The Pocket News

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March 1, 2012 | Community News in Your Hands | www.valcomnews.com

Sacramento's German heritage group

See page 4

Innovations in math education

See page 20

COMMUNITY CALENDAR, PAGE 25 • KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR, PAGE 21 • FACES AND PLACES, PAGE 27

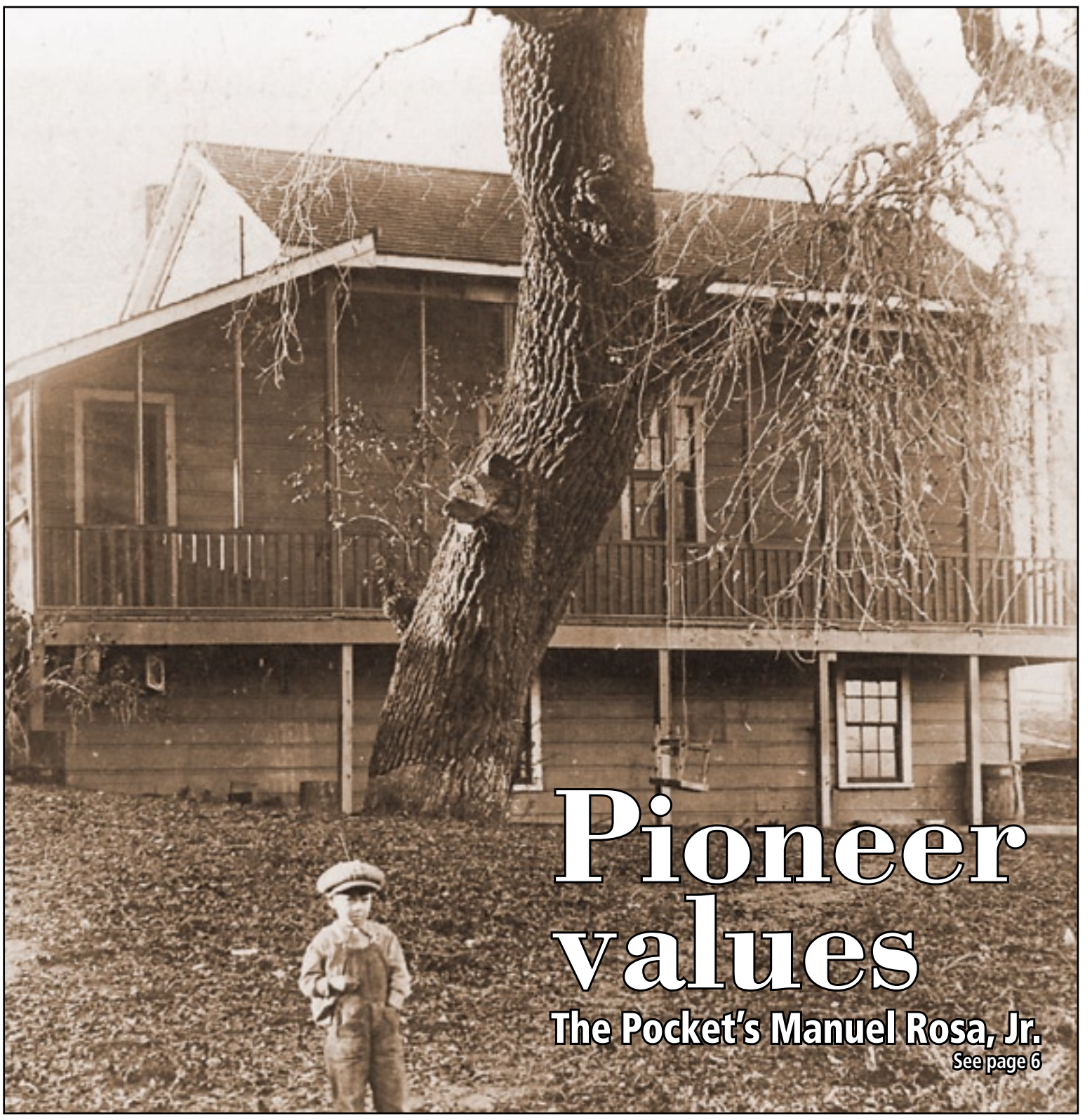
Inside This Edition

Kennedy students among holiday volunteers

See page 26

Celebrating 'Sotaccioli Salsiccia'

See page 27



Pioneer values

The Pocket's Manuel Rosa, Jr.

See page 6

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Special to Pocket News

Enjoy a delicious day of barbeque, horse carriage rides, a petting zoo and other family activities, all to benefit the non profit Sacramento Police Mounted Association (SPMA) on Saturday, April 7.

The specific purpose of the SPMA is to educate and promote the use of horse service animals in the community, to perform horse demonstrations for schools and community groups, and to provide additional training and equipment for police horses and their riders.

The event will be held at 550 Bercut Drive in Sacramento, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are just $10 each. Rides are extra. Donations can be sent to P.O. Box 405, Sacramento, CA 95812 or visit www.SacMounted.org.

2012 Citizens Academy recruiting members

Special to Pocket News

Meet your public safety leaders, officials, officers and experts as you learn about racial profiling, gang and hate crimes, in-car cameras, internal affairs, "Three Strikes" and more at the 2012 Citizens Academy for Sacramento County.

This 12th Citizens Academy course begins April 10 and runs for 10 weeks at the Sacramento Police Department headquarters at 5770 Freeport Boulevard in Sacramento.

There is no cost to participants, but interested parties must submit an application. The deadline for submitting applications is March 23. Learn more by visiting http://tinyurl.com/sacda.

'Looking Ahead to High School' at the library

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Middle school students and their parents will learn how to prepare for the high school years at a special session, hosted by College-GPS at the Arden-Dimick Library on March 14 at 6:30 p.m. Registration is required to attend this event.

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CollegeGPS guides, prepares and supports students and their families as they navigate the college admissions process. The primary goal is to help students find the right fit: the college where they will be successful academically and socially and where they will grow and develop into young adults prepared for life and work in the 21st Century.

There are over 3,000 colleges in the United States. Programs such as this one helps families to find the best match.

The Arden-Dimick Library is located at 891 Watt Avenue in Sacramento. To register, visit the library, call (916) 264-2700 or visit www.saclibrary.org and click on "Events," then select the Arden-Dimick Library location.

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Enrollment figures up at Sac State

Special to Pocket News

Sacramento State continues to be a popular destination for college students. The total head count for Spring 2012 was 26,543 students. The total exceeded the University's enrollment target by about 3 percent.

The student population continues to diversify. The number of students who describe their ethnicity as "other" or "mixed" is up 11 percent. The Hispanic population rose 9 percent, and the African American number grew by 0.5 percent.

"Not only are we seeing increased applications for admission from both the greater Sacramento region and other areas of the state, such as the Bay Area and Southern California, but more students who stepped out in the past are expressing interest in returning to complete their degrees," said Ed Mills, associate vice president for Student Affairs, Enrollment and Student Support.

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Hank Stoffel dedicated to preserving, promoting German history, culture

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Pocket News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

The local German organization, Sacramento Turn Verein, has preserved and maintained German culture in the capital city since 1854. And among its current members is Hank Stoffel, who has the notable status of belonging to 17 different German associations.

These associations also include the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA in Washington, D.C. and the Excelsior German Center in Oakland.

Stoffel serves as the Northern California regional vice president of the aforementioned Washington, D.C.-based organization.

Altogether there are about 700 German organizations in the United States.

Local Sacramento organization

While sitting inside the local Turn Verein building at 3349 J St. in Sacramento last week, Stoffel, 72, spoke about his life and his devotion to what he refers to as his "mission."

"My main function right now is Germanic history and the propagation of that information, the research," Stoffel said. "I spend 50 hours a week (researching and promoting German history and culture)."

Stoffel said that in today's world, promoting German heritage has become increasingly important.

Learn your heritage

"There are many, many German-Americans who are so integrated by now, they have no idea (about their heritage)," Stoffel said. "They may have a German last name, but that's the last thing on their mind. All I'm trying to do is say, 'You know what? If you're interested, come to the (Turn Verein) library, join the group, read the books, watch the films.'"

German contributions

Stoffel added that one of the activities that he enjoys doing is familiarizing the public about German contributions or "what the German-Americans, German-American immigrants have brought to this country."

