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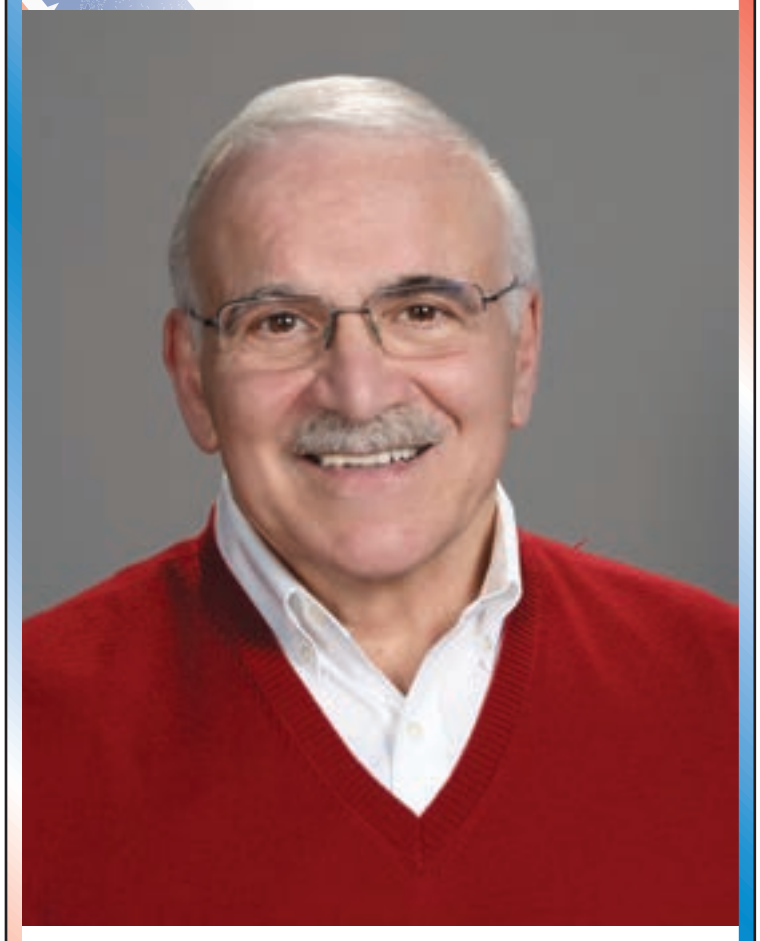

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South Land Park residents look to current Zoo site, Bing Maloney for future botanical garden



Photos by Monica Stark

Bruce Ritter peaks through the palms in his tropical backyard garden.

By Monica Stark

Bruce Ritter and Linda Ching live in a tropical South Land Park Shangri-la. Sunshine filters through the palms, as their dog Kiwi frolics among the cycads, the palmettos and the leucospermums. A pond sits nestled in the back as gingers and staghorn ferns dot the landscape.

A garden 10 years in the making, and the pair wants to push the limits and give back to Sacramento with a public, large-scale botanical garden that they hope will not only be a place of respite and enjoyment for locals but a destination for travelers, as well.

Bruce, a botany major turned optometrist, met Linda in optometry school at SUNY College of Optometry in New York City years ago, but never lost his love for Linda or for plants. As they lived cross country from each other, Bruce spent much of his free time working in his own yard and at a local arboretum. He even built his own 500-square-foot greenhouse with a 16-foot peak, cold running water, and banana trees inside.

"I loved all the tropical stuff, especially in New York where you don't see any of that stuff. And then I got here and I said, 'wow, I can do all these cool things.'"

A fairy tale come true in the decades-long courting, they reunited and Bruce moved from Mt. Sinai, New York to sunny Sacramento about 10 years ago.

see BOTANICAL page 3

POCKET NEWS
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E-mail stories & photos to: editor@valcomnews.com
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Cover photo by:
Stephen Crowley

Correction
Last issue's cover photo was taken by Joe Perfecto. We regret the error.

Botanical:

continued from page 2

And Linda finds it quite ironic that it took a New Yorker to get a botanical garden started in Sacramento.

Replies Bruce: "It's in her blood, she just didn't realize it."

Growing up on South Land Park Drive, Linda's father had 17 fruit trees, grafted oranges and convinced the then-city council to use the land behind the retaining wall on his back property line to grow long Chinese beans, giant melons and an almond tree.

After two marriages, she met Bruce on 24th Street and Park Avenue in Manhattan and suffice to say he wasn't going to let her go this time. Meanwhile, he's never lost his love for plants, and now, they've been at this botanical garden planning for about a year, Linda says.

But really, she would be the first to tell you that's she's generally not all that interested in plants. And yet, despite her ambivalence, she is all in. She sees having a botanical garden in Sacramento as a gift to the community and also to visitors. She is particularly thrilled with the idea of creating a Chinese garden, similar to the Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland, which will recognize the great contributions of the Chinese to our city.

Relatively new on their radar, the idea of a botanical garden first surfaced over a good meal with friends who asked Bruce, "Why doesn't Sacramento have a botanical garden?" And they went on, and on dreaming about what kinds of plants and exhibits they'd have, as well as the events they'd hold. An orchid ball? Weddings? Intimate concerts? Field trips? Giant waterlilies? Tactile gardens? A ceremonial cutting of the "stinky plant"? Seemingly endless, plans for the world-class botanical garden feature a half-acre solar-powered conservatory with an orchid collection, palms, a farm-to-fork gourmet restaurant, a gift shop featuring work of local artists and craftsmen, an annual "art in the garden" event,

water features, a formal garden, demonstration garden, a plant nursery, and as Bruce said, all those "amazing things you'll see in Hawaii or Burma but not here."

To facilitate the materialization of their vision, in February, the couple formed a board of directors, including a financial director, Jesse Avitia; a landscape architect/head of American River College's Horticulture Department, Cielo Sichi; and Marlene Simon, the "Plant Lady," from Good Day Sacramento. They have formed a non-profit and have received federal nonprofit approval and have started a website, www.SacBo.org, and a Facebook page (Sacramento Botanical Gardens).

Now, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, donations to The Sacramento Botanical Garden will pay for the building of the garden and structures as well as the acquisition of plants.

"Listen," Bruce says, "I like plants, I want a botanical garden, but I also look at it as they're always talking about making Sacramento a destination city. We need destinations... We want to create a place for tourists, for them to see and for people who live here to have a place to go and enjoy themselves and maybe go try and grow it in their own backyard."

