proven techniques that you will learn. Start the new year feeling smart, safe, and strong! This Women's Self-Defense Seminar is being offered to the community for free as a fundraiser for WEAVE by Zen Martial Arts and Sacramento Parks and Recreation. Donations for WEAVE will be accepted at the class. Receipts available. For more information, call 530-613-6779 or visit ZenMartial.com.

JANUARY 27

Embroiderer's Guild meeting

Embroiderer's Guild of America, 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 27, 2010, SMUD Building, 6301 S Street. We will be stitching Kissing Pillows. This is a national project

donated to the military. Visitors welcome. For more information, call (916)961-3558.

FEBRUARY 15

American Heritage Day

American Heritage Day event at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 8201 Greenback Lane, Fair Oaks. The 8th Annual American Heritage Day will be held at Mt. Vernon Memorial Park. This event brings history to life for children with hands on/re-enactment performances. Families can enjoy over 17 different performances and continuous free entertainment. For more information, call (916) 969-1251.

ONGOING

American Legion Dance

The American Legion Dance, Held on the first Friday of each month from 7 – 10 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Hall at Royer Park in Roseville, featuring ballroom, Latin, swing, and night club dances with DJ Bob Wayman. The public is invited and singles are welcome. There is a great wood dance floor, good parking, no-host bar, soft drinks, and snacks. Come dance and make new friends. The hall is located at 110 Park Drive. Cost \$8. Info: (916) 783-7267. Proceeds go to support the troops and our veterans.

MONDAYS

Tai Chi at Hart Center

Chinese exercise combines specific movements and relaxation, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Instructor, Mamie Woo. Information at 808-5462.

Hatha yoga class

Instructor Pat Shaw teaches students to align the body through breathing techniques, postures and deep relaxation, 3 to 4 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Information at 808-5462. Repeats Wednesdays, Fridays.

Gray Eagles meet

Gray Eagles, a social group for men and women, hears guest speakers on air shows, flying and warbirds, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., second Mondays of the month. Visitors welcome. Free, at the Hometown Buffet (private dining room), 4300 Florin Road. Information at 421-0844.

Newcomer's Buffet

The Widowed Persons Association of California invite any and all widows and widowers to attend their Newcomer's Buffet and Social at 5:30 p.m., every third Monday, at the Plaza Hof Brau, El Camino at Watt Avenue. The cost varies as the choice is from a no-host buffet menu. For more information, call 972-9722.

Toastmasters meet

Guests always welcome at Klassy Talkers Toastmasters to have fun while improving speaking and leadership skills, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Executive Airport 6151 Freeport Blvd., 95822. Information: Jan at 284-4236 or www.sacramentotoastmasters.com.

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Co-Dependents Anonymous meets, 7:30 p.m., Friends Church, Fireside Room, 41st and E streets. This 12-step group is for people whose common problem has been an inability to maintain healthy relationships. We support each other in developing fulfilling relationships. For more information, call 1-866-794-9993.

Evening Tai Chi class

Sixty-plus minute class includes Yang style Tai Chi, Chi Gong exercises, and strength training using elastic bands, 6:30 p.m., Parkside Community Church, 5700 South Land Park Drive. Open enrollment – join anytime. Cost: \$15 a month for members, \$20 for non-members. Information: 421-0492.

Girls-only karate

Karate for girls ages 7 and older, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Elks Lodge No. 6, Riverside Boulevard at Florin Road. Meets Mondays and Wednesdays. Information at 470-9950.

Aviator interest

Gray Eagles, a social group for men and women to share stories of military or sport aviation -- for former air or ground crew, or anyone interested in B-17s, Reno races, and airshows. Free. Meets second Monday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Hometown Buffet, 4300 Florin Rd. (private dining room). Information from Lou at 421-0844.

TUESDAYS

Pastel landscapes class

Award-winning pastel artist Reif Erickson teaches a four-step process to creating art. Supplies provided for the first session and students provided with a materials list for further lessons. From 2:30 to 5 p.m., Ethel Hart Center, 915 27th St.; \$25 per lesson. Information at 808-5462.

