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Former resident fulfilled dream to fly

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Pocket sculptor's mission in Bolivia continues to inspire
■ See page 2



Polar Bear Plunge at Greenhaven Cabana North
■ See page 13

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Photo by Miguel Paz

Here, Bolivian women, are making ceramic pots. The photographer, Miguel Paz, took the photo in 2010 when he returned to his home country. Paz is on a mission to remove lead from the clay in the small town of Huayculi.

Art with a purpose:

A Pocket sculptor's mission to rid lead from ceramics in Bolivia

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Editor's note: This is the second part in 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 Huayculi.

artist hails from La Paz, Bolivia and has taken multiple trips back to his home country to share his expertise with fellow artists in an effort to create an international artists' collective on the most basic level of community building and sharing of ideas and resources.

With a teaching background from Columbia University's Teachers College and expe-

As was mentioned in the first part in this series about Pocket sculptor Miguel Paz, the

See Miguel Paz, page 12

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Stolen bike! Don't be a victim; lock it up and register it with the police department

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Editor's note: Names have been changed to protect the privacy of a teenage boy and his family. The family has been subject to bike theft in the neighborhood.

Jennifer Smith, a long-time Pocket resident called into the *Pocket News* in an effort to raise awareness surrounding bike theft. Her 14-year-old son Jim was having lunch with a friend at El Faro Taqueria in the Promenade. Unfortunately, he didn't lock his bike up and instead he leaned it against a window. He and his friend were sitting inside with the bike in view when all of a sudden two youth, described as being about two years their senior, look Jim and his friend in the eye, before allegedly taking off with the bike.

Jim took off running after the alleged thieves and interestingly a bike belonging to Jim's friend was not stolen (even though there were two thieves).

Jennifer described the scene: "They just kicked the stand and rode off with it. (Jim) called the police; they said it wasn't urgent but to file a report. There's nothing they can do about it. That was such a bummer. We love being down here. The smoke shop (next to El Faro) caught it on tape. His little helper was cussing little (Jim) out. He chased him. My son could have caught up with him. There were all these cuss words. The guys that took it were just a little older, just a little bigger."

The bike, a 16-year-old Trek cruiser, holds fond memories for Jennifer who recalls riding her three babies around the neighborhood. "People would say, 'I love your bike.' I rode it since then. We would get our bikes out and ride along the river. (Jim) got so tall; he was the only one who rode the cruiser. It was mine but he rode it because of his long legs. It was so comfortable. It has high handlebars. Riding around the river was our little family thing to do. I am on the river at least every other day."

As far as the recent incident goes, Jennifer said, "It dawned on me that my son should have never chased them ... it's just a bike." And as far as Jim's friend was concerned, his bike was left. The accomplice rather run from the scene of the crime than take the "rickety bike."

The alleged was caught on tape wearing a "bright red cap and two pairs of shorts. His other friend was in a grey sweatshirt." Jennifer said she's been watching on eBay to see if they could find the bike.

The point to Jennifer's call, she said, was to remind readers to lock up their valuables.

Coincidentally, the Sacramento Police Department, in partnership with Councilmember Steve Hansen and the City of Sacramento, has launched a free online bicycle registry called Ride On! So here's a bit of a PSA, courtesy of the City's website. Registration for the program can be found online at: <http://ride-on.sacpd.org>.

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Darrell's Notes



By Councilmember Darrell Fong

Water Shortage

The City Council is being asked to adopt a Water Shortage Contingency Plan, which includes declaring a water shortage and implementing stage 2 of our water shortage contingency plan. This means we need to really do our best to conserve water. Make sure your sprinklers are only coming on once a week on either Saturday or Sunday. Also, for those of us who wash our cars regularly at home, please only use a bucket to wash your car. I am going to do my part, and keep my car dirty until it needs a wash. A quick note, many of the car washes in Sacramento operate on a recycled water system. It's an alternative to consider if you need to wash the car.

The State 2 Water Shortage Plan includes the following measures:

Stage 2 - All customers would be required to reduce consumption by 20 to 30 percent. Customers would be requested to implement Stage 1 and 2 water conservation measures and adhere to the City's Outdoor Water Conservation provisions.

Actions: Continue existing conservation programs, and:



Photo courtesy

1. Intensify the public information campaign to inform customers the need for water conservation and explain the water conservation measures.
2. Further increase water waste patrols to enforce the City's outdoor water conservation provisions in the City code.
3. Limit outdoor irrigation during daylight saving time to two days per week.
4. Limit irrigation hours.
5. Further reduce irrigation of parks and cemeteries.
6. Allow car washing with the use of a bucket only.
7. Prohibit all public water uses not required for health and safety.
8. Allow main flushing only for emergency purposes.

Let's do our best to make sure we conserve water. I also want to challenge you to hold the City of Sacramento to the same standards the community is being held to. If you see a median being watered, any of our parks being watered in the middle of the day, or something you think is wasteful,

See Darrell's Notes, page 8

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The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Heroic tale
- 5 Cultural pursuits
- 9 Dutch pottery
- 14 Surrounding glow
- 15 Full of meaning
- 16 Verdi specialty
- 17 Docking spot
- 18 Forest forager
- 19 Harshness
- 20 Proving ground
- 22 Embodiment
- 24 Bubble maker
- 25 Tough to take
- 26 Send, as payment
- 29 Female "M" in Bond films
- 33 Pressing need?
- 34 Web or nanny follower
- 35 Mad magazine specialty
- 36 Poker payoff
- 37 Short haired
- 39 Kind of party
- 40 Manuscript reader
- 42 Hosiery mishap
- 43 Follow, as advice
- 44 Wicked
- 46 Beef chew
- 47 Lock of hair
- 48 Painter Ernst
- 49 Religious rite
- 52 Wealthy widow
- 56 Astringent
- 57 Bird of the Nile
- 59 Donated
- 60 Minimal bottom
- 61 Encourage strongly
- 62 Harbinger

