

POCKET NEWS

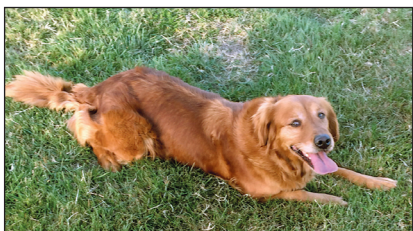
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A fond farewell to JFK's **CHAD SWEITZER**

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Neighborhood is on the lookout for Koda

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Riverside-Pocket area native barely recognizes the area today

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2709 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento,
CA 95818
t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

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Fond farewell to JFK principal Chad Sweitzer

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Students, staff and parents and the Pocket neighborhood will be soon saying farewell to John F. Kennedy High School principal Chad Sweitzer, as the longtime school leader will be moving to the district office to become a Sacramento City Unified School District Area Assistant Superintendent. His replacement was not known by press time.

A local grown success story, Sweitzer grew up in the Pocket neighborhood, graduated from Kennedy in 1990 and has been an administrator on campus for the past eight years. He will be finishing off the school year and transitioning into his new position this summer. Despite taking a position at the district office, he said that he expects to make regular visits back to Kennedy, since he will probably be supervising high schools and their feeder schools.

Sweitzer sat down with the Pocket News to discuss his career



Photo by Stephen Crowley

Chad Sweitzer will be leaving John F. Kennedy High School as principal this year for an area superintendent position at the district level.

See Farewell, page 8

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On search for a lost Golden Retriever, Koda

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

On Friday, April 24, two Golden Retrievers, Odie and Koda, belonging to Pocket residents Reyna and Leo got out through the back fence of their Pocket neighborhood

home. Relatively new to Sacramento, the family hails most previously from Yuba County's Plumas Lake, a rural area that provided much space for the pups to run around.

"Since then (Odie) has been trying to get out and explore. My husband tried to work on fixing the fence because it also needed to be reinforced. Odie got out a couple of times. I don't recall Koda ever following him until (that) Friday."

While both dogs got out at the same time, it was Odie that was found a few days later. "We found him by Nugget (in the Lake Crest Shopping Center). He apparently was trying to get into Starbucks. We asked if the gentleman who found him saw Koda," Reyna said.

But there was no sign of Koda who was nice and friendly but terrified of cars, so Reyna hypothesizes that Koda never followed Odie across Florin Road from their house.

Reyna has had Koda since puppy hood six years ago. Koda was trained in Oregon

at obedience school and will follow every command you tell her. Both of the dogs have chips but no tags. "They hated having stuff on their necks."

Search parties in the neighborhood and even in nearby communities like Elk Grove and South Land Park have been on the lookout for Koda. "My boyfriend and I have been looking every evening," Reyna said.

Reyna has alerted all vets and shelters and pet locations through website www.petharbor.com, reaching as far as Yuba City, Stockton and Granite Bay.

If Reyna finds Koda, she said she will never let her out again. "I will bring her to work. I have heard if I turn her into a service dog, I can bring her to work."

On the lookout for Koda

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Sex: Female
Color: Brown/reddish/apricot
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Photo courtesy

Rick Jennings lead townhall meetings where employers committed to hiring local veterans and youth.

Pocket Notes

By Councilmember Rick Jennings

Special to the Pocket News

A focus of my efforts, my council colleagues and Mayor Kevin Johnson is on the creation of jobs in our community. Increasing the number of jobs and diversifying our job base to expand beyond the twin pillars of government and real estate is a top priority. In support of that effort, Mayor Johnson through the U.S. Conference of Mayors, brought to Sacramento an innovative partnership to create jobs for our veterans and our youth entitled Solution City.

Solutions City is a partnership between the city of Sacramento and Starbucks to create 1,000 new jobs in our community. This innovative program is being piloted in five communities in the country. Sacramento is joined by Baltimore, Columbus, Orlando and Phoenix. Throughout the course of this pilot program, the mayor and my colleagues are convening town hall events in different Starbucks stores to share best practices and lessons learned. At the pilot's conclusion, Starbucks will open a Community Store in our city, dedicating a share of store revenue to the implementation of the Solutions city developed strategies.

There have been town hall meetings held November of 2014 and well as in February and March of 2015. I was honored to host the March town hall meeting in the

Pocket/Greenhaven community. Joining me at the town hall were Mayor Johnson and Councilmember Warren and over 50 attendees.

To achieve the goal of creating 1,000 new jobs for veterans and youth, Solutions City is striving to secure commitments for the 1,000 jobs by June, and the coalition has already made progress.

At the November 2014 town hall event, five employ-

ers stepped up and pledged to collectively hire 115 veterans or youth.

At the February 2015 town hall, seven employers pledged to collectively hire 222 veterans or youth.

And at the March 26, 2015 town hall that I had the honor of hosting in the Pocket/Greenhaven community, our employers pledged to collec-

See Pocket Notes, page 6

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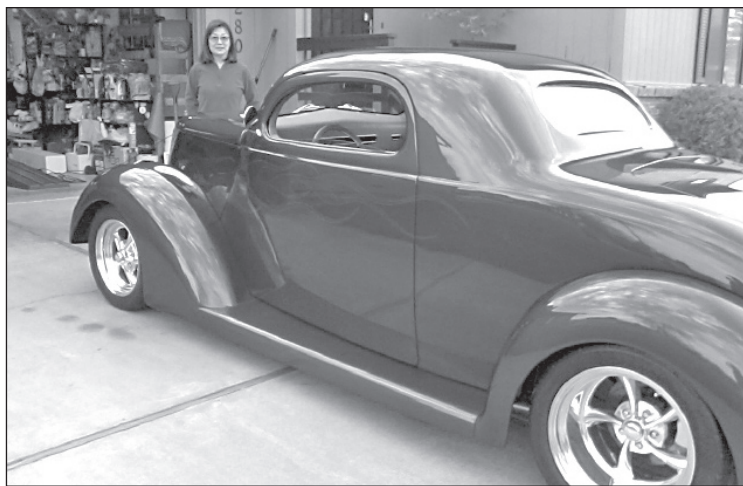
Meet and greet hotrods and classic cars

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Greenhaven resident and Illinois native Fred Wood, 71, has been a car guy since his grandfather Oroville Berga built him a miniature gas powered car when the then-youngin was just about 6 years old. "It had a shifter, brakes, lights. Every kid in my neighborhood learned to drive in my backyard," Fred

said. And now that car is in a museum in Illinois.

"I used it until I outgrew it. I have pictures of the thing. We started it from the ground up. It was a miniature automobile. (The Illinois town) had a centennial in 1952. We made a covered wagon behind (the miniature car) and won first prize. I drove it til I was 13, 14 years old, then I got into big cars. I'm 71 years old and have been play-



Fred Wood's 1930s Ford

ing with cars my whole life. It's a pretty normal story for those into cars." Over his lifetime, he's had a number of cars and was into drag racing and slingshot cars. He's also even built a stunt plane. "I built that in the garage. I've played with this stuff all my life," he says.