Free Medicare counseling

Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program (HICAP) offers free, unbiased information and assistance with Medicare problems, help with health and long-term care insurance. HICAP does not sell, endorse, or recommend insurance. Appointments are every Tuesday with John Gallapaga, call 376-8915 to schedule an appointment. For appointments in Spanish, call Marta Erisman at 231-5110.

Food Addicts Anonymous

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous meets, 9 p.m., Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Fireside Room, 4641 Marconi Ave. A 12-step group for people struggling with obesity, food obsession, or eating disorders. For more information, call 1-800-600-6028.

Women's networking

Soroptimist International of Sacramento to South, a service club for business and professional women for 47 years, meets second and fourth Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m., for lunch and programs at Aviators Restaurant, Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd. Fund-raising, networking, community service. Information: President Colleen Truelsen, 429-9901, email: colleen@valcomnews.com.

Barbershop Harmony

Sacramento Capitolaire Barbershop Chorus rehearsals, 7 p.m., Sierra Arden United Church of Christ, 890 Morse Ave. Open to "men who like to sing." Call Joe Samora for details, 631-9848.

Antelope Quilters Guild

Held the second Tuesday of each month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Quilters Guild invites community members to their general meeting at the Lutheran Church of Ascension, 7607 Garden Gate Dr. in Citrus Heights. For more information, call 488-8858.

WEDNESDAYS

Yoga at Parkside Church

Svaroopa Yoga is a style of Hatha Yoga that can relieve pain, reduce stress, increase strength and flexibility, help with proper alignment and posture, calm the mind, and promote personal transformation. The classes are open to everyone. Beginning Yoga is offered on Wednesday mornings from 9:15am – 11:00am and Advanced Yoga is offered on Tuesday mornings from 8:45a – 11:00am. Fees are \$52 for a series of 4 sessions. Parkside Community Church is located at 5700 South Land Park Dr. Call 421-0492 for more information.

Wednesday Night Dance

Dance to the rhythms of the Sensible Sounds Dance Band in the community center's beautiful auditorium. Enjoy Ballroom and Line dance from Swing to Rock to Country music. Call 972-0336 for more information. \$7 per person, from 7-10 p.m. every Wednesday at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael.

Community sing-along

Harmonize on old hymns and folk songs, just for our own pleasure.

Shower singers are welcome! Wednesdays 6:00-8:00 p.m., June 10 through August 26. Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, 2425 Sierra Blvd. Free. Information: 457-4527, daytime.

Pole walking clinic

Free pole-walking clinic sponsored by Cure Arthritis Now, every Wednesday morning -- demo poles provided for use during your first clinic. Call 208-8700 for details of times and locations. Come learn a new way to exercise and get healthy.

Chair yoga at Hart

Yoga instructor Pat Shaw leads chair yoga with exercises aimed to keep older adults strong, limber and relaxed, 1:45 to 2:45 p.m., Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St. Information at 808-5462.

Toastmasters Club

River City Speakers Toastmasters Club meets at noon at Cocio's Restaurant, 1830 Arden Way. All area business people invited

to hone their speaking skills; meeting ends at 1:15 p.m. Information: 747-8282.

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Co-Dependents Anonymous meets, 7 p.m., Friends Church, Fireside Room, 41st and E streets. This 12-step group is for people whose common problem has been an inability to maintain healthy relationships. We support each other in developing fulfilling relationships. For more information, call 1-866-794-9993.

Free dessert for seniors

The Senior Wednesday Club meets to chat, play bridge, pinocle or bingo, 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Mission Oaks Community Building, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. Bring a brown-bag lunch -- free coffee, tea and dessert. Information from Myrt at 348-8114.

Memory Seminar

Merrill Gardens is offering a "Memory Enhancement" seminar from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at 6350 Riverside Blvd. This is an ongoing series the second Wednesday of every month. Refreshments will be served.

Businesswomen's network

Referrals Plus, a networking group of businesswomen, meets, 12:15 to 1:30 p.m., in the Pocket area. Information and reservations with Chris, 492-6278. Website: www.referralsplus.

