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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015 AT JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL!

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Neighbors gear up for State Fair

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Lenny Williams, soloist, former Tower of Power singer, to perform July 4 show in the Pocket

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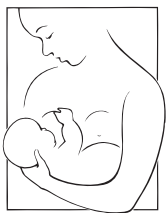
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# Neighbors gear up for the state fair

By MONICA STARK  
editor@valcomnews.com

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Excitement surrounding the inaugural 2015 U.S. National Drone Racing Championship at the California State Fair on Bonney Field on July 16 and 17 is heating up for this first-of-its-kind competition officially sanctioned by the Academy of Model Aeronautics, the Congressionally mandated agency that oversees radio controlled and unmanned model aviation activities. With a rich heritage in agriculture, education, technology and entertainment, the California State Fair is set to become the perfect venue to host this competition, which is organized by Flying Grounds Inc.

For more than 160 years, the California State Fair has showcased the best of the Golden State and organizers hope the drone racing will showcase not only the best in the state, but the best in the country for the specialized sport. During the 2014 state fair more than 750,000 people attended, making memories that will last a lifetime. Cal Expo was dedicated as a place to celebrate California's achievements, industries, agriculture, diversity of its people, traditions and trends that shape the Golden State's future. This year's California State Fair will take place July 10-26 at Cal Expo, located at 1600 Exposition Blvd.

Valley Community Newspapers sought out local participants in various areas of fair entertainment and is featuring them as follows:

Former Pocket News writer, Jeff Dominguez was appoint-

ed outreach and special projects coordinator of the California Exposition and State Fair. He spoke to this publication about many different topics to explore, including the drone racing, which he has been instrumental in recommending the venue, Bonney Field.

"One of the things (the state fair) highlighted was the assembly line when it was developed. Over the course of past couple of years, it's been revealed to us by our contacts in Ag that drone technology will pretty much revolutionize the way people farm, and mainly with regard to their role in agriculture, we decided we wanted to have some sort of competition. So as far as the research surrounding drone competitions, we found a circuit of drone racing. We got connected with a guy who does drone racing," Dominguez said.

"(Scot Ressler from Flying Grounds Inc.) is from Berkeley and has a PhD in virtual reality. We brought him in, talked to him and about him staging a drone race. We thought we'd do (the drone races) in the rodeo, but it was too dusty, then we thought about having it in a race track. Then, on a whim, we drove him to Bonney Field and it's the field of dreams for drones. That became the focus of our goal and we came up with a course. It's gaining momentum. (Ressler) started developing a lovely proposal of what he wanted to do," he said.

While some readers might think that this drone racing is basically radio controlled airplane racing, Dominguez

begs to differ. "The thing on drones is when you think of piloting or see kids with remote control airplanes, this is different. This kind of piloting is FPV - first person view. How these guys fly these drones - they don't sit in a chair; they are equipped on board with cameras that shoot out of the drones and the pilots wear goggles that are covered with TV monitors. When you look at these guys, they look like a bunch of Stevie Wonders."

That's not to say that every drone pilot wears said goggles; in fact, Dominguez explained that covering one's eyes can be a divisive topic in the subculture of drone racing. "Some don't wear goggles. They look at the TV monitors instead. The TV monitor guys think the goggle guys are stupid and the goggle guys think the TV monitor guys are stupid. I've been with them on test days, and they're talking (expletive) about each other. It's really funny; the braggadocio in mind games is a huge part of this," he said.

The drone competition will feature California style high speed racing with 250 class multirotor air frames, typically with four or six motors. California style racing is a slightly smaller course, but a much more challenging design as pilots must possess both speed and fast-twitch agility skills. The average size of these drones is approximately the size of two shoe boxes, weigh no more than 600 grams, and their racing altitude is no more than 50 feet in a safe self-contained area. The competition will attract 200 of the best pilots in the U.S. to compete for a total cash prize of \$25,000 provided by Flying Grounds Inc. along with trophies, ribbons, and bragging rights for the participating pilots.

Pre-qualifying rounds and time trials will take place on the first day of the event followed by the high-speed agility style racing on Friday. All races will take place on a professionally designed course with features including under/over obstacles, slalom, hairpin turns and challenging gates. An invitational

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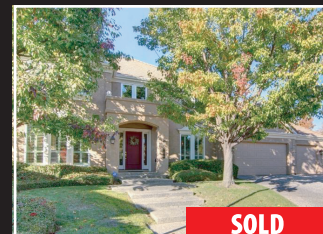
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# State Fair:

Continued from page 4

freestyle acrobatic competition will also be included to showcase the best first person view (FPV) pilots. Friday evening will showcase the championship rounds, awards and closing ceremonies.

Free public events (with paid fair admission) include "Drone Planet" pavilion that showcases companies and organizations in the drone agriculture and racing industries, and the "Drone Hangar" featuring inventors, air frame makers, with the latest drone racing inventions. VIP Pit passes can be purchased for an additional fee of \$15 and includes field-level viewing and access to the flyers prep area.

FPV drone racing has become a wildly popular hobby in the past 12 months, yet the use of drones remains an issue for public debate with respect to commercial use. In addition to the racing excitement at the National Championships, industry experts from organizations such as the AMA, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) plan to attend and share the latest information about drone technology, policies and regulations.

Aside from Jeff's involvement with the fair, there are many other Sacramento neighborhood highlights, which include (but are in no way limited to the following):

The announcement of Sacramentan Keith Breedlove as the official chef for the state fair. This is the first time the California State Fair has had an official chef to represent and share the fair's mission and goals for sustainable and healthy ways of cultivating and preparing California specialties from the farm to the plate. The knowledge and passion "Culinerdy" Breedlove has for food will amaze California cuisine lovers with #TheBest culinary delights, picked fresh from the Save Mart 3-acre farm, which is run most entirely by Sacramento State University graduate Alicia Kot.

Breedlove gained an interest for food at an early age, learning cooking techniques and how to barbecue from his greatest mentor, his grandfather, Papa Dale Breedlove. In 1987, he entered the culinary profession and his dream of becoming a chef became reality with a farm-to-fork style of cuisine.

Breedlove, will be available each day of the fair to give live, educational cooking demonstrations. Breedlove will also represent the state fair at various events leading up to and during the fair.

"My passion lies in bringing you flavorful international inspired California cuisine reinterpreted using a combination of modern and traditional techniques, assuring every meal is prepared with an ingenious, nerdy and slightly crazy approach," says Breedlove.

Out in the world of beer winners, Arden resident Matt Johnson and Amador Brewing Company were the winners for their "British Dark Mild" beer, beating out more than 1,000 entries, stated Dominguez.

In the world of arts and entertainment, much can be said about the vast amount of talent hailing from Sacramento. It appears, the final results for the Youth Arts competition are in, and there are a number of first place winners from St. Francis High School.

Over on the Groupon Stage, there is a mix of music and entertainment but this stage tends to have more in the way of music. This year, The Cheeseballs and Wonderbread 5, which are well known local bands, will entertain crowds.

On the PG&E Center Stage, local Jazzercise classes will be performing on Sunday, July 12; gymnasts from Land Park's

Planet Gymnastics will take the stage on Tuesday, July 14, East Sacramento dancers from Fancy Feet will be performing on July 24 and 26. East Sacramento to mom, Melissa Jeffers Russell, said her daughter Emma is "very excited to perform at the fair. She will be doing ballet to Part of Your World with other girls from her class (at Fancy Feet)."