Still into cars, Fred is hoping to meet other Greenhaven/Pocket residents who have similar interests in cars, so he is helping organize a classic car and hotrod meet and greet on Sunday, June 7 at the Prudential Dunnigan Real Estate office (6355 Riverside Blvd.) parking lot from noon to 4 p.m.

"We know there's a lot of enthusiasm in this neighbor-

hood, but a lot of the cars stay in garages and never get out. (With the meet and greet) we want to see if we can get something going," he said.

If you go, you might get a glimpse of Fred's 1932 Ford Roadster and his 1937 Ford Coup. "They're both hotrods, and have had nice paint jobs," Fred says.

If you go:

What: Hotrod and classic car meet and greet

When: Sunday, June 7 from noon to 4 p.m.

Where: Prudential Dunnigan Real Estate office (6355 Riverside Blvd.) parking lot

Pocket Notes:

Continued from page 5

tively hire 316 jobs for veterans or youth.

eVerifile committed to hiring for 53 jobs.

California Health and Wellness committed to hiring for eight jobs.

Trovholz Technologies committed to hiring for five jobs.

Volt Workforce Solutions committed to hiring for 250 jobs.

In support of this hiring commitment, Volt Workforce Solutions held a job fair on April 4 at the Pannell Community Center at which 60 people were hired. I was honored to attend this event and welcome folks on behalf of the City. The effort resulted in the hiring of veterans and youth to work in manufacturing, production and customer service in our region.

The Mayor will host another town hall in June, where the Solutions City coalition will formally adopt a Solutions City Action Plan to guide our Community Store and initiative going forward. This plan, being finalized involves our workforce development partners. Working with Sacramento's community organizations to make sure we're helping these employers meet their hiring commitments. Since last summer, we've had the support of SETA, Los Rios Community College District, Work for Warriors, the California Employment Development Department, Sacramento State University, and many others, to build bridges between qualified job-seekers and the companies that want to hire them.

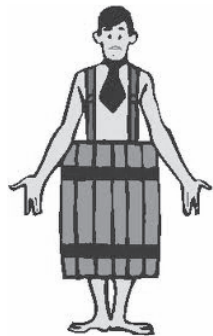
The focus of this collective effort is to:

- Grow our coalition of employers hiring veterans and opportunity youth
- Strengthen the connections between employers, job seekers and workforce developers
- Support the retention of those employed through this partnership
- Address barriers to employment
- Measure results through a uniform approach to track and evaluate progress

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Riverside-Pocket area native barely recognizes the area today

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is the second article in a three-part series about Riverside-Pocket area native Ed Mauricio.

The Riverside-Pocket area is certainly a much different place today than it was when Ed Mauricio grew up there from the early 1920s to the early 1940s.

During a recent interview with this publication, Mauricio, 92, shared various memories of his life, including his time residing in that area.

Mauricio commented about the contrast between that area during his childhood and how it presently appears.

"I don't hardly recognize (the area) today," Mauricio said. "It was all small, (Portuguese) farmers and Japanese farmers there. I recall we used to go out in the field there and pick the carrots and the beets or whatever and wipe them off and eat them raw. That was after my father passed when I was 5, and then my mother (who died five years later), I don't know, sold the place. I really don't remember if she sold it, but these Japanese (the Masuharas) took it over, so when they were farmers, we went over there. They didn't mind us going over and picking the vegetables."

One of the dominant features of the Riverside-Pocket area during Mauricio's youth was its levees.

After being asked to discuss how safe he felt the levees were back then, Mauricio said, "I don't recall any flooding in the area where we lived, but there was some seepage by the Sutter School (at the present day address of 4605 Karbet Way). But I don't remember any floods. There was seepage, but then they plugged it up. It never did reach the school. It was during the winter. I was too young to really worry about the levees and the seriousness of the situation. I went up there where it was pretty high."

"Somebody said that my father worked on the levees in between the farming, but I really couldn't say. But I really don't remember it myself."

In turning his attention to speaking about businesses that operated in the area during his youth, Mauricio said, "There was The Trap (at the present day address of 6125 Riverside Blvd., which was formerly known as Riverside Road). They called it the Ingleside Inn or something. I didn't go down there that much, except when I was older. In fact, I worked for the Curry boys one summer when I was going to high school on the hay press. And early in the morning, (Frank Curry) took me there and I had my first drink there. I was about maybe 15. That was at about 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. We were going down to somebody's farm to press some hay, bail the hay. The Currys lived right across the street from Faustine Silva, who had the slaughterhouse (which was located less than a half-mile from where Park Riviera branches off from the old Riverside Road). My uncle (Clarence Nevis) ended up buying the property from them. Beverly Espinosa (Clarence Nevis' niece and a cousin of Mauricio) later inherited the property."

"And there was Conley's (Riverside Cash Store, immediately south of the old Sutter School). I never went to Conley's so much. I went to Da Rosa's (grocery) store (about a half-mile south of Conley's store on the west side of the old Riverside Road). In fact, that's where we did most of our grocery shopping at Da Rosa's. I remember the old (Da Rosa's) grinding machine for coffee. They ground the coffee by hand. I remember going there, and I was lucky to get a nickel to buy candy. My uncle (worked at) the place. He was a very nice person, and very helpful to the family during the hardships and whatnot."

"(Da Rosa's grocery store) really wasn't that large. The one side was a grocery store and the other side was a bar."

After being asked whether his uncle ever gave him any free candy at Da Rosa's, Mauricio said, "If he did, I don't remember."

Mauricio was next asked if he saw many automobiles in the Riverside-Pocket area during his youth.

"Not often when I was a kid," Mauricio responded. "I remember the electric car would come from downtown and go back. There were two little, old ladies in the car. Even then I wondered why. Way back then, there's this (unique) looking electric car – the type they're talking about now, they had one way back then. It was a car, a square thing like the old Model T Fords, the 1926 Model T Ford how square they looked. This was an automobile and two old ladies drove it. It was just like a car, just like a Model T Ford, except it was electric. There were two little, old ladies going on their Sunday ride."

"I remember the horse and buggies. There were cars and still people who were driving the horse and buggies. The Martins had a horse and buggy. They are the only ones who I remember that had the horse and buggy. I remember the Martins, because they lived in the Pocket and they would come all the way to Da Rosa's grocery store."

Mauricio said that he remembers growing up on Riverside Road with various animals.

"Well, we had a cow and we had two or three hogs," Mauricio said. "We had two horses that we used to work the farm. Everything was horses and manual work. If we had a dog, I don't recall, and I don't know if we had cats (at his first home in a roadhouse on the old Riverside Road). But when we moved across the street (to the present day address of 5890 Riverside Blvd.), we had dogs. You could have animals (at the roadhouse), because I remember the neighbors having them. They (eventually) had cats and dogs, and I don't recall anybody having any birds."