Dance at Mission Oaks

The Sensible Sounds Dance Band plays everything from rock to swing to country, 7 to 10 p.m., Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive. Cost is \$7 per person. Information at 972-0336 x 228.

Alzheimer's support

Alzheimer's support group meets, 2:30 p.m., third Wednesdays each month, Primrose, 7077 Rush River Drive, for families and friends struggling with Alzheimer's disease. Care-giving strategies, education, resource information, and a shoulder to lean on. Facilitator: Kim Winters, BSG, M. Ed. Information at 392-3510.

Lewy Body Dementia support

Lewy Body Dementia support group is tailored for caregivers and loved ones diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., fourth Wednesdays, Primrose, 7707 Rush River Drive. Facilitator: Kim Winters, BSG, M.ED. Information at 392-3510.

'Joy' luncheons

Grace Presbyterian Church invites neighbors, men and women, young or old, for lunch on the first and third Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m., in Fellowship Hall at the church at Las Cruces Way and Eastern Avenue. Programs sharing joy, information, and hearing speakers over a noontime meal. Information at 487-7849.

THURSDAYS

Want to relax and stretch your body and mind?

Everyone and anyone is welcome to attend the Primrose's LBDA/Parkinson's Exercise Program. Every Thursday at 11 a.m. at Primrose, 7707 Rush River Dr., Sacramento, Ca 95831. Please dress comfortably. Facilitator: Kim Winters, BSG, M. Ed. Call us at 916-392-3510 for more info

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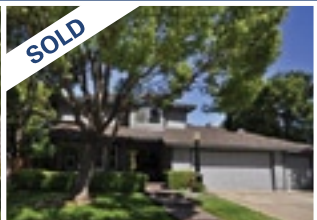
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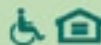


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Crocker: 'The museum is vital'

Continued from page 5

er to host more than 1,200 people at outdoor events. The design of the courtyard allows visitors to enjoy and appreciate the architectural styles of both structures. A beautiful two-story atrium will have the capability of seating 400 for dinners. There is a 250-seat auditorium for presentations and educational events. There is handicapped access throughout. And the new facilities will be available for special events, making Sacramento now capable of hosting some national cultural events.

"All of us at the Crocker are very excited to serve our community in ways that literally weren't possible before and to be an even more integral part of civic life in Sacramento and the region," said Lial Jones, museum director.

"This is an exhilarating time for the city of Sacramento, and the Crocker Art Museum's expansion exemplifies the changes taking place," said Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson. "The museum is vital to the region's cultural and economic development, and the new Crocker is an important icon for Sacramento's ongoing emergence as a cultural destination and a world-class city."

The new Crocker

There will be more to the Crocker's expansion than the 14,000 cubic yards of concrete and 1,400 tons of steel that make up its infrastructure.

"This will be one of the largest venues in Sacramento, if not the largest," Richards said. "Hospitals and museums are the most expensive structures to build, due to the massive amount of infrastructure that is required. The building has to be able to withstand having many people visit it every day, year after year. The walls have to be able to bear the weight of heavy artwork. There has to be climate control and light control to preserve the art, and so on."

Visitors will be able to walk up to windows on the first

See Museum, page 31



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Museum

Continued from page 30

floor that look into the conservation area. It will be an opportunity for everyone, from school children to adults, to learn about the science of preserving art.

"Conservation is a very interesting field," Richards said. "You have to have a master's degree in chemistry and a master's degree in art. The conservation center will enable us to provide better collections care and restoration, as well as education."

The museum staff will have something they have never had before: ample modern office space. Located on the third floor, the architect's design provides each worker with desk space and personal space, while opening the larger space to the eye.

The opening of the new facility is planned for Oct. 10. The Crocker plans a series of special exhibitions that will feature highlights of the museum's permanent collection. Many pieces have never been displayed to the public before.

The Crocker's expansion is supported by a \$100 million capital campaign. More than \$90 million has been raised to date. The campaign has received generous donations of \$1 million or more. The new wing of the museum will be named the Teel Family Pavilion in recognition of a lead gift from the Joyce and Jim Teel Family Foundation. Building on this success, the museum is launching a broad-based fundraising and member campaign.