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63					64				65			

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- 63 Bushy boundary
- 64 Sunday service
- 65 Square sort
- 11 Building block brand
- 12 Gift tag word
- 13 Weight allowance
- 21 Mare's mouthpiece
- 23 Slammer
- 25 Upper arm bone
- 26 Turn red, maybe
- 27 Whittle away
- 28 Main theme
- 29 Precursor to "NCIS"
- 30 Gunpowder ingredient
- 31 Muskogee tribe
- 32 Intoxicating
- 34 Molar malady
- 37 Three Bears' meal
- 38 Kramden's wheels
- 41 Handmade lace
- 43 Nut shape
- 45 Densest metal
- 46 Boxer's target
- 48 Malone of the 70s
- 49 Mud or bird follower
- 50 Liniment target
- 51 Give a nudge to
- 52 Quarters, slangily
- 53 Monopoly, e.g.
- 54 At any time
- 55 Tear apart
- 58 Lingerie item

See answers page 17

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Former Riverside-Pocket resident fulfilled dream to fly

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

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

Marvin Silva, who had become student body president during his senior year at C.K. McClatchy High School, continued his life adventures.

One such adventure came when he met former world heavyweight boxing champion Max Baer, who was then residing at 3527 Riverside Blvd., near William Land Park.

This meeting was quite timely considering that Marvin had become interested in boxing, and McClatchy High did not offer boxing instruction.

After learning that Marvin desired to learn how to box, Baer took an interest in Mar-

vin and began assisting him with the sport.

Marvin, who also studied art at McClatchy and reached his maximum height of 5-foot, 7 inches when he was 19, practiced boxing when his schedule permitted in high school, and he eventually boxed during his senior year at C.K. McClatchy High School, continued his life adventures.

While attending Sacramento Junior College (today's Sacramento City College), in the Army Air Force and during part of his post-military life.

Additionally, he worked at McClellan Field for about 10 months prior to being drafted into the Army Air Force on Jan. 27, 1943.

Marvin's unusually long arms were not only a benefit to him as a boxer, but as a pilot, as well, since some

plane controls were located overhead.

After completing his basic training working on aircraft at Stinson Field in San Antonio, Texas, Marvin became an aviation cadet.

His training continued as he was sent to Coleman, Texas for training in a larger plane and an open cockpit plane.

Marvin was later sent to Shawnee, Okla., where he was introduced to a plane with a 450 horsepower engine and learned acrobatic maneuvers.

In his final training, Marvin piloted twin engine aircraft.

With 250 hours of training, Marvin earned the rank of 2nd lieutenant on Aug. 4, 1944.

During the following year, Marvin headed the maintenance squadron at Santa Maria Army Air Field, which was located about 4 miles south of Santa Maria, Calif. The position included training pilots.



Marvin Silva, shown during his military days, fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming a pilot. Photo courtesy of the Silva family

While at the Santa Maria base, Marvin met and married Kay Maggetti, who had a son named Danny from a previous marriage.

Despite his requests to enter combat as a pilot during World War II, Marvin was consistently denied and re-

tained as a pilot trainer and navigator instructor.

Following the war, Marvin and his family settled in the San Fernando Valley, where he could become employed as a commercial pilot and further his artistic studies.

Marvin made the decision to become a student in Los Angeles at the Chouinard Art Institute, a professional art school that would eventually merge with the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music to become the California Institute of Arts.

While attending Chouinard, Silva was hired by Disney Studios to draw repetitious movements of animated characters for motion pictures.

Marvin acquired new employment in 1948, as he began working as a ferry pilot assigned to flying aircraft from factories to dealers at various places in the country.

He also obtained employment as a small aircraft flying instructor, and earned his airline transport pilot license.

A grand moment in Marvin and Kay's life occurred with the birth of their son, Wayne, on Sept. 28, 1949.

During the following year, while residing in San Bruno, Marvin became a pilot with the now defunct intra-state passenger airline, California Central Airlines.

A few months later, Marvin was hired by the cargo airline, Slick Airways.

That airline eventually transferred Marvin to Kansas City, Mo. And while residing in that city, Marvin and Kay

Marvin:

Continued from page 6

had their second child, Cathy, on Oct. 27, 1954.

The Silvas returned to Southern California in May 1955, and then Marvin became employed by another cargo airline, Air-lift International.

Among Marvin's favorite aviation stories to tell was about the time he was transporting a load of cows from Jordan to Egypt.

One of the cows had wandered to the front of the plane and made its way to the cockpit, where it stared directly into Marvin's eyes.

Some other cows began to move around in the plane and Marvin had to control the plane while managing the situation with the cows.

In relating the detail about the cow that was staring into his eyes in the cockpit, Marvin would jokingly say, "It was love at first sight."

When he was not working his aviation job, Marvin worked in a sign shop. That experience led to his designing and building of marquee-type signs.

Marvin purchased a sign shop in 1959 and had it headed by another man until he could dedicate more time to its operation. Altogether, the shop employed seven men.

The business was originally known as Bob Nichols Signs, as it was named after the business's previous owner.

But in December 1960, Marvin came up with the

name, Rembrandt Signs, while he was piloting a plane over Farmington, N.M. with a charter load of Rose Bowl-bound passengers.

Marvin selected the name, Rembrandt Signs, in recognition of the business's artistic approach to every sign making project.

Marvin's marriage to Kay ended in divorce in 1962, as his main employment had not provided him with the luxury of being with his family as much as he could have been in a different line of work.

Two years later, Marvin married Lynn Helton, who had two children, Bill and Robin, from a previous marriage.

Although that marriage ended 15 years later, Cathy and Robin established a strong friendship as sisters that continues today.