It's only fitting the Camellia capital of the world since 1910 will have a botanical garden someday. Members of local garden clubs are drawn to hear Bruce and Linda speak about their vision. They spoke to a crowd of 33 members of the Land Park Garden Club and were invited to a South Natomas Urban Greenery meeting at former mayor Heather Fargo's house.



Linda Ching and Bruce Ritter relax in their backyard with their dog Kiwi.

Their original excitement was fueled by an article in the Sacramento Bee which stated that the nine-hole Land Park Golf Course was not turning a profit. Because it already had rolling hills, big trees, parking, water, and a well, they began to envision a garden paradise in the perfect spot. Linda was running into gardeners on the streets, at the elementary school where her children had attended.

Bruce and Linda believe the fate of the Sacramento Botanical Garden is tied to that of the Sacramento Zoo. As the Zoo considers sites like the old King's arena or Bing Maloney Golf Course for its relocation, Bruce and Linda are raising funds so

see GARDEN page 6

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Art that makes people happy:

Local artist to exhibit products of her "happy place" at Barrio Cafe







"The fact that no one understands you doesn't make you an artist." Obviously, Pocket artist Melissa Andrews doesn't take herself too seriously as evidenced by this plaque on her kitchen wall. Although she has worked in a variety of media over the years, her acrylic painting was inspired by extended European travel about 10 years ago, specifically France.

Painting is her therapy, her "happy place", the space where time stands still. Her choice of subject matter is eclectic – she self-indulgently paints what she likes, paints what she sees, loves the use of color and asymmetry, and strives for realism. Sometimes, she just paints something to see if she can replicate it.

That said, when asked what her favorite subject matter is, the answer comes without hesitation – animals, people's pets! Dogs, cats, rabbits, rats . . . she loves the challenge of capturing a critter's personality and bringing it to life on canvas.

She paints evenings and weekends when she's not Jazzercising, line dancing, reading, or just hanging out with her husband and three fabulous fur babies (aka cats, affectionately called 'my three sons') in their Pocket home.

Each day is a gift, to be lived with gratitude, grace, and when necessary, grit.

Melissa will have an artist reception on Saturday, July 13 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Barrio Cafe, 1188 35th Ave. Her art will be up throughout the month of July. To contact Melissa, call 916-399-5719 or email melissandrews@comcast.net.

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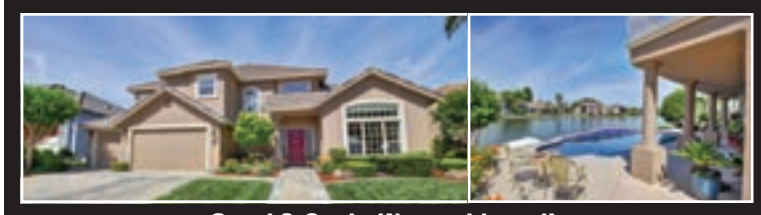

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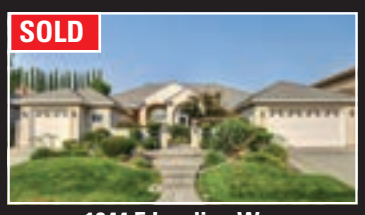

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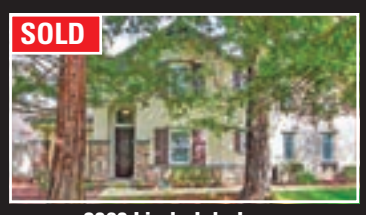

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Homeless Outreach Offers the Area's Homeless One Day of Fellowship

By Jan Dalske

If you know of someone who needs one day of fellowship once a month, you can pass this information along to them. This Homeless Outreach Program is offered once a month in Carmichael at the Christ Community Church. They are located at 5025 Manzanita Avenue in Carmichael, CA. You can reach the church by phone at 916--344-2382. Or, you can email Fred Green at fvgdflawless76@gmail.com,

This local outreach program includes clean clothing, a hot lunch, and a shower. Participants also receive a baggie with soap, deodorant, shampoo, and a toothbrush, that they can keep. The Church Community is working on getting more services provided, such as dental, hearing and vision.

The next Day of Fellowship is scheduled for July 27th. The August date is the 24th. The September date is scheduled for the 28th, and these dates are scheduled for the next months: October 26th, November 23rd, and December 28th.

The purpose of this day of fellowship is to reach those in our community who are in need. They will experience love, acceptance and forgiveness. The Homeless Outreach is held from 10 AM to 2 PM in the multipurpose room, the two story building off the back parking lot.

The men and women, between the ages of 30 and 40, both men and women, who participated in this event last Saturday, in June, were very happy with their meal, and a chance to get clean clothing and a hot shower. If you would like more information you can contact Jason Thornberry by email at jason@cccnow.com.

During the winter months, all five of the HART groups, which include Carmichael, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, Citrus Heights and Folsom, provide what they call Winter Sanctuaries for the homeless people in their areas. They served an average of 130 homeless people a night. Their cost to do this was about $20,000. This cost is much less than the $400,000 that the County spend for their shelters, according to Ken Bennet of Sacramento Self Help Housing.

New HART groups are being formed in different areas of town. North Sacramento and Arden Arcade are recruiting new members and South Sacramento and Midtown are also in the process of getting established. The number of people in these communities that are stepping up to be involved is noteworthy. There are collaborations of many local churches, as well as schools. And, law enforcement as well as business groups, such as the Carmichael Improvement District are interested in helping.

A Winter Sanctuary Committee will be holding its first meeting on Monday, August 12th, but the location has not yet been determined. There are plans to operate the Winter Sanctuary for a time frame of at least eight weeks, and possible longer, perhaps an additional two more weeks, if they can get help from the churches in the Arden Arcade area.

The Sacramento County homeless figures will be published soon by a statistician at Sacramento State University. This number will let our elected officials know how serious the problem of homelessness is in our county. In the meantime, many of our local churches are doing what they can to provide the homeless people with a hot meal, clothing, and a temporary place to stay and clean up.

Homeless Veteran Has Been Living on the Streets of our City for Eighteen Years

By Jan Dalske

I met "Ron" at the Homeless Outreach in Carmichael. While he waited in line for the shower, he told me his story. He is a nice looking man, and told me he was in his sixties, and that he is divorced. In August of 2019, he will have been living on the streets for eighteen years.

His profession was working as a Building Maintenance Person. When he was involved in a motor cycle accident in 1994 he was badly injured. He describes his body as "Humpty Dumpty" as he had to be put back together. He was partially paralyzed and applied for SSI benefits. It took him 6 and ½ years to get his money, $1500 a month, which is not enough to pay rent these days.

