

Brookside

monthly



PORT of CALL

Stockton Ports infielder, Chris Carter and Splash hope that you catch Ports fever this summer. See Page 12

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speakup a note from the editor

One of my favorite things to do with my family is to spend an afternoon at Banner Island Ballpark watching Stockton's American Team, the Ports. Spending an afternoon here is more than just a baseball game, it is an exciting time.

At the ballpark you can choose several different views as there are seating. There are Scout Seats, Comcast Seating located in the Comcast Club Level, MVP Box Seating, Field Box Seating or on the grass at homerun hill.

If you have a group that wants to go to the game there are group packages which include BBQ and drinks. There are several different packages in which you can choose one that is just right for your organization.

If you are hungry there are more than just hot dogs and peanuts. BBQ, deep fried asparagus and pretzels are just a few foods that will wet your appetite at the ballpark. There is a Kids Zone for children to release some energy too. They can jump in the jump house, go down the large inflatable slide and hit in the batting cages.

Throughout the season there are many promotional giveaways that you will be able to take home as a special souvenir. You can also purchase that special memory in the Ports Team Store.

Fun and fabulous local outings are occurring this month around Stockton. Some events are a summer sunset wine tasting at Pixie Woods on June 20, or attend the San Joaquin Film Festival '08 has its opening night gala on June 4, which is also is the start of the concert in the park season at Victory Park. The American Cancer Society has its annual Relay For Life race on June 7 ending on June 8. For more information on Stockton events in the month of June just turn to the Around Brookside Section starting on page 4.

Please take time out of your busy day to make your voice heard. It is not a right to vote but a privilege; please take time to do this, it is very important. There is a list of candidates for some of the local races in this section. You can read about these on page 5.

I also want to wish a Happy Father's day to all Dads and the best of luck to all the grads. May you all have a wonderful and memorable day.

Sneak Peek for July

With the Fourth of July right around the corner, we thought that we would do a story on an organization that is full of the Patriotic Spirit. We will be doing a cover story on local non-profit organization, "Packed with Pride." This organization mails care packages to our troops overseas. Check back next month to read all about this worthwhile cause to help service men and women serving in our armed forces.

Mitzi Stites | Managing Editor | mitzi@bigmonkeygroup.com

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Last Day of School and 8th Grade Promotions

Last day of school will be June 5!

Claudia Landeen will have its 8th grade promotion on June 4 at 6 p.m.

Don Reggio's 8th grade promotion will be June 4.

Merryhill Elementary School will have their 8th grade promotion on June 3.

The last day of school will be June 5 and summer camp begins on June 9. Mention that you read about summer camp in the Brookside Magazine to receive a special rate!

Calling All Delta King And Queens

The Stagg High School class of 1988 20-year reunion will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27 at Brookside Country Club. The event will take place from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$65

before June 1 and \$70 after. Please visit www.stagg88.com for more details and to make your reservation for this fun evening of dinner, dancing and reminiscing!

American Cancer Society's Moonlight Gala in the Country

Volunteers for the American Cancer Society are hard at work putting the final touches on a very unique and exciting event. Join us on June 21, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m., at the beautiful Oak Farm Vineyards in Lodi.

This one-of-a-kind evening is filled with a number of non-stop activities and entertainment. At 5 p.m., the fun begins with a VIP Reception for sponsors. At 6 p.m., the rest of the 500 guests will arrive to a spectacular evening of gourmet dining, dancing, entertainment, live and silent auctions and other

special attractions.

Last year, the event raised more than \$200,000. Proceeds from this innovative evening will fund research, patient services, education, prevention and early detection programs.

Event organizers expect a sell-out crowd! Reservations are required at \$125 per person. Additionally, several sponsorship opportunities are available to businesses and individuals interested in supporting the fight against cancer. For ticket and sponsorship information, please call the American Cancer Society at (209) 941-2679.

Home Alone Training and Babysitting Competition

During this lively and fun class for boys and girls ages 12 to 15, learn what to expect and how to handle the unexpected when staying home alone or

babysitting for others. Become more independent and ready to handle the responsibility of caring for smaller children. In addition to a class completion certificate, you will have the opportunity to become certified for Infant & Child CPR and First Aid (a \$55 value!) – a real plus when starting out in your first work experience!

