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Matsuyama rallies for student needing bone marrow transplant

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Ed Mauricio shares more memories from his nine decades of life

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Meet the artist: Pocket resident Christopher Williams

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2709 Riverside Blvd.
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t: (916) 429-9901
f: (916) 429-9906

Cover photo by:
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Lance Armstrong
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Business brief:

Incredible Pets just opened a new location in Greenhaven

Owned by Jack and Sharon Love, Incredible Pets is a family owned and operated pet store, celebrating 20 years in business this December. Their first store was founded in Auburn in 1995 and the business has grown to six stores in the greater Sacramento area with the newest store in the Greenhaven/Pocket neighborhood in the old J Barnhills restaurant location next to Ace Hardware.

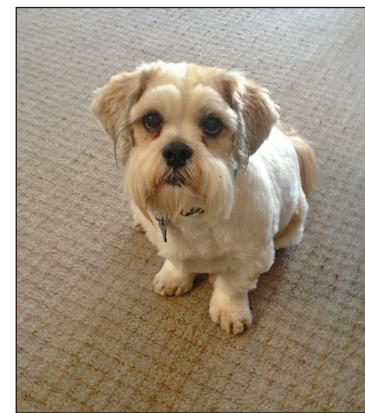
"We pride ourselves on offering superstore selection and prices with friendly neighborhood service. We offer many services to save our customers time and money, like our self-service dog washing stations and our VIP Petcare community veterinary clinics held on weekends at all locations," said daughter and marketing manager, Katie Love.

"We are grateful to all our staff members who help make our success possible. In this era of big box stores and online business, they demonstrate every day why there is still a place for a family-owned business that puts customers first," Katie said.

"We are truly a family owned and operated business. Two of our daughters and one of our sons-in-law have joined the team and we are excited to have the next generation continue to grow the business we started almost 20 years ago," Katie said.



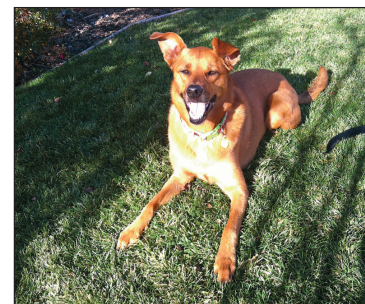
Jasmine



Prince



Mini Mia



Mia at Christmas

Jack and Sharon Love opened their first pet store in Fullerton, California in 1975. Ten years later, they moved to the Auburn area and established a wholesale pet supply business, serving northern California and northern Nevada. After nine years in the wholesale business, they realized that they missed retail and decided to open another pet store. Incredible Pets was established on July 5, 1995 with a small store in Auburn.

Katie said the Loves selected the Pocket area because it is a great family friendly neighborhood and there really are not many pet stores close by. "When

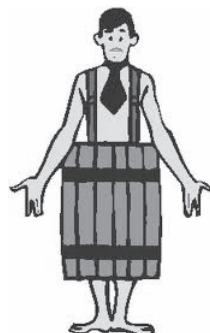
the opportunity to get the space was offered to us we jumped at the chance to be a part of this great area. We do not have any current plans to open another store but we would definitely be open to it if we find the right place," she said.

Of course, the Pocket News had to ask the Love family about their own pets. Jack and Sharon have a cat named Jasmine; daughter Krista and her husband Chris who work for the company have two dogs, one named Prince and one named "mini" Mia; they also have a guinea pig named Boots. Katie and her husband have two dogs, one named Mia and the other named Gunner. "It was an accident that we (Katie and Krista) both had a dog named Mia, so we call the little one 'mini' Mia," Katie said.

The Pocket location opened on May 7. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Visit Incredible Pets at 392 Florin Road next to Ace Hardware. For more information, call 421-7711 or visit, www.incredpets.com.

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New fitness and dance studio opens near Pocket area

In 2012, mom and daughter duo, Corene Marshalek and Teajai Callander, moved to Sacramento from San Francisco, looking for relief from the high cost of living and stress of making ends meet. Corene had transferred job positions prematurely to later find that the job was no longer available after signing a 2 year lease in the South Sacramento area. Corene who had worked her entire life, found herself on unemployment for over a year, fell into a deep depression, and gained over 50 pounds to her smaller frame.

Finally, a break in the clouds... as a neighbor invited a shy Corene to join a ZUMBA Fitness class-where for 50 minutes you are engulfed in dance and a fun atmosphere allowing you to break away from the day-to-day stress and you lose yourself in the music burning up to 1,000 calories in one hour! Instantly Corene was hooked and began scraping the change together to be able to afford the costly \$5 per class. Corene shared this new found joy with her depressed mother Teajai, who was nearly bed ridden and reclusive

due to her Rheumatoid Arthritis and limited mobility in her legs and back.

Corene decided to become certified to teach ZUMBA Fitness and participate in the movement to assist people like herself and mother to beat depression and achieve weight management with a fun, party-like fitness frenzy. The duo began by delivering fliers door-to-door and applied for a business license to teach ZUMBA Fitness out of their garage, attracting neighborhood men and women. Corene expanded her reach by offering low-cost Zumba at local community centers.

On May 2, Corene and Teajai opened a new business location in South Sacramento at 6661 Florin Road called CFiT Dance Studio offering ZUMBA Fitness and ZUMBA Gold-A low impact fitness class for beginners and older adults. CFiT also offers Vinyasa Yoga, and the new Hot Hula Fitness to the area at a low, walk-in rate of \$4 per class or a \$30 VIP membership (which includes many nutritional/fitness goodies and



certified wellness coaching). There are no initiation fees or contracts to sign; you just show up and dance yourself fit. And starting soon, CFiT will have a nutrition program and weight loss group available.

Visit CFiT Dance Studio on Facebook or visit the website at <http://CFiT.dance> for a full schedule of classes. Join the party grand opening weekend on June 12, 13, and 14.

According to Teajai, "ZUMBA is a workout everyone can enjoy; combining Latin, international, and pop music into an infectious fitness party; you forget it's a workout. We, at CFiT Dance Studio, want to expose people in the area to fun ways to get fit."

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What's next for the former Vic's IGA?

By GREG BROWN
greg@valcomnews.com

What's the latest scoop on the former Vic's IGA Supermarket in South Land Park?

The store was shut down in March and rumors are running rampant all over social media about what will take its place. If you believe everything you read on social media a Trader Joe's is moving in.

There's an online petition being circulated.

A lot of residents in the neighborhood seems to want a Trader Joe's. They are frothing at the mouth for one to open up in their neighborhood.

Slim chance that's going to happen. Besides, the shopping center parking lot is too vast. Trader Joe's specializes in annoying little parking lots that make shoppers irate.

Another person on a Land Park Facebook group talked about a VIVA Supermarket taking over the site. They provided a link where people could send messages to corporate headquarters begging them to locate in the South Land Park Hills Shopping Center. Viva has a local grocery store on Northgate Boulevard.

Another rumor on social media was a Dollar Tree was moving in. A guy said he heard it from somebody at the Jazzercise studio.

