

POCKET NEWS

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A Christmas tradition

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f: (916) 429-9906

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Monica Stark

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Publisher David Herburger
Editor Monica Stark
Art Director John Ochoa
Graphic Designer Annin Greenhalgh
Advertising Director Jim O'Donnell
Advertising Executives:
Melissa Andrews, Steve Crowley, Linda Pohl

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FROM YOUR COUNCILMAN, RICK JENNINGS



What's going on in District 7?

Stay Close This December

As the weather cools and the holiday season approaches, we find ourselves spending more time with friends and family. And, I and my staff are looking forward to sharing this season with all of the wonderful local events and celebrations planned by our Pocket/Greenhaven schools, businesses and organizations. Let us know about your events or programs by emailing the details

to cursery@cityofsacramento.org. We can also include your event or program our Social Media blasts.

December is also a season filled with time spent shopping and eating out. As you're out and about this holiday season, I encourage you to consider supporting our local businesses and restaurants. By choosing businesses in our own community for your services, shopping, dining and other needs, you not only enjoy a more distinctive and personal experience, you're helping your community in numerous ways.

Spending Here Builds Community

We have great neighbors. But, in the hustle and bustle of the season, it can sometimes be difficult to connect with those closest to us. However, the casual encounters that you

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Councilman:

Continued from page 2

can enjoy at a neighborhood business can build lasting relationships and community cohesiveness. Remember, our local businesses and restaurants are the original social networking sites!

Spending Here Strengthens Our Local Economy

According to civic economic experts, every dollar that you spend locally is likely to return 3 times more money to your local economy than one spent at a generic chain store and nearly 50 times more than buying online. Pocket/Greenhaven has tons of great retailers that will help you find the perfect gift or holiday treat. And, many of our local businesses are owned and/or run by Pocket/Greenhaven residents – which keeps our money in our community.

Spending Here Creates a Healthier Environment and You

How many times have you sat in traffic waiting to get to a distant mall or driving around the lot looking for a park? Buying local not helps to reduce added emissions and traffic by reducing your travel time. It also gives you more time to spend walking around (which is good for the body) and more time for socializing (which is good for the soul).

Spending Here Invites More Local Business

It is often said that business brings more business. Often the number one factor that a business considers when de-

termining on a location is how the local community supports the existing businesses near that location. The more foot traffic that the existing businesses are getting, the easier it to build up clientele for a new business. The same goes for Pocket/Greenhaven. The more that we support our local businesses and eateries, the easier it is to woo new businesses into the area.

Spending Here Increases the Wealth of Our Residents

Not only are businesses in the Pocket/Greenhaven area more likely to be locally owned and/or managed, they are even more likely to be staffed by local residents. That means more jobs in our community and more income being earned in our community.

That also means more community investment in our non-profits, events, groups and teams. Businesses are more likely to donate to those causes that are near and dear to their customers and employees. And, our local retailers and restaurants are very invested in our community. So, when we spend with them, we are also investing in our own community.

This month, think local. Enjoy more time with your loved ones. Enjoy the best that our Pocket/Greenhaven community has to offer. And, remember to support our local businesses and eateries. And, if you have a local business that would like to host an upcoming Community SPOTlight event, please contact our office at 916-808-7007.

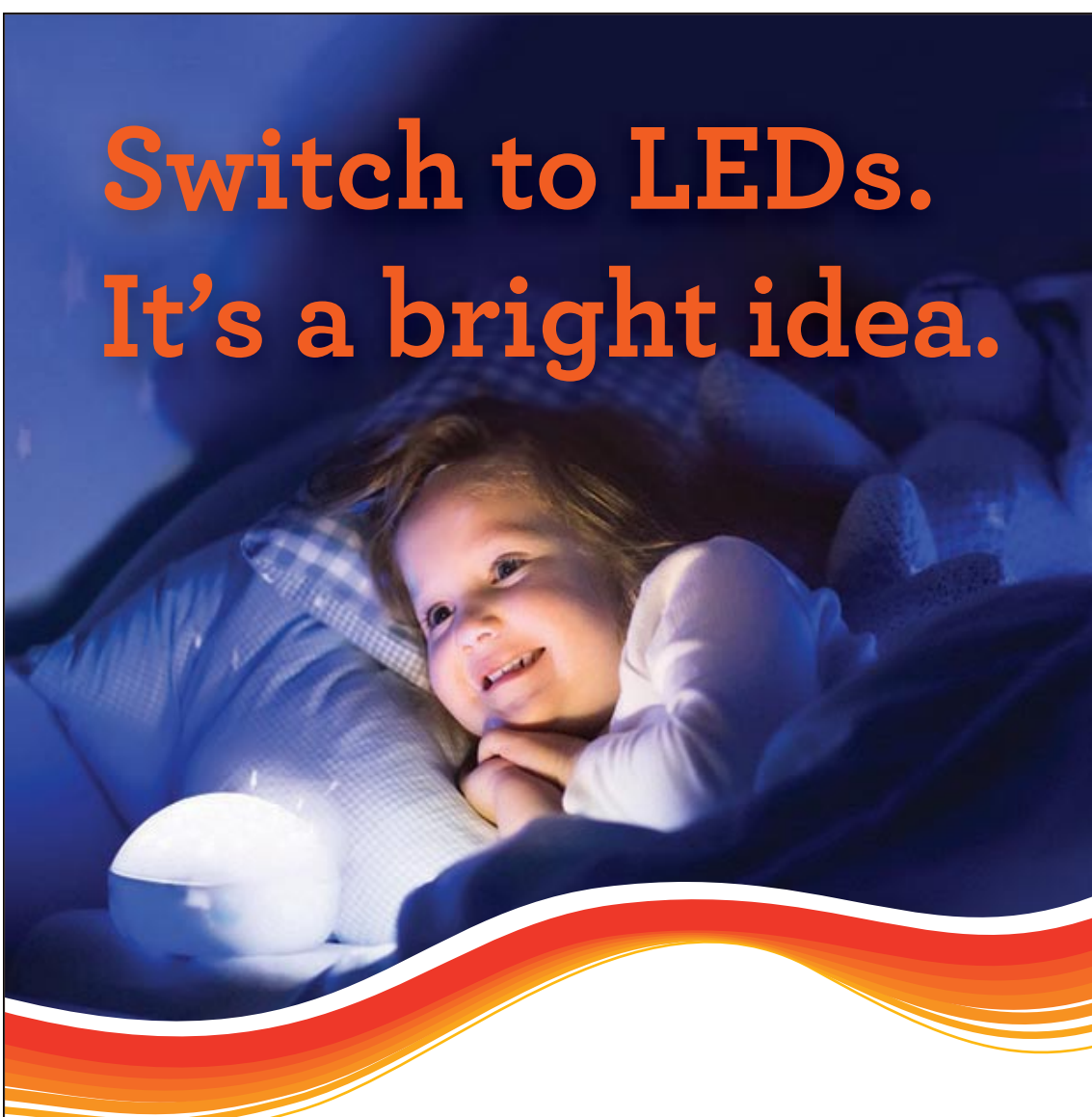
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Holiday Magic returns to the Sacramento Zoo on Saturday, Dec. 10

The holidays are here and it's time to enjoy the season! Bundle up the family for Holiday Magic at the Sacramento Zoo on Saturday, Dec. 10. Throughout the day, special gifts will be delivered to the animals. See them pounce, tear and stomp into their one-of-a-kind holiday gifts through out the day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Zoofari Market will be open at 10 am for Sacramento Zoo Member shopping. Members receive a 25 percent discount with their Membership card (excluding books, disposable cameras, sunscreen, sunglasses, Fair Trade, and promotional, discounted or sale items.)



