

School districts facing major budget challenges

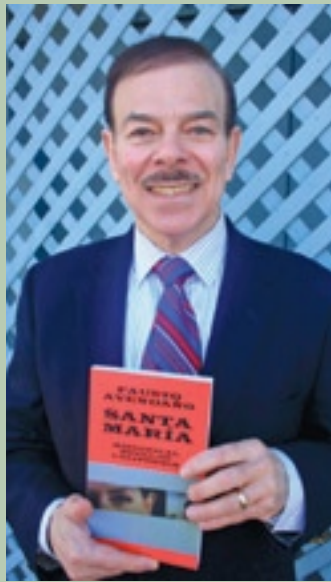
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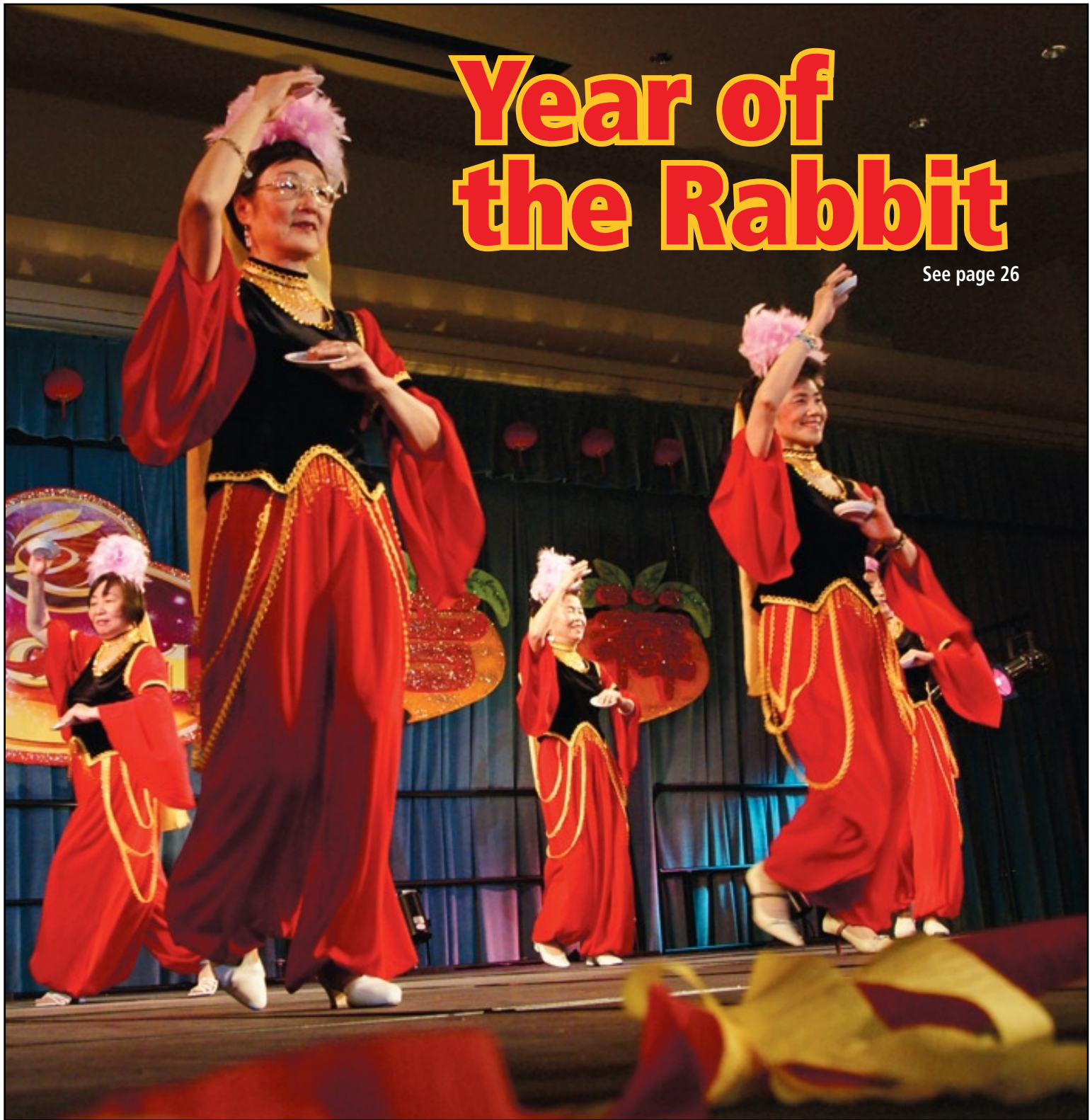
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RETIREMENT & ASSISTED LIVING

A purrrrrrr-fect idea...Designate Sacramento an official cat capital

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Pocket News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is the first article in a two-part series featuring cats of the Sacramento area.

Cat lovers rejoice! A movement to make Sacramento a "cat capital" begins right here.

Sure, this is an unofficial movement, but such an action has to begin somewhere.

Our city is already recognized for a variety of things, including one of its most historic notoriety, its official designation as the "Camellia Capital of the World."

But with a tour around the Sacramento area, it is clear that we are missing the mark when it comes to honoring one of the city's most cherished animals – the cat.

Signs of the city's deep affection for cats are all around us from the names of school mas-

cots such as the Lions of McClatchy High, the Cougars of Kennedy High and the Panthers of Sacramento City College to cat-related statuary and details within local architecture.

A close look at the 92-year-old Central Library building at 828 I St. and across the street from the library at the 77-year-old post office, for instance, reveals images of the heads of lions.

A lion's head fountain is located behind the Julia Morgan House at 3731 T Street.

Additionally, lion statuary can be seen in such places as in front of McClatchy High and in front of a few buildings on 22nd Street, between S and V streets.

One of the more telling signs that Sacramento is already at least an unofficial "cat capital" is the fact that cat ownership is not always a residential affair.

And those who find this statement confusing are certainly not familiar with the many "shop cats" of the Sacramento area.

Among these shop cats is Ace, an 11-pound, white and gray Maine Coon cat at Ace Hardware at 4005 Manzanita Ave., Ste. 24 in Carmichael.

Harley Cowger, a sales floor employee at the hardware store, said that Ace selected the store as his home.

"(Ace) was a feral cat and he walked in here one day (about seven months ago) and hasn't decided to leave yet," Cowger said. "He has free range and he has his own little apartment out back and he pretty much does what he wants. Customers love him and he even has his own Facebook (Web site) fans.

But Internet presence as a Sacramento cat is not ex-



Photo courtesy, F.O. Blvd. Nursery
Shop cats Ming (bottom) and Maggie find unique places to hang out at Fair Oaks Boulevard Nursery.

clusive to Ace, as Ming and Maggie, a pair of tuxedo cats at Fair Oaks Boulevard Nursery at 4681 Fair Oaks Blvd., also have their own pages on the Web site www.fairoaksblvdnursery.com.

In praising Ming, Candie Abke, the nursery's gift shop manager, said that Ming has excelled in customer service through greeting customers, following them around and even riding in the carts of some customers. She added that Maggie is a biter and is thus still in training.

Despite their contrasting demeanors, Ming and Maggie both receive royal treatment and sleep in a "cat palace" bed at the nursery.

East Sacramento certainly does not strike out when it comes to shop cats, as the area has at least one such cat.

See Cat Capital, page 5

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Cat Capital: Our feline-rich city includes shop cats, cat mascots, statuary, Internet presence

Continued from page 4

Talini's Nursery and Garden Center at 5601 Folsom Blvd. is home to Caspar, one of the oldest and largest shop cats in the city.

Weighing about 18 pounds, Caspar actually appears even larger than her weight may specify. But many people who know her best say that she is also "a lot of fluff."

Talini's manager Jill Franklin recently related the story of how Caspar became a resident of Talini's about 12 years ago.

"She was a feral cat," Franklin said. "She was a little kitten and she used to hide (behind the store). She was just too cute for anyone to resist, so we started feeding her. At first, she wouldn't let anyone touch her and she would just kind of follow us around through the plants at the nursery like a little ghost, so we named her Caspar. She (later) warmed up to us and she's been our little shop cat ever since."

Franklin added that throughout the years, Caspar has developed such a large fan club that many people stop by the nursery for the lone purpose of visiting this very popular shop cat.

"Some people come here and the first thing they ask is 'Where's the cat?' or 'Where's Caspar?' Franklin said. "They spend the whole time looking for the cat and not really wanting any plants."