Land Park children's author Kate David will be in the California Author Exhibit on the ground floor in Building A/B on Tuesday, July 14, Saturday, July 18 and Tuesday, July 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kate is the author of "Murphy and the Magical Hat" (2012) and "McKay and the Magical Hat" (2014).

Pocket artist Christopher Williams will be showing his art July 18-21 in Building 7 of the Expo Center. 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.

Pocket resident David Chin won first place in the toy category for his display of a 2-

See Fair awards, page 8

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# Water policy protest hits Little Pocket:

Dozens demonstrate "2nd California Water Summit" outside the Westin Hotel

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

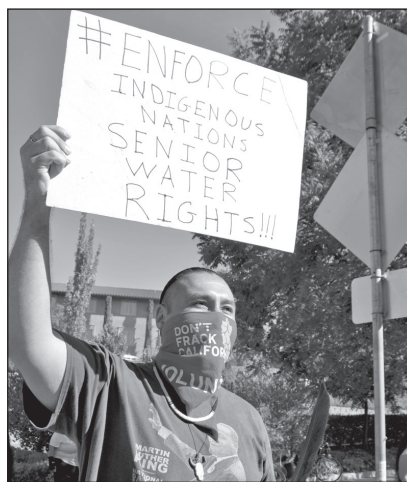
Demonstrators from as far north as Lake Shasta and from as far south as the Los Angeles area converged on the sidewalk on Riverside Boulevard in front of the Westin Hotel on Monday and Tuesday mornings. Their cause: Water is a human right and it should not be controlled by those with money and power. Meanwhile, inside the hotel was the "2nd California Water Summit" in which government officials and private investors converged to talk about water policy. But

the cost to get in was \$1,495 for the four-day summit and many of the demonstrators, who were from various Native American tribes, have been feeling left out of discussions such as these for too long.

"Fight, fight for your rights. Fight, fight for water rights," they chanted in the Little Pocket neighborhood, as inside the hotel investors and governmental officials discussed how \$7.5 billion can be distributed through the state due to the passage of the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Act of 2014. The Act, which signals "investments in water" and the "long-term sustainable supply and delivery of that water are critical to California's future," was a benchmark of success deemed by the Edmund Gerald "Jerry" Brown Jr. administration.

The supporting organization for the conference, West Coast Infrastructure Exchange, "was created by Governors and Treasurers of the West Coast states (California, Oregon, and Washington) and the Premier of British Columbia to promote the type of new thinking necessary to solve out infrastructure crisis. Its board consists of senior representatives of the Governors and Treasurers of the member states and the Executive Director of Partnerships British Columbia."

According to the event website, funding from the \$7.5 billion statewide water bond will "create a mul-



Photos by Monica Stark

Shown here is a collection of photos from Monday morning outside the Westin Hotel. Demonstrators were protesting the "2nd California Water Summit," a water policy meeting that costs about \$1,500 to attend for the entire program. Demonstrators feel left out of important water policy discussions.

titude of new project opportunities and redefine the way California state and local governments use and invest in solutions to address the water crisis; and fund these new water infrastructure projects ... Only stakeholders intimately aware of the latest insights, lessons learned, and how to maximize project fundability from successfully (public and privately) funded water projects will succeed in this climate."

Those very words of exclusivity and ownership sur-

rounding every living thing's basic need – water – was the very thrust of the protestors' spirit.

Spokesperson Calen Sisk, chief and spiritual leader of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, resides near Lake Shasta and discussed the purpose of the protest as follows:

"We feel that it's unfair to hold the water meetings and exclude most of the interested parties that invest in people. Especially the tribes, they have not talked about California tribal water rights. They are talking about senior water rights and rights before 1914 and they have excluded the talks about the native California people's water rights and to hold it here, at the Westin, is out of the way, excluded. It costs \$1,500 to get in there to attend the meetings and they had a limited number of people in there who could register, so it's not an open

registration even if you had \$1,500. There was a cutoff date you had to know about and they're going to be discussing the \$7.5 billion water programs for Prop. 1, which includes Shasta Dam raise, the tunnels. Most people want to restore the Delta, the fisheries, Golden Gate salmon, and the tribes should have a place on that agenda. Tribes or environmentalists should be heard about digging up the Delta."

At the protest, members from the Winnemem Wintu, Pomo, Wailaki tribes were present as well as Hawaiians who stood in solidarity with those concerned about the delivery of water. Living near Lake Shasta, a source of water for the Sacramento River, Calen said she's particularly concerned about how water is distributed because of the salmon. "The salmon have to live

See Water policy, page 7

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# Water policy:

Continued from page 6

in the Delta and if they are planning on diverting all the water from the Delta, which the tunnels can do, then the salmon can die.

Lake Shasta is very low and hasn't recovered and it is still being drained. It was at 33 percent (of its capacity) earlier and it will probably be a lot less. The river is full, the Sacramento River. That water comes from the north to fill that river and that water is going down south through the aqueducts to agribusiness farms.

"Our biggest message is that the California people, the good-hearted people, have to start paying attention to what's going on. They have to start relying on information that is outside the government and so far we've been trained to believe the government will take care of us and deliver the water the way they need to. I think people need to wake up and see this is not a fight between salmon and water. This is not a fight between L.A. and Northern California because the projection of the water that's going to be there is for five new communities in the desert, for two new fracking mines and the rest of it will be brokered.

"I think that (the general public) could wake up and they need to wake up, but I don't know if they will. We're just a little minion tribe. We're not considered scientists, but generations of our people have been here and we know what the weather is. We live the weather. We don't live in an artificial community. We know when the grass turns brown. We know when the flowers come up. We know that the flower is supposed to be there and what the flower means in relation to the salmon that is coming up river. Most people don't know what water tastes like anymore."

Another one of the protestors, Dan Bacher, has been writing about water issues for many years for such websites as Daily Kos, Alternet, the California Progress Report, and for such print publications such as the Sacramento News and Review. He is also the editor of the Fish Sniffer mag-



azine. He's currently working on a critical book about Governor Brown and his environmental policies, which is expected to be released within the next year. "It's going to be about his environmental policies. It will show a picture of the oil spill, and right under it there will be a bunch of dead fish and a dried up lake."

As an environmentalist, a writer and a lover of fishing, Dan visits many lakes, which he says are currently full. "Rancho Seco lake is full. Lake Valley reservoir; Fuller Lake was brim full last Friday (June 26). I went to Union Reservoir on the Stanislaus River. It was the highest I've ever seen it. Rollins Lake on the Bear River is full. Water agencies that planned ahead - that practiced conservation - they were able to bump release the minimum stream flows to keep the fish going during the drought. The ones that squandered their water, sent it south in 2013, 2014, and again this year. I did an investigation and found they were filling Southern California reservoirs with the water they stole from Folsom even though they knew we were in the worst-ever drought.

"The media talks like these are separate projects. The tunnels are not a separate project. The tunnels project is designed in conjunction with the Shasta Dam bridge. One facilitates the other. "They're trying to build twin tunnels and send (water) to the agricultural folks in Southern California. They need storage, so they are going to raise the Shasta dam. Our argument is that it doesn't make a lot

of sense because if you don't have any water, you don't have any water to store. You can build the tunnels, but it isn't going to create the water. But Brown is committed to this anyway. I think he's betting on having wetter winters ahead and also hoping the people are stupid and don't wake up and don't realize you can't create something out of nothing."

