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See page 20

- Faces and Places2, 19
- The Pocket Watch4
- Lance Armstrong history feature.....6
- Calendar 24



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■ See page 6



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Cover photo by:
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Faces and Places:

Asian Community Center celebrated the Lunar New Year!

On Feb. 11, more than 80 participants gathered at Asian Community Center Senior Services Center (7375 Park City Dr.), to celebrate the Lunar New Year with a pot-luck luncheon. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal with a variety of Asian dishes, entertainment, and a drawing for door prizes. The Chinese God of Wealth even made a surprise appearance and delighted the crowd by handing out red envelopes containing gold chocolate coins. Gung hay fat choy!

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Events at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library

Knit Together

March 7: From 1 to 3 p.m., Carrie Parker, a Pocket-Greenhaven resident and self-professed knit-a-holic, is bringing her needles to the library. Anyone interested in knitting—even an absolute beginner—is invited to join us. Participants can learn to knit, get help on current projects, or general advice from expert knitters. There might even be some great conversations too. Don't forget to bring your knitting needles and yarn!

Wild Things at Pocket Library

March 8: From 11:30 to 12:15, meet animals from different parts of the world and hear their personal stories. Presented by Wild Things, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides homes for displaced

wildlife, this program is sponsored by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library and the Greenhaven Mothers Club.

Lego Robotics

March 8: From 2 to 4 p.m., kids in grades 2-5 are invited to two-week beginning robotics workshops led by library staff and experienced student interns. Participants will use the LEGO WeDo Robotics program to build animals, athletes and other

figures and then add motion to their creations with simple drag and drop programming software. Using math, engineering and science, these workshops are sure to be great fun and educational too! Registration for this two part workshop is required as space is limited. Go online at www.saclibrary.org call 264-2920 or visit the library branch in person to register. This event is made possible by the Friends of the Pocket-Greenhaven Library.

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The Pocket Watch

Middle school madness

By JEFF DOMINGUEZ
jeff@valcomnews.com

When I was a kid, as far as your preparatory education went, you could drive down one street and see the next 12 years of your life. In fact, it was pretty much possible to stand in such a way that you had one foot on the property where you'd be spending the first nine years of your education and the other foot on the property

where you'd spend the next four, all at the same time.

In Clarksburg, the kids attended Clarksburg Grammar School (Home of the Comets) from Kindergarten through the 8th grade. Then, after our 8th-grade graduation, life shifted about 50 yards due west, as we were automatically enrolled at Delta High School for grades 9 through 12. The schools are literally ad-

acent to each other. In fact, they shared the same cafeteria, so the lunch menu didn't even change for the entire time. We still got fish sticks and corn on Fridays, and, once in a while, the lunch ladies would make big rectangular pizzas with sliced hot dogs standing in as the pepperoni.

Unfortunately, it's not the same in Clarksburg anymore. And it's definitely nothing like that here in the Pocket. Our kids matriculate together for the first seven years of their schooling, and then scatter like

crows. With open enrollment, it's possible for some neighbors who've grown up together to never really see each other again after the 6th grade—depending on their choices of middle schools and high schools—unless they maybe happen to roll the garbage cans out to the curb at the same time.

This is not necessarily an indictment against open enrollment. In fact, open enrollment can come in kind of handy if you happen to have some neighbor kids from whom you don't exactly mind getting your kids away. There is a wide spectrum of choices you have in middle schooling, from the small, almost family-like setting of the K-8 schools such as King and Didion, to the larger, more traditional schools like Brannan and Cal, to the urban behemoth that is Sutter.

The choice usually comes down to what parents and students want out of the two year blink of the eye that is middle school. Parents who feel like their kids need a suitable stepping stone between the intimacy of elementary school and the immense fortresses that are the larger high schools in the area will be inclined to select a larger middle school. Those who don't mind in-

cluding their children for a little while longer from the looming blackboard jungles will tend to opt for the smaller middle school experience. What's right for one child will differ completely from what's right for the next. In fact, some families have siblings simultaneously attending different middle schools across town from one another.

Prime among the gives and takes in the decision are the "electives" that a school offers, the one non-required class for which students sign up in addition to his/her "reading, writing, and 'rithmetic" core classes. Larger schools with larger faculties can offer a more varied menu of electives. So, if your child has an ardent need to learn German or woodshop or robotics, you will probably only find those courses at the larger schools. Keenly aware of this, the smaller schools, fighting for their fair market share, have begun attempting to offer the fullest extent of electives that they are able, including art and drama and computer courses.

As crazy as I perceive all of this to be, coming at this age of my children's lives, I am not immune to it. Depending on the circumstances, your middle school decision can either be a fair topic for open and frank discussion or a complete social taboo to bring up. Competition to get into certain schools can be extremely competitive, so some parents like to play it close to the vest, while others treat it like a group project. In addition to being potentially sensitive, the decision can also be wrenching. The older I get, the more I realize that there are really no absolutes in parenting. We're all just feeling our way along, trying to do what's best for our children.

As for Lisa and me, I'm happy to say that we've made what we feel is an astute and decisive choice based on sound logic and the unmistakable personality traits of our daughter. Our daughter, on the other hand has other ideas entirely. This is going to get interesting.

The Pocket Watch appears in every issue of the Pocket News. Jeff Dominguez can be reached at jeff@valcomnews.com





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Valley Community Newspapers, Inc.

Community reacts to fatal accident on Riverside Boulevard

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

A fatal automobile accident occurred in Land Park during the middle part of last month, causing some neighbors and others to comment about the topic of speeding along this thoroughfare.

The collision took place on Riverside Boulevard at Swanston Drive on Thursday, Feb. 13 at about 10:50 a.m.

According to a Sacramento Police Department on-the-scene, post-accident video, the driver of a Mercedes-Benz was heading north on Riverside Boulevard and crashed into a Toyota Avalon, which was reported to have been turning onto Riverside Boulevard in a northwardly direction.

The Mercedes-Benz was determined to have been traveling at a rate of speed well above the 30 mph speed limit. And although it was not officially confirmed, many residents in the area speak about the Mercedes-Benz as having been traveling at a speed of about 70 mph.

A woman in her 60s, who was the driver of the Toyota, died from her injuries at a hospital later that day. A passenger in the same vehicle was injured.

The driver of the Mercedes-Benz was hospitalized in the University of California, Davis Medical Center.

Unfortunately, the name of the driver of the Mercedes-Benz was not identified for this article, as attempts to acquire that and other details about the accident from the Sacramento Police Department were unsuccessful.

The *Pocket News* was at the scene several minutes after the accident occurred and it was observed that the police had closed Riverside Boulevard, between Swanston Drive and 4th Avenue, to automotive traffic.

It was also found that debris from the vehicles were spread a great distance and in many directions, and the Mercedes-Benz did not come to halt until it reached the vicinity of 4th Avenue.

Ninety-year-old Mary McLane, who resides on 4th Avenue, said that she feels fortunate not to have been walking on Riverside Boulevard at

the time of the accident, considering the amount of debris that made its way to the sides of that street.

"I came down here for a walk (on Riverside Boulevard) about an hour (after the accident occurred)," said McLane, who is a 37-year resident of the neighborhood. "There wasn't very much going on (at the accident scene), but there were a lot of neighbors who were talking about (the accident)."

Sherry Deangelis, who provides home care for McLane, said that the sidewalks along the boulevard are used quite frequently.

"There are a lot of people that walk and jog here," Deangelis said. "And elderly people who walk around here, it's their exercise. You can't walk around this block without walking into at least one person, if not more."

Adding to the concern of any vehicle being driven at an excessive speed along the boulevard in that area is the fact that Crocker/Riverside Elementary School is located at 2970 Riverside Blvd.

Last week, Daniel McCord, principal of the local elementary school, spoke out against those who speed along Riverside Boulevard.

"Obviously, anyone going over the speed limit concerns me, especially at that rate of speed, whatever it turns out to be," McCord said. "It's a huge concern and that was just born out by the re-



Photos by Lance Armstrong

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sults of the accident unfortunately. I can't imagine there's just one person who speeds up and down through there. At the same time, there's a stop light right there at the school. We have flashing lights up to there, letting people know it's a school zone. We have a crossing guard who has got her stop sign. We've made sure our parents and the students know: do not cross the street unless you're in the crosswalk. So, I feel comfortable with those steps. At the same time, that

See Accident, page 17



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Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex was named after legendary sports writer, editor

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is part one in a two-part series about and relating to the Pocket Little League.

With the beginning of the Pocket Little League season only about a week away, the timing is right to pay tribute to a former, local journalism legend: William Richard "Bill" Conlin.

After all, it was Conlin, a former writer and editor of the sports sections of both *The Sacramento Union* and *The Sacramento Bee*, who was memorialized with the naming of the youth sports complex where the league's teams play their home games.

Five baseball diamonds (including a T-ball field that

will become a dog park later this year), two soccer fields, a concession stand, bathrooms and a picnic area with barbecue grills currently make up the Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex at 7895 Freeport Blvd.

It was 10 years ago that this facility, which is located within the city council's District 7 boundaries, received its present name. The complex had previously been known as the Freeport Shores Youth Sports Complex.

The site was purchased by the city's Department of Utilities nearly 40 years ago for its originally designated use of providing a water treatment plant.

But due to the low number of playing field facilities in the south area and no immediate plans for the con-



Photo by Lance Armstrong

The Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex is located at 7895 Freeport Blvd.

struction of a water treatment plant at that site, it was later decided that the site would be made available for a sports facility for at least 10 years. That facility carried "the option of extended use based upon future assessment of city water needs."

