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Pocket News

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Pocket News city council candidate forum set for Wednesday, May 9

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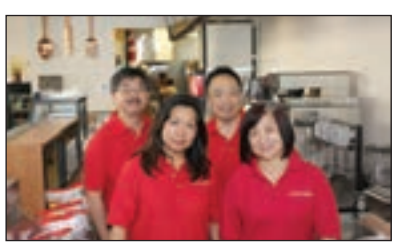

A Taste Above to hold soft opening today

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Bike rodeo at SES set for April 28

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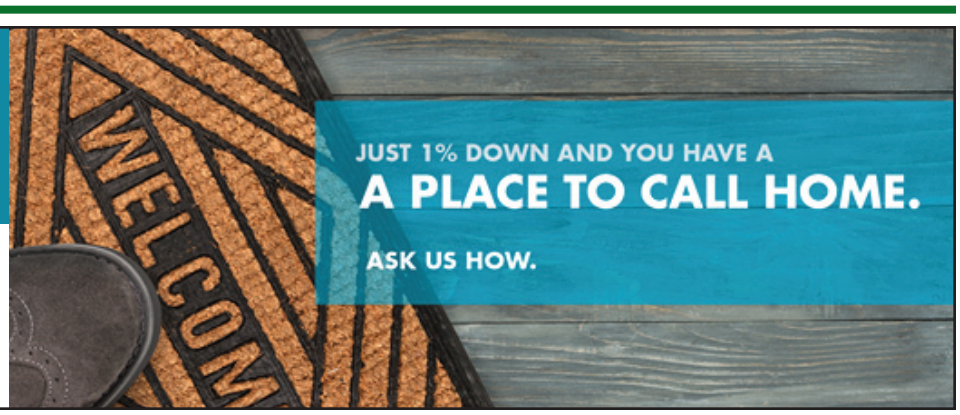

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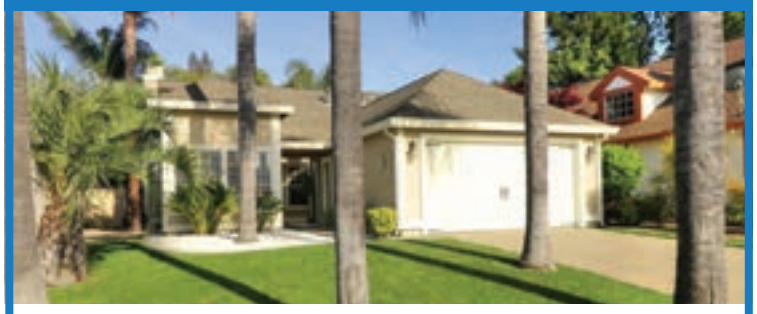

Contemporary one story 3 bed, 2 bath, 1351sf, built in 1987, beautifully maintained by current owner. Elegant interior, remodeled kitchen with quartz counters, crown moulding, newer appliances & sunny breakfast nook. Master bath with quartz counter, seamless shower stall, stained glass and walk-in closet. The dozens of palm trees give an almost tropical feel with decorative rock ground cover for easy maintenance.

7307 Rush River Drive • $369,500

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Alisa Buckley Takes the Helm for Sacramento Police South Command

By PATRICIA A. CLARK



Photo courtesy
Captain Alisa Buckley

The Pocket and many other neighborhoods in the south part of the city gained a new police captain in December of last year. Alisa Buckley was sworn in as the new captain at the Sacramento Police Department (SPD) Promotional Ceremony at the Crest Theatre on December 1.

Captain Buckley's South Command basically covers the south part of the city and includes Districts 4 and 5, out of the six police districts in the city. A fair way to describe her jurisdiction is everything south of Highway 50. Here is an alphabetical list of the 22 neighborhoods in Districts 4 and 5: Airport, Brentwood, Carleton Tract, City Farms, Curtis Park, Freeport Manor, Golf Course Terrace, Greenhaven, Hollywood Park, Land Park, Little Pocket, Mangan Park, Meadowview, North Laguna, Parkway, Pocket, Sacramento City College, South Land Park, Upper Land Park, Valley Hi, Woodbine and Z'Berg Park.

Captain Buckley is supported by four lieutenants and together they comprise the "South Command Staff." The Lieutenants are Zack Bales, Paul Freeman, Neil Cybulski and Sameer Sood. The South Command operates from the Joseph E. Rooney substation at 5303 Franklin Boulevard, just north of Fruitridge, which was opened in 1989 in an effort to get police closer to the communities. The South Command is part of Patrol, which is part of the Office of Operations in the overall Police Department organization chart. The Office of Operations contains what many think of as the "front line" police personnel.

When asked her reaction to her new assignment, Captain Buckley immediately said it is like coming home because she has worked the south area for many years during her career. She began her career as a Community Services Officer (CSO) and became a sworn officer at the age of 21. In addition to spending the majority of her career in the south area, she completed assignments in citywide units such as Major Crimes and Detectives. In 2016, she graduated from the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Most recently, Captain Buckley served as the Executive Lieutenant to the previous South Area Police Captain Dave Peletta (2012-2017) who was promoted to Deputy Chief at the same December 2017 promotional ceremony. Other recent South Area captains include Neil Schneider (2011-2012), Dan Schiele (2008-2010) and Sam Somers (2005-2008).

In an engaging and energetic interview, Captain Buckley said her goal in the new position is to implement "Geographic Policing," which is a new version of Community Policing that many readers may remember from years ago. The basic premise is that each lieutenant in her command staff will be responsible for a specific geographic area. This enables the lieutenant to have a high-level familiarity with issues, many times complex issues, in those communities and provides a consistent point of contact at SPD for the communities. For example, Lieutenant Paul Freeman is the lieutenant assigned to the Pocket and Greenhaven areas.

A secondary goal for Captain Buckley is to attend a significant number of community meetings throughout the South Command area. This will enable the communities to become more familiar with her as the captain and it will also inform Captain Buckley more thoroughly about the community concerns in her jurisdic-

See Police Captain, page 8

Correction

Regarding the community garden story in the last issue of the Pocket News, Will Cannady and Devin Lavelle, members of the Pocket/Greenhaven Community Association, were quoted as saying they planned to have the Executive Director of the Sojourner Truth Multicultural Art Museum Shonna McDaniels plan the entrance gate. They did not say that and it is not true. They are not in a position to commit any city funds for this or any project to any particular individual artist or contractor. We regret the error.

A Taste Above to hold soft opening today

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Photos by STEPHEN CROWLEY
stephen@valcomnews.com





A Taste Above, the neighborhood cafe everyone has been asking for, will open today inside the Promenade Shopping Center at 7485 Rush River Drive, Suite 700, and will celebrate with a grand opening at the end of this month or early May.

Co-owned by Richard Wong and brother-in-law Ray Gin, no newbies to the food and restaurant industry, A Taste Above staff bakes their own bread, with their specialty, Dutch crunch used for sandwiches.

The menu includes sandwiches, soups, salads, Asian entrees, dinner selections, appetizers, desserts, coffee/espresso, teas including matcha green teas and chai lattes. Made with coffee beans from Rocklin-based Vaneli's Handcrafted Coffee, the selection of specialty espresso drinks include lattes, vanilla lattes, caramel macchiato, mochas, white chocolate mochas, and plain espresso. "It's really good coffee," Gin said."I drink a lot of coffee. I've tasted a lot of coffee from your regular Starbucks to local coffee shops and (Vaneli's) seems to be the best tasting." As the cafe grows in popularity, look for an additional dinner menu that changes seasonally.