But people who arrive at local businesses to simply visit shop cats is a common theme for any such store with a resident cat.

Corey Okada, a clerk at Beers Books at 915 S Street, said that Raffles, the store's cat who was named after a character in a book featuring a cat burglar, also has her own fan club.

"(Raffles) has quite the following," Okada said. "She's the perfect cat to be a store cat. She gets petted all day and doesn't mind, unlike a lot of cats. People love her and come in just to see her."

Two of the more unique shop cats in Sacramento are Ti and Teva, who roam on long leashes in the customer lounge of Black Rock Auto at 615 15th Street #A.

Black Rock Manager Mark Pflipsen said that these rescued strays have adapted to be-

come some of the friendliest cats he has ever seen.

"They are super friendly," Pflipsen said. "You can take either cat and push them down, roll them upside down and play mop with them and slide them around and they just love it."

In the Land Park area, the longtime, local record store, Records at 1618 Broadway, is home to Joey, about a six-year-old cat who also resided at the store's previous location on the K Street Mall.

There is something about literature and cats that go well together and perhaps this is why bookstores are one of the more common businesses with shop cats.

Unfortunately, the two shop cats of one of the city's more cat-friendly bookstores, Time Tested Books at 1114 21st Street, passed away about five years ago. But the store still shows its love for cats with its wooden cat on wheels and a wooden cat that sits above the business's records.

With apologies to Caspar, a 23-pound cat at Richard L. Press Fine Books at 1831 F St. #A likely holds the title of the heaviest shop cat in Sacramento.

Describing the cat, Richard L. Press, the business's owner, said, "His name is Arshile. Everybody says that it's a Maine Coon, but Maine Coons have fluffy tails, supposedly. This is not a fluffy tail. This is a tabby, but he's a giant."

Press, who previously owned a shop cat, named Willow, said that Arshile appears quite often on a video about his store. The link for the video is www.vimeo.com/18289183.

The presence of Sacramento area cats on the Internet can also be found on the Web site, www.youtube.com. The site includes various Sacramento area feline-related videos, ranging from a collection of photographs of Clarice the cat set to the music of Tom Jones' "What's New Pussycat" to a story of a cat that allegedly saved the life of its owner during a fire.

And from the Sacramento music scene, there is a band, called Fish Cat Fish, and a widely recognized image used by the Deftones, one of the most popular bands to emerge from the capital city, is that of a "screaming" (actually yawning) kitten.

Cat fever even extends across the Sacramento River, as is apparent through the city of Davis' B&L Bike Shop, which is home to a shop cat, named Milo.

But perhaps no greater tribute to cats can be found west of the capital city than at West Sacramento's Raley Field, which is home to the extremely popular Sacramento River Cats Pacific Coast League baseball team and the team's mascot Dinger the cat.

The team is appropriately named when considering the many feral cats that reside along the eastern and western banks of the river.

Although many local residents are not fond of the fact that the non-baseball river cats and many alley cats of the downtown/midtown area run free with no owners, these cats provide further evidence of Sacramento's need to be officially recognized as a "cat city."

With no committee members, no committee, no official stand by this publication and no other known mention of



Photo courtesy, F.O. Blvd. Nursery

Ming of Fair Oaks Boulevard Nursery is among the Sacramento area's most popular and friendly shop cats.

this movement besides this informational, thought-provoking article, Sacramento's potential prominence as an official "cat city" is obviously lacking its much needed support.

But as a bit of encouragement for those who are hesitating to support this issue, the following modified quote of Mark Twain – apologies to Mr. Clemens! – should be remembered: "It's

not the size of the cat lover in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the cat lover."

Despite the existence of much time before the November election, attempting to obtain official "cat city" status should be no easy endeavor.

But whatever happens, one thing is for sure – cat fever is strong in the Sacramento area.

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See answers page 20

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District 7 Update

Redistricting: How to get involved

By **DARRELL FONG**
Sacramento City Council Member, District 7
dfong@cityofsacramento.org

Redistricting is a topic which, whether we like it or not, we have to discuss every ten years.

With the completion of the 2010 Census, the City Council has started discussing how the redistricting process will be handled.

On Feb. 8, the Council decided to create a Redistricting Citizens Advisory Committee (RCAC). This Committee will work on a parallel timeline with community groups, City staff, and the Council. The RCAC, once formed, will host numerous community meetings; I encourage everyone to attend. My office is working to schedule separate meetings that will allow you to provide your ideas on how the new boundaries should be drawn directly to our office.

Important considerations

As community members, we should consider, when we discuss developing a new boundary for our District, the following: (1) Districts that are equal populations; (2) Topography; (3) Geography; (4) Cohesiveness of districts; (5) Continuity; (6) Integrity and compactness of territory; (7) Communities of interest; and (8) Existing neighborhoods and community boundaries.

The Council will finalize new district boundaries by the end of September this year. The proposed timeline for the redistricting process is currently:

- February – March: Community Education on Process
- April: Census Data, Tools, and Community Outreach/Training
- May: Proposals due to the City
- June – July: Receive and Consider Redistricting Comments and Proposals
- July – August: Council Selection Process
- September: Adopt Final Boundaries



Photo courtesy Sacramento City Council Member Darrell Fong

Office hours

We will be holding office hours on Saturday Feb. 19 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Community Room at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Drive in Sacramento. These office hours are to provide you with an opportunity to discuss your concerns and ideas.

Please, if you have questions, contact my office. My mailing address is City Hall, 915 I Street, Sacramento CA 95814 and my phone number is (916) 808-7007. You can email me at dfong@cityofsacramento.org.



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Area schools hold open forums to explain budget cuts

By ELIZABETH VALENTE
Pocket News writer
elizabeth@valcomnews.com

With the state facing a \$25.4 billion deficit over the next 17 months, schools across the State are looking at ways to cut back. Everyone is scrambling to make staffing decisions by the March 15 deadline for preliminary layoff notices. Final layoff notices will come out two months later on May 15.

Sac City Unified and San Juan Unified school districts have launched weeks of budget discussions focused on options familiar to public agencies around the county. The goal is to increase community awareness of 2011-12 budget issues and engage the public in this difficult process. The two unified school districts are contemplating two different budget scenarios for the 2011-12 school year; one if voters agree to extend temporary state tax increases and the other if they don't.

The difference is dramatic.

Sacramento City Unified School District:

If the tax increase is pushed through, Sac. City Unified School District (SCUSD) is looking to cut only \$9.05 million from its budget gap. If the proposed tax increase extensions does not pass, the school district is looking to cut \$22.3 million.

"In these uncertain times, it becomes critically important that we work hard to educate our community about budget challenges and listen to their suggestions and concerns," explained SCUSD Superintendent Jonathan Raymond. "The better informed our community is, the better they can work with us to find innovative and resourceful ways we can do more to accelerate student learning with less state funding."

According to the SCUSD website, the proposed cuts are:

- Reduce adult education
- Reduce staff pay
- Eliminate busing

- Reduce counselors
- Increase seventh- and eighth-grade class sizes from 31 to 35, increase class sizes to 40 in ninth grade, 36 in seventh and eighth grades, and 34 in fourth through sixth grade

Given that reality, school officials are hoping their worse-case scenario doesn't get even worse. "These are horrible, horrible decisions we are proposing and the only thing worse than to make these decisions at all is trying to make them in a vacuum," said Gabe Ross, Chief Communications Officer Sacramento City Unified School District. "If it plans on being better than we thought then we can scale back."

According to Ross, in the last nine years, the district has cut \$177 million in expenditures – a 35 percent reduction. Even if voters pass tax extensions in a special election, it is projected that more cuts will be needed to balance SCUSD's budget for next year, due to the lingering recession and enrollment declines in some areas.

San Juan Unified School District:

San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) is working to reduce expenditures by at least \$36.7 million. If the Governor's budget fails or voters do not approve the extension of temporary taxes, the total amount of needed reductions grows to \$49.6 million. On Feb 8, the Board discussed reductions for schools through staffing allocations as well as reductions at the central office. The staffing allocations return to the Board on March 8 for action.

There are more than 40,000 SJUSD students that will be affected by the cuts. "Our number one position is to teach kids and therefore the core work should be protected in the classrooms," said Tom Alves, Executive Director of the San Juan Teachers Association. "They keep cutting much more deeply in the classrooms than the administration and central office. We've always said it needs to start there."