As for performing chores and other work during his youth, Mauricio said, "We picked weeds around the house. And I would go to Gloria Seamas' (property) and pick weeds out of her garden for 10 cents an hour to earn money to go to a movie or whatnot. They had the dairy farm (Grangers' Dairy) there (in the area where Elks Lodge No. 6 meets today). And then when I went to



Photo courtesy of PHCS Ed Mauricio (left) stands next to his brother, Herman (center), and his neighborhood friend, Marvin Silva, on the old Riverside Road in about 1929.

high school, my counselor in high school helped me out after school by letting me pick weeds in her garden. She paid me a little money that way. It wasn't much money, but enough to have some fun with."

Mauricio said that he enjoyed going to movies during his Riverside-Pocket days, and he fondly recalled attending his first movie.

"My first movie, my Uncle Clarence (Nevis) took me," Mauricio said. "I remember the train. I about jumped out of my pants when a train was coming at me through the screen. That was downtown, but I can't remember the name of the movie. It wasn't (at) the Senator or the Hippodrome (theaters). I was about 7 years old. That was the first movie I had ever seen."

Mauricio also recalled going to the river, and becoming involved in an adventure that did not meet the approval of his mother.

"We used to get in the rowboat, and as the Delta King or the Delta Queen (luxury steamers) went by, I would go out there with my brothers," Mauricio said. "They did the rowing, because they were older than I was. We would go behind the swells. When we got home, my mother got so angry that she whipped my brothers. I thought it was fun."

In addition to spending time with his brothers, Mauricio also enjoyed the company of some of his neighborhood friends.

In remembering some of his friends from the Riverside-Pocket area, Mauricio said, "Well, Marvin (Silva) and I did a lot of things together. The Japanese kids who lived next door, we did a lot of things together.

(The Japanese neighbors) had four or five kids.

"I was kind of disappointed when they started taking (the Japanese) to the (internment) camps. I couldn't see anything wrong with them. I always wondered why the Japanese, not the Italians, not the Germans."

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Farewell:

Continued from page 3

thus far, why he is leaving Kennedy as the school's principal and his long-term goals.

"I graduated from here and have been here for eight years as an administrator. I have been asked several times to go to the district office. I feel like I have a lot to offer other administrators, so hopefully it would be a good fit. I'm definitely not looking forward to leaving. I love working with the kids and the staff here.

"I've been informally asked before. And I've said no. (But now) I just figure it's time. My kids are older now, so I have a little more flexibility. The hard part is always going to be missing the students and the staff; they're just outstanding. I guess it's just nostalgic to walk around and know that I went to school here and hopefully brought back some of the great traditions of the things that are going on here."

Sweitzer knew at some point early in his career that his days at Kennedy were limited, despite his love for the school and the Pocket/Greenhaven community. His love for education, in general, however is unwavering. "I knew I would (leave Kennedy as principal) at some point. I still have 20 years to go. I will definitely retire from education. I love working in this field, but I knew I couldn't stay here forever."

Though he currently lives in Elk Grove and his two children attend Pleasant Grove High School, Sweitzer hopes to stay in the Sacramento Unified School District for the rest of his career. "I enjoy working in Sacramento. My roots are here. Growing up in Greenhaven and going to the schools that fed into Kennedy, I enjoy working for the district. There are a lot of great people. I believe in the initiatives that are going on, too."

That said, he has met the new superintendent, José Banda, and has re-

alized their backgrounds are alike. "We were on a similar path. He was a high school counselor and high school principal as well. So, we have a similar career path and I look forward to working with him."

Asked if he ever has ambitions to lead the school district as superintendent, Sweitzer chuckled, but said, "I still have 20 years to go. Maybe that's a goal to have in mind, to work for an assistant superintendent, and learn more about district operations versus the site operations and see if that's in my future."

Sweitzer started his career in 2001 as a counselor and athletic director for three years at Luther Burbank High School, followed by three years as assistant principal at JFK, after which time he became the principal at Sutter Middle School before returning to Kennedy as the school's principal.

Discussing the campus culture over his years as an administrator at JFK, Sweitzer said the school had 2,600 students, compared to today's 2,200. "We had a lot of students at that time that, simply put, weren't here for an education. They were here for hanging out, enjoying the good life. So we are really making sure that the kids that are staying here on campus have academics in mind, preparing for graduations. We have a great attendance rate. We are almost at 98 percent. Regarding the climate, I think we've done a lot of things to improve the climate. There's a test, California Healthy Kids survey, it's a climate control survey and my first year we took the results from that and a lot of it was perceptions of safety. The two biggest ones that stand out were: Am I safe on campus? Is there someone on campus that cares for me? So we have made a push to have caring relationships between the students and the staff. I talk about relationships every summer about how it goes a long ways, having the trust of the kids, having them feel safe in class, letting them know that somebody on campus cares for them. We don't re-

ally have a lot of fights on campus, gang problems. We really tried to change that perception. Back when I was a VP, there were a lot of fights, a lot of gang problems. So I think we have really cleaned up that perception. I know gangs are out there; I know drugs are out there. We really just try to convey the message, 'Don't do it here on campus. We can't control what you do on the weekends, but don't do it here. This is a safe spot. You're here to get an education. You're here to go to school, not get into trouble.'"

But to say that the successes at Kennedy are based on perception alone would be unfair.

Athletics are winning again. Baseball won its first championship in more than a decade. Sweitzer brought back the homecoming parade, a newly added (2013) annual parade right after the bell rings the Friday afternoon of the big game.

And this school year the school's pride has only been lifted to greater heights after the grand opening of the new Cougar Stadium.

And asked about what he considers his biggest accomplishments, Sweitzer said it was simply getting neighborhood kids to attend Kennedy and to raise the daily attendance. "One of the biggest things I wanted to do here was I realized that a lot of kids from our attendance area were leaving and going to other schools. All encompassed in that is raising the academic level. I think they go to school for academics, safety and extracurriculars. Encompassed in all of that our enrollment has gone up every year and we've tracked the data and it's primarily our neighborhood kids who are staying here and not going to other campuses. I think when you have good instruction going on, a great climate where kids what to be - that's my memory of (being a student at) Kennedy - that they are prepared for college and life and they are having a good time doing it. It's kind of a simple concept."

In his new position, Sweitzer said he hopes to reproduce the successful methods that have been implemented at Kennedy and use them at other district high schools. Working to make Sam Brannan Middle School a direct feeder to Kennedy has proved to be a successful venture, as he's been instrumental in bringing over sixth graders from Brannan to Kennedy for plays and band productions and hosting the middle schoolers for Cougar Day, a day in which the younger students can see the high school in action.

Called Sacramento Pathways to Success, the feeder school idea actually takes root at the elementary school level and getting those schools to feed into Sam Brannan with Kennedy as the end result. "A lot of it is customer service, dealing with people, providing support for the sites," he said.

Sacramento Pathways to Success is modeled after a program in Long Beach where the local district's youngest children - kindergarteners - have the opportunity to go on a college tour. As he further explains the program, Sweitzer said, "a lot of (Sacramento Pathways to Success) is stolen from another program. As educators we're constantly stealing from each other what works, trying to make that work on your campus and doing what's best for the kids."