"The list is very long," Stoffel said. "Heinz ketchup, Kraft Foods, Schwinn bicycles, Schick razorblades, Boeing aircraft

See Stoffel, page 5

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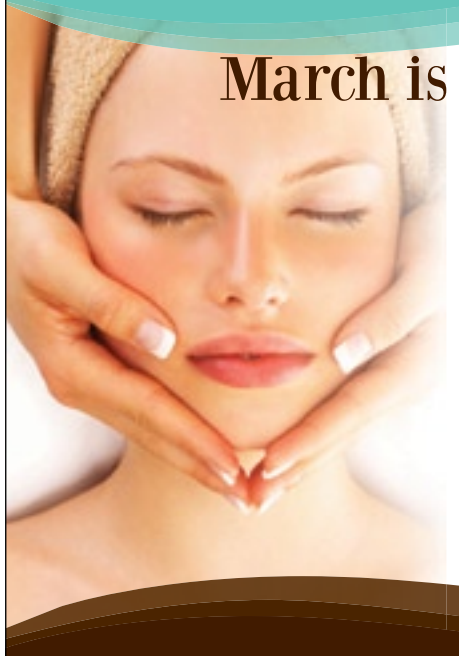

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Stoffel: Sacramento Turn Verein has maintained German culture since 1854

Continued from page 4

company, Weyerhaeuser lumber, Werner von Braun with the rockets, (etc.). This list goes on and on, but you go out to the average supermarket and nobody knows anything about it. The whole medical instrument field, any hospital you go (one can find) X-Rays (and other German medical instruments)."

Stoffel added that the green colored glass of the Coca Cola bottle was made by German chemists, a German named Rudolph Diesel originally designed the diesel engine and both the Brooklyn and Golden Gate bridges were designed by German-Americans.

One of the specific points of interest for Stoffel is studying the transformation of Berlin from its earlier years to present times.

A buffet of information

Stoffel said that through his research he provides information for others to increase upon their own knowledge.

"Whatever new knowledge I've gained, I try to bring it into this (local Turn Verein) organization and they can have at it," Stoffel said. "In other words, here it is, here's the buffet, help yourself. And we're getting more and more educated people who are beginning to nibble at the trough."

Many people in the community are familiar with the Sacramento Turn Verein due to its annual public events such as Oktoberfest and Bockbierfest.

A place to learn German culture

But the local Turn Verein, which has been located in its two-story, East Sacramento building since 1926, is actually much more than an organization that hosts such events.

The Sacramento Turn Verein describes itself as a place where "folks with German ancestry and people with an interest in German culture congregate to socialize, to study German, to party, to exercise and to carry on some old German traditions."

Continental roots

Despite being one of the oldest Turn Vereins in the United States, the local Turn Verein did not begin in Sacramento or the United States.

It instead has its roots in Prussia, where it was founded by Friedrich Ludwig Jahn (1778-1852) in 1811, just five years following the Prussian army's defeat by Napolean's armies.

Although the organization was established through Jahn's desire to build up his countrymen by way of physical and mental enhancements through gymnastics, the Sacramento Turn Verein no longer includes a gymnastics section.

Modern-day activities

Modern-day sections of the Sacramento Turn Verein include: the Harmonie choral group, the Soccer Club, the Handball/Racquetball Club, the Actives, whose main function is to promote Turn Verein activities, and the German Language School.

Cultural Center-Library

And as previously referred to by Stoffel, the local Turn Verein also features its German-American Cultural Center-Library, which is open every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

East Coast childhood

Stoffel, who serves as the interclub liaison for the cultural center-library, said that he is an extreme example of a German-American, since he was born in New Jersey to Wuppertal, Germany immigrants Otto and Martha Stoffel.

"My parents came to the United States in 1935," Stoffel said. "There hasn't been anything else (but German heritage) in my family to my knowledge. There might be a Viking in there somewhere. I think on my mom's side (a relative) came down from Denmark, because several people in my family are very tall and that's Viking."

Stoffel, who stands 6 feet tall with wavy, gray hair and very blue eyes, said that his father was a well-educated man who owned two textile factories in Germany and could speak, read and write English, French and German.

Despite being born in New Jersey, Stoffel, who is also fluent in German, spent his youth growing up in the Bronx and graduated from Christopher Columbus High School in New York City in 1957.

In that same year, Stoffel was hired by the Remington Rand corporation as a computer programming trainee.

But Stoffel, who was a Civil Air Patrol cadet in 1949 and 1950, wanted to become a pilot.

Although Remington Rand offered him a promising future, he abandoned a career in computer science and followed his dream in aviation.

NATO interpreter

After joining the U.S. Air Force, Stoffel was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany from 1957 to 1961, and served in various positions including a pilot, an interpreter for the German Federal Aviation Agency and a liaison for NATO between Frankfurt and Paris.

Airline pilot

Following his time in the military and while approaching his 21st birthday, Stoffel was hired by Pan American World Airways and soon became a flight instructor in the New York-New Jersey area.

When he was 26 years old, Stoffel became a pilot for Trans World Airlines and flew between and America and Europe for 25 years. He also managed an airport and operated an air taxi service.

After his international piloting days, Stoffel dedicated five additional years to Trans World Airlines, instructing young cadets in St. Louis how to fly. He retired in 2000.

Chose Sacramento to retire

When asked how a world-traveled German man from the Bronx ended up becoming an active member of the Sacramento Turn Verein, Stoffel said that he became interested in the Placer County city of Auburn while flying above the place at various times. He eventually decided to purchase a retirement home in the area.

Joined Turn Verein

With a pleasant and reflective tone to his voice, Stoffel shared his memory about discovering the Sacramento Turn Verein.

"Quite by chance, one day I was driving on J Street to some destination east of (the Turn Verein) and I was stopped at the traffic light and I saw (the Turn Verein) building," Stoffel recalled. "As I drove by I (read) Turn Verein (on the building) and I said, 'I know what a Turn Verein is. I was at a Turn Verein when I was a kid in New York City.' So, I pulled my car around and got out and they had a sign in the window (that read) German classes. So, that was my initial exposure to this place."

Stoffel joined the Sacramento Turn Verein in April 2000 and has remained active in the organization since that time.

Another contribution that Stoffel made for the local advancement of German culture was his campaigning to have the German television network, Deutsche Welle, available to view at the local Turn Verein.

A healthy organization

Unlike many old organizations, Sacramento Turn Verein is not struggling to find new members.

Stoffel said that the Turn Verein's membership is "increasing constantly, like two or three (new members) per month."

Ladies welcome

Among these members are female members, who were allowed to join the local Turn Verein for the first time in the early 2000s.

Stoffel noted that he was one of the 10 men who supported adding women to the organization's membership.

Today, the Sacramento Turn Verein consists of 225 members.

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Pocket's Manuel Rosa, Jr. was self-made businessman

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Pocket News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

More than 100 years ago, Manuel Rosa, Jr. was born into a Riverside farming family. And from his relatively meager beginnings, he grew to become one of Sacramento's most accomplished and successful businessmen.

During his youth, Manuel, Jr. resided on Riverside Road, near today's 35th Avenue, just south of the old DaRosa grocery store. The historic postal address for the ranch was Route 1, Box 143 and the address was renumbered prior to 1932 to Route 8, Box 727.

Son of Portuguese immigrants

Manuel, Jr. was the only son of Sao Roque, Pico, Azores Islands, Portugal natives Manuel Rosa, Sr. (1871-1952) and Mary (Alvernaz) Rosa (1866-1935).

Fortunately for the memory of the Rosa family, Manuel, Jr. penned a short summary of his family's history at the age of 73 in 1983.

Sacramento family history

In regard to his father's history, Manuel, Jr. said, "He came to the U.S., July 15, 1889 and stayed at the home of Antone F. Silva (Silveira), 12th and E (streets), which was known as Alkali Flat. Antone Silva was his uncle. He worked for Antone Silva in the 1890s on ranches in the Grant (in today's Carmichael area). He also, during that time, worked on the steamers in the Sacramento River, between Sacramento and San Francisco. These were freight boats. He acquired his ranch on Riverside Road from his uncle Antone Silva (in) about the early 1900s."

Although the ranch, which was purchased by Manuel, Sr. for $6,000, was 33.3 acres at the time of the purchase, the property was originally a part of a much larger ranch.

The larger ranch, which was later divided into three parcels, initially consisted of 100 acres and was owned by Carl Munger.

The Manuel Rosa, Sr. ranch included row crops of beans, potatoes, onions, and cabbage, as well as other types of vegetables.

Additionally, Manuel, Sr. had a dairy and caught fish in the Sacramento River for home consumption and to sell to the public.