So you know it's legit. That false rumor got a lot of people worked up and angry. Folks just don't like Dollar Tree. Let's hope DD's Discounts doesn't try to weasel their way in. There's new fencing around Vic's Supermarket. That does not mean anything is imminent. It just means there is a fence around



Photo by Monica Stark

After Vic's IGA Supermarket closed, Good Eats relocated to Goeman's Lounge on Franklin Boulevard.

the building to keep it from being vandalized.

I spoke with John Chang, whose family owns the shopping center property on the right side of the South Hills Center, and he told me,

"We're just proceeding with what is legally required to allow us to do what is next."

Vic's IGA filed for bankruptcy. There is a long, arduous process involved. Nothing is imminent.

I also spoke with Theodore Chang who is part of the property management company and he said, "The property has not been rented out. We have not made that decision yet, although we do have people who are interested."

Theodore added, "We have several brokers we are working with and we're trying to find the perfect fit for us as well as for our neighborhood"

When I asked him what are you looking to put in there? He told me, "We are keeping all of our options open. It could be anything from an athletic club to a grocery store."

Theodore added, "We don't have anything set in stone."

I also asked about the aesthetic of the building and

if they had plans for any demolishing of the mid-century modern designed building. "We're not looking at anything like that. We're just looking at getting a tenant in there. We aren't going to make any major changes to the building itself."

Good news for all you Sookie Lee fans.

So, when you see hunches and predictions on social media, don't take them too seriously. The owners are working towards getting a suitable tenant in the former Vic's IGA building. Let's all hope it's something that lifts up the South Land Park Hills Shopping Center.

WHAT ABOUT GOOD EATS?

Good Eats, the popular little barbecue joint that was housed inside Vic's IGA, was planning to move into the former Brick Oven Pizza building. It sounded like a perfect match. Bring on the red checkered tablecloths!

I asked Good Eats owner Eric McFadden about the move over the phone recently and he told me, "It's not gonna happen right now. I got a lot of my business when Vic's was open and that store isn't open anymore. Right now I'm playing it by ear."

He added, "Because it ain't cheap to run a business."

Right now Eric and his Good Eats are over at Goeman's Lounge on Franklin Boulevard. So if you miss the comfort food at Good Eats head on over to Goeman's for some comfort.

"This is gonna work for now. I'm not going anywhere right now."

McFadden plans on unleashing the "Big Mama Grill" next month over at Goeman's. His hours are Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Ed Mauricio lived in this house along the levee at 5890 Riverside Blvd. during his youth.

Ed Mauricio shares more memories from his nine decades of life

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

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

Ed Mauricio, who spent much of his time speaking about his early memories of the Riverside-Pocket area during an interview with this paper, has plenty to share from his 92 years of life.

And while offering highlights from his many life experiences, Mauricio recalled games he played during his youth.

"Oh, we played baseball, kick the can, if anybody remembers that (game)," Mauricio said. "(A can) was our toy. We played tag and hide and go seek or whatever it is. The kids would get together and play baseball. That was off Riverside (Road/now Riverside Boulevard), and sometimes we played on the street. I tried a little football, but I was too small for it. I got knocked out one time, so that was it for me. I was trying to qualify (for the C.K. McClatchy High School team) and some big guy knocked me on my butt and that was it."



Mauricio not only played baseball, but he also attended professional baseball games at the ballpark at the southeast corner of Riverside Boulevard and Y Street (later Broadway).




In recalling those experiences, Mauricio said, "I went to the (Pacific Coast League) games when I was a kid. It wasn't (initially) the (Sac-


ramento) Solons. It was the (Sacramento) Senators. I went to the games when I was a kid, but not that often. I went to the games when Tony Freitas was pitching. He was a good pitcher (for Sacramento), then he went to the big leagues sometime during the war. I left (to

See Ed Mauricio, page 7

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The Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Barnyard baby
- 5 Brazilian port
- 10 Botch up
- 14 In ___ of flowers...
- 15 Thrill
- 16 Simpson sibling
- 17 Lump in one's throat
- 19 "You said it!"
- 20 Portray
- 21 Old-style window opener
- 23 Fancy party
- 25 "Vamoose!"
- 26 Agent of change
- 30 Highly decorative
- 34 Taper off
- 35 Terrier type
- 37 Go a few rounds
- 38 Hotel amenity
- 39 Search party
- 40 Fill up
- 41 Do a voice-over
- 42 Monopoly piece
- 43 Show-off
- 44 Confound
- 46 Danger signal
- 48 Crafts partner
- 50 Carryall bag
- 51 Talk radio callers
- 55 Assign new actors
- 59 Wholly absorbed
- 60 Newspaper ad unit
- 62 Evangelist
- 63 Greet the day
- 64 Celestial body

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- 65 Soccer legend
- 66 Biblical outcast
- 67 Remote button
- DOWN**
- 1 Iron follower
- 2 White House staffer
- 3 Ballet move
- 4 Debug?
- 5 As Felix Unger would
- 6 Chalet backdrop, perhaps
- 7 Soldier's lullaby
- 8 Mythical strongman
- 9 Potential ship-wreck spot
- 10 Perfume bottle
- 11 Fancy ride, briefly
- 12 Computer operator
- 13 Boston or Chicago, e.g.
- 18 Justice symbol
- 22 Triceratops feature
- 24 Knotted neckwear
- 26 St. Louis team, familiarly
- 27 More or less
- 28 Certain housecat
- 29 Police weapon
- 31 Put down
- 32 Bellhop, often
- 33 Make an effort
- 36 Archipelago part
- 39 Like Byron's words
- 40 Grammatical slip
- 42 Bring on board
- 43 Eucharist plate
- 45 Yankees legend
- 47 Projecting window
- 49 Siesta sound
- 51 Stage item
- 52 Fabled loser
- 53 October birthstone
- 54 Lose traction
- 56 Pay to play
- 57 Peruse
- 58 Drive-___
- 61 Kind of tax

See Solution, page 20



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Ed Mauricio:

Continued from page 5

join the Navy) in August of 1942. I didn't see (the Solons) win the championship (in September 1942). I knew about it, but I didn't see it. Then there was the guy (Sacramento native Joe Marty), who owned the bar (on Broadway) who played on the team."

After attending Sutter School and California Junior High School, Mauricio became a student at McClatchy High in 1939.

Mauricio eventually spent 41 months serving his country in the Navy.

"I lived there (at 5890 Riverside Blvd. on the west side of the road near the levee) until I went into the Navy in 1942," Mauricio said. "I went from Guadalcanal to Japan. We escorted the (USS) Missouri into Tokyo Bay. That was the ship I was on. And from shore, we hauled over big dignitaries to the Missouri for the surrender. Then we went out and picked up prisoners of war. We got one day of liberty in Tokyo. We didn't get to see much. They all ran away from us."

Mauricio did not return to live in the Riverside-Pocket area following the war.

However, he did become aware of the drastic changes that would eventually occur in the area.

In speaking about the development of the area, Mauricio said, "The area began to change when everybody

started selling their property (to developers). The freeway really made a change. When the change came, I wasn't living out there anymore. Maybe the farmers didn't like the change, but change comes and you have to face it. I was kind of surprised (to learn that the area was being developed), but things were changing really fast after World War II. After I was in the service, I was never interested in doing anything with farming. I just wanted to get away from it all."