Suffice to say, Sweitzer is leaving big shoes to fill for the next principal. The JFK principal job opening was posted on April 30 and will be up for two weeks. Generally when an administrator is hired, an area superintendent (which will be one of Sweitzer's future jobs) will come out and host community meetings, getting input from students, staff, parents and community members about what qualities they want to see in an administrator.

Updates on the new principal will be presented in this publication as they are announced.

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Freeport Renovation on the Move raised \$483 at teen rummage sale

Photo by MONICA STARK

On Saturday, April 18 Freeport Renovation On the Move raised \$483 at a teen rummage sale at the Belle Cooledge Library parking lot. Proceeds from FROM fundraisers benefit the Freeport Manor subdivision where the Community Skate Plaza in Freeport Manor is slated to be completed by the end of summer, reports community organizer Kathi Windheim.

Freeport Manor is a special neighborhood where a core group of families have lived for many generations including descendants of the Moore family. The Evelyn Moore Community Center was named after the late community activist and matriarch Evelyn More during the 1970s. Her daughters Barbara and Sherie are on the FROM Board; Barbara has been the President for several years now.

"It was exciting when New Tech High School opened almost a decade ago in the former Thurgood Marshall School school site. The site was totally redone with New Tech being part of the wave of the SCUSD e21 schools built with money from both the Carnegie and Gates Foundations. Many of the New Tech students do community service projects to enhance the community and the fitness stations as well as Community Skate Plaza are part of those efforts," said Windheim.

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Keeping cats safe from household dangers

By LEIGH STEPHENS

In addition to my husband (Bob-Cat), I live with "Bo" and his little kitty sister, "Molly." I am constantly amazed when "Bo" can dig out a rubber band from the bottom of a paper-stuffed trashcan. "Molly" carries around strings and faux rat-tails that can also be dangerous to cats if swallowed. After raising and keeping four children alive to adulthood, our kitty family has now become the new challenge.

The U.S. Humane Society currently reports that the number of cats owned is 95.6 million. The American Veterinary Medical Society reports that 28.3 percent of California households own a cat. Keeping kitty safe and healthy is a primary concern with pet owners. Thousands of cats are poisoned or killed each year by simple items we use on a daily basis in and around our homes.

In 2014, the American Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) listed the most dangerous items.

Human prescriptions, over-the-counter medications, and veterinary medications

How many times have you dropped a pill on the floor and couldn't find it?

See Cat safety, page 11

Spotlight on a local vet

Dr. Lisa LaChioma joined the Freeport Blvd. Mueller Pet Medical Center in 2011. She is a 2005 graduate of the University of California Davis Veterinary Medicine. In her third year at Davis, she received an Army scholarship with a monthly stipend.

She says that during her senior year, the Army sent her for additional training to Hawaii where she worked on Oahu at different veterinary clinics. She also trained at the Armed Force Institute of Pathology in Washington, DC.

The doctor says she grew up on a little "Old MacDonald" farm where they had a few sheep, goats, ducks, chickens, a cow, two horses, a dog and a cat.

With a mother who was a nurse and a father who sold pharmaceuticals, she

grew up in a home where medicine was a common topic. She says she always wanted to be a doctor and eventually settled on veterinary practice.

During her four years' service in the Army, Dr. LaChioma says, "My first assignment was as an intern at the military working dog center. All I saw were mostly Belgian Malinois and German Shepherds, although we did have one Jack Russell terrier that was trained to search for drugs and explosives in very tight spaces in submarines."

LaChioma says currently in treating cats she sees mostly lily ingestion, "Lilies cause acute renal failure in cats, and why they are so attracted to them is beyond me. I did treat one cat who got into marijuana, which left him stoned..."



Photos courtesy

Veterinarian Dr. Lisa LaChioma.

In 2014, she and her husband welcomed a little girl, Valentina, to their family of cats, "Adidas" and "Kitty," awesome big kitty brothers.

"Adidas" was the doctor's first orphan kitten that she bottle fed in her first year of veterinary school. She says, "He is a black tabby who weighs 22 pounds. He has been on every diet known and still refuses to lose weight."

Her husband found "Kitty" when he lived in Iowa. The adult cat was behind a dumpster in the middle of winter and had a BB pellet in his head and all four paws declawed.

Dr. LaChioma says, "Baby Valentina loves the kitties but they are terrified of her. They do let her pet them, but when she gets to be too much, they just run. She isn't fast enough to get them yet."

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Cat safety:

Continued from page 10

Also, don't keep tubes of ointment or creams sitting out because cats can and will bite into them. There are more than 6,900 non-prescription medical products sold in stores. This includes herbal and other natural supplements.

Seven percent of the total cases of pet poisoning in 2014 was vet-prescribed medicines.

Insecticides and rodenticides

Keep cats away when you spray for insects. Animals who ingest rat poison can display bleeding, seizures or kidney damage and can die. Cats that eat poisoned rodents can also die.

Household items

Who would think that avocados, onions, garlic, mushrooms, grapes, raisins, apples or apricots (stems, leaves, seeds contain cyanide) could be toxic to your cat? Also dangerous are coffee, caffeine, macadamia nuts, yeast dough, raw uncooked meats, raw eggs, tomato, potato and rhubarb leaves and stems. Chocolate ingestion make up 6 percent of the 2014 calls to the ASPCA poison control center – the darker the chocolate, the more poisonous to animals.

Plants

Many household plants are toxic such as azaleas, rhododendrons, and all kinds of lilies. While some toxins cause vomiting and stomach distress, others such as ingested lilies can lead to death within four to seven days. Lawn and garden products like fertilizer can be a problem because cats walk through them and then clean their paws.

Dr. James Barr, a professor at Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine says, "Lilies when eaten have a strange effect on cats. They cause kidney failure that is particularly difficult to treat."

Veterinarian Dr. Lisa LaChioma of the Mueller Pet Medical Center says, "Know what is toxic and if your cat would be attracted to it. Keeping it out of reach is the most important thing!"

Additional hazards include: antifreeze (tastes sweet); drain cleaners; pool chemicals, toilet cleanser cakes that drain into the water; xylitol found in chewing gum, candy, baked goods, and toothpaste; marijuana and alcohol; liquid potpourri; mothballs; Christmas tree water (bacteria and fertilizer); topical dog flea and tick medications.

Take the same precautions with your cat as you would with your child. Anything that can be ingested should be stored properly. Never let your pet rummage through garbage or trashcans, or eat raw bones or moldy food. Don't let wet food sit out for a long period of time. **Caution** is the key.

Dr. LaChioma says, "If you suspect your pet has ingested or breathed in anything poisonous, immediately call your vet and/or call ASPCA poison control at 1-888-426-4435."

Leigh Stephens is a retired journalism professor from CSUS.

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Pocket Library May events

May 7, at 10:15 a.m.

