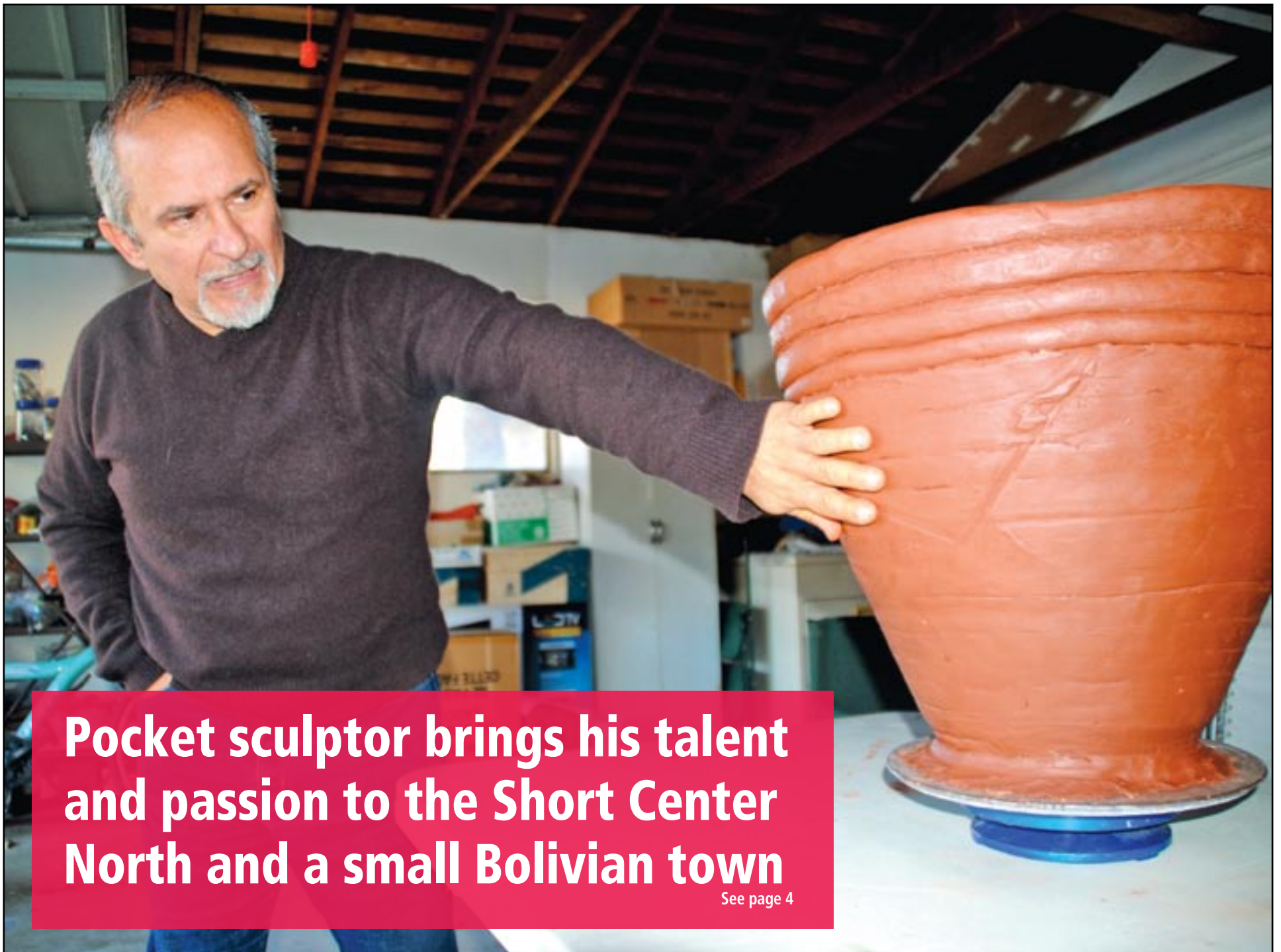


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Pocket sculptor brings his talent and passion to the Short Center North and a small Bolivian town

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operate rustic
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Riverside-Pocket area
native Marvin Silva
remembered

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In the Pocket



By SHANE SINGH
shane@valcomnews.com

Easy money:

Superstition can be a powerful motivator in the art of playing the California Lottery. And many state lottery players swear certain retail ticket sellers are more fortunate than others. Into this elusive mix of serendipity and luck marches Select Wine and Spirits in the Promenade Center on Rush River Drive, where a \$1 million Powerball ticket was sold in December. The winning neighbor remains unidentified (trust me, it's better that way), but the Select crew can now offer a small challenge to nearby Lichine's Liquor and Deli after selling a seven-figure ticket. Whose lottery machine will produce more big bell ringers in 2014?

Climbing Vines:

For some lucky folks, work can be a labor of love. Consider local couple Loyal Miner

and Stefani Ginotti, who operate a rustically bucolic winery in Clarksburg, just across the old Freeport Bridge on the Sacramento River. Loyal and Stefani opened Miner's Leap in 2008-2009 and pride themselves on producing quality wines in small lots. Stefani said, "Cinza is one of our most popular vintages and comes from 126-year old Lodi vines. It is our signature wine and it also is something fun." It turns out that Loyal's great grandfather, Loyal Aubrey Miner, was a Prohibition-era winemaker in Washington state. Like many vintners in those years, the elder Miner had occasional disagreements with various bureaucratic authorities, but managed to secure a Presidential pardon after the 21st Amendment was ratified, repealing Prohibition. The old Lodi vines that produce Miner's Leap signature grapes survived not just Prohibition, the Great Depression and a couple of world wars, but also some recent competition from an upstart winemaking community northwest of here called Napa.

Motorcycles Unmuffled:

There have been a number of posts on Pocket

Nextdoor about motorcycle racing and associated noises on Riverside Boulevard between Florin Road and Park Riviera Drive. Two separate motorcyclists have been seen revving up their engines late at night and disturbing the residents along this once-quiet stretch of the Pocket. Vigilant neighbors have parked along the streets in an effort to catch a license plate of one or both perpetrators. If you see these two-wheeled maniacs, please notify police so tickets can be written, tow trucks dispatched and our firefighters ultimately spared the gruesome task of scraping the death-wishers off the pavement. Oh, and residents can get some rest.

Boxed In:

Lucky Wailia owns the UPS Store on Rush River. With Christmas over, Lucky finally gets a chance to breathe easy again. "During the holiday season we ship about 1,000 packages just for UPS during the month before Christmas or 2,000 if you include both UPS and postal service. This does not include regular mail and

See In the Pocket, page 3



Photo courtesy

Local couple Loyal Miner and Stefani Ginotti operate a rustically bucolic winery in Clarksburg, just across the old Freeport Bridge on the Sacramento River. Loyal and Stefani opened Miner's Leap in 2008-2009 and pride themselves on producing quality wines in small lots.

