

## Police help local neighbors organize against burglaries

South Land Park residents getting together to arrange their first neighborhood watch

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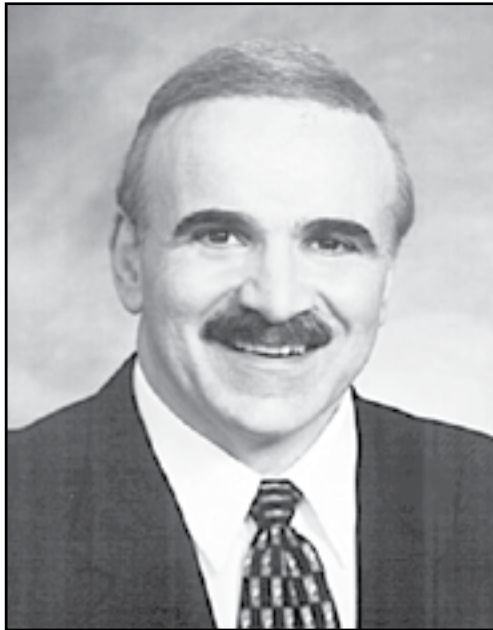


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# Young mind behind 'Hats for Haiti' honored for charity work

In an inspired move to raise monies for those affected by the devastating earthquake that ravaged Haiti in January, Genevieve Didion Elementary School held a special (and inventive) charity event developed from the idea of one young student.

Third-grader Leila Fitt thought of an idea that could raise money for the approximately three million people impacted by the quake – while also relaxing the school's dress code for one day. Fitt called her idea "Hats for Haiti." On January 22, students were offered the chance to wear a hat to school – normally a big no-no – in exchange for a small donation to a relief services agency that is assisting displaced Haitians. The event, coordinated by Fitt's teacher Helen Nevins, was a tremendous success. All together, the school raised \$1,437 through the "Hats for Haiti" event.

To commemorate Fitt's efforts, Principal Norm Policar presented the young student a symbolic check on March 26



representing the total amount of money donated to the Save the Children foundation, which has been directly involved in delivering aid to Haiti.

Photo by John Perez.



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# Mayor Johnson supports selling the Kings to raise money for new Kings Arena

By RYAN ROSE  
Pocket News Editor  
ryanrose@valcomnews.com

In a stunning – and somewhat unbelievable move – Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson has agreed to sell the Sacramento Kings basketball team in an effort to raise money to build a new Kings arena at the railyards north of downtown.

The move was announced April 1 at Sacramento City Hall in front of a crowd of shocked city residents.

"I promised the city and the voters when I was elected that I would bring a new arena to downtown, and I plan on delivering on that promise," Johnson said. "Previous mayors have tried to build a new arena, but they were always held back by a lack of funds."

For a number of years, the city has attempted (and failed) to craft a deal to build a new sports and entertainment complex for the Sacramento Kings. The Kings' current home, Arco Arena off Interstate 80, is one of the most dilapidated sports venues in the NBA. Although officials with the state of California and the city have negotiated with

the NBA and local developers to build an arena at the abandoned downtown railyards, talks recently began to stall and it seemed as if the Kings might be moved to a town more hospitable to building a world-class sports center. Now, Johnson said, the city doesn't have to worry about whether or not the Kings would be moving away.

"Now we know they're going for sure," the mayor said. "And that fact really eases my mind."

Johnson said that the decision to sell the Kings was a difficult choice, but he was able to convince the Kings' owners, the Maloof family, when he explained that it was likely the only way the city would be able to provide the team a new arena. The mayor said the Maloofs were originally lukewarm to the idea, but were ultimately on board when he explained the logic behind the decision.

"I said, 'Joe, Gavin, other Maloofs, the Sacramento Kings team is our city's most valuable asset besides the Tower Bridge – and we can't sell the Tower Bridge because it is bolted to the ground.' The Maloofs immediately understood," Johnson said.

Although the Maloofs are behind the deal now, they had earlier proposed another plan to generate revenue to support arena construction.

"We had offered to buy the name of the city from Mayor Johnson," Gavin Maloof said. "We figured we pay, like, a million bucks for the naming rights to Sacramento. I suggested we call the city 'The Capital brought to you by the Maloofs,' but Joe said we should call the city 'Kings.' I agreed."

Fortunately, according to star Kings player Tyreke Evans, that proposal was rejected by Johnson.

"I mean come on, we would have been the 'Kings' Kings.' That is the dumbest thing I ever heard," Evans said.

Johnson said he and the Maloofs put the team up for sale on eBay last week. After a bidding war by major cities including Seattle and San Jose, the New York borough of Queens was named the winner of the online auction, paying a little over \$30 million to move the Kings to the East Coast.

Evans said he is excited by the move and plans to work hard to build fans at his new home. He is also satisfied that the new name of the team will be slightly less embarrassing than the "Kings' Kings" "Yeah, we are going to be the Kings of Queens," said Evans, shaking his head. "Wow."

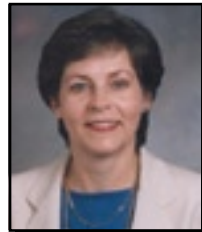
The mayor said the \$30 million should arrive sometime next week.

"I asked for cash," Johnson said. "I've been burnt on eBay before."

The mayor hopes construction on the new arena could start as soon as January of next year.

"The new arena is going to be great," Johnson said as he finished his press conference. "Oh, and by the way Sacramento, promise kept."

*If you've made it this far through the story and haven't yet realized that it is a fake, let me wish you a happy April Fools Day! Please send the inevitable complaints to ryanrose@valcomnews.com. Special thanks to Mayor Kevin Johnson and the rest for being such good sports.*



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Faces and places

# Didion School's seventh annual Cesar Chavez Day celebration

On Friday, March 26, Genevieve Didion Elementary School, 6490 Harmon Dr., held its seventh annual Cesar Chavez Day celebration, honoring the labor leader and Latino-American culture. The event included lunchtime fiestas; a Cesar Chavez rally in which seventh-grader Garrick Sigl and eighth-grader Natali Perez shared poems they had written on Cesar Chavez; a highlight of school-wide Cesar Chavez Day community service projects; and a Ballet Folklorico (traditional Mexican Dance) performance.

Photos by Pocket News editor Ryan Rose and John Perez.



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5 Southcrest Court (SOLD)	\$649,000
15 Rivershore Ct (SOLD)	\$560,000
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7686 River Ranch (SOLD)	\$449,000
1205 Grand River Drive (1 story, 2600 SqFt) (SOLD)	\$369,000
6652-56 Surfside Way (SOLD)	\$285,000
1223 Silver Ridge Way (PENDING)	\$249,000
2 Skysail Ct. (Duplex or single family lot)	\$189,000

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# Hard fought, hard fighters

The Genevieve Didion School boys basketball team received a runner-up trophy for the Sacramento City Championship at Hiram Johnson High School. The team had an excellent year with a record of 16 wins to four losses. Last season, the team's record was two wins and 18 losses. The team's success was attributed to the boys' dedication and first year coach Dave McClure and assistant Todd Fong.

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**Good Friday Service**  
**April 4th, 10:00am**  
**Easter Sunday Services**

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Raley's history includes its 1992 purchase of Bel Air Markets

# Local communities share part in Raley's 75th anniversary

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Pocket News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

The Raley's supermarkets chain is celebrating a very special anniversary, as this year marks 75 years since the chain's first store opened.

Since its founder Tom Raley opened this first location on Main Street in Placerville on Feb. 16, 1935, Raley's has grown extensively and is a rich part of Sacramento area communities.

Recognized as the state's 11th largest private company by Forbes magazine, Raley's owns and operates 133 stores: 85 Raley's, 21 Bel Air Markets, 22 Nob Hill Foods supermarkets and five Food Source stores.

These stores include Raley's stores at 4850 Freeport Blvd. in Sacramento and 5159 Fair

Oaks Blvd. and 4005 Manzanita Ave. in Carmichael, and Bel Air stores at 7465 Rush River Drive and 1301 Florin Road in Sacramento.

## First link in the chain

The road to Raley's establishment is one with long roots beginning in Lead Hill (Boone County) Arkansas – Tom Raley's birthplace.

Raised in a family of seven boys and seven girls, Tom Raley was taught to have good virtues, as the son of a Baptist minister and farmer, named Reglus Raley.

Following his high school years, Tom Raley earned a business degree from a business college in Missouri before moving to Los Angeles, where he worked for an ice and cold storage firm.



Raley's supermarket at 4850 Freeport Blvd. is shown in this c. 1958 photograph.

Photo courtesy of Raley's Archives

Eventually working for a Safeway grocery store in Los Angeles before transferring to a San Francisco store, Tom Raley was later offered, but declined an opportunity to serve as the district manager of San Francisco Safeway stores.

In 1934, despite being a Depression year, Tom Raley opted to instead establish his own grocery store.

In a 1972 interview with The Sacramento Bee, Tom Raley described the challenges he faced in opening his first store, which had a price tag of \$9,000.