Food Drive: Bring a non-perishable food item and receive a \$1 off your Zoo admission.

Animal Enrichments: Animals will get special treats

delivered to them and staff will be on hand to share facts, secrets and answer your questions.

Schedule of Enrichments

All enrichments will happen at the animals exhibit.
 10:30 a.m. - Sumatran Orangutan, stockings with treats
 11 a.m. - Eastern Bongo, Christmas tree with edible ornaments
 11:30 a.m. - Black & White Ruffed Lemur, "Santa's Village" with edible treats
 Noon - Snow Leopard, frozen presents and ice
 12:30 p.m. - Wolf's Guenon, holiday pinata, presents and pinecone "reindeer"
 1 p.m. - Red Panda, bamboo wreaths with apple
 1:30 p.m. - Jaguar, boxes with spices, ice and a Christmas tree
 2 p.m. - Red River Hogs, pumpkin bowls filled with fruit and vegetables
 2:30 p.m. - Giraffe, wreaths with treats, holiday pinata and a Christmas tree
 3 p.m. - Fruit Bats & Guinea fowl, fruit rings and browse wreaths
 3:30 p.m. - African Lion, holiday-themed pinata and boxes with spices



Visitors Tip: Keep an eye out for off-schedule enrichments that will be placed on exhibit at the zoo keeper's convenience.

Holiday Magic 2015 was a wonderful day, as 1,100

people came out to watch the animals get their special holiday treats.

Call 808-5888 for more information.

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By CANDY TUTT

Christmas is funny. Why else do you think Santa goes, 'Ho, ho, ho!?' Here's an example.

About 15 years ago my son lived in Sonoma county, a long mostly-scenic drive winding past pastures and vineyards. Once into the suburbs the view from the freeway consisted of back yards, cinder block walls and rooftops.

One December when we drove by, I glanced over to look for Christmas decorations and guffawed.

"What?"
 I could only laugh and point, but my husband didn't get it until I explained. One of the houses had a plastic four-foot tall Santa Claus on their roof, poised with his sack of loot.

But from the back, the way Santa was bent over, it looked LIKE HE WAS TAKING A WIZZ DOWN THE CHIMNEY.

We verified it on the way home, and the next year we actually craned our necks on the outskirts of Petaluma, watching for Santa.

"There he is!" Sure enough, the Jolly Old Elf was relieving himself on the bricks again.

'Up on the housetop, quick quick - peeing down the chimney, it's good Saint Nick...' Sigh.

Our neighborhood is eclectic; a Latino influence is noted around Halloween when skeletons of all

shapes and sizes pop up in windows, where they remain through the first week of November in observance of El Dia de Los Muertos and El Dia de Los Santos.

Halloween decorations get a bit bizarre as well. , perched on the steps of one house, alongside a ghost and a scarecrow, was a lighted bright green alien. Well, okay, that's scary, especially if you live in Area 51.

A month later my husband came home one night in early December, laughing. "You gotta see this," he said, "get in the car."

We cruised up and turned to the next street over, and in the middle of the block he slowed down.

"Check it out."
 There on a crowded concrete porch was The Nativity, complete with all three Wise Men, two shepherds and a sheep; Mickey Mouse in an Ebenezer Scrooge outfit, and...the Alien.

Wearing a Santa Hat. It's a holly-jolly Christmas.

My husband's aunt had a humungous plaster Nativity Set. Every year it took over the top of the stereo, laid out on a sheet of cotton batting that I think she bought during the Eisenhower Administration. Hail, hail the gang's all here: the angel, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, wise men, camels [both standing and seated] [the camels, not the wise men], and a supporting cast of candles among which were little kids in

choir robes, a couple of snowmen, and a pink bunny that snuck in from the Easter decorations but was allowed to remain. Hey, it's the joy of Christmas, why not? A smaller more portable Nativity usually sat on a coffee table or bookcase; the stable portion was made of brown plastic and the participants were separate plastic pieces glued into place. Time took its toll on the little town of Bethlehem, and by the 1990s all that was left was Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and one sheep.

About five years ago Tony had a job driving cars for an auto auction out in Rio Linda, which is sort of Sacramento County's version of the Ozarks. One December night Tony arrived home laughing about a display of life-size Christmas figures he'd seen on a lawn.

"They had everything: Joseph, Mary, the baby, Wise Men, shepherds..." then he started laughing again.

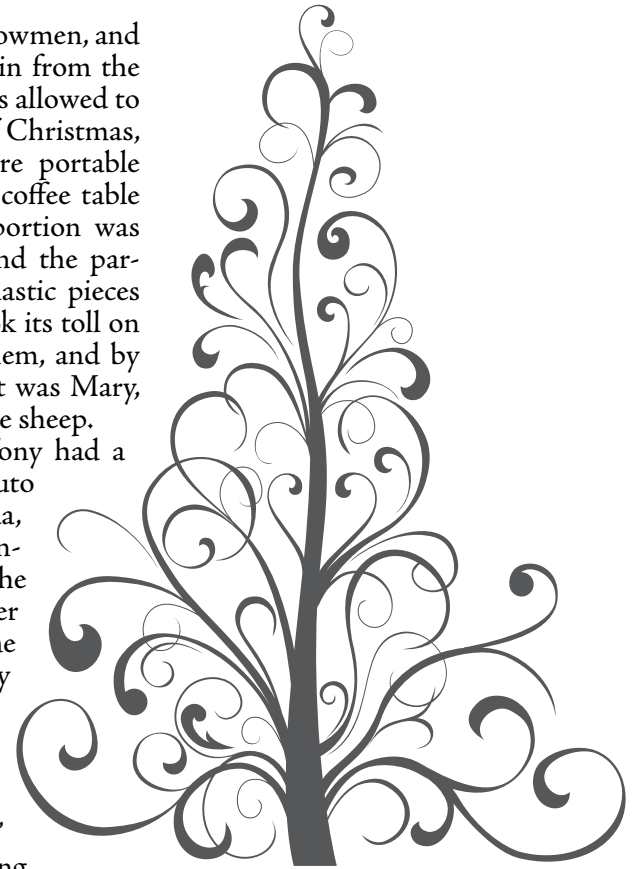
"What?"
 "...and Snoopy. A great big inflatable Snoopy..."