In providing an update regarding that clause, Pocket Little League President Dave Starnes noted that the city's Department of Parks and Recreation acquired the Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex three months ago.

"Darrell Fong (the city's District 7 representative) just let me know this week that (the parks and recreation department) turned (the complex) into a full-fledged park and that we don't have to worry about losing the fields to a water treatment plant or another use," Starnes said.

The 1993 master plan for the Freeport Shores Youth Sports Complex called for the construction of three 90-

foot diamonds, two 60-foot diamonds, two regulation soccer fields, an intermediate soccer field and a bantam soccer field, as well as a concession stand, restrooms and other improvements.

During the early summer of 1998, the complex's first phase, which included two ball fields, a soccer field, walkways and a portion of the parking lot, was completed.

On Aug. 1 of the same year, the complex was dedicated. The event included team exhibitions and skill demonstrations by local youth leagues.

In addition to the Pocket Little League's enthusiasm for the then-new complex, Pocket Girls Softball (which no longer uses the complex) and Greenhaven Soccer benefitted from the opening of the facility.

The proposal to memorialize Conlin through the naming of a sports facility was initially presented to the city in 2002 by a group of local

citizens, including Charlie Coyne, R.E. Graswich, Randy Paragary, Gordon Robinson and Jean Runyon.

In responding to that request, city staff members recommended the following locations: the Airport Little League fields, the Sacramento Softball Complex or any of its four fields, a baseball diamond or the then-new jogging/walking path at William Land Park, or the Freeport Shores Youth Sports Complex.

Ultimately, it was the latter site that was selected as the most suitable place to name in honor of Conlin.

Among the early, influential supporters of the renaming of the Freeport Shores Youth Sports Complex was Robbie Waters, a former city councilmember who represented District 7 from 1994 to 2010.

During its Nov. 7, 2002 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Citizen's Advisory

See Sports Complex, page 7

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Sports Complex:

Continued from page 6

Committee voted in favor of renaming the complex in honor of Conlin.

Nineteen days later, the city council, which then consisted of Waters, Mayor Heather Fargo, Steve Cohn, Lauren Hammond, Dave Jones, Bonnie Pannell, Sandy Sheedy, Ray Tretheway and Jimmie Yee, approved the motion to rename the facility by a vote of 9-0.

The rededication of the complex under its new name was set for Nov. 8, 2003. But due to rainy weather, the event was postponed until the spring.

The rescheduled rededication was held on March 27, 2004 at noon. And considering that the original rededication was postponed due to wet conditions, the gathering was oddly advertised by the city as a "rain or shine" event.

But the selection of that date was not random, as it coincided with the Pocket Little League's opening day.

For those who are not familiar with Conlin or have limited knowledge about his life, he was one of the more notable journalists in the city's history.

If he was alive today, Conlin would be 100 years old, and, if healthy, he would possibly still writing for a local newspaper.

Conlin was born in Sacramento, but he moved with his parents to the Marysville area while he was still an infant.

While residing in that area, Conlin's father introduced him to the publisher of the *Marysville Appeal*, a paper that would merge with the *Marysville Democrat* in 1926. Through that connection, Conlin was presented with the opportunity to write his first article for the *Appeal* when he was only 11 years old.

He would continue writing while he was a student at Yuba Junior College and Stanford University. He graduated from the latter school with a degree in economics in 1934.

Three years later, Conlin was hired as a writer with *The Union*, which was unaware at that time that the hiring launched the professional career of



Photo by Lance Armstrong

One of the complex's five baseball fields is shown in this recent photograph.

a man who would become one of Sacramento's all-time most notable newspapermen.

Conlin's wife, the former Olivia Moore (1917-1982), who he married in 1939, was also well known in the capital city. She was the owner of Cassandra Antiques, the first antique shop established in Old Sacramento.

During World War II, Conlin served in the Navy and wrote letters back home. Some of those letters were published in *The Union*.

Conlin, who had strong interests in baseball, horse racing and boxing, was well known for his regular column, "It Says Here."

In one such column in the Sept. 2, 1949 edition of *The Union*, he focused on a then-recent report to demonstrate the continued popularity of horse racing in the state.

Many people remember Conlin for his work as the sports editor and a sports writer for *The Union* and *The Bee*, but less people are aware that he also spent time serving as *The Union's* editor and assistant to the publisher.

Conlin became employed by *The Bee* in 1976, and with that publication, he continued to write his "It Says Here" column, as well as other articles.

Despite retiring nine years later, he continued to contribute his writings to

The Bee until the early part of 1997.

His career as a Sacramento sports writer spanned so many years that when his byline first appeared in a local paper, the Sacramento Solons had not yet won their lone Pacific Coast League pennant (1942), and when he ceased writing for *The Bee*, both editions of the Solons had departed (1961, 1976) and the Sacramento River Cats were less than three years away from making their 2000 debut.

While Edmonds Field was still in operation at Riverside Boulevard and Broadway, Conlin was among those who urged the Solons' owners to open the ball park to Little Leaguers on opening days.

He also wrote many articles in support of establishing lighted baseball fields

in Sacramento, and he argued that because youth in other communities had superior facilities, they had better opportunities to excel as athletes.

Additionally, Conlin promoted and supported the annual father-son baseball banquet, which drew hundreds of Little League players and their fathers, as well as professional baseball players from Sacramento during the 1960s and 1970s.

In a 2002 city document that focused on the subject, "Request to Rename the Freeport Shores Youth Sports Complex the Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex," Conlin was described as "a tireless advocate for quality sports and recreational facilities in Sacramento (who) believed that Sacramento youth deserved such facilities."

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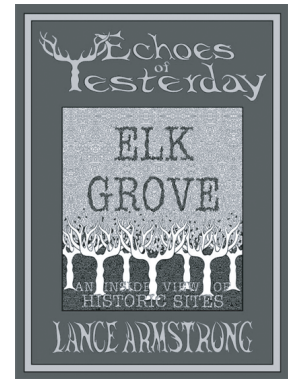


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Local resident's early love of art led to long career

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is part one in a series about local people connected to the early days of television.

While meeting with this publication last week to share details about an art show that he would be taking part in with two other artists, Sacramento resident Bob Miller explained that his involvement in art extends beyond the strokes of brushes on canvas.

Bob, 83, noted that his background in art even included working for television stations during the 1950s.

In speaking about his long-time interest in art, Bob said, "My first memory was drawing cartoons from coloring books, doing pictures of Disney characters and so on. I was always one of the best (at drawing) in class."

Long before becoming a television pioneer, Bob was raised in the town of Hughson, about 10 miles east of Modesto by his parents,

Pierce and Mae Miller, who he mentioned were much older than himself.

"My father was born in 1886 and my mother was born in 1896," Bob said. "My mother, I think, was in her late 30s when I was born and my father was in his 40s. They were both Pennsylvania Dutch, German, and as a matter of fact, the first language for both my mother and father was German."

Bob, who was the fourth of five children in his family, said that his father grew up as an orphan, came West when he was in his 20s and for a short time homesteaded in Arizona.

In about 1912, Pierce moved to the Vermont-Slauson district of Los Angeles and opened a dairy and delivered milk.

Bob described the events that led to his parents' marriage and the early part of their life together, as he said, "My father had apparently worked as a farmhand for my mother's



Bob Miller's art work was on display at a Second Saturday art show in Land Park.



"Paint Brushes"



"Color Full Tubes"

See Television, page 9

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Television:

Continued from page 8

father and he had remembered my mother and went back to Pennsylvania and asked permission to marry her from her father. My mother just barely knew him, and they were married and he brought her to California. Instead of going back to Los Angeles, they settled in (Hughson)."

Despite dropping out of school when he was about 10 years old, Pierce proved to be very successful working in a variety of jobs during his life. His jobs in Hughson included working in a livery stable and operating a notable peach farm of about 40 acres.

The Millers eventually moved to the town of Empire – about five miles east of Modesto – where Bob attended Empire Grammar School (the predecessor to today's Empire Elementary School) through the eighth grade.

In 1944, Bob began attending Modesto High School, where he was active in the art club, was student body president in 1947 and graduated a year later.

During that time, Bob, who was influenced by two art teachers, Ida Gross and Jean Arie, was the sports cartoonist for the school newspaper.

In commenting about that experience, Bob said, "(Working as a sports cartoonist as a career) was sort of what I wanted to do. Well, that sort of thing sort of fell by the wayside."

In 1948, Bob began attending San Jose State College (today's San Jose State University), where he majored in commercial art, minored in history and was editor of the school's magazine, *Lyke*.

During his sophomore year at San Jose State, Bob married his high school sweetheart, Anita Richardson.

While still attending that institution, Bob obtained part-time work as a sign painter.

And with his college days finally behind him, Bob was hired to work full time as a silkscreener for a Sunnyvale, Calif. firm called R and A Signs.

His employment with that company lasted about three months, at which time Bob moved to Sacramento with his family, which then included his wife and two children.

With that move, Anita was able to live closer to her par-



"Crayolas"

ents, Raymond and Ardis Richardson, who then resided in Carmichael, near the intersection of Fair Oaks Boulevard and Marconi Avenue.

Bob's first employment in the capital city was at The Dosch Co. at 200 V St., where he worked on silkscreen jobs and other projects.

In describing his uninviting working environment at that company, Bob said, "My silkscreen shop was an old chicken coop and it had tar paper on the roof. During the summer, it was like 120 (degrees) and during the winter, it was like 50 (degrees). There was no air conditioning, no heating, no anything like that. So, I cut stencils and old man (F. Elwood) Dosch would give me like five X-Acto blades a week and a wet stone to sharpen (the blades). It was just ridiculous."