Manuel, Sr. was known by the Portuguese nickname of Magano (pronounced Ma-gun), a word that resembles the Portuguese word for a rogue or rascal.

Photo courtesy, PHCS

MANUEL ROSA, JR. stands in front of his childhood home on the old Riverside Road in the Pocket area, about 1915.

Pocket family life

In recalling other memories of the ranch, Manuel, Jr., who was known as Maganino (pronounced Ma-gu-neen) – "little Magano" – wrote: "As a kid, I remember the winter months butchering hogs and making lenguica and morsella. Also making hams and bacon and salting pork (and putting them in) crocks to last for the winter months. (Manuel, Sr.) would also make a lot of wine. This was from three to six barrels each year. Every winter, the relatives and friends would gather at the house to butcher and they would work hard at this and drink a lot of wine and it always seemed to be one big party."

Mary (Alvernaz) Rosa came to America in the 1890s, stayed at the home of Antone Silva and worked as a maid.

Manuel, Jr. had two sisters, who were both named Maria Janetta.

The first Maria Janetta was born in about 1900 and lived for only about nine months and the other Maria Janetta was born in about 1901 and died when she was a month old.

It was a Portuguese custom for families to name a child by the same name as a short-lived, deceased member of the family of the same gender.

Photo courtesy, PHCS

NEWLYWEDS. Manuel Rosa, Jr. and Mary (Dutra) Rosa were married at St. Maria Church in the Pocket on Oct. 19, 1930.

Local education

Manuel, Jr. attended Sutter School (present day Cabrillo Clubhouse), which was located on the old Riverside Road, about a mile north of his home.

After graduating from Sutter School in June 1923, Manuel, Jr. attended the 9th grade at Harkness School at 10th and P streets.

His high school years were spent at Sacramento High School at 34th and Y (present day Broad-

See Rosa, page 7

Rosa: Child of pioneers valued character of his employees

Continued from page 6

way) streets. He graduated from the school in June 1927.

At the beginning of his time in high school and until 1928, Manuel, Jr. worked as an "office boy" for the Retailers Credit Association in the Native Sons of the Golden West Building at 924 11th St.

Bright business student

Additionally, in 1927 and 1928, Manuel, Jr. attended Heald's Business College at 14th and K streets.

Manuel, Jr. noted in his aforementioned writings that most students would take two years to complete the courses that he completed at Heald's in six months.

Manuel, Jr. said, "A lot of (the courses were) what I had (studied) in high school and I went to Heald's (to get) a job, which (I) did at the Sacramento Box and Lumber Co. (at 65th and R streets)."

Manuel, Jr. also excelled at Heald's due to his above average skill levels at typing and shorthand.

Sacramento Box and Lumber Co.

Manuel, Jr.'s first jobs for the company were working as a clerk and a general officer worker.

In about 1932, the company began to expand by building a sawmill in Kyburz, where Manuel, Jr. was transferred to work as an office manager.

About three years later, while still working for the company, Manuel, Jr., who was a longtime stockholder of the Sacramento Box and Lumber Co., became a sales manager of box shook sales.

In 1939, Sacramento Box and Lumber Co. joined with Western Box Distributors of San Francisco as its selling agents and Manuel, Jr. became a district manager for Western Box.

Western Box liquidated in 1952 and Manuel, Jr. returned to work for the Sacramento Box and Lumber Co. as the sales manager of the box shook department.

In 1958, after Sacramento Box liquated, Manuel, Jr. returned to work for Western Box, which was then owned by J. Walter Rodgers.

Florin Box & Lumber Co.

It was also in 1958 that Manuel, Jr. became a partner in the establishment of the Florin Box & Lumber Co.

Manuel, Jr., who became president of Florin Box, was also active in Sierra Forest Products, which he owned with E. A. Moffett from 1946 to 1961.

Florin Box was a veneer plant originally operated in outbuildings on the central Pocket property of Frank J. Lewis.

The firm was later located in a shed on Southern Pacific Co. property near the old town of Florin.

Mary Dutra

In an amusing account about his first date with his then-future wife and 1928 graduate of Sacramento High, Mary Dutra, Manuel, Jr. said, "Well, I happened to kiss her goodnight and that started the fireworks. It seemed that all the bells in the world started to ring and from then on, I knew I was stuck."

Manuel, Jr. and Mary, who were married in St. Maria Church in the Pocket on Oct. 19, 1930, had four children, Martyn, Michael, Mary Louise ad Manuel III.

Mary (Dutra) Rosa, who passed away in her Land Park home at the age of 99 on June 1, 2010, was a daughter of Antone and Louise Dutra of the now-historic Dutra House in the Pocket.

The couple belonged to Portuguese clubs and other local organizations and was known as excellent dancers who glided across the dance floor.

Family recollections

Following his father's death on Jan. 4, 1998, Martyn Rosa, who is a prominent local dentist, noted that the Florin Box Co. was a then-$7 million per year business.

Martyn's son, Jefferey J. Rosa, is also a notable local dentist.

Mary Louise, who maintains her late parent's Tudor-style home near Sacramento City College, was recently asked if she had any special remembrances of her father.

"There were many," she replied. "But one of these memories was of particularly special value as a lesson."

Mary Louise recounted a moment when she had spent time with her father during her youth.

"He was in his office preparing for interviews with many applying for an important job with his firm," Mary Louise said.

After observing her father throwing away resumes in a wastepaper basket, she asked him why he was not reading them.

His reply was: "I can determine a man's character by the way he talks better than by the way he writes."

Photo courtesy, PHCS

MEET THE PARENTS. Manuel Rosa, Sr. and Mary (Alvernaz) Rosa are shown in their 1898 wedding photograph.

Photo courtesy, PHCS

LOCAL INDUSTRY. Florin Box & Lumber Co. is shown in this 1960s aerial view photograph. The business played an important role in the packaging and shipping of farm produce in the area.

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Empty Bowls aims to raise awareness of hunger issue in Sacramento

By CORRIE PELC
Pocket News writer
corrie@valcomnews.com

Hunger is a bigger problem in Sacramento than you may think, according to Eileen Thomas, executive director of the River City Food Bank based in midtown Sacramento.

In 2011, the food bank served 47,408 people, with about every fourth person a child. Thomas said the food bank is also seeing an increase in seniors – who are living on fixed incomes and pensions with not enough money to go around – as well as those on disability.

To help raise awareness about the hunger problem in the Sacramento area, for the past nine years River City Food Bank has hosted Empty Bowls – an annual fund raiser designed to raise funds for the food bank and awareness about hunger in the community. Thomas said this year's event will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center on Monday, March 5 with a dinner session from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30

See Empty Bowls, page 9

Photo courtesy, River City Food Bank

EMPTY BOWLS is a major fundraiser for the River City Food Bank. This year's ninth annual event will be held March 6 and March 6.

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Empty Bowls: Event will be held over two days, March 5 – 6

Continued from page 8

p.m. for $60 per person, and Tuesday, March 6 for a lunch session from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for $30 per person.

"Hunger is one of those problems that can be hidden very easily because you look around and you go 'Oh, there's nobody really starving in our community,'" Thomas said. "Starvation looks a little different to us in America then it does like in a third-world country, so some of the people who are starving are actually suffering from malnutrition. They're not eating healthy because they don't have enough money for healthy food. Empty Bowls really speaks to the idea that hunger is something that is here in our community and it can be helped."

At Empty Bowls, attendees come to either a dinner or lunch session to enjoy a soup of their choice donated by a Sacramento area restaurant.

"We try to get the very best restaurants in Sacramento to donate," Thomas said. Participating restaurants include Cafe Bernardo, Classique Catering, Scott's Seafood Grill and Bar, Vizcaya and Greek Village Inn. To serve the soups to hungry patrons, the food bank enlists the services of honorary servers from local government and businesses, Thomas said. Some notable servers on tap for this year include City Councilmembers Rob Fong and Steve Cohn.

However, the real draw to the event is the handmade bowl that each attendee gets to pick out to take home. Thomas said this year they will have about 1,200 bowls for guests to choose from made by both professional and student artists. Additionally this year, the event will feature a selection of wood and glass bowls, plus some of the professional artists will showcase their other art at the Potters' Market held in conjunction with the event.

This year's Empty Bowls also includes a change in venue. For the first time, the event will be held at the Sacramento Convention Center. This is because the event has grown in popularity.

Photo courtesy, River City Food Bank

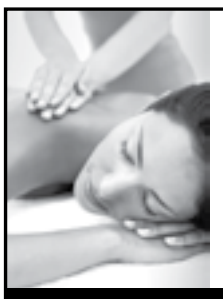
HAND-CRAFTED bowls created by local artists and students are the must-have item at this annual event.