Okaaaay... that gave me an idea. The next day I rooted around in a box of art supplies, and when he got home I pointed to the bookcase.

"Oh, hon, it's Aunt Marie's little Nativity!"
 "Look closer."

There, just outside the stable, next to the lone remaining sheep, I glued a little plastic Snoopy.

"Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown." I still have the little Nativity thingy and it goes on the bookcase every year. Christmas is fun, whether it's Santa peeing in your chimney, an alien on the doorstep, or Snoopy in the manger. God Bless Us Everyone.



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KZAP's legendary 23-year run ended in 1992

By LANCE ARMSTRONG
Lance@valcomnews.com

Editor's Note: This is part nine of a nine-part series about the history of radio station, KZAP 98.5 FM.

Nearly a quarter century has passed since Sacramento's legendary radio station, KZAP 98.5 FM, went off the air.

The station, which underwent various transitions since its first broadcast from studios on the 13th floor of the Elks Building at 11th and J streets in 1968, was suddenly home to a country music station. The new format was introduced on Jan. 20, 1992.

Known as "Fresh Country" 98.5 FM, the station would soon have its call letters changed to KNCI — after its owner, Nationwide Communications, Inc. — following approval from the Federal Communications Commission.

KNCI made its debut playing mostly new country artists such as Garth Brooks and Clint Black, and mainstream artists such as The Judds and Alabama.

As Sacramento's newest country music station, KNCI also became a competitor of the preexisting and now defunct Sacramento country music station, KRAK 105.1 FM. KNCI replaced KRAK at 105.1 FM and KRAK moved to 98.5 FM in February 1994.

With the change to the country format at 98.5 FM, a mass exiting of KZAP air personalities occurred, with only News Director Chris Davis being retained.

The transition came quickly as those personalities were informed of the loss of their jobs during the previous day.

Among those who were working at KZAP at that time were General Manager Tom Weidle, and on-air personalities Charlie Weiss (mornings), Dorian MacKenzie (mornings), Bob Keller (Café Rock noon show), Jon Russell (afternoons) and Andy Emert (late nights).

Weiss, who was an original KZAP air personality, was among the station's former DJs who were to be interviewed for this series. But he unfortunately died on Oct. 29.

Weiss spent more time on the air with KZAP than any other DJ in the station's history. And he also has the notoriety of having worked for KZAP for all four of the station's proprietors.

At the time of KZAP's demise, Keller, a 12-year veteran of the station, was on vacation somewhere in the Caribbean. And as a result, he would not learn about KZAP's death until the end of that vacation.

Today, Keller's Café Rock continues as part of the programming of "the Eagle," KSEG 96.9 FM.

Although many longtime, loyal KZAP listeners were shocked to turn on their radios on Jan. 20, 1992 and find that their beloved station had gone country, the death of KZAP did not come as a complete surprise, given the station's decline in ratings.

In 1982, KZAP was attracting nearly a 15 percent share of the audience, but by its last month of operation, a decade later, the station had an audience share of only 2.4 percent.

Once a giant in the local radio market, KZAP experienced a decline that included its ranking as Sacramento's number three ranked rock station behind newcomers "93 Rock," KRXQ 93.7 FM (now 98 Rock, 98.5 FM) and the aforementioned KSEG 96.9 FM.

In early 1990, KZAP stood at number one in the Sacramento market in the age 25-54 Arbitron demographic. But by January 1992, that ranking had fallen to number 11 in the market.

On the day of KZAP's death, The Sacramento Bee ran an article in which Weidle lamented the loss of the station.

"It's like the death of an old friend, but everything has its time and life cycle," he said.

A day later, Weidle told The Bee that the decision for KZAP to change to a country music format was made in early December 1991.

Among the people who have an understanding of the history and legend of KZAP is Edward Fong, who was employed as a KZAP DJ from 1974 to 1979, and once worked the night shift with the slogan, "Edward Fong, All Night Long."

In breaking down the eras of KZAP, Fong commented about the emergence of the hippie movement in San Francisco and the "Summer of Love" in 1967.

"(There was) a strong counterculture and then that very vibrant music scene coming out of San Francisco," he said. "You know, bands like the Jefferson Airplane, the Grateful Dead, Big Brother (and the Holding Co.), Quicksilver (Messenger Service)." Fong, who has spent nearly his entire life residing in Land Park, also emphasized the timing of the emergence of KZAP and other new FM stations during that counterculture era.

"Right around 1967 and 1968, there were these music stations that were emerging on the FM band that weren't playing Top 40," he said. "They were playing album cuts."

As previously mentioned in this series, KZAP debuted in Sacramento as a free-form FM station that played



Jon Russell, right, sits alongside Charlie Weiss at a KZAP food drive.

Photo courtesy of Jon Russell

a very wide range of offerings on Nov. 8, 1968.

Fong described the earliest KZAP DJs as a "ragtag group of hippies" who had a "new toy and were experimenting with it."

Another era of the station that Fong remembers was the early 1970s when the station was owned by Ed Beimefroh and Don Platt.

"(Beimefroh and Platt) started to run it more professionally, and shortly after that was about the time that I joined (KZAP)," he said. "So, the 1970s really was the bridge between the very early days and the later KZAP of the 1980s when it became a significantly more commercial radio station (under a different ownership)."

The aforementioned Jon Russell (born Jon Russell Fortin), who was hired by KZAP program director Chris Miller in August 1979, said that he was among the DJs who was working at KZAP on its last day of operation.

After working at KZAP until December 1981, he returned to work at the station in late 1987. He eventually became the station's music director.

During a recent interview with this paper, Russell spoke about the end of KZAP with a tone of disappointment.

"I was there until January of 1992 when they went country, when they murdered KZAP," he said. "(KZAP) was a special place for a lot of people, but we kind of knew that things weren't well. We weren't comfortable with the decisions that the upper management was making, who they were bringing in as program di-



Photo courtesy of Jon Russell
KZAP DJs Jon Russell, right, and Tim Bedore are shown at a local bar promotion.

rectors or who they brought in as a morning show and things like that. It was like these guys were making the worst decisions and quite frankly, it sounded bad and the ratings were reflecting that at the time."

Russell added that he believes that a plan was in place to reformat KZAP into a country station for a long time.

"(KZAP) had changed quite a bit, but still at its heart was a good rock station," he said. "But there are people in the upper echelons of radio management that tend to want to mess with the programming, especially when you're in a corporate situation. They researched it out of existence."

"They over-researched the music, they over-researched what should be happening, how it should sound, and I think there were elements in the corporate management at the time that wanted to, for a long time, change that station to a country station, and they finally got their wish. And it was really kind of sad to work for those people at the end, but that's the way it goes."

A 'Winter Wonderland' returns to Fairytale Town

Celebrate the holiday season at Fairytale Town!

