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DEBATE

SUNDAY, OCT. 5 • 3 P.M.
GENEVIEVE DIDION SCHOOL

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Greenhaven Mothers' Club donated \$1,000 to neighborhood library

Photo courtesy

Greenhaven Mothers' Club President Jen Lightstone presented a check of \$1,000 to Library Supervisor Brendle Wells and staff of the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library on Thursday, Sept. 25. Members of the Friends of the Library were also on hand to applaud the tremendous generosity of the Mom's Club! Programs in 2015 such as the popular "Wild Things" & "The Busy Bee Acrobat Dogs" will be made possible because of the donation. Pictured here, from the left are: Jen Lightstone, daughter Ann, Supervisor Brendle Wells, Tracey Joe and Dave Munger.






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Got News?

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Meet your school board candidates

Dear readers: In an effort to help get out the vote and provide the public with relevant information regarding our area's school board candidates, the following is our question and answer special, featuring incumbent Darrel Woo and challenger Maria Haro-Sullivan. Also, the Pocket News has teamed up with Next-Door Pocket to provide the public the opportunity to witness a debate between the two school board candidates.

has four minutes to answer that same question. That format repeats but candidates take turns answering the question first. There will be time for six questions. The debate will last approximately one hour.

Sincerely, Monica Stark

Set to begin at 3 p.m. at the gymnasium at Genevieve Didion School on Sunday, Oct. 5, the debate will be moderated by California State University, Sacramento debate team coach Jared Anderson. Following introductions, the debate will start with a question will be asked to candidate one (which will be determined by a coin toss). That candidate will have four minutes to answer. Then, candidate two has two minutes to cross examine candidate one, after which time candidate two

PLEASE PROVIDE A SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Darrel Woo has been putting our kids and community first for over 38 years. He has served as a teacher, school board member, public official and community volunteer. For 10 years Darrel taught law classes at Lincoln Law School where he helped students develop critical thinking skills and obtain degrees in higher education. He continues to mentor and tutor many students in Sacramento and has founded a scholarship

Candidates:

Continued from page 4

fund to help those with financial needs.

Darrel is also a parent a longtime community volunteer. He co-founded one of the region's largest and most successful nonprofit organizations committed to helping women and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse. Elected to the school board in 2010, Darrel drew on his extensive education and community experience to lead the district out of the worst fiscal crisis in three generations. Under Darrel's leadership the district balanced its budget, increased graduation rates, improved student achievement, and modernized classrooms with the latest technology.

Darrel has a bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley and a Law Degree from Lincoln Law School. He is married and has lived in the Pocket area for over 44 years. Both Darrel and his daughter Alyson are graduates of Kennedy High School.

Darrel graduated from UC Berkeley and later obtained a Law Degree from Lincoln Law School. He is passionate about teaching and education because his parents instilled in him the importance of giving back to others. He chose to teach classes at Lincoln because he wanted to help others learn important material that would help them advance in their careers. He chose to serve on the school board because he wanted to utilize his teaching and governance experience to make sure kids in Sacramento are getting the best education.

Over the years, Maria has navigated the district's bureaucracy to solve problems such as securing math books for local classrooms, securing long overdue upgrades to classroom computers, improving deficient lighting in classrooms. In addition, she has participated in the development of Bully Prevention Board Policy as well as the creation of parent training to understand school site and district budget. She developed DAC's Budget Advisory Committee (parent committee) and site council training. Through her advocacy, district financial reports are on the website and updated each month.

WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR SCHOOL BOARD? WHAT ARE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES?

Maria Haro-Sullivan: I am running for School Board because we need a board member who is in touch with our students, parents and teachers who know how to advocate for them.

As a board member, will continue to work with stu-

dents, parents, and our community to:

1. Continue to demand fiscal responsibility
2. Put more resources in the classroom
3. Ensure all stake holders have a voice by creating an environment for authentic dialogue

Darrel Woo: Four years ago I ran because I wanted to utilize my 30-plus years of experience to make sure our kids are getting the best education. I am running for re-election for the same reasons. The difference is that now I am bringing four years of experience to the job. It takes time to learn how to be the most effective board member and developing these skills only comes through actual experience on the board. The knowledge I've obtained in the past four years about the inner workings of the district and how to be an effective board member will help me do even more to help kids in my second term.

My priorities as a board member are to do the things we must do to make sure kids in SCUSD schools are getting the best education. Based on

my experience on the board, those things are:

Promote high quality programs that will attract students to SCUSD and boost enrollment numbers. This is important because it helps the district generate more revenue which will result in more resources for the classroom.

Engage the community in decision-making and develop solid partnerships. The new Local Control Funding Formula will help SCUSD obtain more state funding. However, we must meet all the requirements and a key requirement is community engagement. I will draw on my 38-plus years of experience in reaching out and engaging the Sacramento community to help SCUSD meet this requirement and obtain the most state funding for our district.

Provide teachers with the training and tools they need to be successful in the classroom. New Common Core Standards require students

to learn analytical and critical thinking skills. I will draw on my nine-plus years of experience in teaching critical thinking courses to make sure that the district's training materials for teachers are adequate in helping them be effective teachers for our students.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE SCHOOL REFORM MOVEMENT? AND, WHAT'S YOUR OPINION OF IT LOCALLY?

Darrel Woo: The term "school reform movement" means different things to different people. Teachers unions label "school reform" as the privatization and corporatization of our school system. Many civil rights activists view it as a solution for addressing dropout and failure rates among predominantly low income and minority students. My view is

See Debate, page 10

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Former resident recalls early Japanese presence in Riverside-Pocket area

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is part three in a series regarding historic Asian districts of Sacramento.

When it comes to Japanese history of the Riverside-Pocket area, Emmie (Kato) Makishima is someone who has no trouble recalling firsthand details about that area.

After reading the first articles of this series, Emmie, 88, expressed a desire to share various details regarding her memories of that area.

Emmie, who presently resides in Rio Linda, spoke about the main concentration of early day Japanese of the Riverside-Pocket area.

"It was actually from Sutterville Road - Japanese lived across from the zoo and had farms over there - to all the way to the brickyard (which was located next to today's Lake Greenhaven)," Emmie said. "And past the brickyard was mostly the Portuguese."