He tried to get approved for a housing voucher, and that process took him from 12-13 years. Now, he is on a waiting list with the Sacraments Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA). He was told that it would be two or three years, and then it moved to from seven to ten years. And, he is still waiting. He feels that the SHRA discriminates against some people, and since he does not have a family they consider him to be less needy for housing.

The application fee for getting a rental keeps increasing from $30 to $40 to $50. The landlords that he had in the past were bad. One place had no hot water. Another one had cockroaches. The gas lines were not safe and exploded in one place. He did not have anywhere to go for assistance. No one cared about the problems he had in the rentals.

He has no choice but to sleep in his car. He says that he is lucky that he has a car. Most of the homeless do not have an automobile to sleep in and have to sleep in places that are not safe at all. He has two small dogs who are with him all of the time. They keep him company during the nights that he is sleeping and worries constantly about being criminally assaulted. He told me that he is afraid of drying in his car with his dogs and no one will even notice.

Ron has lost his faith in humanity. And feels that the Mayor does not really care about the people in our city. His actions are all politically motivated. He wants to know who can help the people in our area who are homeless. Where can you go for help?

If you get food from an organization, you have no place to store it. And during the hot summer days, you have no source of refrigeration available. Ron feels that the government is discriminating against the homeless people. What are their rights? They were voters. But, they cannot exercise their right to vote now, as they have no address.

Ron feels that the church groups try to help the homeless, but ultimately it is not their job to take care of the homeless. It is the responsibility of our government. During the summer there are summer lunch programs for the children in the area. But, what about the homeless who do not have food every day, including the summer months?

He wonders how much longer that his homeless "situation" will continue. He has trouble sleeping, and feels that he has been "de-humanized". What is our city going to do to change this situation? Sacramento is the Capital city of California, and we should be appalled about how we are treating our citizens. Ron is just one of many of the people who are barely surviving day by day. When will things get better for him and all of the other people who call Sacramento home?

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Kids Cook: Free food literacy workshops to be held this month

By Monica Stark

Today's budding chefs have a chance to indulge in free cooking classes this month at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library. Children in grades K-6 are invited to weekly hands-on workshops in celebration of healthful eating.

"We would love for the families to discover how healthy eating can be both fun and easy with a little creativity," says Library Supervisor John Esquivel.

Taught by representatives of the Food Literacy Center, a local nonprofit that teaches elementary children cooking and nutrition to improve our health, community and environment, the 45-minute workshops cover a different topic and make a new kid-friendly recipe to taste. Preschoolers are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

Esquivel says the library branch has been partnering with Food Literacy Center since 2013 with different topics each year. "People love cooking programs, so we knew they'd do well here. We're all for kids helping out around the kitchen," he says.

Esquivel says the library is excited to demonstrate that there are different forms of literacy that can be found at the library – including food literacy – and why it's so important to learn it at an early age.

Because the workshops are held at the library, it's fitting of course for books to be read during a part of the workshop.

The books are chosen to go along with the day's lesson theme. "Everyone likes to be read to, so the reading was an easy thing to add to the program while the kids enjoy their homemade snacks, and also ties in with our summer reading theme – All Reading is Good Reading," Esquivel says.

The library has wonderful, creative programming throughout the year, and it's always free. Currently, the library is in the middle of the Summer Reading program too, and it's not too late to get the family signed up, read a few books, and win prizes.

The schedule and details of the workshops are, as follows:

Thursday July 11 at 2 p.m. Watermelon Cucumber Summer

Lots of delicious foods grow in summer! Kids will explore cucumbers and watermelon, two favorites that taste even better together. Kids will learn to use a melon baller to scoop melons. They

will use plastic knives to cut cucumbers. They will make a tasty salad to enjoy while a book is read.

Kids will go home with the recipe.

Book: Mouses's First Summer by Lauren Thompson

Thursday, July 18 at 2 p.m. Summer Rolls on By

Summer rolls by quickly! Let's take time to enjoy good food together. Children will learn how to wrap spring rolls and learn to make a healthy recipe called "summer rolls" for their fresh, summer ingredients. Children will also make a dipping sauce. Children will then eat their healthy snack while a book is read. Kids will go home with the recipe.

Book: Summer is Here by Heidi Pross Grey

Thursday, July 21, 2 p.m. Let's Taco 'Bout It

School districts across the state were required to pass new School Wellness Policies that kick junk

food out of schools. Children will learn an easy broccoli and potato taco recipe that complies with new

snack regulations. Children will eat the snack while we read a book. Food Geniuses will be on hand to

answer parents' questions about the policy. We'll send kids home with the recipe.

Book: And Then Comes Summer by Tom Brenner

Garden:

continued from page 3

that when the time comes for the Zoo to move, they'll be ready.

They said if the Zoo moves to North Natomas, they hope to end up in the current Zoo spot, but if the Zoo moves to Bing Maloney, they hope to share the acreage, giving them about 40 acres, a much larger lot than if they took over the current Zoo location.

Asked if he had a preferred location, Bruce said, "The reality is I want the place the city is willing to give me. Where the city wants to put it, that would be my favorite place. The zoo is great because it's got all the buildings, it's got the restaurant, the restrooms, a canopy of trees. But at 14 and a half acres it's relatively small. Most botanical gardens are 30 to 100 acres, and some are 300 acres."

While there would be more acreage at Bing Maloney, the current Zoo location features a restaurant, landscaping, multiple buildings, and its own well on site which combined would save millions of dollars. They estimate if they moved to Bing Maloney, they'd have to raise $50 million for the construction of needed buildings. On the other hand, an estimated cost for opening the garden at the current Zoo location would amount to $25. "Some unnamed sources have said we could do it for a lot less than $25 million (at the current zoo location) but if we keep a budget for $25 million, we could make this phenomenal garden," Bruce says.

A major cost saving measure would be to tap into a volunteer gardener powerhouse. Bruce points Whangarei Quarry Gardens, a subtropical oasis created by volunteers in the remnants of a former quarry in Northland, New Zealand. "Volunteers built that garden into a really nice botanical gardens. They had to get money for its structures, but otherwise all volunteers," he said. "The City does help pay the salaries for the employees. Admission is free. And it only has six employees; everyone else is a volunteer and it works."

Garnering grassroots financial support they hope with the thousands of gardeners in our city, people will contribute to latte a month club, whereby $5 gets taken out of your account each month and goes to the general fund. "If we get 10,000 people doing that, that amounts to real money. I figured at the end of the year that they get a coupon for coming into the coffee shop and getting a free latte," adds Bruce.