In the Pocket:

Continued from page 2

drop-off of pre-paid packages," he said. That's a lot of packages. Lucky notes that his business "prides itself for providing excellent customer service and that customers

of other copy and package stores often compliment him on that aspect of his business." When asked about returns, he said, "Every year, people order stuff and return back for various reasons. We ship about 15 to 20 packages back per day from on-line orders." The store also

rents 400 private mail boxes to businesses and residents who don't want mail delivered to physical addresses. If Lucky knows anything about the person who bought the \$1 million Powerball ticket at the booze shop around the corner from his UPS store, he's not talking.

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Alberto Einstein is one of the figurative sculptures made by Pocket resident, Miguel Paz. The piece was fired inside one of the large beehive kilns at Panama Pottery in 2005.

Introducing Miguel Paz: Pocket sculptor brings his talent and passion to Short Center North and a small Bolivian town

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Editor's note: This is part one of a series about a prominent sculptor from the Pocket area whose work inspires and teaches students locally at the Short Center North and internationally in a small Bolivian town called Aiquile.

Inside the garage of his Johnfer Way home on a chilly Saturday December morning, Pocket resident Miguel Paz was humming along Maria Martinez style, throwing clay onto a wheel, wrapping it

around with his hands, forming even rolls.

It was so cold on that Dec. 7 morning that he couldn't quite feel when he stepped on the pedal. "The thing about working with clay is you're throwing it onto the wheel and it sticks pretty solid, but the higher you go, the more weight distribution and if it's uneven, it will do this and that. So, today was one of those days I made a boo-boo. I had it this big," he said, demonstrating the height of a pottery piece in progress and describing his process of coil-

ing, that, in theory, should be somewhat controlled.

"I was doing the same kind of thing except I stepped on the pedal this morning. It was so cold; I couldn't quite feel it. I stepped on the pedal and the thing got going and went 'woooo!' It spun out and the piece went up against the wall. It was the weirdest thing in the world and I got a little piece here on my shirt," he laughed.

Paz is a mellow, kind-natured professional artist with an impressive education: He took undergraduate courses from internationally renowned ceramist Peter Voukos at UC Berkeley. He studied alongside local legend Tony Natsoulas at UC Davis and studied at Teachers College at Columbia University, the oldest and largest graduate school of education in the United States. Despite the accomplishments he has on paper, there is nothing of an ego that radiates from his peaceful and playful personality that is set on changing the world with art as a tool. But that piece of the story will be saved for later in this series.

See Paz, page 11

One man's journey to make John Sutter's hometown a sister-city to Sacramento

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Longtime Kandern, Germany resident Peter Völker is on a mission to make Sacramento a sister-city to John Sutter's hometown. Völker in early November flew on a small Cessna airplane to Executive Airport to attend one of the weekly Fort Sutter Lions Club lunch meetings, which start at noon on Tuesdays at Hoppy Brewing Company. He urged members there to commit their support to establish a sister-city relationship. Not a person there opposed. They all loved to hear the adventure that brought Völker to Sacramento and his passion to further memorialize Sutter.

Völker lives on the street which carries Sutter's name and the town has a small museum where visitors can find documents of the life of Sutter and visit the house where he was born. And at Sutter's Fort, there is a plaque that mentions Sutter's birthplace

as Kandern. So to Völker, making Kandern and Sacramento a sister-city relationship seems like a viable option and he is determined to make it happen. "We know many Americans who are very keen to find out about their roots, which often lie in Germany," he said.

At the luncheon, the tone was very lighthearted, and Lamb introduced Völker with a bit of a joke: "He called my office a few times and I thought, this criminal is really persistent. I called him back and he explained where he was from and anyway, he's here today."

Upon describing his flight to Sacramento, he said he wanted to visit Lions Clubs in the cities where he wanted to make a stop. Heavily involved in the Lions Club in Kandern, Völker began an initiative to bring together Lions Clubs within the region tri-country region (France, Germany and Switzerland) as Kandern is located in the southern part of the country near those borders.



Photo by Monica Stark

Longtime Kandern, Germany resident Peter Völker and copilot Mirko Sylla stand in front of a Cessna 172 at Sacramento Executive Airport. Völker is on a mission to make Sacramento a sister-city to John Sutter's hometown. In early November, he and Sylla flew to Sacramento to attend one of the weekly Fort Sutter Lions Club lunch meetings.

When Völker was planning his trip, he discovered there was a club in Sacramento with the name Fort Sutter. Since he was not allowed to fly through Russia to Sacramento, he decided to fly to Sacramento from his second home in Florida, he said. He rented a Cessna 172 from the flight-school where he took flying lessons. Together with his co-pilot, Mirko Sylla, he enjoyed the warm hospitality of Mark Lamb and wife Tra-

See Völker, page 15

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Riverside-Pocket area native Marvin Silva remembered

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is part one in a series about the late Riverside-Pocket area native Marvin Silva.

Marvin Silva, who passed away last October, less than two weeks shy of his 90th birthday, lived a very eventful life.

His connection to the Riverside-Pocket area is undoubtedly rich, as he was literally born in the area.

On Oct. 28, 1923, a doctor arrived by horse and buggy to assist in his birth at the Silva house on the ranch of Marvin's grandparents, John and Clara Machado.

The Silva family home was located at the postal delivery address of Route 8, Box 752, directly across the street from Manuel "Pachtude" and Carrie Mauricio's home at Route 8, Box 737.

Although the old Mauricio home still stands on the river levee at the present day address of 5890 Riverside Blvd., the Silva home was demolished in preparation for the construction of Interstate 5 in that area.

Marvin's parents, Victor D. and Mamie (Machado) Silva, had moved into their home off the old Riverside Road following their January 1923 marriage at St. Elizabeth Portuguese National Church at the northeast corner of 12th and S streets.



Photo courtesy of Silva family
Marvin Silva is shown with his parents, Victor D. and Mamie (Machado) Silva, in this early 1924 photograph.



Photo courtesy of Silva family
Shown left to right in this c. 1929 photograph are childhood friends, Edward Mauricio, Herman Mauricio and Marvin Silva.

Because Marvin had a greater weight and length than an average baby, the men of his family proudly spoke about how they believed he would grow to be a "big man."

Additionally, Marvin's family took an even deeper pride in his birth, as he represented the fourth generation of his family to reside in the Riverside-Pocket area.

Marvin's great-grandfather, Antone Rodrigues Perry, who was born as Antone Rodrigues Pereira in the island of Faial in the Azores islands on March 26, 1831, was one of the earliest, if not the earliest of the Portuguese to settle in today's Pocket area. He became a resident of the area in the early 1850s.

The Riverside-Pocket area was very rural during Marvin's youth.