Mauricio said that he returned to the area where he grew up for nostalgic visits to Conley's Riverside Cash Store, which was located immediately south of Sutter School, an institution that operated at the present day address of 4605 Karbet Way.

"After I got out of the Navy, I went there (to Conley's) a couple of times," Mauricio said. "That's where the bar

was at, (and later became the Riverside Club)."

Although he did not complete his senior year of high school, Mauricio experienced a proud moment in his life when he earned his GED in 1946.

And on March 27, 1948, Mauricio married Eleanor Wood, who he lived with until her death in 1991.

Together Mauricio and Eleanor had four children, Linda, David, Mark and Renee.

In 1992, Mauricio began a relationship with Sylvia Suverkrop.

And in speaking about that relationship, he said, "We're partners. We just live together. We came to the decision not to get married, because of finances. It's like being married. We've been together for 23 years, (beginning) about 18 months after my wife passed. It's been a great relationship."

In sharing details about his career, Mauricio said, "I

went to McClellan Field. I started off with what they called fire and borders to assistant foreman to foreman to general foreman, then to mechanical superintendent. And we were responsible for all the heating, air conditioning and the fueling systems on the base. This was all civilian work. I had a total, including my Navy time and a couple years at Signal Depot, of 41 years. I started working at the Signal Depot in the later part of 1946, maybe in 1947. I started at McClellan in 1950 or 1951, I think. Then I retired from McClellan in 1983."

While leaning back in a padded chair in his home, Mauricio contently said, "I've enjoyed my retirement. I retired when I was 61. I've played golf and took it easy. I've enjoyed it. I didn't volunteer for anything. I go day to day. I've golfed at different courses

es - Land Park, Davis, Haggin Oaks, Bing Maloney, Emerald Lakes (in Elk Grove). I've golfed at 8 or 10 different courses. I tell people I used to golf, and now I try to golf. The lowest (score) I ever got was a 12 handicap. That was in my younger days. Today, I'm not talking."

But Mauricio had no problem sharing his proudest golf moment, as he said, "I got a hole-in-one in 1981 at Diamond Oaks (Golf Course) in Roseville, number three hole."

In summarizing his 92 years of life - the majority of which he has spent in the Sacramento area - Mauricio said, "I think I did great. I'm happy. I live day to day and I don't worry about tomorrow. So, I guess I did great, a lot better than I started. I went from welfare to what I am today. I'm very thankful. Everything was great for me."



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Know your neighbor:

From faerie to mermaid

Sacramentan adds interesting career to entertainment repertoire

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

At one point in her life Ashley "Blossom" Rastad was selling cell phones and water to make money performing jobs she described as "soul sucking." On a whim, the young woman looked on Craigslist and found a posting which asked: Do you want to be a faerie princess for a job? And before she knew it Ashley was working five shows her first weekend with a company called Happily Ever Laughter, a life changing work experience that began just after the interview with proprietor, Laecee Gershenson who goes by the faerie name, Fae Diddle Diddle.

"When I first met (Fae); it was overwhelming; she offered me the job immediately. She literally lives in the redwood forest in Santa Cruz over a little bridge and across a tiny farm. (Asking herself) Is this real? Do they really live this way?" Ashley came to the realization that, yes, Fae really does live like that and, "if she can do it, I can do it." She doesn't have to sell water, even if that meant giving her a "skewed out-of-this-world experience."

Ashley's faerie name, "Blossom" was born out of the young woman having a "high up there" voice, mixed in with "a little bit of a rebellious" attitude. There has been a saying amongst the faeries at Happily Ever Laughter: "What would Blossom do?" Having interesting rebuttals to different situations with parents and children she's acquired over the years, Ashley's experience grew as time went on. Making children's parties magical with face painting, puppet and magic shows, Happily Ever Laughter has faeries in

Sacramento, the Bay Area, the Monterey area, and Los Angeles. Ashley has had children completely taken aback by her presence. They "fall completely down the rabbit hole," complaining that the faeries "didn't turn tiny and fly away" and demanding the secrets of becoming a faerie. "We need to know how to turn into faeries. We don't know if we need to put salt on our legs." So Ashley and the other Happily Ever Laughter faeries made them faerie care packages and told their parents to "just send them our way when they are 18. People get super immersed."

Asking the best questions, such as, "Where do you live? And where do you come from?" children have received some of the best answers from Ashley. "I come from the strawberry forest and have been living on a slug for a couple of weeks; it's a sticky situation."

Happily Ever Laughter makes costumes and supplies all the training. When Ashley started about five years ago, the faeries were all independent contractors and has more recently turned into a Limited Liability Company that has been providing its faeries with health insurance coverage.

Besides kiddie parties and community events, Ashley said the company (which is headquartered in the home office in the Santa Cruz Mountains) has thrown fancy parties, including one for Tori Spelling in Los Angeles, parties for Google, and Hornblower Christmas and St. Patrick's Day cruises. Working for Happily Ever Laughter, she said was like working for the most real and caring people. "It was all a little family. It's a thing I fell into and never wanted leave."



Photo by Amy Stockbower

Sacramentan Ashley "Blossom" Rastad discusses in an interview with Valley Community Newspapers about what it's like being a mermaid as well as a faerie for children's parties.

But as time goes on, as it always does, we continue to age and Ashley kept on living the faerie life until she felt like a "fairytale grandma faerie." Having trained different faeries, she's seen them come and go. "There are a lot of faerie drop outs," who she says live from one adventure to the next. All the incoming faeries are about 18-22 years old and at age 30, Ashley is now venturing out on her own, independently offering parties for children. She has recently posted on the Land Park and South Land Park neighborhood Facebook page, advertising herself as a magical face painting and balloon twisting fairy.

Becoming a mermaid

Taking on a fun new challenge, Ashley has added mermaid performances to her entertainment repertoire. "This mermaid thing is so different. You can't breathe and you can't really see." But she's been learning to move her body like a fish and her training has paid off. Now a mermaid at Dive Bar, located at 1016 K St., Ashley described the culture of the work ethic amongst the mermaids as follows: "The girls who do

training at Dive Bar are committed to the characteristics (of mermaid fantasy)." Donning a 30-pound silicon fin and swimming around the Dive Bar tank for 25 minutes out of 60 for two to three hours, Ashley said she slept "so well" the night of her debut swim, which was held on Wednesday, May 6. Before she was chosen to be one of the next mermaids, she remembers feeling mesmerized after watching them swim around. Amongst her long term goals, Ashley said is to "make it to Vegas (and perform) in an underwater aquarium."

Ashley will be amongst other Dive Bar mermaids for a special swim event on Friday, May 29 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel pool (1209 L St.), in which children can enjoy some splashy fun with the mermaids. Register your child at mermaid@rachelsmithillustration.com

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Ashley's love for the fantastic extends beyond entertaining for the young and young at heart and her ability to make believe real took on a new ven-

See Mermaid, page 11

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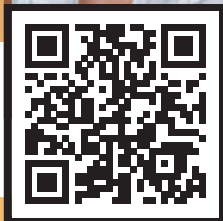
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Mermaid:

Continued from page 8

ture in October 2014 when she opened up Moonrise Boutique, a small boutique in the Midtown Collective (1914 P St.), which she advertises as “the perfect place to find that one-of-a-kind special something. Moonrise was born out of what I like and the community seems to be responding,” she said.