In regard to the farming site of the family of Rose (Ishimoto) Takata, who was noted in the initial article of this series as having resided near today's Cabrillo Civic Club #5 at 4605 Karbet Way, Emmie said, "There weren't that many Japanese farming there, but further down south there were quite a few."

Emmie added that she grew up on a ranch a short distance from the old brickyard.

"I lived on (the old Riverside Road), near the Portuguese's Lisbon (area), as they called it," Emmie said. "I lived near where the brickyard used to be (located), where (the development of) Greenhaven 70 (was later constructed) with all those homes. That was our farmland that we rented. And there were about a dozen Japanese families that rented from this one lady (Marion J. Donnellan). And with the war, we had to evacuate and the lady sold the land. So, somebody else bought it and they developed it into all these homes."

A 1908 surveyor's map of the Pocket area, by Ashley and Campbell, shows three parcels of land in the area that were owned by Donnellan.

The acreages of those parcels were listed as 317.9, 110.5 and 17.6.

Additionally, a 1962 city document refers to the "525.386-acre tract of land designated 'Marion J. Donnellan.'"

During her interview with this publication, Emmie named the surnames of several Japanese families who resided near her former Riverside area home. Those names were Hikiji, Kimira, Oto, Suyama, Kobayashi, Muramoto, Miura, Morita, Tsugawa and Tanaka.

And in speaking about her parents, Emmie said, "My father was Yohei Kato. He came from Shizuoka, Japan. He went to Hawaii to work in the sugar cane fields on the big island (of Hawaii in) Naalehu. He got to know the man who was the supervisor and he had three sons. So, he hung around with them. And during the First (World) War, all of them were in the Army, but the war ended before they were sent overseas. So, they trained at Schofield Barracks (on the island of Oahu). So, he got to know the supervisor, because of his sons, and then they had a younger sister (named Satski). That's who my father married. A few months after they got married, (Yohei) came to Sacramento (in 1919) and farmed with some of his buddies he was in the Army with in Hawaii. And this was in Sacramento where they call it Swanston Drive now. They had a big farmland there owned by the Swanstons, and so they farmed over there. About a year later, he called for my mother and she came. Soon after that, they moved down to Donnellan's ranch, where they rented this property. It was 30 acres that they farmed. And it was a rental."

Emmie said that not counting her Naalehu-born brother, Kiyoshi, who died when he was about a month, she had three siblings, George, Lily and James.

In recalling her own family farm and other Japanese farms near her old Riverside home, Emmie said, "Everybody in our area were truck gardeners, (who grew) vegetables. Most of the farms were close to Riverside Road, ei-

ther on the side of the river or the opposite. My father grew all kinds of vegetables. We grew, let's see, corn, cabbage, cauliflower, radish. I don't think we had anything that took too (much) time to bundle. Let's see, we didn't have tomatoes. We had watermelons. Most of these things we had to put on the wagon with the horse pulling the wagon. We brought (the filled wagon) to the tank house, where we washed the vegetables up by the house. The roads were not paved out in the field. It was dirt, so when it was raining and muddy, that's why we had to use the horse and wagon. They would bring (the produce by truck) to the farmers' market on 5th Street, near Broadway. And then he got orders from different grocery stores, too, like Arata Bros. And there was a Red & White market. So, (Sohei) would deliver (produce) to these grocery stores, and in exchange he might get some groceries or money."

Through his service during the war, Yohei acquired his American citizenship.

Emmie recalled that following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, her father was approached by the FBI, who immediately departed after learning that he was an American citizen.

She added that although Yohei did not own his own land, he did own his own house and crops, which proved additionally important to him in 1942.

"When they were working (on that property) and they



Photo courtesy of Emmie (Kato) Makishima
Lily, James and Emmie Kato are dressed up for an Independence Day gathering in this 1933 photograph.

had to evacuate, (Yohei) was able to sell (his assets) to a group of Chinese people from San Francisco," Emmie said. "So, all the crops and the house and the farm equipment, everything was sold to them. So, in that way he was lucky, because he didn't lose everything."

Following the war, Emmie resided in Minnesota, where she underwent training to become a registered nurse. She later passed the state board for that work in Washington.

Emmie moved to Sacramento in 1950, where she worked at Sutter Hospital at 2820 L St. and resided near Curtis Park.

She also spent some time residing in Fresno before returning to Sacramento, where she married Joe Makishima in 1957. Joe died at the age of 80 on July 22, 2003.

Joe and Emmie, who had three daughters, Kimi (Joanne), Keiko (Diane) and Sherri, moved to Rio Linda in 1959.

Emmie is presently active in her community, as she volunteers for the Rio Linda-Elverta Historical Society and the Friends of the Rio Linda Library.

Faces and Places: Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival) at Oto's Marketplace

Photos by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Folks enjoyed Japanese fare, watched cooking demos and kicked to the sounds of some Island Sunset Band music on Saturday, Sept. 6 at the Aki Matsuri (fall festival) at Oto's Marketplace on Freepoint Boulevard.

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Jr. Chef Central: Learning Bite by bite

By LAURA KUJUBU

What if your child came to you and said, "Today, I made lemon-herb baked fish, roasted broccoli with crispy Parmesan, couscous with fresh herbs, and for dessert, I baked mini-cheesecakes." Pretty impressive, right? That menu is one of several that kids are cooking up at Jr. Chef Central—a innovative kids' culinary program that will get your young ones feeling comfortable in the kitchen, cooking up a storm, learning about nutrition, and even cleaning up their messes with a smile.

The beginnings

Sacramento-based Jr. Chef Central was created in 2004 by Karla Lacey, a former corporate executive, who was interested in tackling as difficult issue.

"Having been bombarded with news headlines about the state of health of our nation's children, I struggled to connect the dots—why were

these kids, living right here in the food bowl of America, also fraught with obesity, diabetes, and other food-related challenges?"

Creating Jr. Chef Central was Lacey's way of making a difference.

"The idea behind Jr. Chef Central was simple. Teach kids, ages 10 to 15, how to cook," she said. "Incorporate the circle of life of food so they would be educated cooks and consumers—from the farm, to the market, to the grocery store, to the plate. Build a foundation based on solid culinary skills, nutritional facts, and the table as a community."