Despite an early rejection from the SJUSD, Alves is still pushing for a retirement incentive that addresses

managing the exodus of teachers in a financial and fiscal way. "If we let go of the bottom 200 teachers that make an average \$40,000 a year instead of the top 200 teachers that average \$75,000, that's a big difference."

According to the SJUSD website, if there are no tax extensions some of the possible impacts would be:

- Reduce staff allocations as well as reductions at the central office
- Eliminate adult education
- Offer bus transportation only to special education students
- Increase K-3 class sizes
- Eliminate 357 teacher, vice principal, counselor and district-level administrator positions

More than 49 of those positions are central office staff, including media techs, Regional Occupation Program (RoP) coordinators, and even high school counselors.

"There's between two and four full-time positions allocated for counselors in high school," explains Trent Allen, San Juan Unified School District spokesman. "For the next academic year the Board is considering one full time counselor for schools with one-thousand or fewer students. For the schools between one to two thousand students we'd have three full time counselors."

Craig Stradley, whose son attends at Rio Americano High School, says even though he understands some cuts are needed, he also believes some positions like high school counselors are a necessity.

"Counselors are the ones that are guiding the students to their next level of education, whether it's a four-year university or a trade school that goes indirectly to the workforce," said Stradley. "I think it's going to be one of the most painful cuts."

Anytime school districts talk about school closures or cutbacks they get a lot of feedback from parents, businesses, and other organization. This academic year both school districts have seen a spike in teacher/parent/school/business involvement than in years past.

"This time around it's more constructive I think because we went through the strategic planning process and invited more than 300 members of the SJUSD community to come in and help set direction for the district and create some honest dialog," said Allen. "The other piece is the economic climate we are in. Folks realize there will be reductions and sacrifices and it's not a question if we have to be doing it, but rather, let's figure out the best way to do them."

"We can't pretend that this will be an easy year," said Raymond. "But if we work together with all of our partners, I believe we can make it through. And families are our most important partners."

It could be weeks or months before its clear which budget scenario comes to pass. Gov. Jerry Brown is urging legislators to vote next month to create a special election in June, asking voters to extend increases in the sales tax, vehicle license fee and income tax that are due to expire June 30. First he would need to get a two-thirds vote from the Legislature for the special election. If they don't, K-12 and community colleges' share of the budget would be cut by at least \$2.2 billion.

The following is a schedule of forums (all meetings start at 6:30 p.m.):

- Tuesday, Feb. 22 - Rosemont High School, 9594 Kiefer Blvd.
- Wednesday, Feb. 23 - Will C. Wood Middle School, 6201 Lemon Hill Ave.
- Tuesday, March 1 - John Still Elementary School, 2200 John Still Drive
- Wednesday, March 2 - John F. Kennedy High School, 6715 Gloria Drive
- Tuesday, March 8 - Father Keith B. Kenny Elementary School, 3525 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

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Pocket area resident authors new California historical novel

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Pocket News writer
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The Hornet Bookstore at Sacramento State University will be the site of a special event today, March 17, at 4 p.m., as longtime Pocket area resident Dr. Fausto Avendaño will lecture about his latest book, "Santa Maria."

The setting for the lecture is quite fitting, considering that Avendaño retired from the university last August after 37 years of teaching literature and language at this local institution of higher learning.

People who are most familiar with Avendaño know that although he is a person who was very serious about his role as an educator at the university, he is also a person who has been very dedicated to his writing.

In pondering his retirement, Avendaño, who during his teaching career has taught Hispanic, Portuguese and Brazilian literature and Spanish, Portuguese and French languages, said, "I've always been writing, but now I have more time to write."

"Santa Maria," which is mainly set in the 1850s through the 1870s, is a historical novel, which presents the story of the cultural struggles and various interactions between the Prescotts, an Anglo-American family from

Virginia who relocates to California, and the Uribes, an established Mexican-American family living in California.

When asked why he desired to write "Santa Maria," Avendaño said that he has been interested in bringing more attention to early day Mexican-Americans since the days of his youth.

"When I was growing up in Southern California, of course I would go see the films and there were a lot of westerns at the time," Avendaño said. "In the westerns, you always saw the Anglo-American hero and even if the actors were not Anglo-American themselves, the heroes that were depicted were Anglo-Americans. Even as a young boy, I read a lot of history, so I knew my history. I said, 'Where are the Mexican-Americans? I know they were here. Where are they?'"

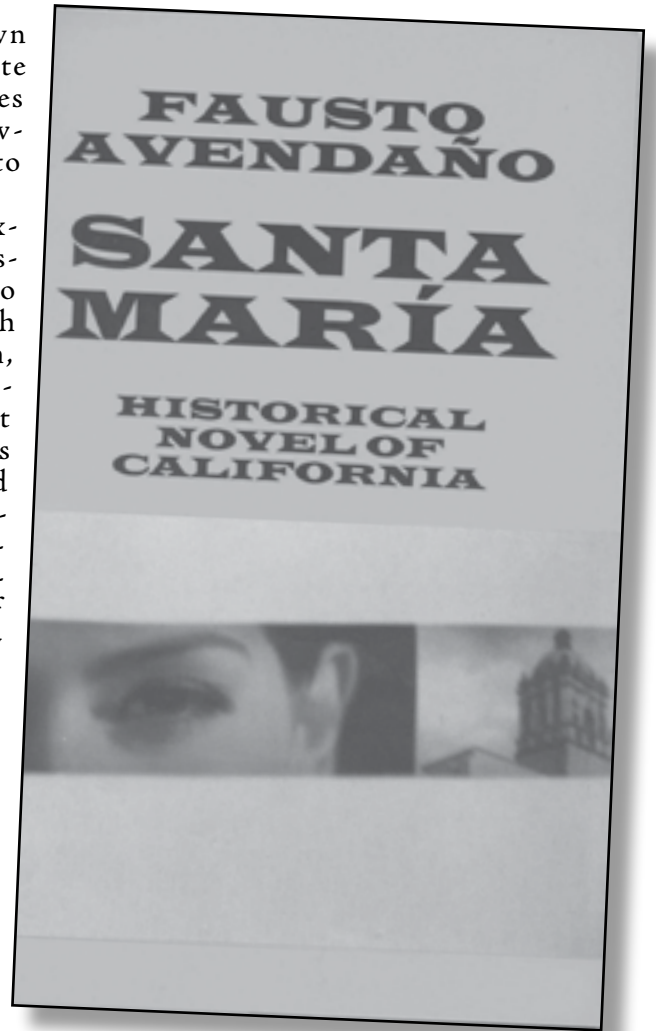
"The only thing that once in a while came up was stereotypes. Usually the heavies were Mexican-Americans and sometimes these Mexican-Americans who appeared were not even Mexican. They were some other ethnicity dressed up in a stereotypical way. That was part of my motivation, because I wanted to open up the West and the Southwest to the story of Mexican-Americans from the 1800s, because it's missing."

The well-known expression, "Write what you know," does well to describe Avendaño's approach to "Santa Maria."

As a notable Mexican-American historical writer, who writes books in both English and Spanish, Avendaño, in creating his most recent book, combined his long established knowledge in early California history with his additional research of California history and his well-seasoned background as a fictional storyteller.

Many readers of "Santa Maria" will find that Avendaño has done his homework when it comes to American and Mexican culture during the 1850s and such topics as the Mexican War and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

In addition to "Santa Maria," Avendaño has also written the following books:



"El Corrido de California" ("The Ballad of California"): Unlike Avendaño's other books, "El Corrido de Califor-

See Novel, page 9

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Novel: Author to lecture about new book today at Sac State

nia," which was published in 1979, is unique in that it was written as a historical play.

"Los Terrícolas" ("The Earthlings"): Published in 1986, this book is a collection of various short stories, some of which have appeared in journals in the United States and Mexico.

"El Sueño de Siempre y Otros Cuentos" ("The Recurrent Dream and Other Stories"): This book, which was published in 1996, features a variety of both fantasy and realistic stories with mostly Mexican-American characters. These stories have settings in California and in the American Southwest.

Salazar's Gold: An award-winning, semi-historical novel, which highlights the Mexican population that remained in California after the territories were enacted. The book, which was published in 2002, presents the conflicts related to Mexican families losing their properties, essentially in Northern California.

"El Corrido de California" and "El Sueño de Siempre y Otros Cuentos," which are Spanish language books, and "Salazar's Gold," which is written in English, are available to be read online at no cost to readers.

Avendaño, who has resided in the Pocket area since 1977, explained that his lecture today allows him the opportunity to present his book, which he said carries a very important message.