Financials aside, the biggest hurdle is finding a place to put in a breathtaking garden. In conclusion, as Linda says, "99% of the people we have talked to are supportive of the concept of bringing a botanical garden to Sacramento. We hope that your office will become our advocate to turn our dream into reality."

Payments are accepted through Pay Pal if you're interested in donating to the Sacramento Botanical Garden nonprofit 501(c)3. For more information, visit www.SacBo.org or email info@sacbo.org.

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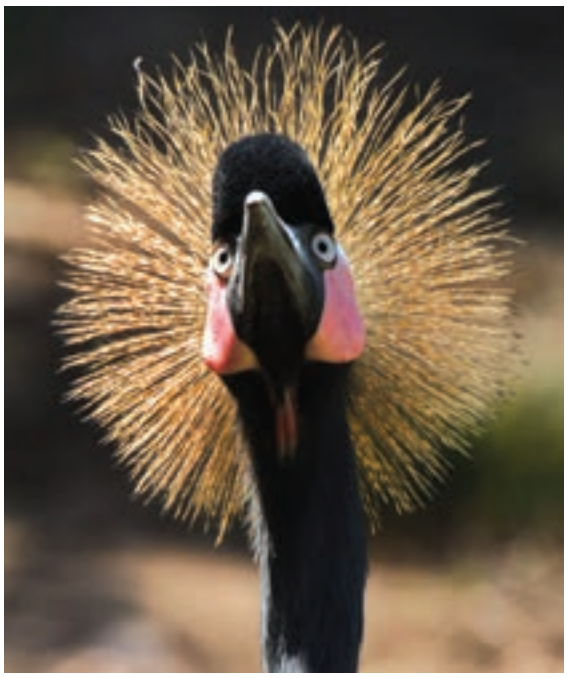
"The Crane Event": Welcome a new pair to the zoo





Photos by Mike Owyang and Laurel Vincent

A brand-new species now reside at the Sacramento Zoo – black crowned cranes! Guests can enjoy an uninterrupted view of the crane pair from the observation deck of the okapi habitat. This species, native to West and Central African wetlands and grasslands, are living among the okapi in their newly-opened habitat. The male/female pair, fondly referred to as Kiwi and Siouxsie, were introduced to the exhibit earlier last month.

Born on April 22, 2018, Siouxsie hails from the Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium. Kiwi, born on June 6, 2017, came from Disney's Animal Kingdom before making Sacramento home.

Mixed-species exhibits occur when two or more unrelated species share a common habitat. These exhibits are carefully planned, and species are introduced with a cautious respect. The okapi and crane exhibitmates are getting along well according to Senior Animal Care Manager, Melissa McCartney. Forest, the young okapi, has seen but not lived with birds before their recent introduction and each species continues to keep a respectful distance from one another. Melissa continued, "However, Forest the okapi, and Siouxsie the black crowned crane, have even been observed showing their curiosity by "booping noses."

Black crowned cranes generally form pairs and mate for life. Bonds are strengthened and reinforced in cranes of all ages by performing ritualistic dances that may consist of bobbing, running, wing flapping and stick tossing. These ritualistic dances can be performed alone or as a pair. Keep an eye out for this behavior between Kiwi and Siouxsie. The young pair is a potential match for breeding in the future when they reach sexual maturity in the next few years.

Black crowned cranes are listed as Vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and their numbers are declining in the wild. The species is under pressure in their native Africa because of habitat loss and destruction as well as illegal over-trading.

It is estimated that fewer than 70,000 black crowned cranes still exist in the wild. In appearance, black crowned cranes stand out due to their black bodies, white wing tips, red and white cheek patches and a crown of stiff golden feathers. These magnificent birds weigh up to eight pounds, can reach over 3 feet tall, have a wingspan of over six feet and can live approximately 30 years in human care.

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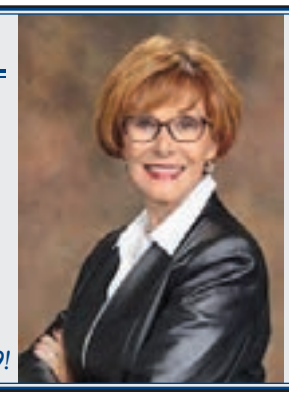

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Dimple music stores to close

Sale on inventory to continue until at least August, says owner



Photo by Kerensa Uyeta-Buckley

The Dimple store at 2433 Arden Way is shown on June 19, during the first day of the store's closing sale. The announcement of the planned closure of all seven Dimple stores was made during the previous day.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

The longtime operating Dimple music stores are calling it quits.

John Radakovitz, the business's founder, explained his recent decision to close all seven of his stores, which include two locations at 16th Street and Broadway and another store on Arden Way.

"I've been selling records for 53 years, 40 of which have been under the Dimple name," he said. "It's just time. I want to go work in my garden.

"Another factor for my decision is there is also the aspect of declining sales. A lot of the artists aren't even releasing (their music) in the physical world. Online sales are another issue that's big."

In an attempt to sell the remainder of their inventory of CDs, DVDs, vinyl records, games, books and other items, Dimple stores will remain open until at least August, John noted.

All Dimple stores began running a sale of 20% to 40% off their merchandise on June 19, the day after it was publicly announced that the stores would be closing. John said that greater reductions in prices will occur as the sale progresses.

In addition to inventory stored inside Dimple stores, the business also maintains merchandise in three warehouses.

John, 74, told this publication last week that he believes his retirement was well earned, given that he has been selling records since the days of the British Invasion of the mid-1960s, when such bands as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and The Who were introduced to America.

