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Soroptimist of Sacramento offers cash grant to women

Women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families and seek financial assistance to continue their education or receive training are encouraged to apply for the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Education and Training Award for Women. The club will award one deserving and qualified woman \$2,000 to be used to help offset any costs associated with the recipient's efforts to attain higher education, including tuition, books, supplies, child care or transportation costs.

The Live Your Dream Award is the signature project of Soroptimist International of the Americas (SIA). Soroptimist of Sacramento is one of nearly 1,400 clubs that make up SIA, a volun-

teer organization for women committed to improving the lives of women and girls through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Applications and qualification criteria are available at the club's website www.soroptimistsacramento.com/awards-scholarships/Live-Your-Dream-Award.

Deadline is Nov. 15. Completed applications should be emailed to Debi Noonan, Live Your Dream Award Committee Chair, deb86sis@yahoo.com. Questions about the award program or process may be directed to Ms. Noonan as well.

Information about Soroptimist of Sacramento may be found at www.soroptimistsacramento.com.

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Matías Bombal's Hollywood

Awake: The Life of Yogananda

The MPAA has rated this PG.

This CounterPoint Films documentary movie about a most fascinating 20th Century personality tells the story of Paramahansa Yogananda, an Indian Swami who brought yoga and meditation to the West, specifically the United States, beginning as early as the 1920s.

He founded the Self Realization Fellowship. His famous book, "Autobiography of a Yogi" has touched many lives interested in yoga and Eastern thought. This movie has been in the making for some time and has interviews with famous personalities who have been touched by yoga, some of which are now dead.

Some of those that discuss the Swami include: Ravi Shankar, George Harrison, Deepak Chopra, MD, and famous Duke Ellington vocalist Herb Jeffries.

Although the subject matter and theme are fascinat-

ing, the actual "look" of the movie itself is strange and distracting at times.

For some strange reason, the filmmakers chose a wide screen format for this movie, yet the historical footage and stock period footage used is not in that format, so the filmmakers chose to squeeze the historic film image horizontally so that in most cases, cars and people look short and fat. The footage of the master himself is also shown, in most cases, slowed down to a crawl and the surrounding image diffused resulting with a very strange result.

This lack of fundamental image correctness distracted me from the presentation. Students of yoga, however, will find the subject matter of interest, and subject himself is indeed fascinating.



John Wick

The MPPA has rated this R

Summit Entertainment, a Lionsgate company, offers Keanu Reeves in what only could be called a big screen video game: "John Wick".

It's the story of a hit man that is wronged by the son of a Russian mobster who steals his car and kills his dog after the death of Wick's wife. Wick then, singlehandedly, just like in a senseless video game, picks off all opponents without actually dying himself.

In point of fact, to assist with the promotion of the picture, the video game known as "Payday 2" has just added a character named John Wick, in which you may easily pick off assailants with little skill on your part.

This movie has almost nothing to recommend it.

The violence is senseless and over the top. At least with a video game, you might have a hand in controlling the outcome, unlike your situation in the theater, where you hope you might get hit by a ricochet to avoid seeing the rest of the story.

The few elements of value here, including the performance of Swedish actor Michael Nyqvist as the Russian Mob boss, Willem Dafoe's turn as an assassin (is that typecasting?) and some photographic compositions that were cleverly mounted do not save this disaster of alleged screen entertainment.

It is clearly aimed at the basest and most mediocre audience. As ever, I encourage you to decide for yourself. You may like it, but I did not. Thankfully, this movie will come and go fast.

Running free: New dog park to open in South Pocket area

By MONICA STARK
 editor@valcomnews.com

Pocket area dogs will soon have an area to run around carefree and mingle with other dogs of their same size.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Monday, Nov. 3 for the Lynn Robie Dog Park at the Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex, 7895 Freepoint Blvd.) during which time Councilmember Darrell Fong, former Councilmember Lynn Robie, Pocket Little League President Jeff Marang and dogs from the Front Street Animal Shelter celebrated the construction of the two-acre park at the Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex, which is scheduled to open by the end of the year.

Tin-Wah Wong, City of Sacramento landscape architect who was instrumental in designing the project, said the entire area is about two acres, which includes a quarter-acre for the small dog park and one and three-quarter-acre area for the large dog park. Some of the park's amenities will include a center turf area for dogs to run around in as well as dog equipment in both areas.

The entire dog park will be double-fenced secure for the benefit of being able to leash and unleash one's dog safely in a contained area. In addition, there will be drinking fountains and benches. And as part of the park's master plan, there will be an expansion of the existing parking lot with 75 more parking spaces added to the parking area.

While the Pocket Little League's volunteers maintain its own fields, the City of Sacramento Parks and Recreation Department will be charged with maintaining the dog park. Wong said the project went out to public bid and that contractor JM Slover of Placerville, which has completed many city of Sacramento parks in the past, will be completing the dog park. JM Slover, Wong said, had sub-contractors on the job to do the grading and the compaction for the rest of the park, including working on some drainage that was installed.

Fong said the idea of the project began about three years ago. "We talked about what would be very popular, and Gina (Knepp, of the

Front Street Shelter director) will acknowledge this - it's about the animals."

In attendance at the ribbon cutting, included the Robies, Lynn and Ron Robie and their son Todd and daughter Melissa with her dog Lola.

Speaking about how the dog park took on the former councilmember's name, Fong, said: "Lynn Robie was a councilmember from 1979 to 1992. In fact, when she started in 1979, she started the police academy.

"She was there making it a better place. She represented the Pocket/Greenhaven neighborhood and did it well for 13 years. So we thought how could we have something named after her for what she has accomplished and we thought about the animal park because a lot of people think how well used they are.

"We thought a lot of people would see this and recognize her name so I think it's very fitting that we chose her to have the park named after her."

Speaking about her love of the sense of community that brought everyone to the dog park's groundbreaking, Lynn said: "The one thing I learned on the city council is that it does not take a million people to make something happen. It could take just a hand-



Shown here, local dignitaries celebrated the groundbreaking of the Lynn Robie Dog Park at the Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex on Monday, Nov. 3. Photo by Monica Stark

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C.K. McClatchy Sports Hall of Fame dinner raises big money

The third annual C.K. McClatchy Sports Hall of Fame dinner was held on Saturday, Oct. 11 at the Asian Sports Foundation Hall off Laguna Boulevard. Forty-three athletes, three coaches and three teams mainly from the 1980s were inducted that night into the hall of fame with about 500 people in attendance, raising money for the athletics department at the school. Money raised included \$20,000 from the dinner and another gift of \$16,000 was given for the all stars tournament.



Shown here is a collection of photos from this year's Hall of Fame dinner.

Photos by Monica Stark

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Chinatown history includes successful laundries, more

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

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

Sacramento's historic Chinatown, as mentioned in the previous article of this series, was established during the Gold Rush era.