"We started out nine years ago and we had about 350 people attend – we thought that was pretty good, and then it's grown and grown," Thomas explained. The new location also means tickets for the event will not be sold at the door. However, Thomas said patrons will be able to purchase tickets online at www.rivercityfoodbank.org (including the day of the event). Tickets can also be purchased in person at The Avid Reader and the Cathedral Book Shop at Trinity Cathedral on Capitol Avenue.

For Empty Bowls 2012, Thomas said the River City Food Bank hopes to hit its goal of raising $125,000, which will "help us keep the lights on, to keep our building and operation running. It will also pay for some of the food that we have to buy for our food bank," she explained.

Additionally, Thomas said they hope this year's Empty Bowls will help them spread the word about the food bank and the hunger issue in Sacramento.

"We hope to gain support for River City Food Bank and raise awareness in the community that this is a real problem and there are people who need not only food, but they need healthy food, they need good nutrition, they need education about nutrition," she added. "We want to make sure that we explain the programs that we provide the way that people can help to make a difference in their community."



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Patriot Guard Riders honor those who serve, sacrifice for America

By SALLY KING
Pocket News writer
sally@valcomnews.com

As 15 Patriot Guard Riders lined up on each side of the escalator at Sacramento International Airport, an arriving passenger headed for the escalator, saw the line and immediately stepped aside.

The other arriving passengers followed his course, leaving the escalator empty, until a woman with big blonde hair showed up.

She stepped onto the escalator smiling and thanked everyone for greeting her. The Guard Riders had not noticed as she stepped off the escalator, she stayed with group. The long awaited soldier finally appeared and proceeded down the escalator, while shaking hands and being cheered by Guard members. As he stepped off the escalator the woman with the big blonde hair stepped forward, threw her arms around him and said, "Welcome home."

Mike Doyle, a former sailor who served in the Navy during the Vietnam War and a member of the Patriot Guard Riders for two and a half years, said that is one of his favorite stories.

"The thrill of seeing a soldier come down the escalator of an airport and back to the arms of loved ones is just absolutely incredible," Doyle said. "If a family invites us to come, how can we not."

American Legion connection

Patriot Guards began in Westboro, Kansas in August 2005, when a group from the American Legion Riders Chapter 136 was appalled to hear that a group of misguided religious zealots were protesting the Iraqi war at soldiers' funerals. Their chapter established a mission statement requiring the Guards receive permission from the families to attend the funerals and to include the local police. On Oct. 18, 2005, the Patriot Guard name was established.

There for the family

Doyle said the Guards simply form a flag line and quietly stand in front of the protesters, blocking them from the family and funeral. They are not there to confront anyone.

"Funerals are extremely sad and emotional," Doyle said. "But it is also such a point of pride to be able to honor these people, particularly those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

When the Guard is invited to attend the funeral of a soldier, there are anywhere from 40 to over 100 riders showing up. Doyle said at a recent funeral in Anderson, Calif., hundreds of riders showed up to honor the local sailor who had been killed. There are close to 400 Guard members in the Sacramento region.

It's about R-E-S-P-E-C-T

The Patriot Guards mission statement establishes that the one thing members have in common (besides riding motorcycles), is an unwavering respect for those who risk their lives for America's freedom and security.

Although a motorcycle group started the organization, Doyle wants people to know that riding a motorcycle is not a requirement to be a member of the Patriot Guard. There are no dues or meetings and it is not required to have served in the military. The only requirement is that respect and honor are shown to the soldiers and their families.

Working with families

There is no solicitation by the Patriot Guards. If a family request the presence of the Guard at a funeral or greeting the returning soldier at the airport, a ride captain from the Guard meets with the family to gather necessary information. The ride captain adds this information to the Guard website and sends out a notice to Guard members via a mailing list. There is no requirement that a Guard member must show up at an event. Occasionally the returning soldier is escorted home with flags attached to motorcycles and cars. Doyle said it is quite a sight to see.

All service members honored

Soldiers are amazed when they realize total strangers are waiting to greet them. And, Doyle added, if other military service members show up they don't know about, they receive the same greeting.

For example, right before Christmas, the Guard had been invited to greet one soldier at the airport. As the Guard members gladly stood at the escalator waiting for this one soldier, streams of military service members started coming down the escalator and they ended up greeting 44 returning soldiers.

The capitol region makes a special welcome home dog tag for returning soldiers. The Guard buys the tags and a local printing company donates the engraving on the tags.

When soldiers are greeted at the airport, they receive a card and the dog tag.

Tell a friend

Doyle said he wants to get the word out to all military families about what the Patriot Guard Riders do. He said they greet soldiers returning home from anywhere, even those who just get home from boot camp.

The national Website for the Patriot Guard Riders is www.patriotguard.org. There is information on the site so families across the nation can reach the Guard.

"Bottom line," Doyle said. "These soldiers are sacrificing their lives for their country."

Graphic iStockphoto

FAMILIES CAN REACH OUT to the Patriot Guard Riders, who honor America's military service members who serve and sacrifice for America. A family can request a warm welcome home at an airport, or help with privacy at funeral services for a fallen soldier, sailor, airman or Marine.

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LOVELY SOUTH LAND PARK

Welcome Home!! Beautifully maintained original owner home with 3 bedrooms 2 baths on nice sized lot, plus great curb appeal. Hardwood floors in bedrooms and bedroom closets with cedar floors. Both a living room and a family room. It just feels good! See: 10rosemeadcircle.ePropTour.com $219,900

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2nd annual Steinberg Seussical Story Hour at Pocket-Greenhaven Library on March 10

Special to Pocket News

Come one, come all to the Second annual Steinberg Seussical Story Hour at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library on Saturday, March 10 at 10 a.m.!

Free Dr. Seuss books will be handed out to the first 75 children who attend the event.

Celebrities Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, State Librarian Stacey Aldrich, former Councilmember Robbie Waters, Sacramento Public Library Director Rivkah Sass and Councilmember Darrell Fong will be on hand to celebrate the creativity, wit and wisdom of the author of "Green Eggs and Ham," "Horton Hears a Who!" "The Cat in the Hat" and "One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish" among many other works.

Theodor Seuss Geisel was an American writer, poet and artist. He wrote 46 children's books. The CGI-animated feature film adaptation of "The Lorax" is scheduled to be released on March 2, on what would have been Seuss' 108th birthday.

There will be Seussical crafts and refreshments, too…all sponsored by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

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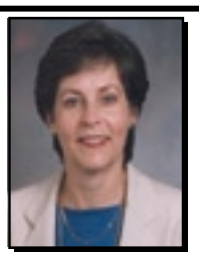

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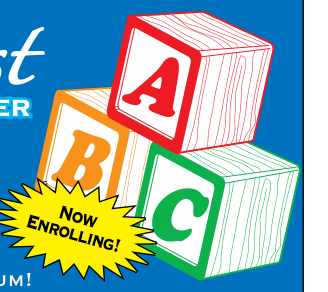

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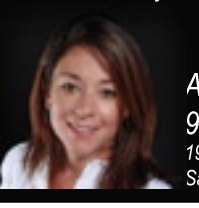

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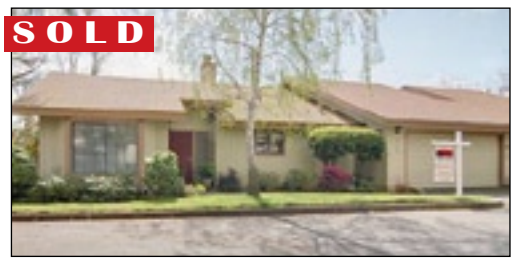

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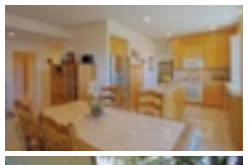
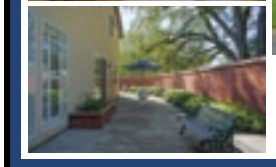

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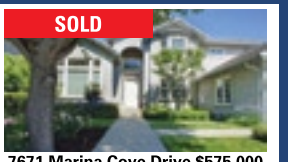

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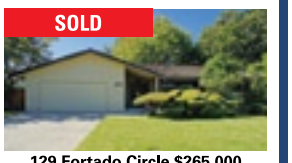

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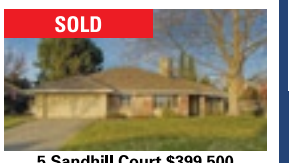

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Janey Way Memories

Rosie and Mom

By MARTY RELLES
Pocket News columnist
marty@valcomnews.com

In 1952, my family moved into a three bedroom, one bathroom house on Janey Way in Sacramento.