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# Fair awards:

Continued from page 5

foot-tall wooden Ferris wheel, which will be shown in Building 8 during the course of the entire fair. Made of pine, the Ferris wheel's materials came from Home Depot, which means the wood is "bottom end. I hate to say that," jokes David.

About him entering his work into the fair, David recalled, "I said put it in a category where you think it belongs; (on the display), there are 31 little people and one dog." Last fall, David won first place in a wood show contest at Woodcraft on Folsom Boulevard for a wood train he carved. David belongs to the Capital Woodcarvers Association, which meets at the Arden Park Recreation Center, 1000 La Sierra Drive from 7 to 9 p.m. every second Tuesday for business, guest speaker and show and tell. The group also meets at that time on the fourth Tuesday for informal carving and class project carving.

Sacramento City College art professor Robyn Waxman wrote this publication describing her students' achievements and their participation in the state fair.

All of her students are student-designers of Flagship Design Studio, the Graphic Communication Studio class (GCOM 490).

Flagship Design Studio typically takes two to three awards each year in the California State Fair for the professional quality work they design. The process includes client meetings, heavy art direction, and many revisions so the work is molded into something stu-

dents include in their professional portfolios and clients are able to use for a long time afterward. The students this year have never won an award like this before, so they are thrilled to receive an honor for the studio that they can include on their resumes and talk about at future job interviews, said Waxman.

Flagship Design Studio Designers Cyrus Maglinte, Carlos Vasquez, Johnnesper Pimentel and Ethan Powell won Outstanding Group Project and the California Graphic Arts Association Education Award. "This project included the materials to promote our Year End Show in Graphic Communication, a student-showcase exhibit featuring the best work this school year in the Graphic Communication Department. This year's show used the theme of 'Board Games' and work included four posters, a large interactive board game, post cards, and 'Best of Class' awards," said Waxman.

Additionally, Flagship Design Studio Designers Cyrus Maglinte, Andreana Schudy, Carlos Vasquez and Johnnesper Pimentel won honorable mention for their 5-minute video that introduces the EOPS program at Sacramento City College, interviewing counselors, students, and alumni whose successes were linked to the EOPS program. The video can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRpOpjRVfDQ>.

"Our students in the Flagship Design Studio are trained to be design professionals. They are introduced to "real world" experiences and scenarios working in our studio. Each semester we accept between 5-9 clients from the Sacramento Community and SCC campus



departments. Primarily we design work for nonprofits, start ups, and financially strapped entities at low costs. The money we raise supports student portfolios, buys supplies and professional equipment that students do not normally have access to, and pays for the Flagship Design Studio swag that design students wear with pride. The students gain experience writing proposals and invoices, working in design teams, communicating with a client, integrating client and art director feedback, and presenting their work," Waxman said.

Finally, in the world of politics, Sacramentan Darrow Sprague, will be coordinating the scheduling of volunteers for the Sacramento Democratic Party booth this year.

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# Discussion set for "My Mother's Kitchen" at the Pocket Library

Centering on her love of cooking and growing-up in her mother's kitchen, local award-winning author, Meera Klein will discuss her first novel on **Wednesday, July 15 from 6 to 7:15 p.m.** at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, located at 7335 Gloria Drive. The book, "My Mother's Kitchen" includes recipes and, of course, her memories of mom's cooking. In her book, Klein describes an enchanting place filled with promise, change and good food. The weathered walls of this magical room tell the story of Meena, the young protagonist, and her childhood.

Each chapter is a slice in Meena's early life and depicts her spunk and youthful spirit. A visit to the local Fruit and Flower Show becomes an adventure, and her distress at finding out about an aunt's dark secret or her job of making a new friend are all told in a voice that is naïve, yet pure. Her mother is a central character in her life and it is no wonder that the kitchen is such a special place of healing and rejuvenation, not only for Meena, but for other characters in the book as well.

Klein wrote "My Mother's Kitchen", as a tribute to her late mother and combines her own childhood memories, love of storytelling and cooking

Indian dishes into an award-winning book, which delivers the added bonus of recipes.

And stay tuned for Klein's sequel novel as Meena's adventures continue in a new world! The author will be available for signing and books will be available for purchase (cash and checks only).

## More upcoming events at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library

### Knit Together @ Pocket Library (Adult)

**Friday, July 3 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!

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

**Tuesday, July 7 at 10:15 a.m.:** "Stay and Play" is an unstructured social time for babies and toddlers (ages 0 and up!--older siblings are wel-

come 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 there is a special performance by Mister Cooper instead. This program is made possible with funding from the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

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

**Tuesday, July 7 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 there is a special musical performance by Mr. Cooper instead of storytime.

### Kitchen Science with the Food Literacy Center at Pocket Library (School Age (6-12))

**Wednesday, July 8 at 2 p.m.:** Musical Kitchen (for kindergarten through

6th grades; preschoolers may participate with the help of a caretaker). Have you ever listened to the sounds in your kitchen? What do we eat that makes a sound? We'll watch a musical clip of cool kitchen sounds and make our own kitchen noisemakers. We'll have a snack with lots of crunch! They'll read "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault. This program is part of the Sacramento Public Library's "Read to the Rhythm" Summer Reading Program.

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

**Thursday, July 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 caretakers/families, except on the last Tuesday of each month, when there is a special performance by Mister Cooper instead. This program is made possible with funding from the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

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# Lenny Williams, soloist, former Tower of Power singer, to perform July 4 show in the Pocket

By LANCE ARMSTRONG  
Lance@valcomnews.com

As festivities begin to draw more and more people to Garcia Bend Park following the Spirit of the Pocket Parade this Independence Day, a portion of the people at the park will have arrived to listen to the music of Lenny Williams.

Williams, who is best known for his song, "Cause I Love You," and his contributions as the lead singer of the legendary horn-heavy rhythm and blues band, Tower of Power, during the 1970s, recently discussed his long career in music with the Pocket News.

Although Williams, 70, was born in Little Rock, Ark., he said that it was not long before he became a California kid.

"I came to Oakland when I was 14 months old, so I've been told," Williams said.

In reflecting upon his early involvement in music, Lenny said, "I think I was in the fourth grade at Prescott (Elementary School in West Oakland), and they had an assembly and they had instruments. I looked at the trumpet and fell in love with it."

Williams began taking trumpet lessons at Prescott Elementary, and later moved to East Oakland, where he attended Garfield Elementary and became involved in that school's music program.

Additionally, Williams, who continued his trumpet playing as a junior high school student, spent many years singing in church choirs and listening to music on the radio. He began singing in a children's church choir when he was about 5 years old.

Some of the musical artists who he was drawn to during his childhood were Clyde McPhatter, Bobby Darin and Sam Cooke.

Additionally, Williams enjoyed listening to gospel music by such artists the Clara Ward Singers, The Caravans and The Reverend James Cleveland.

Williams said that his mother often related a story regarding his early love of music.

"My mom always told the story about when I was a little tyke and I had learned how to say the Lord's Prayer," Williams said. "And so, she was having a tea with some of the women at the church, and she said, 'Oh, Leon-

ard Charles can sing his prayers.' And they all kind of gathered around, and I said, 'Our father,' and then I put my hands in the air and I [sang], 'Hey! Ba-ba-re-bop,' which was a big hit (by Lionel Hampton) at that time playing on the radio. So, I guess I kind of had a love for music and listening to good music even at a young age."