Don't think this class is just for girls – nearly 50 percent of those attending recent classes have been boys! Registration is on a first-paid basis; call (209) 472-7233 ext. 6 for information.

Enrollment is limited for this very popular class, which is only offered once per year, so register ASAP to reserve your spot. Get trained by the experts in health and safety at the Safety Council!

Time: 8 a.m. to noon.

Cost: \$70 per person for the

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5660 Acorn Ct. \$1,395,000

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3626 Gleneagles Dr. \$1,695,000

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3838 Annadale Ct. \$449,950

Beautiful home in Brookside's gated golf community, single story formal home with plantation shutters and tile throughout, 3 bed 2.5 bath. 3 sliding doors that lead to the beautiful patios which wrap around the landscaped backyard.



Karylene Mann
Cell: 209.481.2327



www.brooksidebrokers.com



Bruce Davies
Cell: 209.639.4833

12-hour program. Fees are not refundable or transferable to a different date.

Dates: M/W/F, June 23, 25, 27 (must attend each date)

Firefighters to Host Fundraiser Benefiting the Community

The Stockton Firefighters Union is hosting a Third Alarm Poker Run and Chili Cook-Off fundraiser. They are actively seeking chili entrants, motorcycle poker run participants and sponsors.

Chili contenders will compete in teams of 4 to 6 people against local firefighters.

The motorcycle poker run will begin at Eagle's Nest Harley-Davidson in Lathrop, with stops throughout the delta region.

Sponsors will receive advertisement on event promotions and in the union's publication,

The Supplyline.

All proceeds go to the union's community and charity fund, which is used to support local organizations and events throughout Stockton. The fund allows the firefighters to fulfill those requests from local charities and organizations. The event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 20, at Oak Grove Regional Park. For more information, or to download an entry form, visit www.stocktonfirefighters.com or call Matt Baker at (209) 327-9593.

Make Your Voice Heard

Mark your calendars for June 3 – this is the day that you can make your vote count. There are several local seats that you will be voting for this election. Here's a list of candidates that are running for these positions:

Candidates running for Mayor of the City of Stockton:

Woody Alspaugh, Community Volunteer

Steve Gutierrez, current San Joaquin County Supervisor

Ann Johnston, Businesswoman

Clem Lee, current City Councilmember, Educator

Moteczuma Patricio Sanchez, Veteran, Student, Warehouseman

Ralph Lee White, Businessman, Entrepreneur

Candidates for City Council District 4

Christopher Eley, Attorney, Business Owner

Diana Lowery, Business Owner

San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors, District 3

Steve Bestolarides, Retired Businessman, City Councilmember

Sandra Davis, Registered Nurse Administrator

Nancy Goad, Business Owner, Educator

Albert Garibaldi, Assistant District Superintendent

If you have any questions regarding your polling location, please call (209) 468-2892 or (209) 468-2893, or visit www.sjcrov.org.

Relay for Life

"Relay for Life" is an annual fundraising event for American Cancer Society. The Stockton fundraiser will be held at Weber Point Event Center, 221 N. Center St. "Relay" is a fun-filled overnight experience that begins at 9 a.m. June 7 and ends 9 a.m. June 8.

Come celebrate the lives of those who battled cancer, remember loved ones who lost the battle, and fight back – we want to put an end to this disease.

During the event, Survivors are the honored guest. You may

Continued on page 6

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register a survivor for the Saturday morning Survivor Lap (free); you may honor someone with a Luminaria donation; and you can donate to Relay, to a team, and to a participant.

You may join a team, join as an individual, or start a team (promote your group); then collect pledges and during the 24-hour Relay, you walk the laps and camp out – cancer never sleeps. Contact Team Coordinator Robin Goucher at (209) 957-8045.

The efforts of Relay volunteers and donors, support research, education, advocacy and services allow the American Cancer Society to offer help and hope to people across the country. For additional information, visit the Stockton Relay Web site at www.events.cancer.org.

Kids College Presents Sizzling Summer Science & Engineering Fun...