"I wanted to build a store in Placerville and I had only \$120," Tom Raley told The

Bee. "I needed credit, so I listed the chairman of the board of Safeway as a reference. Suddenly everybody was willing to help me."

Opening his Placerville store with only two assistants – a clerk and a butcher – Tom Raley experienced much success with his store, which led to his additional success in Sacramento.

His good fortunes with the Placerville store ended when it was destroyed by fire in 1942.

Less than a decade after opening his first Sacramento store, Tom Raley was at the helm of a chain of eight stores, including a store at 1700 Capitol Ave., where Compton's

and Rick's Uptown markets were later located.

And this was definitely only the beginning of Raley's growth, as the chain continued to expand throughout the years, making possible Tom Raley's goal of establishing 50 stores by Raley's 50th anniversary in 1985.

## Starting the superstores

The aforementioned Freeport Boulevard store was established in 1958, which was the very year that Raley's made history by opening the nation's first grocery store-drug store combination, which was known as a superstore.

Raley's was obviously proud of its superstores, as is indicative of an advertisement, which appeared in the Dec. 7, 1977 edition of The Sacramento Union.

"If there's no Raley's Superstore near you...move," the advertisement read.

The advertisement also invited The Union's readers to the day's opening of the 5159 Fair Oaks Blvd., at Walnut Avenue, location in Carmichael.

The Fair Oaks Boulevard store became Raley's 10th superstore.

Raley's also once had a presence in East Sacramento with its former store at 2815 L St., near Sutter's Fort.

Although it never materialized, during the late

see Raley's, page 7

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# Raley's: 'It's been an honor to serve the greater Sacramento area'

Continued from page 6

1980s, plans were made for a 99,000-square-foot shopping center, which was to be known as Pocket Landing and anchored by a 61,000-square-foot Raley's Supercenter at the northeast corner of Pocket Road and Greenhaven Drive.

## Raley's acquired Bel Air

In 1992, Raley's acquired Bel Air Markets from the Wong family and like Raley's, Bel Air also has a very rich history, which has left a positive impression on many people throughout the region.

The roots of the store began in the 1930s, when Chinese immigrant Gim Wong, who came to America in 1916 and eventually helped found his family's supermarket, Bel Air, began selling produce that he grew on his 5-acre farm in Penryn, about 30 miles east of Sacramento. Assisting him with his business was his wife, Lee Shee and their children.

After establishing his produce-selling business on his farm, he eventually opened his own store in Penryn. And moving to Sacramento in the late 1940s, he opened a grocery store at 28th and P streets.

The Wong family's establishment of their first Bel Air Market at 6231 Fruitridge Road was, according to the business's corporate history, "still a novel concept at that time."

The same can also be said of Raley's during its early years as a supermarket.

Even by the early 1960s, the concept of the supermarket remained somewhat in its infancy.

In 1961, for instance, The Bee published an article that in today's world can be considered amusing to reflect upon.

The article explains that the Department of Agriculture created a pamphlet covering the topic of "why the American housewife's supermarket bill seems so high."

The pamphlet responds to this inquiry, noting that "she buys better food, spends less time in the kitchen and buys cigarettes, (lipstick, toilet articles), face lotion and even clothes" at the supermarket.

Committed to its mission of offering superior products and top-notch customer service, Bel Air capitalized on its success and had expanded to a chain of

six stores within its first decade.

Today, the now-much larger Bel Air chain, which was formerly led for 40 years by its president, George Wong, has stores as far east as Cameron Park and as far north as Yuba City.

Among these stores, the Arden Way store opened on Aug. 14, 1958, the Florin Road store opened on Aug. 8, 1966 and the Rush River Drive store opened on Nov. 16, 1988.

## The local store

Other highlights in Raley's history include the opening of its first Food Source warehouse format store in Folsom in 1994 and its purchase of the Nob Hill Foods chain in 1998.

Tom Raley passed away at the age of 88 on Dec. 27, 1991 and the company is now owned by his daughter, Joyce Raley Teel, who also serves as a co-chair of the Raley's board of directors. Her husband, James E. Teel, is the other co-chair.

Tom Raley's only grandson, Michael J. Teel, serves as Raley's president and CEO, while each of his four sisters, Claudia Do-

erhoff, Diane Perry, Laurie Struck and Lisa Davidson, serve on the board of directors.

Today, Raley's, which has its headquarters in West Sacramento and about 13,500 employees, continues to add to its legacy.

Raley's spokeswoman Amy Davis said that Raley's is proud of its 75-year commitment to providing quality products and services for its customers.

"We are thrilled to celebrate Raley's 75th anniversary with the community," Davis said. "It's been an honor to serve the greater Sacramento area since 1935. Although our offerings and services have evolved over the years to meet the needs of today's consumers - including a recipe database on raleys.com, accounts on Twitter and an iPhone app for customers on-the-go - the foundation of customer service built by our founder, Tom Raley, remains constant as we welcome a new generation of customers through our store doors. As a regional, family-operated company, we look forward to serving you and your families for many years to come."

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# Canine assistant a blessing of the four-legged variety

By SUSAN LAIRD  
Pocket News Writer  
susan@valcomnews.com

Dogs, it is said, have been humanity's best friends since the beginning of time. One ancient legend tells a tale that when Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, the dog refused to leave them and willingly accompanied them into exile. In fact, the word "Fido" means "I am faithful."

Whether one believes such stories or not, it is undeniable that *Canis lupus familiaris* has served humanity well as a beloved servant, protector and non-judgmental, empathetic friend. Every year, new canine talents are discovered by humans that continue to enhance lives – whether it is a dog that can detect medical conditions before they become apparent, or a pup who can console a troubled patient at a medical clinic.

Dogs are amazing.

Pocket area resident Beth Graham would agree. For the past two years, her service dog, Sajak, has enhanced the quality of life of this spunky 29 year old.

Beth was born with a debilitating bone condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta, or OI. Also known as "brittle bone disease," OI causes bones to easily break or fracture, and connective tissue is defective or unable to be produced in some cases. There are eight varieties of OI. These are graded as Level I, which is the least severe, to Level VIII, which is most severe. Persons with Level IV OI are small in stature with curved spines, barrel-shaped rib cages and have bone deformity that is mild to moderate. People born with OI are very bright and have a "can-do" attitude that is inspirational.

Beth was born with OI that is Level IV. She comes from a family of five, is the middle sibling and is the only one in the family with the condition. Her parents, while protective of her, raised her to reach for her full potential. So much so, that she moved from her native Pittsburg, Pennsylvania home to complete graduate school at Sacramento State and to land a job as a high school counselor at the Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy (SAVA) in Elk Grove.

"I am completely independent," she said. "I am in a wheelchair, but I am able to take care of myself. I drive a van with hand controls. I go to work like anybody else."

It is the development of tools such as motorized wheelchairs, accessible vans and others that allow



On the lookout for each other, Sajak and Beth Graham look down a Pocket area neighborhood sidewalk, on the lookout for any hazard that might come their way. Here, they watch out for friendly neighborhood dogs and squirrels.

Pocket News Photo/Susan Laird

persons with disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. Dogs have long been a part of that equation. Beth was interested in exploring the option of having a canine assistant.

"I was substitute teaching at a school back east when a student with a severe case of muscular dystrophy told me about the Canine Assistants program," Beth said. "He had a service dog who was amazing. I had grown up with dogs, so I decided to check it out."

Canine Assistants is a non-profit organization that trains and provides service dogs for children and adults with physical disabilities and other special needs. To date, the program has not only sponsored more than 1,000 Canine Assistants throughout the nation, but also changed the lives of those individuals and their friends and families. In addition to physically assisting those with disabilities, Canine Assistants service dogs are instrumental in removing many of the barriers faced by the disabled in today's society.

Most Canine Assistants service dogs are born, raised, and trained at

the training facility in Alpharetta, Georgia, while some are occasionally adopted from local organizations or breeders. The majority of service dogs are retrievers, including both goldens and Labradors.

The dogs are raised and screened for personality, temperament, and general health. All are trained to provide assistance to a human companion. Some are also trained as seizure response dogs for certain recipients. Following general training, seizure response dogs are trained to perform one of the following behaviors, depending on the recipient's need: remain next to the person during the course of a seizure, summon help in a controlled environment, or retrieve a phone prior to the seizure when indicated by the recipient. Certain dogs may even develop the ability to predict and react in advance to an oncoming seizure once they are placed with their recipient.

"My mom and I flew to Georgia to check it out," Beth said. "I had filled out all the paperwork, had my referrals from the doctor and physical therapist and was accepted as a candidate

for a Canine Assistant. That's where I met Sajak."

Sajak, who was a year and a half old at the time, seemed a little too frisky to Beth at first.

"He was full of energy, and at first I was worried that he might accidentally hurt me," she said. "They breed the goldens so they are about 50 pounds lighter than the typical golden. Even then, Sajak looked pretty big to me."

However, Sajak liked Beth from the start. Sajak immediately took to performing tasks for Beth.