In 1971, because of his reputation as a quality pilot and his experience, Marvin was hired as a pilot for one of Frank Sinatra's Learjets. Sinatra's lavishly furnished jets included a bar, and were consistently available for his trips to Las Vegas, New York, random trips with friends and to singing engagements in many different cities.

Marvin began working for the airline, British Caledonian - now British Airways - in 1972. And on one occasion working for that airline, Marvin's mother was one of his passengers.

While residing in Northridge in 1974 and 1975,

Marvin served as president of the San Fernando Lions Club.

In 1982, Marvin married Glory Sobel, and during the following year, while Airlift International was recovering from bankruptcy, that airline rehired Marvin. He retired from the company during the following year.

With his career as a pilot completed, Marvin began to concentrate on another one of his loves - his aforementioned business, Rembrandt Signs.

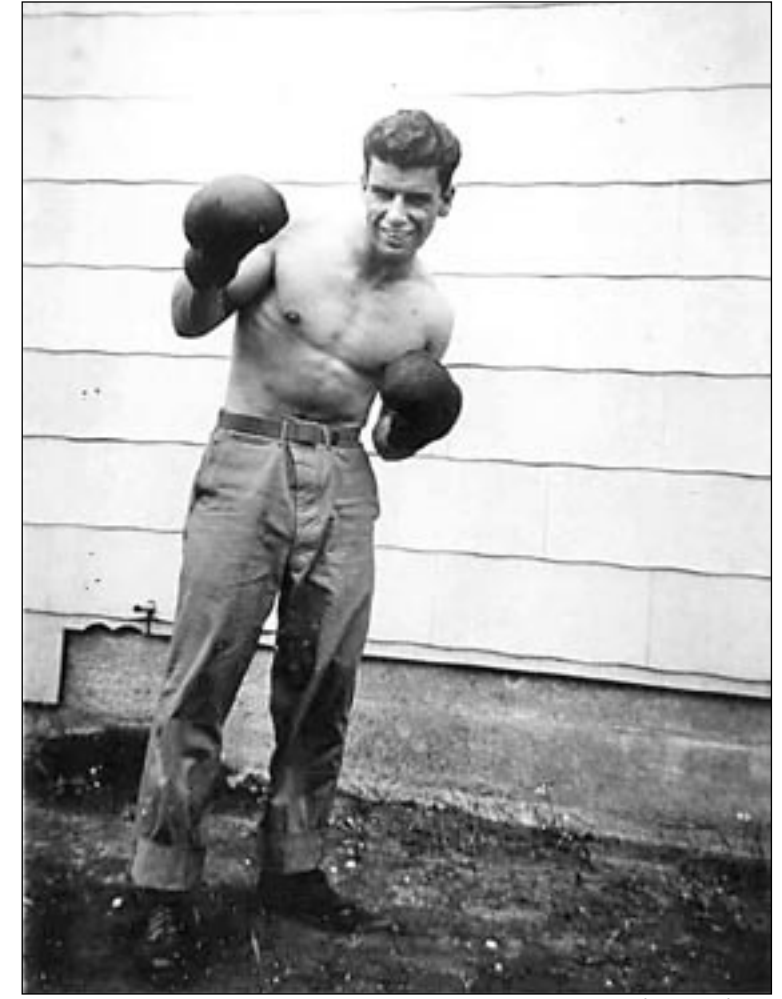
During Marvin's post-piloting years, he would travel with Glory to various places, including the annual jazz festival in Sacramento.

And Marvin's love for fitness and the outdoors led him to take up skiing at Mammoth Mountain with Glory.

As a result of a fall that she had at her home, Glory passed away in 2009 after 27 years of marriage to Marvin.

Afterward, Cathy cared for her father and was with him on the day of his death last Oct. 11.

Marvin left instructions with his family that at the time of his death, his ash-



Marvin Silva, above, received boxing tips from boxing legend, Max Baer. Photo courtesy of the Silva family

es should be scattered with Glory's ashes on Mammoth Mountain.

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VALLEY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Arden-Carmichael East Sac Land Park Pocket **NEWS**

Darrell's Notes:

Continued from page 4

give me a call and we will make sure it is reported. My number is 808-7007.

Sacramento Soccer Alliance Tryouts

The Sacramento Soccer Alliance has announced the tryouts schedule for the season. You can register at the website, <www.sacramentosocceralliance.com>. Tryouts will be held at Sacramento City College's Hughes Stadium on Saturday, Feb. 1 and Sunday, Feb. 9. U9 will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m.; U10, noon to 1:30 p.m.; U11, 2-3:30 p.m.

- Pre-registration is REQUIRED.
- All players must attend at least one tryout.
- Bring water, a soccer ball and wear a white shirt.
- Be prepared for rain/cold weather.
- Arrive 20 minutes early.

School of Engineering and Sciences to hold e-waste drive and car wash

On Feb. 1, SES will hold a car wash from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will be col-

lecting e-waste from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the school, located at 7345 Gloria Dr.

They will accept: Monitors, televisions, desktop and notebook PCs, VCRs, stereo equipment, CDs, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines, small household appliances such as toasters, mixers and blenders, vacuum cleaners with the dust bag removed.

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Questions regarding this event? Contact event coordinator Olivia Wong at 616-2886 or Renee Quan at 402-3965.

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Neighborhood Watch Training Program

The Sacramento Police Department is hosting several trainings at different locations for the month of January and February. The focus topic for these trainings will be "Scams and Schemes." Get tips and tricks on how to stay safe and keep yourself protected. Learn valuable information about identity theft, pyramids, telemarketing, and other illegal activities. To reserve please contact Barbara Falcon at 808-1221 or email mfalcon@pd.cityofsacramento.org.