The structure

The Sacramento program is now run by Amanda Arnold, who took over operations after Lacey moved to become CEO of the Bermuda Hospitality Institute and run a Jr. Chef Central program in Bermuda. Arnold, who has a background in the food service and the hospitality industry, has



Jon Wheeler (left) and one of the Jr. Chef Central's Basic Camp classes, along with the student teachers (right).

a stepdaughter who was a student at Jr. Chef Central and subsequently, Arnold became more heavily involved in the program.

The chef instructor is Jon Wheeler. Wheeler has a diverse and extensive career in teaching and in the culinary industry, which includes more than 30 years of experience in restaurants, hotels, and catering. His catering career even included working for motion pictures, feeding cast and crew, as well as working as team chef for world-class auto-racing teams.

Jr. Chef Central consists of four different levels of camps: Basic Camp, Ad-

vanced Camp, Elite Camp, and Masters Camp. Basic Camp is the beginner class and the start of the Jr. Chef Central program; kids are taught a variety of skills and cooking information such as knife safety, kitchen sanitation, menu reading and preparation, nutrition facts, label reading, and how to food shop on a budget. They also take a field trip to a local farmers' market to pick up ingredients for the meal they're going to prepare that day.

To enroll for Advanced Camp, a child needs to complete Basic Camp. In Advanced Camp, kids learn more difficult techniques

such as butchering a whole chicken, pastry-making, and food-styling.

After Advanced Camp, a child who is of age 13 to 15 can enroll in the Elite Camp. Elite Camp is a five-month program and focuses on five areas: sauces, vegetables and grains, fish and seafood, meats and poultry, and baking and pastry.

Last but not least is Masters Camp. In this session, students who have successfully completed the Elite Camp do a variety of things, including teaching cooking to other kids; taking tours to a fish farm, meat-processing

plants, and produce company; and completing a two-and-a-half hour apprenticeship at a local restaurant.

Jr. Chef

Continued from page 8

plant, and produce company; and completing a two-and-a-half hour apprenticeship at a local restaurant.

Basic Camp, Advanced Camp, and Masters Camp are weeklong programs that run during the summer months.

Jr. Chef Central also partners with school districts, including the Elk Grove School District, offering school assemblies and after-school programs. The classes emphasize knife safety and skills, recipe reading, measuring, nutrition, and sanitation.

New to Jr. Chef Central this year are one-day classes, which start in September. Kids learn the basics on preparing a variety of foods—from sushi and pasta to bread and holiday hors d'oeuvres.

From start to finish

Jr. Chef Central's education realm also extends to nutrition, measurements, and budgeting. How many tablespoons of sugar are in actually that whipped drink? How much is a teaspoon? How do you stretch a dollar when planning meals?

Arnold and Wheeler said that kids also learn about time management, plating design, and even table etiquette and table setting—not to mention, hygiene, food handling, and cleaning up.

"We even teach them how to wipe off a counter," said Wheeler.

Parents appreciate the broad approach of the classes.

"My daughter gained 'big picture' cooking skills," said

one parent whose 12-year-old daughter attended basic camp this past summer. "Not only can she prepare a dish, now she can plan an entire meal, shop for it, cook it, and present it."

Most importantly, the kids are having fun. One 11-year-old Basic Camp student commented on how she enjoyed working on her own while cooking, but also as part of a team. Another student, who is 13 years old, agreed.

"I like how we are allowed to work independently, but if we need help, we can ask for it ... and I like that we got to eat whatever we made—especially the chocolate chip oatmeal cookies."

And because kids are making the food themselves, they're more likely to try it, added Arnold. They may find they even enjoy eating dishes such as chicken with tomato jam, pasta pomodoro, and roasted tofu. Also, parents are impressed that the dishes their kids make are interesting and always tasty. You won't see any PB-and-J sandwiches or hot dogs on a Jr. Chef Central menu.



(above left) Tomiko prepares to bake chocolate chip oatmeal cookies. (above right) Nora learns how to safely cut corn off the cob for the confetti corn dish.



As illustrated by the accomplishments and enthusiasm of the Jr. Chef Central students and their parents, the program is meeting and surpassing its mission.

"I love how my daughter can now cut up and prepare fruit, veggies, tofu, and more, and I know she can do it safely because she

learned the right way," said a parent of Jr. Chef Central graduates. "And I definitely appreciate that she now knows more about food and healthy living—something

I know she'll carry into adulthood."

For more information about Jr. Chef Central and its camps and classes, go to www.jrchef-centralca.com or call 990-4356.

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Debate:

Continued from page 5

that the school reform movement arose out of the frustration of parents who don't believe the public school system is adequately serving their children. Locally, the issue has been even more polarizing because the Mayor's wife is a national leader of the school reform movement.

I believe we shouldn't be so concerned with labels. We should all be working together to make decisions that are in the best interest of children. We should also be doing everything we can to ensure that public schools are addressing the concerns of parents. We need to remove the bias we have toward both school reformers and teachers unions. Instead, we should all be coming together to make evidence-based decisions that solve the problems our schools face. This should be the goal of both school reformers and teachers unions, to help the kids succeed.

Maria Haro-Sullivan: Unfortunately, some people have approached the development of charters as a business, and in effect, turning public schools into a privatized educational system financed by taxpayers. Independent charters cause a drain precious resources from public schools accepting only the highest achievers leaving those students with highest need to public school.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING POCKET-AREA SCHOOLS? HOW DO THESE ISSUES COMPARE/CONTRAST TO SCHOOLS IN OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS?

Maria Haro-Sullivan: The primary issue facing the schools in the Pocket/Greenhaven is the inequity of funding. The inequity of funding began by the previous superintendent (with board approval) to change the eligibility requirement for Title 1 allocation from 25 to 50 percent based on students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. There are approximately 54 percent children attending Pocket/Greenhaven schools that qualify for free and reduced lunch. Under the federal minimum standard for eligibility 90 percent of our schools should receive Title 1 funding. Under SCUSD current eligibility level only 60 percent of our schools receive Title 1 funds. Due to the higher qualification level this causes a financial strain on those schools who do not qualify for Title 1 under current SCUSD eligibility. School who do not receive Title 1 money are forced to find outside sources (fundraising) to make up the difference from the money received from the district.