"The main thing I want people to understand about the book is that Mexican-Americans have a story to tell during the 1850s and that they were not absent and were here all along and that

"The main thing I want people to understand about the book is that Mexican-Americans have a story to tell during the 1850s and that they were not absent and were here all along and that it was a very difficult time for them"

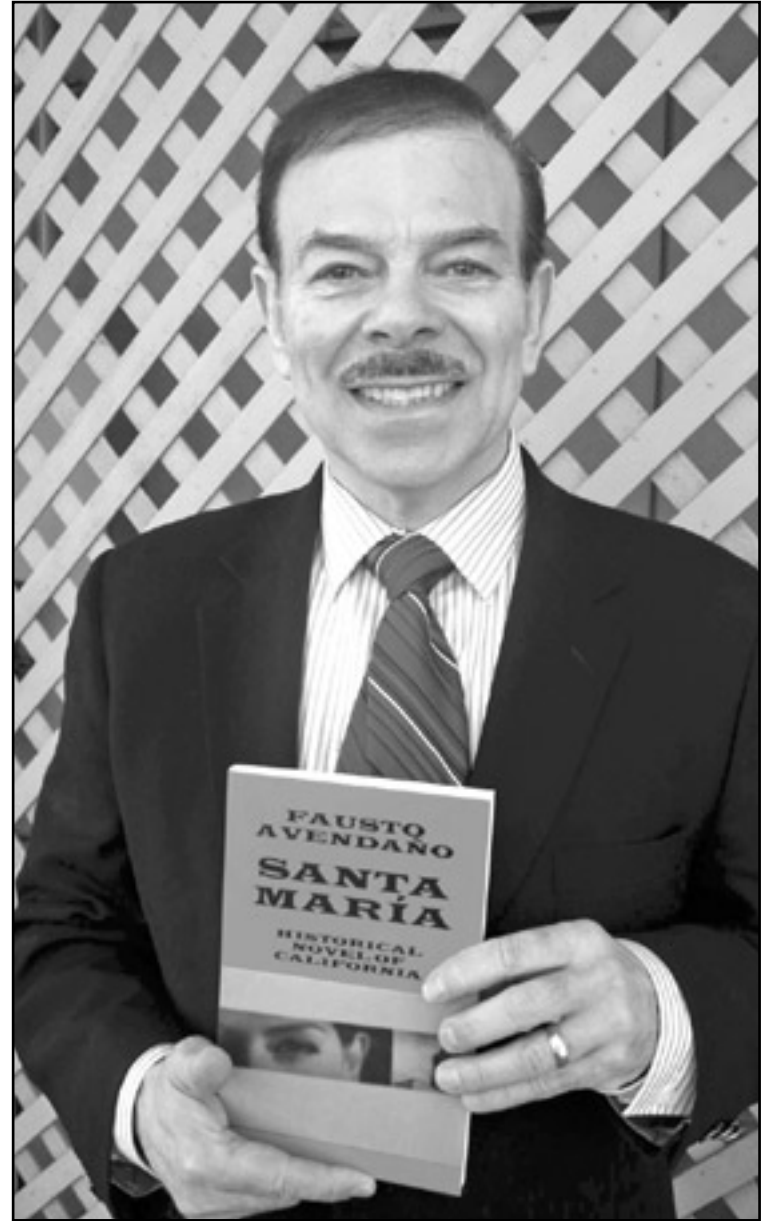
-Dr. Fausto Avendaño

it was a very difficult time for them," Avendaño said. "The book should (be of interest to) anybody who is interested in an entertaining read and to those who (desire) to learn something at the same time about their beloved California. And another thing is people should know about history, because history matters, and much of what we see today is the direct result of historical facts. So, even today, whatever we do today will create reality in the future."

Although Avendaño will be available to sign copies of his new book at today's event, the book can also be purchased by mail. Checks or money orders in the amount of \$14 (\$12 for the book and \$2 for shipping and handling) can be mailed to Spanish Press, P.O. Box 255284, Sacramento, CA 95825.

Books can also be ordered through the Hornet Bookstore or through the Web site www.amazon.com.

For additional information about Avendaño's latest book or to read the first chapter of the book at no cost, visit the Web site www.spanishpress.com.



Pocket News photo, Lance Armstrong

Pocket area resident Dr. Fausto Avendaño will speak about his new book, "Santa Maria," at Sacramento State University today at 4 p.m.

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Let's talk yoga

Questions to consider when choosing a yoga class or instructor

By MARY CHAN
Pocket News guest columnist

What method of yoga are you practicing? Do you know?

When students attend a new yoga class, the answer is usually "I don't know," "Just standard" or "I think hatha yoga." Many have been practicing yoga for years and still don't know nor seem to be interested in learning what method they are doing.

Many people are under the impression that all yoga is the same.

It is not.

When we buy appliances, household items, cars, televisions, computers, personal items, etc., we are interested in getting the best we can afford and the finest quality for a long life. When we seek out a professional, be it dentist, doctor, etc., we want to know about them and their credentials. We've all heard the saying, "You get what you pay for." Yoga should be treated the same way.

Yoga is popular because everyone feels good after practicing yoga regardless of the method. Still, much is to be learned as there are many methods. There are yoga instructors who were certified in three days, three weeks, three months, etc. Then there are instructors who study for five to six years for certification and study the rest of their lives.

My first encounter with yoga was at a local gym fourteen years ago. Always having been an active person, I was used to a lot of movement in whatever I did – such as ballroom dancing, walking, hiking, tennis, gym workout and swimming. So, yoga did not make much sense to me and, honestly, I did not like my first experience: standing with outstretched arms and legs and no movement. I tried a second time and I was convinced yoga was not for me.

Then I was invited to Maui to a friend's wedding where we rented an estate for a week. Across

the street was a small church I visited on Sunday morning. I noticed a weekday yoga class advertised in the church bulletin. I decided to try the class, not sure why, but I was curious.

I had never experienced a traditional yoga class as this one turned out to be. There were about eight students in the class of different ages, quietly the moving in and out of poses with ease. Being given instruction and correction on body alignment and focus on breathing as we went through the poses made me alert and conscious of what I was doing. I loved it.

After the class I returned to the estate to tell my friends that I was going to become a yoga instructor.

There is a myth that yoga is a religion. Yoga is not a religion. Many associate yoga with Hinduism, but in my research I've learned that yoga is older than Hinduism. There is a spiritual side to traditional yoga which only enhances whatever spiritual or religious belief a person has.

Many doctors and chiropractors today are recommending yoga to their patients.

Two things a student should ask a yoga instructor:

First, what method of yoga do you teach, and second, are you still in training? A yoga instructor should forever be in training.

Finally, everyone interested in yoga should decide: "Do I just want to go and get a good workout?" or "Do I want to learn about good posture, body alignment, breath, anatomy and how to develop my own daily practice for a healthier and happier lifestyle?"

Yes, and still get a good workout.

Mary Chan is a certified Iyengar yoga instructor and the owner of Gen-Nih Yoga, located at 1049 Broadway, Suite 10 in Sacramento. Contact her at (916) 731-4831 or email Ma9777@aol.com

Janey Way Memories



Marty becomes an altar boy



By MARTY RELLES
Pocket News columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

During my first week of school in sixth grade at St. Mary's School, the pastor of the church came to speak to the boys in our class. He told us that the church desperately needed new altar boys to assist in the service of daily Mass. Because I was a very devout Catholic at that time, I gladly volunteered to take on this responsibility. Several of my classmates also volunteered.

Within weeks, we all began attending altar boy training sessions. One of the parish priests conducted the lessons which basically delineated the responsibilities of being an altar boy:

1. Setting up the church for Mass;
2. Assisting the priest in putting on the holy garments;
3. Serving the Mass with the priest; and
4. Tidying up the altar after the mass.

Training lasted several weeks, then the priest in charge of scheduling gradually included the new altar boys into the weekly schedule of Mass services.

St. Mary's Parish had three priests, so the Mass schedule was busy. Church policy required that each priest serve at least one Mass daily. Consequently, St. Mary's schedule included Masses at 6 a.m., 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. daily and six Masses on Sunday. That meant that each altar boy served about three Masses per week, plus extra duty serving at funerals and weddings. The boys quickly adjusted to the routine of weekly services.

As an altar boy, I learned a lot about the Catholic Church and the responsibilities of service to it. I recall two important experiences during my tenure as an altar boy which I have not easily forgotten and which to some extent have shaped my view of life.