For instance, his grandparents' ranch had cows for milk and cheese and rabbits for food.

The Machado ranch also included alfalfa, row crops, fruit trees, two large barns and a tool shed.

Fortunately for Marvin, the Mauricio family included Edward and Herman Mauricio, who were both around his age and were thus suitable to become his childhood playmates.

Marvin's sister, Dolores, who was a year younger than him, became a tomboy, as she tagged along with these three boys.

These children and other children in the area attended the old Sutter School, which is the present site of Cabrillo Civic Club #5 at 4605 Karbet Way. The boundaries of the school, which educated first through eighth grade students, were from Pimentel's Ingleside Café – presently The Trap bar – north to Sutterville Road.

A short distance north of the Silva home was the home and grocery store of Manuel Da Rosa.

After graduating from Sutter School, Manuel's oldest son, Elmer, learned to fly a plane and become a crop duster.

In being fascinated by aviation, Marvin idolized Elmer, and Elmer became his hero.

See Silva, page 7

Silva:

Continued from page 6

Furthermore, the Municipal Airport – now known as the Executive Airport – was located on Freeport Boulevard, about a mile away from Marvin's home.

Planes from that airport would frequently fly near the ranch and Marvin would pester his father to take him to the airport to watch planes take off and land and to possibly see Elmer.

When Marvin was in the fifth grade, he moved with his family to a different home at 2932 Freeport Blvd., near the then-future site of C.K. McClatchy High School, which would receive the address of 3066 Freeport Blvd.

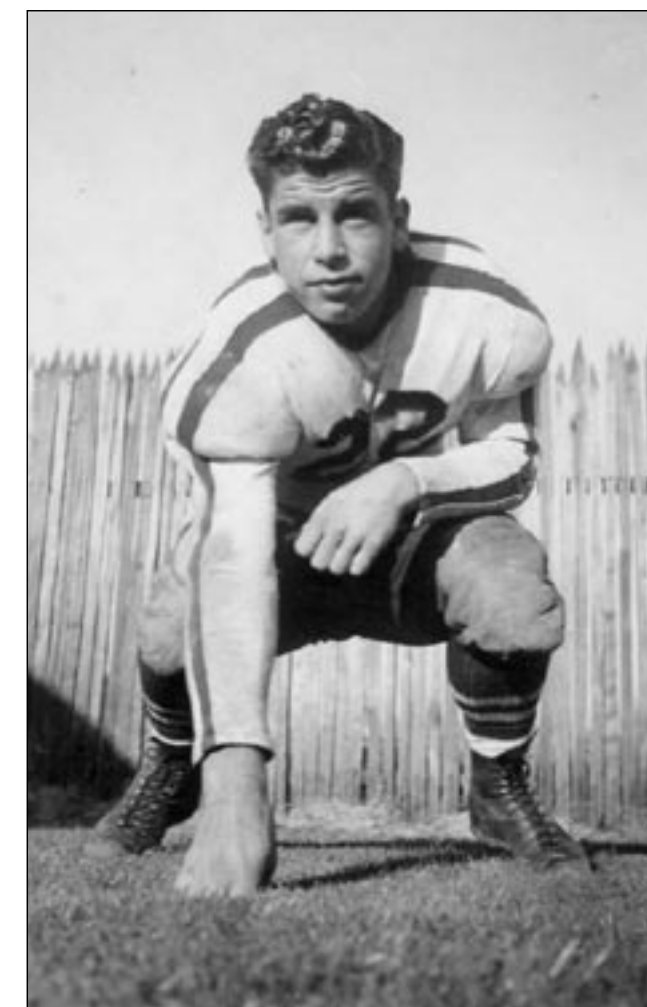
At that time, Sacramento was home to only one high school, Sacramento High School, which was established in 1856.

Following his family's relocation to Freeport Boulevard, Marvin began attending the old Crocker School at 1740 Vallejo Way. The school eventually combined with the later established Riverside School at 2970 Riverside Blvd. to create today's Crocker/Riverside Elementary School at the latter named address.

After completing his education at Crocker School, Marvin attended the old California Junior High School at Land Park Drive and Vallejo Way for grades seven, eight and nine, and McClatchy High for grades 10, 11 and 12.

Marvin, who began to be recognized as "Marv" at McClatchy High, developed leadership skills at that school.

He became involved in many high school activities and he served as his class's president during his sophomore and junior years and McClatchy's student body president for his senior year of 1940-41.



Photos courtesy of Silva family
(far left) Marvin Silva is shown at the age of 1.

Marvin Silva was a member of the 1939 McClatchy High School football team, which became the first McClatchy gridiron squad to beat the Sacramento High School football team.

Additionally, Marvin edited the sports page for McClatchy High's weekly newspaper, *The Prospector*, and was the business manager of the staff for the school's yearbook, *The Nugget*.

Each year, he sold the most yearbooks, including 112 in 1941. His sister was the runner-up yearbook salesperson to Marvin, and she would eventually surpass her brother's record sales figures following his graduation.

Marvin also had an interest in sports, beyond his school newspaper work, and his favorite sport was football.

During his junior and senior years, Marvin was a member of McClatchy's varsity football teams, which included standouts Freddie Wristen, Ernie Busch, Gene Geremia, Ted La Tona and George Stathos.

Marvin, who was the team's right halfback, contributed to one of the most notable

games in McClatchy sports history – a gridiron contest against the Lions' archrival, the Sacramento High School Dragons football team, on Nov. 17, 1939.

Following McClatchy's 13-6 victory against Sacramento High – a game that marked the team's first victory in their annual rivalry game against the Dragons – many

McClatchy students walked or drove cars between Sacramento Stadium (today's Hughes Stadium) and McClatchy High.

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Pony Express 11 year old to be featured performer at SYS Winter Concerto

Roger Xia, age 11, has studied piano and violin for seven years and attends Pony Express Elementary School. A violinist in the Sacramento Youth Symphony Premier Orchestra for three years, he is currently Concertmaster of the Premier Orchestra. Xia will be the featured performer at the Winter Concerto, where the Premier Orchestra of the Sacramento Youth Symphony, under the direction of Michael Neumann, will perform works including Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 1 in C Major, Allegro con brio, Brahms' First Symphony and Elgar's Enigma Variations.

Xia showed a strong interest in music even when he was a toddler and started his formal piano lessons since age 4. "I love to perform with musical instruments, piano in particular. I really enjoy delivering my happiness of making music to the audience," he told Valley Community Newspapers.

He said it is a great honor to be selected as piano soloist to perform with the SYS Premier Orchestra. "I'm looking forward to a great performance on Jan. 25." Xia will perform Beethoven's piano concerto No. 1 in C Major, 1st movement, Allegro con brio.