Weather permitting, the annual event called Winter Wonderland will be held at Fairytale Town on Thursdays to Sundays, Dec. 8 to 11 and Dec. 15 to 18 from 1 to 7 p.m. Fairytale Town's storybook park will be open for play, trimmed with festive holiday décor and lit up with a dazzling display of lights, starting at dusk each night, with a flurry of snow falling nightly at 7 p.m. near the Mother Goose Stage. Children can enjoy making holiday themed crafts, and be able to visit the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle.

On the weekends, even more holiday fun awaits with hands-on activities, a holiday marketplace, Victorian carolers and more. Santa will also be making a special stop at Fairytale Town and will be available for visits and photos in his workshop, located in the Children's Theater, from 3 to 6 p.m. Photos will be available for purchase for an additional cost. Please Note: The Santa line closes at 6 p.m. promptly. Printed photos with Santa are \$5.

To note: During Winter Wonderland, Fairytale Town's operating hours are 1 to 7 p.m.

Enjoy holiday themed hands-on activities around town

Listen to a quartet of Victorian carolers as they stroll through the park from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Vendors will be selling holiday wares and treats

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle!

Thursday and Friday, Dec. 15 and 16:

A dazzling display of holiday lights will light up the park starting at dusk

A flurry of snow will fall on the Mother Goose Stage at 7 p.m.

Enjoy festive decorations throughout the park, and go on a sweet adventure in the Peppermint Forest, Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle!

FRIDAY ONLY: Watch a holiday themed puppet show! Puppet Art Theater Company will present a holiday version of Jack and the Beanstalk

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Gum Drop Mountain and the Candy Castle!

Make a holiday themed craft

FRIDAY ONLY: Watch a holiday themed puppet show! Puppet Art Theater Company will present a holiday version of Jack and the Beanstalk at 6 PM in the Children's Theater. Puppet show tickets are an additional \$1 for members and \$2 for nonmembers. Tickets are available 15 minutes prior to each show time at the Children's Theater doors or at the box office.

Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 10 and 11:

Santa Claus will be in his workshop in the Children's Theater and available for visits and photos from 3 – 6 p.m. (line closes at 6 p.m.)

Meet two of Santa's reindeer from 1 to 7 p.m. in Pooh Corner

Enjoy holiday themed hands-on activities around town

Listen to a quartet of Victorian carolers as they stroll through the park from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

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*Entertainment Schedule is subject to change

Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive, Sacramento. For more information, call the main office at 808-7462, the 24-hour line at 808-5233, or email mail@fairytaletown.org.

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It's Christmas time in the Pocket

Photos by KATHEY NORTON

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, all around the 'hood. And it wasn't even December yet when these photos were taken.

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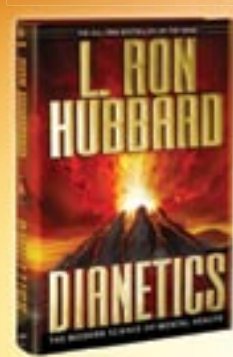


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A Christmas tradition

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

The holidays are here and our friends at Chad's Fresh Cut Christmas Trees in the Greenhaven/Pocket neighborhood are looking forward to another wonderful Christmas tree season. From 2 feet to 12, Chad's has Douglas Firs, Noble Firs and Silvertips, in addition to wreaths and garlands, mistletoe. Family owned and operated since 2002, the Christmas tree lot has been a favorite for many in the neighborhood.

For the last two years Megan Browne and her grandfather have been coming to the lot in Greenhaven Plaza. "This is a family tradition. When I was a little kid, we would always go get a Christmas tree with my grandfather and my two siblings. But I am the only one who likes to do it anymore."

A Kennedy graduate (class of 2005), Megan worked at the high school's Christmas tree lot as a fundraiser for the school's choir. "I became familiar with the trees because I worked at it. So, I'm

the expert now. It's fun to go and we get the same kind of tree every year, a Douglas Fir. We usually decorate, my mom, myself and my grandmother. He (pointing at her grandfather) usually does the lights. Once he's done, I usually do the ornaments and play Christmas music. It's a lot of fun. Christmas is my favorite holiday."

Several hundred trees get trucked down from Oregon to the parking lot in Greenhaven Plaza in order to make for a successful operation at Chad's Fresh Cut Christmas Trees. "We have to off load them here and that's where it starts," says Manager Gregg Jones, whose family owns Greenhaven ACE Hardware. Gregg says business will be picking up this coming weekend as neighbors ready themselves for the holidays. "People come out, want to decorate their homes and get the tree and do it all at once."

Gregg, whose "regular job" is in the real estate business, said he enjoys working the tree lot every year.

"I get outside, enjoy the weather. It's fun...I take a couple weeks off from my primary job and doing this kinda gets me in the spirit."

Born and raised in the Greenhaven area, Gregg appreciates seeing the customers coming in and out. I just enjoy the interaction with the customers and they're the best trees that you can get."

The bad stories are when you have the wind and the rain and the trees are upside down and you have to tilt them back up and you're soaking wet and you have to work the rest of the day.

The most popular of the trees each year are the Noble Firs and more recently, the Silvertip Trees (otherwise known as the Charlie Brown trees) are also big hits. "Over the past five years, everybody wants them. They get to show the ornaments."

Formerly Chad's was Mikey's Christmas tree lot. "We wanted to provide a better experience, better trees. So, that was it."



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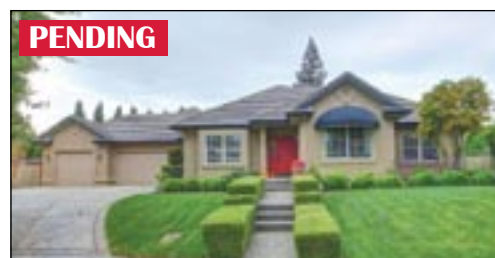
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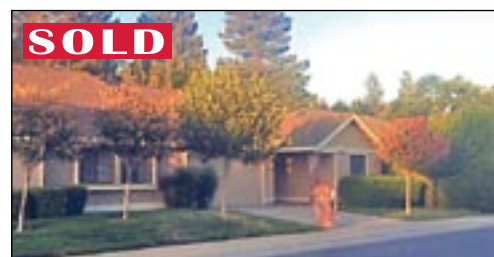
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Faith Presbyterian to host River City Chorale's 40th anniversary

River City Chorale will open its Fortieth Anniversary season with three concerts

RCC is accompanied this year by the Golden State Brass and its new and outstanding pianist Dean Mora.

There will be three different dates and venues from which to choose:

Friday, December 2, 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Fair Oaks;

Saturday December 3, 7:30 p.m., at Faith Presbyterian Church in South Sac;

and Sunday, December 4, 4:00 p.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Citrus Heights. As you can see, you don't have to drive downtown or pay for expensive parking to hear fine choral music. Parking is free!

The 60-voice River City Chorale has been providing a very eclectic selection of music to Sacramento

for forty years, featuring classical, jazz, and Broadway styles.

The Chorale performs three sets of concerts per year; in addition to the Christmas concert, there is the ever-popular Cabaret in March and the Spring concert in May.