First, about the time I entered seventh grade, the church took on a new employee, a sacristan named Bernard. He was a very devout and serious man who took on the responsibility of maintaining the church and managing the altar boys.

Bernard had high expectations for our group of servers. He expected the boys to approach life and service to the church with the same degree of piety he nurtured.

This did not work out that well with us.

We were adolescent boys with lots of other things on our minds like school, sports and – oh, yes – girls. This led to some tense moments for all of us.

I recall one incident in particular.

I was serving early Mass with my friend Lou Viani. For some reason, we ran late and thus hurried to complete the service on time. At some point in the Mass, Bernard, who was assisting us, stumbled and dropped one of the cruets (containers for the wine and water).

When I saw that, I giggled, causing Bernard to shoot a dirty look back at me. Then, after the Mass,

See Janey Way, page 25

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'Ciclovía' event proposed for Sacramento

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

Sacramentans know that they are privy to generally good weather, moderately flat terrain and numerous local parks in which to ride bikes. But two Sacramento City Council members are behind a proposal to bring the cycling culture to parts of Sacramento that remain largely untouched by cyclists.

Joe Devlin, chief of staff for District 5 councilman Jay Schenirer, explained that while Sacramento has some avenues for cycling, there remain large areas that can and should be altered to accommodate cyclists. To bring this issue to light, Schenirer and fellow District 3 Councilman Steve Cohn are working on an event called a "ciclovía" which translates to "bike path."

The proposed event, which is still in the planning stages, would entail blocking off areas of midtown Sacramento on streets that could include J Street, Freeport Boulevard, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and Broadway Avenue. The idea would be to block off parts of these streets for a few hours on an agreed upon day in order to let bicyclists ride around in places where they normally couldn't. Ideally the event would



East Sacramento News photo, Benn Hodapp
A social cycling event, called a "ciclovía" is being proposed by Sacramento City councilmembers Jay Schenirer and Steve Cohn. The proposed event could be held in Sacramento's midtown area along J Street, or in Land Park on Broadway or Freeport Boulevard.

integrate with local businesses who would bring some of their merchandise out to the streets to stimulate the local economy as well.

"East Sacramento and Land Park are great places to ride bikes," Devlin said. "It's very flat and has good weather. "It's just missing a culture of cycling."

Joining in on the effort to make the event a reality is the Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA). Because the city likely doesn't have much money to put forth for the event, members of SABA are being called upon to volunteer at the event. Devlin said that he would like to get as many

See Ciclovía, page 13



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Ciclovía: Cycling culture could boost local economy

Continued from page 12

volunteers as possible to work and direct traffic.

As far as where it would take place, that will not be known until the council members find out exactly what the costs will be to put on the ciclovía event.

"It would be fun to close off Freeport or J Street and have businesses get involved," said Devlin. "These are unnatural places for lots of people to ride bikes normally."

The hope is that the street party would highlight the need for established bike lanes to be built

and maintained in the midtown area. Devlin talked about historical Broadway Avenue and the fact that riding down that street on a bike would be incredibly dangerous as it is now due to the fact that it is has no bike lane.

"We want to demonstrate the need to improve [cycling] pathways," he said.

As with anything in a floundering economy, some people will be skeptical of anything that costs money to produce. However, Devlin outlined some of the things that will hopefully make the costs

low and the benefits high. The event would likely be on a weekend when fewer people are on the road during the day and he said that there would not be large sections of major roads shut down.

"It's a social event," he said. "We want people to interact with (hopefully) thousands of other cyclists. It has a potential to create a long-term economic boost to businesses. It is a slight inconvenience with the possibility for big benefits."

The cycling season, which for Sacramento is a lot longer than

other places around the country, is a big thing locally. Devlin hopes that putting together a place for cyclists to interact would have a positive impact on both cycling, as well as introducing cyclists to restaurants and other businesses that they simply did not have access to without a car.

For more information or to volunteer for the proposed ciclovía event, you can contact Cohn's office at (916) 808-7003 or Schenirer's office at (916) 808-7005. For more information on SABA, visit www.sacbike.org.

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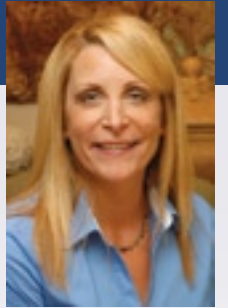
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 Gender: Female Hair: Short
 Age: 6 months
 Alabama is a fun and affectionate cat. She likes to play and seems particularly fond of furry toys. She is also a pretty cat with exotic features.

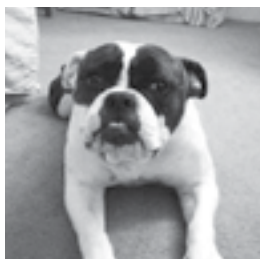
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Marley #140373

Breed: American Bulldog Color: Brown Bridle
 Gender: Female Hair: Short
 Age: 3 years
 Marley is a love! This girl loves to roll over for belly rubs and loves to snuggle up on the couch with you! She is crate trained and gets along well with larger dogs, and she knows sit and walks very nicely on a leash.

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Roxy #131984

Breed: Cairn Terrier Color: Grey
 Gender: Female Hair: Long
 Age: 1 year, 2 months
 Roxy is affectionate and friendly towards people. She is gentle, outgoing, and confident. Roxy is best suited for a somewhat active home. She cannot live with cats.

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Sadie #136690

Breed: DSH Color: Brown Tabby
 Gender: Female Hair: Short
 Age: 9 months
 Sadie is a well rounded cat. She is a fun mix of curiosity, playfulness and affection. She loves to play and seems partial to toys she can chase like a laser pointer or a toy ball. She is also an affectionate cat.

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Buddy #139625

Breed: Beagle Color: Tricolor
 Gender: Male Hair: Medium
 Age: 4 years
 Buddy is playful, outgoing, confident, and independent. He loves to go for walks, and he stops to smell the roses along the way. He is affectionate and attentive with people. He is happy to sit for treats.

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



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Mysteries revealed at 'Secrets of Sutter Street'

By SUSAN LAIRD
Pocket News editor
susan@valcomnews.com

California's gold country has an attraction that is all its own. Part fact, part fiction, part "je ne sais quoi," Folsom's Historic District has a history that dates back to the Gold Rush era and even further back into antiquity when one considers the Maidu people who lived there first, thousands of years ago.

As a writer and news editor for "Folsom Life" newspaper many years ago, I had the unique privilege of learning many of Folsom's secrets. Literally, where some of the bodies are – or were – buried. Years before the restoration on Sutter Street, I got to visit the tunnels and other secret places of Folsom.

Most are off limits to the public – and with good reason. These places are seri-

ously dangerous. And if you are fearful of spiders, snakes, close places, subterranean water, ghosts or simply bumping your head...well, you get the picture.

Recent restoration work on Sutter Street revealed the existence of one of Folsom's subterranean tunnels to the public, as well as other artifacts of the city's pioneering inhabitants.

On Feb. 19, the Folsom History Museum will share much of this history, when it unveils "Sutter Street Secrets."

"What did they find under Folsom's Sutter Street? What secrets were revealed? Come to this wonderful new exhibit at the Folsom History Museum and find out," said Melissa Pedroza, spokeswoman for the Folsom History Museum. "Last year, the City of Folsom began the Sutter Street Revitalization Project. The project had two purposes:

the practical – to replace the crumbling 100 year old water/sewer infrastructure; and the cosmetic – to pretty up the street and make it more appealing."

According to Pedroza, the exhibit will display many of the artifacts uncovered during the restoration, including bottles, coins, horse shoes and tools found during the digging.

"The Museum will also play a video of the tunnel discovered under Sutter Street," Pedroza said. "This will be the closest most of us will ever get to seeing the tunnel. It's not something to be missed."

Also included in the exhibit is a description of the whole restoration process (sans the many, many Historic District Restoration committee meetings that were held at Landmark Baptist Church). From the removal of the dying magnolia trees (planned right on top of the pavement of old Highway

50) to the planting of over 100 trees along new sidewalks that incorporate Folsom's history, visitors will have an opportunity to see how much work went into this project.

"The exhibit features hundreds of photos taken during the actual process of the day and night construction," Pedroza said. "Big trucks, backhoes, and cranes and building facades tumbling down and being built back up."

"Sutter Street Secrets" opens Feb. 19 and runs through March 20. The Folsom History Museum is located at 828 Sutter Street in Old Town Folsom. Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for youth and free for kids under the age of 12. Folsom Historical Society Members receive free admission. Call (916) 985-2707 or visit www.folsomhistorymuseum.org for more information.