Crocker Art

The Crocker Art Museum is located at 216 O Street in downtown Sacramento. Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors 65 and better, \$3 for students with a valid ID and free for children ages six and under. Thanks to a generous grant from Bank of America, admission is free on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with extended hours on first and third Thursdays until 9 p.m.

For more information about the Crocker, call (916) 808-7000 or visit www.crockerartmuseum.org.



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7001 DEMARET DRIVE-\$97,000

SOLD

DUPLEX-PROBATE SALE, PLEASE ALLOW 30 DAYS FOR RESPONSE, EXCELLENT VALUE. GREAT INVESTMENT PROPERTY. CORNER LOT, SOME RENOVATIONS COMPLETE AT THE 2360 57TH AVE SIDE WITH LOCKBOX. CARPET, PAINT, LINO, KIT AND BATH REDONE.

BOB WILSON 686-6868

2744 HYANNIS WAY-\$200,000

SOLD

SINGLE STORY, 3 BED, 2 BATH IN A MATURED NEIGHBORHOOD AND CONVENIENTLY LOCATED. GREAT ROOM CONCEPT OPENS TO KITCHEN AND BACKYARD. LIVING ROOM WITH FIREPLACE AND TILED FLOORING THRU OUT EXCEPT FOR THE BEDROOMS WITH CARPETING. DUAL PANE WINDOWS AND WHOLE HOUSE FAN!

LYNN LUK LEE 628-2843

5660 JACKS LANE-\$145,000

PENDING

ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOOD, 3 BED, 1 BATH. NEWER ROOFING, MOSTLY WOOD FLOORING UNDER CARPET. BATH WITH TUB AND SEP. SHOWER.

LYNN LUK LEE 628-2843

570 DE MAR DRIVE-\$179,000

PENDING

SINGLE STORY 2 BED (PLUS SUN ROOM), 2 BATH HALF PLEX. GREAT ROOM PLAN W/ VAULTED CEILING & FIREPLACE. GORGEOUS UPDATED KITCHEN W/ RECESSED LIGHTING, UPDATED CABINETS, COUNTERS, APPLIANCES. MASTER SUITE W/ WALK-IN CLOSET. BACKYARD W/ PATIO & NEWER FENCE. NEWER HVAC, ROOF, EXTERIOR PAINT, DUAL PANE WINDOWS, RETEXTURED CEILING, PLANTATION SHUTTERS.

GINA LAPLACA 548-1628

WALNUT GROVE

1261 N B STREET-\$150,000

LOCATED IN THE CHARMING TOWN OF WALNUT GROVE. THE BUILDING CAN BE RETURNED TO SINGLE FAMILY IF WANTED.

TERRY MULLIGAN 775-1908

540 VORDEN ROAD-\$250,000

LOCATED IN A RURAL AREA IN WALNUT GROVE. THIS HOME IS A CHARMER. LARGE LIVING AREA & BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD WITH EVERY FRUIT TREE IMAGINEABLE.

TERRY MULLIGAN 775-1908

WEST SACRAMENTO

940 RIVERCREST DRIVE-\$299,000

LUXURY GATED COMMUNITY KNOWN AS THE RIVERS AT LIGHTHOUSE MARINA. LOCATED ON RIVER W/ WATER VIEWS. WALKING TRAILS & CLUB HOUSE.

TERRY MULLIGAN 775-1908

1000 RIVER CREST DRIVE-\$299,000

FANTASTIC LOCATION TO BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME OVERLOOKING THE SACRAMENTO RIVER. THE HOMESITE IS LOCATED IN THE GATED COMMUNITY KNOWN AS THE RIVERS AT LIGHTHOUSE MARINA.

TERRY MULLIGAN 775-1908

3500 JEFFERSON BLVD-\$590,000

OLDER BUILDING, 5 LARGE UNITS, ALL 2 BEDROOMS, GREAT POTENTIAL WITH THIS FIXER, SITS ON 2/1 ACRE PARCELS. CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN.

TERRY MULLIGAN 775-1908