Capitol March for the Dream

You are the dream, and the dream is now! Stand up and speak out! Join the 33rd Annual Capitol March for the Dream that will include two events: Freedom March and the Diversity Expo. This free event honors the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. and the never ending issues that can impact our future. The Freedom March is a 6-mile march and parade that will begin on 3425 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. with check-in beginning at 8 a.m. and the march at 8:30 a.m. If you would like to join the march later in the day, meet at Sacramento City College, 3835 Freeport Blvd. or the West Steps of State Capitol, 1315 10th Street. The march will end at the Convention Center, 1400 J St.

The Diversity Expo will be held at the Convention Center from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and will celebrate the collective power of our diversity and the transformative values of Martin Luther King Jr. Lots of great things to do with speakers, talent show, arts and crafts, face-painting, vendors, and more! For more information call 698-5147 or email themarch@mlk365.org. You may also visit www.mlk365.org.



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Elks and the Court of Dreams

On Jan. 2 and 3, the Sacramento Elks Lodge #6 worked in conjunction with the Sacramento Kings and made some dreams come true. After ER Debbie Eto heard about the "Court of Dreams," she got together with her Officers and with some help from the Elks Promise Grant, they set out to take kids to a Kings game. Student of the Month, Americanism essay participants and Hoop Shoot winners were all given two tickets to attend the Jan. 2 game and more importantly, to come back the next day and play on the same court as the Kings. Leading Knight Tom Brunette said, "the basket is much farther than you think." The parent of one of the Hoop Shoot winners remarked, "this is so amazing, I wish I could have done this when I was a kid!"

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NEWS

Primrose presents 'Living with Memory Loss' open house event

Do you know a senior who would benefit from socialization, better fitness, nutrition, music and daily activities? On Jan. 28 from 2 to 4 p.m., Primrose (7707 Rush River Dr.) will be hosting a Day Club Open House event to provide information and resources for those who are caring for individuals with memory impairment. The featured speaker will be Daena Chitabar, RN, BSN, CHPN, LCA-speaking on "Caregiver Burnout."

There are 8.9 million caregivers for someone 50-plus years old who have some form of memory loss. At the free event, specialists will offer assistance and information that individuals might need to prevent and alleviate caregiver burnout. Day Club can not only help prevent caregiver burn out, but also give individuals the socialization needed to stimulate the memory. At Day Club, mental and physical stimulation is provided, along with three meals a day and entertainment.

The Primrose Living Fund is a non-profit that is focused on in-kind education of the public about Alzheimer's disease and other topics. Partners have included churches, Sutter Health System, UC Davis Medical School and have offered continued medical education for families and caregivers in the community at large. Primrose is a proud sponsor and committee chair for the Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's Aid Society, Del Oro Caregiver Resource and UC Davis Mind Institute. For more information, call 392-3510 or visit www.primrosealz.com



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U9 10:00 - 11:30 | U10 12:00 - 1:30 | U11 2:00 - 3:30

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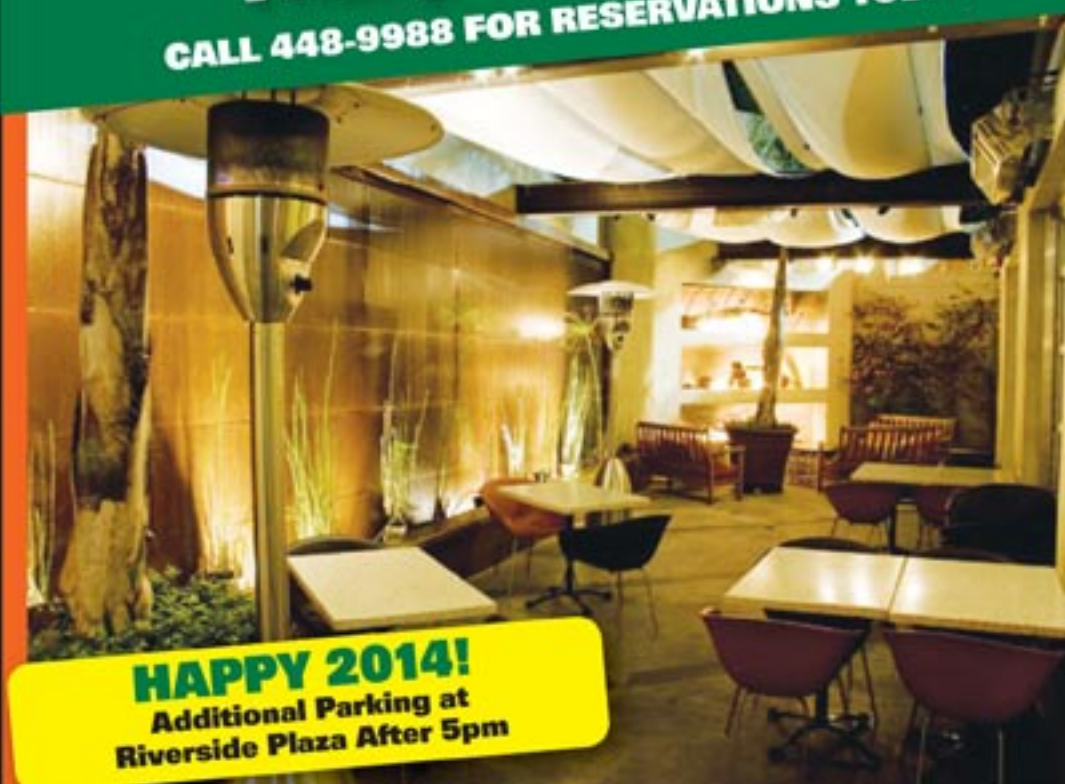
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Miguel Paz:

Continued from page 2

rience working with the Sacramento Arts Commission and also at the Short Center North, Paz is intent on showing townspeople how using natural resources not only produces aesthetically beautiful pieces, but also is healthier. Starting this week, he will be starting a four month class where he will learn how to build an anagama kiln and will be teaching people in Huayculi what he's learned.