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Sacramento's first newspaper was printed at Sutter's Fort

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Pocket News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

On page two of this very newspaper that you are reading is an exceptionally significant detail that many readers overlook – a pair of “Xs” representing the 20th anniversary of this publication. And while celebrating this milestone, it is also a fine time to recognize Sacramento's first newspaper, the *Placer Times*.

Just west of the area that we know today as East Sacra-

mento, the *Times* was established nearly 162 years ago in an adobe-like structure near the modern day corner of 28th and K streets, just outside the walls of Sutter's Fort.

Originally a weekly publication, the *Times*, which was initially published by E.C. Kemble & Co., began the distribution of its first issue on April 28, 1849.

At the time that Edward Cleveland Kemble established this pioneer newspaper, the *Times* was one

of only two newspapers being published in California.

The other newspaper was Yerba Buena's (San Francisco's) *Alta California*, which began through a merge of California's first two newspapers, the *Californian* and *The California Star*.

The *Californian*, which included news in English and Spanish, was first published in Monterey on Aug. 15, 1846. The paper was relocated to San Francisco about a year later.

Predating the *Californian's* arrival in San Francisco, the *Star*, which was founded by Samuel Brannan, became San Francisco's first newspaper, as it was published for the first time in Yerba Buena on Jan. 9, 1847.

The *Californian* and the *Star*, which eventually both abandoned publication as a direct result of the Gold Rush, were later acquired by Kemble, who had arrived in Yerba Buena on July 31, 1846 as one of 238 passengers aboard



Pocket News photo, Lance Armstrong
Gary F. Kurutz, principal librarian at the California State Library, holds an original copy of the first issue of Sacramento's first newspaper, the *Placer Times*.

a ship, known as the “Brooklyn.”

Also traveling on the ship that had left New York about six months earlier was Brannan, who was then a leader of a group of members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Upon acquiring the aforementioned San Francisco newspapers, Kemble first published the papers as *The California Star and Californian* on Nov. 18, 1848.

By the following year, the merged newspaper became known as the *Alta California*.

Eventually leaving the *Alta California*, where he had also served as an editor, Kemble began his venture to establish a newspaper at Sutter's Fort.

According to the 1880 book, “History of Sacramento County,” type was acquired from the old *Alta* office, a Ramage press was repaired and

See *Times*, page 19

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Times: Early publications provide a window to Sacramento's past

Continued from page 18

old Spanish printing paper was obtained, and the items were shipped to Sacramento City (the original name of Sacramento) on a small schooner known as Dice Me Nana.

The old press that was used to print the early issues of the *Times* has an especially noteworthy history of its own.

Prior to printing the *Times*, which was the first newspaper published in the interior of California, the press had been used by California's first printer, Augustin V. Zamorano.

The press was also well traveled, having been transported to Boston, Honolulu, Monterey, Sonoma and San Francisco before making its way to Sacramento City.

After leaving the fort, the well-used press continued its work in Stockton, Sonora, Columbia and again in Sonora, where it was destroyed in a fire.

Although the first issue of the *Times* was not rich with advertisements, it nonetheless included notable advertisements such as a notice that Captain John A. Sutter was offering a \$200 reward for the return of two horses that went missing from Sutter's Fort.

The timing of the founding of the *Times* is obviously modernly important, considering that information that was printed in this paper helps present windows into the past of the beginnings of Sacramento City and other events – both foreign and domestic – during this era.

The *Times*, which was originally printed on 13-inch by 18-inch paper and had its title cut from wood with a pocketknife, also served as a bullhorn for news of the Gold Rush.

The original price of the newspaper, which originally featured three columns of text per page, was \$10 per year, \$6 for six months, \$4 for three months and 25 cents for single copies.

Kemble's time with Sacramento's first newspaper was short lived, as is evident by the following words that were printed in the June 23, 1849 edition of the *Times*: "The ill health of Mr. E.C. Kemble

has obliged him to retire from his post as editor of this paper. He has been succeeded in the duties as such by (T.R. Per Lee)."

Under this new editorship, the *Times* was relocated to Front Street during the following month.

Four months later, however, the *Times* was being printed on 2nd Street, between K and L streets.

In only a short period of time, the *Times* would experience many other changes, including an enlargement in its size and cost, its evolution to a tri-weekly publication on April 22, 1850 and its emergence as Sacramento's first daily newspaper on June 5, 1850.

On June 16, 1851, the *Times* was consolidated with its rival, the *Sacramento Transcript* and became known as the *Times and Transcript*.

But this merging of papers did not mark the first time that these two newspapers played a role in the creation of a local newspaper.

The original *Sacramento Union*, which was printed from 1851 to 1994 and was once recognized as the "Oldest Daily in the West," began as a result of the efforts of four *Transcript* printers.



California's first newspaper, *Californian*, was first published in Monterey on Aug. 15, 1846.

The printers had introduced the idea of *The Union's* creation due to their frustrations with a labor dispute between the *Transcript* and the *Times*, which was founded in 1850 as Sacramento's second newspaper.

Gary F. Kurutz, principal librarian at the California State Library, said that original, existing copies of the *Times* are

so rare today that the State Library may likely be one of only three places that house copies of these old newspapers.

And in stressing the importance of the existence of these rare copies, which provide valuable records of a very historic period in Sacramento and its surrounding areas, Kurutz said, "Other

than such things as manuscript diaries and letters, as far as a media, (the *Times*) was it."

The *Times* was additionally important, as it planted the roots for the birth of many other Sacramento newspapers, including this very newspaper that is presently celebrating a very special birthday.



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'The Color of Light'

Daily, through Feb. 20: Paul Jenkins' Post-Expressionist paintings emphasizing light and color emerged during the 1950s and took their place alongside the achievements of the Abstract Expressionists and painters of the more recent Color Field movement. This exhibition features 50 examples of the artist's achievements in watercolor, as well as additional works on canvas. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

'The Vase and Beyond'

Daily, through April 10: "The Vase and Beyond: The Sidney Swidler Collection of the Contemporary Vessel." Comprised of some 800 vessels by 300 artists, this collection showcases the wide-ranging, innovative practice of contemporary ceramic artists with a gorgeous array of forms, techniques and glazes. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

'Inferno of the Innocents'

Daily, through April 24: Like a modern-day Goya, Gottfried Helnwein's monumental paintings and photographs address themes of inhumanity, violence, and the virtue of personal expression. With stark and probing psychological intensity, he critiques not only the past, but present-day veneers, jolting us from the comfort of complacency.

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Feb. 17, 22, 24: Dance to the rhythms of the Big Band era. Every Tues. & Fri. \$5 admission. 1:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m. Mission Oaks

Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. (916) 972-0336

Food Addicts Anonymous

Feb. 17, 24: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Thursdays. 9 a.m. St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 6201 Spruce Ave., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Living Positive with Chronic Disease group

Feb. 17, 24: Meet-up group for people living with chronic disease who honor how important a positive mindset is. If you want to complain – this isn't the group for you. The group will discuss and support: best practices for managing your condition, communication strategies, ways to laugh, have fun, engage with life and more. Free. Meets Thursdays. 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Starbucks, 1401 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. Danae Horn (503) 319-4247

Love your library night

Feb. 17: Surprise Celebrity Scoopers at Coldstone Ice Cream. A portion of proceeds to benefit the Robbie Waters Pocket Greenhaven Library. 6:30 p.m.–9 p.m. 1028 Florin Rd., Sac. (916) 391-1883

Rotary Club of East Sacramento

Feb. 17, 24: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 12:15 p.m.–1:15 p.m., every Thurs. Salvation Army Dining Hall, 2550 Alhambra Blvd., Sac. www.rotary.org

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven

Feb. 17, 24: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7:30 a.m., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Kelly Byam (916) 684-6854.

