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East Sacramento News

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2022 Year In Review





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YEAR IN REVIEW

East Sacramento teen bobsledder breaks 21-year-old record

The Christian Brothers High freshman sets goal to make U.S. Olympic team

By Lance Armstrong and Monica Stark

Not yet old enough to drive a car, 14-year-old East Sacramento resident Emily Bradley is the fastest youth bobsledder in the nation.

Bradley became interested in the sport of bobsled while watching televised bobsledding competitions of this year's Winter Olympics, which was held in Beijing.

She witnessed women making history in the monobob event, which was being featured for the first time in the Olympics. The U.S. women's team took gold and silver.

A monobob is an individual version of a bobsled that has resulted in more female participation in the sport.

Bobsledding is not a typical sport for young girls, especially in California. But Emily has a unique link to the sport.

Her father, Mike Bradley, raced for the U.S. bobsled team until 2010. He began participating in the sport at 12 years old, and he raced in the United States, Canada, Austria and Germany.

While living and training at Lake Placid, New York, upon a prestigious invitation, Mike made the U.S. national team in about 2000 and competed in the 2006 and 2010 Winter Olympic team trials.

Mike told the East Sacramento News last week that although Emily grew up around bobsledding, she never expressed any interest in participating in the sport until this year.

"After she watched the games, she said, 'Dad, I think this is something I want to do,'" he said. "I took it as her being serious, (but) I wanted to wait and see. You know, like is this really going to develop into an interest or is she just interested right now, because she's watching the Olympics?

"And then a week later, she said, 'So, Dad, I really want to try this. How do I get into it?'"

After obtaining that confirmation that Emily was serious about wanting to try bobsledding, Mike made some calls and wrote email messages to old friends who were still involved in the sport.

Mike was told that a development camp would begin at Lake Placid in two weeks.

Emily was a natural at driving bobsleds and in just five days of training, and having only 15 runs under her belt, she became the youngest person to ever drive a bobsled from the top of Lake Placid's bobsled track, on March 15. The previous record was set 21 years ago by a 15-year-old boy.



Photo courtesy of Mike Bradley

Fourteen-year-old East Sacramento resident Emily Bradley broke a 21-year-old bobsledding record at Lake Placid, New York in 2022.

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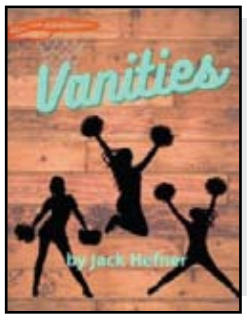

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YEAR IN REVIEW

Fans bid farewell to the former ARCO Arena

By Lance Armstrong

With California Northstate University's (CNU) plan to have a medical campus featuring a 13-story teaching hospital built on the former site of Sacramento's Sleep Train Arena, thousands of people arrived to bid adieu to this soon-to-be-demolished structure.

CNU officials announced last summer that their hospital would be constructed on the site of the arena, which was home to the Sacramento Kings of the National Basketball Association (NBA) from 1988 to 2016.

Eager to visit the arena for the final time, people flocked to this site to reminisce about some of their fondest memories. Attendees received various memorabilia and had the opportunity to enter this facility, where countless entertainers performed.

As a one-time, premier entertainment venue in the capital city, the arena also presented events besides Kings games, such as Sacramento Monarchs, collegiate and high school basketball games, professional wrestling, indoor soccer, concerts and religious events.

But most attendees of the March 19 event focused on the arena's 27-year history as the home of the Sacramento Kings.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

A fan wearing a Chris Webber Sacramento Kings jersey views a sign recognizing the March 19 "Farewell to ARCO Arena" event. One of the most popular players in the team's history, Webber was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2021.

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YEAR IN REVIEW

The Trap to have new owners

Pocket, East Sacramento residents to purchase historic, Pocket area bar

By Lance Armstrong

One of Sacramento's oldest bars, The Trap, will soon be under new ownership.

This beer- and wine-only bar is located at the northeast corner of Riverside Boulevard and 43rd Avenue in the historic Riverside-Pocket area.

Set to purchase this business are Pocket residents Ben and Kim Lukenbill and East Sacramento resident Mariah Lukenbill. The building and its property were recently sold to Gregg and Sally Lukenbill.

In an interview with the Pocket News on June 9, Ben Lukenbill – whose father is Gregg Lukenbill, an original owner of the Sacramento Kings – spoke about the sale of the business and the sale of the property.

"I believe the sale of the land and building will be closing today," he said. "The business transaction portion of that, it's all (Alcoholic Beverage Control-)driven, so we have our (ABC) sign up in the window. I think it's 30 to 60 days until we can actually close on the business side and take control (of the business)."

In a June 10 update, Ben Lukenbill told the Pocket News that the sale of the property and its building was completed earlier that day.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

The Trap's historic sign will soon have a makeover. This bar is located at 6125 Riverside Blvd.

Utilizing their temporary, pending business license, the Lukenbills will begin operating The Trap on June 20.