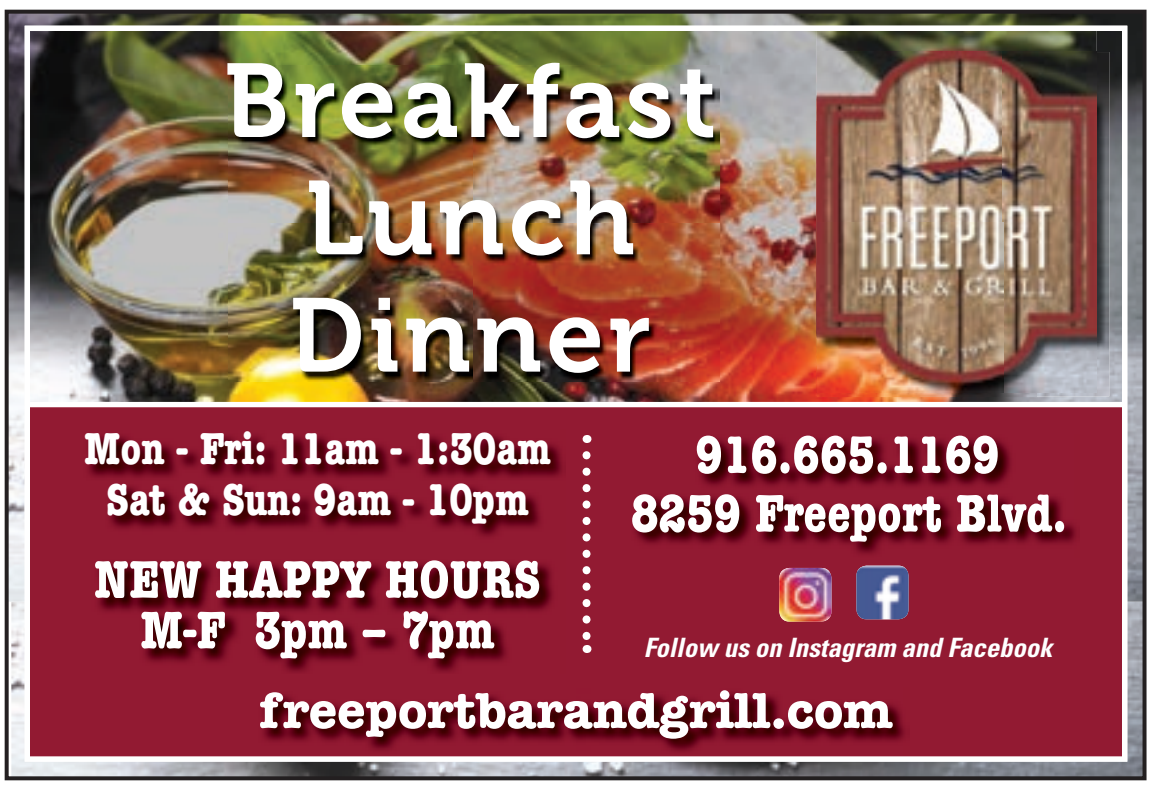
The birth of a career

In 1966, following his four and a half years of service in the Navy during Vietnam, John launched his career in the record selling industry as a distributor for the Pasadena-based wholesale/retail record business, Canterbury Records. The company had established a northern branch store at 1715 Arden Way in the Arden Fair Mall.

John recalled his work for Canterbury Records.

"I was delivering records to various drugstores and supermarkets up and down the San Joaquin Valley in small towns (and other areas)," he said. "I put in records by (Herb Alpert and

see DIMPLE page 10





Save the Date for My Sister's House 2019 Art with a Heart





Every summer, My Sister's House Friends puts on Art with a Heart, an event for all who love art or who simply have a heart for changing lives. This year's Art with a Heart takes place on Wednesday, July 10 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Sierra 2 Center (2791 24th St.)

Here, one can listen to live music while enjoying food, drink and a variety of art work. Attendees also have the opportunity to engage in art work themselves, as well as a silent auction. This is a mixer where local Sacramento artists share with My Sister's House the proceeds from art their art sales.

A featured artist for this year's Art with a Heart is Ash Prakash, who is a Mehndi Henna artist. Ash will be creating her beautifully intricate henna artwork on interested attendees. Whether it's abstract painting or henna, these artists come because they all believe in the mission, the "heart," of My Sister's House.

My Sister's House is a local non-profit whose mission is to serve the needs of Asian and Pacific Islander and other underserved women and children affected by domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking. We provide a culturally appropriate and responsive safe haven and community services, ranging from job training to legal help. All of these services are provided at no cost to clients largely in part of faithful donors. Art with a Heart is just one of many fundraisers where you can have fun for a good cause.

There are many ways to purchase tickets for Art with a Heart. Tickets are $25 if payment is received by July 3, and $35 after July 3. Ways to purchase tickets include: Online at artwithaheartmsh.bpt.me (Brown Paper Tickets), My Sister's House office at 916-930-0626, My Sister's Café at 916-475-1864 (455 Capitol Mall, #110) or Will Call at 916-930-0626 (pay at the door).

We hope you'll join My Sister's House Friends, family, and supporters such as Women Lawyers of Sacramento for a colorful evening where all proceeds benefit victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking!

My Sister's House 24/7 Multilingual Helpline: 916-428-3271

Website: www.my-sisters-house.org

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Dimple:

continued from page 8



Photo courtesy of John Radakovitz

Dimple founder John Radakovitz is pictured with his wife, Dilyn. They were married at the Carmichael Presbyterian Church on Feb. 25, 1967.

the) Tijuana Brass, (and) whatever (else) was popular at the time."

John said that his second career venture began in January 1969, when he was hired as a distributor for the Emeryville-based wholesale record business, Pic-A-Tune, which had a store on Del Paso Boulevard.

"I was a salesman for them on the road and (traveled to) Redding, Chico, down south to Modesto, Lodi, Stockton," he said.

John's earliest stores

In about 1971, John began his own wholesale record company, called River City Record Distributors, and his own retail store, called Cordova Records. Both operations were located at 10653 Folsom Blvd. in the Rancho Cordova Shopping Center.

One of that wholesale company's accounts was the Raley's supermarket chain.

Three years later, John sold Cordova Records and opened Roseville Records (later renamed The Record Shop) at 1022 Douglas Blvd. in Roseville.

That store would later be moved three separate times to other Roseville locations: 212 Harding Blvd. in 1979, 1701 Santa Clara Drive in 1986 and to its current 15,000-square-foot location of 1129 Roseville Square in 2017.

see CLOSE page 11

Close:

continued from page 10

The first Dimple Records store

With its relocation to Harding Boulevard, The Record Shop was renamed Dimple Records.

Regarding that name change, which occurred when the business was incorporated, John noted that music has and continues to bring smiles to the faces of many people, resulting in many "dimples."

Other Dimple stores

About 14 years after the establishment of the Dimple Records name, John expanded his business to include a second store at 313 East Bidwell St. in Folsom.

He opened a third store at 2433 Arden Way in about 1996, and a fourth store at 6099 San Juan Ave. in Citrus Heights about two years later.

A Dimple store was located at 9692 Elk Grove-Florin Road in Elk Grove from about 2005 to 2017.