Despite various tragedies and prejudices, its residents continued to persevere and conduct the everyday activities of their lives in that self-sufficient community.

And as its own community, Chinatown or Yee Fow, which was mostly located along I Street, primarily from 2nd to 6th streets, included residential housing and a wide variety of businesses, as well as religious institutions and social centers.

Gambling halls and saloons were also established in the early years of Chinatown, which originally featured wood and canvas structures.

Among the early Chinese businesses in the state were laundries.

Wah Lee is often given credit for establishing the first regular Chinese laundry in the United States. He opened a hand laundry business in San Francisco in 1851, and was noted to have hung a sign, which read, "Washing and Ironing."

In Sacramento, Chinese laundries also date back to the 1850s.

The Sacramento Union, in its June 21, 1854 edition, notes: "Sutter Lake - This sheet of water (next to Sacramento's Chinatown) has now fallen to nearly its ordinary summer level, and on its margin, not long since submerged, may be seen hundreds of Chinamen employed in washing the clothes of the citizen or stranger. In fact, the banks skirting Sutter Lake seem to be metamorphosed into one grand laundry for the 'million.'"

In another article, which was published in the Feb. 14, 1855 edition of The Union, it was mentioned that Chinese had by then "nearly monopolized" the laundry operations in the capital city.

It was noted in the May 31, 1875 edition of The Union

that, at that time, all Chinese washmen in Sacramento were members of the Chinese Washhouse Association.

Among the many Chinese owned laundry businesses in Sacramento in various eras were a washhouse at 4th Street, between J and K streets, during the 1870s; Ah Qum, Ah Chee and Ah Yeu's laundry at 6th and L streets during the 1870s; Chung Chin's laundry at 1215 4th St. (about 1907 to about 1911) and Ling Chong Laundry, which opened at 1323 3rd St. in about 1920.

Ling Chong was acquired by Fong Tom Lee in about 1940, renamed Third Street Laundry in the early 1950s and relocated to 520 S St. in about 1961.

The business remained in operation until Lee's death at the age of 79 on March 2, 1976, and the laundry was resumed for about a year in the same location by Kwok Chu Wong, beginning in about 1978.

Another Chinese laundry business was San Fong Chong Laundry, which opened at 814 I St. in about 1906. It was located in a brick building that was constructed in 1869.

A reference to that business in the May 5, 1939 edition of The Sacramento Bee notes that it was a typical Chinese laundry that was continuing to give tickets for laundry bundles as had been done in "the days of old."

San Fong Chong Laundry remained in business until about 1942.

When it comes to railroad history, Chinese provided labor for the mid-1850s construction of California's first railroad, the Sacramento Valley Railroad, a short line from Sacramento to Folsom.

And during the construction of the first Transcontinental Railroad, thousands of people, the majority of which were Chinese, were hired as laborers to build the Central Pacific Railroad.

In recognition that Chinese workers provided most of the labor for the construction of the Central Pacific, a select group of eight Chinese laborers carried forward the ceremonial, last rail of the Central Pacific as

part of a May 10, 1869 ceremony at Promontory Summit in the Utah Territory.

During that era, many more Chinese made their homes in and visited Sacramento's Chinatown.

Despite their role in building the Transcontinental Railroad, in many cases, Chinese were not well received in Sacramento after that railroad's completion.

Chinese were often blamed for reported economic struggles in the 1870s, as they had accepted low wages to build the railroad.

It was during the 1870s and 1880s that many Chinese began to find refuge from the hostilities they faced in the capital city by relocating to the Sacramento Delta, where they became involved in farming.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 denied entry of Chinese laborers into the United States for a decade.

On December 18, 1885, about 1,500 locals gathered at Armory Hall at the southwest corner of 6th and L streets, where The Citizens' Anti-Chinese Association of Sacramento, California was formed.

The constitution and by-laws of that organization included the following words: "(The association was designed) to establish bureaus and agencies for the purpose of furnishing domestics to replace Chinese house servants" and "to appoint permanent committees, whose duty it shall be to use every effort towards (sic) the displacement of Chinese now employed in the various locations and industries by white labor."

In regard to the medical industry, early Chinese physicians in Sacramento, at various times, included Dr. Offo, Dr. Young Can Sing, Dr. T. Wah Hing and Dr. Fung Lung.



Photo courtesy of Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento Room
San Fong Chong Laundry was located at 814 I St. from about 1906 to about 1942.

An 1870 advertisement for Dr. Sing reads: "The celebrated Chinese physician, No. 141 I Street, between Fifth and Sixth (streets), continues to make the most wonderful cures of diseases of all kinds, and has the testimonials to show from many of his old patients, to prove that he cures where other physicians have failed. His charges are low and cure is certain."

A Chinese public school was opened at the Perry Seminary building on I Street, between 10th and 11th streets, in the fall of 1894.

Among the school's first students were Fong Ming Seung, Hong Yung Chin, Fong Quong, Yee Wing, Henry Lung, Louie Yon, Fong Yum, Annie Soon, Mamie Fung, Fong Poy, Louie Do Fook and Fong Hog. Clara F. Parsons was the school's first principal and teacher.

The Chinese public school was still operating as late as 1912, at its final location of 913 3rd Street in Chinatown. The school was then run by Principal Tang Tien Leung.

In latter years, many young people from Chinatown and other places in that vicinity attended Lincoln School at 4th and Q streets.

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Didion's inaugural middle school volleyball team starts the season 4-0

What started out as a campus club has blossomed into an official sports team, as the Didion Dragons Volleyball Club is officially representing the school for the first time ever in Sacramento City Unified School District's Middle School Volleyball League. Unlike the district's soccer league, the volleyball league isn't divided by enrollment, so the Dragons compete against schools that have up to ten times Didion's enrollment. The other 11 schools comprising the league are Sutter (two teams), Will C. Wood, Cal, Einstein, Rosa Parks, Fern Bacon, John Still, Kit Carson, Leonardo DaVinci, and the School of Engineering and Sciences.

Fortunately for Didion, several of the girls on the roster have substantial experience playing for the school's club team the past two seasons. Head Coach Jeff Dominguez attributes the team's success (7-2, and in second place with just a couple of regular season games left before the league's championship tournament) to a core of experienced players and a roster of players who have embraced the sport and given their all to prepare themselves for competition. "I have a great mix of experienced and new players," he says. "And, rather than concentrating on their own game, the more experienced girls are helping the new players learn the sport. It's actually like having eight or nine assistant coaches."

According to Dominguez, Team Captain Erika Alarcon has been a model leader for her team. "Erika has really put herself out there to help our newer players. She's been patient and supportive helping her teammates learn our complex system. She leads by example, and the team couldn't have a better leader to emulate."