Although Williams would eventually become a well-known musician, he mentioned that he may not have been the first person in his family to reach such a level in music.

"I understand that Louis Jordan (1908-1975) is somehow part of our family," Williams said. "He was from Arkansas and he was also a famous singer, trumpet player, band leader."

Williams explained that the time and place of where he grew up played a role in his musical growth during his youth.

"I grew up near 7th Street (in Oakland), which is a street that had a lot of clubs and people like Sammy Davis, Jr., Count Basie and Dinah Washington. (They) would all come down to the club - Slim Jenkins' club - down there. So, as a kid, you would see these nice, shiny cars coming in and young adults going over there to the club and you would find out who was over there. It was just kind of interesting. (There was) T-Bone Walker and all the blues guys and stuff like that. So, most definitely, it was kind of a golden age. And there were a lot of (other) things happening in Oakland, too. It was just ripe for a young person to just kind of sit there and eat the fruit and absorb all the energy and the knowledge."

During his teenage years, Williams would spend time hanging out with the Hawkins family (of gospel music fame). Walter Hopkins (1949-2010) and Ed Hawkins and Tramaine Hawkins, they were doing gospel (music), and then (there was) the Stewart family, which was Sly Stone's family. They were having musicals at the church and competing against each other. Then kind of watching them grow up, (there was) a lot of difference than secular music. And so, eventually, I said, 'Hey, I want to try to do that myself.'

Williams said that his approach to music eventually evolved to a point that he desired to pursue working in music on a professional level.



Photo courtesy of Lenny Williams

Lenny Williams, whose career includes his former work as the lead singer of Tower of Power and his ongoing success as a solo artist, will perform at Garcia Bend Park on July 4 at noon.

"I was more close to my 20s when I really started thinking about (music) as a profession," Williams said. "Before then, I just wanted to sing and sing anywhere, all the time, walking down the street, wherever, on the bus, just entertaining myself and anybody else who would listen."

Although Williams would take a brief break from music, while he was in college, one of his friends suggested that they participate in a talent show.

After becoming a contestant in the show and winning about \$20, Williams returned to the show several more times and continued to be among the winners.

Williams' singing in those shows drew the attention of Ray Shanklin, who was an (artists and repertoire) man for Fantasy Records.

"(Shanklin) asked me if I wanted to make a record, and I said, 'Yeah,'" recalled Williams, who started writing music when he was 14 years old. "That's when my professional journey started. I went over to Fantasy Records (in) San Francisco and I met a young kid by the name of John Fogerty, who was working in the stock room (and would become best known as the lead singer and lead guitarist of Creedence Clearwater Revival). He wrote a song for me. And then I met a guy by the name of (Huey) Lewis and he had a group called Clover at that time."

Lewis would later form the successful group, Huey Lewis and the News.

In 1969, Williams had his first record cut at the Fantasy Records studios. It was a single of the song, "Lisa's Gone."

Eventually, Williams began hanging out in Fremont and rehearsing with a band known as the Motown Soul Band. The group would ultimately reestablish itself as Tower of Power.

In recalling that experience, Williams said, "Nothing really came of (those rehearsals)."

About three years later, Williams was hanging out writing songs with Larry Graham, bass player of Sly Stone's successful group, Sly and the Family Stone.

Williams recalled an important experience in his musical life that occurred while he was spending time with Graham.

"(Graham) suggested we put some horns on some of the material," Williams said. "He invited the band, Tower of Power, to come over to the studio, and low and behold, I said, 'Oh, those are those kids from the Motown Soul Band.' And so, we reunited and I started writing with the band, and eventually they had some problem with the lead singer and voilà, I took his place. I think that was in like December of 1972 and by the end of January of 1973, we had a hit (song), 'So Very Hard to Go.' So, I was definitely on my way."

The timing of Williams' joining of Tower of Power proved quite timely, as he was then approaching his return from a leave of absence on an assembly line of the Ford Motor Company.

In continuing to tell the chronological story of his career, Williams said, "(Tower of Power) was on (the) Warner Bros. (label) and we did the (10-song) album, ('Tower of Power'). We had singles, (the aforementioned), 'So Very Hard to Go,' 'What is Hip?', 'This Time It's Real.' Then we came back the next year and did another (album), 'Back to Oakland,' and I did a lot of writing on that (album). Eventually, I left Tower of Power (after working on the 1974 album, 'Urban Renewal') and went to Motown and did a record there, which wasn't very success-

See Lenny, page 19



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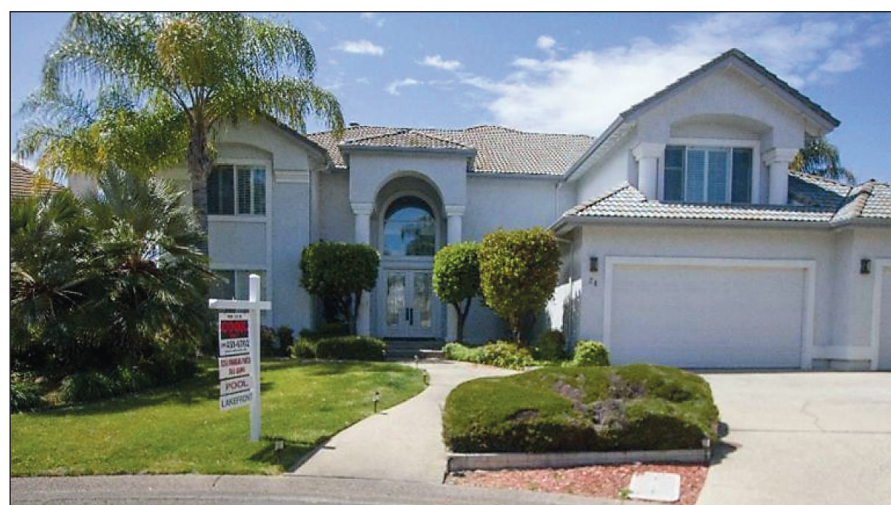
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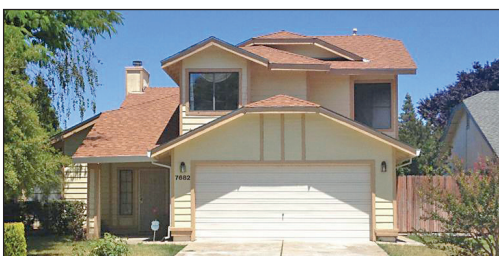
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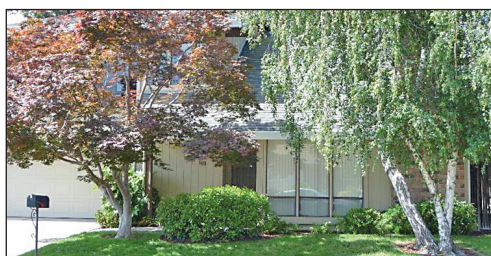
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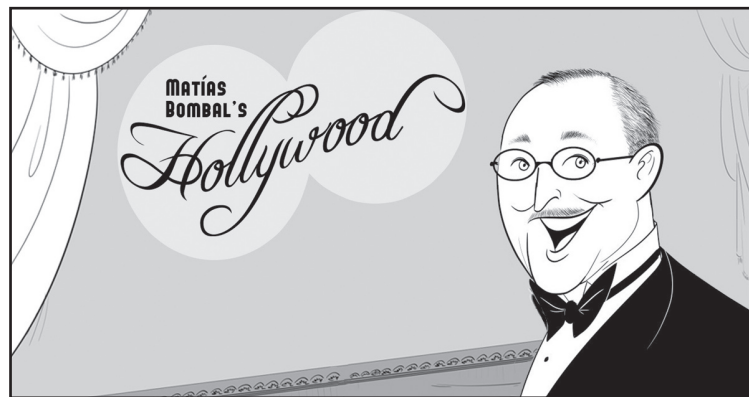


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You'll love meeting the windmills in your mind in "Inside Out". Walt Disney/Pixar Animation Studios.