Although Bob is many years removed from that job, he spoke about various irritations of that workplace as if they occurred the previous day.

Among those irritations were his daily interactions

with the business's guard dogs, which were tied to a post about 10 feet from where he worked.

"One of my major jobs was there were dogs, Dobermans, that (Dosch) used at night and turned loose in the yard as guard dogs," Bob said. "The dogs were chained to a post and it was my job to clean up their (droppings) and to feed them. Well, they hated me. All day, they would sit there and growl at me while I was cutting my stencils."

Bob was undoubtedly thrilled to finally change jobs about a year later.

In recalling the moment that led to his new employment, Bob said, "I was home one night (in 1954) and we flipped on the television and Channel 36 in Stockton had just gone on the air. It was KTVU, and I looked at their artwork. Their artwork was absolutely miserable, so I threw my portfolio in my Studebaker and I drove down to Stockton. I was interviewed by a guy named Dave Hume, and Dick Block. Dave



"Matanza Creek Lavender"

ultimately became the news director at Channel 3 (in Sacramento). In any event, I was interviewed by them. They really liked my portfolio, but it also meant that I was to be a floor man on television shows. Everything was live in those days. Dave said, 'You know, I really like his (art) work, but

I think he's too short to reach the mic booms.' And here I am, I'm going to be a floor man, I had to reach the mic booms. So, we went down in the studio, and I got down on my tippy toes and I managed to operate the mic boom and he said, 'Okay, that's okay.' So, they hired me."

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Gopher holes be gone:

A new field and stadium to transform Kennedy's image

By **MONICA STARK**
 editor@valcomnews.com

When the John F. Kennedy football team played Hiram Johnson last October, something out of the ordinary occurred in the middle of a game: A gopher popped his head out of one of the holes in the field and made eye contact with the referee on the sideline. While the story gets many laughs, this little bit of Kennedy football lore speaks volumes regarding the condition of the athletic fields.

Badly worn with loose shifting gravel on the track and gopher holes sprinkling the fields at John F. Kennedy, it's no wonder prospective student-athletes have chosen other schools to attend even if that means leaving their neighborhood every day. But come August, that mentality is expected to change, as a \$5.2-million stadium complete with bleacher upgrades, a press box, concession stands, restrooms, a ticket booth and a synthetic track will be built. The first phase, starting in April, will be the installation of synthetic turf and an all-weather track.

"They're building a multimillion dollar athletic complex. We will get more kids because we'll get better facilities," Kennedy football's head coach Matt Costa told the Pocket News. "The actual ground is a hazard. It's loaded with gopher holes and it's not safe. Just from a community standpoint, having that stadium is huge," he said.

The new stadium's designs are a mirror image of those at Rosemont, which, like Kennedy, got the upgrades in response to voter-approved Measure R, which provides funding for school projects.

Costa said he's known soccer players who have tripped on the gopher holes, breaking their ankles and dislocating their knees. A few of the football players have also had turned ankles, but Costa has encouraged the players to tape their ankles before going out on the field for injury prevention.

Comparing Kennedy's situation with other schools, Costa said his team goes through about \$1,000 worth of tape a season, compared to norm of spending between \$500 to \$800.

The extra costs have been worth it, however, to ensure no one got seriously injured, which is something Costa knows from personal experience, as he explained:

"I myself, I was running on the field and I didn't have my legs taped, and as a result, I was walk-

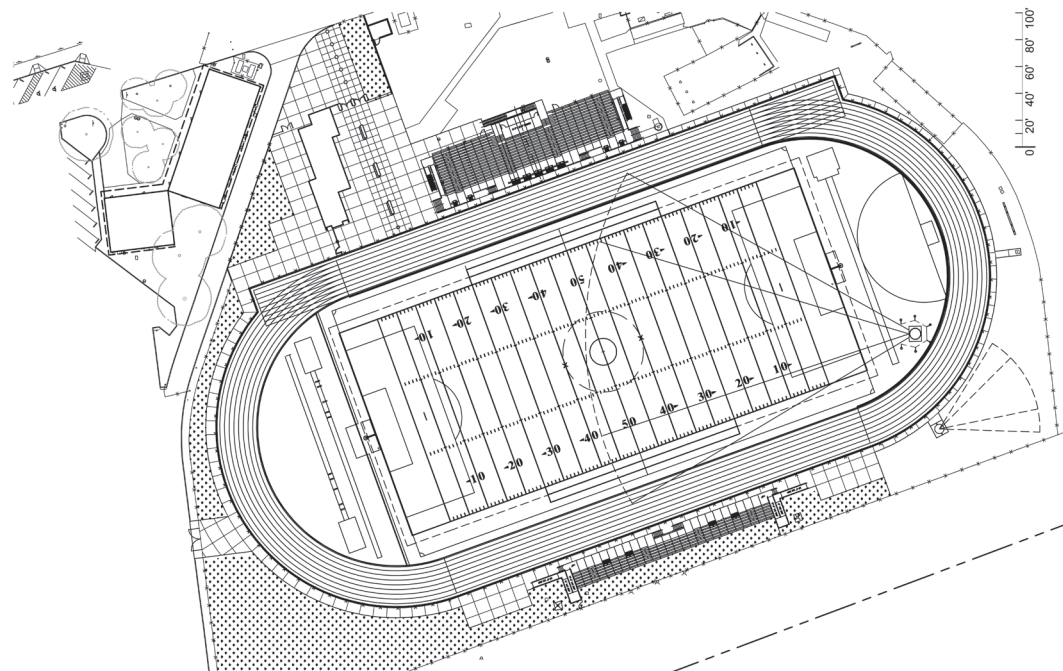


Photo courtesy of Bill Ferris, Rosemont High School Plant Manager. Shown here, is the way the stadium at Rosemont High School currently looks. It's a work in progress, but, the image is similar to how the stadium will look at John F. Kennedy High School.

Image courtesy of Brian Meyers. Here is the latest site plan of Kennedy's soon-to-be-built stadium, designed by HM Architects.

ing around with a sprained ankle for three weeks. I have been on bad fields, but that one is especially bad. People think I am exaggerating, but it's bad. We definitely have home field advantage – it's a pretty bad environment. When you sign up for Kennedy, you're taking a serious risk."

Besides a new field to play on, the football team will have a contract with Adidas for new uniforms and will be getting a new "walking sled" for leg muscle training, a new shoot for the linemen, line markers and basic field equipment. But these are added expenses, outside of what Measure R will pay for, so the team, in conjunction with the marching band and baseball team will hold a rib dinner and silent auction fundraiser on Friday, May 9, which will help pay for needed equipment for those programs. One of the prizes of the silent auction will t-shirts with the words: Cougar Nation on the front and "Football, Family, Community" on the back.

With the building of the new stadium, Costa is hoping to bring back the junior football

program, which dissolved after rowdy parents who abused alcohol and drugs in the parking lot. When took over the football program, he decided the junior team was time to go. "It was not the image I wanted to portray when I took over," Costa said.

"The goal is to get the community back behind the football team," Costa said. "With the stadium and product we put out, it's the best in our little area. Nothing against McClatchy, but I believe we're an up-and-comer."

If you go:

What: Rib dinner and silent auction
Why: Fundraiser for Kennedy's football team, baseball team and band
When: Friday, May 9
Where: The Kennedy quad
Cost: \$25 for adults, \$15 for kids age 5 and older (otherwise free)

Walk4Water:

A 2-mile, round-trip walk set for March 22

Only once you have carried your own water, will you learn the value of every drop. On March 22, United Nations World Water Day 2014 and in celebration Faith Presbyterian Church is sponsoring Walk4Water, for walkers to experience what it is like for most people in developing nations around the globe to fetch water every day. The walk begins at Faith Church, 625 Florin Rd., for a 2-mile, round-trip walk to the Cabana Club South private swimming pool, 6615 Gloria Dr.

Walkers will carry an empty water container one mile and fill it up at the pool and return to the church and empty their load into the courtyard fountain.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. and Walk4Water begins at 10 a.m. Cost is \$25 for adults and \$10 for children accompanied by an adult. All donations benefit the Faith Church sponsored World Vision Abaya Ethiopia Area Development Program clean water projects. Faith Church will match up to \$20,000 of all donations received.

This will also be a time to learn about water awareness and the hardships most people globally are challenged with each day in acquiring safe, clean water. In light of our current drought and water shortage in California, this will bring a greater appreciation for every drop of water we use.



If you go:

What: Walk4Water

When: United Nations World Water Day 2014 – Saturday, March 22. Registration starts at 9 a.m., and the Walk4Water at 10 a.m.