The team's official Assistant Coach is Jayme Chew, an alum who graduated from Didion in 2006 and went on to play volleyball at West Campus High School. "It's been great to have Jayme," says Dominguez. "She can look the players in the eye and say, 'I was right where you are not too long ago, and this is what you should do.' She can even give advice on how to interact with certain teachers on campus...!"

The Dragons' only losses this season were tightly-contested heartbreakers to two of the

larger schools in the league with plenty of club players of their own. In spite of the losses, Dominguez is extremely hopeful heading into the playoff tournament. "We're peaking at just the right time," he explains, "And we really haven't seen a team that we don't feel we can beat. It's just a matter of everyone playing at the top of their game. David beat Goliath with one lucky stone. We have to slay three or four Goliaths in one day to win this tournament. But we're very confident we can do just that."

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Q and A with Mr. Sacramento, Walt Gray

By GREG BROWN
greg@valcomnews.com

Popular local TV news anchor Walt Gray could be called Mr. Sacramento. He's been a TV news fixture in this town covering stories for more than 25 years. On the air and in person he's friendly, affable, and makes you feel at ease. He can also throw out some zingers that might sting! (He had a few in our Q & A.)

Walt started off at KCRA doing sports and then moved on over to the anchor chair. He left the cozy confines of KCRA to host a morning radio show at KSEG-FM. It was a really bold move. After his brief encounter at the Eagle, he's back in the anchor chair of his new home, KXTV News 10, where he "has the keys to the 5 p.m. newscast" as Walt put it.

He also gets to work with his wife, meteorologist Monica Woods, who's a popular TV personality in her own right. Walt and Monica reside in Land Park with their three children.

Wanna know Walt's favorite craft beer, most memorable story, and who should join the

Deadbeat Club? Check out the Land Park News Q & A with Walt Gray.

Q. Let's get to the important stuff first. You seem to enjoy a refreshing adult beverage. I've run into you at Track 7 in City Farms and I saw you tip-ping back a pint at New Helvetia on Broadway with some co-workers. What is your go-to local craft beer?

A. New Helvetia's Buffalo Lager is my favorite. I like the location and I'd been talking to David Gull about his "project" before the doors opened. I can walk home from there if I have too many. It doesn't take much anymore. I like lagers and avoid light beer. Light beer is like flavored yellow water.

Q. How long have you lived in Land Park and what are some of the things you enjoy about the neighborhood?

A. Seven years in LP. I like our friends...the schools...the zoo/golf course... everything. The Broadway vibe with the ethnic restaurants is great too. Plus, we're five minutes from News10!

Q. Lots of great places to grab a bit in Land Park; Tower Caf ,

Jaime's, Willie's Hamburgers to name a few. When you get the hungries where does Walt go?

A. The kids order Famous Pizza on Freeport every Friday night, so I get what they don't finish. Iron Restaurant for a bite and Riverside Clubhouse too. I used to live in India so I hit the Katmandu Kitchen on Broadway for some tandoori and a Kingfisher or Taj Mahal lager.

Q. You were at KCRA for over 25 years. Then you transitioned to Morning Radio on the Eagle with the Walt Gray Show. What made you decide to leave KCRA and do mornings at KSEG besides getting to wear shorts and a t-shirt?

A. I had been at KCRA for 25 years and would have been fine dying there. I'd always been part of their current and future plans and didn't feel that was the case anymore. That's not acceptable, at least to me. Being relevant to a station is relevant to me.

Q. Seemed like they pulled the plug a bit early on the Morning Show. Did you see the handwriting on the wall or were you completely blind-sided?

A. I was surprised, sure. The show was highly rated for men 54-plus, but the other demographics needed work. The big boss who hired me retired shortly after I came in...and my immediate boss was let go a week before my show was canceled.

It went from handwriting on the wall to blaring, flashing neon lights. The new big boss was brought in to be a %^&*, and he did perform his role quite well. Had I known the two guys that hired me would have departed so quickly, I'd have stayed at KCRA.

Q. What music are you listening to these days?

A. Current pop (100.5 FM) and New Country (105.1). When James Taylor passes away, I may have to take the day off. I did when Sinatra died.

Q. You're an avid biker. What kind of motorcycle do you have and what are some of the rides you like to go on?

A. I am in-between bikes right now. I've had a Harley Softtail and Dyna wide glide. It's tough to ride on weekends when the kids have soccer, theater, play dates and sleepovers. I just can't take off for five hours on the bike and tell Mom "good luck."

Q. Now you're back at it with News 10. How is News 10 different than KCRA?

A. As of today, I have the keys to the 5 p.m. newscast and a mandate of "go out and be myself." That's very unusual for a newscast anchor. They want me to opine and guide viewers through the newscast with my experiences. I've often said I think I've been to every tavern on every road within a two hour drive from Sacramento. I've met lots of good and real people. They want me to tell those stories.

Q. What is it like working so closely with your wife meteorologist Monica Woods? "Lets go to Monica in the weather center and yes I forgot to pick up a gallon of milk."

A. We drink vanilla almond milk to be specific! She's very passionate about everything she does and keeps me on my toes during the newscast. We don't see much of each other during the day... She's in her "weather zone" and doing KFBK radio hits.

It's not much different for us getting the kids off to school or making dinner. We've known each other for 17 years so familiarity helps on TV.

Q. Do you ever keep in touch with the old school Sacramento TV broadcasters like Dave and Lois, Stan Atkinson, or Bette Vasquez?

A. I see Stan Atkinson on a semi-regular basis. He really was my mentor. He taught me about community service and giving back. He didn't do it because he had to. He was in a position to help those who needed it and he chose to go all in. I served 11 years on the Mercy Foundation All-Star Weekend board with him, and then I transitioned to my own charity for 12 years, the "Walt Gray Ride for Make a Wish." I was lucky to clear \$600,000 for kids. I follow Dave and Lois' retirement travels on Facebook. They're an amazing couple on and off the air.

Q. How is local TV news different today than it was back in the "Stan and Margaret Era"?

A. It's not all that different, except people have many more choices of how they get news. As recently as the mid-80s, you didn't have cable or satellite. It was just the local stations. Budgets are tighter now because the ad dollars are smaller (but still good). We,

like all businesses, try to do more with less.

Q. Which broadcasters do you look up to and admire?

A. Colin Cowherd on ESPN radio is incredibly gifted with the word. I love listening to him but wonder why couldn't I be like that! I think ABC World News Tonight anchor David Muir is what the future face of network news. Young guy who gets out of the studio a lot.

Q. You've covered many stories over your career, but I'm sure the Jaycee Dugard kidnapping case must have been the most memorable. I remember convicted rapist/kidnapper Phil Garrido contacted you at KCRA. He even wrote several letters to you personally. That must have been strange and creepy. How did you feel about that?