Following the late 2006 closure of Tower Records, John Radakovitz closed the San Juan Avenue Dimple store, and in March 2007, he opened a store in the old Tower Records building at 7830 Macy Plaza Drive in Citrus Heights.

He also opened a Dimple store in the former Tower Records site in Davis in the summer of 2007. That store remained in operation until the summer of 2012.

During that same summer, Dimple Books (aka Dimple Books & Records) opened in its own building at 2499 Arden Way.

That store also features a mostly used vinyl records section, which was previously housed at the north end of the main Arden Way Dimple building. Dimple Vinyl was established at that site on Record Day on April 17, 2010.

On May 26, 2014, Dimple Outlet opened in the former Dimple Vinyl site.

The first Dimple Books were established in the Folsom and Citrus Heights stores, and other locations followed.

Dimple currently has four stores in Sacramento and one each in Citrus Heights, Folsom and Roseville.

A family affair

In addition to John, his wife, Dilyn, and their sons, Oliver "Ollie" and Andrew "Drew," are also involved in the daily operations of Dimple.

John and Dilyn, who currently reside in Loomis, were married at the Carmichael Presbyterian Church on Feb. 25, 1967.

The couple met following John's service during the Vietnam War and his subsequent arrival in Sacramento.

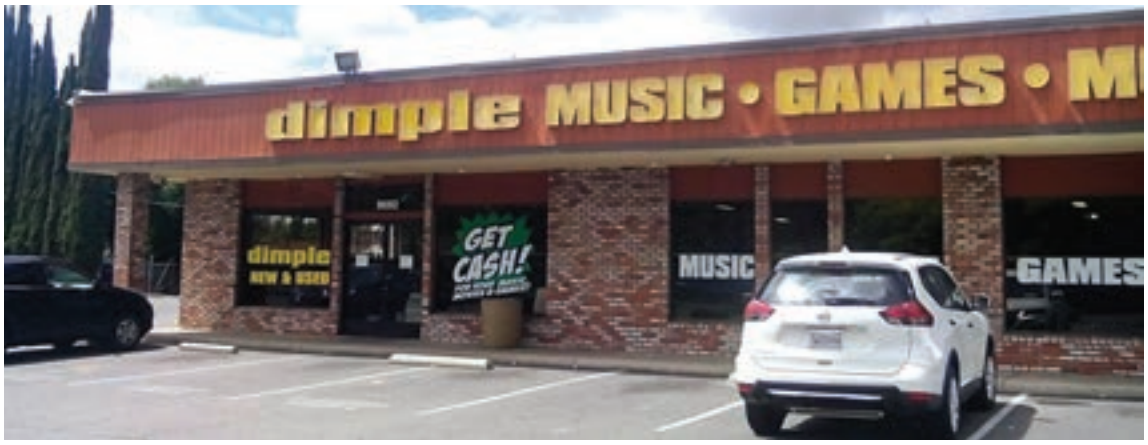
After graduating from Mira Loma High School, Dilyn – who was then known as Dilyn Dearing – was a candidate for Miss Sacramento in 1965, while she was attending American River Junior College, as American River College was then known. She was also a song leader at that institution.

John said that Dilyn was working in the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. building at 2277 Watt Ave. when they met.

Ollie currently serves as Dimple's chief financial officer, while Drew is the business's human resources manager.

Celebrity visits: Robin Williams, Prince, Merle Haggard, others

John mentioned that one of the joys of having operated music stores for so many years was the occasional, random, in-store visits by celebrities.



HPI file photo

Pictured in 2017 is the Elk Grove Dimple store at 9692 Elk Grove-Florin Road. It operated at this location from about 2005 to 2017.

He recalled that on one such instance in about 1998, comedian-actor Robin Williams stopped by his Roseville store.

"(Williams) just came in one day and I think he wanted to buy a Pink Floyd album," he said. "We had a line at the cash register and the little girl standing in line with her mother behind Robin Williams recognized his hairy arms and then she looked at his face and she pulled on her mama's dress and said, 'Mama, Mama, that's Robin Williams.'

"So, Robin Williams turned around, picked the little girl up, danced around the store with the little girl. He was ready to go with a moment's notice. He's off and entertaining and running. He was great and he obviously liked little kids."

It was also at the Roseville store where country music star Merle Haggard arrived to purchase a few CDs, John recalled.

"Years ago, I was opening the store out (in Roseville) and there was a big RV out in front with the diesel engine running and out pops a pretty girl who was driving the RV and then followed by Merle Haggard," he said. "I opened the store, of course, and let them in.

"He (asked), 'Where's my Merle Haggard section?'

see MUSIC page 18



Faces and Places: Sac Youth Band concert



Photos by Joe Perfecto

The Sacramento Youth Band performed a live concert at their fireworks booth on Saturday, June 29 on the grounds of Parkside Community Church, 35th Avenue and South Land Park Drive. The band is celebrating 62 years as a youth music organization in the Sacramento area.





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Sojourner Truth Park Community Garden Volunteer Day-Our Garden is Ready to Go!



By Will Cannady
Pocket Greenhaven Community Association President

I am happy to share that Pocket-Greenhaven's first community garden is ready for operation. Thanks to all the amazing volunteers on June 24 all the shrubs, roses and trees have been planted. All the mulch has been spread and every weed has been taken care of. It's been a long road over the last five years to get our garden completed, but we did it. I would like to thank Rick Jennings for City Council and his Chief of Staff Dennis Rogers for their support. Thank you Devin Lavelle, Sacramento District 7 Parks Commissioner for all the help with the logistics. Thank you Kathi Windheim and the Friends of the Robbie Waters Pocket Greenhaven Library for their support and creating a seed and tool library for our garden at Robbie Waters Library. Thank you to my wife Nicole for the snack packs and water. And a BIG THANK YOU to everyone in the community who has helped keep our dream of a community garden going over the last few years. We couldn't have done it without you. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony soon so look out for the announcement. If you get a chance drive by Sojourner Truth Park and check out the new amazing gem with have in our neighborhood.