It is not uncommon in Bolivia or in other parts of South America to see ceramic pieces that contain lead and according to an April 7, 2011 article on the topic in Food Safety News, lead has been used in the glazing process for ceramic dishes, bowls, pitchers, plates and other utensils for centuries. Typically, after being fired in a kiln, a piece of ceramic will appear smooth and shiny due to the lead in the glaze.

Upon describing what he saw in Huayculi, Paz said in an interview with the *Pocket News*: "They are happy firing it at 1,000 degrees. I call it quasi ceramics. It's not cooked; it's only basically hardened. The reason why is that they efficiently melt the glaze, which is lead-based at that 1,000 degrees. You can make it run. When it comes out of the kiln, it looks like ceramics, so they are able to sell it."

Surrounded by homes made from Adobe growing up, Paz was influenced by the material at such a young age. "Adobe was incredible, so I was very much influenced by that when I was young. But also by 1991, I also began to see there was something that developed, from a cultural point of view that fascinated me."

"There was a tremendous amount of alcoholism, similar to the Native American story on the reservations. There's no incentive. Everybody is being taken care of, but there are all of these forces of prejudice and racism and marginalization that deprive individuals of wanting to make something with their lives."

This discovery came to light during a visit in 1991, after 20 years had passed since Paz's previous time there. He was living on the East Coast with his wife and daughters (ages 8 and

11), but problems with his marriage led to a separation and as a result he fled back to Bolivia.

"I was mainly just angry, bitter, disillusioned," Paz said.

"I got a job working in a ceramics firm that was doing exports and imports. It was an interesting relationship, building a work production for making ceramic pieces that could be made there. They were fired electric. It was capital intensive," he recalled. "It's not like here where you can go to Alpha Ceramics (4675 Aldona Ln.) or Panama (Pottery, 4421 24th St.). You had to dig. I heard they had kaolin (a rare type of pure clay used in porcelain) down in Southern Bolivia."

About a year and a half later, he boarded a bus out of Sucre to take him to the land of kaolin rich rocks, but he never made it. The route from Sucre to Southern Bolivia was a 9-hour ride that tired out the bus driver who fell asleep at the wheel. The vehicle went off the side of a mountain, leaving Paz quadriplegic. "The last thing I remember seeing was nothing but dark in front of me. I swear, I was in the back, I heard screams. So I got up, put on my glasses and it was like light at the end of this dark thing."

It was about 5 a.m. Paz was airlifted. Doctors saw bleeding, broken ribs, a contusion in the back, two broken collar bones. "It was really bad. I was really fortunate to have made it, but I made it back to the United States because they had no MRI in Bolivia," Paz said. His mother brought him back to California, where he recuperated and gradually learned to regain strength and movement.

"When my Mom brought me back, I saw I had messed up when you leave children, even though it was a separation. I was very much an artist pursuing my thing. It was about me, me, me. It was the machismo, egocentric nature of the artist that I took out on my family."

The accident, undoubtedly, was life changing for the artist in many ways in relation to his future work at the Short Center North as well as working to eliminate lead from the ceramics in Bolivia.

Because of the accident, Paz "saw the light."

"It's so connected you cannot believe. There's an amazing potential to



Photos by Miguel Paz

Here, a Bolivian man, steps on clay, in an effort to smooth it all out. The photographer, Miguel Paz, took the photo in 2010 when he returned to his home country. Paz is on a mission to remove lead from the clay in the small town of Huayculi.

create art even if they wouldn't have been able to consider a therapeutic association to rehabilitate. To me, it's one of the greatest opportunities to work with this population. This is where art really begins, to understand the primal understanding of art. It evolves out of the life story."

As the disabled population lives in the margins of society, the people of Bolivia Paz has met are also marginalized and he describes art as something readily available to the privilege class. "This is how it all fits. In reality, it's an unfolding. And this is my own personal investment to do something that truly has a purpose. There's a reason this is all coming together," Paz said. "I had

the accident. It was a reality check, a re-thinking, and reevaluating of the most important principles a person should live by. It was philosophical."

Paz took up teaching at the Short Center North, where he has enjoyed watching talent flourish from his students with disabilities and over the years, he has made a few trips back to Huayculi. "I came back to the United States and continued on with my life on a level that was more culturally based — how arts and education empower people. That's what I noticed in Huayculi."

Paz noticed the appreciation for Bolivian culture the people of

See Bolivia, page 16



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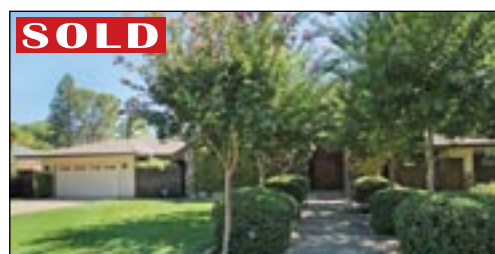
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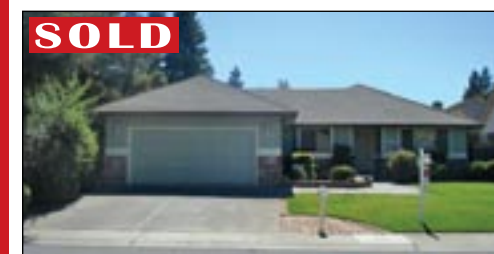
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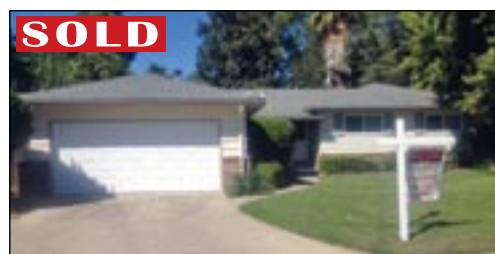
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Thirty-eight polar bears took the plunge into 47-degree water at the Greenhaven Cabana Club North on Saturday, Jan. 11. The cool day contributed to the icy conditions. The polar bears ranged in age from two years to 70-plus years.