Where: Faith Church to Cabana Club South

Cost: \$25 for adults, \$10 for children accompanied by an adult

Why: All donations benefit clean water projects, pp to \$20,000 will be matched by Faith Church

Contact: Walk4Water@faithpresby.org

Water Facts

The average household in Sacramento uses 417 gallons of water a day. City of Sacramento

The average household in Africa uses 5 gallons of water a day. UNICEF

Everyday 4,000 children die before their fifth birthday due to unsafe water. UNICEF

Nearly a billion- 884 million people do not have access to clean and safe water. 37% of those people live in Sub-Saharan Africa. WHO/UNICEF

1 in 8 people worldwide do not have access to safe and clean drinking water. United Nations Development Program

443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related diseases. WHO/UNICEF

In developing countries, as much as 80% of illnesses are linked to poor water and sanitation conditions. WHO/UNICEF

Half of the world's hospital beds are filled with people suffering from a water-related disease. United Nations Development Program

Girls under the age of 15 are twice as likely as boys to be the family member responsible for fetching water. WHO/UNICEF

84% of the people who don't have access to improved water, live in rural areas, where they live principally through subsistence agriculture. WHO/UNICEF

The average container for water collection in Africa, the jerry can, weighs over 40 lbs when full. WHO/UNICEF



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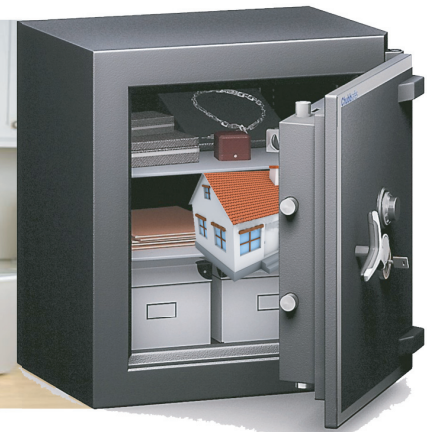
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Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven held its annual speech contest

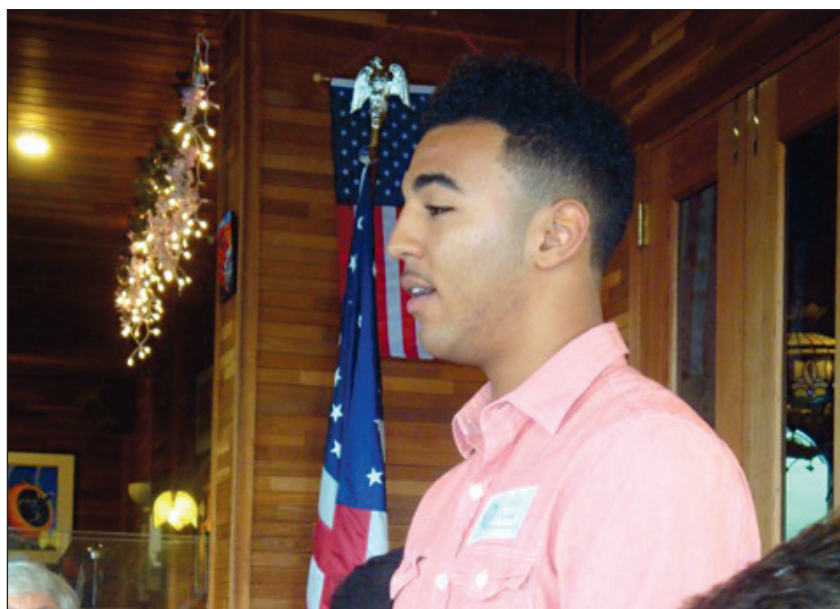
By JUDY FOOTE

The Rotary Club of Pocket/Greenhaven held its annual Speech Contest on February 27 at Aviator's Restaurant (Executive Airport). The theme for this year's competition was *Engage Youth, Change Lives*.

Three young men, Sam Trumbly, Henry Molina and Jibril Kyser, presented their speeches to an attentive audience. Each developed the topic in a unique manner. All three contestants attend John F. Kennedy High School and have worked with PACE instructor, Michael Fry.

The club winner this year is Jibril Kyser. He presented a speech about how positive interaction and caring could possibly be a deciding factor in changing the path of a young person's life. He will speak again on April 1 at Elk Grove City Hall for one of the four Rotary Area Speech Contests. The winners of each area contest will compete again on May 3 in Reno, NV for the Rotary District 5180 Conference.

Judges for this event were retired educators, Linda Whitney, Michele Hobza and Carolyn Pfaendler.



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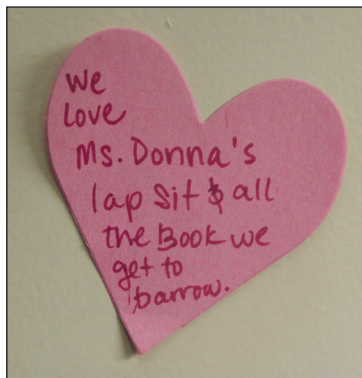
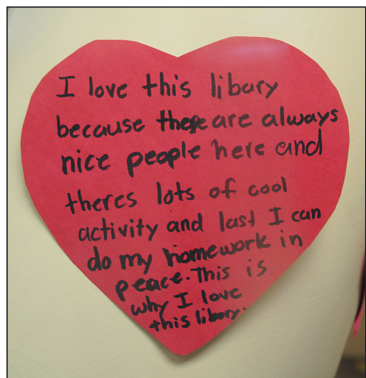
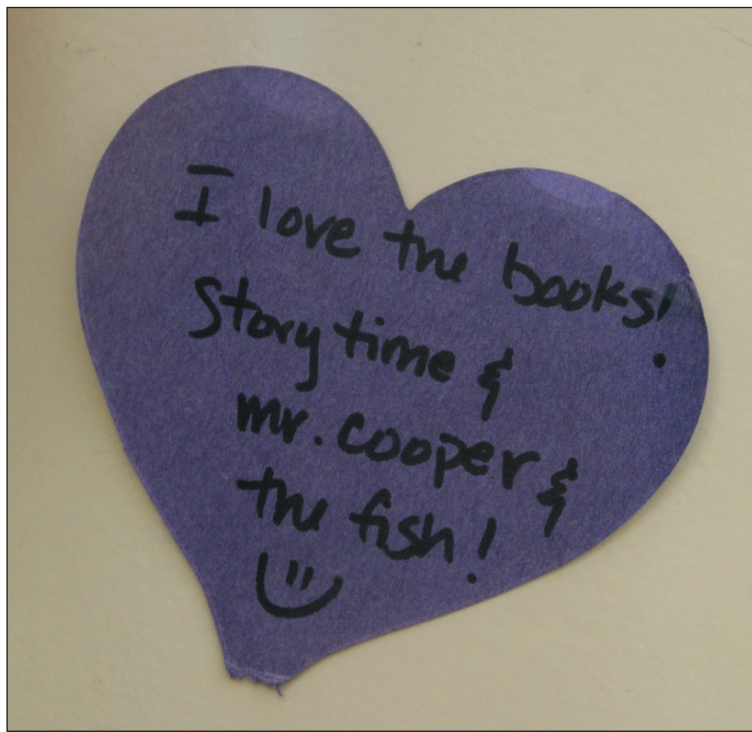
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Children share their love of the Belle Cooledge Library

Photos by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Adorable, heart-shaped love notes adorn the columns inside the Belle Cooledge Library, located at 5699 S Land Park Dr. Children have noted their admiration of singer-song writer, Mr. Cooper, who holds a sing-along at the library on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. They also have shared their enjoyment of looking at the fish in the tank, as well as, expressing their gratitude over such kind and helpful librarians who work there.

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Aquaponic systems gaining local popularity

By ISAAC GONZALEZ

Sacramento's already got its urban gardens, backyard chickens, and a sophisticated PR campaign in full swing to promote ourselves as the "Farm-To-Fork" capital of the nation. But there's another type of urban agriculture that's gaining traction with local food aficionados: Aquaponics.

Simply put, aquaponics is a system that a food grower can use to produce vegetables without soil. It's a symbiotic environment which mimics what you might find in a riverbed or a lake, fish and other aquatic animals produce waste matter, which then becomes the food nutrients for the surrounding plant life. In turn, the plant life consumes the waste before it reaches toxic levels and provides clean water back to the system. Aquaponics reproduces this arrangement on a scale small enough to be done in a backyard, a patio, or even on top of a windowsill.

Humans have been using aquaponic methods to grow plants for ages, thousands of years, by the best guesses. More recently, aquaponics has seen a dramatic resurgence as hobby farmers and natural food enthusiasts searched for a way to produce quali-

ty veggies in a sustainable manner and without pesticides.

Locally, Paul Trudeau owner of the Southside Aquaponic Farm, is providing some of the most well-known restaurants in the city with food from his aquaponic operation.

"I've sold to Mulvaney's, Kru, and even to Red Rabbit at one point," says Trudeau. "I grow vegetables and fish in an under-used backyard and give some to the neighbors. That is the heart of my little business. I take the rest of the vegetables and sell them to restaurants downtown."

Trudeau also has a smaller system on his front porch to grow herbs and lettuce for himself. While it takes up very little square footage, it still manages to produce a high yield of food throughout the various seasons, all the while using only 10 percent of the water of a conventional garden. That's because all of the water used to deliver the nutrients from the fish to the plants is recirculated over and over again.

"I had a wall of cucumbers last May in my south-facing window," Trudeau boasts. "It provided lots of shade at the same time. It was awesome."

There's a third member of this system which must be taken into consideration as well; helpful bacteria. These tiny or-



Photo by Isaac Gonzalez

Southside Park resident Paul Trudeau's front porch aquaponic operation where he grows herbs and lettuce.

ganisms eat the fish waste and produce nitrates for the plants. It's important to make sure that the proper balance is maintained to keep everything working properly, but the payoff for all that attention is that the food grown as a result is devoid of chemicals and pesticides.

For those wanting to test the aquaponic waters for themselves, Trudeau recommends the "Aquafarm," a \$60 all-in-one setup which was invented by a pair of entrepreneurs in Oakland. When you're ready to go bigger, one should expect to spend between a few hundred dollars if they lean on the support of the

local aquaponic community for resources to as much as two thousand dollars for an all-encompassing do-it-yourself kit from an online retailer.

Tahoe Park resident Anthony Norris has been practicing Aquaponics for the past five years. He offers custom build dinner table sized setups for about \$500 which can provide vegetables for two adults.

"Kale does the best this time of year," says Norris. "Once it starts to warm up, the vegetables really start to get going."

Norris can be reached at entropy1904@gmail.com.

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Accident:

Continued from page 5

doesn't necessarily stop people from speeding."