Asked about his goals for the future, Xia said: "Music became and will continue to be an important part of my life. I will certainly keep studying music further, and hope to earn more performing opportunities while traveling on my music-making journey."

If you go:

What: Winter Concerto Concert featuring Roger Xia, pianist
When: Saturday, Jan. 25 at 7 p.m.

Who: Sacramento Youth Symphony, Premier Orchestra, Michael Neumann conductor and artistic director

Where: Hiram Johnson High School, 6879 14th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95820

Why: Winner of the annual concerto competition performs with the Premier Orchestra.

Tickets: \$15 general admission, \$10 students and seniors, free to kids 10 and younger www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org or call 731-5777.

Paz:

Continued from page 4

First, a bit about from where he came, La Paz, Bolivia.

Bolivia has a history of one military coup d'état after another and for Paz's family, the political was as personal as it could have been. The second agrarian reform in South America (the first being in Mexico in 1917) was in 1950 in Bolivia, which gave the vote to the indigenous people, the Quechua and the Aymara.

As Paz described the political atmosphere, his voice rose a few decibels. "You know all those people – that was 79 percent of Bolivia that did not vote. There was upheaval and change in the oligarchy and that was Víctor Paz Estenssoro."

A tin producer, Bolivia was used by the United States for harnessing the metal that made steel manageable to make things like cars. That was 1950. Paz was born on Dec. 1, 1954. Then in 1964, Estenssoro was elected and there was a change. Living in San Francisco in 1967, Paz's father was the new president's counsel general. A union organizer of the growers is how Estenssoro won the support but that was short-lived. The military came in and ousted Estenssoro, which put Paz's family on the blacklist in Bolivia. But with the Monroe Doctrine in place, the Paz family found refuge back in the United States and the elder Paz got a professorship at Harvard. "So we came and later after five years, my parents became U.S. citizens. I became a (United States) citizen in '81 after I was already in Berkeley."

Growing up in Bolivia undoubtedly affected the artist Paz was about to become, though he didn't realize his true potential until he began taking courses at UC Berkeley. Clay, an abundant natural resource that has been found in the earliest Inca civilizations and a material that continues to be used for practical purposes, was all around Paz. On one of his trips back to Bolivia in 1991, he began to see there was a real strong cultural ground of the knowledge of what clay can do for people. "It's such an inexpensive material but it's so culturally embedded in the lives of people and even in the Adobe themselves," he said. As he writes on his artist biography:



"Working with clay is an exploration of great value. Many cultures have interacted with this material to enhance their lives both in the past and in the present."

When he first enrolled at UC Berkeley, Paz struggled, as he was trying to figure himself out. "The whole thing about being an artist was deep in my soul," he said. But he wanted to be a lawyer because it seemed like something he should do. Luck should have it, Paz took a course in art and that was with Voukos. "My stuff just started to pour out. That was it. I declared my major: Art."

But Berkeley was a bit too intense and so he transferred to UC Davis, where he completed his undergraduate degree and began to study under Robert Artisan in 1978. Paz became involved in the figurative nature of art and his pieces span from life-size humans to small figurine types.

One of his pieces, titled "Alberto Einstein" sits in the front yard, alongside the walkway of his Pocket area home and comes with a story of its own. Fired in one of the historic beehive kilns at Panama Pottery in 2005, which cost about \$20,000 to operate, gave Paz a deep sense of fulfillment. Property owner Dave DeGamilla had a promotion going on and started it up. "It was really nice to have that sense of enrichment," Paz recalled.

Paz also worked out of another of DeGamilla's properties, The Brickhouse, located at 2837 36th St. "As an artist, you move around a lot in Sacramento, especially if you are into clay. I worked on 20th Street with Tony Natsoulas. We went



(far left) This figurative sculpture sits on an end table inside the Pocket area home of the artist, Miguel Paz.

(left) This sculpture of a black youth was inspired by the son of a friend of the artist, Miguel Paz. The sculpture stands inside Paz's Pocket home.

to school together at UC Davis undergraduate. We hung out. He was a very active guy."

Paz has taken to learn about different firing techniques, the latest to really open his eyes is the use of an anagama, a Japanese style wood fired kiln, one which can be found at Solano Community College and another at Sacramento State University. Rising up to 2,300 Fahrenheit, the kiln at Sacramento State University burns off the carbon. "It's so great and (CSUS Ceramics Professor) Scott Parady is awesome. He's from the Napa area. There's an enormous community. It's an incredible state. We've got all these rivers, an


amazing clay source. There's also movement toward the anagama; it's fairly new, within the last 10 years. I want to take the anagama to Bolivia to teach that process. They have much to learn and the gas -- Bolivia has plenty of gas and can tap into that."

Paz wants to create an exchange program of artists on a worldwide basis, a community of artists. From now until May, he is learning how to build a kiln from the ground up and will be taking that knowledge to Bolivia in an upcoming trip, which will be discussed further in this publication.

Recent work of his has been shown at the Harlem School of the Arts: Harlem, New York, Nature Conservative Center: Central Park, New York, Matrix Arts: Sacramento, Very Special Arts: Sacramento, Robia Model Arts School Program: Sacramento, Metropolitan Museum of Art: New York, New York, City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Nigra Falls, New York, Ellerslie Museum: Trenton, New Jersey and ARTWORKS: Princeton, New Jersey.

To find pieces on his website, visit: <http://ercregistry.com/index.a4d?action=search.profilePage&id=3446>

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Where are they now?

The tale of St. Francis grads and their training to become military officers

By BILL LAWS

Two graduates of Saint Francis High School mark separate milestones in the course of training to become military officers. This winter, the U.S. Navy will pin pilot wings on the uniform of Shelby DeLaMora who is completing helicopter training in southern Florida. At nearly the same time, but in a "ship selection" ceremony at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Alexandra Chan will receive her duty assignment that will follow her 2014 graduation from the academy.

Having become friends more than five years ago when they stood side-by-side playing instruments in the brass section of Saint Francis's school orchestra, it was DeLaMora, a senior in the class of 2007, who inspired the younger Chan, a sophomore, with a desire to apply to the U.S. Naval Academy. While Alexandra stated in a previous interview that it was Shelby who put the idea of going to the academy in her head, Shelby openly admits that she probably had that sort of influence on her younger friend. "We stood next to each other for days and days," she explained, Shelby with her saxophone and Alexandra with the trumpet, and lots and lots of talk between notes.

For both of these talented women and their families, however, the pomp and gaiety of graduation ceremonies may be tempered by various circumstances. According to the DeLaMora family, uncertainty about the exact date of the graduation still remains because of the "sequestration" or limitation of specified governmental functions that followed Congressional debates over the controversial national debt limits.

Shelby herself explains that on a few occasions that "because of maintenance issues, we haven't had aircraft to fly."