The cafe offers a happy hour special from 3 to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The restaurant also features wine by the glass, craft beer by the bottle, Chinese pastries, specialty candies, party tray options and fresh mochi from Southside Park's Osaka Ya on Fridays and Saturdays.

Wong and Gin previously owned and operated Courtyard Deli in Elk Grove. Wong also worked for Costco for more than 20 years as a general manager working in retail, food service, enabling him to experience what made Costco successful.

A good location, Wong says Promenade Shopping Center patrons, excited about the cafe, have been known to stop by to ask when it will open. With neighbor-owned Device Brewery and international franchise Burgerim on the horizon, Gin, who has frequented the plaza since the 1990s, recalls when Buckthorns was still around and looks forward to more activity in the plaza. "(At Buckthorns,) we would hang out until 10 o'clock at night. It's nice to see that come back."

At the grand opening, TBD, there will be food samples, giveaways, and more! Stay tuned.

Selections from the sandwich menu...

- There's the Steak Capitol, which is a tri-tip sandwich with blue cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and a house barbecue sauce.
- The ATA burger is a half-pound seasoned burger smothered in tangy house barbecue sauce with applewood bacon, cheese, deep-fried jalapenos, lettuce and tomatoes on a brioche bun.
- The Rush River Burger includes pastrami slices on a half-pound beef patty with melted cheese, sauerkraut, dressing, tomatoes, lettuce on a brioche bun.
- The Pocket Burger is a half-pound seasoned burger with house sauce, tomatoes, lettuce, on a brioche bun.
- The Promenade is a grilled chicken breast sandwich with applewood bacon, tomatoes, lettuce, mustard and mayo.
- The Greenhaven includes seasonal veggies, cucumber, ripe avocado, tomatoes, red pepper strips, sprouts, choice of cheese and pesto.

A selection of the Asian entrees, includes: Kalbi short ribs, chicken katsu, Kahlua pork, Korean beef bulgogi.

Appetizers include: ATA wings n' drums, pretzel sticks, fries, waffle-cut sweet potato fries.

Desserts include: Gunther's ice cream, milk shakes, sundaes, and real fruit freezes.

Open Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Hours are subject to change based on customer demand. 7485 Rush River Drive, Suite 700. For more information, call 916-272-2711.

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Brownie's Lounge to be sold to new owners

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Clair "Brownie" Brown, owner of Brownie's Lounge in the South Hills Shopping Center, said that the business will change ownership for the first time, after serving customers for more than 30 years.

The bar will cease operation under Brown's ownership at the end of this month, and will eventually be reopened by its new owners under the same business name. The sale of the business is currently in escrow, Brown said.

Brown, who turned 85 last week, described the situation that led to his decision to sell this bar space at 5858 South Land Park Drive.

"I had to close up, because I lost my lease," he said. "It's that simple. It came as a shock to me. (The landlords) would not let me stay there. They made that perfectly clear when they came down from San Francisco (about four months ago). Strictly plain, they would lease it to somebody else, but not to me."

Brown added that he was not given a reason why his lease will not be renewed and he noted that he will be leaving Brownie's as a financially stable business operation.

"I don't owe bills or anything else," he said.

Despite the success of this business, Brown said that it did not make sense for him to relocate it to a different location.

"It would cost me $150,000 to move to some other location," he said. "At my age, it wouldn't be worth doing. And I would never get my money back that way."

Although Brown noted that he would have continued to operate Brownie's indefinitely if his lease had been renewed, he has maintained a positive attitude about selling the business.

"I had a good run while I was there," he said.

Brown opened Brownie's Lounge at its current and only location in 1985, after operating the Gas Lamp bar at 4450 24th St., across the street from Panama Pottery, for about 20 years.

Brown's career in the bar business also includes working at The Stable, a pizza and beer business that operated at 4563 Freeport Blvd. He was hired to work for that establishment in about 1955, while he was attending Sacramento Junior College – now Sacramento City College.

About three years later, Brown began working at The Captain's Table, a cocktail lounge that was located at 4350 Riverside Blvd., in the area where Scott's Seafood Grill and Bar is now located.

Prior to owning the Gas Lamp, in about 1961, Brown acquired employment at that business through its owner, Bob Burns.



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Clair "Brownie" Brown is in the process of selling his longtime South Hills Shopping Center business, Brownie's Lounge.

In operating Brownie's, Brown has not made it a mystery that he is a man who is very proud of his Irish heritage.

Brown was born in Yuba City to his Irish-American mother, Hazel Estelle (Drennen) Brown, and his father Leo Brown, who worked in the turkey processing industry.

Reminders of Brown's heritage are evident in the business's interior. It has a very Irish theme, as many of its features are decorated in green – the symbolic color of St. Patrick's Day.

Brownie's patrons have been arriving at this establishment on an annual basis for its St. Patrick's Day gatherings, which include corned beef and cabbage and live, Irish musical entertainment.

Corned beef and cabbage is also a weekly tradition at Brownie's, as this fare is offered every Thursday.

Brown said that he has cooked more than 300,000 pounds of corned beef during his time at Brownie's and the Gas Lamp.

With its on-site kitchen, Brownie's also serves other menu items, including rib-eye steak, cheeseburgers, sausage and kraut, ribs, prawn cocktails, sandwiches and salads.

As for Brownie's St. Patrick's Day event, proceeds from this gathering, with the exception of the bar's earnings, have been traditionally presented to a charity of Brown's choice.

For instance, in 2008, the event raised funds for the medical expenses of Hayden Gomez, a local boy who was fighting a battle against leukemia.

Brown's celebration of his Irish heritage also includes co-founding the Honourable Guild of St. Patrick's Day Mummers' annual evening parade in downtown

See Brownie's, page 8

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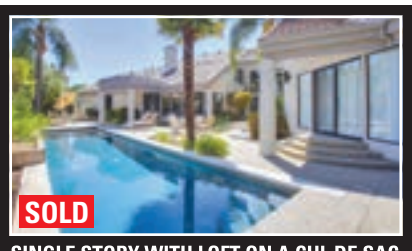

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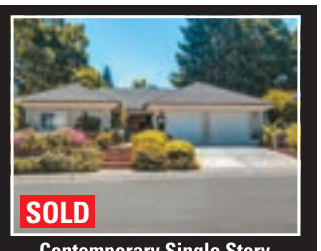

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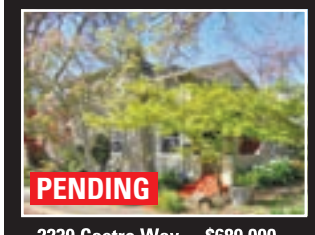

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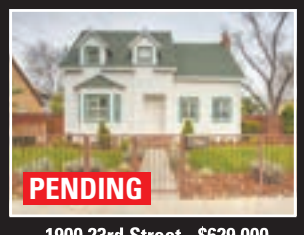

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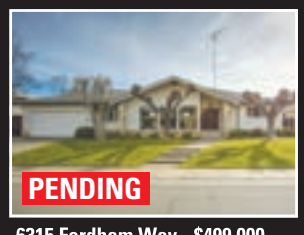
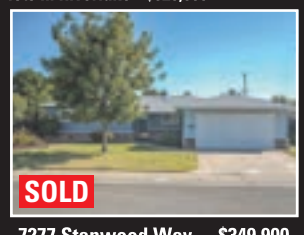
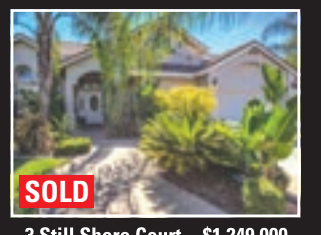