"Our trainer Jennifer told me that she had never seen a dog bond to a human so quickly before," she said. "He was still a puppy. Sajak has mellowed a lot since then."

For the past two years, Sajak has helped Beth every day. He picks up objects for her on command, turns lights on and off and – most important – can go get help should Beth ever need it.

"He knows the command 'Go get so-and-so' – and I'll name that person," Beth said. "He will

See *Canine*, page 9



# Canine: 'He will just refuse to leave my side'

Continued from page 8

search until he finds that person. At school, he will search the entire school. I am fortunate that we haven't had an actual emergency there, but it is good to know that he will go find the people I send him to look for. If he shows up without me, those people at school or in my neighborhood know that I'm in trouble and need help."

Sajak has also developed a talent for which he was not trained: he is able to warn Beth of impending bone breaks.

"He will just refuse to leave my side when I'm on the verge of a break," she said. "I may not even realize that I'm going to break a bone. There is a train of thought that OI may have chemical cycles that can be a factor in bone breakage. Whatever it is, Sajak is able to detect it – and I've learned to listen to him."

One hundred percent of the Canine Assistants programs budget comes directly from private donations made by corporations, foundations and individuals. Those interested in learning more about the work of Canine Assistants can visit [www.canineassistants.org](http://www.canineassistants.org) to learn more about these remarkable dogs and how to support the work of the non-profit organization.

Companies such as Milk-Bone have played a huge role in the success of the Canine Assistants. This year, Milk-Bone has donated all marketing efforts to help promote the Canine Assistants program. This includes a return to broadcast advertising, with an ad campaign featuring Canine Assistants recipient Jake Jeter.

The Canine Assistants organization continues to provide assistance as needed to the dogs and their recipients. Should a team be in trouble, Canine Assistants will fly out to provide help if needed.

"Last year, Sajak got very sick. It turned out that he had a form of canine irritable bowel syndrome," Beth said.

In a turnabout of events, Beth was the caretaker of Sajak.

"I took him to the vet first thing in the morning," she said. "Sajak was very ill and in the hospital for three days. It was good to know that I could call Canine Assistants if I needed to. Fortunately, the vet I go to is amazing. To this day, Canine Assistants will even help with vet bills if I need it. It is a fantastic organization."

Fully recovered now, Sajak hops into Beth's van every morning and joins her in her work at SAVA every day. The students all know him by name. After school, they travel home and go for walks in the neighborhood.

"He is so popular, I have to tell the students that they can greet Sajak only once a day," Beth said.

Because of Sajak, Beth has been able to juggle a challenging medical condition, independent living and a full-time job in the Sacramento area for over a year now.

Not only does Beth have a valuable assistant, she has a faithful, wonderful companion.

"He is a member of the family," she said.

## Janey Way Memories



# The Mayor of Janey Way



By **MARTY RELLES**  
Pocket News Columnist  
[marty@valcomnews.com](mailto:marty@valcomnews.com)

The Viani family lived on the west side of Janey Way in the direction of the National Guard Armory: Lou Sr. (Big Lou), his wife Tina, Lou Jr. (Little Lou) and daughters Diana and Anna. Big Lou served in World War II under General George Patton. He participated in the invasion of Italy where he survived tough fighting in Sicily and then the Italian peninsula. Then he returned home and settled on Janey Way with his wife.

The Vianis had their first child, a boy they named Louis Jr., in 1947, the year I came into the world. When my family moved to Janey Way in 1952, Lou Jr. became my best friend. We played sports, we played in the pit (the vacated sand and gravel site located behind the houses on the east side of Janey Way) and we also spent a lot of time at the Viani house. Big Lou was in the process of landscaping his backyard and Little Lou and I watched, helped sometimes, and mostly just played. We also spent a lot of time inside the Viani house. They had one of those collections of Time/Life books called the "History of World War II." The books featured stark photos depicting the horrors of war. Pictures of war dead, demolished buildings and blank-faced looking soldiers festooned the pages. When Big Lou saw us buried in these volumes, he told of his experiences in the war. "Never gulp water from a canteen," said Big Lou, "you can choke that way," or "General Patton was the greatest general because he used the tactics of the great warrior Hannibal." Little Lou and I listened intently. Then, like all children, we went outside with our toy guns and pretended to be soldiers, not fully understanding the horrible reality of war.

In addition to these volumes about the war, Big Lou also had souvenirs from the war, including postcards showing the great sites in Italy such as St. Peter's Cathedral, the Trevi Fountain and coliseum. He also had a postcard showing Michelangelo's statue of Moses. It featured a dent just below the knee that supposedly resulted when the artist struck the sculpture and said, "Speak to me." That made an impression on me, and I said to myself, "Someday I will see it and all the other sights in Italy." Later in life, I did visit Italy and see these things.

People called Big Lou the "Mayor of Janey Way" because he seemed intimately involved in every activity that took place in our neighborhood. When he passed you on the street, he always stopped to converse and share the latest gossip from the neighborhood. All the neighbors knew and liked Big Lou. He seemed larger than life and always donned a smile and a story to share. He worked every Wednesday night calling numbers for bingo at St. Mary's church. He and my dad cooked at the church dinners, an all-day event. Every Christmas, Big Lou and Little Lou erected the nativity scene inside St. Mary's Church. Weeks before Christmas, they began this task, and during that time, the scene remained covered with sheets. On Christmas Day, the sheets disappeared, revealing a memorable depiction of the birth of Christ. We looked forward to that moment with great anticipation every year.

Big Lou, the last remaining father on Janey Way, has fallen on ill health lately; his family has placed him in a care facility. Some day soon he will pass. When that happens, a shudder will be felt across Janey Way like on the day the last shovel of dirt filled the pit and ended our childhood.

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Tiger birth comes after baby anteater passes away

# Roaring in: Sumatran tiger cub born at Sacramento Zoo

Special to The Pocket News

The Sacramento Zoo reports the birth of a Sumatran tiger cub, born on March 18. This is the second litter for Bahagia, the female and Castro, the male; their first litter of three male cubs was born in November 2006. Bahagia and baby appear healthy at this early point in the baby's life; the zoo is hopeful the cub will continue to thrive.

Tiger cubs are about two pounds (1 Kg) at birth, born with eyes closed and rely entirely on their mother for the first three months. Mother and baby will be inside the den, away from public view, while the baby gains strength and coordination. Castro, the male, will be on exhibit daily. A second cub sustained severe head injuries and did not survive.

"After the loss of the baby anteaters this month, the birth of the Sumatran tiger and sorrowful death of a second cub is emotional for the zoo staff," said Mary Healy, zoo director. "We are guarded at this time, but we know Baha is an experienced mother who will do her best to take care of this very special cub especially during the important first few months of development."

The Sacramento Zoo veterinarians did perform an ultrasound on Bahagia to assess pregnancy in early December 2009, however, no cubs were apparent at the time. With a gestation of just under 100 days, it appears the tigers likely bred just after the date of the ultrasound. Animal Care staff monitors the cats' body weights regularly, but saw no significant changes in the tiger's weight or her behavior over the past months; therefore, they had no reason to suspect a pregnancy this late in the season. The veterinarians will perform follow-

up health checks on the cub over the next week.

Sumatran tigers are critically endangered and found only on the Indonesian island of Sumatra off the Malaysian Peninsula. The zoo participates in the Sumatran tiger Species Survival Plan (SSP), coordinated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, who recommended the breeding of the Sacramento Zoo tigers.

## Zoo saddened by loss of baby anteater

Sacramento Zoo reports the death of the newborn Giant anteater. The female baby was born on March 9 to Amber, the female anteater and Beata, the male. The baby was found deceased mid-morning on March 16, during a routine check. Over the past seven days, monitored via video, behavior cues showed the mother to be attentive and the baby growing stronger and holding on to her mother. The Sacramento Zoo is saddened by this loss; the cause of death is unknown at this time, and necropsy results may take one to two months.

"I couldn't be more proud of the staff here at Sacramento Zoo. The staff members who've worked so hard to ensure that this newest addition thrived have proven themselves to be dedicated, thoughtful and sensitive to the needs of the animals in our care," said Harrison Edell, zoo general curator.

The birth was marked by surprise and sorrow when a second baby born a few hours after the first died shortly after birth. The birth of two Giant anteaters is rare and has only been recorded very few times in Zoos, with only one pair surviving to adulthood. The survival rate of newborns is increased in captivity but complications can still occur.



## Sacramento County Airport System Executive Airport Master Plan Community Meeting and Open House

**DATE:** Thursday, April 8, 2010  
**TIME:** 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
**PLACE:** Pony Express Elementary School  
1250 56th Avenue (off S. Land Park Dr., north of Florin Rd.)

The public is invited to the final community meeting on the Executive Airport Master Plan hosted by the Sacramento County Airport System. At this community meeting the consultant team will present the Draft Final Plan and supporting documentation. The project team and airport staff will be on hand to answer questions and outline the remaining project schedule. There will be an additional opportunity to comment on the Final Master Plan when presented to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors for conditional approval at a date yet to be scheduled.

The meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for interpreting services, assistive listening devices, or other considerations should be made through Project Manager George Munson at (916) 874-0767, no later than five working days prior to the meeting. To review documents for this meeting please visit [www.sacairports.org](http://www.sacairports.org) and click on "Executive Airport" and select "Master Plan."

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# Freeport Bakery is much more than a neighborhood bakery

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Pocket News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

For a quarter century, Land Park's Freeport Bakery has been a source for bringing many smiles to many faces through quality baked goods. And during this time, the bakery has expanded and attracted customers from far beyond the local neighborhood.

On a daily basis, it is not uncommon to see people at the bakery from such places as Woodland, Davis, Elk Grove, Stockton, Natomas, Roseville, Folsom and even a few from the Bay Area.

Just last month, for instance, West Sacramento resident Malia Novak was visiting the bakery, as she so often had in the past.

Novak, who discovered the bakery in 1990, shared her love for the business's quality products and services.

"I found out about the bakery through a (former) co-worker who lives off of 4th Avenue," Novak said. "I first came here for the pastries. They also did my wedding cake. It was great. It was a chocolate cake with the black chocolate on the outside and marzipan on the inside. Everybody who came to my wedding just loved (the cake). It was a beautiful cake, plus it was delicious. I would definitely recommend this bakery to others, because they're the best bakery in Sacramento and they're also reasonable."

At the time of Novak's introduction to the bakery, which is located at 2966 Freeport Blvd., the business was still in its transitional stage as it had yet to double in size un-

der its second owners, Walter and Marlene Goetzeler.

## The right ingredients

Marlene, who was raised in Chicago, said that much effort was made to improve and expand the bakery, which she began operating with her husband 22 years ago.

"When we bought the business, there were seven employees and now we have close to 50," Marlene said. "We only used to have half the building and the other side (of the building) had a business, called The Radio Place (at 2964 Freeport Blvd.), and they sold CBs when CBs were popular."

Freeport Bakery expanded its operations within the old CB store space in 1991.

Marlene added that the offerings at the bakery have also grown immensely, since its early days when it was solely a cake and pastry business. And even the amount of cakes and pastries available at the bakery has widely expanded.

The bakery's selection of cakes, for instance, is so extensive that the cakes are featured in a foldout menu, which includes such offerings as the Chocolate Decadence (truffle-like flourless cake topped off with a generous amount of whipped cream), the Fruit Basket Cake (three layers of buttermilk cake with fresh strawberries, bananas and whipped cream) and the Seville Marnier (orange poppy seed cake drizzled with Grand Marnier, layered with chocolate whipped cream and frosted with whipped ganache).



Freeport Bakery owners Walter and Marlene Goetzeler hold one of their specialty Valentine's Day mini cakes. The bakery offers different mini cakes for various holidays. *Pocket News Photo/Lance Armstrong*

The Goetzels also introduced bread to the bakery. These breads include: nine-grain, chala (sweet egg bread), baguettes, rolls, brioche and french breads.

The bakery also offers holiday-themed mini cakes and a variety of cookies, including chocolate chip, shortbread and triple chocolate cookies.

Marlene said that the bakery places much emphasis in using fresh, high quality ingredients and when possible, the business purchases local products.

## Bakery and community

Although the Goetzels had never owned a bakery until acquiring Freeport Bakery, Walter, who

was born in southern Bavaria, near the Austrian border, said that he grew up around bakeries.

"We were kind of like a bakery family," said Walter, who moved to the United States when he was 22 years old. "My grandfather was a baker, my grandmother came from the bakery (background) and they had a bakery and then I have several uncles who have bakeries in Germany. And I worked in a small bakery out in the countryside (in Germany) that was owned by my mom and my dad (Afra and Hans Goetzeler)."

Because of his love for baking, Goetzeler, who lived with Marlene in San Diego prior to moving to Sacramento, decided he

would like to own a bakery.

After failed efforts to establish a bakery in San Diego, the Goetzels discovered that Freeport Bakery was for sale while visiting with their friends in Sacramento.

Marlene recently shared her memories of acquiring Freeport Bakery.

"The bakery had been going for about three years before we came along," Marlene said. "It was owned by (Land Park native) Richard Kuchman and (his then-wife, Andrea). They started the bakery and we bought it from them. We first saw the bakery listed in the newspaper in May

*See Bakery, page 13*

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# Bakery: 'The people who work here are very pleasant, know you by name'

Continued from page 12

1987 and by (the following) August, we owned it."

Marlene said that part of the secret to the bakery's success and longevity has been its ability to hire dedicated employees, who work at the business for many years.

Currently, Freeport Bakery has six employees who have worked at this local establishment for 15 years or more. They are: Carol Clevenger, Lien Doan, Jeannine Klock, Valentina Lapik, Ann Mueller and Elizabeth Velasco.

And naturally, with experienced workers and quality bakery goods, the business continues to attract repeat customers on a daily basis.

Marlene said that the bakery survives off repeat customers, noting that about 70 percent of the business's customers are repeat customers.

One such customer is Land Park resident Ben Parisi, who

has been purchasing pastries at the bakery since its early years.

When asked to describe why he likes the bakery, Parisi said, "The people who work here are very pleasant and they know you by name. It's in a friendly neighborhood and they have great (baked goods). I love the bear claws, definitely the bear claws, and also the blueberry bran muffins and carrot cake. And when pumpkin pie comes around, I'll go through one a week. I'm very impressed with their food and you find items here that you don't find at other places. It's just a really great bakery."

### Visiting the bakery

Freeport Bakery is open Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For additional information about this business, call (916) 442-4256 or visit the Web site [www.freeportbakery.com](http://www.freeportbakery.com).



Jesse Simpson and Ramiza Markulin work together to create one of the bakery's many specialties. *Pocket News Photo/Lance Armstrong*

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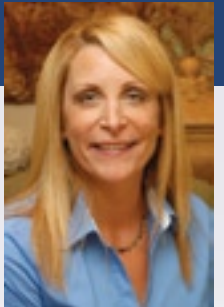
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# Bowling memories relived monthly by local senior ladies

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Pocket News Writer  
lance@valcomnews.com

Sacramento was once a bowling haven consisting of many more bowling alleys and bowling leagues competing throughout the city than there are today. And although bowling has declined in popularity since this time, a group of local ladies refuses to have these memories fade away.

Meeting monthly at randomly selected Sacramento area restaurants, the group, which is comprised of former, local women's bowling league members ranging from 75 to 94 years old, reminisces about their bowling memories, while celebrating one or more of its members' birthdays.

Gathering last week at the Elephant Bar restaurant, just south of the Arden Fair Mall, the women, some of who began bowling in leagues in the late 1940s, shared some of these memories for the readers of this newspaper.

Members in attendance were Peggy Gamba of the East Sacramento/midtown Sacramento area, Amy Kanemoto of Greenhaven, Louise Martin and Jean (Nakatani) Yego of Land Park, Bev Russell of Carmichael, Merle (Hendrix) Cale, Lillie (Rollerson) Reed and Inky Davis of south Sacramento, Rena Barsanti of

Rancho Cordova and Kay Hill of North Highlands.

Scattered about the Sacramento area in earlier years were such bowling alleys as the Alhambra Bowl at 1221 Alhambra Blvd., Alpine Alley at 2326 Florin Road, Capital Bowl at 1415 L St., Sacramento Bowl at 915 6th St., El Camino Bowl at 1194 El Camino Ave., El Rancho Bowl at 900 West Capitol Ave., Land Park Bowl at 5850 Freeport Blvd., North Sacramento Bowl at 1721 Del Paso Blvd., South Bowl at 5005 Stockton Blvd., and Town and Country Bowl at 2032 Fulton Ave.

A full listing of historic bowling alleys would certainly be much longer, as other bowling alleys were also located in the area.

Nonetheless, one would be hard pressed to mention a single bowling alley that has existed from the late 1940s to present that at least one person in the group could not describe.

For instance, Cale, 94, said that her favorite place to bowl was the Alhambra Bowl, which was located just north of Folsom Boulevard and included a large cocktail lounge.

"Alhambra Bowl was a really big, nice place with 16 lanes and there was a guy



Members of a group of Sacramento area residents, who meet monthly to share their memories about earlier years of women's bowling in the capital area, gather outside a local eatery. They are pictured left to right: Lillie Reed, Bev Russell, Kay Hill, Rena Barsanti, Louise Martin, Peggy Gamba, Amy Kanemoto, Inky Davis, Jean Yego and Merle Cale.

sitting up there (above the pins) and the pins were set up manually," Cale said. "I bowled there from 1945 to 1969 and the owner was a man, named John Bascou. I was our team's captain and we won the championship as the Barristers (team) in 1947. Three sis-

ters and two sister-in-laws completed the team."

Gamba, who bowled in Sacramento and other cities from 1948 to 1984, explained that participating in bowl-

See Bowling, page 17

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# Bowling: 'We found that (it was) a great way out'

Continued from page 16

ing tournaments was only a part of the reason that she enjoyed bowling.