With 20 local consignors that bring different pieces of art, jewelry, faerie wings, mermaid seashells, mermaid pants, Moonrise shoppers can get what they need in order to transform into a mermaid or faerie.

The Midtown Collective is also home to Firefly, a boutique that carries bohemian and fun clothing items and accessories. Firefly also happens to be the business owned by Ashley’s good friend, Danielle Vincent.

A woman behind First Festival

Besides working in close quarters at the Midtown Collective, Ashley and Danielle are putting on a daylong festival (noon to 10 p.m.) on Saturday, May 23 at River Walk Park in West Sacramento, called

First Festival. Advanced tickets are \$15, or \$20 at the door. Kick off summer with hand-made treasures, locally made jewelry, local fashion and food. The event will also offer food trucks, live music from local musicians, vendors, dancing, face painting (of course), a contained beer garden and more.

Despite their original goal of wanting it to be a free festival paid for by sponsorships, Ashley is sure it will be successful. “We wanted it to be a free festival. We wanted to bring in sponsorships, but we haven’t gotten any because we look the way we do; it’s really frustrating. (Businesses) 100 percent dismissed us. No one wants to believe we can pull this off, even though Danielle has done Pops in the Park (as the city of Sacramento District 3 representative for constituent affairs).” Recently Ashley and Danielle have been going to the Friday Concerts in the Park to flier for First Festival and Ashley said the response has been wonderful with people saying they’ve already purchased their ticket. It’s crazy.”

Loved by children and adults alike for her unique style and fun personality, Ashley Blossom is definitely someone to watch as her career continues to grow. To book Ashley for your child’s birthday party, email moonrisetreasure@gmail.com.

Fourth of July Pocket Parade organizers are gearing up for the big day

This year’s parade will be like those before, as it is set to start at 10 a.m. at Lisbon School and will make its way along Windbridge Drive to Garcia Bend, where an awards ceremony, local business community fair, music featuring Lenny Williams (formerly with the band Tower of Power) and food trucks await. Brenda Williams, Garcia Bend Park event coordinator, is looking for local businesses that might want to participate. She can be reached at garciabend.july4@gmail.com. For general information about the parade, co-chairs Linda Pohl and Kathy Garcia can help with general parade information. For any questions, call the Pocket News at 429-9901. Parade entry forms are available at the newspaper’s office, 2709 Riverside Blvd. as well as at Riverside Wesleyan Church, 6449 Riverside Blvd. Parade deadline is July 1.

Prior to the parade is the Matsuyama 4th of July Fun Run. This event helps raise money for incoming sixth graders at Matsuyama Elementary School to attend Sly Park Environmental education camp the following spring. It’s also a terrific community event and a way to promote family-friendly fitness.



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Meet the artist: Pocket resident Christopher Williams

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Pocket artist Christopher Williams experienced a painful introduction to painting. When Christopher was just 12 years old, he was stabbed at church, protecting a girl that was being threatened with a knife. After the accident, which took place in his hometown of Stockton, Christopher couldn't use his left hand for several years. With sports out of the question and his hand in a sling for about four years, he ended up joining his mother, Ava, to her singing recitals at Modesto Junior College. Thinking he was bored during the recitals, Ava asked a colleague of hers if Christopher could join a pottery class that was otherwise filled with adults. Although Christopher could only mold the clay one-handed and "make awesome coasters," the experience got his hands to work again, leading him to draw cartoon characters for his mother's classmates and music professors.

More than 20 years later, Christopher has produced roughly 200 paintings, including commissioned pieces. At a recent Friends of the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library after hours celebration, he showed a wide assortment of pieces, including two from his Mama Fonju jazz series, a master copy of John singer sergeants Madam X, and Soul of a woman. Additionally, he had 11x17-inch prints of his past paintings. On the spot, at the event, Christopher drew a pencil sketch of Otterby Reading, the Sacramento Public Library's mascot.

Upcoming shows include the Sacramento Comic Con in August and Sac Anime in September. He also paints live every Second Saturday at Comics & Collectibles, located at the corner of Freeport Boulevard and Fruitridge Road.

After he graduated from Plaza Robles High School in his hometown, his family moved to Sacramento. And now a Pocket resident for the past 10 years and employee at Apple Inc. in Elk Grove, The Black da Vinci, as he calls himself, is now making a try at art as a full time career.

You see, his father, Donald, one of Christopher's main sources of inspiration and encouragement, passed away earlier this year with the last words said to his son as "I'm very proud of you, son" on Jan. 5. Those words, spoken to Christopher over the phone after the artist was interviewed by FOX 40 at Sac Anime, resonated in the budding artist whose work varies tremendously in style from piece to piece.

"My dad was a great man. I always tried to paint a picture to make him smile. Unfortunately, he passed away early this year, but I know he is watching over me."

Christopher described the surreal nature of the timing of his father's passing as surprisingly quick and unexpected. Just four hours after he spoke with his dad on the phone, he got a knock on his door. "It was heartfelt. It was so weird," he said. Donald had a stroke 30 days before he passed. "(Donald) was fine on Christmas. We had a barbecue on Christmas. He cut up the meat. It was one of the best barbecues I ever had, so I think he knew he wasn't going to be around that long, but I didn't think it was going to be that soon."

Also a main source of inspiration to Christopher is his mother who has always stood behind her son and pushed him to pursue his passion. "Her home is filled with my earlier works. Without my parents, I would not have pursued art," he says.

Asked how he got the nickname The Black Da Vinci, Christopher said it's because he lost a bet at his job at Apple Inc. "It was either The Black Da Vinci or buy 15 coworkers lunch. So I gladly took the name." Despite the nickname, he's been told by several different art teachers that he doesn't draw black. "Instead of tak-



Elephant Magnifique

Image courtesy of Christopher Williams

ing offense, I think of it as a blessing because most black artists are stereotyped in a particular genre. So the name The Black da Vinci worked out because it is a title that disclaims, 'Hey, I'm a black artist,' but I can paint a fresco style painting, then pick up a pencil and draw a comic character or design a business logo. I believe as a black culture we love color because we are people of color. But I never use the color black on any of the paintings (watercolor or oil). If I'm drawing a portrait I found that mixing my own dark colors brings a more realistic feel to the painting and certain cases I want to go to the extreme and bring out the most subtle highlights to draw you into the painting. I always try to bring out the colors we overlook or don't necessarily see."

One of Christopher's favorite pieces he's created is a watercolor titled Elephant Magnifique, a masterpiece that only took four hours to finish at the Raw art show held at Ace of Spades. "I wanted to paint my version of the elephant Dumbo, but with butterfly ears to bring out the beauty and imagination of flight. Also, in my imagination (is that) if elephants could fly, they would have a better chance to avoid poachers."

Besides his fascination with elephants, Christopher has produced multiple pieces showcasing bumble bees and is planning on producing a watercolor series. "I don't know why. I just love bumble bees. I don't like wasps. Wasps are angry and sting, but bumble bees — they are more about nature, pollination, love."