Baby/Toddler Stay & Play at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5))

Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

"Stay and Play" is an unstructured social time for babies and toddlers (ages 0 and up!--older siblings are welcome as long as everyone can play nicely together) and their caretakers. Developmental toys and board books will be available. These informal play sessions will be immediately followed by a storytime for babies and toddlers (ages 0-3 years) and their caretakers/families except on the last Tuesday of each month when we have a special performance by Mister Cooper instead. Partially funded by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

May 7, at 11 a.m.

Baby/Toddler Storytime for ages 0-3 at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5))

Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

A combined toddler and baby storytime in which babies and toddlers (ages 0 to 3 years) and their caretakers are invited to join us for songs and rhymes in this language enrichment program designed to boost brain development. Please also note that on

the last Tuesday of each month we'll have a special musical performance by Mr. Cooper instead of storytime.

May 8, at 9:30 a.m.

In Creative Company @ Pocket Library (Adult)
Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

In Creative Company is a series of watercolor classes geared toward older adults (55+). Artist Kathy Lemke Waste will demonstrate wetting and stretching paper how to create a basic wash how to set up your palette and more in this introduction to watercolor. Art supplies will be provided. Classes meet Fridays at 9:30 am beginning May 1. Additional class meetings are May 8 15 & 29; June 5 12 19 & 26. Class size is limited and participants must commit to attending the entire series. Teaching artist Kathy Waste teaches workshops for the Crocker Art Museum and is an Artist in Residence for the Sacramento County Office of Education. She has taught Communication Studies in California's state college and university system. Participants and their families and friends will be invited to a culminating art show and reception on Sunday August 2 at 1 pm in the Library Galleria at the Central Library. Creative Aging in America's

Libraries is supported by a National Leadership Grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services in collaboration with Lifetime Arts Inc. AARP Foundation American Library Association and Westchester Library System.

Registration is Required

May 8, at 1 p.m.

Knit Together! - Pocket Library (Adult)

Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

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

May 9, at 10 a.m.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting at Pocket Library (Teen)

Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

Please note that this month's TAB meeting will take place on the SECOND SATURDAY of the month and will be in the TEEN ROOM. Interested in community service leadership opportunities and fun? TAB is all about teens creating their own

service projects--whether that means organizing fun programs for teens (think gaming tournaments and movie nights) or other community outreach projects. Join us for an informal meeting as we plan out our future ventures. Bonus: TAB looks *great* on your college applications. Partially funded by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

May 9, at 2 p.m.

Collaborative Group Art Activity with ArtBeast - Pocket Library (Family/All Ages)

Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

We'll all be working together to create some fantastic art that will be displayed on the walls of our library. The details of this project are a secret (shh!) but you can be sure that ArtBeast has planned something fun and creative for us.

May 12, at 10:15 a.m.

Baby/Toddler Stay & Play at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5))

Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

"Stay and Play" is an unstructured social time for babies and toddlers (ages 0 and up!--older siblings are welcome as long as everyone can play nicely together) and their caretakers. Developmental toys and board

See Library events, page 14



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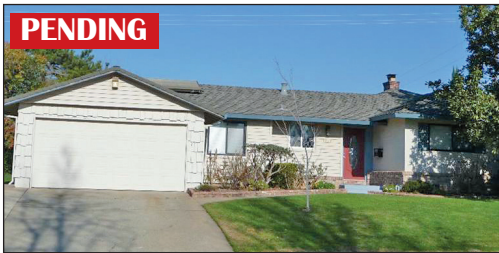
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Library events:

Continued from page 12

books will be available. These informal play sessions will be immediately followed by a storytime for babies and toddlers (ages 0-3 years) and their caretakers/families except on the last Tuesday of each month when we have a special performance by Mister Cooper instead. Partially funded by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

May 12, at 11 a.m.

Baby/Toddler Storytime for ages 0-3 at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5))
Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

A combined toddler and baby storytime in which babies and toddlers (ages 0 to 3 years) and their caretakers are invited to join us for songs and rhymes in this language enrichment program designed to boost brain development. Please also note that on the last Tuesday of each month we'll have a special musical performance by Mr. Cooper instead of storytime.

May 12, at 11:25 a.m.

Books @ Lunch: Middle School Book Group at Pocket Library (Teen)
Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

7th and 8th graders are invited to talk about books over lunch. This program is scheduled to coincide with the School of Engineering and Sciences' high school lunch period

but homeschoolers are also welcome to join! The high school book group will usually take place inside the Community Room but if we're not in there look for us inside the Teen Room. Sponsored in part by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

May 12, at 12:30 p.m.

Books @ Lunch: High School Book Group at Pocket Library (Teen)
Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

9th-12th graders are invited to talk about books over lunch. This program is scheduled to coincide with the School of Engineering and Sciences' high school lunch period

May 12, at 3:30 p.m.

Homework Zone @ Pocket Library (Family/All Ages)
Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library
7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

Free homework help for grades 1 through 8 on a drop-in basis Tuesdays 3:30-5:30pm in the community

See Events, page 15



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Events:

Continued from page 14

room and Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm inside the kids' area of the library. Please note that March 31 and April 1 fall over Spring Break and thus we will not have Homework Zone that week. This program is made possible with the help of volunteers and is subject to cancellation depending on their availability. If you would like to volunteer as a Homework Coach (and help us to keep our program running so we can help more kids!) feel free to inquire for more information at the front desk.

May 13, at 5:30 p.m.

Homework Zone at Pocket Library (School Age (6-12)) Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

Trained volunteers serve as Homework Coaches and Teen Mentors to students in grades 1-8 offering free homework assistance in all subject areas. Adults and teens interested in becoming part of our Homework Zone team are encouraged to speak with the Youth Services librarian at the front desk. This program is made possible with the help of volunteers and is subject to cancellation depending on their availability. If you would like to volunteer as a Homework Coach (and help us to keep our program running so we can help more kids!) feel free to inquire for more information at the front desk.

May 14, at 10:15 a.m.

Baby/Toddler Stay & Play at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5)) Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento

"Stay and Play" is an unstructured social time for babies and toddlers (ages 0 and up!--older siblings are welcome as long as everyone can play nicely together) and their caretakers. Developmental toys and board books will be available. These informal play sessions will be immediately followed by a storytime for babies and toddlers (ages 0-3 years) and their caretakers/families except on the last Tuesday of each month when we have a special performance by Mister Cooper instead. Partially funded by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.



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Bond of Brotherhood has inspired Gay Men's Chorus through 30 years

By BONNIE OSBORN
Special to the Pocket News

As they count down the days until their one-night-only 30th anniversary concert spectacular, Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus members are thinking about where they began and how far they've come.

On May 8, the chorus will present "Milestones: Our Journey Continues" before its largest audience, in the largest venue, of its 30-year history, Sacramento's Memorial Auditorium—a far cry from the group's first concert in spring 1985, performed at tiny St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 15th and J.