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Grand celebration pays tribute to the life of Joan Didion

By Lance Armstrong

A celebration of the life and legacy of Joan Didion took center stage on Nov. 10, as about 300 people gathered at downtown Sacramento's Golden 1 Center for a tribute event honoring this Sacramento-born author.

Didion, a renowned novelist, essayist, journalist and screenwriter, died last December at the age of 87.

While growing up in the Golden State's capital city, this fifth generation Californian attended local educational institutions, including C.K. McClatchy High School and Sacramento Junior College – today's Sacramento City College (SCC).

As a feature of this event, artist Lisa Reinertson unveiled her Joan Didion sculpture with Delta Pick Mello, executive director/CEO of the Sacramento History Museum and the Sacramento History Alliance.



YEAR IN REVIEW

Community celebrates centennial of Sacramento's longest operating radio station

By Lance Armstrong

Sacramento's Scottish Rite Masonic Center, on Oct. 21, was the scene of a grand celebration for the city's longest operating radio station: KFBK.

Along with a large crowd of guests, including many longtime listeners, current and past KFBK executives and employees paid tribute to the station's history, which officially made its formal debut on Sept. 17, 1922.

KFBK, which began as Sacramento's second commercial radio station, was originally jointly operated at 6th and K streets by The Sacramento Union newspaper and the Kimball-Upson Co., a vendor of such merchandise as sporting goods, automotive supplies, motorcycles, records and phonographs.

Nearly three years after its establishment, The Sacramento Bee replaced The Union in the ownership of KFBK, and in 1929, The Bee became the station's sole owner.

KFBK is currently owned by iHeart Media Sacramento, a subsidiary of iHeartMedia, a leading global media and entertainment company.

This station, which is physically headquartered in the Arden area and has its transmitter near Pleasant Grove in Sutter County, presents simulcast broadcasting on 1530 AM and 93.1 FM, and can be listened to online or downloaded to the iHeart app.

The Oct. 21 event celebrating this radio station's centennial featured attractions such as an on-stage program and opportunities to meet KFBK on-air personalities, including Cristina Mendonsa and Sam Shane of the KFBK Morning News, nationally syndicated and noon to 3 p.m. host Tom Sullivan, afternoon show hosts John McGinness, a former Sacramento County sheriff, and Kitty O'Neal, and night program host Pat Walsh.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

KFBK radio station personalities and others gather together at the station's 100th anniversary celebration on Oct. 21.

Local 'Marmaladies' returned to the State Fair as the 'Brine Babes'

By Pat Lynch

Remember the Marmaladies—two Sacramento retirees who experimented together in 2015 to develop a knockout marmalade recipe? They were Barbara Ruona and K. D. Proffit, and they nervously submitted their first sample to Cal Expo food judges. They won Second Place, then Firsts in succeeding competitions, discovered they had an enthusiastic following, and finally, with the cleverly named submission, Clockwork Orange, took the ultimate prize, Best of Show. They'd gone as high as they could go. Then came Covid, and the long lockdown. The State Fair closed; public gatherings ceased. Who doesn't recall those hard two years of retreat? Then, a recovery. Cal Expo reopened. Would the Marmaladies return to attempt a second season of triumph? No. This time it's different. They have reinvented themselves. Now they are the Brine Babes, an edgier, sharper duo who chose the pickle as their food submission. But why the pickle? "You know how marmalade is sweet and tasty, and kind of …pleasant?" Proffit said. "This time we wanted to challenge ourselves with something completely different, to show diversity." They believed the pickle possessed a very different persona from marmalade. So, from fruity breakfast preserves to fermented cucumbers, from Ladies to Babes, the former champs have returned with their new name and newest culinary creation.



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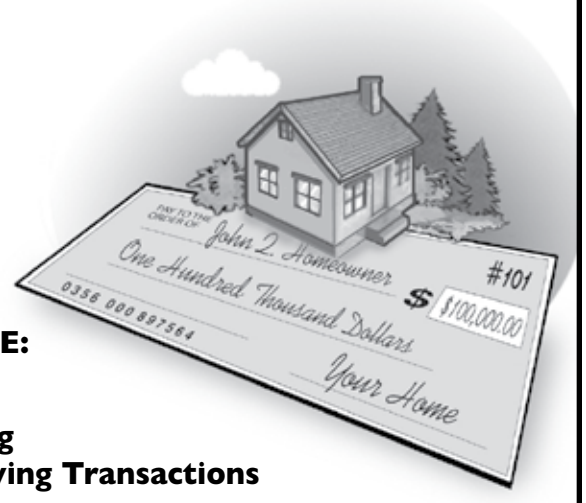

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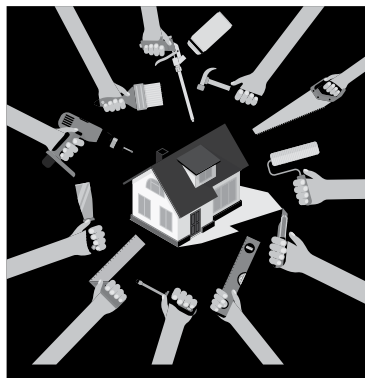

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