"I bowled in many places in Sacramento such as Alhambra, Capital Bowl, Sacramento Bowl and Town and Country and I had great times going to the nationals, but it was just nice to get together with friends," Gamba said. "I really looked forward to those (bowling) nights and meeting the ladies and their husbands. And sometimes we would go out to dinner with them afterward. We just had a great time."

## Perfect games, perfect friends

It is evident that the camaraderie shared by many of the bowlers at the time is something that continues today through this monthly group.

But the friendly environment that bowling created should not be confused with how competitive the tournaments were during this time.

Inquiring about these ladies' best, all-time scores is a good way to find out how serious they took these matches.

"My best was a 697 (in a three-game series) and a 297 in a single game," said Reed, whose husband Ray also bowled in Sacramento. "I also bowled in 22 national tournaments."

Other bowlers in the group also bowled single games in the high 290s, with even others bowling in the 280s.

Commenting about her single game high of 286, Yego said, "I could just never get to 300."

But bowling a perfect 300 game was something that was quite elusive for most bowlers.

One of the group's members said that a bit of Sacramento history was made when Doreen Lowry became the first female to bowl 300 in a single game at Alhambra Bowl.

Within the group, three members of the Sacramento Women's Bowling Association's Hall of Fame – Barsanti, Russell and Hill – sat at the restaurant's table. A former member of the group, the late Betty Allum, was also named to the same Hall of Fame.

Barsanti, a 1946 graduate of Sacramento High School, who was also named to the California Women's Bowling Association's Hall of Fame, related her finest moments in bowling.

"My finest moment as an individual was (winning) the California Women's Bowling Association's Queens Championship Tournament (in 1973)," Barsanti said. "The California Queen was a (double elimination, four-game match) singles event. I was also the California Queen runner-up in 1970. As a team member, four times we took the Classic Division."

Russell said that although achieving success in bowling was important, she also enjoyed promoting the city of Sacramento through her participation in the sport.

"I traveled to 28 states and representing Sacramento women all over the nation was one of the highlights of my years of bowling," Russell said.

## Bowling for a good time

During these early years of bowling in Sacramento, local female bowlers were oftentimes members of the Women's International Bowling Congress, while male bowlers often bowled in leagues of the American Bowling Congress.

But joining these organizations was not an option for non-Caucasians prior to the 1950s, explained Yego, whose father, Soichi Nakatani, was born in Japan in 1889 and came to Sacramento in 1907, and whose mother, Mary (Takagi) Nakatani, was born in San Francisco in 1903 and came to Sacramento in 1928.

"My husband was able to bowl in 1948, because he was in the service, but it wasn't until the 1950s that Asian people could be members in men's and women's bowling associations in Sacramento and we couldn't bowl in tournaments," said Yego, who was celebrating her 80th birthday with the group.

Reed, who chuckled when the topic arose of being the youngest member of the group at 75 years old, said that black bowlers were held from the association's league until 1954.

"I didn't start bowling until 1968, but my husband talked about how tough it was bowling (during these segregated times)," Reed said. "He was eventually president of the Sacramento Bowling Association in the 1980s. He was also on the board of directors and I was on the board of directors, too."

Commenting about these days of segregation, Russell said, "Nowadays you don't think of people not being able to do something because of their skin color. We definitely live in better times for that."

Hill said that newspapers played a large part in the publicity of the local bowling leagues and bowling in Sacramento, in general.

"The local newspapers would print the league scores," Hill said. "The funny part was The Bee would not print the names of our sponsors, but The Union would. (The Bee) would not put the sponsors' names, because they said they were advertisements. They would just put our names and our scores, but they wouldn't put the name of the team we played on."

Among the sponsors during this time were: the Crystal Cream and Butter Co., Proctor and Gamble, KXOA radio station, the Palomino Room, De Vons Jewelers, Hamilton Furniture Co., Joe Freitas, Ross Relles, Arden Fair Fashion, Mandella Liquors and Delicatessen, AAA towing, the Victor Trophy Co., Paul's Men's Store and Skalisky painting contractors.

Also publicizing local bowling during the 1960s and 1970s was the Sacramento Bowling News, which was headed by its owner and editor, Bobbie Johnson.

Describing Johnson as a "lifesaver," Reed added, "She used to hold contests for the best bowlers and different things. We really missed that paper when it had to fold."

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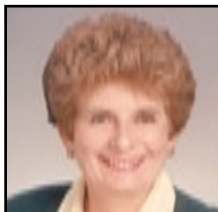


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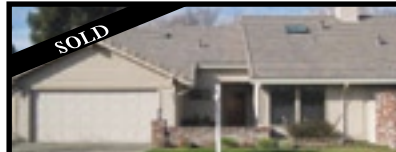
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# Now open for business: Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe

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

There are several reasons people choose to go vegan. Some are driven to it due to food allergies; others do it to stay away from processed foods; and some just think it's wrong to use animals as a food source. Thanks to a new vegan cafe in midtown near East Sacramento, there might be many more vegans in our neighborhood.

The Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe opened as a rousing success on March 14 during Second Saturday festivities. Co-owner Khyem Amri said that the line was out the door with folks ready to try all manner of baked goods and other vegan delicacies.

During the nearly two weeks since it opened at 2315 K St. in midtown, business has been good for Amri and his wife Melissa Wilhelm. Together, they hope to bring a new flavor to Sacramento cuisine culture.

The idea, however, did not materialize overnight.

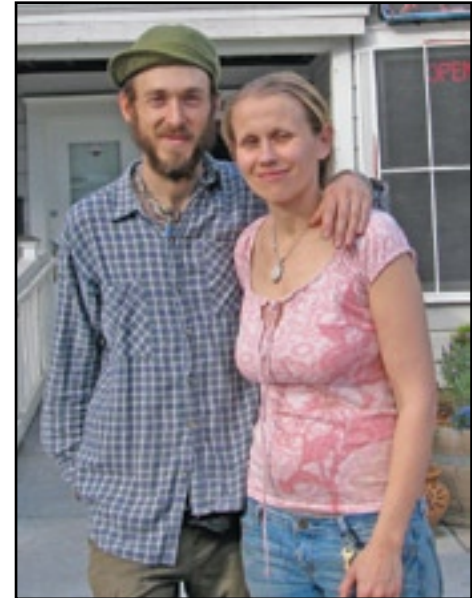
Khyem and Melissa met in a farmer's market in Brentwood three and a half years ago. Melissa, who is the head chef and baker at the Sugar Plum, was there selling some of her vegan delights. Khyem still remembers his initial reaction to seeing Melissa that day.

"I had just gotten out of a relationship, so I tried to ignore what I was feeling when I saw her," Amri said. "But I couldn't ignore the fireworks."

He helped Melissa develop her business, which was a vegan food company called Jivana Vegan. They were a natural fit as far as business went, as Melissa did all the food preparation while Khyem drove the attention-getting portion that got people to stop at their booth. Eventually they went on to sell their products in a much more lucrative Los Angeles farmers' market where they soon quadrupled their profits.

## Sugar Plum in Sacramento

One of the early signs that they might have a chance at starting a restaurant was when one of Melissa's gluten-free carrot cakes took a silver medal in a culinary competition – impressive considering



Pocket News Photo/Benn Hodapp

During the nearly two weeks since the Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe opened at 2315 K St. in midtown, business has been good for co-owners Khyem Amri and Melissa Wilhelm.

See *Vegan*, page 19

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# Vegan: 'There are a lot of excited vegans around Sacramento'

Continued from page 18

it was the only vegan entry. While still in Los Angeles, Melissa became pregnant with the couple's first child. The business went on hiatus and the two thought about where they wanted to raise their son. Amri, who grew up in Sacramento and graduated from El Camino High School in 1999, suggested moving back up north.

Both have held a number of jobs since the birth of their child, but a fortuitous meeting set in motion what would one day become the Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe.

Melissa spoke at a meeting for the Sacramento Vegetarian Society and was immediately approached by an investor. They found a place in midtown that could accommodate all they needed and six months later, they were moving in.

The two-story Victorian house-turned-business was formerly a restaurant that featured Mediterranean cuisine. A temporary sign hangs above the entrance, making it difficult to know the café is there unless you knew beforehand.

"I think people are finding us pretty well," Wilhelm said. "We're working on a

permanent sign to put out front."

Since the opening, there has been little rest for either of them, but both are quick to acknowledge that being too busy is better than not being busy enough.

Moving back up to Sacramento allowed the couple to be close to Amri's family and they saw it as an ideal place to raise a child. But they also saw it as an opportunity to open up a place in an area brimming with vegans, vegetarians and quality-conscious foodies. In fact, the Sugar Plum is the first vegan bakery in Sacramento.

So far, it looks like the cafe might have found a permanent home.

"There are a lot of excited vegans around Sacramento," Wilhelm said. "There have been a lot of curious people coming in because they want to try a healthier way to eat."