Are you looking for something meaningful for your children or grandchildren to do this summer? Kids College is offering more than 110 Summer academic and enrichment workshops for children and teens on the Delta College campus. The summer will sizzle with the following science and engineering workshops: Electron Microscopes, "Electric" Electricity, C.S.I Chemistry, Super Science Camp, "Racing Robots" Electronics, Ingenious Engineering, To the Moon, Drafting, Programmable Robotics Camp, Astronomical Wonders, Life and Earth Science Camp, Biome Camp, Icky-Sticky Science, Biodiversity Camp and Ooey-Gooley Science. Kids College workshops are designed to excite young students about learning, while providing an opportunity for them to improve skills, develop a hobby, or explore possible careers, on a college campus. Over 25 new workshops will be offered in the

areas of Academic Skills & Creative Learning, Arts and Crafts, Computers and Photography, Cooking, Dance and Movement, Foreign Language, Music, Personal Pursuits, Science and Engineering, Sign Language, Sports and Fitness, and Theatre. For detailed information about the summer workshops, schedule, fees and the registration process, please visit www.kids.deltacollege.edu or contact Beverley Dierking, Kids College coordinator, at (209) 954-5015.

Leadership Stockton Accepting Applications for the 2008-09 Class.

Leadership Stockton, a program founded in 1981 by the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, prepares the next generation of men and women who will assume leadership roles in the greater Stockton community. Established as the first community leadership program in California, Leadership Stockton has graduated 633 community members, many who now serve on local boards, commissions, and in other community leadership roles.

Leadership Stockton participants embark on a journey that puts them in touch with the greater Stockton community, as well as each other, and develops their personal leadership skills. Participants are also involved in addressing the needs of our community through hands-on service projects that focus on solutions to real community problems.

This 11-month community leadership program offers participants an opportunity to increase their community knowledge, civic network and service to the community. Participants are exposed to key issues facing Stockton and the surrounding region. Selection involves a written application and personal interview. The selection

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process will identify approximately 26 applicants to be chosen to attend the program representing a cross-section of the greater Stockton community.

Tuition for the 11-month program is \$900. Information, applications and class schedule can be found at www.leadershipstockton.com, or call Timm Quinn or Wes Rhea at (209) 547-2770 or e-mail leadership@stocktonchamber.org.

Brookside Real Estate Market

For the month of April, 51 homes were for sale, 31 were pending, 6 sold, 3 expired and 13 withdrew or canceled. For properties sold, the average days on the market were 48, median square footage price was \$157.67, median sold price was \$275,000 and the median size was 1,882 square feet. Properties currently available are priced from \$215 million to \$2.389 million. *Current market data was taken from the Metrolist courtesy of Sheree Cox, Coldwell Banker Grupe, (209) 955-5522.*

'Concerts in the Park' Starts

56th Year June 4 Make plans now to picnic with friends at Victory Park on Wednesday nights this summer. The free Concerts in the Park are performed every Wednesday June 4 through Aug. 20 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the northwest corner of Victory Park. June's concert schedule begins with RB/X June 4 and includes the Valley Concert Band June 11. Steve Trucco brings his band's popular sound to the park June 18, and Stone Cold Corral entertains June 25. Concert-goers are encouraged to bring picnics, blankets, lawn chairs and other amenities for an enjoyable evening under Victory Park's towering oaks. The popular Concert in the Park series is organized by the Stockton Parks and Recreation

Department and the Stockton Musician's Association. For more information about Concerts in the Park, call Stockton Parks and Recreation at (209) 937-8099.

San Joaquin Film Festival '08 Opening Night Gala

Experience the world with the First International San Joaquin Film Festival (SJFF08), June 4-8. Regarded by the California Travel & Tourism Commission as one of its new and exciting events of spring 2008, SJFF08, a project of San Joaquin Cross-Cultural Media (SJCCM), is the region's first global film festival, featuring: more than 44 films from 14 nations; 40 events of screenings, galas, forums and cultural arts programs; and the presence of filmmakers and film lovers from near and far. "Making History" is the theme of SJFF08, with films highlighting stories of human migration, human rights and coming-of-age. The first destination is Downtown Stockton, for the must-attend Opening Night Gala on Wednesday, June 4 at the Bob Hope (Fox) Theatre and the Hotel Stockton for a night celebrating Latino Cinema:

At 5:45 p.m., start the Gala with a Pre-Show entertainment of visual arts and performing artists, complete with scrumptious treats from downtown restaurants in the theatre's foyer (co-hosted by Downtown Stockton Alliance).