At the art show, Christopher had two large paintings he drew of his wife, Brenda. Wearing a stylish pink dress, Brenda is depicted as a jazz musician. Also, one of the paintings Christopher showcased at the library was a black and white portrait of Frida Kahlo, which was based on a photograph he saw in an art book. Adding in skeleton jewelry into his version of the portrait, Christopher showed a Gothic side to a woman artist he deeply admires. "The pain she went through and she still drew. She's just admirable. She is a woman painter and that was controversial, too. And, she was always in the shadow of Diego Rivera. I just like her style. I just love Frida." Jokingly, he added, "If she was here, I'd ask her for her number and ask her out."

After 11 years working at Apple, he's a little nervous to leave to pursue art full time, but he is excited about the venture and hopes to work with children in the future. "I like seeing them happy when they are drawing. I want to see their imagination run wild and want to help them accomplish something."

Additionally, Christopher is looking to work with his friend Gene to create a comic book with characters, each from different ethnic backgrounds. "I want to make them shine in a book, so I am going to paint these for him. I love Spiderman. There's different types of superheroes from different origins, so they can have superheroes. My wife's nephew was really excited to see a comic book character called Black Panther that was from Africa and he's from Africa; my wife is from Africa. He said, 'who's that Black Panther character? I want to be like him. He's real smart. He wears a Black Panther outfit and he fights crime. That got me to think hey, we need more (superheroes from different backgrounds). We need a superhero from the Philippines. We need a superhero from South America and maybe try to put them all together."

A shining star in our community, Christopher has undergone so much in his life, but it is those experiences that have made his work so beautiful and unique and he is definitely someone to watch as he continues to bring joy to others through his art.

Christopher has set up a Go Fund Me page, which has been set up to tell the story of how a knife carved his destiny into art and of his late father's work. So, he's asking for help in publishing a book titled, "The Black da Vinci and Donald Williams' 12 seasons." The book will feature Christopher's paintings and drawings, as well as his late father's stories. Much will be packed into this nearly 250 page book and each person who donates will receive a special edition 11x17 inch print. If you donate \$20 or more you will receive a signed copy of the book and an 11x17 inch special edition print. Proceeds will help Ava recover from funeral costs. As he writes on the site: "This book was supposed to be a surprise for my father. I love you and miss you, dad."



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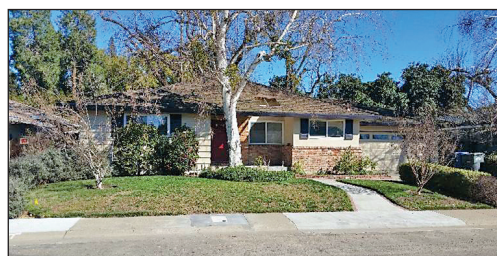
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Sam Brannan honored as 2015 California Gold Ribbon School

Sam Brannan Middle School is among the recipients of the state's new 2015 Gold Ribbon Award from the California Department of Education.

State Superintendent Tom Torlakson announced the Gold Ribbon winners on Tuesday. Brannan was among 193 middle schools and 180 high schools to receive the honor.

"These schools are academically successful, vibrant and innovative centers of learning and



Sam Brannan Principal Al Rogers.

teaching," Torlakson said. "They provide great examples of the things educators are doing right — embracing rigorous academic standards, providing excellence and creativity in teaching and creating a positive school climate."

California Gold Ribbon Schools Award was created to honor schools in place of the California Distinguished Schools Program, which is on hiatus while California creates new assessment and accountability systems.

Schools applied for the award based on a model program their school has adopted that includes standards-based activities, projects, strategies and practices that can be replicated by other local educational agencies.

Excited about the award, Sam Brannan Middle School Principal Al Rogers told the Pocket News, "the Brannan team is feeling pretty good about this as it's sort of updating or validating our continued status as a high performing school given we achieved the California Distinguished School award in 2005."

Sam Brannan was also recognized as an Academic Achieving School. This additional recognition is given only to schools receiving federal Title I funds that assist in meeting the educational needs of students living at or below the poverty line.

The Gold Ribbon schools will be recognized later this month during regional ceremonies held in Sacramento, San Diego, Visalia and San Francisco.



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Faces and Places:
The 3rd Annual JFK football and baseball rib dinner

Photos by MONICA STARK
 editor@valcomnews.com

Supporters of the John F. Kennedy baseball and football teams enjoyed a rib dinner benefit on Friday, May 1 at the new Cougar Stadium. The dinner included a plate of ribs or chicken, side dishes, a roll and dessert.

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Upcoming events at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library

The Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Dr. is closed Sunday and Monday, and open Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday: noon to 8 p.m.; Thursday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday: 1 to 6 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For details, telephone the Sacramento Public Library at 264-2920 or visit www.saclibrary.org.

Baby/Toddler Stay & Play at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5)) Tuesday, June 2 at 10:15 a.m.

"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.

Baby/Toddler Storytime for ages 0-3 at Pocket Library (Early Childhood (0-5)) Tuesday, June 2 at 11 a.m.

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.

Books @ Lunch: Middle School Book Group at Pocket Library (Teen) Tuesday, June 2 at 11:25 a.m.

Seventh and 8th graders are invited to talk about books over lunch. This

program is scheduled to coincide with the School of Engineering and Sciences' middle school lunch period but homeschoolers are also welcome to join! The middle school book group will take place inside the Teen Room. Sponsored in part by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

Books @ Lunch: High School Book Group at Pocket Library (Teen) Tuesday, June 2 at 12:30 p.m.

Ninth through 12th graders are invited to talk about books over lunch.

See Library events, page 17



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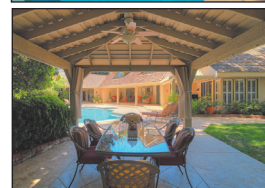
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Library events:

Continued from page 15

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.

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

Thursday, June 4 at 10:15 a.m.

"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.

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

Thursday, June 4 at 11 a.m.

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.

In Creative Company @ Pocket Library (Adult)

Friday, June 5 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Knit Together @ Pocket Library (Adult)

Friday, June 5 at 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in knitting—even an absolute beginner—is invited to join the Pocket Library Knitting Group. 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!

Teen Advisory Board Meeting at Pocket Library (Teen)

Saturday, June 6 at 10 a.m.

Instead of our usual Teen Advisory Board meeting we'll be helping out with the Summer Reading event (community service time).

Summer Reading Kick-off Party with Ohana Dance Group at Pocket Library (Family/All Ages)

Saturday, June 6 at 11 a.m.

Please join us for our annual Summer Reading Kick-off party with a special presentation by the Ohana Dance Group at 11 a.m. The Ohana Dance Group and Kuhai Halau O Ke'alaanuheaokalau'e is a non-profit multi-generational hula halau where students of various ages backgrounds and abilities are exposed to the Hawaiian culture and music through traditional hula. Because ohana means "family" our goal is to maintain a family-oriented at-

mosphere where students can enjoy learning about the Hawaiian culture. This program is sponsored by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library and is part of the Sacramento Public Library's "Read to the Rhythm" Summer Reading Challenge.

Book and Film Discussion @ Pocket Library (Book Club)

Saturday, June 6 at 1 p.m.

If you like to read and you like to talk about books look no further than the Pocket Library book discussion group. The group reads a wide variety of books to challenge the minds and interests of all group members. This month we are doing a discussion of both *The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler and the 1946 film version starring Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. While the discussion will cover both the book and film participants are welcome to either watch the film or read the book if they cannot do both.