Sutterville Heights Optimist Club

Feb. 17, 24: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Aviators Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd., Sac. Cliff (916) 427-2698 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

Toastmasters

Feb. 17, 24: Improve your language skills and lose fear of speaking in front of people with Toastmaster club Los Oradores. Una oportunidad unica para mejorar sus habilidades bilingues y superar el temor de hablar delante de gente con nuestro club Los Oradores de la organizacion de Toastmasters. Thursdays/Jueves, 6:45 p.m. 2118 K St., Sac. Teri Bullington (916) 723-6232, teri.bullington@gmail.com, www.sacramentotoastmasters.com

Vox Musica

Feb. 17: Vox Musica, a 12-voiced women's ensemble, will perform "Dreams of Innocence," a new work by Vox Musica director Daniel Paulson that incorporates select texts from Gottfried Helnwein's memoirs. 7 p.m. Purchase tickets at crockerartmuseum.org or the Museum Admission Desk. \$6 members; \$12 nonmembers. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

Family Sleepover: Sleeping with the gods

Feb. 18, 19: Gather your family and friends, your sleeping bags, and spend the night at the Museum. Watch the action-packed adventure movie "Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief" (PG, 118 minutes), go on a "Myth and Legends" treasure hunt, and paint vases in the style of ancient Greek potters. Late night snacks and a continental breakfast will be provided. Ask about discounts for groups of seven or more, including community groups and birthday parties. \$65 members; \$85 nonmembers. 6 p.m. Fri., 8 a.m. Sat. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Feb. 18, 25: Come listen to an interesting guest speaker weekly; community service, serving the children of the world. Visitors welcome, first breakfast "on us." 7 a.m. – 8 a.m. Fridays. 2875 50th St., UC Davis Med. Ctr., Sac. (916) 761-2124 www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com

Rotary Club of Point West

Feb. 18, 25: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. Red Lion Inn, 1401 Arden Wy., Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com

Soroptimists of Sacramento

Feb. 18, 25: Soroptimist International of Sacramento South, a service club for business and professional women, meets Fridays. 11:15 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. Barbara McDonald, (916) 363-6927

African American authors discussion

Feb. 19, 26: Spirited and thought-provoking book discussions with an emphasis on African American authors. 10 a.m., Saturdays through May 14. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Dr., Sac. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Book discussion: Dashiell Hammett

Feb. 19, 26: Join this two-part discussion of the works of mystery writer Dashiell Hammett. 1 p.m. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Dr., Sac. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Family 'Engineering Days'

Feb. 19, 20: Come and celebrate the 60th anniversary of "Engineers Week." Engineers help make many aspects of life better – here's a great opportunity to share engineering fun with your kids. Kids ages 12 and under can be little engineers as they construct and launch a balloon rocket. Planetarium shows at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only); live animal shows at Noon and 2 p.m. are for all ages. The 10:30 a.m. Sunday Science Cinema presentation is *The Next Frontier*. 12:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. \$6 adults, \$5 seniors & teens, \$4 children ages 12–4, free for kids under 4. Discovery Museum Science & Space Center, 3615 Auburn Blvd. Sac. (916) 808-3942

Food Addicts Anonymous

Feb. 19, 26: 12-Step group for those who struggle with obesity, food obsession or eating disorders. Meets Saturdays. 8 a.m. Mercy General Hospital North Auditorium, 4001 J St., Sac. (800) 600-6028.

Printmaking: Scratchboard

Feb. 19: Adults are invited to a free art workshop series. Participants are encouraged to experiment with different media and learn a few things about art history at the same time. 2 p.m., Saturdays, through March 5 at Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave., Sac. (916) 264-2920 www.saclibrary.org

Shakesperiment 2011: Fairies & Fools

Feb. 19, 20, 26, 27: The Fairytale Town Troupers present "Shakesperiment 2011: A Midsummer Night's Dream – Fairies & Fools." Tickets \$1/person in addition to park admission. Showtimes noon and 3 p.m. Note: due to city ordinance, adults cannot be admitted to Fairytale Town unless accompanied by a child. Fairytale Town Children's Theater, 3901 Land Park Dr., Sac. (916) 808-8884 www.fairytaletown.org

Sudoku answers

Continued from page 6

9	5	2	4	1	7	6	3	8
8	6	3	9	5	2	1	7	4
4	7	1	8	3	6	5	2	9
5	9	7	3	4	1	8	6	2
2	4	6	7	8	5	3	9	1
1	3	8	6	2	9	7	4	5
3	1	4	2	7	8	9	5	6
6	2	5	1	9	3	4	8	7
7	8	9	5	6	4	2	1	3

Classical Concert

Feb. 20: Pianist Mark Valenti will perform works by American composers in addition to a new work inspired by the artwork of Paul Jenkins. 3 p.m. \$6 members; \$12 nonmembers. Media sponsor is Capital Public Radio. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000, www.crockerartmuseum.org

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Feb. 20, 27: 12-Step group for those who struggle to maintain healthy relationships. Meets Sundays. 2 p.m. Heritage Oaks Hospital, 4300 Auburn Blvd., Rm.101, Sac (866) 794-9993.

Community Sunday breakfast

Feb. 20, 27: Enjoy a delicious breakfast of eggs Benedict, corned beef hash, Joe's scramble, pancakes and more. 8:30 a.m.–11 a.m., every Sun. \$9. Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. (at Florin Rd.), Sac. Proceeds benefit student scholarships. www.elks6.com

Sunday Support

Feb. 20, 27: The Widowed Persons Assn. sponsors Sunday Support sessions which are held every Sunday, rain or shine – holidays included. 3 p.m.–5 p.m. 2628 El Camino Ave., Ste. D-18 (east of Fulton). Widows and widowers welcome. Barbara Stewart (916) 363-3482

Co-Dependents Anonymous

Feb. 21, 28: 12-Step group for those who struggle to maintain healthy relationships. Meets Mondays. 7:30 p.m. Friends Community Church Fireside Room, 4001 E St., Sac. (866) 794-9993.

Hatha yoga

Feb. 21, 28: Align the body through breathing techniques, postures and deep relaxation. 3 p.m.–4 p.m. Hart Senior Center, 915 27th St., Sac. (916)808-5462. Meets every Mon. Repeats Wed., Fri.

President's Day at the Crocker

Feb. 21: Visitors can hear the Sacramento Youth Symphony perform patriotic songs at 2 p.m. and discover works of art celebrating the history of the United States on a "Patriotic Tour" at 10:15 a.m., noon, and 2 p.m. From noon to 3 p.m., artmaking activities for children will explore the meaning of our nation's symbols. Crocker Art Museum, 216 O St., Sac. (916) 808-7000 www.crockerartmuseum.org

President's Day Special

Feb. 21: Looking for something to do this Presidents' Day? Visit the *Space Quest!* exhibit at the Discovery Museum. We are having weekend programming for everyone, so there's something for everyone. There is a paper shuttle craft for youth 12 and under. Planetarium shows at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. are included with admission (ages 4 and above only); live animal shows at Noon and 2:00pm are for all ages. In addition: morning and afternoon Astronomy badges for Cub Scouts – prior registration required. 12:30 p.m.–4 p.m. \$6 adults, \$5 seniors & teens, \$4 children ages 12–4, free for kids under 4. Discovery Museum Science & Space Center, 3615 Auburn Blvd. Sac. (916) 808-3942

Rotary Club of South Sacramento

Feb. 21, 28: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 11:30 a.m., every Mon. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Rd., Sac. www.rotary.org.



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Angel's Nest Child Development Center

By SALLY KING
Pocket News writer

There is a saying that when one door closes another opens.

For Angel's Nest Child Development Center located at 475 Florin Road, that is exactly what happened.

Just as Riverside Christian Nursery School announced they were closing their doors, leaving their director, Roberta Woodall without a job and kids without a nursery school, Angel's Nest, which had been open for a short while and just around the corner from Riverside, was looking for a director and kids to fill the school.

In September 2006, Woodall happily accepted the position, and many of the Riverside parents transferred their children to Angel's Nest.

Angel's Nest, open to children from the ages of two to five years, currently has 60 children enrolled, some part-time. The philosophy behind the school is play-based structure. Woodall, with more than 20 years experience in early childhood development, uses an emergent curriculum that is based on learning through hands-on activities and experiences.

Woodall encourages parents to come by and meet the staff. She said this allows the parents to get a sense of the environment at the center.

Angel's Nest has seven teachers. They work collaboratively and each teacher is assigned a

main activity said Woodall. She gave an example of one teacher whose main activity is teaching Spanish. Another teacher runs the 'Kiddy Transition Night,' which is an informational evening for parents on how to transition their child from preschool to kindergarten successfully.

Tenaya Woods is Woodall's assistant. She also came to Angel's Nest from Riverside Christian. Both Woods and Woodall agree that they were grateful the children who attended Riverside had a place like Angel's Nest to move to at the time.

Angel's Nest uses the 'Desired Results Professional Development' program, which is part of the state's curriculum, to measure and follow up on the successes of the children.