A. I don't know why he contacted me, except that he lived in Antioch which meant he did get Sacramento TV. Once we talked on the phone, I became his media contact to the outside world. I wasn't opposed to that because it was a huge story which I was on top of. I was live on CNN, MSNBC, the Today Show and national radio. It was surreal, but the only upside was my folks got to watch me more on TV back in Rhode Island.

Q. Way back when you were the sports anchor on KCRA you had an entertaining feature called "The Deadbeat Club." You'd call out a sports figure for being a deadbeat underneath the song of the same name from the B-52s. Who would make the Deadbeat Club these days?

A. I think I'd put the Sacramento Kings in it today for retiring too many players' jerseys these days in order to promote those nights to sell tickets. The Kings have more retired jerseys than the Lakers now. That's just silly.

Q. What do you think of the Sacramento River Cats switching AAA affiliates from the Oakland A's to the San Francisco Giants?

A. I can see why the River Cats made the switch, but I feel bad for the A's organization that was nothing but loyal to the River Cats ownership and moved the team her from Vancouver. Once again, another defeat for the A's organization versus the Giants. It's the tackle of those two cities. Everybody loves San Francisco.



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Faces and Places:

Chinese Community Church fall fellowship and food festival

Photos by MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

The community enjoyed delicious Chinese barbecue chicken, pot stickers, live entertainment and fun and games at the 31st annual Fall Fellowship and Food Festival held at the Chinese Community Church on Saturday, Oct. 18. Here's to next year!



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Students from Sacramento New Technology High School participated in the 2014 El Dorado California Forestry Challenge competition Oct. 22-25.

Twelve students (comprising three teams) from New Tech participated in the competition, coached by teachers Senna Davis and Christine Baker. The teams won second, third and sixth places.

Seniors Nohely Alcala, Nalalie Perez, Oscar Cruz, Sarah Rafanan and Deseray Hendrickson comprised the second-place team. The third place team included two seniors (Faith Cash and Fatima Abdel-Gwad) and two sophomores (Isabella Heidrich and Samuel Robb). The sixth place team included seniors Tracie Indrieri, Joelin Nordine and Candalaria Amezcuita.

The California Forestry Challenge is a competitive event for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry issues. Working as a team, students completed the comprehensive field test that included identifying and measuring trees, analyzing stand data and making forest management decisions.

Students also prepared a presentation that made a recommendation to the Forestry Manager at Leoni Meadows camp on a combination of activities for their grant application to the Fire Prevention Fund, a grant offered by CalFire. In order to make their recommendation, the students visited several sites at Leoni Meadows that needed fuel reduction, prioritized those activities and chose one or more for the application. Their recommendation was based on the activities most likely to be funded, the importance of these activities in terms of preventing fire and the price tag of each.

Their comments are being taken into consideration in determining what Leoni Meadows will apply for in their grant application.

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The John F. Kennedy High School class of 1969 celebrated its 45th reunion on Oct. 18 at the Dante Club. Reportedly a fabulous, incredible time was had by all! Entertainment by the class's own Al Skinner "wow'd the crowd with magic and humor." Pictures, including these shown here, are now beginning to surface. For more visit: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/294765443990962/>. More pictures will be made available for viewing and purchase from other websites. Updates are available at <http://www.jfk69.com/>

The following is a list of those who attended: Margie (Ferguson) Lehr, Ron Cohn, Julie (McLane) Dulaney, Karen (Fong) Cotton, Phyllis Jones, Yvonne Fong, Judy (Pierini) Poole (from CKM), Karl Okamoto, Barbara (Lee) Beattie, Joanne Faist, Phillip Goode, Darlene Carlson, Sharon Simas, Rick Weisberg, Kim (Johnson) DeHart, Ruth (Trubshenk) Lundsten, Lynette (Greenslate) Bell, Pam Ryan, Mary (Renfree) + Bob Bartron, Janice (Fong) Steenhoek, Sheryl Stewart, Judy (Phillips) Lemke, Steve Cameron, John Ures, Susan Lena, Nancy (Nelson) Capleman, Gail (Hilleary) Bourtoul, Gary Poroli, Sue (Voegtle) Wilson, Mauricio Leiva, Mark Carlos, Kitty (Becker) Tatro, Georgine (JoJo Okamura) Camper, Robert Brown, Stephen Siewert, Debbie Martin, Dale Young, Dawn Young, John Merker, Cindy Mariano, Debbie (Slightam) Rakela, Dave Alexander, Molly (Cohen) Berg, Judy Guerrero, John Jaksich, Lynette Schwartz (from LB), Coleen (McDowell) Rosenbaum, Karen (Johnson) Dapper, Cheryl Hickey, Jim Wallace, Arthur Averitt, Bobby Kennedy, Doris Bloom (LB), Mary (Cooper) Honsinger, Patty (Greenburg) Roth, Celeste (Koutchis) Tzakis, Linda (LaBella) Pohl, Becky Lambert, as well as spouses, significant others, friends, kids, etc.



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Woman Warrior: Sacramento General Mary J. Kight talks about her career and veterans' issues

By LEIGH STEPHENS

What led a little girl from Monterey, California to a career in the military where she reached heights few women have ever attained? General Mary J. Kight would say life happens while you do your job well, persevere, and serve others.

Since 1775, courageous women have served in our country's military and but originally as nurses, aides, cooks or in other domestic duties. Yet, few know that in Revolutionary times women bound their breasts, wore men's clothing, and took men's names; all this to fight along with men. Not until 1976 were women admitted to a military academy. Since the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and now other parts of the Middle East, women have been allowed to serve in combat.

Why would a woman want to enter the military? The service provides equal pay for equal work as well as medical care, living quarters, and education. Many women join to support their families with benefits as well as for career advancement.

General Kight says, "Education is one of the reasons I enlisted in the Air Force." I went to a job fair while attending California State University, Chico and discovered opportunities the military offers. My family could not afford to send me to college although they were always supportive of me."

In 2010, then-Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Mary J. Kight, the first female Adjutant General of The California Military Department. She is also the first African-American woman to attain this position in the nation.

Mary Kight has received many awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. When she retired in 2011, she was awarded The Order of California. In part it reads, "Under her leadership, the California National Guard quickly and effectively responded to every request to support citizens of California during emergencies." It added that General Kight's "...warrior-statesman approach proved effective in ensuring collaboration with the California Legislature."

With a completed BA from Chico State, in 1974, Mary Kight says she wanted to put her skills to work so she enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in Spokane, Washington. At each place she was stationed around the country, she continued her education completing several higher degrees and attending various military colleges. She eventually returned to

California and moved from active service to reserve.

General Kight has continued to break barriers throughout her career and champion veterans' rights. Her co-workers say she has great leadership style, concentrating on getting the job done and helping others succeed. She is focused, demanding, a consensus builder, and knows how to get things done with a smile.