With three young children and another child on the way, my dad felt like we needed a "bigger" house. Our family fit right into this neighborhood, as it was filled with other young families. Not only did my brothers and I meet lots of new friends, but my parents also met a whole group of great neighbors.

The Thomsen's who lived across the street, the Costamagna's next to them and the Puccetti's and Viani's down the street all welcomed Mom and Dad to the neighborhood. Phyllis Thomsen, Leda Costamagna and Pat Puccetti all pitched in to help Mom who was pregnant with my brother John at that time.

However, soon after we moved onto Janey Way, another family moved in down the street who would become Mom and Dad's closest friends: Bernie Hart, his wife Rose and their infant son, Tom.

Like my dad, Bernie worked as a patrolman for the Sacramento Police Department. He met Dad there and probably moved to Janey Way because of the things he heard about our neighborhood.

Soon after the Harts moved in, Mom became fast friends with Rose who everyone affectionately called Rosie. It would prove to be a lifelong friendship.

It's hard to figure what made these two young women such good friends. Their backgrounds could not have been more different. Rosie hailed from the back woods of West Virginia and mom grew up on the seacoast in Santa Cruz, California. Rose had a wry wit and told racy jokes and tall stories. Mom took things seriously. I am sure she made a good "straight man" for Rosie.

Every morning, back then, Rose left her home early, got into her mint green Cadillac sedan and drove up to our house. When Mom saw her coming, she always put a fresh pot of coffee on the stove to brew, then let Rosie in the kitchen door. Then they sat down at our big round maple dining table to drink coffee, smoke cigarettes and talk for the entire morning.

I remember even today the great stories Rose told about her childhood in West Virginia. She could really spin a yarn. Mom too, had wonderful stories about growing up with five brothers in Santa Cruz. When they weren't telling stories, they chatted about the goings-on in our neighborhood. It seems like they spent an entire lifetime sitting at that table talking.

Right around noon, Rosie gathered up her young son Tom and drove off the grocery store to buy something to cook for dinner. Mom often took my little brother John and went with her. I remember them driving off in Rose's big caddy while my brother Terry and I played in our front yard. It seems so long ago now.

Rosie passed away several years back. In 2009, my mom followed her. I guess she missed Rosie and wanted to join her.

There is an interesting twist to this story. My brother John lives now in our family's home on Janey Way. Rosie's son Tom inherited her house and has recently remodeled it. Later this month, he and his wife Diana will move into the home where his mom lived for her entire adult life. Both John and Tom look forward to being Janey Way neighbors again.

I bet that Rosie and Mom are looking down from the heavens and smiling.

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American Red Cross helps military families to reunite, reconnect and rebuild after military deployment

Special to Pocket News

The Capital Region Chapter of the American Red Cross is offering Reconnection Workshops, presented by Walmart, on March 3 and March 24 at its Sacramento office, located at 1565 Exposition Boulevard in Sacramento.

Four facilitated sessions will be offered to focus on skills building to enhance the likelihood of positive reconnections with armed forces personnel and their families following a military deployment.

"Deployments are a fact of life in the military," said Trisha Johnson, emergency services manager. "Whether a service member's absence is due to a training exercise, sea duty, combat, or unaccompanied duty in a remote location, separation and reunification pose unique opportunities as well as challenges for all family members. The American Red Cross, with support from Walmart, developed a series of workshops to assist all military families in managing the family's readjustment to the service member's return."

Actively licensed and specially trained Red Cross mental health professionals lead participants through information and discussions designed to help them identify and respond to the challenges of readjusting to and transitioning back to a changed family dynamic. The workshops are targeted to service members and their spouses, children, parents, siblings and significant others. Topics include Communicating Clearly, Exploring Stress and Trauma, Relating to Children, and Working Through Anger. Participants have the option of choosing any or all of the workshops.

Each workshop is approximately two hours in length. Participants can take them in any order and select those most applicable to their situation. Workshops are free to military members and their families and occur in a supportive and confidential environment.

For more information about the current workshop being offered or to register for future workshops visit www.redcross-crc.org or contact Samantha Clark at (916) 993-7087 or clarksam@usa.redcross.org.

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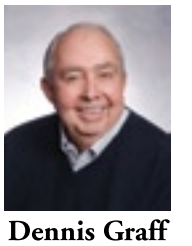

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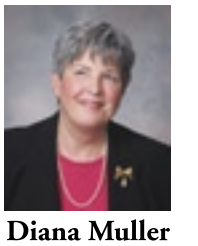

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FIRST Robotics Practice Day held in Sacramento

By SALLY KING
Pocket News writer
sally@valcomnews.com

It is unusual to see groups of teenage boys walking around the campus of St. Francis High School, an all-girls school in Sacramento, but on Saturday, Feb. 18, they outnumbered the girls.

The St. Francis High School Fembots hosted a "Practice Day" for the FIRST Robotics Competition known as FRC. FIRST is a non-profit group and the acronym means, 'For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology'. FIRST was founded in 1989 by Dean Kamen, inventor of the Segway Human Transporter. Twelve countries, four provinces and 49 states support the 2,343 FIRST robotic teams. They have over 3,000 sponsors and nearly $14 million in scholarships.

January kits

FRC sends each team a robot kit the first week of January. The teams are given specific instructions on the robot's capabilities. Each team has six weeks to design and build the robot. At the end of the six weeks, the robots are packaged up and the teams are not allowed to work on them or use them until the competitions begin. Having a practice run to test out the robots right before they are boxed up allows the students to make fixes and adjustments to the robot. Teams came from all over northern California to test their robots at St. Francis.

Having fun while learning

The Fembots explain on their website this multinational non-profit organization encourages and inspires young minds to study and have fun with science, math, engineering and technology.

Elbert Lin and Ankit Shah, both from the Fremont Unified School District helped prepare and program the robot from Team 2489.

"I noticed the robot booth when I was in the eighth grade," said Shah. "That's when I got hooked carting the 120 pound beast around."

Shah who is now a sophomore in high school is the lead designer for the robot he and fellow classmates built. He designed most of this years' robots chassis ball manipulation. His team has four days left to complete the finishing touches on their robot.

"This weekend at St. Francis gives us the opportunity to see how the robot is working out," Shah said. "Now is the time to make any necessary changes. On Tuesday we have to box it up until our first competition the end of March."

This is the first year Brian Dodson, a teacher at St. Francis, is involved with the Fembots, the all-girl robotic team. They are one of the few all-girl robotics teams in the nation. Dodson said the Fembots have participated in FRC for 12 seasons. They attend three regional competitions, Sacramento, Central Valley and Silicon Valley. This year, some 20 teams participated on practice day.

Fembot member Liz Arikawa, a junior at St. Francis said this is her second year participating. She enjoys the social aspect of it, handling public relations and working on the website.

Not all geeks

"It's more than science and technology," Arikawa said. "We are not all geeks and weirdos. It's a lot of fun and everyone is so nice. It's a great experience."

Teri Benart is the Senior Mentor for FIRST in northern California. She said the most coveted award for these kids is the Chairman's Award.

"It is a guaranteed ride to the championships," Benart said. "Regardless of what the student does on the field, the award is based on how that student builds sustainability, the student's business plan and how the student communicates first out in the community, and how the student shows gracious professionalism. That is what drives these kids to a different behavior than what you see in normal sports."

Janet McKinley has been volunteering at St. Francis for six years. She said hosting 'Practice Day' is an amazing accomplishment for the Fembots. The girls build the whole field, so students can get a feel of what the competition will be like.

Photo courtesy, Stuart King

NOT WEIRDOS AND GEEKS, the St. Francis Fembots hosted the FIRST Robotics Practice Day for high school robotics teams throughout the region. Teams came from as far away as the East Bay Area. Robotics students are highly desirable candidates at colleges and universities nationwide.

Bumpy field tests machines

"The robots have to stay balanced because the field has bumps," McKinley said. "The first 15-20 seconds the robots run autonomously on their own. During that time the students can adjust it so the robot changes course."

Jacob Clark belongs to Team 3598 and lives in the Parkway area. He is a junior at the School of Engineering and Sciences. His part involved designing the robot. This is his second season. Clark joined FRC because there wasn't a lot to do after school. His friends encouraged him to join and said it was fun.