6315 Fordham Way - $499,000



7277 Stanwood Way - $349,900



3 Still Shore Court - $1,249,000





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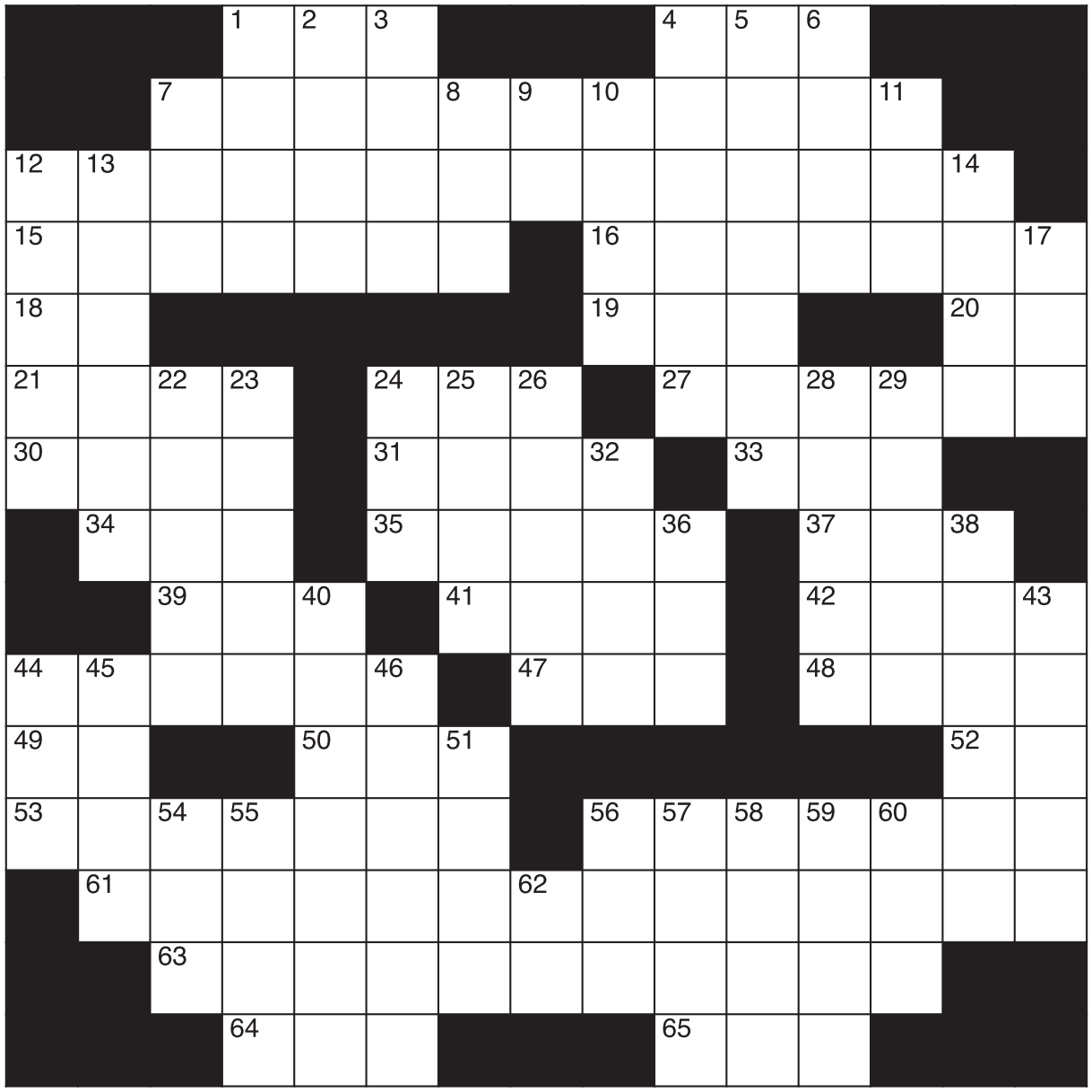

CLUES ACROSS

1. Small lump
4. Helps little firms
7. A way of performing
12. Lawyers
15. Stirred up
16. Believed in
18. The Bay State (abbr.)
19. Makes computers
20. Sodium
21. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
24. Institute legal proceedings against
27. More compact
30. Ethiopian river
31. Quantitative fact
33. No (Scottish)
34. A concession of no great value
35. Tony-winning actress Daisy
37. More (Spanish)
39. Russian space station
41. Helicopter
42. At the peak
44. Makes ecstatically happy
47. Excellent
48. Material body
49. The Golden State (abbr.)
50. A unit of plane angle
52. Argon
53. Fancy
56. Fried mixture of meat and spices
61. How green plants use sunlight
63. Without wills
64. Unhappy
65. Meat from a pig's leg

CLUES DOWN

1. Mentor
2. Lyric poems
3. A dry cold north wind in Switzerland
4. Trapped
5. Used for road surfacing
6. Cuckoos
7. Prefix "away from"
8. Seth McFarlane comedy
9. Not out
10. "The Simpsons" bus driver
11. Popular HBO drama (abbr.)
12. Acclaimed Indian physicist
13. Removes
14. One-name NBA player
17. Revolutionary women
22. Smell
23. Ground-dwelling songbird
24. Midway between south and southeast
25. American state
26. Keen
28. Khoikhoin peoples
29. Int'l defense organization
32. Samoan money
36. A sign of assent
38. One from Somalia
40. Boat race
43. Trims
44. French coins
45. Indigenous Scandinavian
46. Flew alone
51. Loch where a "monster" lives
54. Japanese title
55. Pros and __
56. Present in all living cells
57. Something to scratch
58. Branch of Islam
59. Appear
60. Former CIA
62. Yukon Territory

Jennings to participate in Pocket News Candidate Forum May 9

Event to also feature challengers Brown, Edinburgh

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Editor's Note: This is part one of a two-part series regarding the upcoming Pocket News Candidate Forum. Part two will include information regarding District 7 candidates, Tristan Brown and Victor Edinburgh.

Sacramento City Council Member Rick Jennings, who represents District 7, will discuss local issues at the Pocket News Candidate Forum on May 9.

The event will be held at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Challenging Jennings in this June's election will be Tristan Brown and Victor Edinburgh.

In leading up to the forum, Jennings shared some of his views on local issues.

Jennings, a former school board trustee and four-year member of the council, recognized public safety as the issue that is most important to him.

"District 7 is currently the safest district in the city of Sacramento and I want to keep it that way," he said. "I want to always make sure that the residents feel safe in the place that they call home and the place that they come to after work, the place that they raise their family in, the place that they go to school."

Part of Jennings' desire for maintaining the safety of citizens is increasing the number of police officers.

"We want to have a fully staffed police force," he said. "We currently don't have that. We have to go through hiring, we have to make sure that we diversify our police force. We want to make sure that our police force is able to keep us safe and protect us. So, that's why I've had to go and get additional resources in order to make sure that District 7 is as safe as it is."

Those resources have supported the acquisition of police observation devices, which are located in every ingress and egress area in the district.

Jennings expressed appreciation for local neighborhood associations, faith-based organizations and the Pocket's Nextdoor social media website, which is the largest Nextdoor site in the state.

"We are working together (to improve safety in the district)," he said. "It's not just what the City Council and the council member has done. That's a part of it, but bringing people together. That's the one thing that I think I've done the best is to bring people together to be a part of the solution."

On the issue of economic development, Jennings said that it is important to continue to create jobs in the district.