Today, General Mary J. Kight is a retired hero who after 37 years of active service spends her time working with military and civilian organizations mentoring others and working on veterans' issues. Her work includes Women in Military Service for America, the American Red Cross, the American Legion, and the Air Force Association. Her current passion is working with the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Civilian and military people go to the program where food, clothing, and job referrals help those in need.

Veterans' issues are at the top of the news today: promises made to thousands and promises not kept by our country. General Kight says, "There certainly have been problems in the past, but I believe we are on the right road to providing the entitlements veterans need and deserve."

Four major problems face veterans returning home after years of service to this country.

Mental and Physical Issues

Nearly three in 10 Gulf War II-era veterans have mental and physical problems related to service. Post Traumatic Stress is rampant among vets. One in three Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD. Psychiatric issues range from depression and nightmares to violent behavior and suicide. It is difficult to pick up relationships when returning to civilian life. Divorce and social alienation are common.

For example, recently a disturbed veteran with a knife stormed the White House saying, "The atmosphere is collapsing." He is a veteran with multiple tours of duty in Iraq. With luck, no one was injured, but dozens have not been so lucky in numerous incidents involving weapons.

Physical problems involve loss of limbs, disfigurement, and devastating, long-lasting wounds. Both mental and physical issues many times create rejection from the family, the job market and from the community.

Sexual harassment has also been a devastating issue.

Lack and Timing of Medical Services

This year, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Chief Bob McDonald said before Congress, "Tens of thousands more medical staff are needed."

Military medical facilities and hospitals cannot keep up with the backlog of vet claims, both mental and physical. A recent scandal in Veterans Affairs revealed that in the Phoenix, Arizona system, 35 veterans died while waiting for appointments and care. This spurred a criminal investigation where a Veterans Affairs audit nationwide revealed that 120,000 veterans are waiting for or never got care.

Veterans Affairs has now laid out a 90-day mandate to fix the problems. One positive is a pending bill, HR4810, the Veteran's Access to Care Act of 2014 stating that the VA can enter into civilian contracts for hospitals and other medical facilities to provide timely care if the military cannot provide. Another provision in the bill states that if veterans do not live within 40 miles of a military facility they can get civilian care.

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-New York) says, "While we can never truly repay the debt we owe our heroes, the least we should do for our brave veterans is to ensure that the government takes a proactive approach to delivering the services and benefits they have earned, so they can access the care they need and so richly deserve."

As of this writing, the bill is still in committee and with the stalemate in Washington, it's anyone's guess as to when and if it might make it through to reality.

Homelessness

Veterans make up 13 percent of the country's homeless where many are living on the streets. The majority of that number are women. About 900,000 vets nationwide rely on food stamps to survive. These include the homeless but also those living on the fringe trying to support themselves and their families.

According to the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness & Poverty, "Nearly 60,000 veterans experience homelessness on any given night in our country."

Even though the U.S. economy has gone through a recession, General Kight encourages veterans not to give up. At one Working World job fair in the Bay Area she advised, "Look for opportunities. Transition to civilian life even at an entry level if you have to. Highlight all the skills you learned in the military. You are a valuable resource to the civilian job market. Veterans are highly skilled and disciplined. Given the opportunity, time and effort you can rise in the civilian work world."



Photo courtesy of Kight

Education

The G.I. Bill was the most successful government education program in the country's history. Thousands of World War II veterans earned college credits and degrees under the program. Yet, when the government shut down in 2013, Tuition Assistance was suspended in the military. This left thousands of veterans without funds to begin or continue their educations.

Tied to homelessness is a reduction of federal funds for veteran education. A recent \$85 billion in government cuts were in the veterans' education programs. All branches of the military have had to make cuts in their Tuition Assistance programs.

According to a recent Stars and Stripes report, some funding has been restored but with more stringent requirements applying. The Army Tuition Assistance Benefits in place from Oct. 1, 2014 through Sept. 30, 2015 are: funds will be granted for 100 percent of the tuition up to 16 hours credit; not to exceed \$250 per credit hours or a \$4,000 cap per fiscal year. This is a reduction in previous funding.

The Air Force has made changes similar to the Army. The Coast Guard had the most drastic changes in that it reduced its benefits to 75 percent tuition while members must pay the remaining 25 percent. The Guard also reduced the total number of credit hours per year.

General Mary J. Kight continues to fight fearlessly for the members of the military; her weapons: encouragement, mentoring, and support.

When speaking to the members of the 146th Airlift Wing at Channel Islands, she said, "As airmen we need to understand our capabilities as individuals and the impact those have. Our people coming up through the ranks are tomorrow's leaders. We owe them our greatest assets, and they are essential to meeting current and future challenges. We owe them our unwavering commitment, encouragement, and support."

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Brookfield community enjoys new campus

Story by MONICA STARK
Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY

Every day brings new furnishings and decorations to Brookfield's new home on Riverside Boulevard. In a mad three-day rush, teachers and parents moved from the 3600 Riverside Blvd. location at the Congregation B'Nai Israel to the brand new campus 6115 Riverside Blvd. Classes at the new campus began on Monday, Oct. 13. Landscapers are still landscaping. Some boxes from the move are still being sorted.

And, yet, despite the expansion and excitement, the scene on Halloween with children and teachers in costume resembled the tried-and-true small school feel Brookfield community has known and loved for the past 53 years.

Donning a flowing purple robe, principal Dr. Jo Gonsalves took on the appearance of Snow White's evil step mother for Halloween, but the costume did not for a moment scare the children because they know what's underneath – a ruler of the school with a heart of gold. Gonsalves' excitement for the children's academic achievement is coupled with play time and creativity.

The school recently partnered with Kovar's to offer karate classes and will soon be getting a huge soccer field for children to enjoy. (The field, Gonsalves said, may become available to the neighborhood for use, including the possibility of someday offering a Greenhaven Soccer Club team open to the general public.)

Brookfield started construction on the new campus in May and so the building was built in record time, considering projects this large usually take about 18 months to come to fruition, explained Gonsalves. "So being able to get in here – getting here that early is really pretty amazing," she said.

"I've never been in a brand new school before," said preschool teacher Christina Lopez who, on Halloween day, was preparing her Saxon lesson plans for some of the school's youngest students.

Lopez, a mother of two pre-teens, has worked as an early childhood educator for more than 12 years as a lead preschool teacher and as the former licensed owner of a private child-care business. Lopez, who also has experience teaching in a Montessori school, is among the four preschool teachers who have been busily preparing for the fire inspection and licensing inspection with the California Department of Social Services with the goal of having the preschool open this month.

"Having a preschool will definitely be great," Gonsalves said. "We will definitely keep good relations with the preschools that feed into Brookfield, but it will also be real nice to have our own feeder school. The goal will be to prepare our children for the program. It's a real nice thing and a convenience for our families."

Dressed up for the Halloween after-noon festivities, Gonsalves had some



time to discuss with the Pocket News a little bit of the background surrounding some of the delays in getting the new school built. While the buildings went up really fast, Gonsalves said Brookfield entered escrow for an entire year before construction began.