"I am captain of the design team. As the designer you have to stay ahead of what is being built because the end product may wind up being a little different than what was originally anticipated," Clark said. "It is really challenging, at times it hits you like a freight train."

Lucas Sherman, a freshman at Jim Elliot Christian School in Lodi is part of Team 1662. His dad, Mike Sherman, said his son has learned plenty after joining the team. Head coach and mentor for eight years, Tom Brey said this is the one thing on campus that everyone can become a pro.

College bound kids

"Because of robotics, kids get into colleges they couldn't normally get into," Brey said. "One of my previous team captains is in graduate school and the Navy is paying for it. Many of my students are accepted to University of the Pacific, Cal Poly and other good schools."

Brey's team is headed to Tel Aviv next week to compete against teams from Bosnia, Israel and other Arab countries. He said there is no war going on at these meets.

Ryan Neal is co-captain of team 1662 this year. He said he has always been involved in engineering.

"I decided to expand upon my learning," Neal said. "The biggest thing I learned from this is how important it is to work well with others."

Neal plans to attend University of the Pacific and study mechanical engineering.

As Team 1662's robot fell over during the first practice session, no one seemed too worried. They all just went to work on making adjustments and reprogramming the robot so it would glide over the bumps the next time out. All thanks to the St. Francis Fembots and their Practice Day for all the FRC teams.

Lights...Camera...Algebra!

Jesuit High School math teacher educates through YouTube

By CORRIE PELC
Pocket News writer
corrie@valcomnews.com

Photo courtesy, Jesuit High School

ALGEBRA STUDENTS at Jesuit High School Logan Kemper (left) and Michael Fat (middle) work on a math video while Vito Ferrante (right) looks on.

The ability to take and post videos to the Internet with ease has become a very large part of our mainstream lives over the past few years, mainly in thanks to the website YouTube. According to an article on RealSEO.com, over 2 billion videos are viewed each day on YouTube, and over 35 hours of video are uploaded by users each minute.

While you may think the majority of those videos are of cats doing silly things, there's a new movement toward using YouTube as an educational tool. And this movement is being driven by teachers like Vito Ferrante, an algebra teacher at Jesuit High School in Carmichael.

Ready for his close-up

Two years ago, Ferrante wanted to try using video technology for classroom instruction, so he created his own YouTube channel, "Ferrante Math," and began posting videos of himself working out different algebra problems, showing just his hand writing out the problem and his voice explaining the process. Ferrante now has about 100 videos on his YouTube channel that he has used his iPhone or iPad to record and upload.

"In a sense it's become a type of online textbook and the kids can access it at any time if the need to," Ferrante said.

Ferrante said giving his students access to these instructional videos at all times of the day has helped him reach the various different types of learners in his class.

"Anytime you have over just one-on-one instruction, you're going to have 20 to 30 different types of learners in one classroom," he explained. "And just because an instructor said something once or even twice, that doesn't mean that everyone gets exactly what's being said. So rather than needing to repeat things over and over the kids can go home and look again (at) what the instruction was."

Handy for homework

For freshman Andres Ramirez, having access to Ferrante's videos has been helpful when he's home studying or doing homework.

"A lot of times when you see a teacher do a math problem, it seems really easy in the classroom and I find when I get home I totally forget how to do it," he explained. "It's really helpful when Mr. Ferrante posts the videos because I can go over what we learned in class and just refresh it in my memory so it will help me."

Turning the tables

Due to the success of Ferrante's instructional videos for his students, he decided to turn the tables and see how the students do making their own videos utilizing their smart phones. Starting this semester, every student in Ferrante's accelerated algebra class has their own YouTube channel. They work in teams in the class during the week, taking turns videotaping each other working out algebra problems. The teammates then critique each others' work and at the end of each week they must upload one video to their YouTube channel for Ferrante to look at. This allows him to hear the student "thinking aloud" the problem and its solution, giving him the opportunity to accurately pinpoint where a student may be going wrong or "they're doing something very clever that maybe I hadn't thought of," Ferrante said.

Ferrante also said this process allows the students to learn how to work in pairs, how to give constructive criticism to a teammate, and how to use technology in both an innovative and responsible way.

"I'm a real firm believer that teachers need to model the usage of technology because we care about all the bad things that happen with texting and sexting and all that sort of thing, and we can model for the kids there are better ways to use these devices," he added.

Freshman Spencer Bluett has found the process of making his own videos has helped teach him how to combined education and technology. He also enjoys working with his partner on the videos and has found it be helpful when trying to figure out math problems.

"I like how Mr. Ferrante gives us freedom (to) go off and work together," he said. "I think that really helps us understand because we're the same age and we have the same questions — we can talk about it and discuss what we think about how it's done."

The Future

Through this process of combining education with technology, Ferrante said it has quite honestly made him a better teacher.

"I was always pretty well aware of the limitations of just a traditional classroom – I can be as eloquent as I need to be, but the reality is that in a sea of 25 faces, I'm only hitting a certain percentage of those kids that understand what I am saying," he explained. "What it's done for me now is it's allowed me to have a better differentiation in the classroom. I'm able to target much more succinctly each one of the individual kids and I think that's where education is going, quite honestly, into differentiation, individualized learning."

Ferrante's success has other colleagues at Jesuit interested in the prospect of doing something similar in their classrooms.

"In education, we often talk about the importance of integrating technology and instruction to enrich lessons," said Jesuit High School Principal Brianna Latko. "Tony Ferrante does this in incredibly creative ways, engaging students both in and out of the classroom. His innovative approach to technology as a tool for learning has benefited his students and our school community greatly."

Know your neighbor

Lou Coppola enjoys his role of preserving big band music

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Pocket News writer
lance@valcomnews.com

Note: This is part one of a two-part series regarding Sacramento resident Lou Coppola.

Many Sacramento area seniors, especially those from the Land Park and Riverside-Pocket areas, are very familiar with the name, Lou Coppola.

And in addition to being familiar with Coppola, who is a longtime Land Park resident, many of these seniors are very appreciative of him.

This is so, because they understand his role in preserving the music of their era – big band music of the 1920s through the 1950s.

After all, it was Coppola, 84, who founded the Nor Cal Big Bands Preservation Society, which hosts nine or 10 dances per year at Elk Lodge No. 6 at 6446 Riverside Blvd. in Sacramento.

Organization beginnings

The year was 2001 when Coppola and four big band leaders founded the society as a way of preserving a genre of music that was dear to their hearts.

The original bands of the society, which played a mix of tempos from swing to cha chas, were Bill Rase, Orval "Buddy" Harpham, Len Casey and George Bruno.

Today, Buddy Harpham, 90, continues to lead his band at the society's dances.

The dances' other main leaders for many years have been 86-year-old Fred Morgan and 77-year-old Warner Seargeant, who was the SwingMasters orchestra's leader as of this month. Beginning in March, the SwingMasters new leader will be Bob Fry, a retired, 23-year band leader with the U.S. Navy and a graduate of the Navy School of Music.

Also performing at the dances are youth bands consisting of students from Rio Americano, El Camino and Pleasant Grove high schools and a group of Davis area students led by music instructor Celia Cottle.

Although Coppola's society does not have a committee, he said that the organization receives assistance from sponsors, including the Avalon Hearing Aid Centers, which are owned by Michael Kemp and his wife Betty Voosters Kemp, and other help such as those who provide desserts and prizes.

Commenting about this assistance, Coppola said, "Volunteers and the many dance hosts provide both musical help and great food."

He added that the society is always in search of additional volunteers and sponsors.

Singing with nuns

Coppola said that his involvement in music basically began when he was 12 years old.

"Music began with me thanks to two nuns at a Catholic church in Concord, Calif.," Coppola said. "The two nuns said, as they listened to me, 'You're 12 years old and you should be singing and you should be singing the Latin Mass. And I said, "But I don't know Latin.' They said, 'We'll teach you and we'll practice.' And that's what we did after school and I sang the Mass for about two years."

Coppola, who was a tenor at the time and has been a baritone since he was 14, also sang in the church's adult choir during the same era.

His early experience with music also included singing in grammar school under the direction of his teacher, Mrs. Davis, who taught her class English, Spanish and Italian songs.

While attending Mt. Diablo High School in Concord, Coppola, who eventually became the high school's student body president, sang in the school's choir and attended many dances.

Coppola's instructor at Mt. Diablo High was Howard Brubeck, the brother of the legendary jazz pianist and composer Dave Brubeck.

In reminiscing about his early memories of big band music, Coppola said, "It was the music of the 1930s that really was our TV or digital camera of today. The records, if we could afford them, we would go and get and we had turntables – some of us had turntables – and later on we had 45s. And the 45s were even a smaller (media). The 45s became like the later CDs."