This issue is compounded district wide. There are sites who receive too much money they cannot possibly spend it all in one year leaving millions of unspent monies at the end



(above left) Darrel Woo. (above right) Maria Haro-Sullivan.

of the school year. Many schools in Pocket/Greenhaven area end the school year with negative account balance.

Darrel Woo: The biggest issue facing Pocket-Area schools arise out of the Local Control Funding Formula ("LCFF") and the allocation of those funds via the Local Accountability and Accountability Plans ("LCAP"). The LCAP is a three year rolling spending plan addressing the additional funds provided the LCFF. However, while the Sacramento City Unified School District is 75 percent free and reduced lunch, and many many English Language Learners, there are not many who fit that category within the Pocket/Greenhaven SCUSD, Trustee Area 6.

Thus, while some funding might be available for students falling within the three categories, not much of that money stays within the Pocket/Greenhaven area. Therefore, parents and community will still be relied upon to provide additional funding for students in Pocket/Greenhaven.

HOW HAVE THE CLOSURES OF SCHOOLS IMPACTED THE POCKET AREA?

Maria Haro-Sullivan: The closure of seven schools will have a financial impact on Pocket/Greenhaven schools. The closure of the school will actually cost the district far more money than the initial projected saving was an estimated \$1 million a year. According to SCUSD year end financials the maintenance cost of the 7 schools closed schools is over \$600,000 a year. The \$600,000 does not include the additional costs of the staff that were reassigned to different SCUSD schools. Plus the additional of logistical cost such as cost of buses, moving portables, installation of bathroom etc. These costs exceed the districts estimate savings. These costs are offset by funding that should be used to help students in Pocket/Greenhaven area.

Darrel Woo: This round, none of the seven schools that were closed were within the Pocket/Greenhaven area. However, school closures affect every area as other areas absorb the children from the closed schools. That said, three



(above left) Darrel Woo. (above right) Maria Haro-Sullivan.



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By: NILDA VALMORES
My Sister's House, Executive Director

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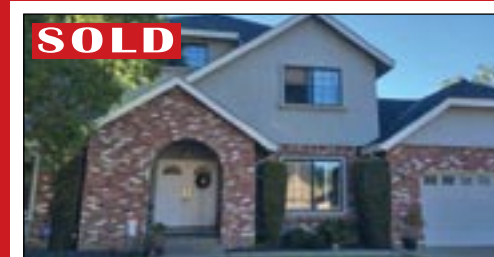
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Dust off that old instrument: Join the Symphony of 1,000

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

In a never-done-in-Sacramento musical event, Curtis Park resident Michael Neumann is bringing 1,000 musicians to play in concert together on the afternoon of Sunday, Oct. 12 at Memorial Auditorium. As of press time, 775 people signed up to play in this historic event called Symphony of 1,000.

Dreaming about this concert about two years ago, Neumann's aspiration is quickly becoming a reality. The name of the concert stems from the Symphony No. 8 in E-flat major by Gustav Mahler, which is one of the largest-scale choral works in classical concert repertoire and requires as close to 1,000 musicians as possible.

Retired this year from 10 years directing the Folsom Symphony, Neumann continues full time work with the Sacramento Youth Symphony and sat down with this publication to discuss some more of the details about the event.

"It's a very big community event. One that some 75-year-old woman, who hasn't played trombone since high school, can play in this concert. If you are 7 years old and can play the music on the website, you can participate," he said. "People sign up online, pay their 20 bucks. They get their T-shirt and we do a run-through for rehearsal. We are thinking with this amount of people, it will spread around. If I didn't think this was a good idea, I wouldn't be doing this."

The event coordinator is longtime talk show radio host, Sean Bianco; the master of ceremonies is Capitol Public Radio's Beth Ruyak. Set to start at 4 p.m., the hour-long concert is open to the public. For those participating, the day is a bit longer with check-in and rehearsal from noon to 3:30 p.m. For more information, visit: <<https://sites.google.com/a/sacramentoyouthsymphony.org/1000/>>

Matías Bombal's Hollywood

'This is Where I Leave You'

The MPAA has rated this R

Warner Brothers' "This is Where I Leave You" is based on a book written by Jonathan Tropper, who adapted the screenplay himself, offering a playground for the talents of Jane Fonda, Jason Bateman, and Tina Fey.

This snarky comedy is set in the childhood home of a large family whose patriarch has died. His widow, played by Fonda, wants all the siblings under one roof for seven days in keeping with her late husband's wishes.

This movie features several of today's bright quick wits, including Adam Driver, Rose Byrne, Corey Stoll, Kathryn Hahn and, playing someone not so quick, Timothy Olyphant.

The expected childhood rivalries resurface, and lost loves are reinvestigated. The majority of the story follows Jason Bateman's character, Judd Altman, who is trying to conceal from his family a recent personal loss, which is forced out of him at an inappropriate moment by Tina Fey.

This is a fun comedy that will please most people and likely will resonate with movie patrons that came from large families. I was delighted to see Jane Fonda on the big screen again, and enjoyed her "revealing" performance.

Tina Fey, who is a quick and brilliant comedienne, has never been one of my favorites in spite of her enormous and clever talent. However, in this picture, she has some very fine screen moments near the end, which

I found most effective. The photography by Terry Sta-
cey is excellent. It is directed by Shawn Levy.