"I want to make sure that people bring businesses into the community," he said. "One particular example is we have now Delta Shores (shopping center). That alone brings retail businesses into our district, and it creates jobs for our people, as well."

A feature of Delta Shores that Jennings appreciates is its newly opened movie theater.

"We never had a theater in District 7," he said. "We had to go to Elk Grove or Natomas."

Jennings also mentioned that through consistent efforts, seven businesses have opened in the Promenade Shopping Center, off Rush River Drive, within the past year.

"We will now have a Promenade center that is not 40 percent vacant, but has now increased in the number of businesses that are coming there," he said.



City Council Member Rick Jennings serves as the representative of District 7, which includes the Pocket.

Jennings noted that a recent forum allowed residents to share their views on what retail places were lacking in the Pocket.

"They wanted more community-style restaurants, they wanted more (exercise centers) where people could work out," he said. "There's more banking (establishments) that people want, especially in the Delta Shores area. There's no bank there." The council member also mentioned that locals desire more small businesses such as doughnut and ice cream shops.

Jennings said that the ultimate goal is for residents to have a sufficient number of retail services within the district.

"We don't want you going outside of District 7 and we also don't want to take that tax base out of the city of Sacramento, where you have to go to Elk Grove," he said.

Also of interest to Jennings is improving infrastructures such as parks and canals.

The council member said that he developed a maintenance plan for the Pocket Canal Parkway to "make sure that the canal becomes a natural asset."

"There are many times that the water has not been maintained properly, the trees and shrubbery have not been maintained, (and) there was no adequate place for people to put their trash as they walked through the community," he said.

"And there was no signage. So, you go through the canal and you get lost. So, we have this natural asset sitting right in the middle of our district and there was no maintenance plan to take care of it." In response, Jennings worked with different city departments to improve that parkway.

After hearing from residents that the district's parks no longer met the needs of

See Forum, page 7

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Forum:

Continued from page 6

the residents, Jennings has continuously worked toward having those parks modified to meet those needs.

Park improvements have included constructing tennis courts in Lewis Park and placing new playground equipment and trees in various parks.

Jennings also made it a priority to bring public access to private sections of the levee.

"The levee has not been opened for people to be able to go from Greenhaven-Pocket all the way downtown, because of fences that stop you from doing that, because property owners own those fences," he said. "We had a parkway planned in 1975 that was going to open up the parkway for everyone. The City Council voted on it. It was approved, but no council member has ever stepped up in order to implement that plan."

Jennings noted that he acquired money from the city's general budget to purchase those easements. He added that he believes that full public access of the levee can be obtained within four years.

Also of concern to Jennings is the increase of homeless people in the district.

"We're starting to see spots of homelessness in District 7, and we continue to deal with that," he said. "We have a patrol on the levee, we have a patrol through our parks. We have our police patrolling on a regular basis.

"We've been able to mitigate (this issue) and get them back to where services are (located), because there are no services for homelessness in District 7."

However, the council member said that he has discussed the possibility of having a homeless center in the district in the future with local residents.

"So far, the residents of District 7 have said very strongly that they would be open to that," he said.

Jennings told the Pocket News that he is excited about the opportunity that the upcoming forum provides for people to get to know the candidates.

"I think it's an opportunity for people to come to the forum who may not know the candidates – especially Rick Jennings – to hear our point of views on what's important to the district, what do we hope to accomplish," he said. "They can ask questions, they can get information, they can get to know the candidates better."

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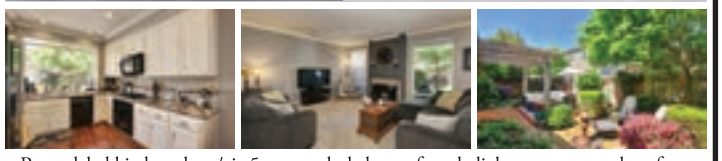

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Photo by Lance Armstrong

The City of Sacramento Pipe Band performs in front of Brownie's Lounge in celebration of St. Patrick's Day on March 17, 2016.

Brownie's:

Continued from page 4

Sacramento. He also participated in the parade from 1960 to 1997.

In 1977, the Mummers selected Brown as that year's Sacramento "Irishman of the Year."

During the same year, he marched in a St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin.

Brown has continued to be heavily involved in the operation of his business, where he still heads to work seven days a week in his red Chevy Camaro, which he bought new in 1965.

While reminiscing about his many years operating Brownie's, Brown expressed an overall satisfaction with that experience.

"I was very lucky," he said. "It was very good. Customers were very gracious to me all those years. I had some ups and downs in certain things, but other than that it's been great."

Police Captain:

Continued from page 2

tion. She mentioned that she brings the IMPACT Team to many community meetings. The IMPACT Team seeks to engage the chronically homeless and offer services that can help them. It's important that communities know about the services the IMPACT team can provide and that the city is trying new creative ways to reach homeless individuals. This is evidence that the homeless problem has certainly become a higher priority. Other changes on the horizon include more interaction with youth programs like those run by the Mack Road Partnership and La Familia on Franklin Boulevard.

Captain Buckley was enthusiastic about the good work performed by the SPD Motor Team, which consists of 7 officers for the entire city and is located in the Rooney facility. Led by Sergeant Matt Armstrong, the Motor Team and Captain Buckley are keenly aware that traffic concerns are high on the priority list for the Pocket and Greenhaven areas.

In recent years, there have been many developments in high-tech crime fighting devices, such as dash cams, body cams, Regional Transit cameras, Police Observation Devices (PODs) and ShotSpotter. When asked her view on these new developments, which frequently capture media attention, Captain Buckley said they are technology as a tool. Each of them is an additional tool in the tool box and yet we don't want to rely on them. Public education and Neighborhood Watch remain central foundations for safe communities. For example, she cited how important it is to educate people not to leave valuables in plain sight in a locked vehicle and how a significant number of burglaries are solved each year on the basis of 'suspicious activity' calls into SPD. "People truly are the eyes and ears of the Police Department," she emphasized.



Bike rodeo at SES set for April 28





Way back in the ancient days of the 1950's, I learned the bicycle "rules of the road" at a Bike Rodeo held at my elementary school. No, the picture isn't me, but a 1970s image of a bike rodeo. So many generations of kids have learned safe biking skills through Bike Rodeos and the Pocket-Greenhaven Community Association (PGCA) would like to see this tradition continued.

On April 28, 2018, a Bike Rodeo will be held at the School of Engineering and Sciences.

The event is a collaboration between the PGCA and City of Sacramento Police Department The actual Rodeo activities are being led by Sacramento Police Officers, with the assistance of volunteers experienced in cycling.

The Bike Rodeo consists of a series of maneuvers directly related to everyday cycling, including safely exiting a driveway, how scan and approach an intersection, and how to avoid road hazards. "Rules of the road" instruction will also be provided. Additionally, there will be an ABC bike inspection – Air, Brakes, and Chain.

The target age group is five to twelve years of age. To get the most benefit out of the activities, the younger children should be able to ride their bikes without training wheels.

Children attending will need to bring their bicycle and their helmet. Safetyville, USA of Sacramento will be at the event to help with proper helmet fitting. If your child does not have a helmet, there will be a number available at no charge.

Parents will need to attend as a signed "Parent Approval" is necessary for participation.