Coach Jackie Coleman directed the plunge and cheered the polar bears on to "Polar Bear Stardom." S'mores, hot chocolate and coffee awaited the brave bears as well as a t-shirt and certificate. The Greenhaven Cabana Club North is located at 6207 Riverside Blvd. The club opens for the 2014 season May 1. For more information contact the club at swimcabanaclubnorth@gmail.com.



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Please RSVP

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Speaking on Caregiver Burnout

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Bolivia:

Continued from page 12

Huayculi embodied, and the beauty of it all, has resonated within the sculptor, inspiring him to stay in contact with the community there on a regular basis since 1996. "I speak to) the people who are producing the indigenous cottage industries — the people who are feeding the local markets."

On an educational level, Paz wants to teach the importance of not using lead in ceramics and bring back the knowledge that has empow-

ered Bolivians since the Inca. "That's why in 1991, when I went to Bolivia, when I had the accident, I began to really 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."

But as much as Paz has tried to preach about the danger of lead-based clay, "it's in one ear and out the other," he said.

And he's starting to see the philosophical connection. "It's the way they have

experienced life for so long, being at the yolk of someone else's beat. Even the Inca was oppressive, but they weren't into lead back then. Now everybody does it quick, quick, quick because you're competing against plastics."

Because of trade agreements, Bolivia has become the recipient of used cars, essentially becoming the dump site for conglomerates that are getting rid of their unwanted vehicles. "You can have a car that's 5 years old that they are throwing away in Indonesia or Japan or Europe. They sell these cars to

people in Bolivia so they can have a job driving a taxi and with it comes with a battery and the battery is already used as it is. There are no recycling efforts for batteries.

"So what the native people, the indigenous people, the artists, what they do, since they cannot afford much, they get their hands on an old battery. They cracked them open; they've removed the cells. There are nine cells in there that's barium. Barium is a lead derivative that is able to collect that electricity. It can dispense on a gradual basis. The duration of it is five to 10 years if it's well taken care of. By cracking it, you remove these cells, then you grind it. This is done in the open. With a little water, you coat all of the ceramic pieces in the low fire range at 100 to 1,000 degrees.

"Then they stack them on top of each other. Then they separate them and sell them at markets. These things are causing enormous problems. Not only as ultimately reaching the brain, but it's also destroying the liver, the kidneys, the stomach, the esophagus. All of these problems that

are tragic. Changing these from 1996 to today, it's like fighting impossible odds, almost. The interests are really to increase the livelihood of people going back to the 50s. People weren't just poor, they were dying. They were holding on with dysentery. The trade off is called denial."

Paz describes the policies set forth by the World Bank and IMF trade agreements as "truly criminal" established by a ruling class to administrate.

"The only thing that is bad is the barium. And Bolivia is on the other side of the Andes and nobody cares. It's being used as a glaze in this pseudo ceramics. Because it looks shiny, it's actually distorting our sense of values. In terms of economy 7 to 10 percent of cottage industries are run by this quick fix. But it's being discarded. I have just become aware of this as of last year," Paz said, adding however, it's not something new; it's been going on for two generations. "We're not rabbits or fruit flies. We are human beings. In one gener-

See Ceramics, page 17

Ceramics:

Continued from page 16

ation you can change these forces that are so great."

While the odds may seem insurmountable to overcome, Paz currently is intent on learning how to build an anagama and show what he's learned to empower the people of Huayculi to use natural resources to create a healthy local economy. "It would relate itself to an exchange program, a school for the arts and include the individual on a local base to work hand in hand in producing quality work," he said.

Paz has been inspired by Marc Lancet, an instructor at Solano Community College who co-authored *Japanese Wood-fired Ceramics* with Masakazu Kusakabe in 2005. Lancet, not only uses wood in the firing process, he's a master anagama kiln maker who is helping to revive a movement of the an-

cient type of pottery kiln which was brought to Japan from China in the 5th century and first to the United States in 1995. Akin to the large beehive kilns at Panama Pottery, which are no longer in use, the anagama can be quite ginormous and firings can last weeks.

"He (Lancet) uses natural resources and high fire to create incredibly colorful pieces. What you are exposing is the richness of the clay as it crystallizes. So the appeal of all of this is the coloration. The wood itself, when it reaches high fire, it creates an ash that floats inside of the chamber at high temperature and it floats and descends. It coats and lands on the pieces that are maturing. It's great," Paz said.

In the process Lancet uses, none of the glazes are lead based and as far as using wood to fire in Bolivia, well, Paz said the country has a lot of eucalyptus. "With proper

management, you can do it. You have to plan on the level of the growth of the eucalyptus," he added.

From the inspiration of Lancet and Sacramento State University ceramics professor Scott Parady, Paz has learned the beautiful facets the anagama can have on the experience of a community. "We are conscious of the fact it's a collective and communal experience." And in relating back to Bolivia, he said: "There aren't many jobs available in that field, so we need to make the interest in the learning of making ceramics through the people in the humanities — the understanding of art, the children who will become the people who will bring about a social change."



Here, a Bolivian women, are making ceramic pots.