At 6:45 p.m., enter the historic theatre for the Gala program, featuring the opening ceremonies and the screening of the first film, Sebastian Silva's Mexican-released "Nonna's Trip/El Viaje de La Nonna," a narrative feature about a grandmother's last wish to visit Italy with her family.

After the film, patrons are
Continued on page 8

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invited to the rooftop terrace of the historic Hotel Stockton, at 8:45 p.m., for the “With the Stars” Opening Night Party (catered by Paragary’s Restaurant) – a night of glitz, glamour and live jazz.

Patrons also have the option of remaining at the theater for the 9 p.m. screening of the second film, Eduard Cortés’ “The Clown and the Führer,” a fascinating drama from Spain about Charlie Rivel’s decision to perform for Hitler’s birthday, and a planned attack that could change the history of mankind.

June 5 brings “Lights, Camera, Pacific!” – a series of screenings and forums at the Pacific Theatre and the Bechtel International Center; and special presentations at the Faye Spanos Concert Hall, on the campus of University of the

Pacific, from Thursday, June 5 to Saturday, June 7. Start Thursday and Friday mornings with breakfast forums at the Center, featuring interactive discussions and hands-on activities on film arts. Then proceed to intimate conversations with filmmakers, at the Theatre, featuring the 2008 SJCCM Ambassador Award recipient, Linden-born filmmaker Erahm Christopher Machado.

Celebrating local filmmakers, this year’s selection includes: “A Land Between Rivers,” a local historical documentary; “Hem Lengths,” about an elderly man coping with his wife’s death; “Home School,” about a young man torn between education and the harsh reality of life. SJCCM’s Youth Video Vision program will celebrate the premiere of two youth-made documentaries: “Saving

San Joaquin” on the importance of nurturing the local environment; “Stage Left” on importance of arts education for young people.

A global collection of documentaries include: “Our Father’s War: A Vietnam Journey,” about a veteran finding closure and peace; Israel’s “The House on August Street,” about a courageous woman who sheltered Jewish children during the Holocaust; “1906,” about the reunion of the survivors of the infamous San Francisco Earthquake; “Guitar Holiday,” about the annual Mexican National Guitar Festival; “Made in L.A.,” about three Mexican garment worker’s struggle for self-empowerment and human rights.

A dynamic and diverse collection of short films from 10 countries will be presented in three

unique programs, featuring: Sundance® honorable “Aquarium,” about a young aquarist with a big secret; Cannes®-selected “Sexy Thing” from Australia, about a young girl’s pain transformed into beauty; British short “The Sickie,” about a man who finds reasons to be out of work; “Tiffin” from Malaysia, about a young Indian girl’s loyalty; the animated “Jungle Gym,” about a self-conscious hippo; “Broadcast Cowboy,” about singing cowboy, Dude Martin; mockumentary “Cabbie,” about Marty’s lifelong goal to become a cab driver; “The Golden Voice,” about Ros Sereysothea, Cambodian singer’s struggle during the Khmer Rouge genocide; stop-motion “Nazdravicko!” from Slovakia, about a brick-laying farmer and his over-demanding wife; among others.

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Israeli Academy Award-winning “Souvenirs” will be presented at the Faye Spanos Hall on June.

On Friday, June 6 to Sunday, June 8, take many trips down to the Miracle Mile for “Movies on the Mile,” events at the historic arthouse theatre Stockton Empire Theatre and the intimate Matinée Movie Lounge. Experience the American Indie collection with: multiple award-winning “The Garage,” about a young man’s decision to leave his small town’s existence; the comedy “Rain in the Mountain,” about Native American Eric Smallhouse’s conviction to save his people. Within the Global Cinema Series, celebrate: Canada’s “Saving Luna,” about a lone baby whale’s journey; “To Touch the Soul,” about 27 students who traveled to give an art class to AIDS-affected children in Cambodia; 2007 Berlin Film Festival’s Best Debut “Vanaja,” from India, a story

about a young girl from a low caste whose life was shaped through dance and desire; and two films – “The Farther, the Dearer” and “This Belfast Thing” – highlighting the immigration movement impacting Northern Ireland.