Richard Morrissey has been the Musical Director of RCC for sixteen years, and brings a wealth of teaching, arranging, composing, and performing experience to the group.

Visit www.RiverCityChorale.org or call 916 331-5810 to order tickets. Christmas concert tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$5 for children. Season tickets can be purchased for only \$44, a 20% savings.

More than \$150,275 raised for the food bank at this year's Run to Feed the Hungry

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

The weather couldn't be better for the 29,002 participants in the annual Run to Feed the Hungry who on Thanksgiving morning collectively raised more than \$150,275 for the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. Made possible by dedicated volunteers and title sponsor Western Health Advantage, the annual event has become a holiday tradition for countless families and individuals.

"People want to give back and do something for the less fortunate and the beneficiary is the best non profit in town, the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services," race director Rich Hanna said. "We're in East Sacramento, the best neighborhood, in my opinion. I live in East Sac, the most beautiful neighborhood in town. And (Thanksgiving) is the perfect day to do it."

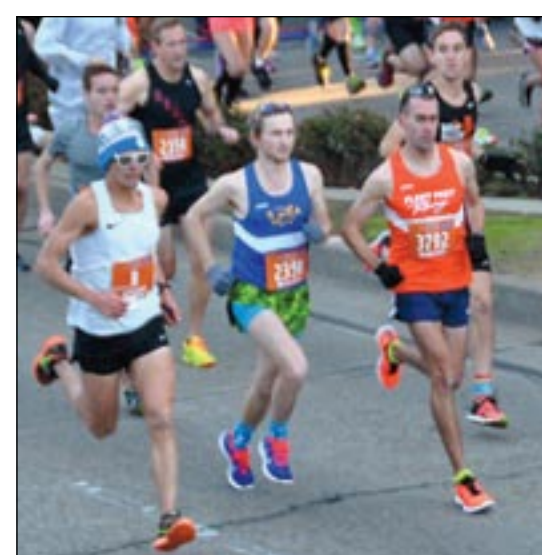
The East Sacramento News caught up with runners prior to the 10-kilometer and 5-kilometer races to talk about their reasons for running this year.

A runner of the 10K, Wayne Watts donned a homemade jersey with the slogan: "This one is for you Little David." In memory of his grandson who died from leukemia in 2000, Wayne said he created the jersey for him and over the years, he's added a name or initials of someone he's lost to cancer "or something. I run to remember all of them. This is my 13th year now," he said, adding that he enjoys this "well-organized" event. "I like the charity that it takes care of - the food bank. I see a lot of hungry on the streets all the time. It's just basic. People gotta eat. It's a great charity."

Runner Stacy Fat, of the locally-known Frank Fat's family, ran the race for the second time this year. Looking forward to it after running it last year, Stacy said her sister and her mother have participated in the event every year since the event began 23 years ago and have dragged her into it. After the race, she said about 30 members of the Fat family come together for a traditional Thanksgiving meal at home.

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services is a local, non-profit agency committed to serving individuals and families in need. With a staff of 83 and a volunteer force close to 6,000 annually, Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services provides free emergency goods and services to 150,000 men, women and children each month.

After December 1, please donate online at www.sacramentofoodbank.org. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible. Once your donation has been processed, you will receive a thank you letter with our organization's Tax ID on it.



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Homelessness is the most pervasive issue facing California's cities

By JAN DALSKÉ

According to the United States Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the State of California has the highest population of homeless people, more than any other state. In 2015 there were 115,738 homeless people who called California home. The rising cost of rents, rapidly declining numbers of low-income housing units, and slow wage growth have all contributed to homelessness.

On any given night in Sacramento, the State's Capitol, more than 2500 individuals are without a home. An estimated 5,200 more will become homeless over the course of the next year. Homelessness has risen to historic levels throughout the state. Being homeless is dangerous, especially for youth. There are families, youths and many people needing substance and mental health treatment suffering on the streets of our cities. Both the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California have requested that Governor Brown declare a state of emergency on homelessness.

Of the nation's top ten most expensive rental markets, four are located in California. San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, and Los Angeles all have very high rents. The County of Los Angeles now has an estimated 46,874 homeless people on any given night. This reflects a 6% increase from last year. The City of Los Angeles has declared a state of emergency due to a lack of shelter for homeless in the city. San Diego is one of the top four cities in the nation when it comes to homeless and many of them are veterans. More than 25,000 Californians from many walks of life have signed a petition urging Governor Brown to act immediately. They feel that it is time to address this critical situation.

Our elected officials recognize that the challenge of confronting homelessness requires active engagement and leadership by all branches of

government. Both the Senate and the Assembly are making it a priority to take action on homelessness prior to the adjournment of the 2015-16 Regular Session of the Legislature. The State of California has been committed to the prevention and significant reduction of chronic homelessness in the past.

In 2005, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger launched his Chronic Homeless Initiative which included the creation of an Interagency Council comprised of the leaders of eleven Agencies and Departments with responsibility for housing and services for citizens who are at risk of or already chronically homeless. The Interagency Council initiated the process of a collaboratively developed *Ten Year Chronic Homelessness Action Plan* (TYCHAP) and created a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles.

This TYCHAP had set forth the goals, strategies and action steps necessary to work towards its mission of preventing homelessness and shortening the length of time people remain homeless by focusing statewide efforts through a well-coordinated system of housing, income supports, and collaborative services. The state remained committed to those goals, in spite of the fiscal situation, and the plan was a vision for how the problem of chronic homelessness could and would eventually be addressed.

But when? AB-1177 (2009-2010) titled: *Homelessness: Interagency Council on Homelessness* declared that California must give priority to developing "consolidated, coordinated, and cooperative approaches to issues of homelessness, including, but not limited to, specific issues addressing homeless youth, families, veterans, parolees, victims of domestic violence, people with substance abuse or other mental health disorders, people experiencing chronic homelessness, seniors, and disabled people."



Pocket softball standout signs onto play at UC Davis

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

At a high school where the student population does not boast a very large talent pool for softball players, 5-foot-1-inch second baseman Kiana Lee stands tall above her John F. Kennedy teammates, and as of last month accepted an offer to become an academic-athlete and play softball at the highest collegiate level.

As most of her fellow senior classmates are currently turning in college applications, Kiana committed herself to UC Davis, a Division-1 university.

For awhile, Kiana didn't even want to play college softball, but she realized after all the hard work she's put into the sport, she'd work even harder to get noticed by recruiters. She sent out hundreds of emails, made hundreds of phone calls, so when the news came that UC Davis wanted her to play on their team, Kiana "was just really happy. I think I cried three times," she said. Academically attractive to recruiters, Kiana's small size on

the other hand created some difficulty in getting noticed. So, she put her education first. "It's a big relief," she said.

To her parents Kevin Lee and Meena Chan Lee, Kiana is a role model to many young girls with lofty ambitions. "She is proof that no matter where you come from or what your obstacles are, with the right attitude, perseverance, and support, pretty much anything is possible to child wanting to fulfill their biggest dreams," Kevin Lee said.