"I'm proud of the artistic quality that has evolved under Musical Director Steven Johnson and heartened to find how many men who love to sing have found a home with the chorus," said former state Assemblyman and cable industry executive Dennis Mangers of Carmichael, a founding member of the chorus, although he no longer sings with the group. "I am also gratified to find that the environment for the LGBT community has changed to the point where gay men and their straight allies in music are comfortable now calling themselves a 'gay' chorus. Such was not the case 30 years ago, when we were at risk in our employment and subject to other forms of discrimination."

Indeed, the chorus name was a topic of debate off and on for years. Members of a Sacramento gay men's social and networking group, Pillars, attended a concert of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, founded in 1978, which sparked the idea to start a Sacramento gay men's chorus, recalls founding member David Kwong of Natomas, who continues to sing with the chorus.

Some wanted the new chorus to be identified as gay; others, including several who worked as teachers, were fearful of losing their jobs. In the end the group was named Sacramento Men's Chorus. "Even though by our statement, our programs, our supporters, everybody knew it was a gay group, our name allowed us the opportunity to be to work with the larger musical and arts community," Kwong says, noting that the chorus has performed with the Sacramento Choral Society, the Sacramento Philharmonic, Sacramento Ballet and Sacramento Opera as well as at senior centers and LGBT community events over the years. "There were straight members of the chorus then, and there are now," Kwong says.

"I don't think we thought about politics going into it," says Frank Lasso-Lawler of Arden-Arcade, founding member and three-time president of the chorus. "It really was a shelter, a place for people to socialize, have fun and sing."

Twenty-five to 30 men attended the first rehearsals in fall 1984, in an old building in Oak Park then owned by Metropolitan Community Church. There were springs beneath the floor of the second-floor ballroom floor, Kwong remembers, and you sank when you walked across it.

The group did a lot of cabaret shows in the early days, Lasso-Lawler says, performing at Garbeau's Dinner Theatre, closed in 2009 but recently reopened; audience members threw flowers and candy onto the stage.

After rehearsals the group would often gather at Alhambra Fuel and Transport, where someone would play piano and they would sing, Lasso-Lawler recalls. "They gave us free drinks as long as we were singing," he says.

Or sometimes it was the Spaghetti Factory for an after-rehearsal meal, where, waiting out-



Photo courtesy of Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus Archives

This historic photo of the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus was taken circa 1985 in front of the state capitol with some of the group's founding members, including Frank Lasso-Lawler who is shown in the back row, the first on the left. Dennis Mangers is shown 14th from the left and David Kwong is 23rd from left (or fourth from right). The chorus is celebrating its 30 year anniversary with a concert on May 8 at Sacramento Memorial Auditorium at 8 p.m.

side for a table, they would break into a doo-wop number, and the restaurant would open the doors to let the sound inside. Later they would be inundated with requests to sing at the tables of diners who were celebrating birthdays. Following the first concerts at St. Paul's, chorus members would treat the audience to cookies and champagne. "We didn't sing as well back then but we sure had a lot of fun," Lasso-Lawler says.

But the chorus's early years were also the beginning years of the AIDS crisis. More than 50 chorus members have been lost to HIV/AIDS, including two founding members instrumental in starting the chorus, Steve Mabs and Rick Whitnah. "I think to most members, the chorus is our family," Kwong says. "When we lose a chorus member we all feel it."

The chorus has ranged in size over the years from just 18 singers to its current 70-voices-strong. As it grew, it improved in musical quality and became known for creative productions combining a classical choral sound with professional-quality lighting and staging, exuberant choralography, costumes, and small-ensemble skits. Steven Johnson, who became musical director in 2012, further professionalized the group and pushed it to sell out performances in larger venues, such as Sacramento's Crest Theater.

The May 8 Milestones show pulls out all the stops, featuring guest performances by operatic soprano Carrie Hennessey, the Sacramento Children's Chorus and Aerial Evolution. AMP'D Entertainment's Arteen Kharrat, which counts the Golden Globe Awards and the Oscars among his clients, designed lighting for the production. Rob

Stewart of KVIE's "Rob on the Road" will serve as master of ceremonies.

The 30-year milestone has prompted many of the chorus members to reflect on how not only the chorus but society have changed. "Thirty years ago not that many people knew someone who was gay," Kwong says. "Once you know someone, it becomes more personal, you lose the fear."

"Enjoying the sound of a chorus singing is such a common denominator among all people. When people can accept that the sound of singing is good, it helps tie communities together. Whether a person is gay or not is not a factor anymore."

Lasso-Lawler has detected a change in audience reaction. "We are appreciated for different reasons now," he says. "There were a lot of times in the early years when the audience would come out afterwards and say, 'That was nice.' Now to see the audiences walking out with excitement and high energy, I get a feeling of electricity."

For the chorus members themselves, the love of singing is important, but it is being part of something larger than themselves that keeps them coming back. "At one of our recent rehearsals we talked about why we joined," Lasso-Lawler says. "It always comes back to the brotherhood, the support we give each other."

The one-time-only performance of Milestones will be Friday, May 8, 8 p.m., at Memorial Auditorium, 1515 J Street, Sacramento. Tickets are \$25 general admission, \$40 VIP seating, and may be purchased online at www.sacgaymenschorus.org/, at the Gifted Gardener, 1730 J Street; or from any chorus member.

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CALENDAR

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MAY

Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock

May 7: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket. Bring your leashed dog. Enjoy S'mores compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

The Theodore Judah Community Theater presents School House Rock!

May 8-9: The Theodore Judah Community Theater presents 'School House Rock!' on Friday, May 8 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, May 9 at 3 p.m. at Theodore Judah Elementary, 3919 McKinley Blvd. Adults are \$5, children are \$2; children age 3 and younger are free. Light refreshments are available for purchase. Proceeds benefit Theodore Judah Arts Program.

Fire Station 2 Open House

May 9: Fire Station 2, located at 1229 I St., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Stigma Free 2015 event at the Clunie Community Center

May 9: From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. enjoy a Sacramento youth celebration recognizing mental health from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Clunie Community Center at McKinley Park, 601 Alhambra Blvd. There will be music from 102.5 KFSM, spoken word performances, a scavenger hunt, selfie station, raffle prizes and more. Presented by Sacramento County's "Mental Illness: It's not always what you think" project, this event is free to the public. To RSVP, email info@stopstigmatasacramento.org and for more information, visit www.stopstigmatasacramento.org.

Music at noon free concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church

May 13: Bring your lunch and enjoy fine music. This week there will be music featuring violinist Lubo Velickovic, and pianist Dmitriy Cogan. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 1300 N St.

Audubon Program to highlight loss and recovery of Central Valley Wetlands

May 15: The story of the loss and recovery of waterbird habitat in the Central Valley will be told by CSU Stanislaus Associate Professor Philip Garone at the May 15 meeting of the Sacramento Audubon Society. The 7 p.m. meeting will be at Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park (For directions, see sacnaturecenter.com). There will be no charge for the program or parking, and no park-entry fee. Professor Garone teaches environmental history and is the author of several publications, including *The Fall and Rise of the Wetlands of California's Great Central Valley* (UC Press 2011). For the first 100 years of statehood, the original four million acres or so of permanent and seasonal wetlands in the Central Valley was "reclaimed" to a fraction of its size and converted to agriculture, Professor Garone notes. But in the second half of the 20th Century and into the present we have been protecting and restoring – rather than destroying – Valley wetlands. The different ways this came about in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and some of the challenges still facing us, will be the main thrust of his presentation, Professor Garone states.