## Matías Bombal's Hollywood

### INSIDE OUT

*The MPAA has rated this PG*

You'll love meeting the windmills in your mind in "Inside Out". Walt Disney/Pixar Animation Studios

Disney's Pixar Animation Studios are a world unto themselves, and in a way so NOT like the modern Disney of today, that they make for interesting bedfellows. "Inside Out" is a sheer delight from start to finish. It is witty, fresh, and even cerebral. Writers Pete Docter (who also directs), Ronaldo Del Carmen, Meg LeFauve and Josh Cooley have an introspective gem that gets inside your mind, literally, or at least inside each of the wonderful characters that you'll meet in this smart kids movie that will have plenty of great moments for adults, too.

Just what may be found in everyone's mind?

In this picture, there are animated characters that represent emotions that reside in the brain area of our cartoon heroine, a girl named Riley. Each of them is voiced by some contemporary voices that you may know: Joy (Amy Pollard), Fear (Bill Hader), Anger (Lewis Black), Disgust (Mindy Kaling), and Sadness (Phyllis Smith).

Riley is a young girl who has traveled with her parents from Minnesota to San Francisco, where her father (Kyle MacLachlan) has moved for work. Mom (Diane Lane) is concerned that their moving van has not appeared and the family has no clothes or furnishings.

Compound this with Riley's first day at school, and we see how all of her emotions come to play within her head, where we spend much of the picture. Our group of emotions chronicle core memories and other impulses and react to events as they unfold outside Riley's head. Taking the lead is the super positive and almost manic emotion of Joy, and as things become more glum for Riley, Joy embarks on an adventure through the deep recesses of Riley's mind to save her from total depressive shut down.

I could imagine a pitch meeting of this storyline in Hollywood: "Fantastic Voyage" meets "The Phantom Tollbooth" for kids. Like the great Chuck Jones animated "Tollbooth" of 1970, this movie is clever, imaginative and fun. You don't have to be a kid to enjoy it. The voices are so perfectly melded to the characters that it is sheer delight and I laughed out loud numerous times.

I am somewhat old fashioned in a modern world, and the only element that bothered me in the movie was the non-stop pace of Joy as voiced by Amy Pollard. It was at times much too fast, manic and breathless, and that irritated me. When she does eventually slow down later in the movie for just a few moments, it is only temporary, for she returns to non-stop positivity-plus in short order. This is a great and entertaining way to spend 94 minutes at the movies, and might be the kind of picture you'd not mind watching twice.

# CALENDAR

Send your event announcement for consideration to: [editor@valcomnews.com](mailto:editor@valcomnews.com) at least two weeks prior to publication.

## JULY

### Mission Oaks Computer Club meeting

**July 9:** The Mission Oaks Computer Club will meet from 1 to 3 p.m. at Mission Oaks Community Center, 4701 Gibbons Drive. The meeting will include a problem-solving clinic, led by Adam Lacey of Applications, Etc. First-time visitors are welcome. For additional information visit our website at [www.missionoakscomputerclub.org](http://www.missionoakscomputerclub.org) or send an email to [moccc@missionoakscomputerclub.org](mailto:moccc@missionoakscomputerclub.org).

### Better choices, better health workshop

**July 10 (start date):** Better Choices is a series of two and a half hour held once a week for six weeks. Learn strategies to take control of your chronic conditions, lower your stress levels, and communicate better with your doctor. The workshop, developed by the Stanford University Patient Education Research Center, is for people with chronic conditions like diabetes, high blood pressures, etc. Free pf charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held from 9:30 - noon beginning July 10 at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For details, call 393-9026 ext 330, [www.accsv.org](http://www.accsv.org).

### Fire Station 11 Open House

**July 11:** Fire Station 11, located 785 Florin Road, will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

### American-Portuguese Veteran's Memorial Poker Tournament

**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. In regard to sponsorship, for \$250 you will receive two entries into the tournament (\$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.

### Medicare fraud workshop

**July 15:** This workshop will discuss forms of Medicare fraud, how to protect yourself from becoming a victim, and how to report suspected fraud. The instructor will also explain the services available through the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy program. Free pf charge. Pre-registration is required. Class will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For details, call 393-9026 ext 330, [www.accsv.org](http://www.accsv.org).

### MLK Spelling Bee

**July 15-16:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Friends announce the 13th Annual MLK Spelling Bee to be held on Wednesday, July 15 and Thursday, July 16 from 1-5 p.m. The bee is open for first through 8th graders. There will be contests for grades 1,2,4, and 5 on Wednesday; contests for grades 3,6,7,8 will be held on Thursday. Pick up spelling lists at Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 7340 24th St. Bypass, Sacramento 95822.

### Fire Station 13 Open House

**July 18:** Fire Station 13, located at 1100 43rd Ave., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

### Fire Station 15 Open House

**July 25:** Fire Station 15, located at 1591 Newborough Dr., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

## AUGUST

### Fire Station 18 Open House

**Aug. 1:** Fire Station 18, located at 746 North Market Blvd., will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.

### Free! Riverside Concert Series at Camp Pollock

**Aug. 6:** 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](http://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org) or call 731-8798. Camp Pollock is located at 1501 Northgate Blvd.

### Fire Station 19 Open House

**Aug. 8:** Fire Station 19, located at 1700 Challenge Way, will have an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Meet firefighters and possibly mascot Sparky.



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**Yoga for Those with Cancer** - Tuesdays, July 7-September 15, 2:00-3:30 pm - \$80  
**Chinese Calligraphy & Painting** - Thursdays, July 9-30, 6:00-7:00 pm - \$20  
**Beginning Tai Chi** - Thursdays, July 9 - July 30, 6:00-7:00 pm - \$20

Contact Anna Su at (916) 393-9026 or [classes@accsv.org](mailto:classes@accsv.org).  
[www.accsv.org](http://www.accsv.org)



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 Phone: 429-9901  
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# – EVENT LISTING SECTION –

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October 4, 2015

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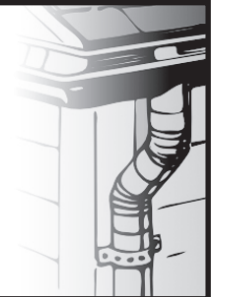
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# Congratulations to the class of 2015 at John F. Kennedy High School!