"They went into escrow with it but they couldn't close because of the construction loan, then they had somebody come in and purchase it. We basically had control over the property. We never really lost the control. We just had to wait out getting the financing together to make it happen. So it was kind of touch-and-go for awhile getting it started. Once everything was lined up, it didn't take long to get everything going on it," she said.

During the design phase of the school, staff met with the architect and Brookfield School President John Sittner. "He basically gave all the staff the opportuni-

ty to engage and look at the design, and what features we would like the school to have and those ideas were brought to the architect. We brought several versions of what we wanted Brookfield to look like. The most challenging thing I think for the architect was to work within the boundaries of this property and to save as many trees as possible as well as be able to provide adequate parking and space for the kids and give them some really good play area.

"We were able to put in a new soccer field and have a nice big blacktop area. It's really nice to have that space because we came from a facility that was very limited on space. It's hard to know how much of a footprint we actually took at (B'Nai Israel) but we weren't using much of it. We were really limited as to what part of Brookfield we could use. This is a 5-acre parcel."

On Oct. 16, The Sacramento Bee reported the city is about to install a \$330,000 traffic signal paid for by Brookfield. According to the article, Sittner said officials knew the school would be responsible for the signal cost. "They thought it would cost \$175,000. But city officials decided that the light should be synchronized with the nearby signal at Greenhaven Drive. That required new control equipment at Greenhaven and fiber optics, nearly doubling the price, hitting Brookfield with a bit of sticker shock."

When the school opened a few weeks ago, Gonsalves said there was a lot of curiosity in the neighborhood about the school and the type of program that it offers. "I think the majority of the families that are not current Brookfield families that live in the Greenhaven area and are really look-

See Brookfield, page 21

Brookfield:

Continued from page 20

ing at our preschool at this point if they have younger kids. And I have also had some inquire about transferring over if they have kids at other schools. We have pretty good representation of Pocket families. I was going through my roster and looking at all the 95831 zipcodes. There's a pretty good number of continuing families that live in this area."

Speaking about the unique rigor of the school coupled with the inclusiveness for all students, Gonsalves said: "It's an accelerated program. It's kind of a blend between a GATE program and the Rapid Learner Program. We go more in depth and we give the kids a lot of opportunities for educational enrichment. But everybody gets it. It's not just a small population. The whole school. Everybody engages in the same activities."

"We also are a rapid learner program. We teach at a faster pace, so as a result, by the time the students graduate, they are a year and a half or two years ahead of their peers at the same grade level. So it's a challenging school for students to transfer to, but if they are top of the class where they are and they are a little bored and they need a little bit more of a challenge, it's an excellent place to go because they will have peers that are equally motivated who are thinking ahead for their future who want to do well."

All the students test in to get into Brookfield, so they do have to show they have above average aptitude and that they're motivated and engaged. Even so, Gonsalves said the program can work for any child if he or she starts young enough. "Children are just bright, naturally inquisitive. They really want to learn and if you capture that in their life and you give them the right type of experience, they just continue to excel. It becomes their normal."

As an accelerated school, there is no traditional kindergarten at Brookfield. Instead, there is a pre-first program. "That's our kindergarten. It has that funny name because the curriculum and the expectations at this level is a little closer to what you see in first grade. So it's sort of a blend between the last academic quarter of kindergarten and then pretty quickly it starts going into first grade curriculum. So our preschool has a 2 year old program, a 3 year old program, and a 4 year old program that we call pre-k (even though we don't really have a kindergarten. It's for parents so they know that's the entry level)."

Gonsalves' own grandchildren will be attending Brookfield. "It will be fun to have them here. It's a little different perspective being their principal. I have never taught any of my own children. I thought I would be harsh on my own kids if they got in trouble. But, now as the principal of my grandchildren – they can't escape."

The school will be having an open house on Saturday, Dec. 6 from noon until 3 p.m. and will be open to anyone in the community.



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Kennedy homecoming parade

Photos by MONICA STARK

John F. Kennedy High School had its second homecoming parade in two years on the afternoon of Friday, Oct. 17. The floats represented fantasy themes and the band, of course, was great. JFK beat Hiram Johnson 44-13 with a strong second half performance.



CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"Stretch, Strengthen, and Thrive" at ACC: This class is designed for the needs and abilities of active older adults, who are interested in gaining or maintaining mobility, 5-6 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. \$5 per class if pre-paid; drop-in fee is \$6. ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org.

Easy Tai Chi at ACC
Learn 24-form Yang Style Tai Chi at a slower pace. Experience the gentle flow and treat your whole body to a gentle and relaxing workout. \$16 per month or \$5 Drop-in class. For schedule call 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org. ACC is located at 7375 Park City Dr.

Senior Fitness at St. Anthony's
Senior Fitness meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:45 a.m. at St. Anthony's Memorial Hall at 660 Florin Road. Cost is \$2 per class. Do not have to belong to the church. Class incorporates dyna bands, small hand weights, balls, and rubber bands plus cardio. Chair and standing exercises for flexibility, strength and balance accompanied by music of the "good of days." Participants do not have to get down on the floor! Paula has a Masters in Exercise Physiology and has been in the fitness business over 25 years. Equipment supplied if needed.

Senior Yoga at ACC
This class is designed to maintain joint mobility, muscle strength and flexibility. A yoga mat is required. \$25 per month or \$6 drop-in class. For schedule call 393-9026, ext. 330, www.accsv.org

Taiko for fun at ACC
Learn the history and basics of Taiko which refer to the various Japanese drums. Wear comfortable clothing. \$16 per month or \$5 drop-in class. For schedule call 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org. ACC is located at 7375 Park City Dr.

Free Young Adult Bereavement Counseling:
The UC Davis Hospice Program and UC Davis Children's Hospital Bereavement Program will offer an eight-week Young Adult Bereavement Art Group for individuals 17 to 24 who are coping with the recent loss of a loved one. The sessions will be held on eight consecutive Monday evenings from Sept. 29 through Nov. 17. Each session will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the UC Davis Home Care Services Building, 3630 Business Dr., Suite F.

Stretch, Strengthen, and Thrive!
This class is designed for the needs and abilities of active older adults, who are interested in gaining or maintaining mobility. The class consists of a mix of full body stretches, body weight exercises, strength training and active stretching. 5:00-6:00 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. \$5 per class if pre-paid. Pre-registration and prepayment is preferred, but drop-ins are welcome at a rate of \$6 per class. Held at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr., Sacramento, 393-9026 x330, www.accsv.org.

Sacramento Zoo needs wheelchairs
The Sacramento Zoo is looking for a few "gently used" wheelchairs, 808-5888. Your wheelchair can be a tax deductible donation, and four zoo tickets will be offered as a thank you.