Ever since a little girl, Kiana has wanted to attend UC Davis for its veterinary program, but more recently neurology, psychology and behavioral science have piqued the interest of the 4.2 grade point average student. "I like the brain and the mystery it has... one favorite courses (at Kennedy) is anatomy by Mr. Pollock," she said.

Perhaps, Kiana's intended major goes hand-in-hand with her position as second-baseman. "You need a strong mental focus," she says. "There's more thinking involved in second base than what people realize. You have to react



quickly and think about what you're going to do and think about situations before the pitch is being pitched."

One of her main coaches, Ray Stone has been with her since age 12, encouraging her to make the switch from pitching to second-base. A player of the fast-pitch softball club Barbusters for the last year and a half, Kiana has moved to three different organizations just to stay under the guidance of Stone. Her 18 and under club team has boasted multiple collegiate commitments. "Two girls are going to South Dakota State, one to Wagner College in York, one to New Mexico State, one to Humboldt State," she said.

When she was 5 years old, Kiana first walked onto a baseball field to play tee ball for Pocket Little League. At that age, she was both unaware of her talents and unaware of the existence of a softball league. After two years of learning the fundamentals of baseball, she moved onto softball at the age of 7. It wasn't long before she started to notice her abilities.

Kiana started with Pocket Girls' Softball, a main reason she had a head start in a flourishing softball career.

This next spring, Kiana thinks the Kennedy Cougars softball team will be

quickly and think about what you're going to do and think about situations before the pitch is being pitched."

Then, in the summer, Kiana will stay busy, traveling for national championships and having regular practices. Meanwhile, on the agenda, her UCD coach will hand out a summer workout. "Since I'm close enough, I can go to the weights room and work out with the weights coach."

In the game of fast-pitch softball, players, including Kiana have had their share of injuries. She's been hit in the mouth, the throat, the elbow. Asked about her batting, she said she didn't used to be a very good, but now boasts the second highest average on her team. Additionally to softball, Kiana plays tennis and soccer, sports that help her stay in shape. Adding to her regimen, Kiana does "core work" while watching Netflix and enjoys walking the family's white German Shepherd, Shiloh. An added bonus of attending college nearby, Kiana says she come home and see her dog.

"She's not coming home to see us, but coming home to see the dog," quipped her mother.

"True," Kiana says.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING POCKET/GREENHAVEN?

FRIDAY, DEC. 2

FREE HOLIDAY JAZZ CONCERT: Continue to get in the holiday spirit with a free, upbeat Jazzy holiday concert by the award-winning River City Swingers Jazz Band (part of the Sacramento Youth Band) from 7-8 p.m. The concert will take place at Parkside Community Church, UCC, 5700 S Land Park Drive. Bring your family and friends and enjoy some good, toe-tapping holiday tunes.

KNIT TOGETHER @ ROBBIE WATERS POCKET-GREENHAVEN: Love to knit? Want to learn to knit? Got a knitting problem you need advice or help to solve? The Library knitting group can help! Join them every Friday from 1 to 3:15 p.m. for expert advice, great conversation and more. All crafters are welcome--not just knitters! 7335 Gloria Drive.

FIBROMYALGIA DISCUSSION: On a mission to debunk the myths and share her own experiences, Pocket resident and retired John F. Kennedy teacher Terry McSweeney, a Certified Independent Fibromyalgia Adviser, will hold "an event that can't be missed" on Dec. 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library (7335 Gloria Drive) where she will answer questions regarding the chronic disorder millions of people suffer from on a daily basis. McSweeney also holds a support group on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the back room of the Sunlight of the Spirit church, located at 2314 J St., Sacramento.

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

MINI-ROBOTICS WORKSHOP WITH THE SES FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM @ POCKET LIBRARY:

The Mini Robotics Workshop will be presented by the SES FIRST Robotics Team from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The workshop is geared towards youth in 6th to 8th Grade wanting to learn more about robotics. Participants will meet at the library & walk over to the Robotics Lab at the School of Engineering and Sciences. There the students will break out into groups & will receive hands on training for each area of the robotics workshop including CAD design, soldering, coding & more. At the end of the workshop each student will create a small project to take home. A mini handbook will be provided to each participant. Please note that participants should wear tennis shoes (no sandals or open toe shoes will be allowed). Students will be provided with a mid-day snack.

TEEN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AT ROBBIE WATERS POCKET-GREENHAVEN LIBRARY:

The Teen Advisory Board (TAB) meets regularly (usually on the first Saturday of each month from 10 to 10:45 a.m.) to plan and coordinate volunteer projects and special programs for our libraries. If you are interested but can't make it to the meetings, or have oth-

CAMELLIA WALDORF SCHOOL'S 28TH ANNUAL WINTER FAIRE: Saturday, Dec. 10 celebrate the magic of the season at Camellia! Enjoy children's puppet shows and craft activities, live music and entertainment, holiday shopping with local artisans, organic coffee and baked goods, delicious food, gingerbread houses and a children's store stocked with treasures for young shoppers -- all at Camellia's Pocket neighborhood location. Free admission, nominal fee for some activities. It takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Camellia Waldorf School, 7450 Pocket Road. For more information, call 427-5022 or go to www.camelliawaldorf.org.

FIBROMYALGIA DISCUSSION: On a mission to debunk the myths and share her own experiences, Pocket resident and retired John F. Kennedy teacher Terry McSweeney, a Certified Independent Fibromyalgia Adviser, will hold "an event that can't be missed" on Dec. 2 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library (7335 Gloria Drive) where she will answer questions regarding the chronic disorder millions of people suffer from on a daily basis. McSweeney also holds a support group on the second and fourth Mondays of each month from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the back room of the Sunlight of the Spirit church, located at 2314 J St., Sacramento.

er questions please email the teen services librarian at tjoe@saclibrary.org

MUSICAL ROBOT PRESENTS: IF YOU'RE A ROBOT AND YOU KNOW IT -AT ROBBIE WATERS POCKET-GREENHAVEN LIBRARY: If you're a robot and you know it, then you have to come to one of Musical Robot's shows and book signings at the library from 11 to 11:50 a.m. Musical Robot is a ukulele and drum combo that is engineered to get kids singing, dancing and reading. They worked with pop-up artist David Carter to create a new robot twist on the classic song that pops to life in the book, If You're a Robot and You Know It. Join the fun for this special musical holiday show. This free event is sponsored by the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library.

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FREE HOLIDAY JAZZ CONCERT: Continue to get in the holiday spirit with a free, upbeat Jazzy holiday concert by the award-winning River City Swingers Jazz Band (part of the Sacramento Youth Band) on Friday, Dec. 2 from 7-8 p.m. The concert will take place at Parkside Community Church, UCC, 5700 S Land Park Drive. Bring your family and friends and enjoy some good, toe-tapping holiday tunes.