*Editor's Note: What follows is a message from outgoing John F. Kennedy Principal Chad Sweitzer on the class of 2015. On Thursday, June 18, Sacramento City Unified Board of Trustees unanimously voted for David Van Natten, Kennedy's current Assistant Principal, to become Kennedy's new principal.*

## Outgoing principal Chad Sweitzer's message to the class of 2015:

It was a great four years together Class of 2015! We saw many changes to the campus with the addition of the new auditorium, athletic stadium and the addition of new classes and programs. Our enrollment increased each of the 4 years together and we saw a large increase in our neighborhood students remaining at JFK and not going to other school sites.

Our athletic teams won numerous championships in golf, track, basketball, baseball and softball. And we added a new manufacturing and design program that has already won numerous awards and state-wide recognition. The Class of 2015 earned hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships and is sending the largest number in years to prestigious four year colleges and universities. Congratulations Class of 2015!

Abdelnour, Kevin C.  
Abdul-Haqq, Imani S.  
Aery, Naazreen S.  
Ahuja, Sanjana  
Ajayi, Henry O.  
Alba, Hennessy A.  
Alcaraz, Jordan L.  
Aldrete, Marla J.  
Ali, Neelufa S.  
Ali, Shamir Z.  
Alvarez, Jasmine  
Andrew, Christopher J.  
Angels, Miles Marie R.  
Apaza, Felix D.  
Archuleta, Gabriel R.  
Arguello, Salvador  
Arreola, Aldrin P.  
Arriaga-Barragan, Maria G.  
Arroyo, Arturo Y.  
Austin, Jamarea D.  
Avila, Lixka A.  
Ayala, Natalia M.  
Aylew, Betelihem Y.  
Azuras, Leilani M.  
Bargas, Alleyna N.  
Barnes, Harlon D.  
Barnes, Imani J.  
Barrera, Alicia E.  
Barrios-Allen, Sofia I.  
Bearor, Hailey N.  
Beeman, Briana C.  
Bell, Cache D.  
Bhutta, Jessica  
Blanco, Andres  
Blanco, Senora S.  
Blanco, Yvonne Y.  
Bodhiprasart, Narisa  
Bowden, Giovanni M.  
Boyd, Megan M.  
Brand, Cameron J.  
Bravo, John J.  
Bravo Sanchez, Anthony  
Braziel, Brian D.  
Brown, Chad S.  
Brown, Yashine K.  
Bryant, Eugene P.  
Buford, Michael J.  
Butcher, Alyssa M.  
Byoune-Worthen, Aminah J.  
Cagulada, Madisen R.  
Camara, Malik R.  
Campos, Jesus  
Cano, Sophia D.  
Caples, Alec D.  
Carter, Corrine R.  
Castellanos, Angelica  
Castillo, Jose  
Castro, Alfredo  
Ceccato, Jacqueline B.  
Cervin, Donal W.  
Chan, Josephine S.

Chan, Kevin  
Chan, Priscilla G.  
Chand, Emiliano A.  
Chanthorn, Tami P.  
Charles, Alyssa N.  
Chavez-Beltran, Nubia E.  
Chen, Alvin  
Chen, Anman  
Chen, Anni  
Chen, Jiahui V.  
Cheung, Arthur D.  
Chin, Vinson  
Ching, Elyse K.  
Chinn, Braden T.  
Clark Jr., Curtis A.  
Cole, Aaron C.  
Cole, Franklyn R.  
Collard, Alexander M.  
Collins, Bradley L.  
Collins, Brendon G.  
Conchas, Ruben J.  
Contreras, Adrien J.  
Cooper, Sheraiah M.  
Cornelius-Germany, Matthew D.  
Coronado Robinson II, Artre P.  
Correa, Enrique Y.  
Correa, Marc A.  
Cruz, Joshua Simon D.  
Cueva, Carina  
Daniels, Conner M.  
Dauphine, Adrianna R.  
Davis, Alexandria E.  
Davis, Donna J.  
Davis, Jasmine S.  
De Leon Jr., Carlos  
Del Duca, Chloe M.  
Deng, Chad  
Deng, Wen  
Desta, Abenet B.  
Dickens, Kaylon A.  
Dieckmann, Meghan E.  
Dominguez, Constanca Z.  
Dominguez, Edgar  
Donaldson, Austin L.  
Dyer, Erin C.  
Edwards, Audrey M.  
Eid, Georges  
Emerson, Paige S.  
Estell-Simmons, Jonathan M.  
Fan, Mengyuan  
Faoa, Siaso U.  
Faulkner-Owens, Hunter S.  
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Feng, Kevin  
Fong, Morgan A.  
Fotis, Peter M.  
Fourkiller-Ramirez, Stone L.  
Fuentes, Jessica  
Fukushima, Tori L.  
Fung, Elizabeth V.  
Galvan, Alberto

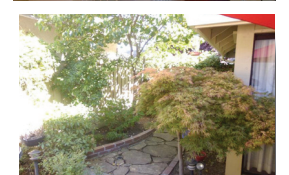
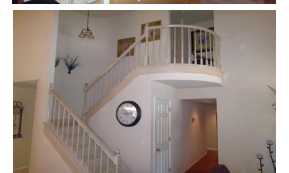
Galvez, Alexander  
Garcia, Angelina B.  
Garcia, Jesus A.  
Garcia, Norma  
Ghobril, Nabeeh A.  
Gilson, Tyler D.  
Girardi, Gina E.  
Girn, Harjyot S.  
Glenn, Kendrick T.  
Gomez, Alexander  
Gonsalves, Richard J.  
Gonzalez, Edgar  
Gonzalez Delgado, Spanish R.  
Gooch, Marcus L.  
Gooch, Marquise D.  
Goodloe, Mia M.  
Grace, Andrew  
Gregg, Deonte E.  
Gregg, Joseph M.  
Grogan, Mason C.  
Guajardo, Teddie F.  
Gutierrez-Herrera, Maria E.  
Hagan-Carr, Darian T.  
Hang, Koeum Muy  
Harman, Makyle R.  
Harper, Kyle J.  
Harrigan, Eric M.  
Haysbert, Cyndall D.  
Her, Anika  
Her, Ritchie  
Her, Sai  
Hernandez, Alexander M.  
Hernandez-Ramirez, Alan N.  
Herr, Salina P.  
Hibbs, Nicolas A.  
Higgwe, Tamunotelema E.

Hirohata, Isabel A.  
Hojeij, Waleed W.  
Hopson, Justice R.  
Hsu, Aileen  
Hurst, Keonna M.  
Hurtado, Guadalupe  
Hutton, Noel B.  
Iadevaia, Nicholas J.  
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Jenkins, Tiona L.  
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Jin, Quan  
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Johnson, Andrew J.C.  
Johnson, Anthony G.  
Johnson, Elijah J.  
Johnson, Sharnay M.  
Jones, DaMonte D.  
Jordan, Rashaad L.  
Juarez, Karina  
Kamiyama, Kalani P.  
Kant, Avishy A.  
Kays, Cassidy A.  
Keller, Derrick S.  
Khan, Hashim N.  
Khan, Jonshair H.  
Khan, Ziyad  
Kimaru, Kenyatta M.  
Klein, Lexi M.  
Kobayashi, Michael J.  
Koloamatangi, Unaloto Mary  
Kolokihakaufisi, Sam F.  
Kotko, Austin A.  
Kung, Eilish A.  
Kyriklidou, Parthena