CANCELED: Read to a Dog at Pocket Library (School Age (6-12))

Saturday, June 6 at 2 p.m.

We are sorry to report that Cleo our devoted canine volunteer is not feeling well. Pocket Library's "Read to a Dog" program will be suspended until further notice though we hope to find an additional doggie volunteer from Lend a Heart (animal assistant therapy) soon. Looking for a way to boost school-age reading skills? Join us for our Read to a Dog program and practice reading out loud to a registered therapy dog. Kids are invited to bring their own books or borrow one from our fabulous collection then read aloud to Cleo who is accompanied by her trained adult volunteer.

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

Tuesday, June 9 at 10:15 a.m.

"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 care-

takers/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.

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

Tuesday, June 9 at 11 a.m.

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.

Teen Hangout @ Pocket Library (Teen)

Wednesday, June 10 at 1:30 p.m.

XBox 360.

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

Thursday, June 11 at 10:15 a.m.

"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.

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

Thursday, June 11 at 11 a.m.

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.

Knit Together @ Pocket Library (Adult)

Friday, June 12 at 1 p.m.

Anyone interested in knitting—even an absolute beginner—is invited to join the Pocket Library Knitting Group. 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!

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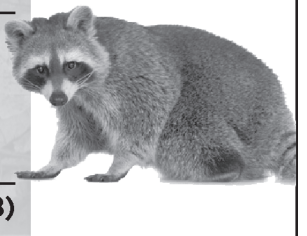
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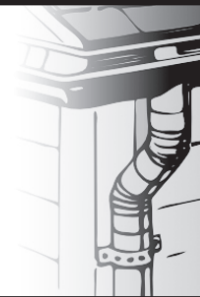
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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Los Ninos Service League volunteer opportunities

Combine community service with fun as a volunteer with the Los Ninos Service League by working in the dining room, kitchen or garden at the Casa Garden Restaurant. Since 1974 the Casa, located in the Curtis Park neighborhood, has been raising funds to help support the Sacramento Children's Home. For more information on becoming a volunteer, please join us for an information and recruitment coffee on Tuesday, May 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Casa, 2760 Sutterville Road, Sacramento. RSVP at 452-2809.

"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.

Free Hawaiian language workgroup

Every Monday at 5:30 p.m., a free Hawaiian language workgroup meets at 6235 Belleau Wood Lane Suite 1B in South Land Park to learn about the Hawaiian language. Everyone is welcome. Call 808-782-2483 to sign up.

Gray Eagles monthly meeting

Gray Eagles- For 25 years, a male/female group sharing history of military/civilian

aviation. Former air, ground, or carrier crew, or anyone interested will enjoy monthly speakers. Topics include airshows, warbirds, Reno races. Drop by to visit- FREE. We meet on second Mondays, each month at Hometown Buffet, 4300 Florin Road (private dining room), 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. See www.grayeagles.net. Lou, 421- 0844.

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.

Monthly tours of Sacramento Children's Home

Find out about the Sacramento Children's Home mission, programs, and how you can get involved on the fourth Thursday of each month, starting at 10:30 a.m., 2750 Sutterville Road. For more information and to RSVP, visit www.kidshome.org/tour-sch.

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

ol' 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.

Riverside Wesleyan Church offers older adult fitness class

Oasis, a fitness class for older adults, is held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Wesleyan Church, 6449 Riverside Blvd., in the Pocket/Greenhaven area. The charge for each class is \$2. Participants do not have to be affiliated with the church. The class has about 40 regular members, but the area used to exercise is large and can accommodate more.

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

Tai Chi Ch'uan & Qi Gong at Parkside Community Church

This introduction to Yang style Tai Chi is to learn the world's most popular exercise routine, improve your personal health, in a relaxing and enjoyable setting, and garnish new friendships with a common goal. Empowering you to take care of yourself, and doing something for yourself. Classes are \$5 per session every Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. all year round. New students are al-

ways welcome and no prior experience is necessary. No special equipment needed. The goal is to teach an exercise routine that can be practiced anywhere at any time, by anyone, of any age. First visit, participation or observation always free. Parkside Community Church 5700 S. Land Park Dr. For information call George Bonilla at 730-1704 or Valen Lee at 505-1996.

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.

Stretch, strengthen and thrive

This class is designed for the needs and abilities of active older adults interested in gaining or maintaining mobility. These exercises will help participants maintain their cardiovascular health, muscular endurance, and vitality, enhancing their range of motion and increase energy with a mix of full body stretches, body weight exercises, strength training and active stretching. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Wednesdays and Fridays at ACC Senior Services Center, 7375 Park City Dr. Pre-registration is preferred but drop-ins are welcome. For detail, call 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org

See more Calendar, page 21

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L	I	E	U	E	L	A	T	E	L	I	S	A
A	D	A	M	S	A	P	P	L	E	A	M	E
D	E	P	I	C	T	S	A	S	H	C	O	R
				G	A	L	A	S	H	O	O	
C	A	T	A	L	Y	S	T	O	R	N	A	T
A	B	A	T	E	C	A	I	R	N	B	O	X
R	O	B	E	P	O	S	S	E	S	A	T	E
D	U	B	H	O	T	E	L	P	O	S	E	R
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R	A	P	T	C	O	L	U	M	N	I	N	C
O	R	A	L	A	R	I	S	E	S	T	A	R
P	E	L	E	L	E	P	E	R	M	E	N	U

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May 23 at 7 p.m.
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The Center at Twenty-Three Hundred
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Tickets \$10 - \$15 at the door
OR contact
www.deanedancecenter.com
(916) 453-0226

YOUNG ACTORS STAGE presents THE SOUND OF MUSIC

Friday, May 22 at 7;
Saturday, May 23
at 1, 4, & 7;

24th Street Theater,
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Tickets \$10 - \$12
More info at YoungActorsStage.com

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Calendar

Continued from page 20

ACC presents Senior Yoga

Enjoy movements designed to maintain joint mobility, muscle strength, and flexibility. This class is gentle, easy to follow and uses the floor and chair. 10:30-11:30am Wednesdays at ACC Greenhaven Terrace, 1180 Corporate Way. Pre-registration is preferred but drop-ins are welcome. For detail, call (916) 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org

Tai Chi/CQ Gong

Learn the simplified 24-forms of Tai Chi, plus Qi gong exercises, a healing art combining movement, meditation, and visualization. Ideal for students new to Tai Chi. 9:00-10:00am, Thursdays at ACC Greenhaven Terrace, 1180 Corporate Way. Pre-registration is preferred but drop-ins are welcome. For detail, call (916) 393-9026, ext 330, www.accsv.org

Sunday Jazz with the Sacramento Traditional Jazz Society at the Elks Lodge

Every second Sunday of the month from noon to 5 p.m., enjoy Jazz bands in the Main Ballroom (nominal fee), Emblem Room (free) & Lounge (free) at the Elks Lodge No. 6, 6446 Riverside Blvd. There's always plenty of food available for purchase.