The Rodeo will last three hours and it's expected that the bike inspection and skills circuit will take about 20 minutes to complete. To ensure children aren't waiting too long to participate, we are asking that parents preregister their children. Six half-hour time slots are available at the registration site:

rodeo.pocketgreenhaven.org

If you have questions, please email: bikingclass@gmail.com

What: Bicycle Rodeo
Where: School of Engineering and Sciences, 7345 Gloria Drive
When: April 28, 2018, 10AM to 1PM
Preregistration: rodeo.pocketgreenhaven.org

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Kennedy and SES robotics teams going to world championship in Houston



John F. Kennedy High School's robotics team took Calgary by storm earlier this month in their first international competition, qualifying for the World Championship in Houston. In addition, the team won the Excellence in Engineering award for their precision in design and function, and gained many fans and lots of attention with their unique "bat hook" climbing mechanism. Over 14,000 hours of student time has been invested in designing, building, wiring and programing the robot this season, which posted the highest score achieved in competition in the western division.

Kennedy joins the School of Engineering and Sciences (SES) Robotics team which has also qualified for the World Championships in Houston. The SEStematic Eliminators (team name) recently received the Engineering Inspiration Award and a place in the Championship two weeks ago at the Idaho Regional. Congratulations to both teams!

Below are links where you may become part of the team!

JFK Cougars:
https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/kennedy-robotics-is-going-to-worlds/kennedy-robotics

SES Rockets:
http://sesrobotics.yolasite.com

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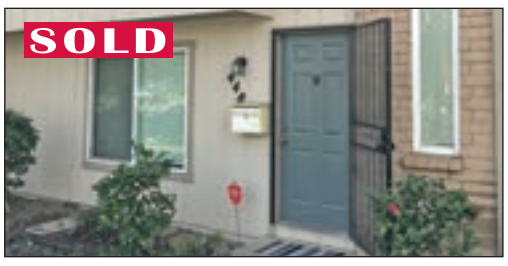

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Recognizing what makes the Pocket a great place: Local event to honor outstanding neighbors

On April 26, the Pocket Greenhaven Community Association will be holding the first Pride of the Pocket Awards to recognize some of the amazing people who contribute so much to our community.

In addition to recognizing the great volunteers, public servants and organizations in our community, the PGCA is looking to find the best bakers too! Sign up for the bake-off at pride.pocketgreenhaven.org.

For more information, visit pride.pocketgreenhaven.org and if you still have questions, email info@pocketgreenhaven.org.

All of the awards given by the PGCA were nominated by the community:

Outstanding Youth: Allison Lee for outstanding academic achievement, service to her campus and, especially, her advocacy and involvement with our local library!

Outstanding Educator: Jacquie Skinner

Outstanding Service to Youth: Greenhaven Soccer

Outstanding Contribution to the Pocket, Inclusion: Pocket 4th of July Parade, Mike Higley, Linda Pohl, Kathy Garcia and Brenda Williams accepting *Outstanding Contribution to the Pocket, Quality of Life, Neighborhood Beautification* by Lynn Robie

In addition, 4 individuals are being recognized by elected officials. They were selected by those officials, based on whatever standards they chose.

Sen. Richard Pan recognizes Jan Matisco on behalf of herself and her late husband Joe

Supervisor Patrick Kennedy: *Kathi Windheim*

Council Member Rick Jennings: *Beth Koster*

School Board Trustee Darrel Woo: *Norm Policar*

If you go:

What: Pride of the Pocket awards ceremony and bake-off

When: Thursday, April 26 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Where: School Of Engineering & Sciences, 7345 Gloria Drive

(Editor's Note: What follows is the second batch of bios. See the previous issue of the Pocket News for more.)

Kathi Windheim nominated **Allison Lee** and had the following to say about her:

The nominee is a John F. Kennedy High School Program in American and California Explorations (PACE) student with a rigorous academic load including Latin and Honors Math and Science as well as belonging to several service clubs on campus including the Key Club that works in tandem with the Pocket Rotary Club on several community projects.

Her GPA is above 4.0. Allison has been on the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library Board as a Student Representative since 7th grade at Sam Brannon Middle School. She is now a junior at JFK, so this is her 5th year of service.

In five years, Allison has rarely missed a board meeting or library event She is a wonderful mentor to the younger children coming to the library, always friendly and helpful.

During events like the annual summer reading kick-off, Allison takes initiative to complete all tasks. Allison has also been to Sacramento City Council meetings to speak on the budget needs of the Sacramento Public Library System. Allison Lee is a champion of libraries and her community.

Outstanding Educator: Jacquie Skinner, School of Engineering & Sciences

Ms. Skinner is an amazing English Teacher at the School of Engineering & Sciences. Emphasizing perseverance and collaboration, she oversees the school's senior projects, challenging engineering assignments that serve as a launching pad into higher education and careers.

Going above and beyond established curriculum, Ms. Skinner piloted the school's Exploring College and Career Options (ECCO) and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs. ECCO provides work-based learning to help prepare students for colleges and career through a hands-on approach. SEL focused on educating the whole child, helping students understand and cope with their emotions, frustrations and anxieties.

The Greenhaven Soccer Club

The Greenhaven Soccer Club is a non-profit 501(3)(c) corporation which is comprised of community volunteers who strive to provide an enriching and enjoyable recreational sporting experience for kids aged 4-18. The GHSC promotes participation in soccer in the belief that as the game is learned, so are many other valuable lessons: the importance of exercise in a healthy lifestyle, how to be a good teammate, how to exhibit good sportsmanship snd how to resolve conflicts in a positive, appropriate manner. *-- http://greenhavensoccer.com/about/*

Pocket 4th of July Parade organizers Mike Higley, Linda Pohl, Kathy Garcia and Brenda Williams

Every year Pastor Mike Higley, Linda Pohl, Kathy Garcia and Brenda Williams have worked tirelessly together ensuring the Spirit of the Pocket 4th of July Parade runs smoothly. With Mike organizing volunteers, Linda and Kathy working the lineup, and Brenda setting up after-parade happenings at Garcia Bend Park, the annual event is the biggest in the neighborhood and showcases the community at its best. *-Monica Stark*

School Board Trustee Darrel Woo recognizes Norm Policar with the following tribute:

Norm Policar has been the fearless leader of Didion for over 20 years. Under his leadership, Didion continues to be an academic powerhouse and one of the most sought-out schools in the Pocket/Greenhaven community. His open-door policy allows students to comfortably come in and chat about any of their academic or personal issues. As a result, a line of students can often be found outside of his door.

See Awards, page 13





Awards:

Continued from page 12

Mr. Policar is a strong supporter of student activities. He recently agreed to be covered from head to toe in toilet paper if our school could earn $10,000 for a charitable cause. A few weeks later, our mummified principal was showcased on a few of our local television channels. Last year in support of the same cause, Mr. Policar was transformed into "Mrs. Policar". He was seen sporting a beautiful floral dress complete with matching accessories. What a true sport!

Mr. Policar also loves supporting the Didion sports teams. During the basketball and soccer seasons, you'll find him in the stands or on the sidelines cheering for his beloved Dragons. Much of their success is a result of his support.

Following the 49ers is one of Norm's favorite leisure-time activities. When the Niners are good, life is great! Collecting historical memorabilia is another hobby Norm enjoys. His love for history is evident from the fact that he once was a history teacher at Will C. Wood. Each year at Didion, Norm returns to the classroom to teach a history segment to his middle school students. Norm's ultimate passion though is spending time with his wife and daughter. They are the cornerstones of his world!

Congratulations "Mr. P"!