Also, as noted by Charles Chan, Alexandra's father, the upcoming graduation will be a matter of "relief" as much as it will be of joy and pride for his daughter. Although she finished with flying colors from "leatherneck" training at Quantico, Virginia, the activities were extremely strenuous. "She has decided to accept a position in the Navy and not go over to the Marine side."

Shelby, in a telephone interview, indicates that while both she and Alexandra were intrigued by their short exposure to Marine training, "it was not the lifestyle that we wanted."

Chan hopes that when ship duty is assigned in January, Alexandra gets a destroyer posting in Hawaii. "As-



Pocket native Alexandra Chan.



Shelby DeLaMora

Photos courtesy

signment choices are a result of class rank," he explains. "It would be nice if Alexandra gets Pearl Harbor. Her mother still has relatives in Hawaii."

Of course, duty stations in Hawaii would be closer to home and further away from "hot spots" such as the Persian Gulf. Shelby, as well, says that her assignment of a certain type of helicopter depends upon her class grades and rank. While her type of helicopter will definitely be deployed on the battle field, she says that she doesn't know whether it will be the model that drops off troops or the model that does the actual fighting.

Like the parents of Alexandra, Sally DeLaMora, Shelby's mother, has a bit of natural worry concerning her daughter's military future as a helicopter aviator. As she says, "I would love

to keep her safe...maybe put her in bubble wrap...I could not be prouder of her service to her country."

Shelby, though, says she has been able to soften some of her mother's worry by conveying "the big picture where the Navy always does whatever it can to protect its personnel."

Both women, DeLaMora from West Sacramento, and Chan from the Greenhaven-Pocket area face their commitment with determination and resiliency. As Lieutenants, they both are obligated to serve in the military for at least five years. "For officers with flight training," says Shelby "the obligation is for 10 years."

DeLaMora, according to her mother, turned down two full

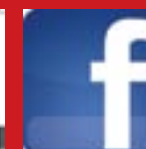
See St. Francis, page 14



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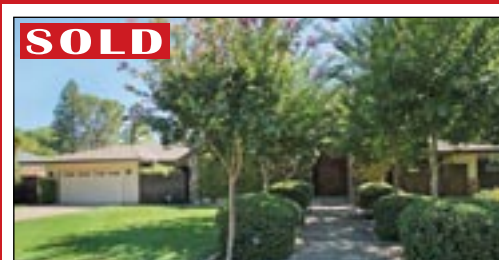
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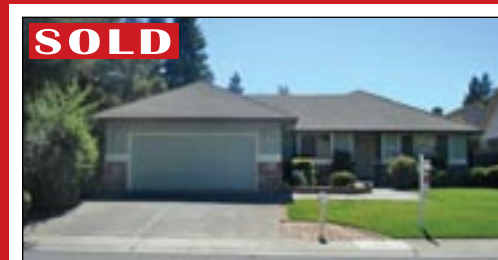


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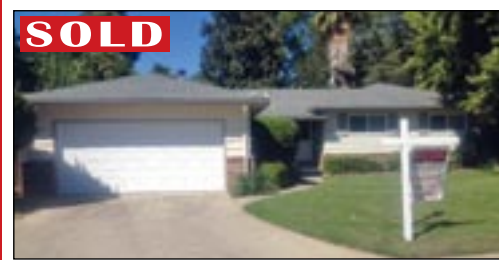
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St. Francis:

Continued from page 12

scholarships to Catholic universities in California. Rather than accept these academic guarantees, Shelby says that she even accepted a probationary acceptance to the academy in the first year. "I had to keep my grades up or be tanked," she explains.

The young woman's patriotism stems from a strong sense of idealism that was nurtured by her religious upbringing. "She was active in church through altar service, choir and liturgy reading," explains her mother. To this day, Shelby keeps in her bathroom her St. Francis graduation candle with the emblazoned motto of "peace and goodness."

When the national tragedy of "9/11" happened, Shelby, who was in seventh grade, began a correspondence with a soldier in Afghanistan. While she never met him, she feels that the traumatic event and aftermath in New York may have encouraged her "to dream of working in the FBI, CIA or somewhere in government."

As her father explains, the most challenging time of her Naval training has been in helicopter school. "The pace of work was very challenging," he explains. Learning to fly a combat helicopter consisted of class work, flight simulation and then ac-

tual performance in the air. These three steps, he explained, repeated themselves again and again for various stages of the training.

Shelby agrees with her father, saying that she still has one more course to pass in order to receive her wings in January.

Chan's commitment to Naval service is as equally determined. During academy summer programs, for example, Chan has kayaked in Alaska and piloted a sailboat from the Chesapeake to New York harbor. According to her father, Chan and her mother had to meet with three sets of doctors before demonstrating that her vision problems wouldn't disqualify her from service or attendance at the academy. Chan's persistence may reflect the tenacity of her Chinese-American family which has struggled over many years through secondary migrations to gain a foothold in welcoming country. According to Chan's father, before Alexandra's birth, the family migrated from mainland China to Hawaii and then to Lima, Peru, before coming to America.

Whatever its source, though, the women's strong motivation and competitive drives have been a component of a powerful passion for sports.

In grade school, for example, Alexandra was the only female

on the local softball team. She continued to play softball with a strong sense of competitive zeal while majoring in history at the academy.

Shelby confirms this aspect of strength and determination in her younger friend. "Her sense of humor is tremendous," she says. "Whenever we saw each other at the academy, we started laughing almost immediately."

DeLaMora's involvement in rowing or crew competition brought her to the attention of the academy. As explained by Shelby, her leadership at both her rowing club and at the academy of a team or crew of rowers gave her a sense of bonding or unity with one's mates that is critical for a military attitude. According to her parents, Shelby's involvement with organized rowing on Lake Washington in West Sacramento led to her personal values of physical fitness but also a sense of leadership. Her connection, through the internet, with the academy rowing program was her first contact with the Navy school.

Because the two friends' companies (the Naval academy is divided up into approximately 30 companies of midshipmen) were situated close to one another in the mess hall, they got to see each other briefly but regularly.

Despite rigorous and controlled aspect of their Naval training, both of these women will emerge from their careers with creative and rich personalities. As stated by Chan in a recent article, "we are taught we have to do the right thing."

According to Sally DeLaMora, when her daughter "says she will do something, you can count on her to do it." Both of these young women on the verge of military careers are woven with a very special and durable fiber. Although a single child, Chan explains in relationship to her classmates that "I have formed some close relationships because as a group we go through so much together." DeLaMora, as well, keeps close tabs with her sister Kelly who like Shelby is an English major. Family, it seems, is only one of the values that along with reading books, keeping physically fit and conquering challenges have coalesced to for two potential leaders.