Sunday breakfast at the Elks Lodge No. 6

Come and enjoy a great breakfast with your family and friends every Sunday morning from 8:30 to 11 a.m. for a cost of \$9. Specials include: Eggs Benedict & Corned Beef Hash. In addition, eggs as you like them, pancakes, waffles, biscuits & gravy, juice & coffee.

MAY

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.sacramentovalleyconservancy.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.

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

Career fair

June 2: There will be a job fair from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 100 Capitol Mall. Bring 10-15 resumes, dress business professional. This is a free event for job seekers. Job opportunities include: Inside sales representatives, outside sales representatives, account executives, retail managers, account managers, insurance sales, customer service, technical sales, sales managers, pharmaceutical sales, telesales, sales trainer, merchandiser, mortgage brokers, financial planner,

route sales, retail sales, retail management, human resources and much more! Many of the companies we work with offer some of the following: Base and uncapped commission pay structure, flexible work schedule, full benefits, 401K, stock options, company car or gas allowances, president club trips and other incentives and opportunity for immense growth. Make \$70,000-plus your first year. (Note: parking is \$1.50 per half hour.)

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.

Believing 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 Ameri-

ca. 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.



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Sunday, May 31st

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Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church
6929 Franklin Blvd. Sacramento

Sunday, June 7th

12:30pm - 2:00pm

Parkview Presbyterian Church
727 T street, Sacramento

(English translation shown on screen)

Adults: \$7 | Students: \$5 | Under 12: FREE

25th Anniversary Gala of the UC Davis Cross Cultural Center

Featuring Keynote Speaker:
Kim Katerin Milan

Special Appearance by:
Dr. Cornel West

Alumni Speakers


History of the Cross Cultural Center

Words from Past Directors

Performances

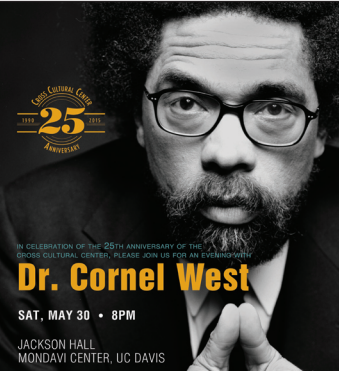
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25th Anniversary



Dr. Cornel West

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Matsuyama rallies for student needing bone marrow transplant

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Nine-year-old Allayah Phan, a fourth grader at Matsuyama Elementary School, has a rare condition — severe aplastic anemia — and is in need of a bone marrow transplant.

So far, the only donor match (83 percent) lives in Thailand. Because the match is 83 percent, a transplant would put Allayah at risk of rejection, which could damage her internal organs.

Allayah is seeking a local donor. To help with her search, Matsuyama is sponsoring a bone marrow drive during open house, which will be held at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27. Also, the Kim Quang Temple, located at 3119 Alta Arden, will be holding a bone marrow blood drive.

The Phan family has also created a gofundme account to help cover medical expenses.

On the gofundme page, Allayah writes: “I enjoy reading chapter books and watching movies with my family. My hobbies are decorating and designing things with arts and crafts. I have a dog named Boo that I love to play with. My favorite colors are blue and purple and my favorite type of candy is chocolate! I love to eat fish or pasta, but not usually together. I enjoy dancing on my free time and would like to be in a jazz and hip hop dance class.”

Adds Principal Judy Montgomery, “Allayah is a Mighty Pine and a mighty fine young pine at that.”

Describing the urgency of Allayah’s situation, Andrea Tran, Allayah’s mother said her daughter’s bone marrow is working at a 5 percent cellularity, unlike the 100 percent which is considered normal. Out of 150,000 blood cells, she has about 25,000. Allayah has undergone three types of treatments, one which used horse hormones to reverse her immune system from attacking her bone marrow and rabbit hormones another time. Since last year, Allayah has been on an immuno suppressant to have it stop attacking her bone marrow. It has worked to a certain extent, but Allayah is not functioning at a 100 percent. It can’t go on forever. Doctors at the University of California, San Francisco said the worse case scenario is that Allayah won’t be able to sustain 10 years of this treatment.

Diagnosed with aplastic anemia in March 2014, Allayah was actually admitted to the emergency room the month before. “She was at school, running,” Andrea said. “She fell and smacked her forehead into the (concrete). It’s a blessing how we caught on. We took her for an urgent visit. She had a swollen bruise on her forehead and we wanted to make sure there was no internal bleeding.” The doctor found it unusual that Allayah had bruising on her back, having fallen forward. “So (the doctor said,) ‘let’s give her a blood test. She might be a little bit anemic.’ Out of



Allayah Phan

150,000 blood cells, she only had 6,000 at the time,” she said.

Asked how the anemia has affected Allayah’s daily life, Andrea said her daughter is tired more often now, but if you see her, she’s very happy. “She has a very good lively spirit, but because of the last treatment she was on, they put her on steroids. So her face has gotten bigger, swollen and her forehead has acne. It’s just affected her confidence and she wears a mask to not get sick from someone else. But, she’s still smiley. When she smiles, her eyes get small. She’s so sweet. She doesn’t feel sick. I don’t think she knows the extent to the issue.”

The support from Allayah’s school and the community, has far exceeded the family’s expectations. Allayah’s teacher, Miss Jones, had the students make cards. Parents have made Allayah gifts. They even received a card with \$50 inside. “Even with contacting Blood Source (for the bone marrow blood drive), (the Matsuyama community) is very in-tune. They made fliers with the latest picture I sent. And they put them up all over the school. They have been a great support.”

Just since the Go Fund Me page went live on April 16, Andrea said they’ve gotten donations totaling more than \$11,000. Everyone is being really supportive. A guy and girl donated 500 bucks each that we don’t even know.”

Andrea, a Medi-Cal/CalFresh Eligibility Specialist work for Sacramento County, said she will need to take leave for at least three months when Allayah is admitted to the hospital for chemotherapy, a process used in this case to kill the immune system. “It’s her immune system that’s basically defective,” Andrea said. “It’s been hard year. You just get used to it and we try to live in the moment. We don’t know what’s in the future.”

Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival Celebrates Heritage and Culture

Celebrate National APA Heritage Month at the historic Guild Theater in Oak Park

The signature event of the Sacramento Asian Pacific Cultural Village, the Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival (SAPFF) serves alongside a continuum of events and programming in support of traditional and contemporary Asian and Pacific Islander artistic expression within the Sacramento Region.

The event will span two days and include five screenings, 27 films, and more than 15 hours of Asian Pacific film, talent, stories, cultural performances, and more.

Highlights include:

- Sacramento hometown premiere of “Kung Phooey!”, hilarious 2003 martial arts spoof by Darryl Fong
- “Robotech: The Shadow Chronicles”, epic animated sci-fi film
- “Sriracha”, story of everyone’s favorite new Asian cuisine staple
- “Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the World War II Internment Camps”, with traditional Japanese music performances Sacramento biwa (Japanese lute) master Molly Kimura and Bay Area mother and son koto duo Shirley Muramoto-Wong and Brian Mitsuhiro Wong
- “Changing Season: On The Masumoto Family Farm”, story of Central Valley family farmers and their journey to keep the family legacy thriving in challenging times

SAPFF’s mission is to celebrate and explore our diverse experiences and advance the roles of Asian and Pacific Islanders in film and new media. Emcees include: Kathy Park (KCRA 3 News Anchor/Reporter) and Stephen Chun (Event Announcer) share the stage to bring you the 2015 Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival!