Photo by Miguel Paz



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How John F. Kennedy High School Celebrates Christmas

By: ANSTONIA MA

At John F. Kennedy High School, students and parents combine efforts to show their appreciation for the staff that have dedicated their own time and effort to helping the students succeed in their high school career. This was culminated into an event on Wednesday December 18, 2013 called the Christmas Continental Breakfast. In this celebration, food was prepared by the members of the Chinese National Honors Society (NCHS) and their parents for the teachers and staff as a sign of appreciation for their hard work. There was also a special guest, 2nd Vice President of the Board of Education Area 6, Darrel Woo. Despite his busy schedule, he still took the time to come over to wish John F. Kennedy a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. He instilled the concept of success in the students in his rousing speech and was really proud of the JFK and its students. Principal Sweitzer also stopped by after his morning duties to celebrate this joyous time with the students, staff, and special guests. Without the direction of Mrs. Hatamiya, parent volunteers, and the NCHS members, this event would not have been as successful as it was.

But the fun and celebration would not end with just this morning breakfast. The next day, the Orchestra, Concert Band, and Jazz Band held their annual Winter Concert, conducted by Mr. Jeremy Hammond, for the community to celebrate Christmas and the New Year while showcasing their talent and the hard work they put into their musical pieces. One very special event that occurred was Mr. Sweitzer's guest appearance in the band's performance of "Twas The Night Before Christmas." As Mr. Sweitzer narrated parts of the piece, the band would play music during the parts where Mr. Sweitzer stopped narrating to set the mood and add some humor. The night ended with a combined orchestra and band to make an entire symphony of musicians composed entirely of JFK students. The closing song, "Christmas Festival" ended the concert with a bang with its range of different Christmas songs all melded into one grand piece. It was also the band's senior night which was celebrated shortly after the concert ended in honor of the seniors that would be leaving.

Altogether, John F. Kennedy High School really knows how to celebrate Christmas and the New Year by fully appreciating everyone in the school and community that help make Kennedy great.



Principal Sweitzer, Mrs. Hatamiya, Board Member Darrel Woo, and NCHS members and parents posing for a picture after a full meal



Photos by Anstonia Ma
(above) Mr. Jeremy Hammond addressing the audience at the Winter Concert.
(left) Principal Sweitzer (left), Mrs. Hatamiya (right)

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 volunteers 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 retiree 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

Brain Gymnasium

Exercise your mind and have some fun at this on-going Brain Gymnasium class! Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Boulevard, 9:20 a.m. Thursdays. \$6 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

Davis Art Center invites teen girls to write and publish

The Davis Art Center is offering a six-week creative writing class for girls ages 13-18 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays starting February 11. The class will offer a positive, supportive space for girls who love reading and writing and are interested in discovering and developing their individual voices. Participants will use short stories by a diverse range of contemporary women writers as jumping off points for their own writing sessions. Each student will pick her best writing to include in a class-produced literary magazine. The class will be taught by Elise Winn Pollard, who earned her M.A. in creative writing from UC Davis. The fee is \$95 for Art Center members and \$105 for the general public. To enroll, stop by the Art Center at 1919 E. St., call (530) 756-4100 or register online at www.davisartcenter.org. Students must be registered at least two weeks before the first class session.

Gentle Qi Gong

Learn powerful relaxation techniques reduce stress, reduce physical pain and emotional suffering, lower blood pressure, increase immune response and improve balance. Inviting all seniors to Eskaton Monroe Lodge, 3225 Freeport Boulevard, 2 to 3 p.m., Wednesdays. \$7 per class. Call 441-1015 for more information.

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,

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See more Calendar, page 22

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CALENDAR

The Sacramento Capitolaire meeting
A men's Barbershop Harmony group, meets every Tuesday night at 7 p.m. at Pilgrim Hall (Sierra Arden United Church of Christ), 890 Morse Ave., Sacramento. Info: www.capitolaire.org, call 888-0877-9806, or email info@capitolaire.org

Artisan holds Food Drive
Artisan Salon is participating in the Spirit of Giving Food Drive. Over the last 17 years, the Spirit of Giving (SOG) drive has helped 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 Freerport 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

"Home Sweet Home" elder care discussion at ACC Greenhaven Terrace
Jan. 21: More than 78 percent of older adults plan to live in their current home for the rest of their lives. Sometimes all you need is a little extra help to remain living independently in your own home. Come learn more on ACC Greenhaven Terrace at 11 a.m. Get solid answers and advice from trustworthy, experienced experts who work every day with older adults to live indepen-

dent, healthful, fulfilling lives. Gail Lohmann, owner of Visiting Angels Home Care will share resources and questions to consider when working with a home care agency, plus advice on Aging in Place. Jennifer Atherton, Philips Healthcare will demonstrate how the latest technology can help you live independently and confidently. The Phillips Lifeline Medication Dispenser manages complex medication schedules and the Phillips Medical Alert system offers the most advanced fall-detection technology. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 916-395-0210

ACC presents forum on cervical health
Jan 23: Every Women Counts will be offering women education on Breast & Cervical Cancer prevention, early detection, free screening services from 1 to 2 p.m., ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Drive. Learn valuable information about the risk factors for breast cancer; importance of early detection; eligibility requirements to qualify for free screening and/or treatment. Free. Pre-registration requested. Info: (916) 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/d/.

Merryhill School offers a Winter "Magic" Open House

Jan. 25: Come and experience hands-on Winter Science and Magic Show. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., tour the school, meet the teachers and register for the upcoming school year. Merryhill is located at 7335 Park City Dr. Merryhill School is located at 7335 Park City Dr.