Early next year both of these friends will be given an assignment. For one it will be on water, and the other the assignment will be at an air naval facility. One can only hope, because of the special nature of the bond that began at St. Francis High School that their deployments will be peaceful, challenging and close enough to allow a very special relationship to survive and prosper.



Photo by Monica Stark

Longtime Kandern, Germany resident Peter Völker stands in front of a Cessna 172 at Sacramento Executive Airport. Völker is on a mission to make Sacramento a sister-city to John Sutter's hometown. In early November, he and copilot Mirko Sylla flew to Sacramento to attend one of the weekly Fort Sutter Lions Club lunch meetings.

Völker:

Continued from page 5

cy where they met another Lions couple, the Thielen.

When Völker rented the Cessna with his old flight-school he asked if there was a student who would like to join him on this trip who may need additional flight hours to earn an Airline Transport Pilot License. "Only few hours later I received a call from Mirko Sylla, a German flight student from Berlin. I was very lucky that he joined me because he turned out to be very capable, motivated and helpful," said Völker.

The entire round-trip took the pilots nine days with two spent in Sacramento and one day at the flight school of "Lufthansa" in Goodyear, Arizona. As Völker puts it, the total distance was 5,160 nm (nautical miles).

According to Völker, former Kandern mayor Bernhard Winterhalter visited Sacramento in 2008 in an attempt to establish a sister-city relationship but didn't have enough support for the initiative. Most recently, the City Clerk's office said the City of Sacramento currently has 11 sister cities and is challenged financially and not staffed to fully support the program that currently exists.

Völker said the Lions themselves would fund whatever financial costs there are to keep a relationship going.

Lions Club meetings are held at noon on the first, third and fourth Tuesdays of every month at Hoppy Brewing Company, which is located at 6300 Folsom Blvd. The first Tuesday, students of the month are recognized, the third Tuesdays are general meetings and the fourth Tuesdays is for the club's officers.

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Gold Lion Arts brings creative culture to Riverside Boulevard

By GREG BROWN
greg@valcomnews.com

Riverside Boulevard just got a lot hipper. Where will you find benefit concerts, music lessons, record swaps, art exhibits, and music clinics? Gold Lion Arts. They also serve up a darn good cheese plate.

Local Sacramento musician Ross Hammond is the owner of Gold Lion which was named after his daughter's favorite song by indie rock band Yeah Yeah Yeahs. Ross decided to open Gold Lion Arts because he "just wanted a central hub for us to work, like an artists' collective space. This is kind of a way for us to work on our individual arts but at the same time we also have the space where we can put on

a concert, or clinic, or a recital for students."

Gold Lion had a benefit concert last month with the Harley White Trio. All you had to bring was a coat to listen to the acoustic jazz stylings of Harley and his crew. Baby, it's cold outside at night in Sacramento and a coat drive is a great way to help folks who need to bundle up. It was easily worth the price of admission.

After the Harley White Trio, came Electropoetic Coffee, which is a unique listening experience. It's poet Lawrence Dinkins and Hammond improvising on guitar. Thought provoking poetry with pleasant sounds coming from Hammond's guitar, it had an ethereal edge to it.

"We hope to use the space in a lot of different ways," says Hammond. And he has certainly done that so far.

There's a record swap every other month at Gold Lion. A lot of the vendors and customers already know each other. It's a great excuse to gather, swap stories and swap records. I was able to snag The Stones' Sticky Fingers and an old Mister Rogers LP.

One of the record vendors, Dennis Yudt told me, "Ross is good for Sacramento. If anything creative is going on, Ross is usually involved."

Gold Lion Arts will host a lot of music clinics. Jazz guitar player Henry Robinette came in one evening and had a little Q & A with some folks. He sat in a small semi-circle and talked about how he sees music and how he composes. Ross told me, "it was great. I want to try and do that once a month with a different artist."

Hammond is also a music instructor. He offers music lessons for children and adults. He's already had some students coming in for lessons. Ross has been teaching guitar for 18 years. When it comes to instruction Ross told me six or seven is a good age to start learning. Ross says: "If kids want to learn how to read music, that's the perfect time because they can pick it up just like that. They're little sponges at that point."

Ross offers lessons in guitar, ukulele, bass, and banjo for all ages. You are never too old to learn to play a musical instrument. Gold Lion Arts also offers lessons in drum, piano and voice.

There's also plenty of art to look at.

Artist Greg LaTraille had an opening art reception in December at Gold Lion. The exhibit showcased a series of oil paintings by LaTraille known as "Equationart." According to the event invite "These are paintings that incorporate ac-



Ross Hammond swaps some Isaac Hayes inside Gold Lion Arts, a brand new art and music haven on Riverside Boulevard.



Jim Bakker still in shrink wrap.

tual famous equations, using the shapes of the equation symbols as artistic objects." The Equationart is currently hanging up at Gold Lion Arts.

It's a very organic word of mouth kind of place. In January Gold Lion will have a music gear swap where the

public can buy, trade, or sell all types of gear from amps, guitars, drums, sound gear and more.

Gold Lion Arts is located at 2733 Riverside Blvd. in Land Park.

For music lessons, contact Gold-LionArts@gmail.com

Genevieve Didion Elementary to hold crab feed for much critical school programs

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Over the last two years, parents at Genevieve Didion Elementary have filled the void the school district created. Like four other schools including Crocker-Riverside, for instance, Didion has received no discretionary funds that typically provide for programs or staff, such as: a reading intervention coach, staff development, middle school sports, student planners, supplemental educational materials, technology upgrades and even such things like replacement parts for projector bulbs.

Other district schools receive State (State Compensatory Education) and or Federal (Title I) money that are based on the number of children on the free/reduced meal program. While the state minimum is 25 percent and federal is 50 percent, Didion has about 18-20 percent, equaling about 120 deserving students who do not receive that money.

Didion receives about \$51 per student or about \$33,000 total, which has to cover all of that, putting a heavy burden on parents to fund vital programs.

Tim Gergen is one of the vocal Didion parents who have been bringing the issue up at SCUSD board meetings since June 2012.

"Didion has struggling students too," Gergen told the Pocket News. "Why aren't they as important as students at other schools? Why is there a minimum amount of children required? Per State test results, the socio-economically disadvantaged children are the ones who struggle the most. Why aren't the 120 socio-economically disadvantaged children at Didion important?"

"The LCFE (The California Department of Education's Local Control Funding Formula) provides hope for next school year. However, under the draft framework, they are still setting a minimum amount of socio-economically disadvantaged children to qualify for funds! Community input is vital to make a change to how the allocations are structured," Gergen said. He's encouraging supporters to encourage SCUSD to provided equal funding to all children identified as socio-economically disadvantaged regardless of school population by writing or calling SCUSD board members.