If you go:

What: 2015 Sacramento Asian Pacific Film Festival
When: Friday, May 29, 4:30-9:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 30, 10:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. (Animation, food, documentaries, open submissions)

Where: The Guild Theater, 2828 35th St.

Tickets: Purchase single tickets for any of the five screenings in the categories of comedy, animation, food, documentaries and open submissions.

A full festival pass includes access to the entire 2-day event - 27 films, Q/A sessions, and stellar cultural performances).

Single Screenings: General – Advanced \$12 (\$15 after May 22)

Students/Seniors are \$10.

Full Festival Pass:

General – Advanced \$50 (\$60 after 5/22)

Students/Seniors \$40

Current IDs for Student and Senior discount will be requested at the door. Online sales for single screening tickets ends 30 minutes prior to the screening.

All ticket purchases to the 2015 SAPFF include free admission to “SAPFF Pre-Launch at Pre-Flite!”, Wednesday, May 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pre-Flite Lounge, and the “SAPFF Official After Party”, Saturday, May 30 from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Chaise Lounge! Pre-Launch and after party are strictly 21 and older. Specialty cocktails available. Mention SAPFF at the door.

Matias Bombal's Hollywood

The Age of Adeline

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

LIONSGATE and Lakeshore Entertainment bring us "The Age of Adeline" in which Adeline Bowman, (Blake Lively), remains 29 years of age for almost a century through a mystery trick of fate during an automobile accident on an unusually snowy night in Sonoma, California in 1933.

In this romantic fantasy that spans the best years of the last century to the present, the eternally young Adeline is constantly running from her agelessness.

That is until she descends one New Years Eve in an elevator with a handsome philanthropist played by Michiel Huisman. Twenty-seven floors later, and with some persistence from him, she agrees, with trepidation, to come over for a date.

Romance blossoms, yet she remains guarded with her secret, which is in danger of being exposed unexpectedly when Harrison Ford, playing the father of Huisman, happens to have known and loved Adeline in the 1960s and is certain that it is she, much to the concern of his wife, played by actress Kathy Baker.

If you take your own sweetie to this movie, you'll have wonderful results for this is a lively 107 years of romantic fantasy, handsomely made. The beginning of the movie unravels in a beautiful and clever way and is marvelously imagined and carried out.

The only matter that seemed a bit forced was the closing voice over narration in storyteller fashion, which is the way the movie opens. The narration, by Hugh Ross, was okay, somewhat reminiscent of "The Hudsucker Proxy" but was a bit much at the end. This movie was directed by Lee Toland Krieger.

Hot Pursuit

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Warner Bros. releases an M-G-M and New Line Cinema comedy which teams Reese Witherspoon and beautiful Sofia Vergara. This is in no way connected to the John Cusack movie of 1987 of the same name. His is more in the vein of a "Dukes of Hazzard" meets "Cannonball Run" and features Witherspoon as a tomboy cop assigned to protect the widow of a drug lord and bring her to trial as an informant.

Off to a shaky start, they must drive a long way to Dallas. The two are at opposite ends in every imaginable way, yet must bond together as they are chased by crooked cops and mad gunmen.

The director of this movie, Anne Fletcher, makes a Hitchcock cameo as a police dispatcher in one early scene. She's worked as an actress before turning to directing. Perhaps she should have stayed an actress.

This movie is unfunny. The chemistry between the two principals never develops, and no matter how charming Ms. Vergara may be, and she is that, she is the only redeeming aspect in this movie, which fails on many levels. Gaps in continuity and the prolonging what would have made a better television episode of 30 minutes is dragged out to 87 minutes. The preview audience laughed in many spots, however, to me, the entire production seemed trite and forced. Ms. Witherspoon has proved herself an excellent actress and comedienne in other movies, however, here her performance lacks the true ability of her talent, and seemed like she was playing dress-up for a TV skit.

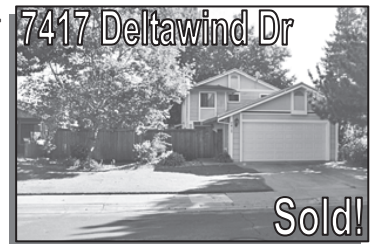
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Elegant 5bd 2.5bth w/brick facade, tile roof, and cul-de-sac locale within the Didion school boundaries.* Master ste + 2nd bdrm down. Upd kitchen, carpet, interior paint, more! Separate living & family rooms, formal dining. Enclosed patio room, park-like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



< 19 Sail Court - Pending!
Mediterranean style 3bd 2.5 bath, 1-story w/large gated courtyard entry Fabulous view & frontage w/boat dock on Lake Greenhaven! Spacious master suite. Great rm w/fireplace. Formal dining. Kitchen w/brkfst area, granite counters. Updated carpet, laminate flooring, most windows/sliders.

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!



"Choosing Bill as our agent was the best decision we made in the process of selling our house. Bill has more than 30 years experience, is a consummate professional in the business aspects of the trade and maintains a friendly, even tempered demeanor on all occasions. We unreservedly give him our highest recommendation." Tom & Martha Yanger, Sellers - Pocket Area

* 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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THE ISLANDS AT RIVERLAKE

Many, many upgrades in the single story 3 bedroom 2 bath home. Taro floor plan home includes a private professionally landscaped yard. Hunter Douglas blinds, stainless steel appliances, corian counter, entertainment center, backyard barbeque, and so much more! Amazing! \$379,000

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

JUSTIN DAVIS 798-3126



WONDERFUL GREENHAVEN

Pride of ownership just beams in this original owner home! Great floorplan, 4 bedrooms, 2½ baths with fresh paint, new carpet and new laminate flooring. Kitchen has been updated with Corian counters and has plenty of storage space. Attention to detail includes closets with cedar flooring! \$379,000

PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715



EXCEPTIONAL GREENHAVEN

Grangers Dairy area ranch style home, wonderfully updated! 4 bedrooms 3 full baths with master suite and a remote bedroom. Covered patio, pool and spa, ready for summer! Two fireplaces, dual pane windows, spacious kitchen, family room and formal dining area. 3-car garage. \$520,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



RARE 5 BEDROOM HOME

Fantastic remodeled home built by Crocker, 5 bedrooms 3 full baths. Remodeled kitchen, baths, flooring, interior/exterior paint, fixtures, lighting, fireplace tile, appliances, and so much more. Nice Workshop in the backyard. Private yard and patio. Close to bike trails and Sacramento River \$420,000

MONA GERGEN 247-9555



GORGEOUS IN THE RIVERS

Prestigious West Sacramento community, 5 bedroom 3½ bath home is an entertainer's dream with lots of space, beautiful floors, high ceilings and a beautiful contemporary kitchen. It's conveniently located close to downtown Sacramento and Raley Field. \$549,900

ALEXIS JONES 715-0237



GREENBELT CLOSE

Conveniently located Greenhaven 3 bedroom 2 bath home within easy walking distance of the greenbelt. 1908 sf with spacious living room and dining room and large family room with wet bar just off the kitchen, also a breakfast nook. Built-in pool, covered patio and 2-car attached garage. \$359,000

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

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