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The Best Years of our Lives. Watch the movie at home and then join our discussion of this classic film.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10

CAMELLIA WALDORF SCHOOL'S 28TH ANNUAL WINTER FAIRE: Come celebrate the magic of the season at Camellia! Enjoy children's puppet shows and craft activities, live music and entertainment, holiday shopping with local artisans, organic coffee and baked goods, delicious food, gingerbread houses and a children's store stocked with treasures for young shoppers -- all at Camellia's Pocket neighborhood location. Free admission, nominal fee for some activities. It takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Camellia Waldorf

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Events:

Continued from page 20

School, 7450 Pocket Road. For more information, call 427-5022 or go to www.camelliawaldorf.org

HOLIDAY MAGIC AT THE SACRAMENTO ZOO: The holidays are here and it's time to enjoy the season! Bundle up the family for Holiday Magic at the Sacramento Zoo on Saturday, Dec. 10. Throughout the day, special gifts will be delivered to the animals. See them pounce, tear and stomp into their one-of-a-kind holiday gifts throughout the day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 3930 West Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 AND SUNDAY, DEC. 11

WINTER WONDERLAND AT FAIRYTALE TOWN: Mark your calendar for Fairytale Town's annual Winter Wonderland celebration! For eight days and nights, our storybook park will be transformed into a wonderland of twinkling lights, festive decor, snowfall and more. Enjoy even more holiday fun on the weekends with a visit from Santa, Victorian carolers and craft activities. And don't miss meeting two of Santa's reindeer during the first weekend, December 10 and 11. Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive. For more information, call 808-7462 or visit fairytaletown.org.

SUNDAY, DEC. 18

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH: "It's the happiest season of all," sung Andy Williams. But for many the Christmas season doesn't always bring happiness. Particularly if they have lost a loved one, are dealing with worsening health issues, unemployment, or another difficult life situation. For those who feel depressed the greeting have a "Happy or Merry" Christmas serves as a constant reminder about what they have lost or never had. If you feel sad or "blue" with the approach of the Christmas season, and would like to be in a space where you can acknowledge your feelings in a quiet setting, consider attending the service of Blue Christmas. The service focuses on the idea that everyone is not happy during the Christmas season, said the Rev. Michael Monnot. Blue Christmas will be held at All Saints Episcopal Church, 2076 Sutterville Road (across from City College) on Sunday, December 18, 4 p.m.

Ongoing

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SACRAMENTO SOUTH MEETING: The club welcomes women and girls to the club's lunch meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. at the Aviators Restaurant, at Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd.

WEDNESDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION GATHERING: Every Wednesday morning from 7 to 11 a.m., join neighbors at Caffe Latte, 7600 Greenhaven Drive, for conversation and fun. Find the group back near the piano.

TEA DANCE: Every first Sunday of the month from 2 to 5 p.m., dance to the music of the '30s, '40s, '50s, played by a live 16-member orchestra. A touch of class is yours for \$8 at the Elks Lodge, No. 6, located at 6446 Riverside Blvd. That includes tea/coffee, crumpets, scones, cucumber sandwiches, and other delicacies to grace your afternoon experience. Enjoy quaint conversation and dance music. It's a romantic chance to recapture the magic of the past and fall in love all over again. For tickets, contact the Lodge at 422-6666.

ACC PRESENTS 'BODY WISDOM BREATH AND MOVEMENT': Perform easy to follow seated and standing exercises for health and well-being. Most movements are based on eastern techniques for relaxing and re-energizing the body. Use simple Qigong postures to stimulate vitalizing "Chi". Discover the joy of self-massage and acupressure. Slow down with guided imagery and meditative breath-work. Improving your health and be simple and fun. Pre-registration and Pre-payment of \$20 @ \$5 per class required. \$7 Drop-in rate per class. Class will be held on Tuesdays beginning September 6, 2016 from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. at ACC Senior Services, 1180 Corporate Way. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accs.org.

ACC PRESENTS YOGA-NEW: This yoga class introduces the lyengar method of hatha yoga. Basic standing, sitting, forward extension, introductory inversion, and restorative postures will be taught. This class will build upon prior class and will use props to assist the students. You will need a yoga mat and possibly blocks, belts and blankets. Pre-payment is \$6 per class or \$8 drop-in rate. Pre-registration required. Class is now held from 7 to 7:30 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more details, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accs.org



Photo courtesy

Go Cougars! Marching band and color guard took first place in local championships

Congratulations to the John F. Kennedy marching band and color guard on their huge success in Stockton. The band took first place in division 5A, and 2nd overall out of 24 marching bands at the Lincoln Band Review of Champions in Stockton on Nov. 19. The color guard also took first place.



Cougar Statue graces Cougar Stadium

Photo by MONICA STARK

Shout-out to Kennedy senior Jack Parsh for donation and installation of the cougar statue in Cougar Stadium.

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Matias Bombal's Hollywood

Allied

The MPAA has rated this R. Paramount Pictures has had a good year with movies that echo that studio's past greatness. Their new release "Allied" is yet another example of the studio returning with force as a provider of outstanding movies. Directed by Robert Zemeckis, a man who has had many movie hits, "Allied" stars Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard and is set in 1942.

The story begins in North Africa, where Pitt, playing Max Vatan, a Canadian Air Force intelligence officer assisting the RAF, encounters a female French Resistance officer, Cotillard, playing Marianne Beausejour. Whilst on a deadly secret mission playing a happily married husband and wife they find themselves attracted to each other, but must not act on those feelings during the mission, which involves "removing" a high ranking Nazi officer in Casablanca.

Max and Marianne make their way back to England as

he waits for another assignment. Much to the strong resistance of his superior officer, Frank Heslop, played by Jared Harris, the two are married and have a lovely baby daughter. The baby's birth is of one of the most spectacular of scenes, it happens during the London blitz. She begins, only to be carted out of the hospital and into the streets under the light of incendiary tracer bullets, searchlights beaming across the sky and falling bombs. Although this movie is in wide-screen, it captures the feel of classic Hollywood with many moments that remind you of great classic films, yet does not get campy in any way with its tip of the hat to tinseltown.

Doubt manifests in the movie's third act where Max gets the very bad news that it may be possible that his wife and mother of their new born baby may be a spy working with the Nazis. His difficulty believing the possibility and how the idea begins to slowly poison him brings out one of Brad Pitt's best performanc-

es in years; stoic, in love and forced with impossible choices that make espionage seem like child's play by comparison. Jared Harris, one of my favorite actors working today, who you may remember from "Mad Men" has a role that reminded me much of Trevor Howard in "The Third Man". He is outstanding here.

The beautiful Miss Cotillard is stunning in this period setting. Don't think of this as a World War II film as much as a World War II drama, in the vein of the classic M-G-M wartime films like William Wyler's "Mrs. Miniver" with Greer Garson and Walter Pidgeon. Perhaps with a little more spice, such as in one of the most inventive of love making scenes; the principals are inside a car in a sandstorm; it was a memorable way to handle and cleverly photograph such a moment, my kudos to Don Burgess, the cinematographer in realizing such a scene with cleverness and good taste. "Allied" offers a great production, photography and performances. Don't

miss it! It's the way movies used to be.