Fairytale Town presents a day of "Farms, Friends & Fairytales"

May 16: From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., join Fairytale Town for a fun-filled celebration of farm animals and agriculture! At 11 a.m.

See more Calendar, page 20



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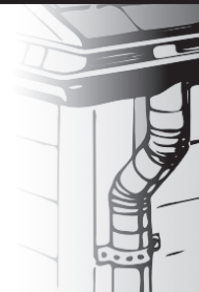
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CALENDAR

Continued from page 19

and 1 p.m. watch Fairytale Town's Babydoll sheep get sheared and the wool spun into yarn using an old fashioned spinning wheel. Plus, participate in agriculture-themed hands-on activities, and visit with local area farms and organizations. This program is free with paid park admission. Weekend admission is \$5.50 for adults and children ages 2 and older. Children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit fairytalestown.org or call 808-7462. Sponsored by Whole Foods Market and SAFE Credit Union. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

Free Community Safety Event for Children/Parents

May 16: To keep kids safe over the summer months it's important to share safety awareness, self-defense and strategies to avoid conflicts including bullying. So, Robinson's Taekwondo will be offering a free one-hour safety clinic to bring parents and children together to learn and practice being safe together, including easy escapes from grabs and anti-bully roleplaying families can share. With many parents working and the kids out of school many are often more vulnerable to

bullying, playground assault or potential victims of predators. Safety in our community comes from raising awareness and giving children and families the tools they need to cope. Robinson's Taekwondo at 1 p.m. Registration is required and space limited. Register online at: <http://www.robinsonstkd.com/tickets> to reserve your place and find a participating location in the Sacramento region. Call 1-888-249-7853 for more information.

Fire Station 6 Open House

May 16: Fire Station 6, located at 3301 MLK Jr. Blvd., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

'Haute Stuff', a benefit fashion show and marketplace for the Sacramento Children's Home

May 17: From noon to 4 p.m., enjoy a marketplace of fashion, home, and lifestyle temptations. There will be local food and wines as well as a fashion show of Haute trends. Even benefits the Sacramento Children's Home. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.kidshome.org/events. Event will be held at Jardin Rue Estate, 4475 Garden Highway.

Free band concert

May 18: The Sacramento Concert Band will present a free Spring concert at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Community Church, 5025 Manzanita Ave., in Carmichael. The concert by the 50-piece band will include "Colonel Bogey" (theme from the movie "Bridge Over the River Kwai"), "Marche Militaire Francaise", and a medley of tunes by Jule Styne ("The Par-ty's Over", "People", and "Don't Rain on My Parade"). The band has been performing in the Sacramento area since 1969. There is no charge for the concert, but donations will be accepted. For more information, visit the band's web site: www.sacramentoconcert-band.net. Come and enjoy the music!

Sacramento Guitar Society Orchestra spring concert

May 19: A 3 p.m. spring concert with the Sacramento Guitar Society Orchestra directed by Sean O'Connor and guest artists including Live Oak Waldorf School in Auburn's Guitar Class directed by Nan Shaw will occur at Capistrano Hall, Room 151, California State University, Sacramento. Donations accepted.

Music at noon free concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church

May 20: Bring your lunch and enjoy fine music. This week there will be music featuring jazz guitarist Doug Pauly and Friends. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 1300 N St.

What: Grinding Holes to Cattle Brands History Hike

May 23: The Sacramento Valley Conservancy's featured monthly history hike at Deer Creek Hills is the Grinding Holes to Cattle Brands, scheduled from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come travel a new trail with Deer Creek Hill's historian David Scharlach as he points out evidence of prior residence to Sacramento's largest open space preserve. Put your boots onto the soil where Native Americans hunted and chanted songs to the early hours, where European trappers took beaver, where Californios were rewarded for their services, where miners scoured the gulches for a bit of color and, finally, ranchers grazed their sheep and cattle. Good for all ages. Cost is \$10. Register online: www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp

Woodland and Pond Birding

May 23: The Sacramento Valley Conservancy invites you to participate to a docent guided Pond Birding at Deer Creek Hills from 7 to 11 a.m. Volunteer Birding Docents Thomas Baumann and Lisa Couper will guide and lead you on cattle paths at this open space preserve. You'll observe birding activity at stock ponds and seasonal creeks, as you take shelter along the edge of the oak woodland canopy. Late departing migratory birds can be seen and heard, as well as the activity of the year-round birds of Deer Creek Hills. Hushed tones, walking and stopping are the best ways to bird watch on this outing. Wear "quiet" warm, muted earth-tone colors, sturdy boots for

uneven surfaces. Cotton or wool fabrics are considered "quiet" and work great! Birding scopes, binoculars and/or cameras, are highly recommended for any birding outing. The event is good for all ages. The cost is \$10. Register online: www.sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/calendar.asp

Auditions for Sacramento Youth Symphony's 2015-2016 season

May 23, 24, 30, 31: If you play brass, woodwinds, percussion, or strings then you're invited to join the award-winning Sacramento Youth Symphony, the Sacramento area's premier youth organization for musicians (ages 6-21)! SYS has orchestras and ensembles for every level, from beginning through advanced. Online applications are available at www.sacramentoyouthsymphony.org, and are due by late April. Auditions will be held on May 23 and 24 and May 30 and 31. Full merit-based scholarships available for select instruments (must apply before April 10)! Call Robert at 731-5777 for details.

Music at noon free concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church

May 27: Bring your lunch and enjoy fine music. This week there will be music featuring violinist Igor Veligan and pianist Natsuki Fukasawa. Upcoming concert information and "printed" programs can be accessed from www.musicatnoon.org. Westminster Presbyterian Church is located at 1300 N St.

See more Calendar, page 21

— EVENT LISTING SECTION —

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Calendar

Continued from page 20

Fire Station 8 Open House

May 30: Fire Station 8, located at 5990 H St., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

JUNE

Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock

June 4: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket. Bring your leashed dog. Enjoy S'mores compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

Fire Station 5 Open House

June 6: Fire Station 5, located at 731 Broadway, will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

The Folsom Symphony presents: Sport Night at the Symphony

June 6 and 7: Narrated as a sports event, the symphony presents a Monday Night Football theme, featuring Bizet's "March of the Toreadors" (Carmen), Reineke's "Casey at the Bat", themes from Rocky, Chariots of Fire, and Brian's Song, Williams' "Olympic Fanfare and Theme", Peter Schickele/PDQ Bach's hilarious version of the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. Harris Center for the Arts, 10 College Parkway. The Saturday, June 6 show starts at 7:30 p.m. and the Sunday, June 7 starts at 2 p.m. For more information, visit www.folsomsymphony.com or call 608-6888. Tickets range from \$20 to \$55 depending on location.