Next, spend a Saturday (June 7) afternoon at The Haggin Museum for “Celebrate! Mexico” Family Festival, a cultural event inspired by the Latino Cinema tribute. Experience the vibrant Mexican culture through the arts, crafts, dance, fashion, and film, featuring screenings of “La Quinceañera,” (from Mexico) about Ana Maria and this important, cultural tradition.

Sunday (June 8) afternoon takes the audience on a journey back to the Faye Spanos Concert Hall for the finale ceremonies. Opening the afternoon will be the West Coast premiere of “Rain Falls from Earth,” a documentary story

on courage, survival, and eventual triumph over the Khmer Rouge regime, which took the lives of more than 2 million people. The film’s director, Steve McClure, will engage in an interactive conversation with the audience.

Finally, the journey concludes with the 2008 San Joaquin Film Festival Finale-Awards Gala, an extraordinary evening honoring the exemplary talents of featured filmmakers of this year’s festival, awarding jury-selected and audience-selected winners. Ending on a high note, in a tribute to Israeli cinema, there is “Love & Dance,” an intriguing, narrative feature by Israeli filmmaker Etan Anner about a young boy of Israeli and Russian descent who crosses cultural bridges and brings his family and friends together through his passion and love for dance. For information on the festival, visit www.sjccm.org. For tickets to Opening Night Celebrations,

visit www.bobhopetheatre.com For all tickets, visit the official ticket portal at www.sjccm.org/tickets

Downtown Stockton Certified Farmers Market

The Downtown Stockton Certified Farmers Market happens every Friday, on Main Street in front of the Bob Hope Theatre and Hunter Square, May 2 through Oct. 31. More than 4,000 shoppers per week come to enjoy local, seasonal and sustainable produce vendors as well as hand-crafted and artisan merchandise vendors. New vendors are lined up and bring a variety of nuts, fresh fruits – oranges, apples, grapes, lemons, limes, avocados, and vegetables – and lettuce, tomatoes, celery, garlic, tomatillos, potatoes and onions.

In addition to new produce at the market, fresh, organic apple,

Continued on page 11

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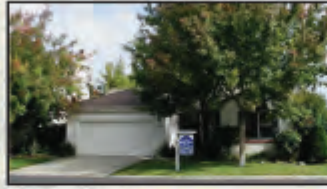
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Continued from page 9

apple-cherry, and grape cider, as well as pastries and desserts, will be available. Visitors are encouraged to ask the produce vendors about their production and harvest practices. Produce vendors are well-versed in their field and are eager to share their practices with the public. The market is open at 9 a.m.

For more information, call (209) 464-5246 or visit www.downtownstockton.org

Learn to Row Day

Curious about the long, thin boats you've seen on the Delta or those rowing machines (ergometers) in your favorite gym? You, too can experience the surge of power as you propel these boats through the water as well as learning proper erging techniques. Stockton Rowing Club, in conjunction with U.S. Rowing, is sponsoring a National Learn to Row Day on June 7 from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. We are located in the Riverpoint Marina at Buckley Cove. Come enjoy great water, the great outdoors and really great people. For more information, visit www.stocktonrowing.org or e-mail learntorow@stocktonrowing.org.

Earth Wind & Fire

Earth, Wind & Fire was one of the most musically accomplished, critically acclaimed and commercially popular funk bands of the 1970s. Conceived by drummer, bandleader, songwriter, kalimba player and occasional vocalist Maurice White, EWF's all-encompassing musical vision used funk as its foundation, but also incorporated jazz, smooth soul, gospel, pop, rock & roll, psychedelia, blues, folk, African music and later on, disco. Lead singer Philip Bailey gave EWF an extra dimension with his talent for crooning sentimental ballads in addition to funk workouts; behind him, the band could harmonize like a

smooth Motown group, work a simmering groove like the J.B.'s, or improvise like a jazz fusion outfit. Plus, their stage shows were often just as elaborate and dynamic as George Clinton's P-Funk empire.