After being asked what message he would like to give to those who speed in front of the school, which is located in a 25 mph – when children are present – zone, McCord said, "I would say, be considerate of the children. We're very much a family school. It's not just students who are 5 to 12 years old that come to the school, but a lot of the younger siblings. Sometimes their parents may not have the hand right on them. I can't imagine how somebody would feel if something happened that involved a student, let alone somebody, as it just happened with the woman, who was killed."

McCord added that it is not uncommon for people to exceed the speed limits posted on Riverside Boulevard.

"I see how much of a challenge it is for me and many of our staff and parents for

that matter to pull out of the school onto Riverside (Boulevard), not just because it's congested, although that can certainly be the case (generally during morning and evening hours), but because there are people who go at a higher rate (of speed) than I would hope that they would go," McCord said. "And just where I travel (on the street), I can see where people are traveling at a higher rate of speed. I just know the flow of traffic is certainly much higher than 30 (mph)."

Michael Neff, an 11-year resident of Land Park, estimates that the average speed of vehicles traveling along the boulevard in Land Park is 40 to 45 mph.

"Most people go 40 to 45 (mph on the boulevard)," Neff said. "I'm in the bike lane (on his bicycle) all the time and they're moving by pretty quick. I would say it's not that safe. Does it scare me? Yeah."

In offering his own suggestion to slowing down the traffic flow on Riverside Boulevard, Neff

See Riverside Blvd., page 26

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Free food:

Seed library, and Read and Feed program gain popularity at Colonial Heights Library



By **MONICA STARK**
 editor@valcomnews.com

It grew, and grew, and grew, and grew! This gigantic, softball-size beet that took root last year, with a stalk about 3-foot tall, over at the abundantly prosperous garden at the Colonial Heights Library, was the highlight of a preschool Read and Feed program last summer. Youth Services Librarian Amanda Foulk (Miss Amanda) had just read to the children from the book, “The

Enormous Turnip”, before leading them outside to where the gigantic beet basked in the warm sunshine.

“We pulled and pulled!” recalled Miss Amanda, noting the effort’s similarities to the theme of the book where a hungry, elderly man tries to yank out a large turnip, but couldn’t do it alone. Soliciting help from his wife first, he still couldn’t get it out, so as passersby come along, he gets them to participate. And after all the pulling, they got it out and he was happy and they all got to eat it together.

Miss Amanda discussed with this publication the excitement the children had over the morning’s event and her love linking literacy to the garden. She’s read to the little ones “Jack and the Beanstalk” and named one of the beanstalks in the garden, “Jack Beanstalk”, and called one of the pumpkins that overflowed out of the planter boxes and out into the yard, “Cinderella”.

“I really like tying into stories and books when I can. It’s really fun with the young ones to tie it in that way. With the older kids, I do a lot of nonfiction books,” she said. One of those books she read with the older children is called “Cool Things for Your Garden”, and from it, was inspired to make a planter out of an old shoe.

the current state of the garden, Miss Amanda said: “The lettuce has gotten away from me. The lettuce is pretty vibrant. We have a salad mix with red leaf and green leaf. We had arugula, but it outgrew me. The peas are happy and abundant. We have fava beans, not to eat, but for a cover crop for the soil. People ask me why we plant stuff we can’t eat, but fava beans put nitrogen back into the soil and they have a deep root system, so it lessens up the soil to make room for water flow.”

During the cold frost that hit this winter, the children, with Miss Amanda’s guidance, covered the plants with blankets. “We didn’t lose any-

thing. I don’t know how sad they would have been without the blankets. Everything survived; there wasn’t any trauma,” she said.

The garden out in the library’s yard supports an ongoing series of programs, like the preschool Read and Feed program, that emphasize nutrition, healthy choices and service learning.

The library also has a kids’ garden club and a seed library, where visitors can check out seeds for edible and ornamental plants. So, as the weather becomes warmer, home gardeners can be on their ways to beautiful gardens, free of charge, thanks to the Sacramento Public Library! Just check out seeds from the seed library, plant them, watch the crops grow, harvest the fruits of your labor, and, if you’re so inclined, let what’s left go to seed, harvest the seeds, and return them to the library.

Talk about free food! There are no late fees, and no obligations to return seeds back to the seed library, which has several varieties of ornamentals, herbs, and edibles for the taking.

A hidden gem in the neighborhood, the seed library is housed inside the Colonial Heights Library to the right of the check-out desk and is less than two years old. Its advertising has relied on word of mouth, as well as events like seed and crop swaps, explained Colonial Heights Public Library’s head librarian, Tom Gruneisen.

Seed-savers are asked to bring some of theirs to the branch’s seed library; because with enough heirloom seed donations from our region, there will ultimately be a seed library containing plants ideally suited for Sacramento weather.

While the library encourages home gardeners to harvest

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See Seed library, page 23



Faces and Places:

Happy birthday, Dr. Arthur Burbridge

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

Happy 60th birthday to local dentist, Dr. Arthur Burbridge! In business now for 25 years, the dentist has established strong ties in the Pocket neighborhood, and, boy, does he know how to throw a party! At his home on Saturday, March 1, Samba dancers, Brazilian drummers and guests had a great time. For identification purposes, the photo showing the man dancing and wearing a painted blue mask is Dr. Burbridge. Dr. Burbridge's offices are located at 7485 Rush River Dr. inside the Promenade Shopping Center.



El Faro closes its doors at The Promenade Shopping Center

By MONICA STARK
Editor@valcomnews.com

To much disappointment to regular customers of El Faro Taqueria, the longtime Mexican favorite has closed its doors, at least temporarily, in the Promenade Shopping Center, located on the corner of Rush River and Windbridge drives.

As taco lovers came by their favorite neighborhood, they were caught off guard by a sign in the window that thanked them for their patronage, but due to an increase of rent to their lease, they had to shut their doors. But there was a glimmer of hope in the message—they would try to move next door to the location of the old Subway, a smaller, and more likely affordable space. Interestingly, though, the sign was gone by the following day, Tuesday.

Unfortunately, El Faro Taqueria owner Hugo Oliviertos did not return calls as of press time to discuss his established Pocket area business, but it is known that El Faro has deep roots in San Francisco with more than 50 years in business with three locations (435 El Camino Real, 346 Kearny St., 1634 Haight St.) and has been owned by the self-proclaimed creator of the original “Super Burrito”, a traditional burrito with added rice, sour cream and guacamole.

Casey Deeha, a writer for Bay Area Review of Burritos, wrote about Hugo’s ruminations serving Carlos Santana “Super Burritos” in the 1960s in San Francisco’s Mission District.

“Let’s paint the picture,” Deeha writes. “We’re in the Mission; it’s 1961 and the cultural and social renaissance is taking place. Carlos Santana, once a resident of the Mission, has just released a live album and the 68ers have set the backdrop for the ‘summer of love’ to pave the way as a future lucrative marketing campaign. Political and cultural dissent is rife in the air and Carlos Santana sits down at a table at El Faro to order what will soon become known to the world as The Super Burrito.

“I remember when Carlos Santana used to come in and have a burrito,” says Hugo; “he was like everyone in those days, he had his specific burrito.” Indeed, at El Faro, since 1961, patrons were choosing among a range of fresh Californian ingredients to create what has now become known as the ‘Mission Style Burrito.’ “It was a crazy time,” says Hugo, “everyone was coming in and out—there were a lot of people.”

Fast forward more than 30 years and a change of setting – the Promenade Shopping Center, which touts itself as the one-stop shopping destination in the Pocket, but has 17



Photo by Monica Stark

Pocket's El Faro Taqueria is now another empty store front inside the Promenade Shopping Center.

businesses that are closed and 19 (which are mostly chains) that are open, including: UPS Store, Hollywood Nails, Tobacco City, GNC, CVS, Rise Yoga, Papa Murphy’s, H&R Block, Eyelusions Optometry, Bel Air, Brite Cleaners, Golden 1, Ocean Sushi, California Sun, Goodwill Donation Express, Curves, Tuesday Morning, Dentist Arthur Burbridge, Fine Wine and Liquor, and Regent Cuisine of China – it’s a much different landscape, yet Hugo brought with him his love of the San Francisco Giants, the 49ers and a tribute to Santana. The brightly colored walls inside the restaurant were highlighted by photographs and posters of times passed.

Clearly, the restaurant leaves a gaping hole within the community.

Neighbor Kent Danielson stopped by El Faro on Tuesday night to check out the scene and discussed with this publication his relationship with the restaurant and his disappointment with the closure of the current location. “Yeah, God, I really like Hugo. I am sad. I just called the number and it said, ‘no longer in service.’ and, I went, ‘what?’ So I just came over.”

Danielson said he had been coming ever since they opened to enjoy the food there. “The food was really good. I am not a big Mexican food person, but my wife is and she really liked it. For Mexican food, it’s really good.”

He said his wife loved the Mission Street burritos, mojado style, and he

would order a Pocket chicken burrito.

Over time, Danielson said as he got to know Hugo over the years. “They have been struggling when the recession hit, like everybody. Business had not been booming, but he seemed to be squeaking by,” he said.

A heating and air conditioning repair technician, Danielson said he would exchange his services for tacos as a result of learning that tenants of the Promenade have to place their own heaters and air conditioners, which he expressed his disapproval of. “I don’t think is right; it’s not going to be yours, it’s going to be the guys that own the shopping center for you to have to replace it. I really like Hugo and I got to know him a little bit and I am sad this happened. I know (the Promenade owners) threatened to raise (El Faro’s) lease. I just think they are greedy and have been asking too much. It’s not booming.”

Neighbors and shopping center tenants have discussed with this publication their disregard for the Promenade Shopping Center owners and the sad state of affairs of losing El Faro (at least temporarily) due to the increase of the rent.