(above left) Allison Lee, will receive the award for Outstanding Youth for outstanding academic achievement, service to her campus and, especially, her advocacy and involvement with our local library!
(middle) Jacquie Skinner, outstanding educator
(right) Lynn Robie will receive an Outstanding Contribution to the Pocket, Quality of Life, Neighborhood Beautification award

Lynn Robie

Lynn Robie was a member, Sacramento City Council, District 8 (Greenhaven-Pocket-Meadowview areas) from 1979-1992, the vice mayor in 1982, 1992, the chair of the Law and Legislation Committee, from 1990-1992 and the chair of the budget and Finance Committee from 1983-84. Her husband is Ronald B. Robie (Associate Justice, Court of Appeal, 3rd Appellate District) who she married in 1958. She has two children Todd and Melissa and grandchildren.

The Lynn Robie Dog Park opened in her honor at the Bill Conlin Youth Sports Complex about three years ago and at the ribbon cutting event, County Supervisor Patrick Kennedy said he was there that day "not as a County Supervisor. I am here as a big fan of Lynn Robie, and a former neighbor.

"You see, when I was a boy, I grew up just down the street from Lynn Robie. In fact, my earliest political memory is that of my mom taking me with her to vote in Lynn Robie's garage... for Illa Collin. Little did I know then that I would one day follow Illa into the Board of Supervisors almost 40 years later.

"Later, as a young adult, I learned about local government attending City Council meetings and watching great Sacramento leaders like Anne Rudin, Joe Serna, and Lynn Robie. Thank you Lynn for all you have done for me, and thank you for all you continue to do for our community."

Speaking about how the dog park took on the former councilmember's name, past district 7 council member Darrell Fong, said: "Lynn Robie was a councilmember from 1979 to 1992. In fact, when she started in 1979, she started the police academy. She was there making it a better place. She represented the Pocket/Greenhaven neighborhood and did it well for 13 years. So we thought how could we have something named after her for what she has accomplished and we thought about the animal park because a lot of people think how well used they are.



Didion Principal Norm Policar will be recognized by trustee Darrel Woo.

"We thought a lot of people would see this and recognize her name so I think it's very befitting that we chose her to have the park named after her."

-Monica Stark

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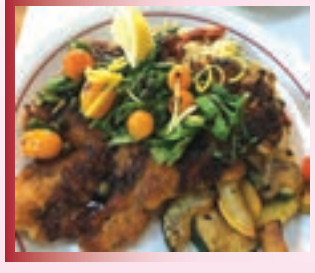

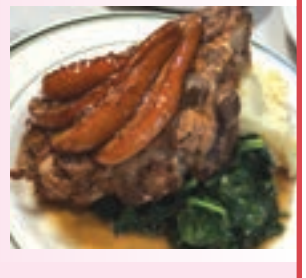



Cubs to Eagle

The Den 1 Boys are ready to soar

By FLORENCE OTO-WONG
and GAYLE FIRTH

In 2006, there was a group of 1st grade boys from Greenhaven/Pocket and Elk Grove neighborhoods that coincidentally all joined Pack 50 Cub Scout and became known as "The Den 1 Boys."

These eight boys learned to tie knots, build campfires, stake a tent, and of course make s'mores. As they all reached the highest rank in Cub Scouts, Arrow of Light, in 2011 they all "bridged" into the same Boy Scout Troop, Sacramento Troop 50.

It is in Troop 50 where they all continued their commitment to Scouting; hours of community service, camping, hiking, cooking, cycling, and kayaking while at the same time completing required Merit Badges. For example, required Merit Badges would be 20 days of camping where during those camp-outs they must hike 1, 0000 feet, snow shoe, or rappel down 30 feet (camping badge), 20 mile hike in one day (Hiking badge), preparing a USDA nutritious meal in the wilderness using a Dutch oven, foil pack, trail stove (cooking badge), completing a 50 mile bicycle ride (cycling badge).

Honestly, these scouts had fun, learned life skills, and are "prepared". Fast forward to 2018, together, all 8 of these original 1st graders, have earned the highest rank of scouting, rank of Eagle Scout. Not only is it rare the same group of boys who started the scouting program together achieve the highest rank, but only 4 percent of Boy Scouts actually achieve the Rank of Eagle.

These "Den 1 Boys" are now young adult men, seniors in high school and are the Class of 2018 representing their respective high schools of John F. Kennedy, Consumes Oaks, Franklin, Inderkum, and are better prepared for life to "soar".



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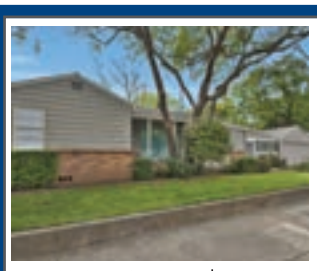

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Awesome Video owner shares poignant memories of longtime business

By MONICA STARK
editor@valcomnews.com

Outlasting the likes of Blockbuster and Hollywood Video, the Land Park institution and notably Sacramento's last video and rental shop, Awesome Video, closed its doors after 24 years on Monday, April 9. The store reopened on Sunday, April 15 to customers interested in purchasing inventory.

Mai Thu Bui, the store's owner, says she is sad to be closing, but video and movie streaming services have made it impossible to continue.

"This is it. My goal is to walk out with nothing. I don't want to bring anything home. This will all be good memories. My heart is broken... I'll miss it a lot. To get this thing ready, I get up at 5 or 6 in the morning and don't get to bed till 11. I'm tired of it. I'm going to be able to read a lot of books. No more movies."

Having employed local high school kids, Mai said some returned after college to work again, only to get married and move on. "I watched them grow up, their kids. I know them by first name. I know their kids' names. I know their problems. People talk to me like I'm Lucy from Charlie Brown."

Too sad to go online to Awesome Video's Facebook page, Mai said the business's social media person was crying all morning, so, she surely couldn't take a look at it.

Mai said she's had an intuitive customer who, curious about the closure, every week would ask, "When?" To which she would reply: "I don't know yet."

"And, he was worried," she said. "He had a sense that I could not do this forever and then he told me he doesn't know how to use Redbox. He doesn't use streaming. He told me he'd have to learn how to use Redbox. I said, 'Go to the library.'"

Having enjoyed serving her loyal customers, especially the families that still bring their children in to pick out movies, Mai looks forward to starting a new life with husband-to-be Luke Wilson.

The store is well-known for its collection of rare and unusual DVDs and has large and wonderful collections of documentary, foreign, classic and children's films. The sale is an unusual opportunity for movie buffs to acquire their favorite movies or add to their collections.

Working under the business's former owners John and Tessa Le when they first opened in 1994, Mai stuck around when they left in 2004 to open a restaurant in San Francisco. "I stayed because I love what I am doing. I love watching movies, TV series, documentaries," she said.

But times have changed. Movies aren't as good as they used to be back 25 years ago, she says. "Nowadays, I am disappointed and disappointed. And people are disappointed with me.

"(They'll ask) 'Have you watched this movie?'

"'No, I'm sorry.' I said sorry that I didn't watch it.

"And, they'll say, 'What? You used to watch movies.'

"And, I'll say, 'I can't keep as much interest in movies.'"

Having been at its current location, the old Collected Works gift shop, for three years, Mai moved the store from down the street at 5000 Freeport Blvd., across from Oto's Marketplace. "We had some problems with the karaoke place next door. There was so much stress," she said. Before 2008, that former location was twice the size accommodating more movies and VHS copies. "Some people were not happy. (They'd ask) 'How do you fit everything in?' But, it worked out. Then, I didn't like where were at." Coincidentally, the former owner of Collected Works decided to retire the same year Mai contemplated closing altogether or moving her store. Appreciative of the landlord, Mai says that the newer location was in high-demand and will be again due to its proximity to the neighboring expansion of Raley's.