Wilhelm went over a number of things having to do with veganism and why it may be a good idea for people to consider it as an alternative.

"Everything is fresh and organic," she said. "There are no preservatives or pes-

ticides, so obviously that is good for your health."

## The menu

While you may notice that everything on display in the front of the store is of the dessert variety, the cafe does have a lunch and dinner menu featuring panini sandwiches, salads and nachos. They also recently featured a Portobello mushroom meatloaf.

The most popular lunch/dinner item is the nachos, ac-

ording to Wilhelm. It consists of corn chips topped with black beans, olives, vegan meat alternatives, vegan cheese, avocados, salsa and vegan sour cream. A plate of them will cost you \$11, but will comfortably serve three.

As far as the dessert menu is concerned, the Sugar Plum has your sweet tooth covered. The cafe features 12 different types of dessert items ranging from cinnamon rolls to cookies, cupcakes and muffins, all made fresh daily.

## Visiting the Sugar Plum

The Sugar Plum Vegan Cafe is located at 2315 K St. Business hours for the café are Mondays, closed; Tuesdays through Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Fridays, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call (916) 706-3302 or visit [sugarplumvegan.com](http://sugarplumvegan.com). Free wifi Internet access is available.

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## You and your teen

# Managing sibling rivalries

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

Not long ago, I got a call from the parents of two adolescent girls. They were concerned because their younger daughter's grades had slipped significantly and her friends and behavior had changed drastically. They'd suspected that she'd begun using drugs, and after careful consideration made the choice to drug test her. When she tested positive they'd confronted her, and she admitted to smoking marijuana on a regular basis.

"Audrey" was about three minutes into her first session when she started sobbing as she told me about her older sister "Nancy." She was a top student and well loved by both peers and teachers. She also had a really nice boyfriend and had never gotten in trouble for much beyond breaking curfew by a few minutes.

It was clear that Audrey felt that Nancy was her parents' favorite. When they were out with friends and family, they'd highlight Nancy's successes. Although Audrey was extremely talented artistically and won awards at school and in local art contests, they'd say next to nothing about her accomplishments. Instead, they complained about her academic struggles and how they hoped she'd focus less on art and more on her "real" schoolwork. Over time, Audrey became jealous and resentful of her sister, and furious with her parents. It was at this point that she started smoking marijuana regularly.

As much as we'd like to think rivalries between siblings end about the time they graduate from their pull-ups, it's important for parents to realize that the competitions are alive and well during adolescence. Although it's impossible to prevent sibling rivalries altogether, parents can take steps to help minimize the negative effects of the struggles.

One vital step is to strive not to compare one teen's successes to another. If we focus on the skills and accomplishments of one child and give the other the message that they should work on developing the same skills, it's a set-up for ill will to develop between them. Had Audrey's parents complimented her for her accomplishments, rather than focusing on areas in which she wasn't as talented or successful as Nancy, Audrey's struggles could have been less severe.

It's also helpful to compliment your teen in public as frequently as possible. While she might roll her eyes and look uncomfortable, she'll eat-up the positive attention. Had Audrey felt that she, too, was a star in her parents' eyes, it's likely she wouldn't have been as affected by the positive attention they'd lavished upon Nancy.

Finally, spend quality one-on-one time outside your home with each of your teens. Let them know that they can speak freely about how they're feeling, and listen openly to the feedback you receive. Should they give specific examples of how they'd like to be treated differently, consider them carefully and make changes when possible. This would give them the message that their feelings are valid and important. It would also increase the likelihood that they'd be open to hearing about your concerns and following your suggestions.

Fortunately, Audrey's parents were receptive to my guidance and took steps to change how they treated her. They focused on celebrating Audrey for her artistic talents, rather than comparing her to her Nancy and criticizing her when she didn't match-up. This helped Audrey feel better, and the relationships with both her parents and sister improved significantly. Before long, she no longer felt the need to get high, and her grades started improving steadily.

*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](mailto:steve@rivercitycounseling.com).*

## Neighbors keep an eye out

# Police help local neighborhoods organize against crime

By ART GERMAN  
Pocket News Writer  
reporter@valcomnews.com

The half-mile-long South area neighborhood bounded by South Land Park Drive, Fordham Way and 43rd and 47th Avenues was developed as a middle-income subdivision more than a half-century ago, but residents are finally getting together to organizing their first Neighborhood Watch program to combat a recent outbreak of break-ins and burglaries.

The effort was first launched by Rita Levy, a manager in the state Housing and Community Development Department, after her home was burglarized last December.

"It was a bad time for a lot of people," Levy recalled. Homes were targets because of the Christmas gifts they contained at a time when the economy was at the height of last year's recession."

During a neighborhood get-together during the holiday season, Levy met Joe Zaniker, a self-employed Internet entrepreneur, whose home was down the block and across the street. Their conversation came around to the neighborhood break-ins, and Zaniker said that he also had been making inquiries about organizing a Neighborhood Watch program. Levy and Zaniker decided to combine their efforts, and work together to get the neighborhood program together.

As for me, my wife and I have lived on this same block for more than 40 years, and had almost forgotten a time when my wife and I had once been victimized, back in the 1970s. The event was not one of my finest hours. I awakened one morning to discover that the garage door had been left open all night, and further investigation revealed that a number of items were no longer with us – a tool bench, several archaic manual typewriters, and a lawn mower among the departed articles. I was so ashamed of my carelessness that I didn't call the police at that time to report the theft and the property lost, an oversight that we have now learned is frowned upon by the law enforcement community.

That knowledge was brought to my attention at the first meeting of our developing Neighborhood Watch program when it was held on March 16 at the Freeport Branch police station on Freeport Boulevard and 35th Avenue.

Recent Sacramento residents may not be aware that the police station occupies a one-time upscale shopping mall that was the scene a major air disaster in 1972 when a jet plane leaving an air show at the Executive Airport across Freeport Boulevard failed to leave the

ground and smashed into a Farrell's ice cream parlor on the southeast corner of the building. Fourteen persons, many of them children enjoying an ice-cream party, died in the fiery explosion.

The old Crossroads shopping center, as it was called, never recovered from the air disaster, but the site has achieved community prominence once again during recent years as a branch station for the city police department.

Some 30 of us from our block gathered there when the newly-organized community Neighborhood Watch group met for an orientation meeting with city police members. On hand were police Sgt. Matt Young and community service officers Katherine Hutchison and Holly Kinney. Among our visiting group were several new residents whom I was meeting for the first time along with old-timers whom I'd known for many years—David Warren, Al Ballingat and Clarence Smith, among them.

Sgt. Young welcomed us and called on us to be aware of what's happening in the neighborhood, especially looking for suspicious activities involving persons who are strangers in the area. Actual crimes, such as the burglary that long ago happened in my garage, should be brought to the attention of police by phoning 264-5471. During recent months, Young said, several of these sightings have been reported in our area and have resulted in arrests.

Young also stressed the importance of keeping lights on in the home and surrounding area at night, along with leaving a radio that is audible turned on when there is no one at home. Valuables such as jewelry and precious metals should be kept in a safe location such as a bank vault. Those planning vacations away from home should ask neighbors to keep an eye on the property and to pick up newspapers and mail rather than have these services stopped – if this course of action is feasible for the neighbors involved.

Young, along with CSOs Hutchison and Kinney, also endorsed equipping the home with a burglar alarm system that emits a loud noise when the residence is entered. Dogs, along with their other virtues, were praised for their value in making noise and discouraging burglaries.

Among the new homeowners' neighborhood watch, leaders Levy and Zaniker said plans will continue to involve more residents in the program. Levy said the new program will have its own e-mail address by which contact can be made with her or Zaniker. Another community gathering to fine-tune the program further is being planned for late April or early May, Levy said.



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## APRIL

### Short Story Contest

Open to ages 16 and older. \$5 entry fee. Please make checks payable to Friends of the Elk Grove Library. Deadline for entries is 5 p.m., Saturday, April 3, 2010. Entries may be fiction or non-fiction and not longer than 1,000 words. Manuscript must be typed and double-spaced. Final word count to be written at the top of the title page. Name, address, phone number, email address and story title to be written on a 3x5 card and attached to the entry. Do not put your name on the manuscript. Winners will receive cash awards. First place-\$100 Second place-\$75 Third place-\$50. Awards will be presented at the Elk Grove Library Writer's Workshop, April 17, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Submissions will not be returned. Mail or bring your manuscript to Elk Grove

Library Short Story Contest, 8900 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624.

### German Language and Cultural Classes

German Language and Cultural classes for adults and children offered at Central United Methodist Church 5265 H Street (H & 53rd) spring sessions beginning April 5, 2010. For information call 916 488-7922 or [www.irmgardschlenker.com](http://www.irmgardschlenker.com).