'The Boxtrolls'

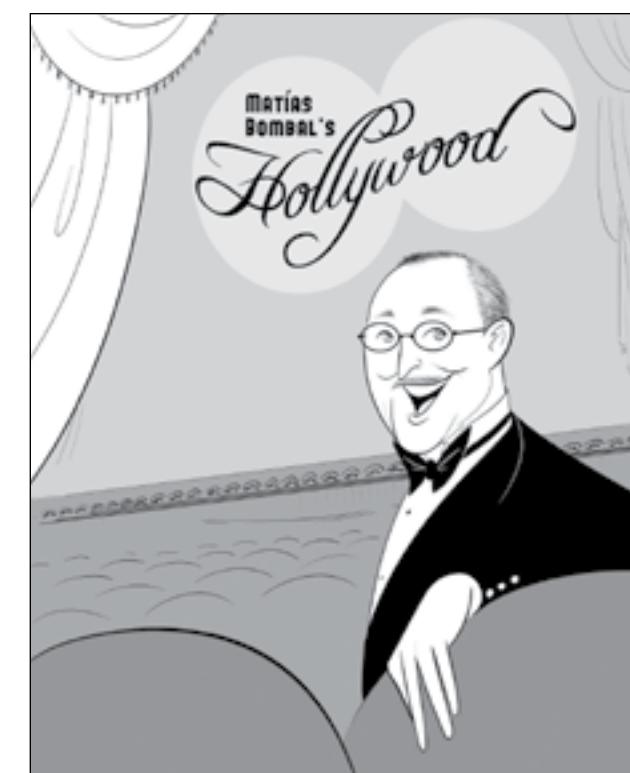
The MPAA has given this a PG rating.

Focus Features offers something for kids and adults with "Boxtrolls", a movie I dreaded to see after having seen the preview, but was pleasantly surprised to find that the actual feature was quite good and lovingly made in the classic style of a George Pal Puppetoon. In this age of CGI and computer animation, to see figures molded in stop motion, not unlike the classic "King Kong" is a rare treat of human craftsmanship.

The story, based on Alan Snow's book "Here Be Monsters" follows a young boy that is raised by Boxtrolls, odd little trolls that use a box as a clothing cover that live in the sewers of an old town that is obsessed with fine cheese.

An evil exterminator, Archibald Snatcher, who looks like Dame Edna Everage, and voiced by screen legend Ben Kingsley, is out to kill them all. He wishes to become accepted by high society and to possess the mark of distinction of that class, a tall white top hat. Our young boy hero, "Eggs", named after the markings on the box that he wears, finds the courage to save the day.

Actor Jared Harris voices the leader of the land, "Lord Portley-Rinde" who looks just like the classic British actor C. Aubrey Smith.



"This is Hollywood" Illustrated by Underwood Typewriter

Simon Pegg voices "Eggs" natural father, and Tracy Morgan is Mr. Gristle, one of Archibald's hench men. The sets are cleverly and painstakingly designed with many retro and almost "steampunk" elements. This works well for kids and adults alike, with a positive message for all. Stay through the very end for some neat footage!

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Faces and Places:

Capital Artists Studio Tour in the Pocket

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com

The Capital Artists Studio Tour highlighted Pocket area artists over the weekend of Saturday, Sept. 13 and Sunday, Sept. 14. Pocket's stop on the CAST was a fun destination for all art lovers, as great artists demonstrated their works and live music entertained visitors on Mast Court near Gloria Drive, across from John F. Kennedy High School.

Produced by Feld Entertainment




Tickets Start at \$17!

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OCT. 22 - 26

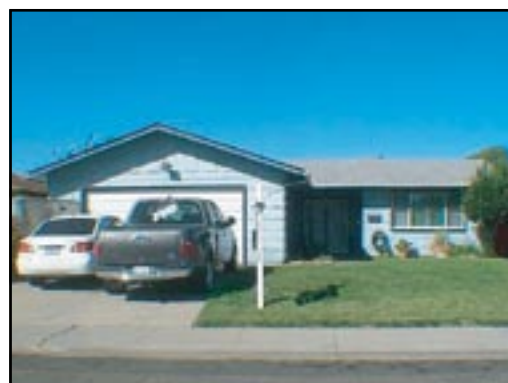
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Introducing the new superintendent of schools: Mr. José L. Banda

(Editor's note: Look for ongoing guest columns from school officials, teachers, students in this publication. This first column is an introduction for the new year from the new Sacramento City Unified School District Superintendent, José L. Banda.)



José L. Banda

Sacramento is a city on the move, a rising and diverse urban center known for smart leadership, innovation and creativity. It's a city that respects its past while pushing toward a brighter future. As Superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District, I am honored and thrilled to serve a community so rich with history and brimming with possibility.

Our goal at Sac City is to prepare every student to work, thrive and participate in the community in which they were raised. As such, I am committed to ensuring equitable access, closing pervasive opportunity gaps and providing an excellent education to every single student. Sacramento has embraced local sourcing in food and other products. Our schools are working to develop locally sourced innovators by educating the leaders of tomorrow.

Implementation of Common Core State Standards will help us ensure that every student graduates from high school fully prepared for college and careers. These standards, adopted by the state Board of Education in 2010, detail what every student should know and be able to do at every grade level. The math standards challenge students to think by emphasizing problem-solving over memorization. The English language arts standards focus on academic writing and deep reading. Although the new standards are more rigorous, we believe our teaching staff and our students are up for the challenge.

Of course, staff and students cannot perform at their highest without the support of families and the community. Engagement and involvement – by families, neighbors and community partners – is critical to our success as a district. There are many ways to become involved: Volunteer at a campus, attend school functions, join the PTA or PTO and support fundraisers. Most importantly, take a few minutes to ask the children in your life what they are learning.

Finally, I'd like to thank once again the many voters who helped pass Measures Q and R two years ago. We are leveraging these funds to make our schools healthier, more sustainable and better equipped to meet the needs of these high-tech times. Our students deserve the best learning environments we can give them. Thank you for supporting their futures.

Sacramento has the potential to be one of the best mid-size cities in the country. It already has a truly great school district to get it started.

José L. Banda
Superintendent



Photo by Monica Stark

This senior at New Technology High School looks at a building model generated by one of her peers with the use of AutoCAD (computer-aided design).

Back-to-School at Sacramento New Technology High School

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

Out in the Freeport Manor subdivision near Executive Airport sits a hidden gem of a school, Sacramento New Technology High School, a small Sacramento City Unified School District charter school, which is based on the fundamentals of New Tech Network's New Technology High Schools.

Established in 2003 on the site of Thurgood Marshall High School, an alternative high school during the 1990s and Argonaut Alternative High School during the 1980s, Sacramento New Technology High School welcomes a new principal to the campus.