Saturday night dances

Because of his love of the covers of music of the era that was being played by bands at his high school, Coppola was inspired to attend dances at the Masonic Temple in Concord. The big orchestra that played at the venue was Hank Gallagher, a band that Coppola later emceed and recorded every Saturday night at Concord's Diablo Country Club in 1949.

Coppola said that the Masonic Temple dances furthered his love for big band music.

"(The high school dances) turned me on to go down to the dances put on at the Masonic Temple for 50 cents every Saturday night," Coppola said. "I went there when I was 16, 17 and 18 years old. Concord had a very active group and it was very well done. It was supervised and there was no liquor, people never got into fights and everybody danced with everybody. The gals didn't turn you down and you had kind of a gradual friendship gathering."

Broadcasting beginnings

Through Coppola's singing ability, he was recruited in 1944 to be the first person to

See Coppola, page 24

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Coppola: Love of music and singing talent led to career in radio broadcasting

Continued from page 21

operate a PA system for Mt. Diablo High's football games.

After high school, from 1945 through 1947, Coppola was a member of the U.S. Merchant Marine, at which time he sailed mostly in the South Pacific.

Toward the end of 1947, Coppola enrolled at San Francisco State University, where he followed the lead of his former social studies teacher, who encouraged him to become involved in radio.

Coppola said that one of his finest memories of attending San Francisco State is his involvement in helping to establish the school's first radio station.

Radio talent

Although he had planned on graduating from San Francisco State, Coppola said that he was lured away to Pittsburg, Calif., where a new radio station was about to be opened.

"I was hired by the station KECC (representing East Contra Costa) 990 AM to mainly handle sales and sports and live remotes," Coppola said.

In 1950, Coppola was drafted to serve in the Korean War.

Within six months of joining the Army, however, Coppola was transferred by Eighth United States Army request to be a part of the new Armed Forces radio network, AFRS (Armed Forces Radio Service) in Seoul, the capital of South Korea. The five-station network's purpose was to bring music, news and sports to roughly 400,000 troops.

His initial 12-month assignment was operating the eight-man vagabond radio station in Seoul.

Following his service overseas and after entering civilian life, Coppola began his major work in radio in Sacramento in 1952 with KGMS 1380 AM.

A year later, he was selected by the owner of radio station KYA 1260 AM in San Francisco to assist in the operation of a small, 1,000-watt station in Oroville. The station, KOMR 1340 AM, covered Butte County.

One of the highlights of Coppola's time with KOMR from 1953 to 1955 was broadcasting information regarding the critical flood of December 1955.

Coppola recalled how the floodwaters of the Feather River reached within four feet of the top of the levee and less than 50 feet from the station's building and transmitter.

In January 1956, Coppola returned to Sacramento to work for KCRA AM 1320, which was owned and operated by the Kelly Broadcasting Co. and the Hansen family of the Crystal Cream and Butter Co.

It was also in 1956 that Coppola married one of his co-workers, Betty Groth, at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. The couple had their only child, Charles "Chuck", 13 months later.

In 1977, 1320 AM was purchased by Chicago Tribune Properties and became known as KGNR.

KGNR was also affiliated with KSFM 96.1 FM – today's KYMX, "Mix 96."

A highlight of Coppola's time with KGNR was his travel talk show, which aired from 1982 to 1996.

Through his show, "Travel Talk," Coppola would escort groups to different parts of the world.

On one occasion, he headed a Korean Revisit event, which presented an opportunity for ex-servicemen, who served in Korea from 1950 to 1955, to revisit Korea.

Coppola also traveled to Hong Kong on a food trip with Lena Fat of the local Fat family restaurants and about 30 people in 1992.

Coppola retired from KGNR in 1996, when the station was sold to Henry Broadcasting, which was sold about two years later to Intercom, owner of four other Sacramento stations.

Despite his retirement, Coppola continued working for 1320 AM, voicing commercials and emceeing the station's big band dances until the formation of the society.

Coppola said that as a "radio man" he was a sort of "a jack of all trades," since he was versatile in all areas of the radio field.

Pocket News photo, Lance Armstrong

BIG ON THE BIG BANDS. Lou Coppola of the Nor Cal Big Bands Preservation Society holds some of his favorite CDs, including a CD with recordings of the Benny Goodman Orchestra.

"I covered sports in Sacramento and Korea (such as the 1952 Olympic Boxing Trials)," Coppola said. "I interviewed various Hollywood, music, sports and political celebrities, including Ginger Rogers, Duke Ellington, Arthur Fiedler, Betty Hutton and Raymond Burr, and I was involved in promotions, commercials and grand openings for local businesses. For me, my life has been filled with good socialization, including sports, information and music of the great era of America's songbook."

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Bingo!
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Enjoy a great local charity game of bingo every Thurs. night at 6:30 p.m. Benefits projects in the community. Early bird for $5, Regular game buy-in of $20. Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd., Sac. (916) 422-6666

Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Florin Sears Store Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, year round. 8 a.m.–noon. Florin Rd. & 65th St., Sac. www.california-grown.com

Food Addicts Anonymous
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: 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
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: 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. Danea Horn (503) 319-4247

Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: 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.

Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Sacramento Downtown Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Thursday, May–Sept. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 4th & K streets, Sac. www.california-grown.com

Sutterville Heights Optimist Club
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Come enjoy community speakers and community projects for youth. 12 noon., every Thurs. Golden Corrall, 7700 W. Stockton Blvd., Sac. Charlie (916) 427-7136 or Mary-Jo at (916) 691-3059

Ballroom Dances
March 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30: Enjoy dancing to a live band every Tuesday and Friday. 1:15 p.m.–3:45 p.m. $5/person. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael

Best Friend Fridays
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Enjoy a fun, no-pressure, no-risk networking environment that benefits the local community non-profits. Hors d'oeuvres, wine & beer, games, raffle drawings, door prizes. Bring your best friend and make new ones. $5 admission. Each Friday is hosted by a different non-profit group with all proceeds from the raffle donated. Garden Room and Courtyard, Sierra 2 Center, 2791 24th St., Sac. (916) 452-3005 www.sierra2.org

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento–Midtown
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: 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
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Hear guest speakers address local, regional and international topics. Visitors welcome. 7 a.m., every Fri. DoubleTree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way., Sac. www.pointwestrotary.com

Soroptimists of Sacramento
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: 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

Country Club Plaza Farmer's Market
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Country Club Plaza Farmer's Market. Every Saturday, year round. 8 a.m.–noon. Watt & El Camino, Butano Dr. parking lot, Sac. www.california-grown.com

Food Addicts Anonymous
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: 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.

Pancake Breakfast
March 3, April 7: Two light, delicious, warm pancakes, a tasty patty of sausage, Log Cabin syrup, tea and coffee, all for only $3/person! 8:30 a.m.–10 a.m. Every First Saturday of the Month. Benefits the Wednesday Club. Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael

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Annual Ag Boosters Dinner/Dance/Auction

When: March 24th at 6:00pm
Where: Old Sugar Mill
35265 Willow Ave., Clarksburg
Who: Music by Jay Rolerz Band
Catered by Asante' Catering
Cost: Tickets are $30 or $35 at the door

Contact Wendy Neves 916-744-1007 or nevesfarm@calbb.net

Sac PAL'S It's A Vegas Affair Casino Night

Sac PAL is proud to present it's 1st Annual Casino Night. The night will feature a buffet-style dinner, dancing, Blackjack, Craps, Roulette and a Poker tournament throughout the night. There will be a no-host bar and a silent auction. Discount hotel rooms available!

For information contact Sac Pal at sacpal@sacpal.org or (916) 808-8285
Tax ID # 27-0340660

Sacramento Police Activities League

Time: 5 PM-Midnight
Place: Woodlake Hotel
500 Leisure Lane

Date: March 24, 2012

Cocktail hour begins at 5:00 PM
Dinner served at 6:00 PM
Casino opens at 7:00 PM

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High school youth volunteer at the Parkway

By BILL CONDRAY
Pocket News writer and photographer
bill@valcomnews.com

High school students from the Sacramento, Arden and Carmichael areas all came together during their President's Day/week vacation to plant native oak trees in an effort to preserve the American River Parkway on Feb. 22.

"This was a student project day," said Stacy Srpinger, of the American River Parkway Foundation. "It serves two purposes. First, it gets youth out on the Parkway, and second, it helps the students to get their required community service hours for school."