"Please encourage SCUSD to live by their motto: 'Putting Children First.' If they are leaving behind 120 or so children at Didion by not providing funding for reading intervention and math coaches, they are not putting those children first. Contact info can be found at www.scusd.edu. Each one is important as the other, even though one school may have a higher population than another. To me, it is discrimination to do otherwise."

Didion has a great PTA that conducts many fundraisers throughout the year to raise money to pay for expenses that most other schools have other funding sources to do so (State and Federal funding). For instance, the PTA has helped fund a math coach for struggling students.

Items such as salaries for Fine Arts Instructor (\$3,000), Library Clerk (\$7,500), and a Math Aide (\$6,800) would have been paid with discretionary funds. Also, other items such as online math tool (\$1,250), Field Trips (\$8,000), Teacher Allotment (\$5,000 -- teachers use this to buy supplies for the classroom), Science Fair, 3rd Grade Read Around, and Young Author Day are all items that discretionary funding could be used for.

To help raise funds for these important programs, Didion will be having its third annual crab feed. It's the largest fundraiser of the year and will be held from 7 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the Elk's Lodge No. 6, which is located at 6446 Riverside Blvd. Tickets are \$45 and all proceeds go directly to the PTA to fund vital programs.

Besides crab galore, the feed will include: pasta, salad, dessert and drinks. There will be a silent auction and raffle with prizes such as a cruiser bicycle and iPad, etc. Seventh grade students will be the table service for the evening as well. A fun community event with great food, this event is not to be missed.

If you go:

What: Third annual Genevieve Didion Elementary crab feed

When: Saturday, Jan. 25 from 7 to 11 p.m.

Why: To help fund needed school programs
Ticket information: Cost is \$45 and tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.wepay.com/events/didion-crab-feed> until they sell out.

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Mars Rover:

Celebrating 10 Years on Mars

The Discovery Museum science & Space Center is helping NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity celebrate ten years of driving on Mars. There are only three full-scale models of the MER rovers. One of those is on public display at the Discovery Museum Science & Space Center in Sacramento.

The science center will celebrate with special 10-year anniversary events on Saturday, Jan. 18, Sunday, Jan. 19 and Monday, Jan. 20.

The spunky little Opportunity rover has survived raging Martian dust storms that threatened to cover its solar panels in deep dust, blocking out the sun, starving the rover.

Escaped quicksand-like dunes that threatened to entrap the determined rover.

Outlasted five frigid Martian winters with temperatures plummeting to -148 degrees F and decreasing sun power.

Provided the first on-the-ground clues to water on Mars.

Broken the distance record held by the Soviet era Lunokhod rover on the moon. Opportunity has traveled over 24 miles and is still driving.

Gotten old for a Martian rover. Designed to survive 90 days on Mars, she has survived 3,650 days. (How old is your computer?)

The events will include talks by NASA Ambassadors, with time for one-on-one questions, and close up viewing of the Opportunity full-scale model. The Ambassadors will address questions such as:

How long can Opportunity continue?

What on-board systems are showing signs of age?

What is the most likely end for Opportunity? And when?



ACC Mah Jong to relocate this month

Photos courtesy

The oldest club (and one of the most popular) at the Asian Community Center, the Mah Jong club, will soon be moving to Greenhaven Terrace sometime this January. The action will still be on Fridays, 1 to 4 pm. This larger venue should draw an even larger number of happy participants.



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or Order forms @ www.bellavistafootball.com

Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society's Annual Rent Party
January 12, Noon - 5 p.m.
Dante Club
2330 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Sacramento
Members \$10, Non-members \$15
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Living with Memory Loss

Day Club Open House
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 2:00pm

This Free Event is an excellent way for you to learn about the benefits of our Adult Day Club for your loved ones who live with a memory impairment. Great for seniors, family members, caregivers, and medical professionals seeking information or additional services for loved ones or friends.

Featured speaker, Deana Chitabar, RN, BSN, CHPN, LCA
Speaking on Caregiver Burnout

Some of the benefits of our Adult Day Club include:

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CALENDAR

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

Editor's note: City Councilmember Kevin McCarty told the East Sacramento News the city council has likely postponed the vote for the controversial student housing project, Campus Crest, to Jan. 14. It was previously scheduled for the Dec. 10 meeting.

ONGOING

AARP tax aide seeks volunteers for 2014

The nation's largest free, volunteer-run tax assistance and preparation service is seeking vol-

unteers for tax assistance/preparation and leadership coordinators. Volunteers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. Each year from Feb. 1 through April 15, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers prepare federal, state, and local tax returns for low and middle income taxpayers, with special attention to those age 60 and older. Volunteers are especially needed to assist with electronic filing of tax returns. You do not need to be an AARP member or retire to volunteer. For more information on how you can join the AARP Tax-Aide team in Northern California, contact Ron Byrd at NoCalTaxAide@Outlook.com or visit website at: www.aarp.org/taxaide

Attn. students: Submit now for water efficiency video contest

High school students can win cash prizes and the chance to view their video on the Raley Field Jumbotron by entering the 2014 Water Spots Video Contest. The contest, sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Sacramento Bee Media Education (MIE) program, challenges teens to create compelling and original 25-second Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos on a select water efficiency topic. The 2014 water efficiency theme is: Don't be a gutter flooder: Prevent overspray and runoff. Judg-

ing will be based on creativity, entertainment value, accuracy, originality and incorporation of the water efficiency topic. Finalist videos will be displayed on the Raley Field Jumbotron screen and winners announced at a Sacramento River Cats game in April 2014. Winning students and their teachers will also get cash prizes. The grand prize winner's spot may become part of RWAs 2014 television ad campaign. Submissions due Feb. 28. Visit www.BeWaterSmart.info for more information and tips on using water more efficiently and to submit entries or get more information about contest rules, judging and prizes, visit www.sacbee.com/water-spots

California Youth Basketball League taking applications

CYBL is a non-profit year round league for ages 4 through 18 that prides itself on being well organized that aims to develop basketball skills, sportsmanship and self-esteem through coaches, gym official and organizers. Visit www.cybhoops.com or call 391-3900.

Kiwanis Club of East Sacramento-Midtown

Visitors Welcome, weekly breakfast meeting on Fridays at 7 a.m. Topical weekly speakers and first meal for visitors on us. Meet at The Kiwanis Family House, (at UCD Med Ctr/ 50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com. Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

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6241 Riverside Blvd. #21	40 Havenwood Cir.	718 Clipper Wy.
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9 Sage River Cir.	7308 Pocket Rd.	1111 Fay Cir.
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4621 S. Land Park Dr.	274 Rivertree Wy.	6767 Frates Wy.
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1931 Kane Ave.	8118 Silverleaf Wy.	

Sacramento Food Bank collect and distribute over 4.6 million pounds of canned and non-perishable food items for local families in need. Help support families in need by participating in this year's drive! Artisan Salon is located at 3198 Riverside Blvd.