A theater performance "Anansi, The Spider" to be held at Fairytale Town

June: 6 and 7: Show times are 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. In the jungles of Africa lives a tiny spider known as Anansi. Believ-

ing the children of Earth need stories to tell each other, he begins a quest to get the golden box of stories from Nyami, the sky god. This story is presented by The Puppet Company using hand and rod puppets with authentic African music, colorful costuming and classical African design. Tickets are \$2 for nonmembers in addition to park admission, and \$1 for members. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call 808-7462. Sponsored by ScholarShare College Savings Plan. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

Film showing about Sutter's birth place, Kandern

June 12: At 7 p.m., Peter Volker from Kandern will be in Sacramento at the Turn Verein to show a film about Kandern, which is not only the birthplace of General Sutter, but in 1848 there was a fight at Kandern where the first "Republicans" (i.e. students etc.) were demanding and fighting for establishing a "Republic of Baden." When they were defeated many of them fled across the Rhine-river and then to the USA. They founded many "Turnvereine" in America. After the film, Peter will have a discussion and answer questions. This is a project of a partnership between Sacramento and Kandern. Those interested in this project are invited to join the meeting at the www.sacramentoturnverein.com

Fire Station 12 Open House

June 13: Fire Station 12, located at 4500 24th St., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock

June 18: Come Relax at Camp Pollock! Concert will feature a relaxing musical experience on Sacramento's American River Parkway. Concerts start at 6 and continue until 8 p.m. Bring your own picnic basket and blanket. Bring your leashed dog. Enjoy S'mores compliments of Sierra Service Project! The events are hosted by the Sacramento Valley Conservancy. For more information, contact sacramentovalleyconservancy.org or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

Family Campout at Fairytale Town

Friday, June 19 5:30 p.m. through Saturday, June 20 at 7 a.m.: Spend the night in

Fairytale Town's storybook park. This exciting overnight adventure includes a theater performance, arts and crafts activities, a scavenger hunt, bedtime stories and a sing-along. Wake up the next morning under Fairytale Town's canopy of trees to a light continental breakfast. Prices range from \$25-\$30 per person and include all activities. Member discounts are available. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call 808-7462. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Dr.

Fire Station 7 Open House

June 20: Fire Station 7, located at 6500 Wyndham Dr., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

Fire Station 10 Open House

June 27: Fire Station 10, located at 5642 66th St., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.



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Faces and Places: SactoMoFo at Garcia Bend

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
editor@valcomnews.com

It's food truck season and that means the first SactoMoFo event of the year was held on Friday, April 17. These folks at the Garcia Bend Park food truck event all seemed to have a good time, enjoying good food, bounce houses, Girl Scouts selling cookies, music, and friends. Upcoming dates are Friday, May 15; Friday, June 19; Friday, July 17; Friday, Aug. 21; Friday, Sept. 18; Friday, Oct. 16; and Friday, Nov. 20 and each go from 5 to 8 p.m.

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RSVP: Meredith at mereditht@eastlawn.com

Friday, May 15

Thursday, July 16

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Elk Grove

Memorial Park & Mortuary
9189 E. Stockton Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624
Tel 916.732.2031
RSVP: Glenda at glendal@eastlawn.com

Thursday, May 28

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

Thursday, June 25 (Dinner)

6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

**Sierra Hills Memorial Park
& East Lawn Mortuary**

5757 Greenback Lane, Sacramento, CA 95841
Tel 916.732.2020
RSVP: Jessica at jessica@eastlawn.com

Wednesday, June 17

(Spanish & English)

11:30 am to 12:30 pm

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Funeral Home
3939 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, CA 95820
Tel 916.732.2026
RSVP: Janice at janicem@eastlawn.com

American-Portuguese Veteran's Memorial Poker Tournament set for July 11

There will be a poker tournament on July 11 at SPHSS Portuguese Hall, 6676 Pocket Road. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; the tournament starts at 6:30 p.m.

While this tournament will help fund the placement of a monument at the State Capitol to honor American-Portuguese that served the United States, it is also a template for other ethnic groups to have a similar monument. If the time comes for Chinese-American, Greek-American, Irish-American, Italian-American, Mexican-American or any other ethnic group to place a monument, they will already have a blueprint for placement, which is required.

For those who wish to buy tickets or sponsor the event can contact Eddia Maria at 314-757-0474.

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ment (\$100 value) along with your business name and logo shown on a big screen in front of the room on a continuous loop for the duration of the event.

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9 Waterthrus Court – \$520,000 > Elegant 5bd 2.5bth w/brick facade, tile roof, and cul-de-sac locale within the Didion school boundaries.* Master ste + 2nd bdrm down. Upd kitchen, carpet, interior paint, more! Separate living & family rooms, formal dining. Enclosed patio room, park-like backyard w/spa. Energy savers, too.



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7417 Deltawind Dr – Pending Sale > Attractive Pocket Area 3 bd 2.5 bath featuring a large family room addition open to the kitchen. Updated roof & carpet. Laminate flooring in living rm, formal dining rm & family rm. Most all interior freshly painted. Large private yard. Convenient to shopping, parks, bike path and more!



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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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MONA GERGEN 247-9555



BRIDGEVIEW AT RIVERLAKE

Spacious home features 3 large bedrooms, 3 full baths, a downstairs office and a large upstairs media room. Downstairs office could be 4th bedroom. Ready for summer pool, outdoor fireplace and pleasant outdoor patio space. Also includes an enormous 3-car garage suitable for an RV or boat \$739,000

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SOUTH LAND PARK TERRACE

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SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395



GREENBELT CLOSE

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KELLIE SWAYNE 206-1458



QUALITY BUILT HOME

Lee Basford built 4 bedroom 3 bath home with two master bedrooms and a remote bedroom. Newer carpet, some new interior and exterior paint and new lighting. Great floor plan with separate living/family rooms. Built-in pool on a wonderful street with many long term neighbors. \$419,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



HOLLYWOOD PARK GEM

Curb appeal galore for this 3 bedroom home on a great sized lot. Features include original hardwood floors, a fantastic kitchen with stone counters, and a dreamy backyard oasis! Newer roof, AC, and mature landscaping. Summer-ready to relax on the patio next to the sparkling pool and waterfall! \$330,000

JAMIE RICH 612-4000



ON THE RIVER

Sweet Greenhaven 3 bedroom 2 bath home backs to the Sacramento River! 1785 sf with "great room" style, family room and dining area, nicely appointed kitchen with stone counters and breakfast nook. Family room fireplace, lovely backyard with pool and covered patio. 2-car attached garage. \$449,000

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SOUTH LAND PARK

Comfortable ranch style home with lovely brick front. 3 bedrooms 1½ baths, new linoleum in kitchen, laundry and hall bath. Hardwood under carpet. Newer windows, some plantation shutters. Brick fireplace, large laundry room, nice sized backyard with covered patio. \$325,000

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