Leise Martinez brings a lengthy resume to the high school, starting with her first SCUSD position as a bilingual kindergarten teacher at Oak Ridge Elementary in 1984. She later became an assistant principal at Luther Burbank and John F. Kennedy high schools. She also has served as the principal at Albert Einstein Middle School and Rosemont High School. Martinez has worked in the central office as a staff development specialist.

In an interview with the Land Park News, Martinez further discussed her background and what she hopes to bring to the South Sacramento school. "To New Tech High I bring particular expertise with WASC accreditation, smaller learning communities, community involvement, and English Language Learners. In addition, I am Spanish bilingual. These are all relevant areas at Sacramento New Technology High School. Currently we are working on WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation, and a Linked Learning Certification. Coming up will be New Technology Charter Renewal. I also want to make sure that enrollment stays strong; we offer a rigorous curriculum. Students leave well prepared with 260 credits, some of which are college classes. I want to continue strong support

and buy-in from families and staff. I want New Tech students to earn lots of rewards and scholarships. It is also very important to maintain the unique bond among staff, students, and families that currently is in place here."

As a Design Pathway school, she said some examples of projects students have worked on involve solving problems by industry such as replacing plastic water bottles with clean water dispensers. Another project is an assignment on the American Dream and how different groups are impacted today; students are designing games, both board games and video games. Students participate in art projects throughout the city.

Martinez said the campus is working on incorporating a sports program as well.

Explaining the objective of Design Pathway, a work-based learning community, Martinez said, students at Sacramento New Technology go onto a college or a career, "not just a job." Students learn life long fitness skills and health management. A new course this year is biology and literature combined. The reading is fascinating and goes well with biology, a course that is very intense vocabulary wise, she said.

With a student body of about 300 students, Martinez said they are all friendly, lively, polite and helpful. "They all look out for each other and they all want to be here."

New Tech students come from all over Sacramento and Martinez said many are from out of the district and make a strong commitment to be here. With the most up-to-date graduation rate of 88 percent, 73 percent of the students attend college and they each graduate from the high school with college credits.

There are 17 teachers and two counselors at New Tech. The average student to teacher ratio is 1 to 25, which is low in comparison with 1 to 35 found at most schools, she said.

Remembering the Riverside Baths

Old recreational site was a popular attraction

By **LANCE ARMSTRONG**
Lance@valcomnews.com

For decades, the Congregation B'nai Israel and Brookfield School have operated on property on the west side of Riverside Boulevard, between 11th and 13th avenues. But present day Sacramentans who are aware of what popular business previously operated in that area are undoubtedly of the minority.

In 1909, locals contributed to efforts to establish a swimming destination spot called the Riverside Baths, on the old Riverside Road at 11th Avenue.

With the assistance of community members who purchased stocks toward the construction of this local swimming center, the dream of that establishment became a reality.

The indoor pool was constructed through the Sacramento Riverside Bath & Park Co., which had its headquarters at 430 J St.

For many years, the center, which would later be known as the Land Park Plunge, provided an alternative place to cool off for many Sacramentans during the warmer months of the year.

Advertisements for Riverside Baths often noted that the site's 65-foot by 120-foot pool was filled with artesian water from a half-mile deep well and that the pool was emptied and cleaned each night.

According to a 1936 article in The Sacramento Union, the artesian water was highly mineralized, carried 600 percent less bacteria than approved drinking water and had a natural temperature of 82 degrees.

Certainly, one of the pool's greatest attractions was its 60-foot-tall swimming pool slide.

Various swimming competitions were held at the baths during the business's early years.

One such competition was the 1916 city swimming

championship, which was won by George Schroth, who won four races and came in second place in another race.

Located at the end of the old 10th Street street-car line at 3640 Riverside Blvd., the Riverside Baths pool was originally enclosed by a large, two-story, wooden structure. But due to its eventual high level of deterioration, the building was demolished as part of the Riverside Baths Corporation's \$20,000 improvement project, which was approved by the business's directors on Oct. 31, 1936.

The condition of the baths in 1936 would actually have been worse had it not been for Dewey S. Baker, who managed the baths from 1924 to at least 1932.

Baker, who eventually served as a city council member in 1930 and 1931 and a Sacramento County undersheriff following that position, was responsible for various improvements to the bathhouse, including the installation of sanitary equipment and appliances.

Although, through the 1937 project, the site no longer included an enclosed building, it nonetheless maintained somewhat of the feel of the former building.

Architect William E. Coffman designed a new open-air structure that was surrounded by 8-foot-high concrete walls and two large, stucco-faced buildings.

Features of the restructured version of the plunge originally included a refreshment stand, a centralized storage area and tables for luncheons.

In addition to the much larger, original pool, which was thoroughly cleaned and repainted during the improvement project, the newer facility included a 30-foot by 40-foot pool that was surrounded by large walls alongside the men's dressing room.



Photo courtesy of the Lance Armstrong Collection

The Riverside Baths on Riverside Boulevard opened in this enclosed building in 1909.

An open house for the then-recently modernized open-air Riverside Baths was held on May 5, 1937 from 7 to 9 p.m. The event included a fancy diving demonstration and a performance by the Franklin School Band.

A decade later, the baths underwent a remodeling project, which included the addition of picnic grounds and the expansion of the parking area.

A postcard from that time reads: "Land Park Plunge: The artesian well water is heated by nature. 70,000 gallons per hour flow thru (sic) the fountain. The pool is emptied and cleaned nightly."

Courtland native Tom Zayas, 83, recalled visiting Riverside Baths in the 1940s and 1950s.

Zayas, who would occasionally visit the place during his childhood with his sisters, Charlotte, Mary and Angie, said that during that time, Riverside Baths was a segregated business.

"I'm of Mexican descent and they wouldn't let us in there," Tom said. "If you weren't white, you couldn't go in there. Being that I was white complected, I passed. But they wouldn't allow dark Mexicans or blacks in there. We were almost turned away ourselves."

In regard to his parents, Thomas and Adela Zayas, Tom said, "They couldn't speak very good English, so they weren't allowed (entrance to Riverside Baths)."