Owned in a trust set up by Millbrae-based Silvestri Foust and Olga, the location of the corporate office, which runs the Promenade, is 1120 Murchinson Dr., Millbrae, and appears as if the business operates inside of a McMansion.

Locals recall a Buckhorn’s, which was in the shopping center for many years as a meeting place for sandwiches and coffee, Mountain Mike’s, the Dollar Store, Ginza Sushi, which location has been occupied by Ocean Sushi more recently, Blockbuster Video, Nathan Michael’s Hair (which moved to Elk Grove), a pet hospital, and a cupcake and yogurt shop.

Especially since she started working at Goodwill Donation Express, one of the businesses in the Promenade Shopping Center, Jon-ai Rice, said she has enjoyed eating at El Faro. “Since I started working here (about a month ago), I went there like every day and then before that, the company I worked for, we’d go there for lunch. I knew the owner, he was really cool. The food was always good,” she said.

“I went over there the other day to get some breakfast and their breakfast burritos are amazing. I went over there and opened the door and saw the sign they were closing and I was super bummed out. It was lame, so hopefully they can open back up,” she said. With the taqueria gone, affordable lunch options are limited, so Rice just goes over to Bel Air to get a sandwich. “There’s nothing here (in this shopping center),” she said.

Fine Wine and Liquor owner Chhan Lu said the rent at the

See El Faro, page 21

El Faro:

Continued from page 20

shopping center is really expensive and that despite the economy, the property owner ups the rent each year. "They don't negotiate; it keeps going up," he said. Asked why he has stayed there for the past 10 years, Lu said moving is expensive due to the tailor made, built-in cooler.

In regards to what he knows about the property owner, he said: "They own a lot of shopping centers; so if they close one down, they don't care."

In a posting to the social networking website, NextDoor.com, Joe Conrad from the Pocket area, said he had he been aware of the high rent in the Promenade Shopping Center. He wrote: "I think it's disgusting that the landlord would prefer empty shops to a thriving local business and economy!! Well, today it went too far. El Faro has closed its doors! Although I'm a fan of other businesses in the center, the only way I know to stick it to the guy who collects the rent in those shops, is to stop giving my money to those shops!! I lived here for nearly three years, and have been in there nearly once a week for each of those years! Hugo is an amazing shop owner, and a great guy! And he doesn't deserve to be muscled out! I would love some ideas of how to start a revolution and get him back in there!"

In an email interview with this publication, Conrad described that nearly three years ago his wife, son, and he moved in to the Pocket neighborhood from Colorado Springs with the plan of opening Ravenous Cafe with his father-in-law, Wade Sawaya.

He writes: "I was the chef of the small cafe for a few months, but left shortly after to spend more time with my family, and discover a new love in numbers and money. I now work for a small environmental consulting firm as their finance director. It was my during first week with my current employer, Montgomery & Associates, Inc. that I met Hugo and the Pocket Special burrito at El Faro."

Montgomery & Associates, Inc. is located on the corner of Greenhaven and Windbridge, making El Faro as convenient of a lunch spot for Conrad as they come.

"It was always our go-to spot! Once a week, at the very least, I enjoyed the Pocket Special Burrito that measured just about the size of my forearm. The steak was always cooked to perfection, the guacamole was everything I wanted it to be, and more! It was really an awesome burrito! So awesome in fact that it became the favorite of all of our out-of-town guests," Conrad said, adding that his sisters could not come



Pocket's El Faro Taqueria has longtime San Francisco roots. Shown here is the front of a sister business, located at 1654 Haight St., San Francisco.

Photos by Monica Stark



from Maryland without first having a Pocket special before their return and that his wife's sisters would demand El Faro each night for dinner while they were in town from Colorado Springs.

"El Faro had become a part of our life, our routine! Trips to El Faro for visitors were essential, akin to Hollywood for first time Los Angeles visitors, or the Empire State Building for New York tourists. It wasn't all about that burrito though. It was just as much about the guy behind the counter. I always enjoyed my conversations with Hugo," Conrad said.

"We talked about the restaurant business. We talked about food cost, and rent. We talked about suppliers, and demanders! I feel we were able to connect on many levels because of my restaurant experience. Coming from someone who was in the business, Hugo is the type of restaurant owner that many should aspire

to be. He was the face of El Faro. He was always behind the counter, always busy, but always making my El Faro experience personal. It wasn't until a few weeks ago that I realized just how special he was. I thought that maybe I was alone, or part of a small crowd, in my admiration of this jolly restaurateur. Recently I realized that that couldn't have been further from the truth! I was sitting at the coffee bar at Nugget signing a Valentine's Day card for my wife. Hugo came in to get a coffee of his own before he headed off to his domain for the rest of the day. It wasn't just me that shared this connection with Hugo. It was the whole neighborhood! Every single shopper at Nugget that walked past him that day greeted him by name! and he returned their greetings with their first name. It was incredible to see who I thought was just a small business owner, was actually a local home town hero!"



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Seed library:

Continued from page 18

the seeds and return them to the library, Miss Amanda said it's not required. "It's more about trying something you wouldn't have otherwise done. There are no penalties. We did have people come in, asking, 'how do you return them on time?' That part is totally optional. It's really about getting the seeds out there into the community," she said.

Besides word-of-mouth advertising of the seed library, Colonial Heights just got a new sign for it. "(The seed library) was a very well-kept secret, but now we have a 2-foot by 2-foot sign and have people asking, 'A seed library - what's that?'"

The seeds are organized by "easy and difficult", which has to do with how difficult it is to harvest the seeds, not how easy it is to grow the crops. The library hopes to garner seeds that have not been cross pollinated. Miss Amanda said she keeps on encouraging gardeners who have checked out seeds to take photographs of their progress. "We want to show evidence that (the seed library) works," she said.

Last July, the Colonial Heights Library was selected by the Urban Li-

braries Council as one of their Top 10 Innovators for 2013. The program was selected by a panel of judges from more than 140 applications in the fourth annual Urban Libraries Council Innovations Initiative.

Former branch supervisor Jami Trawick, who along with former Youth Services Librarian Laura Mielenhausen, was a driving force in the initial stages of the garden. Trawick attributed the garden's success to the community, which the library relied on for its expertise and for funding. Support has come from the Junior League of Sacramento, the Ritz and June Naygrow Foundation, Gifts to Share, Inc., the National Gardening Association, the Sacramento Area Community Garden Coalition and Sacramento City Council districts 5 and 6.

On Saturday, Feb. 22, the library hosted a successful seed swap, where 30 adults and 13 children traded seeds. The event also introduced families to the seed library. Inside the library, Randy Stannard from Soil Born Farms educated the public on how to grow the seeds. Gruneisen said 12 adults and four children sat for that lecture. On Saturday, March 29, the library will Soil Born Farms for a morning of neighborhood



Photos courtesy of Malcolm Maclachlan

One of the planter boxes was filled with vegetables at the Colonial Heights Library last summer.

gleaning. Volunteers will meet at the library at 9 a.m. and form into five to 10 person groups with a trained harvest group leader. Each group will receive a list of three to five pre-approved sites to harvest, and will be provided with all necessary harvesting materials, including gloves, picker-poles, ladders, clippers, and boxes. Volunteers will carpool to each site and transport the harvested fruit back to the library, where a simple lunch, consisting of a hearty vegetarian soup, bread, and salad, will

be provided and stories of the gleaning will be shared amongst the different harvest groups. Food distribution will follow and continue at the library through the afternoon. Surplus fruit will benefit the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Online registration is required. Visit www.soilborn.org for more information on the gleaning efforts, known as Harvest Sacramento.

The Colonial Heights Public Library is located at 4799 Stockton Blvd.

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CALENDAR

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ONGOING

Land Park Pacific Little League collecting memorabilia as part of 60th anniversary

Land Park Pacific Little League (LPPLL), a youth baseball organization serving children in the Land Park, Curtis Park, Hollywood Park, South Land Park, Little Pocket, and neighboring areas, celebrates its 60th anniversary season in 2014. As part of the celebration, LPPLL is collecting photos and other memorabilia to display throughout the season. LPPLL's home fields are located at Doolley Fields, located behind Holy Spirit Parish School at the edge of William Land Park, and the baseball fields located in William Land Park. Originally, Dooley Fields were the home of Pacific Little League, created in 1959. Through the years, some of the area little leagues merged. In 1994, Dooley Fields also became the home fields Land Park Little League, which was established in 1954. In 2000, Curtis Park Little League also merged into the league. As part of the Opening Day Parade, scheduled for March 22 at 8:00 a.m., old photographs, jerseys and other memorabilia will be on display. Alumni from past years are invited to attend and share memories. Anyone willing to share or donate items should contact info@lppll.com. Additional information about the league is available at www.lppll.com

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

Mahogany Urban Poetry Series - Queen Sheba - poetry readings

Each Wednesday from 8-11 p.m. at Queen Sheba in Sacramento, local talent makes it way to the restaurant for weekly open-mic events. \$3-\$5. 1704 Broadway.