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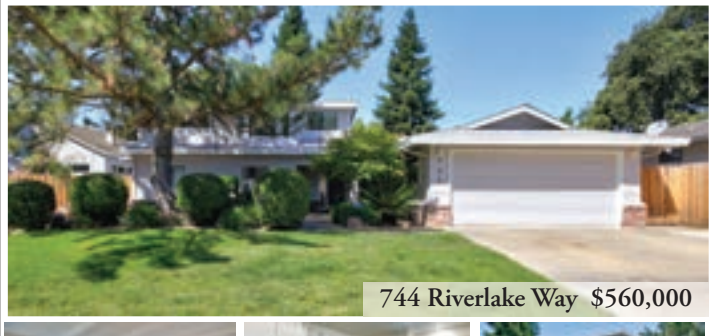

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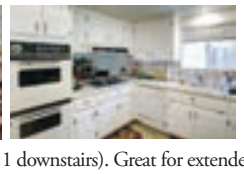

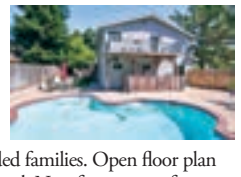

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Trucks and Such: Food Truck Mania



Photos by Stephen Crowley

Neighbors came out to enjoy an evening of food, music and community on Friday, June 21 at Garcia Bend Park, located at 7654 Pocket Road. The neighborhood event continues every third Friday of the month until Friday, Sept. 20.











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THE FAIRYTALE TOWN TROUPERS PRESENT: "CINDERELLA 1959"
Saturdays and Sundays, July 13, 14, 20 and 21
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The Fairytale Town Troupers present the classic fairytale of "Cinderella" with a rollicking new twist--just in time for Fairytale Town's 60th anniversary! Set in 1959, this retro-reimagining finds our Cinderella working in a pizza parlor and dreaming of attending the big "Doo-Wop Sock Hop." Despite her mean stepfamily, Cindy gets her chance to dance--with a little help from some very special friends. Filled with magic, mischief, and plenty of rockin' and rollin' tunes, "Cinderella 1959" is a treat for the entire family--and a fun way to say "Happy Birthday Fairytale Town!" Tickets are a $1 for members and $2 for nonmembers, in addition to paid park admission. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.

FAMILY CAMPOUT AT FAIRYTALE TOWN
Friday, July 19, 5:30 p.m. through Saturday, Jul. 20, 7 a.m.
Spend the night in Fairytale Town's storybook park! This exciting overnight adventure includes a theater show, craft activity, scavenger hunt, fun games, and bedtime stories. Wake up the next morning under Fairytale Town's canopy of trees to a light continental breakfast. Prices range from $25 to $30 per person and include all activities. Member discounts are available. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.

CLUB SCOUT BADGE NIGHT
Thursday, July 25
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Calling all Tiger Cub Scouts! Join us for an evening of fun and earn your Good Knights Adventure Loop. This two-and-a-half-hour workshop will fulfill all Adventure Loop requirements and include a snack break. Scouts will receive a certificate and their Adventure Loop at the conclusion of the event. Admission is $12 per scout, which includes the belt loop and a snack. To register, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.



Photo by Kourtney Flagg
Family Campout



Photo by J. Steven Carrillo
Mumbo Gumbo Live at Fairytale Town

CALIFORNIA'S NATIONAL DAY OF DANCE
Saturday, July 27
11:30 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.
Fairytale Town is one of the Pop-Up Dance Studios for California's National Day of Dance! Take advantage of a wide array of dance learning opportunities with genres ranging from hip-hop to ballet. This program is for dancers and non-dancers alike. The Pop-Ups will take place on the Yellow Brick Road outside of Fairytale Town's entrance, so admission is not required. Admission will apply to enter Fairytale Town. Weekend admission is $6 per person. Members and children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.

AFRICAN STORYTELLING FESTIVAL
Saturday, July 27
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Local storytellers will come together at Fairytale Town to celebrate and share stories tracing the history of African-Americans from Africa to the New World. Fenix Drum and Dance Company will kick off the celebration on the Mother Goose stage. Visit the Rosa Parks Bus from Sacramento Regional Transit. Plus, enjoy fun activities throughout the park, including an exhibit from the Sojourner Truth Museum, a vendor marketplace, hands-on activities and more. The Festival is free with paid park admission. Weekend admission is $6 per person. Members and children ages 1 and under are free. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-8884.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
Sunday, July 28
11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Volunteers help make magic happen at Fairytale Town! Learn about the various volunteer opportunities at Fairytale Town, including special events, summer camps, on-demand shifts, and the Volunteen Program. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old. Registration is required. Visit fairytaletown.org to register. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-2682.

MUMBO GUMBO LIVE AT FAIRYTALE TOWN
Wednesday, Jul. 31
7 - 9:30 p.m.
Sacramento favorite Mumbo Gumbo brings their signature danceable sound--a mixture spanning rock to soul, afropop to lush balladry, and zydeco to country--to Fairytale Town for a live performance on the outdoor Mother Goose Stage. Advance tickets are $10 for adults and free for children ages 2-12. Members receive $3 off per adult ticket on advance tickets, and member children are free. Day-of tickets are $15 for adults and $5 for children ages 2-12. No member discount on day-of tickets. Blankets and chairs are welcome; food and drink will be available for purchase. Gates open at 6 p.m. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org or call (916) 808-5233. Sponsored by Capital Public Radio.
Fairytale Town is located at 3901 Land Park Drive. For more information, visit fairytaletown.org

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So, if you are you an original owner of a home in **Quail Run, Lakecrest Village or River Village**, chances are that I sold you your home! And, if you are still here, I want you to know that I am too, and as always, I look forward to assisting you with any of your current real estate needs!

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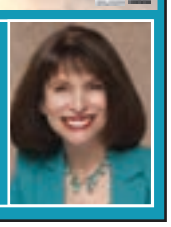



California MENTOR is seeking individuals and families who want to make a difference in the life of an adult with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Receive ongoing support and a generous monthly stipend up to $1,950 (to cover the cost of care).

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916-383-9785 ext. 17
MentorsWanted.com

California MENTOR
Family Home Agency

What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?

MONDAY, JUNE 24-AUG. 2

FREE MATH & ALGEBRA 6-WEEK SUMMER CAMP Mon, Jun 24, 8:00 AM - Fri, Aug 2, 1:30 PM
4036 14th Ave
Boost your math skills with this free 6-week summer course!
Rising 9th thru 12th-grade students will be immersed in a dynamic 6-week course that combines in-class instruction with personalized online learning, hands-on Science Technology Engineering Art and Math (STEAM) activities and college knowledge workshops to ensure their future academic success.
Lunch provided each day... also, included, Campus tour at a local CSU campus, SAT/ACT prep, and much more!!
Sponsored by The California State University. Complete brief registration form online at https://stpaulsac.org/summer-algebra-institute/

TUESDAY, JULY 9

POCKET GREENHAVEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SUMMER MEETING: Pocket-Greenhaven Community Association and Will Cannady, President-Pocket/Greenhaven Community Association invite neighbors to the summer meeting on Tuesday, July 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Dr, Sacramento, California 95831. Cindy Thomas from the City of Sacramento Recycling & Solid Waste division will be sharing some important information regarding curbside services and updates on recycling.