### The Savvy Caregiver

Based on research by experts, this new 6-week course from the Alzheimer's Association will provide clinical-level training for family caregivers. The program provides over 12-hours of face-to-face training with dementia experts, a caregiver manual and CD-ROM. Six consecutive Tuesdays: April 6, 13, 20 and May 4, 11, and 18. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., ACC Park City, 7375 Park City Dr. For a limited time, this \$75 course is being offered for free. Transportation and respite expenses can be covered by a grant. Please inquire. Pre-registration required by April 1. To register, please call Denise Davis at 916-930-9080 or e-mail at [Denise.Davis@alzncorcal.org](mailto:Denise.Davis@alzncorcal.org).

### Easter services

Greenhaven Lutheran Church and Angels Nest Pre-school, located at 475 Florin Rd. at Gloria Drive, is holding religious Easter services on April 1, at 7 p.m. for Maundy Thursday Services; April 2, at 7 p.m. for Good Friday Service; April 4, at 10 a.m. for Easter Sunday Services; and a free Easter brunch at 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 428-8449.

## APRIL 2

### California Writers Club

The California Writers Club's Writer's Network meeting on April 2 at 9 a.m. at IHOP Restaurant, 2216 Sunrise Blvd. in Rancho Cordova just north of Hwy. 50 will present Elva Anson, MA, MFT, author of five books and a number of articles, speaking on "A Writing Wonderland." Guests welcome. For more information, call (916) 944-3185.

## APRIL 2-3

### CalPERS hosts retirement fairs

A free retirement planning fair for members of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) is scheduled April 2-3 (Friday and Saturday) at the Sacramento Convention Center, 1400

J Street. The fair will begin both days at 9 a.m., and end at 4 p.m. on Friday, and 3 p.m. on Saturday. CalPERS members include all state and classified public school employees, and municipal employees in Sacramento, Davis, Woodland, and Folsom; employees of El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba counties; and employees of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District and the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. Sacramento State University employees are also CalPERS members. CalPERS members who attend the fairs will receive information on CalPERS benefits, programs, and services that help them plan for a more secure retirement. Retirees will receive information on how to better manage and preserve their retirement assets. For more information about CalPERS, visit [www.calpers.ca.gov](http://www.calpers.ca.gov).

## APRIL 3-4

### Bonsai and Rock Exhibit

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai of Sacramento presents the 33rd annual show of the Bonsai and Rock Exhibit. It's taking place at the Sacramento Buddhist Church at the Betsuin Hall, 2401 Riverside Blvd. on Saturday and Sunday April 3-4. Hours are Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.; Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Demonstrations each day at 2 p.m.

## APRIL 5

### German Language and Cultural Classes

German Language and Cultural classes for adults and children offered at Central United Methodist Church, 5265 H St. (H & 53rd) spring sessions beginning April 5. For information call 916 488-7922 or [www.irmgardschlenker.com](http://www.irmgardschlenker.com).

## APRIL 7

### Poetry Reading

Held from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at the Sacramento Public Library, 828 I St., the Sacramento Poetry Center will hold a poetry reading in the Sacramento Room on the first Wednesday of each month. April's offering features three poet-publishers: Robert Grossklaus of Polymer Grove Press, Brad Buchanan of Roan Press and Kathy Kieth of Rattlesnake Press. They will read their poems and also talk about their local publishing ventures. Street parking is free after 6 pm. For more info: 916-264-2920 or [www.saclibrary.org](http://www.saclibrary.org)

## APRIL 8

### Computer club meeting

The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet on Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive, Carmichael. The meeting topic will be "Computer Networking", presented by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc. Adam will lead a problem solving clinic immediately following the meeting. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information call (916) 366-1687 or visit our website at [www.missionoakscomputerclub.org](http://www.missionoakscomputerclub.org).

## APRIL 8-11

### Brundibar, a Holocaust-Era Opera

On April 8-11, 2010, the Sacramento Children's Chorus with support from the Sacramento Opera will perform Brundibar, the internationally acclaimed 1938 children's opera. Musical accompaniment will be provided by the Sacramento Youth Symphony. The production will be held at the Hiram Johnson High School theatre, 6879 14th Ave., with four public performances and two matinee performances to accommodate school field trips. The final Sunday public performance will be held on Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah), April 11, 2010. The opera will be sung in English and accompanied by English super titles. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students.

## APRIL 9

### Cultural Events Fair

The Cultural Events Fair takes place at McClatchy High School located on Freeport Boulevard on April 9 from 3:15 to 5:15 pm. It is a fair offered to students in the HISP Program (Humanities and International Studies program) as a way to learn about different cultures outside the classroom. There are workshops held all over the campus. They include Sushi making, Painting in Pastels, Photography, Fencing, Drumming, Acupuncture, Belly Dancing to name a few. There are between 14 and 16 workshops. Most presenters are business and professional people from the area and they do both lectures, labs and hands-on. Usually they bring colorful and interesting props such as real fencing gear, food ingredients, posters, costumes etc. The event is highly spirited and positive and very well received among the students, parents and teachers.



## Carmichael Geranium Society

### April Meeting

Carmichael Geranium Society April Meeting is Friday April 9, 10 a.m. to noon at the Carmichael Community Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave. We will have an overview of how to use Geraniums in culinary recipes - visitors welcome. We will also make final plans for our May 1 annual Show and Plant Sale.

## APRIL 10

### Sewing Garage Sale

Held Saturday, April 10, 2010, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., North Highlands Community Center, 6040 Watt Avenue, Sacramento. Sponsor: Sacramento Chapter, American Sewing Guild. Admission: Free, open to the public. Highlights: The sale includes hundreds of yards of quality and bargain fabric sold at \$1 to a few dollars per yard. Also for sale are sewing notions and equipment, craft items, sewing patterns, books and magazines. Sewing items may be donated to the sale or made available for sale - see the contact information below. Coffee and baked goods will be available for purchase. For more information contact: Ellen Alexander, (530) 432-5477, 1dande2@comcast.net.

### "Art for MS"

The event is from 5 to 9 p.m. at Fe Gallery, 1100 65th St. Please join former mayor or Heather Fargo for "Art for MS" a Silent Art Auction and Raffle to benefit for Multiple Sclerosis at Fe Gallery, 1100 65th Street, Sacramento. Your support will bring awareness to our community and make a difference to those living with Multiple sclerosis. Enjoy demonstrations of blacksmithing, glass blowing, portrait drawing, best in the show awards and much more. Please join us for this worthy and enjoyable event. Call 916.456.4455 or visit [www.fegallery.com](http://www.fegallery.com) <<http://www.fegallery.com/>> for more information and updates about "Art for MS."

### Free E-waste Collection

A fundraiser for The Didion Forum, the event is Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Genevieve Didion K-8 School, West Parking Lot, 6490 Harmon Dr. They will accept: monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, small kitchen equipment (blenders, toasters, etc.), cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multi-

function scanners and fax machines. Simply arrive between 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. the day of the event! They will unload your E-Waste for you and generate money for our school. Questions? Contact, Tim Gergen, Forum Vice President, at [tgergen@yahoo.com](mailto:tgergen@yahoo.com).

### Rummage Sale and Pancake Breakfast

Held at Sutterville Elementary School, 4967 Monterey Way, the Rummage Sale is 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and the Pancake Breakfast is 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. A preview story would also be great (if news is slow). Your hook could be the school district's budget crisis. Our PTA is doing all it can to raise money, because we know even more services are going to be cut. We already pay for a music teacher and an art teacher at our school along with various assemblies. Thanks so much! If you need more information, you can reach me at [therobbiebug@sbcglobal.net](mailto:therobbiebug@sbcglobal.net) or 456-4331.

### Jensen Garden Workday

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, April 10, 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 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 email [tracy@carmichaelpark.com](mailto:tracy@carmichaelpark.com).

### Jensen Botanical Garden Plant Sale

The Friends of the Jensen Botanical Garden will hold a plant sale, Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Jensen Garden located at 8520 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. Ferns, succulents among many other plants available. All proceeds will benefit the restoration of the Jensen Botanical Garden. Come early for the best selection to get your spring planting off to a great start! For more info: Virginia Sturdevant (916) 488-2006.

### E-waste recycling event in Pocket

Free e-waste collection fundraiser for The Didion Forum. Event is Saturday, April 10 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Genevieve Didion K-8 School, the West Parking Lot, 6490 Harmon Dr. Simply arrive between 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. the day of the event! We will unload your E-Waste for you and gener-

ate money for the school. They will accept: monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, small kitchen equipment (blenders, toasters, etc.), cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines.

## APRIL 10-11

### Benefit plant sale to send kids to camp

The Benefit Plant Sale on April 10th & 11th will benefit Sunburst Projects Camp program, giving kids with HIV/AIDS a chance to go to camp and get away from the day to day stresses of dealing with the disease. The Plant Sale will be Saturday and Sunday, April 10-11 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the covered parking area on 18th St, behind The Gifted Gardener at 18th & J Streets. One of the largest selections of perennials of the year will be at the sale, with such hard to find items as Aconitum (Monkshood), Wood Poppy, Aspidistra, Agastache, and over 200 other varieties available, including a number of 2010 introductions (Echinacea and Crocus varieties) not yet in local nurseries. Donations for the kids will also be accepted, with cash receipts available for tax purposes. For more information on Sunburst, go to [www.sunburstprojects.org](http://www.sunburstprojects.org) or call Jennifer at (916) 440-0889 ext 301. For more info on the plant sales, call Mr. Hamm, the sale organizer at (916) 943-6183 or email him at [gardennotes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gardennotes@sbcglobal.net).