Registration Open for Nature Bowl Science and Conservation Competition

Registration is now open for the 29th annual Nature Bowl, an elementary school activity-based competition held in the spring. Coordinated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in partnership with local organizations and agencies, the Nature Bowl increases the science and conservation literacy of third through sixth grade students in the Sacramento Valley and Sierra foothills. The Nature Bowl is open to students from any school, group or organized youth club. Participants employ teamwork, creativity and critical thinking while participating in group learning activities centered on local and regional natural environments. The first round will be held at 10 locations from mid-March through early May. Teams will consist of three to seven students each and several teams will advance to the finals to be held at California State University, Sacramento on May 17, 2014. Teachers, youth group leaders or parents can coach a team. The semifinal at Nimbus Hatchery is scheduled April 3, 2014. To register, call (916) 358-2884. The semifinal at Effie Yeaw Nature Center is scheduled March 11, 2014. To register, call (916) 489-4918. A new semifinal is also being offered at Sutter's Landing Regional Park in Sacramento on May 1 or 2 (date to be determined). For more information, please call (916) 284-1627. For more information about the Nature Bowl, please call (916) 358-2353 or visit the CDFW website at www.dfg.ca.gov/regions/2/naturebowl/.

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.

Women with Good Spirits monthly meeting

Women With Good Spirits is a networking group that engages women in the Sacramento community with non-profit organizations that make contributions to our quality of life and care for our fellow residents. Each month, Women With Good Spirits invites a community non-profit to present on its mission work. The meeting is held at Revolution Wines on the second Tuesday of each month and starts at 6:30 p.m. The presenter will start their presentation promptly at 7:15 p.m. and will last 15-20 minutes with an open question and answer forum after. RSVP is appreciated as well as a \$5+ donation per person that will go directly to the non-profit presenting that month. Revolution Wines is located at 2831 S St. Visit www.womenwithgoodspirits.com or find the group on Facebook.

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 F 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, 3 to 4 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, sponsored by the Regional Water Authority (RWA) and the Sacramento Bee Media in 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. Judging 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 UC Davis Med Ctr/ 50th St & Broadway) 2875 50th Street Sacramento, CA 95817. www.eastsacmidtownkiwanis.com. Meeting/Membership info: 916-761-0984, volunteers always welcome!

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.capitolaires.org, call 888-0877-9806, or email info@capitolaires.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 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.

MARCH

Focus on Fixed Income

March 10: Learn the basics of bonds, the advantages of laddering and how fixed income may be part of your investment strategy from 10 to 11 a.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Held at ACC SSC, 7375 Park City Dr, Sacramento, 393-9026.

Pesticides and Integrated Pest Management

March 11: Learn how to identify and control pests and diseases with the least toxic and pest-specific methods, 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Pre-registration required. Held at ACC SSC, 7375 Park City Dr, Sacramento, 393-9026.

St. Patrick's Luncheon at Casa Garden

March 11: St. Patrick's Luncheon with music by The Irish Eyes at 11:15 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. seatings at the Casa Garden Restaurant, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. Entree choices: Traditional corned beef served with steamed potatoes and pea/pea slaw or chicken Caesar salad; dessert: almond cake Framboise -- \$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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Medical Decisions When They Count Most

Mar. 12: Learn ideas for talking with family members, what are advance directives and how to complete them, what is POLST, the CA law that helps patients and their doctors discuss treatment choices. All attendees receive a packet of materials, including a free advance directive and POLST. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Free. Pre-registration required. Held at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., Sacramento, 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/cl/

Cooking Demonstration – Vietnamese Spring Rolls

Mar. 13: Learn to prepare two types of light and healthy Vietnamese spring rolls, filled with cooked shrimp or meat, rice noodles, and plenty of fresh herbs and vegetables for flavor and crunch. Enjoy featured dish and soup for lunch. Recipe included. 12:00-1:30 p.m. Pre-registration and \$11 pre-payment required by Mar. 6. An extra \$2 charge for late registration and will depend on space available. Max. 20 participants. Held at ACC Greenhaven Terrace, 1180 Corporate Way, Sacramento, 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/cl/

Planning Ahead for the Inevitable

Mar. 14: A 25-minute presentation on why everyone should pre-plan funeral arrangements. Eliminate stress and relieve your family of the burden, know all available choices, get what you want, ensure every detail is covered, and save money. Sponsored by East Lawn Memorial Parks. Lunch will be provided. 12:00-1:00 p.m. Free. Pre-registration by Mar. 11 required. Held at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., Sacramento, 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org/cl/

Sacramento Symphonic Winds presents "Broadway"

March 16: Sacramento Symphonic Winds, a 60-piece symphonic band, presents "Broadway" at 2:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Sacramento Northeast, 5321 Date Ave., Sacramento, 95841 (On Date just north of Madison east of I-80 interchange) Tickets sold at the door: General Admission \$10; Student/Senior (65+) \$5; Children under 8, free.

Folsom Library spring 2014 book sale

March 21-23: Shop for incredible bargains in 1000s of gently used books, audio books, videos, CDs and much more in both chil-

dren and adult materials. All proceeds directly benefit the Friends of the Folsom Library, a 100 percent non-profit organization. The sale will be held inside the Folsom Public Library's Georgia Murray Building Meeting Room at 411 Stafford St. The early bird sale will take place on Friday, March 21, from 5 to 8 p.m., admission \$5 per person (including children 12 and older). The general sale will be Saturday and Sunday, March 22-23, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission free. Fill a bag for only \$5 on "Bargain Sunday". For more information, visit www.folib.org or call 608-8743 or 355-7374.

Vintage Trailer Show & Antique Flea Market

March 22: A fantastic display of Vintage Trailers will be featured at the Vintage Trailer Show and Antique Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enjoy an up close look at these retro trailers that are now a part of the Glamping world. Shop dozens of vendors for treasured Antiques, Collectibles, Vintage and Flea

Market finds. Food available on site. A portion of proceeds benefit The Elk Grove Historical Society. Additional information and vendor applications are available at www.thereddoor-elkgrove.com or 714-0619. General admission is \$5, children under 16 are free. Old Town Elk Grove Plaza, 9056 Elk Grove Blvd.

Sacramento Community Concert Association performance

March 22: SCCA presents A Night At The Movies With Pipe Organist Dave Moreno at 7:30 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian, 1300 N St. Complemented by emcee Matias Bombal, organist-entertainer Dave Moreno will thrill you as he accompanies popular silent films on Westminster's grand 3000-pipe organ. Don't miss this extraordinary event. 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

Preschool Morning Saturday, March 15th, 9:30am

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2014 CALENDAR

March

March 15th
March 18th

Habitat for Humanity – Saturday Build Day – Volunteers Welcome
Business Luncheon/Auction Fundraiser – Speaker: Trulia "Let's Talk Market" (Raising funds for Next Move Emergency Housing - former Sac Emergency Shelter for displaced families)

April

April 15th
April 17th
April 26th

Habitat for Humanity – Volunteer Build Day – Volunteers Welcome
Class: Self Defense – Safety while showing property
Class: NARPM National Course Owner/Client Essentials (Designation Approved)

May

May 16th
May 20th
May 22nd

Friday Golf Tourney – Fundraiser – Real Estate Industry Invited
Business Luncheon – Speaker: Yelp, BBB panel - Online Reputation Management
NARPM Approved Ethics Course – Marketing

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NEW EXHIBIT

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Upcoming Events

March 8 (2nd Saturday): Women's History Tour 2pm - 3:30 pm
 March 14: FREE Capitol Pops Concert 7pm - 9pm
 March 15: Youth Basic Engine Class 12:30pm- 4pm
 March 22: Jack Passey Car Collection Tour 7am - 9pm

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Riverside Blvd.:

Continued from page 17

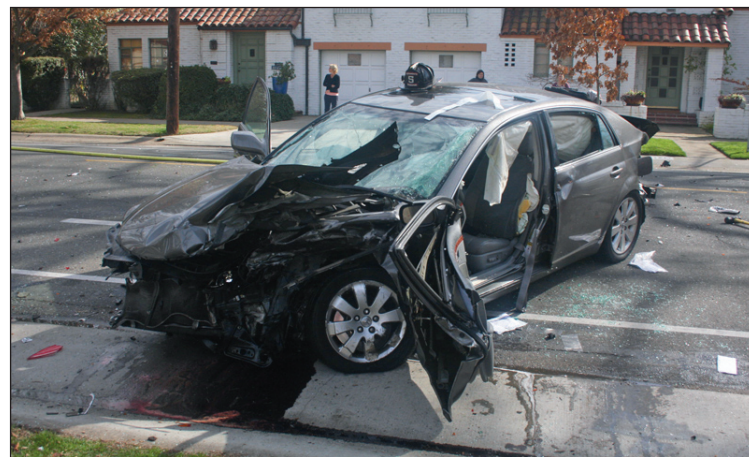
said that he would not mind seeing a few more stop signs.

Troy Magness, who resides with his wife, Katherine, on 3rd Avenue in Land Park, also shared his views about decreasing the speed of traffic along the boulevard.

"I almost like the idea of maybe stepping up the presence of law enforcement, like black and whites, that sort of thing," Troy said. "I'm not exactly an advocate of more government intrusion. Speed bumps? I think they're pretty effective. I don't think there's any stretch along here that a roundabout would be appropriate, but that's a good way to try to curb (excessive) speed, as well."

Another local resident, Maya Walters, said that she has had discussions with others in the community about different ways that traffic could be slowed down on Riverside Boulevard.

"We need something to slow down (the traffic)," Walters said. "We were saying there should be police officers around giving tickets, but we haven't seen any. But that's a temporary fix. We've all been trying to talk about what we're



going to do to let people know (to slow down)."

Eric Baldwin, who resides on 2nd Avenue, spoke about an entirely different accident – a car versus wooden fence collision, which occurred on Riverside Boulevard, between Vallejo Way and 3rd Avenue, on Saturday, March 1.

"I was walking (on Riverside Boulevard) on early Saturday (morning)," Baldwin said. "Another guy actually teed me off to it. He was walking (in one direction on the boulevard) and I was walking (in the other direction). The front end of the car was kind of smashed in and the bumper was down and I would assume whoever had been driving realized what happened and left it there."