ONGOING

ROTARY CLUB OF POCKET-GREENHAVEN MEETINGS: You're invited! Come join the Rotary Club of Pocket-Greenhaven on Thursday mornings, 7:30 at Aviator's Restaurant at Executive Airport. You are welcome as our guest to learn more about our leadership organization and meet with business, civic, and professional leaders who are making
a difference in our neighborhood! Contact Bob Smith, at 916-215-1332 or visit https://pgr.rocks/ to find out more.

PARKINSON ASSOCIATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA South Sacramento Support Group: Every second Thursday of the month from 1 to 2:15 p.m., Location: Asian Community Center (ACC), 7334 Park City Drive, Sacramento, CA 95831. This support group is free to those who are living with Parkinson's Disease, their family and caregivers. The group shares information to help each other and provide guest speakers who can assist with physical and mental challenges in daily living.

SIRS BRANCH 93 meets every third Monday of each month. Lunch is at 11:30 in the Elks Club, 6446 Riverside Blvd.
If you are retired or close to retirement and looking to join a men's group, we are Sons In Retirement. A group of men with a wide variety of backgrounds that love to socialize, play golf, bowl, pinochle, hike, bike ride or maybe you would like to form an activity that you are interested in, join us. The first lunch is on the group. Give Jack a call, there is always room at our meetings. Interesting speakers and a great buffet are included at each meeting. Jack Reefer 916-424-1303 or email me: jreefer@sbcglobal.net

ENGLISH CONVERSATION GROUP: The Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library hosts an English Conversation Group every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

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.



DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING OR MONTHLY EVENT?
Let us know.
e-mail Monica: editor@valcomnews.com

Music:

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So, I took him over there and said, 'What are you doing buying these CDs?' He said, 'Well, I've got a concert down in Stockton tonight and between now and then I forgot some of my lyrics and I want to brush up on some of the lyrics of my old songs when I'm going down there.'"

Another famous musician who stopped by the Roseville store was Chubby Checker.

As for Dimple's Broadway store, which previously housed Russ Solomon's Tower Records and R5 Records, John said that Prince once visited that store and browsed its recorded music selection and chatted with some of the employees.

In addition to random, unscheduled celebrity appearances at Dimple stores, scheduled celebrity events at Dimple stores have included a performance and autograph session with guitarist Joe Satriani and a book signing by John Densmore, former drummer of the band, The Doors. Both of those events were held at the Arden store.



Photo courtesy of John Radakovitz
John Densmore, former drummer of the band, The Doors, is pictured at a book signing at the Dimple store on Arden Way on May 16, 2013.

John recalled a time when the band, The Smashing Pumpkins, visited the Arden store and performed a publicity stunt in that store's parking lot.

"They rented a 90-foot tall lift out in back and they had a bunch of pumpkins out there and they just kept dropping the pumpkins down on the parking lot," he said. "That was kind of fun."

A big thank you from John and Dimple

While pondering his decision to close his Dimple stores, John expressed his gratitude for his many customers throughout the years.

"I thank all the customers from all the communities, primarily because of their loyalty," he said. "And I love them all, because of their love for music."

What's happening Pocket/Greenhaven?

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

WEDNESDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION GATHERING: Every Wednesday morning from 7 to 10 am., join neighbors at Cafe Latte, 7600 Greenhaven Drive, for conversation and fun. Find the group back near the piano.

ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH SACRAMENTO: The friendliest club in Sacramento, the Rotary Club of South Sacramento meets every Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Casa Garden, 2760 Sutterville Road.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET AT THE ELKS LODGE, NO. 6: From 8:30 to 11 a.m., enjoy eggs, omelets, corn beef hash, bacon or sausage. 6446 Riverside Blvd.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF SACRAMENTO SOUTH: Meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Aviators Restaurant, Executive Airport, 6151 Freeport Blvd. For more information, call Dee at 341-7852.

JOB COACH APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE AT POCKET LIBRARY– Make an appointment to meet one-on-one with a volunteer job coach and get help with online job searching, using library databases, interviewing tips, resume writing, and more. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please ask at the library service desk or call 916-264-2920 during open hours. Appointment times are available for most Wednesdays between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

TECH HELP APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE AT POCKET LIBRARY– Have a technology question or problem? Sign up for a one-on-one technology help session with our staff. We can help with basic computer, Internet or e-mail questions, and/or get you started with library services like e-books or e-magazines! Stop by the service desk or call 916-264-2920 during open hours to make an appointment. and Saturdays between 11 a.m. and noon, at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

BABY/TODDLER STORYTIME AT POCKET LIBRARY– Babies and toddlers (ages 0 to 3 years) and their caretakers are invited to join us for songs and rhymes. Arrive extra early or stay later for extra social time with other children and parents. Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.



A CLASSIC VINTAGE CAR SHOW SPONSORED BY THE CHALLENGERS CAR CLUB. show will be held on the first and third Fridays of the month starting at 5 p.m. outside Burgerlm located at the Promenade Shopping Center (Rush River and Windbridge). There will be about 15-20 cars scheduled for each show. This club took its roots here in Sacramento early 60's. For more information, contact Tony at 916-606 -5459.

KNIT TOGETHER AT POCKET LIBRARY– Love to knit? Want to learn? Join us for expert advice, great conversation and more. All crafters are welcome, not just knitters! Every Friday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Robbie Waters Pocket-Greenhaven Library, 7335 Gloria Drive, Sacramento.

BABY STORYTIME AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY –Nursery rhymes, fingerplays, simple stories, and songs designed to encourage a range of early literacy skills. For children up to about 18 months old. Each child must be accompanied by a participating adult. Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive.

TODDLER STORYTIME BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY– Toddlers ages one to three and their caregivers will enjoy fun songs, stories, and fingerplays. After the storytime, there will be a stay and play group. Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME AT BELLE COOLEDGE LIBRARY – Preschoolers ages three and older and their caregivers are invited for fun songs, stories, fingerplays and a play activity. Thursdays at 11 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

SING ALONG WITH MISTER COOPER- Join neighborhood favorite Mister Cooper for 30 minutes of music time and freeze dancing for families. Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Belle Cooledge Library, 5600 South Land Park Drive, Sacramento.

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