Tom, who also attended the segregated Court-

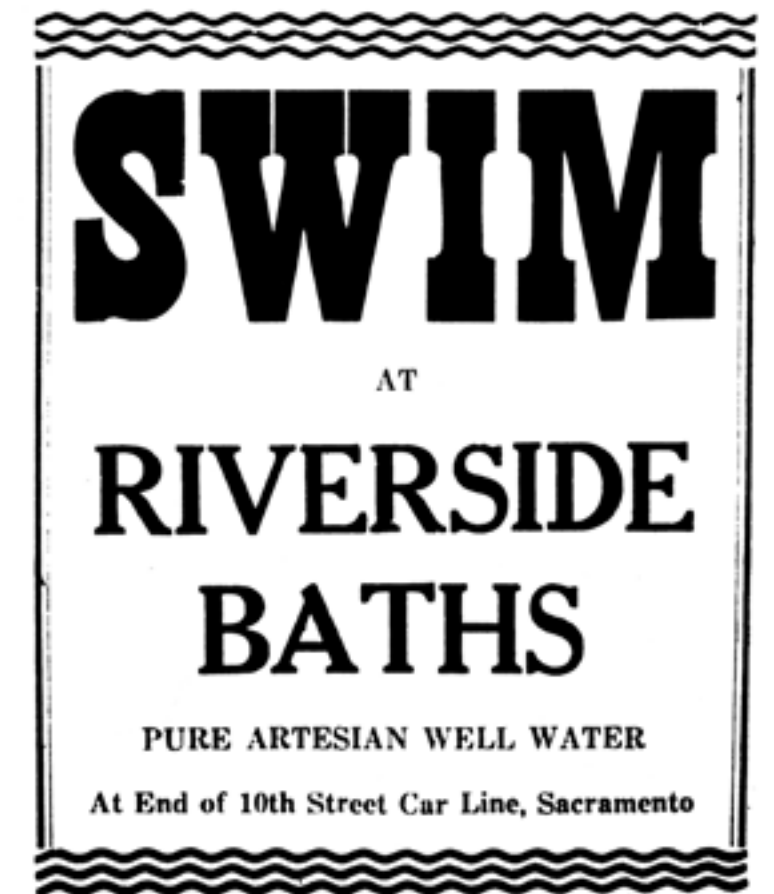


Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento Room

This 1910 advertisement announced that swimming was available at the Riverside Baths during its second year of operation.

land High School, where he graduated in 1949, fondly recalled meeting former world heavyweight boxing champion Max Baer at the plunge in 1952.

"Max Baer was one of the biggest things at the time, because he was a really good boxer," Tom said. "He was (then residing at 1999 8th Ave.). I shook his hand and his hand was so big that it went over my hand. I remember that, you know. My hand was small compared to his (hand). He was a big guy. Ev-

erybody knew Max Baer was there. He talked to all of us. We just said, 'hi,' and we introduced ourselves (to Baer). That was about it. There were a lot of people he was around. He was a celebrity."

Like many local amusement sites of earlier generations, the Land Park Plunge is but a distant memory, as it was closed in the mid-1950s.

But despite its absence, for most who remember it, Riverside Baths remains one of the most cherished recreational sites in the city's history.

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For Further Information, contact Kevin Scott at Kevin.scott@norne.com or at (213) 926-2626.

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CALENDAR

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 Oct. 4 and 11: More than 100,000 "gently used" books, videos, and audio books will be offered for prices from fifty cents to \$2 at the Saturday, Oct. 4 and Saturday, Oct 11 sale at the warehouse of the Friends of the Sacramento Public Library. There will also be a \$6 bag sale outside the warehouse on sale days.

The warehouse is at the rear of the Friends' "Book Den" store at Suite E, 8250 Belvedere Avenue, just south of 14th Ave. between Power Inn Rd. and Florin-Perkins Rd. Plenty of parking is available, but visitors should be careful not to park between the "No Parking" signs on the south side of Belvedere. Sale hours will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will also be a preview for

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 Oct. 7: Join us for nursery rhymes, finger-plays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program, babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys. Baby storytime starts at 12:30 p.m. at Belle Coolege Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr.

Noni's Knit-Wits (Adult)
 Oct. 7: Every Tuesday, enjoy a relaxing afternoon of knitting with fellow yarn enthusiasts, starting at 1:30 p.m. Anyone interested in knitting and crocheting, even beginners, are welcome to join in. This is not an instructional class, but assistance is available. Bring your own supplies and a project to work on. Belle Coolege Library is located at 5600 South Land Park Dr.

Sing Along with Mr. Cooper at Belle Coolege Library (Family/All Ages)
 Oct. 8: Starting at 4 p.m., join neighborhood favorite Mr. Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years. Belle Coolege Library is located at 5600 South Land Park Dr.

College Applications - Part 1: The UC Application & Essays @ Pocket Library (Teen)
 Oct. 8: Starting at 6:30 p.m., professional college counselor Marilyn van Loben-Sels will walk participants through the UC application from start to finish. You will learn the secrets of the UC website the application questions and essay prompts. Get tips on writing an interesting and effective essay and on how to remain true to yourself during the entire process. Registration is required as space is limited. Register online www.saclibrary.org by phone 264-2920 or in person at the branch, located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

The Science Wizard at Pocket Library (School Age (6-12))
 Oct. 11: Starting at 11 a.m., join the Science Wizard and learn all about super cool chemistry, including: melting, oozing, smoking, bubbling, foaming and just plain amazing! This STEM/STEAM program is sponsored by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library is located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

Saturday Sleuths Book Club (Book Club)
 Oct. 11: Starting at 2 p.m., this group discusses popular and classic mysteries. The October selection is Sister by Rosamund Lupton. Belle Coolege Library is located at 5600 South Land Park Dr.

One Book One Film Series at Pocket Library (Adult)
 Oct. 11, 25: Starts at 1 p.m., TBA. Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library is located at 7335 Gloria Dr.

See more Calendar, page 27

Calendar:

Continued from page 26

Tolkien Book Club at McClatchy (Book Club)
 Oct. 11: Starting at 1:30 p.m., the Tolkien Book Club is open to all who enjoy the works of R.R. Tolkien. All are welcome to this book club meeting the second Saturday of every month at the McClatchy Library, 2112 22nd St.