Ericka Jones, who also lives in the area, remembers seeing the same vehicle.

"I saw a car up on the lawn, and the whole front of the car was busted up," Jones said. "Everyone evacuated the car. I don't know who was in it."

Jones added that she feels safe when she regularly jogs along Riverside Boulevard, and is "indifferent" when it comes to the idea of taking any measures to slow down the flow of traffic.

Another local resident Hoshi Fujioka has a different opinion on that topic.

"I know the speed limit here (is 30 mph), but you would never know it," Fujioka said. "I think they should be more strict about that. People go too fast here."

Got News?

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We're Your Neighbor

GORGEOUS CONDO IN PARK RIVER OAKS



3 bed, 2.5 bath, 1332sf condo next to Garcia Bend park. Granite/stone entry, beautiful kitchen w/dark stain cabs & granite counters, baths w/upgraded tile counters/floors, upstairs laundry room, walk in closet in master bed & 2 car attached garage. **\$250,000**

Marsha Chan 217-5500

SOUTH LAND PARK HILLS



3 bed, 2 bath, 1455sf, single family home. Nice sized yard, gleaming hardwood floors, roomy floorplan. **\$299,900**

David Ohara 600-9495

FALLBROOK IN ELK GROVE - PENDING

Rare opportunity to own a meticulously maintained single story with a sparkling built in pool on one of the most desirable courts in highly coveted Fallbrook! 4 beds, 2 1/2 updated baths, huge 3 car garage on a spacious lot. Walking distance to Elk Grove Elementary and a great park! **\$329,900 - Mandy Shepard 213-3013**

GREAT POTENTIAL IN CITRUS HEIGHTS! - PENDING

3 bd, 2 bth, 1254sf, single family home. With vision, inspiration & a very big tool kit this home could shine. It features hardwood floors under carpet, newer sewer line 2011 & roof in 1994. Open floor plan with living room & family room, 2 fireplaces.

\$164,000 - Dawn Rowe 799-4835

EAST SACRAMENTO - PENDING

Looking for a large 2/3 bedroom home in East Sac? Look no more! Approx. 1434sf, home office, spacious family room, beautifully remodeled kitchen and bath, large closets, lots of built-ins, skylights, hardwood floors and private brick patio in backyard. Newer roof, newer HVAC & fresh paint. **\$376,000 - Dawn Rowe 799-4835**

CLARKSBURG

1910 Queen Anne Victorian on 2.1 acres! This 3 bed, 3 baths, features separate laundry, basement, 3 car shop and additional 1 car garage. Frontal views of the Sacramento River and rear views of Bogel Vineyards. You can have your own private boat dock! **\$599,000 - Terry Mulligan 768-3796**

1.2 ACRES IN ELK GROVE - PENDING

This 6 bedroom 3 bath, 7 car garage on 1.2 acres has all the amenities present on your wish list! Features include solar heated swimming pool with its own outdoor bathroom, separate in-law quarters with 2 bedrooms 2 bath, kitchen and living room. The spiral driveway leads you from the auto RV gate to a separate 4 car garage. **\$799,999 - Neal Alie 224-9640**

ROSEMONT

This 4 bed, 3 bath, well maintained home features a sparkling built in swimming pool, new carpet, new paint, newer roof, dual pane windows throughout, newer exterior paint & tons of closet space. Hurry and see this great floor plan! **\$250,000 - Brandon Shepard 479-1936**

GREENHAVEN



Basford built 4 bdrm 2.5 bath 1-story. Remote 4th bdrm & half bath, ideal for home office, guest rm, etc. Formal living & dining area. Separate family rm w/fireplace. Kitchen & breakfast area look out to pretty gated courtyard. Well maintained 1-owner home! **\$345,000**

Bill Bonner 320-1888

SOUTH LAND PARK HILLS



Beautifully designed custom home in prime SLP Hills locale! 3bd + Den (potential 4bd) 2.5ba. Formal living & dining rms, sun room, family rm. Kitchen has gas cooktop, brkfst area w/view of Japanese style garden. Pool w/solar. Upd roof, heat & air. **\$450,000**

Bill Bonner 320-1888



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Bonsai Sekiyu Kai of Sacramento to hold 37th annual show

Photos by MONICA STARK

Bonsai Sekiyu Kai of Sacramento to hold its 37th annual bonsai and rock show on Saturday, April 5 from noon to 5 p.m. and Sunday, April 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be demonstrations both days at 2 p.m. by Sensei Yuzo Maruyama. The show will take place at the Betsuin Hall of the Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. All guests are welcome.

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



10 Sea Court – \$345,000



Greenhaven!

Basford-built 4bd 2.5ba, beautifully maintained by Original Owner. Remote 4th bd & half bath. Family rm w/skylight. Formal living rm & dining area. Kitchen & brkfst area look out to the charming gated courtyard. Fresh exterior paint Feb 2014. Court street locale. Apx 2,015 sf*



6329 Oakridge Wy – \$450,000

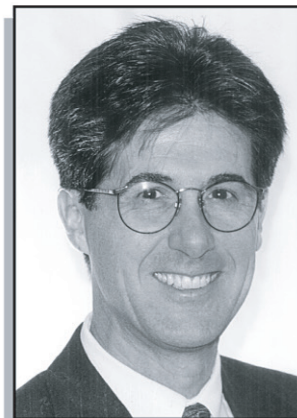


So Land Park Hills!

Beautifully designed custom in a prime So Land Park Hills locale! 3bd + Den (potential 4bd) 2.5ba. Formal living & dining rms, sun room, family rm. Kitchen has 5-burner gas cooktop, brkfst area w/view of Japanese style garden. Upd roof, heat & air. Pool w/solar heating. Apx 2,364 sf*

"Bill was very professional in all aspects of selling our home. His friendly manner and great communications greatly eased our apprehensions... We will recommend Bill to any of our friends."
Don & Helene Costan, Sellers – Greenhaven Area

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



35 Years Experience - References
Greenhaven / Pocket Area Specialist
Masters Club, Outstanding Life Member

Bill Bonner
(916) 320-1888
Bill@PocketAreaHomes.com



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GREENBELT CLOSE

Beautiful property was builder's own custom home. 3 bedroom 2½ baths with professionally landscaped front yard, Pergo floors, remodeled kitchen and half bath. There is also remodeled laundry play structure, dual pane windows and custom curtains and blinds. \$359,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



RIVERGATE HOME

Wonderful four bedroom home on a quiet street. This home has a great floor plan with lots of light! Private living room, kitchen family room combination and spacious master suite. Sliding glass doors in family room and master suite leading to generous sized backyard. \$329,000

PAM VANDERFORD 799-7234



CUTE SLP CONDO

Lower level 2 bedroom 2 bath cutie; spacious and open. Walk-in closet in the master bedroom, detached 1-car garage with opener. Pool and spa with clubhouse. Lush landscaping. Great value. Private patio. Inside laundry closet. Convenient location close to shopping, restaurants, library. \$129,000

LISA MCCAULEY 601-5474



STYLISH AND ENERGY EFFICIENT

Gracefully appointed, South Land Park 3 bedroom 2 bath home. The home combines natural elements of wood, masonry and light to create alluring spaces throughout. Lush landscaping, pool and koi pond and spacious 2 bedroom guest cottage. Comme see the magic! \$667,000

STEPHANIE GALLAGHER 342-2288



S. LAND PARK HILLS DUPLEX

This is a wonderful duplex in a great location! Spacious 1500+ square foot units, 3 bedrooms 2 baths with formal living room, family room and master suite on each side. Central heat and air, dishwasher, disposal, garages and small yards. \$400,000

PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715



QUALITY WEBER BUILT HOME

4 bedroom 2½ home on almost 1/2 acre lot with RV access. Gorgeous remodeled items: kitchen, baths, flooring, imperfect smooth finished walls, windows, sliders, counter tops, custom cabinets, stainless steel appliances, high-end granite, designer lights, fireplace & more. Tons of quality upgrades! \$569,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555

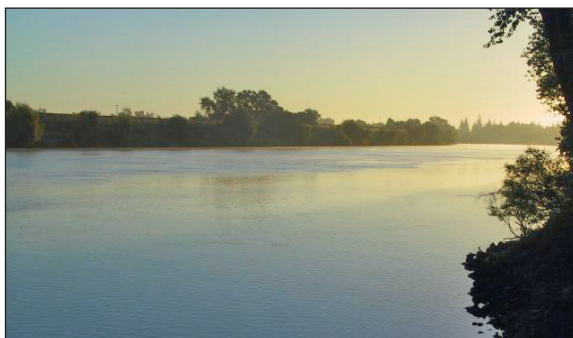


WONDERFUL WEST SAC

Wonderful single-level home in a quiet cul-de-sac. 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths on almost a quarter acre. Granite counters and glass subway tiled back splash set the kitchen apart. Solar heat for pool and house, dual pane windows and a tile roof. \$430,000

NANCY WEGGE 600-5458

LISA MARTIS 612-7548



LOT ON THE RIVER

Must see this beautiful lot! A rare opportunity to build your own home on a riverfront lot in the Little Pocket area close to the freeway and downtown. Riverside Blvd close to 35th Ave. Go by, walk around the lot and enjoy the Sacramento River. Call agent if you have questions. \$259,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



WALK TO DIDION SCHOOL

A rare opportunity to live close to Didion School. Spacious 4 bedrooms 2½ baths, 2264 square feet, with new interior paint, flooring, light fixtures, granite counter tops in kitchen and all 3 baths, new dishwasher, and new gas range. Huge family room is just waiting for fun and games! \$349,000

PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715

for current home listings, please visit:

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