Lara Jr., Baltazar  
Le Cain, Courtney B.  
Lee, Angel N.  
Lee, Angela M.  
Lee, Benjamin  
Lee, Der  
Lee, Eric  
Lee, Jessica  
Lee, Justin M.  
Lee, Justin Y.  
Lee, Mathew  
Lepage, Sophia L.  
Leung, Tiffany H.  
Lewis, Aaron J.  
Liang, Bi Megan  
Lim, Angel V.  
Liu, Ella  
Liu, Jiaxin  
Liu, Judy  
Liu, Ying Qi  
Liu, Zhenhang  
Logan, Magdalena C.  
Lok, Samantha J.  
Lopez, Nick M.  
Lopez, Rachel M.  
Lor, Angel  
Lor, Pazeng  
Lor, Vue  
Loui, Madeline Z.  
Louie, Christopher J.  
Luong, Justin  
Ly, Kevin  
Lynch, Hayleigh N.  
Ma, Kai R.  
Ma, Wenyu

See Graduates, page 18

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# Graduates:

Continued from page 17

Macias-Angel, Araceli J.  
Magaoay, Savannah B.  
Maharaj, Krishal K.D.  
Mak, Alexandra H.  
Manikhong, Anonath  
Marshall, Eugene L.  
Martinez, Aaron M.  
Martinez, Ashlee T.  
Martinez, Griselda Z.  
Mayers, Stefan  
Mayorga Martinez, Rosa M.

McClain, Mizani  
McDaniel Jr., Jason D.  
McDonald, Ashley J.  
McKinnie, Darian E.  
McKissick, David A.  
McMahan, Vanessa L.  
Mejia, Brandon  
Millares, Messiah Islu B.  
Miranda, Gabriel  
Mo, Jiaqing  
Molina, Henry J.  
Montez-Ramirez, Samantha L.  
Montoya, Manuel S.  
Montoya, Maurice J.  
Moore, Briana J.  
Moore, Kaejon N.  
Morales, Ana Karen  
Moshkanova, Zhamilya  
Moua, Valerie N.  
Muhammad, Ansar E.  
Munoz, Daniel R.  
Munoz, Emilio S.  
Nand, Angela A.  
Nevis, Brian J.  
Ng, Andrew C.  
Ng, Kwan Tai

Nielsen, Alexander E.  
Nieves, Geovany O.  
Nishimi, Kaitlyn H.  
Nnoruka, Chigozie H.  
Noriega, Ruben  
Noyes, Mitchell B.  
O'Donnell, Riley P.  
Ocampo, Jaqlyn R.  
Ohta, Brytni  
Ohta Wu, Tyler  
Ortega, Celina A.  
Ortega, Elijah S.  
Ortiz, Alisa M.  
Owen, Nicholas A.  
Pacheco, Arrianna  
Padilla, Christian J.  
Padilla, Elizabeth O.  
Pang, Yi Shu  
Parsh, Sophia A.  
Pena-Nieves, Santiago  
Peng, Calvin S.  
Peng, Kelly  
Pereira, Fernanda C.  
Perez, Jovan A.  
Perez, Vanessa M.  
Pernell, Aryss A.

Perry, Robert  
Pfeifer, Alex S.  
Phongsavath, Shawn D.  
Phung, Minnie T.  
Pompei, Brydon K.  
Potts, Kapricieon N.  
Price, Ayanna E.  
Pulis, Derrion W.  
Quesada, Isabel R.  
Quesada, Rachel I.  
Ramirez, Samantha M.  
Ramos, Dominic R.  
Rauh, Cassidy M.  
Reed, Malachi E.  
Reimer, Timothy G.  
Remen, Julie D.H.  
Reyes, Rosa I.  
Ringor, Christian Joseph C.  
Rios, Viviana L.  
Rios-Hernandez, Jose A.  
Rodriguez-Barrera, Leslye S.  
Rogers, Da'Quan J.  
Rogers, Jakara A.  
Romero, Seann C.  
Rose, Mykeal S.  
Ross, Tavanta T.  
Rubio-Teodorovich, Maritsa  
Saechao, Anna A.  
Saechao, Katalina M.  
Saevang, Jenny L.  
Saevang, Kenny L.  
Sahim, Nafiz M.  
Sainz Luna, Valeria C.  
Salcedo Torres, Ivan  
Sanchez, Alberto R.  
Sanders, Ryan G.  
Sankoh, Memuna  
Sen, Brandon P.C.  
Serrato, Zuleyma A.  
Sha, Bryant K.  
Shahid, Saira A.  
Sharer, Thomas A.  
Sharp, Marissa K.  
Shimabukuro, Kristin  
Silva, Jorge E.  
Singh, Pria T.  
Singleton, Diashaun T.  
Sitandon-Tan, Atiana L.  
Soliz, Nicholas A.  
Steinberg, Ari B.  
Subbotin, Oleksandr A.  
Sullivan, Devon L.  
Sullivan, Grant D.  
Suwa, Chase J.  
Swanson, Stefan W.  
Takeda, Cameron S.  
Tanaka, Seiki J.  
Tanaka, Steven S.  
Taumoeolau, Eseta M.  
Teafatiller, Jake R.  
Thao, Anita S.  
Thao, Billy T.  
Thao, David  
Thao, Neng  
Thao, Ritthichai  
Thao, Sonchai  
Thomas, Angelique J.  
Thomas, Kamaria L.  
Thomas, Sabrina L.  
Thor, Julie K.  
Timmins, James D.  
Todrovitch, Victoria R.  
Tolbert, Jevantai C.  
Tolbert, Jordyn J.  
Tom, Kobe K.

Tom, Victoria B.  
Tosten, Danae R.  
Tran, Khang V.  
Trimingham, Christina E.  
Tuifua, Fuka  
Tulu, Lamrot M.  
Tuttle, Vanessa R.  
Uda, Colin M.  
Uno, Richard J.  
Valencia-Lopez, Manuel A.  
Vang, Andy T.  
Vang, Christophen  
Vang, Fue T.  
Vang, Jerly  
Vang, Ken L.  
Vang, Mai  
Vang, Mikayla P.  
Vang, Molly  
Vang, Pade  
Vang, Wanvisa  
Vautier, Morgan D.  
Vazquez, Cecia M.  
Vazquez-Luna, Diana  
Vela, Miguel R.  
Villafructe, Antonio  
Voong, Jerrod  
Vue, Houa  
Vue, Lafayette K.  
Wan, Scene C.  
Ward, Aidan F.  
Washington, Toijae Y.  
Washington, Turjae Y.  
Watkins, Robert A.  
Watson, Daniel C.  
Whiteman, Cheyene M.  
Williams, Kamina K.  
Williams, Michelle M.  
Wills, Sabrina N.  
Wilson, Monique N.  
Wimberly, Rodrick O.  
Wings, Trena'e L.  
Winters, Courtney E.  
Witandi, Daniel  
Wong, Anthony S.  
Wong, Darian J.  
Wong, Jeremy D.  
Wong, Julianne S.  
Wong, Marilynn  
Wong, Mindy  
Wright, Chabrea R.  
Xie, Pei Yi  
Xiong, Panuly  
Xiong, Paying Julie  
Xiong, See  
Xiong, Vision C.  
Xiong Thao, Pha  
Xu, Kelly  
Yamamoto-Chan, Brennan M.  
Yang, Jalee X.  
Yang, Nancy N.  
Yang, Pheng  
Yang, Se  
Yang, Zang  
Ye, Amanda  
Yee, Jessica M.  
Yee, Nathan  
Yu, Chun Fung  
Yu, Katherine  
Yu, Ryan L.  
Zambrano Rodriguez, Fatima N.  
Zaragoza, Deisy  
Zazueta, Jorge P.  
Zeigler, Desiree H.  
Zhou, Zhuohao  
Zhu, Weixin

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# Local graduates named Gates Millennium Scholars

Award covers college tuition, living expenses for four years

Two SCUSD students have been named Gates Millennium Scholars, an award that covers the cost of attending college for high-performing, low-income students of color.