Rules Don't Apply

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Set in Hollywood in 1958, Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation brings us "Rules Don't Apply" director Warren Beatty's labor of love in which a young starlet has been placed under contract by movie mogul and aviation giant Howard Hughes. The small-town beauty queen, a devout Baptist virgin, Marla Mabry, played by Lily Collins, arrives in the movie capital with her mother Lucy Mabry in tow. She's played by the radiant Annette Bening.

As was typical in Hollywood of that era, starlets under contract received a weekly salary, but often had to wait and wait before they were asked to do anything at all, always hoping for the phone to ring to report to the studio for a screen test or wardrobe fitting. Miss Mabry has been assigned two drivers, working in shifts to take her where she desires and to work if so called; Levar Mathis, played by Matthew Broderick and Frank Forbes, played by Alden Ehrenreich.

Frank's background is similar to Marla's, he, a Methodist with a girlfriend back home set on marrying him. During their many drives they get to know each other and she chats on and on whilst he becomes interested, but of course, fully knowing that he'll lose his job if an impropriety occurs.

This movie is beautifully lit as films of that era were, defining the look of what we now consider classic films. I find it the most beautifully photographed movie I have seen this year. This is the sensational work of cinematographer Caleb Deschanel, who was delighted that Beatty wanted much in darkness.

This is a highly entertaining picture and the years of planning have paid off in a fun and wonderful movie experience you will truly enjoy. Warren Beatty plays Howard Hughes and in the great tradition of showmanship, does not appear on screen until the movie is well on its way. Even then, it is in the dark, as he brings the complex Hughes to life.

Beatty is in the remarkable place to have lived this

era in his youngest days as a contract player himself at the very end of the Golden Age of the movies, its tumultuous changes of the 1960s through to the present. He gives us a phenomenal cast of actors that enrich any movie they appear in, including Paul Sorvino, Candice Bergen, Martin Sheen, Ed Harris, Amy Madigan, Oliver Platt and the ever-working Alec Baldwin, who had also appeared in a similar role as an airline executive locking horns with Howard Hughes in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator" in 2004. A nice touch in the movie is a new song, which gives the movie its title, "Rules Don't Apply" written by Lorraine Feather and Eddie Arkin. Go see the movie! It's absolutely beautiful, I loved it!

Moana

The MPAA has rated this PG

Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures offers their winter-time big feature with a princess. In this case, the Disney Princess is not actually a princess, but the daughter of the chief of her south sea island tribe, who longs to travel by sea. Her feckless father, shocked by past danger at sea will not let her go, but the lure is too strong in young Moana Waialiki (voiced by Auli'i Cravalho).

Adventure she must, so with guidance from an elder, slightly tetchy tribeswoman she sets out to sea to find the demigod Maui (Voiced by Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson). She's in luck, they meet and he guides her, when not extolling his own virtues, by giving her tips so that she may become an excellent wayfinder. They encounter monsters and many tribulations, completing the classic hero (in this case heroine) cycle.

Simply put, the film is too long for adults and children at almost 2 hours running time. The jokes for adults and the consistently brilliant animation of Disney make you watch to the end, but the characters are not as likable as past Disney favorites. The musical score and pop tunes, penned by the team of Broadway's sensation, "Hamilton", seem re-

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Reviews:

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petitive and uninspired. Director Ron Clements seems not to know when to end the story. Unless you have a child begging you to go, save your money. Here's hoping Disney's next is better.

Nocturnal Animals

The MPAA has rated this R

Focus Features releases Tom Ford's latest directorial offering with "Nocturnal Animals" for which he also adapted the screenplay from Austin Wright's novel, "Tony and Susan". This movie is not for children or those sensitive to violence. However, it is one of the most stylish and elegant movies in the way it moves between three story lines; That of Susan Morrow's present day life as an art gallery owner with a trophy husband, both at loose ends and broke; Her ex-husbands recently sent novel, a ghastly tale of roadside abduction, rape and murder that grips Susan's attention whilst she sees herself and her ex in the novel's story line; the reuniting of Susan and her ex after she finishes reading the novel, to close unfinished business of many years.

Susan Morrow is played by Amy Adams, fresh from her success in "Arrival". She

is excellent in this thriller. Her ex-husband, Tom Hastings is played by Jake Gyllenhaal, who is also "Edward Sheffield" in the novel's story-line. Michael Shannon steals the picture as Bobby Andes in the novel's dramatization. He is so consistently fascinating to watch. Fantastic editing and cinematographer's Seamus McGarvey's lighting design is so different in each storyline, but perfectly fitting in bringing mood and contrast to the story as it unfolds in sections before your eyes. Not for everyone, but outstanding gripping thrills and stylishly told.

Loving

The MPAA has rated this PG-13

Focus Features releases writer director Jeff Nichols' visualization of the true story of Richard and Mildred Loving, an interracial couple from Virginia of the mid to late 1950s who made history by defying the laws of the state by not merely living together, but by leaving to Washington, DC to become married, then returning to Virginia to live.

This did not go over well with the antediluvian mindset in the small Virginia country town. The police in particular would not allow marriage between races or acknowledge the mixed

race children of such couples as being legitimate. The movie relates their quiet resistance to the system that oppressed them, the ACLU lawyers that came to their aid wanting to make them poster folk for the movement towards human rights by taking their case to the supreme court, ultimately so that they may live together, married, in Virginia.

Jeff Nichols directs Ruth Negga as Mildred Loving and in a stoic and strong performance as the mason who just loved his wife, Joel Edgerton is fantastic and subtle. This is the second movie in current release in which Michael Shannon appears, here he appears briefly as LIFE magazine photographer Grey Villet, who's photo journalistic story of the Lovings brought the spotlight on them in good and bad ways. Shannon always leaves a good impression in each performance. This is a poignant tale of tough times of the past and the changes it brought to our modern times.

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www.GreenhavenLutheran.org
 Angels Nest Pre School 2 yrs. - 5 yrs. (916) 428-4651

Faith Presbyterian Church

625 Florin Road (adjacent to Kennedy High in Greenhaven/Pocket) • 428-3439
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Parkside Community Church

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 Bible Class: 9:00am
 5700 South Land Park Drive & 35th Avenue 421-0492

River's Edge Church

6449 Riverside Blvd. • 391-9845
 Sunday Worship: 9:00am & 10:45am
www.recsac.org

Greenhaven Neighborhood Church

630 Ark Way • 422-8253
 Sunday School Bible Study: 9:15am • Sunday Worship: 10:30am
 Weekly Bible Studies - Jr/Sr High Events

St. Anthony Catholic Church

660 Florin Road • 428-5678
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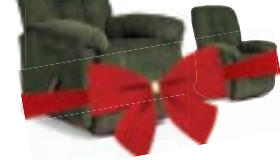


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