Soroptimist International of Sacramento South meetings

A service organization dedicated to insure the status of women and girls, the group meets at Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd. for lunch and to discuss the day's topic. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 12:15 p.m. The meetings discuss our fund raising Projects and Community Service, often with speakers from our community.

JANUARY

Polar plunge for Clunie Pool

Jan. 4: Have you ever wanted to jump in a pool in January or just have fun watching others? Plunge into Clunie Pool at 10:30 a.m. and take the prize plunge at 11 a.m. Take pictures with Sir Burr Pants, the polar bear and enjoy carnival games. \$5 to take the plunge and free to all other guests. Two plunge for the price of one for all public safety personnel and City of Sacramento employees. All proceeds benefit the Sacramento Swim League. For more information call: 808-2306 or email aquatics@cityofsacramento.org

Annual McKinley Rose Garden prune-a-thon

Jan. 4: The Sacramento Rose Society will hold its annual McKinley Rose Garden prune-a-thon from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the McKinley Rose Garden. (At H and 33rd Streets). No experience is required as expert rosarians will be there to teach volunteers how to prune. Help will also be needed in removing the rose bush trimmings, raking where needed in the garden, and pruning the bushes around the garden. If there are enough volunteers folks will also help rake the leaves in the park, especially around the children's playground and the Clunie Center. And as a special treat, after the prune-a-thon, there will be a hot soup lunch for the volunteers, thanks to the kindness of Evan and Laurette Elsberry from the restaurant Evan's Kitchen. If you have garden clippers or rakes that you could bring with you that would be a big help. Also, please bring your garden gloves, dress warmly and be sure to wear closed toed shoes.

ACC offers a computer class open house

Jan 7: From 10:30-11 a.m., at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., check out the classroom and try the computers. Friendly computer instructors will be available to answer questions about upcoming classes or questions about your own computer and any specific problems or issues you are having. Photography, ipad, iphone classes and more. Free. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/d/.

ACC presents: "A Veteran's Journey"

Jan 9: From 6 to 7 p.m., at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., follow the steps of a daughter as she guides her Veteran father through the deep and complex landscape of end of life. Learn the issues that are unique to Veterans and their families at end of life. Discover the support that is available for Veterans. Free. Pre-registration requested. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/

ACC offers free health evaluations

Jan 10: From 10 to 11 a.m., at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., discover your 9 body composition numbers (weight, body fat percent, body water percent, bone mass, muscle mass, visceral fat level, metabolic age, BMR, physique rating). Free. Pre-registration requested. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/

ACC offers a cooking demonstration

Jan 10: From noon to 1:30 p.m., ACC Greenhaven Terrace, 1180 Corporate Way, learn to prepare delicious marinated Korean Flank Steak and make savory Japanese Egg Rolls, a rolled omelet that can be served for breakfast, as a bento item, or used for sushi. \$11. Pre-registration and pre-payment requested. Call: (916) 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/d/.

Polar plunge at Greenhaven Cabana: Calling All Polar Bears!

Jan. 11: It's time for the annual Polar Bear Swim at the Greenhaven Cabana Club North! Everyone is invited to take the plunge into the cool waters from 11 at 1 p.m. The Greenhaven Cabana Club North is located at 6207 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, 95831. The entry fee of \$10 (for members and nonmembers) will earn the polar bear a t-shirt, certificate of Polar Bear Membership, hot chocolate and s'mores in addition to the opportunity to take the plunge into polar bear stardom! For more information contact the club at swimcabanaclubnorth@gmail.com.

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ACC presents workshop on spring/summer garden preparation

Jan 14: Learn how to get a jump on spring and summer vegetable and flower gardening, including soil preparation, site selection, water conservation, fertilizing, attracting pollinators, and pest control, from 11 a.m. to noon, ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Drive. Free. Pre-registration required. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/d/.

ACC presents "DMV Driver Safety and the Aging Driver"

Jan 16: In a continuing effort to assist seniors in maintaining their driving independence for as long as they can do so safely, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has created the Senior Driver Ombudsman Program, which will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m., at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Drive. Learn methods for prolonged driving from the local DMV Senior Driver Ombudsman, who will also cover related topics such as driver license re-

newal strategies, how DMV assesses Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive impairments, and the potentially unsafe driver reporting process. Free. Pre-registration required. Please call 1-800-272-3900 or e-mail ptardio@alz.org.

Hands on History: Trappers, Trades and Treaties!

Jan. 18: As part of a special and continuing interactive program happening on the third Saturday of each month, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) will present a special "Hands on History: Trappers, Trades, and Treaties" event in January. Visitors to the Fort will step back in time to the 1840s to learn why trappers were considered "jacks of many trades" and explore how they lived, worked, explored new territory and traded with local Native Americans. Fort visitors will see, handle, and hear about many items that were commonplace in the middle of the 19th century but seem strange now. Guests will also learn about many fascinating aspects in the life of a trapper; see ex-

amples of game traps and how they work, plus learn about the important "barter process" Sutter used to hunt and trap on Native lands. Fort visitors will also have the opportunity to examine fur pelts, create souvenir documents with a quill pen and oak gull ink, string trade beads and watch how flint and steel can be used to start a fire. As an event highlight, an original oil painting of Sutter's Fort -- titled Welcome -- will be unveiled that was created by local historian and artist Mark Davidson. In fact, hundreds of hours of research went into creating an accurate depiction of the Fort (and daily life) before the Gold Rush. For more information about this event or Sutter's Fort SHP, call 916-445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org; Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, 2701 L Street, Sacramento. Time: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., special presentations: 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., cannon firing demonstrations: 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., Musket demonstrations periodically throughout the day. Cost: \$7 per adult, \$5 per youth (ages 6-17), free for children 5 years and under

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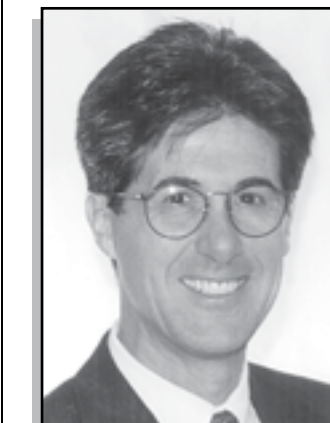
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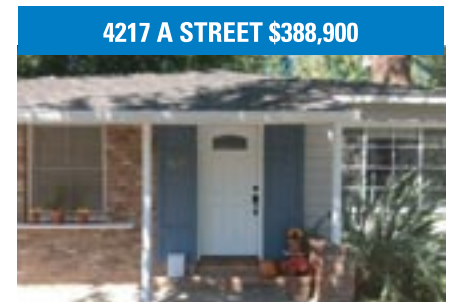
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