## Changing hands

On March 27, the Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 presented the 115th Installation of Officers 2010-11. The ceremony saw the Exalted Ruler title pass from Richard Cherry, right, to Ron Brusato, the former Leading Knight. Lona D. Taggart was also promoted as the new Leading Knight of the Pocket-based Elks Lodge.

Photo by Pocket News photographer Linda Pohl.



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EASTER SUNDAY..... April 4, 7:30am, 9am, 11:15am,  
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# Hughes Stadium: A 'horseshoe' full of memories

*Editor's Note: This is part two of a two-part series regarding the history of Land Park's Hughes Stadium. Read the whole story online at [www.valcomnews.com](http://www.valcomnews.com).*

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Pocket News Writer  
[lance@valcomnews.com](mailto:lance@valcomnews.com)

Following its Oct. 13, 1928 inaugural day event, which featured a pair of football games and a dedication ceremony, the horseshoe-shaped Sacramento Stadium – later known as Hughes Stadium – continued to prove its value as a community asset, as it attracted many fans of sports, live music and other events.

The Sacramento High football team returned to the stadium on Oct. 27, 1928 for a game against Lodi High after opening the long-awaited city venue with a 33-0 victory against Modesto High.

The first Thanksgiving Day football game at the stadium was played between the grid-iron squad of San Mateo Junior College and the Sacramento Junior College (today's Sacramento City College) team, which beat the Santa Rosa Junior College team 24-6 in the second game of the stadium's opening day games.

A soccer game was first played at the stadium in about January 1929 and in May 1929, the Far West Conference Track Meet was held at the stadium. This latter event was perhaps the first of what would be many such events held at the stadium, including the National Junior Collegiate Track and Field Meet on May 27, 1939 and the 1968 U.S. Track and Field Championships.

On May 25, 1929, about 10,000 Sacramento schoolchildren participated in a historical pageant with "historical episodes of early California" and "many beautiful floats depicting early events of national fame."

By 1931, speedway motorcycle racing made its way to the stadium and remained extremely popular until the late 1940s.

Midget racing, featuring small racecars with high power-to-weight ratios, were also introduced to the stadium's track in the 1930s.

Tom Motter, author of Sacramento: Dirt Capital of the West, said that the stadium served as a very historically important motorsports venue.

"Hughes Stadium's prominence in the whole auto racing

scheme of things came about probably because it was the only venue in the city that had the space to accommodate that kind of racing," Motter said. "Hughes Stadium, being the largest venue for any kind of event, drew a lot of large crowds for motor sports events. And its importance in midget racing can't be minimized, because it was the birthplace of midget auto racing (on June 4, 1933) and as such, it will always be at the heart of what we now know as modern-day midget auto racing."

Motorsport events, including track roadster racing, continued at the stadium until about the mid-1960s.

Other events held at the stadium during its earlier years included boxing, a circus, a religious event, a rodeo and high school and college commencements.

During World War II, SCC's campus served as a place to both educate and house soldiers as part of the Army Special Training Program and pilots were housed in tents on playing fields and in the stadium.

## Field of champions

One of the most popular and well-attended events at the stadium was the an-

nual Turkey Day Game, a Thanksgiving holiday football matchup between Sacramento and McClatchy high schools, which was first held in 1937.

The 1945 game between these two schools marked the first time the stadium had been filled to its capacity.

The rivalry, which later became known as the Bell Game and was relocated to Hornet Field at Sacramento State, was discontinued after the 1975 game.

The two teams reunited for a special reunion Bell Game at Hughes Stadium on Nov. 10, 2006. The game was won by the Sacramento High Dragons squad 52-20 before a crowd of 5,500 spectators.

Among the most notable parts of the stadium's history occurred from 1974 to 1976, as the venue was converted to host the home games of the new version of the Sacramento Solons Triple-A, minor league baseball team.

As a baseball venue, which drew 17,318 spectators for its inaugural game, the stadium was famous for its short, left field line, which allowed many normally routine fly ball outs to instead become home runs.

Like many of the Solons teams of the past, their fan support was often more impressive than their won-loss record.

The Solons, for instance, led the nation in minor league baseball attendance during the 1974 season, while finishing in last place.

Nonetheless, the fans enjoyed the highlights of their team, as well as a June 5, 1975 Solons-Milwaukee Brewers exhibition game, which featured a long home run by the legendary slugger Hank Aaron, who was playing for the Brewers at the time.

Unfortunately for the 1970s Solons, part of their time in Sacramento was plagued by the possibility that the historic stadium where they played their home games might be torn down and replaced with a new stadium, which would not accommodate the team's games.

Fortunately, for those who fought against the demolition of the old stadium, which was determined to not meet the Field Act earthquake safety standards for schools, a secondary plan was approved, as the stadium instead underwent a major renovation, beginning in 1977.

Nonetheless, the Solons were not victors with this alternative plan and were evicted and relocated to San Jose.

## Football frenzy

The renovation of the stadium, which is the oldest existing structure on the SCC campus, was timely in the sense that the venue was readied for its rededication ceremony at the same time that it was celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Midway through the Oct. 28, 1978 football game between Sacramento City College and Fresno City College, the rededication was held with Dr. Robert Lynch, the emcee and a member of the Board of Trustees, Greg Van Dusen, the stadium's manager, and Harry Devine, Jr., the project's architect.

The 1970s also brought the extremely popular Pig

*See Hughes, page 27*

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# Hughes: 'Stadium stands tall as one of the city's premier historic landmarks'

Continued from page 26

Bowl between the local police and sheriff's departments to Hughes Stadium.

The first of these fundraising games, which was complimented with entertainment by the Capital Freelancers and marching bands from Kennedy and Elk Grove high schools, was held on Jan. 11, 1975 and drew only the third sellout crowd in the stadium's then 46-year history.

The Sacramento Police Department won the game 18-17 with a strong effort by the game's most valuable player Mike Schuering, who rushed for 148 yards. Schuering was also the MVP of Pig Bowls II, III, VI and VII.

Although the teams enjoyed competing for bragging rights between the departments, it was always considered that there were truly no

losers in these games, since the games were played for charities.

Today, the game is no longer played at Hughes Stadium and since 2003, has been known as Guns and Hoses – a matchup between the local law enforcement Hogs and the local fire service Dogs.

Predating the Pig Bowl is the popular Holy Bowl football game, which celebrated a special anniversary with the 40th edition of the game last September.

Played annually at Hughes Stadium, the Holy Bowl pairs the local Catholic educational institutions, Christian Brothers and Jesuit high schools.

Although Christian Brothers won last year's game 21-6 before a crowd of about 16,000 spectators, Jesu-

it leads the rivalry with 23 wins to Christian Brothers' 15 wins. The teams have also tied twice.

Many other football games have been played at the stadium, including Sacramento Capitals games of a long ago disbanded league, the Camellia Bowl college football games (1961-75 and 1980), San Francisco 49ers and Oakland Raiders NFL exhibition games and many prep and college games.

In 1991, Hughes Stadium was also home to the Sacramento Surge of the now defunct World League of American Football. The team won the league's World Bowl while playing at Hornet Stadium the following year, which was also the league's final year with American teams.

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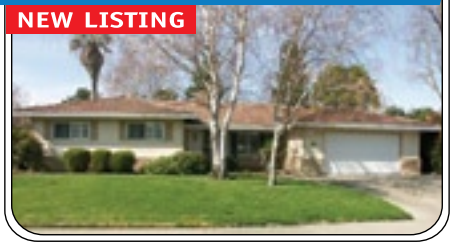
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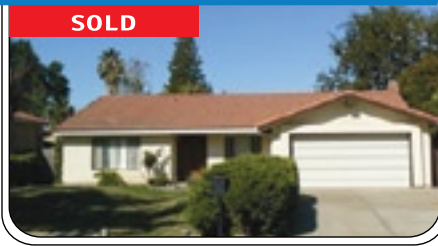
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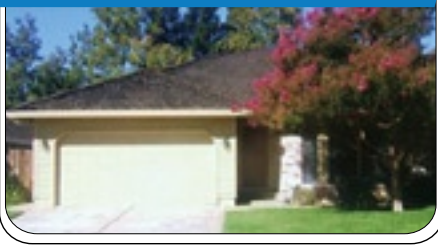
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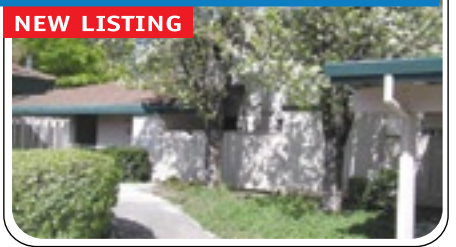
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