Photo by Lance Armstrong
Mai Thu Bui, longtime owner of Awesome Video, shows rare items that will be on sale starting Sunday, April 15. She's holding a copy of The Ballad of Narayama, a 1958 Japanese period film directed by Keisuke Kinoshita -- a movie she enjoys.

Since the move left customers thinking the store closed, Mai set out to find an artist to paint a mural on the side of the building that would help with advertising. Since 2015, gracing the north wall are Princess Leia, Spiderman, the Enterprise from Star Trek, Pam Greer as the foxy Cleopatra, Herbie the Love Bug, Dirty Harry, the robot from Metropolis, King Kong and the rocket from Guardians from the Galaxy.

"A labor of love" for muralist Shaun Burner, the project took about three days to complete which was done just in time for that year's Halloween. "I feel like it's one of the last video stores I've known about. The fact they moved, people thought they closed down. When people saw us (he and his partner Franceska Gamez) do it, it put the store back on the map," he told this publication at the time. Shaun even got a membership during the process.

As Franceska wrote on Facebook back then, "It's a fun one for sure. Awesome Video is one of the last video stores in town; we had to come support."

Shaun's brother, Chad, a regular customer at Awesome Video and a nearby homeowner was told by Mai about the desire for a mural on the side of the wall and naturally recommended his brother.

Speaking about the process of how the design for this par-

See Awesome Video, page 19

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What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?

THURSDAY, APRIL 19 - FRIDAY, APRIL 20

GIANT BOOK SALE - Satisfy your thirst for the printed word at the Pocket-Greenhaven Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale. Proceeds from the book and media sale provide support for library programs and services. Ends Friday, April 20 during the library's open hours at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

SHRED EVENT AT COOK REALTY: Pacific Records Management will be at Cook Realty for a shred event. $5 per box; $3 per grocery bag. 4305 Freeport Blvd. Cash donation. Checks can be made out to Cook Realty Charitable Foundation. For more information, call Trey Bonetti at 916-768-9360; trey@cookrealty.com; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

POSTCARD PEN PALS – 4th through 6th graders, join us for the launch of our new Postcard Pen Pals program! Craft your own postcards, write to kids in the Sacramento Delta area, and receive awesome snail mail. This program will be available every third Saturday of the month. Saturday, April 21, 1:30 to 3pm at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

MONDAY, APRIL 23

ACTIVE RETIREMENT INVESTING: An in-depth look at financial topics for those who are retired or will be soon. Assess your portfolio; see if is suitably allocated for your needs. Whether you are DIY investing or would like to check on how your advisor is doing with your portfolio, you'll find this class enlightening and useful. Prerequisite: Adults over 55. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $12 required. Class will be held on Monday April 16, April 23, April 30 and May 7, 2018 from 10:00-12:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www@accsv.orgs.

OPEN FORUM @ FAITH WITH SAC. CITY SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT JORGE AGUILAR: Pocket Area Congregations Together (PACT) is sponsoring a Forum with Jorge Aguilar, the new superintendent of schools here in Sacramento. This will be a fantastic opportunity for dialogue around issues such as school safety, support services, long-range vision of the district, and ways the faith community can be a support to our public schools. Join us on Monday, April 23, at 6:00 p.m. at Faith Presbyterian Church (625 Florin Road). Pocket-area principals will be in attendance as well.



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TUESDAY, APRIL 24

KEEPING HEALTHY IN A GERM-FILLED WORLD: This class will provide suggestions and information on staying healthy in a world filled with bacteria, viruses and other microbes. There will be a discussion on the basic groups of microbes, definition of what is and is not a pathogen, and infections/communicable diseases. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $3 required. $5 drop-in at the door. Class will be held on Tuesday April 24, 2018 from 10:00-11:00a at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www@accsv.orgs.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

SOUND THERAPY: Explore the world of using sound to assist in creating and maintaining health. We will discuss the medical research and sound therapy techniques such classical music, Hindu & Tibitan Mantra prayers, and ancient musical instruments to learn how to relax the body and mind. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $20 required. $25 drop-in at the door. Class will be held on Wednesday April 25, 2018 from 1:30-3:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www@accsv.orgs.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

PRIDE OF THE POCKET AWARDS: Many friends and neighbors in the Pocket-Greenhaven will gather for the first annual Pride of the Pocket awards ceremony and bake-off from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the School of Engineering & Sciences Gym, 7345 Gloria Drive. The Pocket Greenhaven Community Association and elected leaders will recognize some of the fantastic people and groups that make our neighborhood such a wonderful place to live, work and play.
Tickets, includes snacks and beverages:
Individual - $15 ($10 for PGCA members)
Family - $30 ($25 for PGCA members)
Bake-off Entry Deadline: April 12th
Pride.PocketGreenhaven.org

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

I DIDN'T KNOW THE LIBRARY DID THAT! The library isn't just a building full of books. It's a community space filled with opportunities for lifelong learning, access to technology, special events and much more. Learn the secrets of the Sacramento Public Library in this class. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Friday April 27, 2018 from 1:00-2:00pm at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

BICYCLE RODEO: Learn safe biking skills from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the School of Engineering and Sciences, 7345 Gloria Drive. Includes helmet fitting, bike safety check, rules of the road explanation, "slow" race and more. Pre-register at rodeo.pocketgreenhaven.org

MEET THE AUTHORS - WORLD WAR II: Sacramento - Take a trip to Sacramento during World War II with authors James Scott, Amanda DeWilde and Eric Webb. Exclusive images and stories from the Special Collections of the Sacramento Public Library bring this story to life. Books will be available for purchase. Saturday, April 28, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

READ TO A DOG - Looking for a way to boost school-age reading skills? Join us in the library's Reading Tower area and practice reading out loud to a registered therapy dog (Marvin, the Wonder Corgi). Kids are invited to bring their own books or borrow one from our collection. 2nd and 4th Saturdays (April 14th and 28th), 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

MONDAY, APRIL 30

ACTIVE RETIREMENT INVESTING: An in-depth look at financial topics for those who are retired or will be soon. Assess your portfolio; see if is suitably allocated for your needs. Whether you are DIY investing or would like to check on how your advisor is doing with your portfolio, you'll find this class enlightening and useful. Prerequisite: Adults over 55. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $12 required. Class will be held on Monday April 16, April 23, April 30 and May 7, 2018 from 10:00-12:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www@accsv.orgs.

FRIDAY, MAY 4

THE TRUTH ABOUT HEARING LOSS: If you ever made the remark "My hearing is not that bad"-- then this class is for you. Mild hearing loss is bad for you; it can hurt your health, well-being and relationship with people. Learn all you can about hearing loss and how to seek hearing gain. Free of charge and pre-registration required. Class will be held Friday May 4, 2018 from 9:30-10:30am at ACC Senior Services 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

SATURDAY, MAY 5

SPRING SHRED DAY FUNDRAISER FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE--Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. to Noon in the Holy Spirit church parking lot at 3159 Land Park Drive. Secure shredding by Iron Mountain of your old tax documents and forms, bank statements, business records, and other private documents. Suggested donation is $10 per box or bag. Proceeds go to those in need of services.

ASIAN FOOD BAZAAR: The Sacramento United Methodist Church, 6929 Franklin Blvd., presents its annual Asian Food Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Food items include teriyaki chicken, Korean short ribs, chow mein, udon and sushi. Boutique handmade items include: handcrafted cards, raffle, games and entertainment.