Students came from Del Campo, El Camino, Kennedy, Mira Loma, Rio Americano and other high schools. After a one-hour orientation on the nature of the environmental preserve and how to properly plant the trees, the youth worked hard, planting 2,700 trees. A reward of pie was enjoyed by all after the tree plantings.

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Faces and Places

That's Italian!

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
Pocket News photographer
stephen@valcomnews.com

Families and friends gathered to enjoy some good old-fashioned Italian fare at the "Sotaccioli Salsiccia Dinner" on Feb. 17 at Elks Lodge No. 6. Everyone enjoyed the delicious pasta and Italian sausage dinner – and the dancing afterward.

The event was presented by Ron Domingos, Mike Cima and the Fitness Center Crew. Proceeds benefited the Fitness Center.

See More Photos & Open House Schedule for my "Featured Homes" at:
GreenhavenPocketHomes.com

492 Cool Wind Way – JUST LISTED! >
Wonderful light & ambiance! 4bd 2.5ba with formal living rm & dining area, separate fam rm & brkfst area. Serene backyard setting w/ Japanese style Gazebo & reflecting pond. Updated roof, windows, more! Apx 1,588 sf*

< 234 River Acres Dr – Call for details!
Exceptional location & features! 3bd 2.5ba "Great Room" plan w/formal dining rm, upd stainless kitchen appliances w/Blue Star gas range. Tile roof. Upd laminate & tile flooring. Apx 25' deep garage. More! Apx 1,899 sf*

6 Healdsburg Court – Pending Sale! >
Immac 3bd 2ba, 1-story w/3-car garage! Lrg family rm. Lots of updates, including granite kitchen counters & much more! Great locale near the School of Engineering & Sciences, Pocket Library & bike path.

< 6965 Riverside Blvd – SOLD!
Easy living in this attractive, well-maintained 2bd 2.5 bath halfplex home. Both bdrms are large & have private baths – like having two master suites. Low-maint stucco exterior & updated comp shingle roof. More!

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Tom & Martha Yanger, Sellers – Pocket Area

* 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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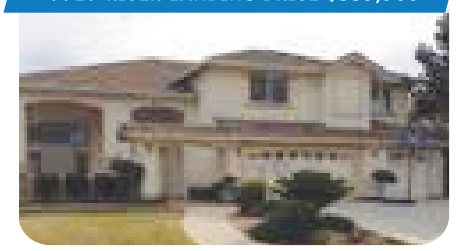
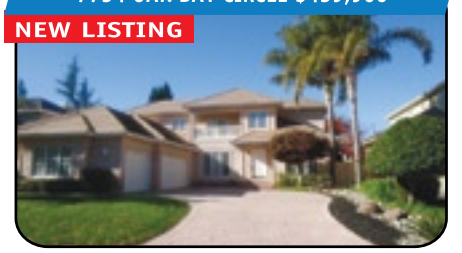
7727 RIVER LANDING DRIVE $559,900



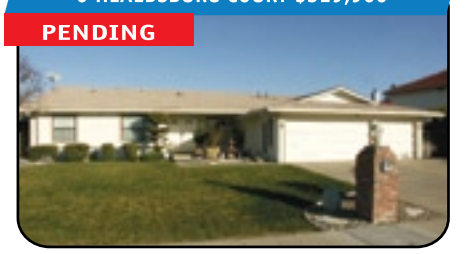
SINGLE FAMILY, 5 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 3270 SF.
LYNN LUK LEE 628-2843

7754 OAK BAY CIRCLE $459,900
NEW LISTING



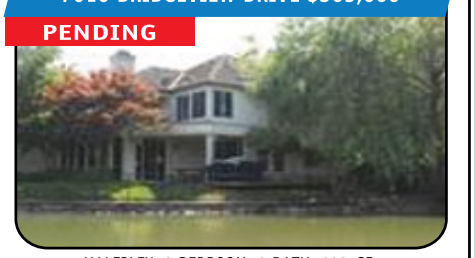
SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2550SF.
FARES ALIE 247-7198

6 HEALDSBURG COURT $329,900
PENDING



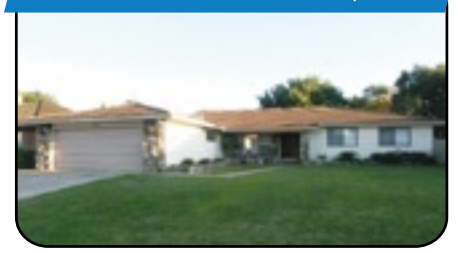
SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS, 2142SF.
BILL BONNER 320-1888

7610 BRIDGEVIEW DRIVE $305,000
PENDING



HALFPLEX, 3 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 2381SF.
TERRY MULLIGAN 768-3796

234 RIVER ACRES DRIVE $299,900

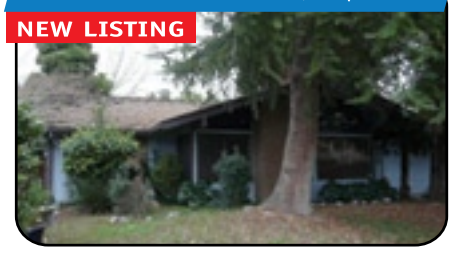


SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH, 1899SF.
BILL BONNER 320-1888

"We knew when we walked in, that this house was special. You handled our offer on the house quickly, and you helped calm our nerves about making the biggest investment of our lives."

- Prudential Dunnigan Real Estate, Client

6915 WATERVIEW WAY $260,000
NEW LISTING



SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1967SF.
BOB SPEECE 801-6733

6456 HARMON DRIVE $249,900
NEW PRICE

SIMGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1682SF.
NICK LAPLACA 764-7500

492 COOL WIND WAY $235,000
NEW LISTING

SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 2.5 BATH, 1588SF.
BILL BONNER 320-1888

ELK GROVE

3525 MARSH CREEK WAY-$375,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 5 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 3951SF
JOLEEN DUNNIGAN 717-3559

9069 QUAIL TREE COURT-$289,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2425SF
LYNN LUK LEE 628-2843

8611 ELK RIDGE WAY-$155,900
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 1761SF
BRANDON SHEPARD 479-1936

8732 MORNING GLORY WAY-$245,000
SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 2832SF
NEAL ALIE 981-7129

6301 LIVORNO WAY-$179,400
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1482SF
FARES ALIE 247-7198

10149 FUTURO COURT-$320,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 5 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 3226SF
NEAL ALIE 981-7129

9601 ELK GROVE BLVD-$279,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1374SF
JOHN WONG 531-7150

8496 VISTA BROOK DRIVE-$215,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 2159SF
NEIL ALIE 981-7129

8708 ARMAGH COURT-$160,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1598SF
BRANDON SHEPARD 479-1936

9570 CAMIE COURT-$279,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 2700SF
BRANDON SHEPARD 479-1936

6901 SPRINGMONT DRIVE-$130,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1239SF
NEAL ALIE 981-7129

9404 RIVER FALLS COURT-$180,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 1854SF
BRANDON SHEPARD 479-1936

9918 TARZO WAY-$165,000
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1324SF
GARY T LEE 595-4279

SACRAMENTO

2319 V ST. - $495,000
SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 3100SF
DAWN O'CONNOR-ROWE 799-4835

1939 AUBURN BLVD-$449,900
COMMERCIAL/RETAIL
GARY T LEE 595-4279

9246 BOSCASTLE WAY-$149,900
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1350SF
GARY T LEE 595-4279

4724 DRY CREEK ROAD-$349,900
SINGLE FAMILY, 2 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1000SF
GARY T LEE 595-4279

3328 SAN JOSE WAY-$49,000
NEW LISTING
SINGLE FAMILY, 2 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, 864SF
NEAL ALIE 981-7129

7 WINDCHIME COURT-$169,900
SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 2 BATH, 1380SF
GARY T LEE 595-4279

1 FLORIN ROAD-$1,995,000
NEW LISTING
RESIDENTIAL ACREAGE, 60.409 ACRES
DAVID OHARA 600-9495

4200 E COMMERCE WAY #623-$50,000
PENDING
CONDO, 1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, 667SF
DAVID OHARA 600-9495

9096 BEDROCK COURT-$249,900
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 4 BEDROOM, 3 BATH, 2781SF
DAVID OHARA 600-9495

2885 NORWOOD AVENUE-$350,000
RESTAURANT, 139.392SF
DAVID OHARA 600-9495

7272 FAWN WAY-$49,900
PENDING
SINGLE FAMILY, 3 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, 1036SF
GARY T LEE 595-4279