Luther Burbank High School salutatorian Sabreena Singh, 18, and John F. Kennedy High School senior Manuel Valencia, 18, are among 1,000 students nationwide in the program's Class of 2015. The scholarship is funded by a \$1.6 billion grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

"We are so proud of these high achievers," said SCUSD Superintendent José L. Banda. "Sabreena and Manuel are amazing students who worked hard to win this scholarship. They exemplify SCUSD's mission to prepare every student for college and careers."

Ms. Singh gave a speech at Burbank's graduation on Wednesday, June 10, in Memorial Auditorium. Mr. Va-

lencia graduated with his class at Kennedy the previous evening also at Memorial Auditorium.

Ms. Singh is a graduate of Burbank's International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma program and has a 4.1 grade point average. During her four years at Burbank, she played tennis and was a member of Key Club, California Scholarship Federation (CSF), IB Club, and BEAST Club, which promotes environmentalism. She is headed to UCLA in the fall where she will study psychology.

"I like learning about the way the mind works," she said. "I want to use what I learn to help people."

She said she will miss Burbank's supportive staff and her friends in the tight-knit IB community. "I always knew I would be taken care of at Burbank," she said. "I really enjoyed myself in school. Everyone is so motivated to be the best they can be."

Mr. Valencia is the second in his family to win the Gates Millennium scholarship: His older brother, Rafael (JFK Class of 2013), is attending UC Irvine with the help of the program. A Kennedy Mathlete and member of CSE, Mr. Valencia graduates with a 3.9 grade point average. He will study civil engineering at Sacramento State.

"I've always been interested in engineering and protecting the environment," he says.

To compete for Gates Millennium funding, students must write seven essays, including one describing "challenges" to success. Valencia said he wrote about the challenge of learning English.

"I grew up in a family that speaks mostly Spanish," he said. "So I started school in special English Learner classes."

The GMS program provides recipients with leadership development opportunities, mentoring, academic and social support as well as financial support.

## Lenny:

Continued from page 10

ful. And then I left Motown and went to ABC and did a record there, and bam, it had gold record sales (with more than 500,000 sales) and I was really, really on my way."

The album, 'Tower of Power,' also achieved gold record status.

Williams' solo career, which included the aforementioned hit, "Cause I Love You" and another hit, "Choosing You," was made possible through his workman-like approach to his music.

In speaking about that approach, Williams said, "That perseverance and just always keeping your nose to the grind and never giving up helps to realize your dream and to (reach) a certain measure of success."

During his career, as partially noted already, Williams worked with some very notable people in the music industry.

Also among the people who Williams worked with in his career were Carlos Santana, Aretha Franklin and Kenny G.

In recalling another notable person in the music field, Williams said, "I had an opportunity to work with Dick Clark. You know, you grow up watching (the television dance show) 'American Bandstand.' (Clark, who hosted the show) was just this big figure, so powerful, and I got there and just kind of walked up to him one night after we did the first New Year's Eve extravaganza that he did. He was just the nicest, nicest man. So, that was really heartwarming to see that in real life, he was the way that he was portrayed on television."

Williams added that he also had opportunities to hang out with the legendary R&B singer-songwriter, Smokey Robinson, and the famous, gravelly voice disc jockey, Wolfman Jack. And he also met Michael Jackson during his Jackson 5 days.

Because of his success in music, Williams has received a variety of local, national and international awards, and was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame and various blues hall of fames.

Despite all of his accolades, Williams remains humble, as he considers himself "an average guy who has been blessed with a talent."

Williams, who has a wife of 36 years named Deborah, six children and 12 grandchildren, continues his musical journey by regularly traveling to perform in various cities across the country and working on a new CD called, "Blues, Grooves and Other Moods."

Last week, Williams released his new song, "Hooked on You," which is available through iTunes and LennyWilliams.com.

Williams, who has his own record label, is also working on a songwriting project with Felton Pilate, one of the principle songwriters of another Bay Area group, (the funk/R&B band) Con Funk Shun.

After being asked what people can expect to hear at his upcoming concert at Garcia Bend Park, Williams said, "We're going to do some Tower of Power, we're going to do some Motown, we're going to do some Lenny Williams, we're going to do some blues, and we're going to have a great time. We have a great, big band. It's going to be an exciting time with great, great music and we're going to dress up and shine our shoes for you."

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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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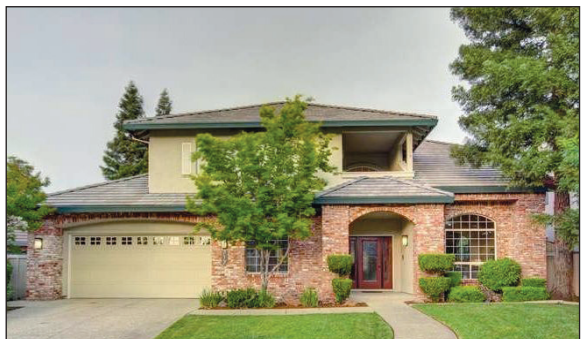
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### BRIDGEVIEW AT RIVERLAKE

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 \$699,000

**JUSTIN DAVIS 798-3126**



### VALLEY HI COUNTRY CLUB

Special setting with view of the 16th hole. 4 bedrooms 3½ with dream kitchen - recently upgraded with granite counters and stainless appliances. Huge master suite includes dual sinks, separate tub/shower, walk-in closet. Lush courtyard entry. Lap pool, spa, built-in Viking grill. New solar electrical system. \$669,000

**JAY FEAGLES 204-7756**



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Paradise is personal but this might just be it - An elegant handsome home that brings the outdoors in. The formal dining room and master bedroom open out to a Michael Glassman designed yard with an outdoor fireplace, steel arbor, mister and beautiful landscape. A delightful home. \$798,000

**SHEILA VAN NOY 505-5395**



### ROUNDTREE

This fantastic 2 bedroom PUD is a must see! Great location in a gated community convenient to shopping, dining, and freeways. You'll love the large, open living room with laminate flooring, cozy fireplace and great natural light. The kitchen boasts plenty of storage, tile flooring, and built-in dishwasher. \$120,000

**PAULA SWAYNE 425-9715**

**KELLIE SWAYNE 206-1458**



### MID CENTURY MASTERPIECE

High style Mid century masterpiece; refreshed and updated! Double door entry invites you into spacious living and dining areas with soaring ceilings and sunken living room. Double sided fireplace. Remodeled kitchen boasts center island, stainless appliances, granite and synthetic counters. \$399,900

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### 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**



### CLEAN AS A WHISTLE

Pocket area halfplex, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths. Enter and be impressed by the vaulted family room ceiling and pretty brick fireplace. Loads of light filters in from the expanse of sliding glass doors in family room and master suite. Nice patio invites outdoor entertainment. Welcome home! \$239,000

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### HOLLYWOOD PARK CUTE

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