MONDAY, MAY 7

ACTIVE RETIREMENT INVESTING: An in-depth look at financial topics for those who are retired or will be soon. Assess your portfolio; see if is suitably allocated for your needs. Whether you are DIY investing or would like to check on how your advisor is doing with your portfolio, you'll find this class enlightening and useful. Prerequisite: Adults over 55. Pre-registration and pre-payment of $12 required. Class will be held on Monday April 16, April 23, April 30 and May 7, 2018 from 10:00-12:00p at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call (916)393-9026 ext 330, www@accsv.orgs.

SATURDAY MAY 12

LOCAL AUTHORS DARLENE SMITH AND ROBERT BARTRON BOOK SIGNING: Come and meet local authors, Darlene Smith and Robert Bartron for a chance to view, share in their adventures and purchase their books. There will be door prizes and refreshments! Great Mothers Day gifts. All proceeds will go to the following charities: Helping Hands/Monkey Helpers and St Baldrick's Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research. J Crawford's Books is located at 5301 Freeport Blvd. Suite 200, 12:30-4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28

LOCAL BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE: The Pocket Greenhaven Community Association will be holding their second Local Business Roundtable on Thursday, June 28 from 6-8pm at the Robbie Waters Library. Topics for discussion include determining effective ways to market businesses to the local community and organized "shop local" campaigns within the neighborhood. Additional agenda topics can be emailed to info@pocketgreenhaven.org.

ONGOING

JFK BAND CROWDFUNDING FOR DC MEMORIAL DAY TRIP: JFK High School has a crowdfunding campaign they started to raise over $250,000 for their trip to DC in May to represent California at the nation's Memorial Day parade. Crowdfunding Site Link: https://www.crowdrise.com/jfk-marching-band-pathway-to-dc/fundraiser/johnfkennedyhighscho

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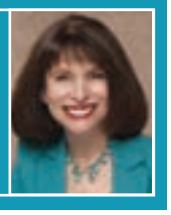

See What's Happening?, page 19

What's Happening?

Continued from page 18

FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF SURVIVORS SUPPORT GROUP: Every first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: Is your friend or family member in a domestic violence, sexual assault, or human trafficking situation? This free, drop-in group is for you. Learn how to support your loved one, and receive some support yourself among people who are in the same situation. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

#METOO SUPPORT GROUP: Every third Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. Location: Sacramento. Call 916-428-3271 for exact location. Description: This drop-in support group is free, confidential, open to all genders, and available to sexual assault survivors at any point in their healing. Feel free to call My Sister's House for more information: 916-428-3271.

MUSIC AND MOTION AT BELLE COOLEDGE COMMUNITY CENTER: Rowena Alverto brings exercise classes for seniors with a combination of yoga, tai chi, zumba, for seniors on Wednesdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. $3. 5699 South Land Park Drive.

LOW-COST VACCINATION CLINICS AT THE SSPCA: Mondays and Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for vaccines; no appointments necessary. Vaccines include:
1) DAPP vaccine ($20) — DAPP stands for Distemper, Adenovirus, Parainfluenza, and Parvovirus. While important for dogs of every age, puppies are susceptible to the Parovirus.
2) Bordetella ($20) -- often referred to as the kennel cough vaccine, this helps protect against a strain of bacteria that can cause kennel cough. Many boarding kennels and groomers require this vaccine for services,
3) FVRCP vaccination ($20) prevents three potentially deadly airborne viruses: rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia in cats,
4) Rabies shot ($6) -- this vaccine is required by animal control or to license your dog. The first vaccine is valid for one year, subsequent vaccines if given on time will last 3 years.
If you are 65 or older, vaccinations are free!
The Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is located at 6201 Florin Perkins Road, Sacramento.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER: This class is designed for beginner or students with limited or no experience with computer. Learn about computer hardware, system components, software and more. Pre-payment of $30 and pre-registration required. Class will start from January 16 thru 25, 2018 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at ACC Senior Services, 7334 Park City Drive. For more information, call 393-9026 ext 330, www.accsv.orgs.

ARTISTS' AND CRAFTERS' GROUP – Held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month, this meet-up was started to allow participants from past and current "In Creative Company" classes to continue meeting. Any artists or crafters who are interested in this social group are welcome--just bring whatever you're working on and join us! 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

THE CLARKSBURG COMMUNITY BAND INVITES YOU TO JOIN: How about dusting off that horn and getting involved! The band is a group of musicians that enjoys sharing a love of music with each other and our communities. The band is looking to expand the ensemble and wants to welcome those who are interested and who play a standard concert band instrument. The band meets Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Delta High School, 52810 Netherlands Ave., Clarksburg. For more information contact Randall Veirs, Delta High School Band Director at rveirs@rdusd.org

FREE LINE DANCE CLASS: Every Thursday from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. "Two Left Feet" dance class for beginners. If you think you have "two left feet" this class is for you. Anyone can participate in this fun activity. Friendly group of people. Drop-ins welcome. Sponsored by ACC Senior Services. Class held every Thursday at ACC Greenhaven Terrace, 1180 Corporate Way. First class is always free. For more information call (916) 393-9026 ext 330. www.accsv.org

Awesome Video:

Continued from page 17

ticular mural came about, Shaun said when he was laying out the concept, he wanted to feature older films and keep the composition symmetrical by placing The Shining twins in the middle as a focus and putting Spiderman up in the top left corner as a balancing act. Using photo references from movie scenes during the painting process helped make the images true to the scenes.

Hopeful the mural will remain after Awesome Video closes its doors for good, Mai said, "I think whoever comes – I think they'd keep it. It's just a side wall."

"It's sort of a landmark," agreed Lewis.

"Some still play Pokemon games and send people over here once in a while," Mai added.

Lewis, who calls himself Mai's support system actually met her at Awesome Video. "I came into the shop. I was on a long walk, and she asked me, she said, 'Do you like to walk?' And I said, 'yeah, okay.' And we said, 'yeah.' So she calls me 'Mr.' I love it. So I said I walk all the time and she says she doesn't like to walk this late in the day. 'It's too hot.' She says, 'If you like to walk in the morning sometime.' I said, 'Okay.' The rest is history. And we walk every morning like seven miles."

The couple lives nearby and plans to say in the area.

Meanwhile, the shock continues to hit longtime customers like Frank Horowitz. "Tower used to be the place, but that was always crazy to go in there. It was so crowded. This was perfect. I don't know what we're going to do without it."

Article outtakes for the intake.... interesting buys...

While video prices weren't set as of the writing of this article, some rare items will be hot buys. "We'll be marking the ones that are valuable. We have a couple of these that are a couple hundred dollars on Amazon," Mai said.

For instance one such Japanese film, **"Stray Dog"**, from The Criterion Collection, directed, produced and written by Akira Kurosawa featuring actors Toshirô Mifune and Takashi Shimura runs for $394.92 (new) or $139.99 (used) on Amazon. The plot, of the 1949 black and white 122-minute film, according to the movie description is, as follows: "A bad day gets worse for young detective Murakami when a pickpocket steals his gun on a hot, crowded bus. Desperate to right the wrong, he goes undercover, scavenging Tokyo's sweltering streets for the stray dog whose desperation has led him to a life of crime."

Another unique find at Awesome Video for some lucky buyer is the 1974 French film, **"Toute Une Vie"** or "And Now My Love", which according to the movie's description,"follows the lives of a woman and a man starting from several generations earlier. The story spans a whole century and several continents." The two-hour, 30-minute romance drama directed by Claude Lelouch and starring Marthe Keller, André Dussollier and Charles Denner, ranges in price on Amazon for used copies between $16.59 and $138.99. The highest new price on Amazon goes for $552.92.

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