"This program helps them to form critical thinking skills," Woodall said.

Tracey Dinh said she loves Angel's Nest. Two of her three children used to attend Angel's Nest and have moved on to grade school. Now her youngest is there.

"I moved here from Los Angeles three years ago and started looking for a preschool," Dinh said. "I was so happy to find this school. They are so welcoming."

Dinh explained her son has high functioning autism and when she mentioned this to other preschools, they gave her a cold shoulder. She said Angel's Nest was the only school that welcomed her to check out their facilities to make sure it was a good fit.

Dinh said her son did great at Angel's Nest. He made many friends. Dinh said she found the teachers to be very nurturing.



Pocket News photo, Sally King
The friendly staff at Angel's Nest Child Development Center use a curriculum that encourages children to learn through hands-on activities.

Christina Martinez has a son who has been attending Angel's Nest for three years.

"When I initially checked into Angel's Nest it felt very friendly, like a close-knit family," Martinez said. "I find the emergent program of the child leading the learning exciting."

Martinez said she has watched her son grow from being mentored by the older children to being the mentor and blossoming into a leader.

Woodall and Woods are on the same page in their love of working

with children and their love for the Angel's Nest Center. They are so happy that quality child development education continues to be available for local children.

Sometimes when a door closes, it can be a good thing.

Angel's Nest is located at 475 Florin Road in Sacramento. For more information, call (916) 428-4651 or visit www.angelsnestcdc.com.

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Big bands to swing at Northern California Society's annual Presidents Ball

Special to Pocket News

Northern California ballroom and swing era dancers, singles and couples will dance to two leading orchestras at the 10th annual Presidents Ball on Sunday, Feb. 27.

Hosted by the Nor Cal Big Bands Preservation Society (NCBBPS), the event will be held at Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Mike Souliere, music director and his 18 member Pleasant Grove High School Jazz Band spotlight the school's fourth appearance from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Their program will feature a vast array of swing favorites including "Sentimental Journey," "String of Pearls," "Tuxedo Junction" and "Stompin' at the Savoy."

The 15-piece professional big band of legendary Fred Morgan will perform at 2 p.m. The band will present three hours of swing, fox trot, cha-cha, waltz,

rhumba and blues dance tempos in NCBBPS' salute to America's famous presidents.

Morgan's song sequence list features swing hits such as "How High the Moon," "Sunny Side of the Street," "Hot Toddy" and "Shiny Stockings;" waltzes such as "Moon River;" and "Alleghany Moon;" and Latin hits "Magic Tango" and "Spanish Eyes."

Dance hosts, mixers, snacks and prizes will round out this Sunday afternoon lineup that brings music lovers of all ages to the Elks Club No. 6's huge ballroom. The all-wood floor is perfect for dancing to America's musical hits of the past century.

Tickets will be sold at the door only. Admission is \$12 per person, \$11 per person for groups of ten persons, and \$10 per person for Society's Gold Card Holders. Elks Lodge No. 6 is located at 6446 Riverside Boulevard in Sacramento. For additional information, call (916) 444-6138.



Fred Morgan and his professional big band will headline at the 10th annual Presidents Ball at Elks Lodge No. 6 in Sacramento on Feb. 27. Photo courtesy

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Janey Way: Altar boy

Continued from page 10

he stormed in to the dressing room and berated me for giggling during the service. At one point, he raised his hand, as if to hit me.

Lou stepped forward, pointed his finger at the sacristan and said, "If you do that, I will tell the priest, then you'll be in big trouble."

This caused Bernard to do an immediate about face, and storm out of the room.

The experience brought tears to my eyes, but otherwise caused no lasting damage. Soon after, Bernard parted ways with St. Mary's church. I think that both he and the church realized he was not the right man for that job.

Another experience took place during the summer between seventh and eighth grades. At that time, the priests decided to take all the altar boys on a recruiting trip to their seminary in Santa Cruz.

It proved to be a great trip.

We all gathered on a Friday afternoon and loaded on to the school bus to take a leisurely drive over to the coast. There we spent two days, living with the priest candidates at the seminary. We ate with them and attended Masses and lectures.

We learned a lot about the lives of candidates for the priesthood.

On Sunday morning, our priest took us down to a private beach below the seminary. There, we frolicked in the ocean waters and had a great time.

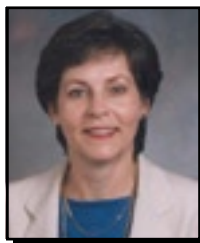
At one point during the morning, a group of teenage girls came to swim on the public beach across the way from ours. I remember looking over at the girls, then up at the seminary, then over at the girls again.

I decided then and there that the priesthood was not the life for me.

The summer after completing eighth grade at St. Mary's School, I dropped out of the altar boys. I was preparing to attend Christian Brothers High School

at the time and I knew that I would not have the time to be an altar boy any more. Being an altar boy had been a good experience, but now it was time to move on.

Now my time as an altar boy at St. Mary's Church is just another thought-provoking Janey Way memory.



Ilah Turner
GRI

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CELEBRATING THE CHINESE YEAR OF THE RABBIT

Pocket News photos
by DANNY KAM

The Chinese New Year Culture Association (CNYCA) welcomed in the Chinese New Year of the Rabbit on the Sacramento State campus, Feb. 12.

The festivities included the traditional Chinese Lion Dance, cultural dance performances, martial arts, kung fu, Tai Chi, music, Chinese painting and arts, a singing contest, children's games, activities and exhibits.

The Wong Center Resident Council performed Xinjian dancing from the north-western part of China. The Red Maple Cultural Connection performed a brilliant parasol dance. Performers from NewStar Chinese School dazzled the crowd with a singing and stomping dance. The China Moon Dance Troupe performed "The Charm of Vinegar" dance with vivid colors.

Local dignitaries were on hand, including Assemblyman Dr. Richard Pan from California's 5th District, Roger Dickerson and Vicki Beaton. Insurance Commissioner Dave Jones presented a letter of commendation to Beaton and Mayue Carlson, presidents of the Chinese New Year Culture Association. On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor Jimmy Yee presented a resolution recognizing the 14th annual Chinese New Year celebration in Sacramento.

Sacramento Postmaster Al Santos and Rungfong Hsu unveiled a stamp celebrating the Chinese New Year.

According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year of 2011 is the Year of the Golden Rabbit, which began on Feb. 3 and continues through Jan. 22, 2012. The Rabbit is considered a lucky sign, one which brings a year in which one can catch one's breath and calm one's nerves.



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Photo courtesy

JFK High School students demonstrated martial arts as part of the Chinese New Year celebration at JFK High School on Feb. 2.

20 Korean educators joined JFK an annual Chinese New Year Luncheon with the staff

Special to Pocket News

The annual Chinese New Year luncheon at John F. Kennedy High School brought together staff, students, parents and visiting teachers from Korea on Feb. 2. The auspicious celebration kicked off the Chinese Year of the Rabbit.

On campus, Chinese music was played between classes. Students Daniel Li and Chris Lim announced the New Year over the school intercom system, teaching students traditional Chinese phrases.

Principal Chad Sweitzer invited 20 visiting Korean educators to the Asian Cuisine Club's luncheon. The visiting dignitaries found the experience fascinating, because they could not imagine that a student club could host such a wonderful luncheon. The students prepared traditional Chinese dishes and selected Chinese music. Delicious and beautifully packaged chocolates from the Shanghai World Exhibit 2011 were supplied by Melissa Lee.

Approximately two hundred people attended the

lunch, which was a colorful and festive event.

Some guests were dressed in traditional Chinese outfits and passed out red envelopes. The red envelopes sym-

bolized good luck. Beautiful banners on display at the luncheon were made by Diana Duong.

A memorable time was had by all.



Deadline: MARCH 3rd

The Valley Wedding is an insert in FOUR Valley Community Newspapers: Arden-Carmichael News, East Sacramento News, The Land Park News, and The Pocket News.

Coming out: March 17th and 24th (20,000 Copies)

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* Per public records or other sources deemed reliable, but has not been verified by agent or broker; interested parties to verify.

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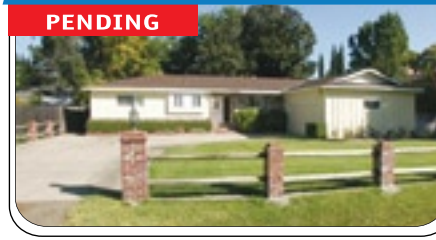
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