Youth Connections Unlimited announces fundraising campaign
Did you know that one Sacramento organization can reduce recidivism for crimes committed by youths by up to 70 percent? Youth Connections Unlimited has been providing mentoring and other services to incarcerated and probationary youth for over ten years that gives youth tools for staying outside the juvenile justice system. YCU works with the Sacramento County Probation Department with a focus on re-entry mentoring and preventative programming with a commitment to the principles of Restorative Justice. The support youth get from YCU and its volunteers gives hope to Sacramento County youth, make communities safer and save taxpayers money.

For more information, call David Taft at 835-1147 or visit www.sacycu.com

Brain Gymnasium
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Women with Good Spirits monthly meeting
Each second Tuesday of the month at Revolution Wines at 6:30 p.m., Women With Good Spirits invites a community non-profit to present on its mission work. 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. 2831 S St. Visit www.womenwithgoodsprits.com or find the group on Facebook.

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www.harvestfestival.com • 800-346-1212

Voices for Freedom
Sunday, November 9th (Sanctuary)

Chamber Players

Congregation B'nai Israel
3600 Riverside Blvd. Sacramento

Ticket Prices at the door:
\$20 general, \$15 senior, \$10 student

For further information, call (916) 428-7379 • www.capitolchamberplayers.org

Franz Schubert
String Quintet in C Major
Susheel Bibbs
Voices for Freedom
Celebrating Sacramento's
Hyers Sisters in Word
& Song
pictured:
Susheel Bibbs, soprano

Sacramento's Healing Arts Festival

Welcome to the Healing Arts Festival!
November 9, 2014 • 916-451-4014

Free entry • Free parking

This is a fundraiser for the Sacramento Food Bank.
Location: Hilton Sacramento Arden West
200 Harvard Street (Arden West & I-80), Sacramento, CA 95815

10am-5pm

www.HealingArtsFestival.com
With every donation get a \$5 off coupon

Save the Date

Celebrating and honoring those that have served and are continuing to serve."

4th Annual VETERANS DAY PARADE

Tuesday, November 11, 2014
Parade begins at 11:00 am
Capitol Mall
(Between 3rd & 9th Streets)

Program at West Steps of State Capitol
Immediately following the parade
(37th Street between I & N Streets)

Info Booths • Children Activities • Food Trucks • Band Contest

Interested being a vendor or participating in the parade?
Apply now! Deadline is October 24th, 2014
For more information contact (916) 808-6789 or email sacvetparade@cityofsacramento.org

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Check out the Home Improvement Guide in the *Pocket News*. Call Melissa at 429-9901 for ad rates.

CALENDAR

The Community Housing and Services Coalition monthly meetings

Originally created by the Sacramento Community Services Planning Council, the Community Housing Coalition (CHC) was created as a vehicle to provide information and educate community leaders and decision makers regarding housing and low-income, disabled and older adults. CHSC monthly meetings are free and open to the public; they are held from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the last Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Sacramento Sheriff's South Area Office Community Room at 7000 65th Street, Sacramento (the Sacramento County Voters Registrar Building). At each meeting a guest speaker is invited to attend and give a 30-minute presentation with 10 minutes for Q&A. Speakers are selected for their expertise and knowledge in their respective fields, and agencies/organizations. The speakers are encouraged to provide handouts, fliers, and other informational materials to the 15 to 30 attendees.

If you have any questions, please contact either: Alex Eng at 424-1374; email xeng916@sbcglobal.net; or Cindy Gabriel at 916/732-6189; email cynthia.gabriel@smud.org.

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.

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.

NOVEMBER

Elks Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair

Nov. 8: The annual holiday arts and crafts fair at the Sacramento Elks Lodge, with more than 70 crafters and artisans of handmade crafts and unique gifts, will be held from 9 to 3 at the Sacramento Elks Lodge No.6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. Free admission, free drawings to benefit local community scholarships and charities. Stay to in-

dulge with friends and family at the Elks Bistro and Bakery for a fun day of shopping and getting acquainted with Sacramento area's special artists, authors and crafters. The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks volunteers are involved with many local children's programs and charities for disabled children. Call Mary-Jo at 691-3059 for more information on this worthwhile and fun event.

Holiday Boutique at Land Park's Parkside Community UCC

Nov. 8: From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., enjoy food, music, lots of fun raffles, crafts from local artisans, and gift baskets to jump-start your holiday season at the annual holiday boutique at Land Park's Parkside Community UCC.

There's plenty of fun on tap for kids and families: face-painting, games and crafts activities, and a Fun Photo Booth from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Perkside Café baristas will serve up your favorite morning brew from 9 to 11 a.m., and there will be baked goods galore. Proceeds from the event will support Parkside's missions of community involvement in South Sacramento neighborhoods, including the South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership food closet—bring a non-perishable food item for the SSIP food closet and exchange it for a free raffle ticket. Tickets will also be available for sale at the event. Parkside UCC is located at 5700 South Land Park Dr., at the corner of 35th Avenue. For more information, contact Parkside at 421-0492.

Sacramento Antique Faire returns to 21st and X streets

Nov. 9: The Sacramento Antique Faire returns to 21st and X streets with 300 vendors every second Sunday, 6:30 to 3 p.m. The faire thanks the public for 10 years of support.

Protect Yourself from Identity Theft

Nov. 10: Sacramento's seniors can learn how to minimize their risk of becoming a victim of identity theft and online fraud by attending this workshop presented by the Victims of Crime Resource Center at the Hart Senior Center on 915 27th Street (J and 27th Streets) in midtown at 2 p.m., 808-5462. Cost is free.

Alternative Christmas Market

Nov. 10-11: Several local and international charitable organizations will feature Benevolence Gifts supporting their mission goals. Appropriate gift cards will be provided. Crafts from Third World Countries will be on sale from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fremont Presbyterian Church, H St. at Carlson Drive, Sacramento. Free admission. Call 452-7132 or visit fremontpres.org.