FEBRUARY

16th Annual "Sacramento Museum Day"
Feb. 1: Free or half-priced admission to 30 sites. Participating Museums for Sacramento to Museum Day 2014 include: Aerospace Museum of California, California Auto-

mobile Museum, The California Museum, California State Capitol Museum, California State Military Museum, California State Railroad Museum, California Statewide Museum Collections Center, Center for Contemporary Art, Sacramento, Center for Sacramento History, Crocker Art Museum, Discovery Museum Science and Space Center, Don & June Salvatori California Pharmacy Museum, Fairytale Town, Governor's Mansion State Historic Park, Heidrick Ag History Center (Woodland), Leland Stanford Mansion State Historic Park, Maidu Museum & Historic Site (Roseville), Museum of Medical History, Old Sacramento Schoolhouse Museum, Old Sacramento State Historic Park, Roseville Utility Exploration Center, Sacramento Children's Museum, Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, Sacramento History Museum, Sacramento Zoo, Sojourner Truth Multicultural Arts Museum, State Indian Museum, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, Wells Fargo History Museum (Capitol Mall), Wells Fargo History Museum (Old Sacramento). While admission is free at 28 of the participating museums during Sacramento Museum Day, admission to two destinations located in residential areas are half-priced as follows: Sacramento Zoo is \$5.75 for adults, \$3.75 for children ages 2-11 and free for children under two; Fairytale Town is \$2.50 per person and free for children ages one and under. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. but note the last guests will be admitted at 4 p.m.

Casa Garden "Wine Social"
Feb. 4: Lunch and "Wine Social" with red and white wine sips offered by Heringer Estates from Clarksburg paired with delicious Casa hors d'oeuvres at 11:30 a.m. [one seating only]. Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. Entree choices: Braised Beef with Cabernet Sauce or Asian Chicken Salad with Dried Cranberries; dessert: Apple Hill Walnut Cobbler -- \$22 per person, includes tax and gratuity. Reservations a must, open seating -- call 916-452-2809. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

Sacramento Community Concert Association performance

Feb. 22: Celebrating Black History Month, SCCA presents Tenor Darron Flagg & Soprano Candace Johnson and The UC Berkeley Gospel Chorus at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 1300 N St. Singer-actor Darron Flagg is recognized as a standout professional bel-cantener, lauded for his heart-felt performances. A few of Mr. Flagg's engagements include the Lincoln Center, theaters in Eastern Europe, Walt Disney Hall, as well as the San Francisco and Sacramento Opera companies. Candace Johnson is a dynamic vocal artist who has experience in musical theater, television commercials, poplar songwriting, and piano performance. Among her many accomplishments, she held the title of Ms. Black Tennessee, and she was a finalist in the National Leontyne Price Competition. The UC Berkeley Gospel Chorus started in the 1970s as an informal student activity. Since 2007, director D. Mark Wilson has taken the Gospel Chorus in new directions, building a repertoire, which includes traditional and contemporary gospel music, spirituals, and classically influenced gospel anthems. Regular subscription: \$90, Group discount (8 or more people): \$75, Students subscription: \$45, Single Ticket: \$25. For more information, contact Sacramento Community Concert Association www.sccaconcerts.org; info@sccaconcerts.org; 400-4634.

2014 Polar Plunge: Polar Plunge so a Special Olympics athlete can compete

Feb. 15: Swim at the Sacramento State Aquatic Center to benefit Special Olympic Northern California & Nevada! This is the first plunge in Sacramento. Know that while the water may be cold, you're Plunging so that 19,000 Special Olympics athletes in your community may compete. 1901 Hazel Avenue in Gold River! Every Plunger is required to raise a minimum of \$125, which sponsors one Special Olympics athlete for a sports season. You will be fundraising to support

Special Olympics Northern California & Nevada. Visit <http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?event=1080725#> for more information.

Sacramento International of Sacramento, Inc. annual crab fiesta

Feb. 15: All you can eat crab, silent auction, dessert bar auction, live auction; Saint Mary's Giovanni Hall, 58th and M streets. Doors open at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. Cost is \$50 per ticket and funds are used for services to support vulnerable women and children. 2013-14 funds support Tubman House, a program of Walking the Village. The program provides 18 months transitional housing and other life skills training and support for local women and children. Call 709-6748, or visit the Crab Fiesta website at www.crabfiestasac.org to purchase tickets. Visit us at www.soroptimistsacramento.org.

Camellia Chapter, Embroiderers' Guild of America at their meeting

Feb. 18: Starting at 7 p.m., SMUD Building, 6201 S Street for a hands-on program on Assisi needlework. Guests welcome. Free. 223-2751.

Casa Garden "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" lunch and Red Hat fashion show

Feb. 26: "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" lunch and Red Hat fashion show at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. seatings at the Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. Entree choices: Chicken Stuffed with Spinach and Smoked Gouda or Black Bean Tostada Salad with Grilled Chicken Breast; dessert: Chocolate Torte with Raspberry Coulis -- \$22 per person, includes tax and gratuity. First-come, first-served group reservations by one person, one check. Reservations a must -- call (916) 452-2809. Proceeds benefit the Sacramento Children's Home.

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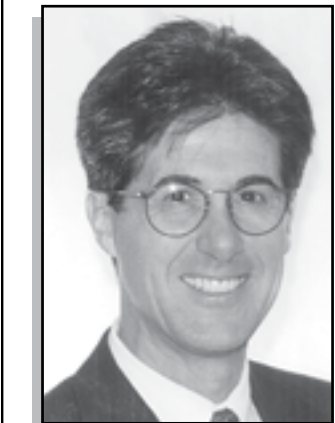
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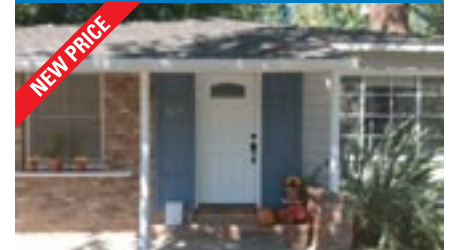
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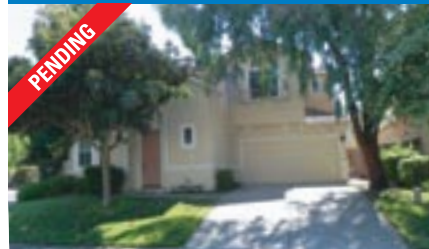
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