Preschool Storytime at McClatchy Library (Early Childhood (0-5))
 Oct. 14: Every Tuesday at 10 a.m. children and their families are invited for to read books, sing songs, tell stories and have fun. Everyone is welcome to "stay and play" time with our great toys. McClatchy Library is located at 2112 22nd St.

Baby Storytime at Belle Coolege Library (Early Childhood (0-5))
 Oct. 14: Join us for nursery rhymes, finger-plays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. This program is for children up to about 18 months old or until they are ready for toddler storytime. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Following the program babies and their caregivers are invited to stay and play with activity learning toys. Fun starts at 12:30 p.m. Belle Coolege Library is located at 5600 South Land Park Dr.

Noni's Knit-Wits (Adult)
 Oct. 14: Every Tuesday starting at 1:30 p.m., enjoy a relaxing afternoon of knitting with fellow yarn enthusiasts. Anyone interested in knitting and crocheting, even beginners, are welcome to join in. This is not an instructional class, but assistance is available. Bring your own supplies and a project

to work on. Belle Coolege Library is located at 5600 South Land Park Dr.

Bricktastic Block Party at Belle Coolege Library (School Age (6-12))
 Oct. 14: Join the monthly block party and make a mess creatively with an amazing selection of Legos, Duplos, and Megablocks. Engineer something new or build something classic! For builders of all ages! Bricktastic starts at 4 p.m. at Belle Coolege Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr.

Sing Along with Mr. Cooper at Belle Coolege Library (Family/All Ages)
 Oct. 15: Join neighborhood favorite Mr. Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for ages 3 to 7 years, starting at 4 p.m. Belle Coolege Library is located at 5600 South Land Park Dr.

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South Land Park Election DEBATE FORUM

Measure L
 a.k.a. "STRONG MAYOR"
Pros and Cons

9th Assembly District
 Darrell VS Jim
FONG COOPER

Where: Pony Express Elementary School
 1250 56th Avenue, Sacramento
 When: Wednesday, October 15, 2014
 Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (Starting promptly!)
EVERYONE WELCOMED !!!

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

7461 Spicewood Dr
 < 7461 Spicewood Dr - \$259,000 Attractive 3 bd 2 bath 1-Story. In the Matsuyama Elementary boundaries.* Fresh int paint 9/14. New roof & ext paint 6/14. Upd laminate flooring in living rm, dining rm, hallway, bdrms. Nice size kitchen w/brkfst area & exit to patio. Convenient to shopping, Charter Pointe Park, bike path, Garcia Bend Park, the river & more!

1226 Noonan Dr
 1226 Noonan Dr
 Just Listed!

7566 Myrtle Vista Ave
 Rio Park! Pending Sale!

442 Bunkhouse Way
 Grangers Dairy Area! Pending Sale!

"I truly thank you for exceeding every expectation I could have of a superlative Realtor®, and then some. The results speak for themselves, but the process leading to the results was truly where you shined..." Ron Tugender, Seller - Pocket Area

* Per Seller, public records or other sources, but has not been verified by Agent or Broker; all interested persons to verify.

35 Years Experience - References
 Greenhaven / Pocket Area Specialist
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GREAT GREENBELT ACCESS

3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, an oversized pool/spa combo for summer fun AND RV access and storage. Lower level has a great circular floor plan that includes the living and dining rooms, kitchen and adjoining family room. Upper level has 3 good sized bedrooms. An extra deep garage has additional work area. \$385,000

CHRIS BRIGGS 834-6483



RIVER OAKS IN THE POCKET

Amazing remodeled kitchen and home, mahogany floors throughout, stainless steel appliances, double oven, built-in fridge, granite counters, high quality custom cabinets, butler's pantry. 4 bedrooms 3½ baths, Custom bar with cabinets, sink and wine fridge. Master suite with fireplace, close to river and park. \$415,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



WONDERFUL S. LAND PARK

Sharp 3 bedroom features new roof, floors, granite counters and master bath remodel. Nice location close-in, with easy access to both 99 and I-5. Screened-in Florida room for relaxing with those Delta breezes. Family room / kitchen / dining area, and generous sized living room with fireplace. \$345,000

MIKE PUENTE 395-4727



PENDING

CONVENIENT ROUNDTREE

Cute 2 bedroom, 1.5 baths. Tile floor, fresh paint, new hot water heater. Two patios. Covered spot is right in front of the back door patio. Laundry facilities are just at the side of the carport. Grounds are well maintained with a beautiful pool area. Great little starter place! Easy commute to downtown \$102,000

LISA MCCAULEY 601-5474



CLASSIC POCKET HOME

Don't miss this three bedroom, three bath home located on a large lot in the Pocket area. Over 2280 sq ft with office that could possibly be converted to a fourth bedroom. Very spacious formal living/dining area combo. Kitchen looks over large family room with fireplace. Walk in Jacuzzi tub. \$350,500

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



PENDING

SOUTH LAND PARK GEM!

3 bedrooms 2 baths plus a bonus room and potential for an additional half bathroom. With new heating and air systems in 2013, and new roof in 2009. Hobbyists and woodworkers will LOVE this oversized, fully insulated garage with dedicated 220v outlet. Lots of storage! \$319,900

KELLIE SWAYNE 206-1458



PENDING

FABULOUS SOUTH LAND PARK HILLS

Mid-century contemporary with fabulous updates. Fantastic floor plan with spacious rooms and a great layout makes it perfect for entertaining. 3 bedrooms 2½ baths, new kitchen opens to family room and a huge skylight fills it with light. Wood floors - beautiful lighting - great detailing! Tons of storage space. \$564,500

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



PENDING

NEWER POCKET AREA HOME

3 bedroom 2½ bath home, perfect for busy lifestyle. Walk to restaurants, store and bank. Steps to public transportation. Close to the river and easy trip to downtown. This home features 9 foot ceilings, low maintenance yards, CAT 5 wiring, designer tile, granite counter, tile roof, master suite with huge master bath. Wow! \$299,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



SOLD

THE ISLANDS AT RIVERLAKE

Like new, shows like a model. 3 bedroom 2 bath home in prestigious Riverlake community with lake access. Features include stainless steel appliances, shutters, custom built-in cabinets, crown molding, granite counters and more. Close to Sacto River, bike/walking trails, downtown and parks. \$349,000

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