La Sierra High School Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Nov. 11: From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the community is welcome to visit the La Sierra High School Vietnam Veterans Memorial (5325 Engle Road). Colors will be presented at 11 a.m. Join on these special days to honor and remember those who served. If you have any questions, call Linda Jones at 944-2393. The La Sierra High School Class of 1969 are planning a 45th reunion. It will be held on Veterans Day 2014 and all classes are invited. Contact Karl Winkler at kwinkler2009@yahoo.com

Music at noon

Nov. 12: Guitarist Jon Spivack and Friends play jazz and swing at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Bring you lunch and enjoy free music, 1300 N St., across from the Capitol. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org

Community Skill Exchange meeting

Nov. 13: Community Skill Exchange invites you to a Friends and Neighbors Time Bank potluck from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m. Make new friends and learn about a Friends and Neighbors Time Bank, a community system where people share their skills, whereby one hour equals one time dollar. Door opens at 5:15 p.m. for information, presentation, and video at 5:30 p.m. Potluck dinner begins at 6:15 p.m. Bring a food dish to share. Trade skills and talents with each other. Sacramento Food Bank, Community Room No. 1 3333 3rd Ave. (big blue door on 34th St.) RSVP to emurray68@att.net

"Hands on History: The Donners and Other Emigrant Wagon Parties"

Nov. 15: In an effort to provide high-energy, interactive and educational activities, Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (SHP) is proud to present a special "Hands on History: The Donners and Other Emigrant Wagon Parties" event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. During this special "Hands on History" event, Nancy Herman, author of All I Left Behind: Virginia Reed and the Donner Party, will offer special presentations at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. that will include photographs from the author's personal collection. Fort visitors also be able to pack a wagon, write in their journals with a quill pen, make a corn husk or rag doll and create their own pioneer souvenir item to take home. Plus, Nancy Herman's book about the Donner Party is available in the on-site Trade Store for those interested. Sutter's Fort SHP is open daily and more information about this event or the Park in general is available by calling 916-445-4422 or visiting www.suttersfort.org. 2701 L St. \$7 per adult (18 and older), \$5 per youth (ages 6-17), free for children 5 and under; 445-4422 or visit www.suttersfort.org

Dandelion Arts and Crafts show

Nov. 16: Sacramento Senator Lions club sponsors the 2nd Annual Dandelion Arts and Crafts Show from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Elks

Lodge #6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. (at Florin Rd.)

Featuring many handmade craft items for the holidays, 100 percent of profits will be used for community projects including the Sensory Garden at the Sacramento Zoo, Fairytale Town's Japanese Garden, and the Society for the Blind. For a complete list of projects please see www.SacramentoSenatorLions.org. If you have questions, please call (916) 421-2950.

Music at noon

Nov. 19: Bay-Area pianist John David Thomsen plays Debussy, Mozart, Chopin, Liszt at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Bring you lunch and enjoy free music, 1300 N St., across from the Capitol. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org

Sac State annual rock auction

Nov. 21: Gemstones, garden rocks, colorful goodies, fascinating fossils and more unique gift items are up for grabs at Sac State's annual Rock Auction. More than 150 pieces in all in silent and live auctions – plus games for children. Geology is fun and beautiful! Free, 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, in the Alumni Center, on campus, 6000 J St. Contact 278-6337 for more information.

10th Annual Twelve Gals and a Guy Craft Show

Nov. 22: There will be the huge neighborhood craft show from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1716 41st St. Contact Ruby at 591-8460.

Music at noon

Nov. 26: Guitarist Brandon Yip will perform at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Bring you lunch and enjoy free music, 1300 N St., across from the Capitol. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org

DECEMBER

Music at noon

Dec. 3: The Vocal Art Ensemble; Tracia Barbieri, director, to perform at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Bring you lunch and enjoy free music, 1300 N St., across from the Capitol. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org

Sacramento City College Annual Holiday Art Sale

Dec 3, 4, 5: Buy unique handmade art/gifts and support SCC art students and the Kondos Gallery. Great prices! Dec 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 6:45 p.m., on Dec. 5 from 10 a.m. to noon, Sacramento City College Cafeteria, 3835 Freeport Blvd. For more information, call 558-2559 or email griffij@scc.losrios.edu or visit www.kondos-gallery.org for information. Parking is \$2 (you get a parking slip from a vending station)

Music at noon

Dec. 10: Chanteuses Vocal Ensemble; Chris Alford, director to perform at Westminster Presbyterian Church. Bring you lunch and enjoy free music, 1300 N St., across from the Capitol. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org

Mission Oaks Computer Club meeting

Dec. 11: The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Dr., Carmichael. The meeting will include a problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information visit www.missionoakscomputerclub.org or send an email to mocc@missionoakscomputerclub.org.

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7417 Deltawind Dr – \$320,000 > Attractive Pocket Area 3 bd 2.5 bath featuring a large expanded family rm open to the kitchen. Updated roof in 2013, new carpet in 2014. Laminated flooring in living room, formal dining rm & family room. Large private yard. Convenient to shopping, parks, bike path and more! Approx 1,840 sf.*



6733 Breakwater Wy Pending Sale!

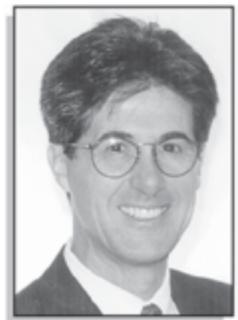
< 6733 Breakwater Wy – PENDING! Well maintained 3bd 2ba 1-story. Upd tile roof w/leaf-guard gutters, heat & air, windows. Gas water heater, plus solar hot water system. Skylight in dining area, solar tubes in kitchen & master bath. Abundant cabinet storage in hall & large laundry rm. Family rm, master ste & laundry rm all exit to an awesome backyard!

7461 Spicewood Dr Pending Sale!

1226 Noonan Dr Pending Sale!

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



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Amazing remodeled home in the Didion School Boundaries. New kitchen, electrical, baths, floors, windows, doors, paint in/out, baseboards, canned & designer lights, faucets, LED lights throughout, ceiling fans, landscaping, door/window castings, master closet, quartz counter top, farm house sink, designer tile floors and much more. Newer tile roof, close to river, separate living/fam rooms, private yd, covered patio, highly desired Greenhaven area. Seller spent top \$ and it shows. Wow!

6778 Park Riviera Way \$395,000



AMAZING REMODEL

Recently remodeled 3 bedroom 2 bath home in the Didion School boundaries. New kitchen, electrical, baths, floors, windows, doors, paint in and out, baseboards, lighting, (includes LED lights), ceiling fans, landscaping, quartz counter top, farm house sink, designer tile floors and much more. \$395,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



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



CRAFTSMANSHIP FROM A BYGONE ERA

Beautifully renovated from head to toe - The Didion House - Rich wood, fine detailing and spacious rooms. Historical in both style, heritage and culture. 4 bedrooms 2 full baths and 2 half baths with new kitchen, three floors, including media room, and a full basement. \$1,395,000

SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



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



PENDING

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. \$400,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



PENDING

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



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Traditional features include hardwood floors, beautiful front picture window, vaulted ceilings, gas fireplace, formal dining room, custom kitchen tile, one-of-a-kind decorative stairway, tile roof, dual pane windows and storage galore! 3 or 4 bedrooms 2 baths and drought tolerant landscaping! \$589,000

KELLIE SWAYNE 206-1458



SOLD

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



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Amazing opportunity! A special property across the road from the River on Sherman Island. Custom built ... it's the perfect home-away-from-home! Currently 1 bedroom, 1 bath; easily be converted back to a 2 bedroom home. Owner had plans to build up and create a river view. This is a kiteboarder or Windsurfers dream! \$205,900

JAMIE RICH 612-4000

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