More than just versatility for its own sake, EWF's eclecticism was part of a broader concept informed by a cosmic, mystical spirituality and an uplifting positivity the likes of which hadn't been seen since the early days of Sly & the Family Stone. Tying it all together was the accomplished songwriting of Maurice White, whose intricate, unpredictable arrangements and firm grasp of hooks and structure made EWF one of the tightest bands in funk when they wanted to be. Not everything they tried worked, but at their best, Earth, Wind & Fire seemingly took all that came before them and wrapped it up into one dizzying, spectacular package.

On June 15, the 7:30 p.m. show is at Bob Hope Theatre, 242 E. Main St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Ticket prices: \$79.50, \$59.50, and \$39.50 (Additional fees apply). For more information, call (209) 337-Hope or visit www.bobhopetheatre.com

Summer Sunset Benefit Wine Tasting

The Pixie Woods Board of Directors invites you to join friends in an enchanted forest for the 23rd Annual Summer Sunset Pixie Woods Wine Tasting, Friday June 20, 5 pm - 8 pm at Pixie Woods Park. Stroll along magical pathways that will lead you to over 30 top of the line Napa Sonoma & Carneros region wineries presenting their award-winning Chardonnays, Cabernets, Merlots and other fine wines, at tasting stations spread throughout this beautiful park. Savor your old favorites from the well-known larger

wineries, or discover new releases from some of the up-and-coming quality boutique wineries. This wine tasting is the premier tasting of the central valley and is a not-to-be missed event with vintners from California's most famous wine regions. Taste superb wines, sample scrumptious hors d'oeuvres, and be entertained by four different musical groups at different locations within the woods.

At least eight local restaurants will offer their fine specialty foods at no additional charge: Angelina's Spaghetti House, Dante's California Style Pizza and Cafe, Garlic Brothers Restaurant, On Lock Sam, Santiago Cocina Mexicana, Starbuck's Coffee, Taste of Brittany, The Old Spaghetti Factory, as well as Trader Joe's. The silent auction features an

outstanding array of fabulous gift items from golf packages to beautifully created baskets full of great items and magnificent magnums of fine wine from participating wineries. All of the proceeds from this event are used for the continued improvements and addition of new features at Pixie Woods Children's Park.

The Summer Sunset Wine Tasting is sponsored by the Pixie Woods Board of Directors. Over 700 wine tasters traditionally attest to the success of the benefit that has sold out virtually every year. Admission of \$40 includes wine, hors d'oeuvres and a commemorative wine glass. Tickets are available at Fine Wines, Eddie's Liquors, Wine Styles, Wine Wizard's, and the Stockton Parks & Recreation Department or online at www.stocktongov.com/pixiewoods.

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Port of Call

Hustle, history and showmanship make the Stockton Ports the best baseball team in town

Maybe you've been dying to be taken out to the ballpark, but not so thrilled with those out-of-the-park prices. Or maybe you don't want to make a two-hour "scenic" (i.e. traffic-filled) drive to Oakland or San Francisco. Or maybe you just want to "root, root, root" for the home team. Whatever the case, there's a group here in Stockton – the original Mudville Nine – that can cure your hunger for baseball this summer. If you haven't seen them yet, the Stockton Ports are waiting for you.

They're the best show in town, according to Athletics Nation writer Taj Adib, an Oakland native who scouts the Athletics' minor league affiliates, including the A-level Ports. "If you can see only one A's affiliate play this season, make sure it's the Stockton Ports," Adib



writes on athleticsnation.com. "The future of the Oakland Athletics franchise will be on full display."

Need more convincing? Here are five reasons to check out the Ports as they head into the heart of the California League baseball season this summer:

Star struck

The Ports, who represent a major step toward the majors, have traditionally been a winning franchise (see "Ten quick facts about the Ports"). Some of that talent eventually spills onto the Oakland Athletics roster. Two of the more notable farm club alumni, pitcher Dan Haren (now with the Arizona Diamondbacks) and outfielder Nick Swisher (now playing for the Chicago White Sox) helped the cause in more ways than one: they brought people in

through the gates when they were up-and-coming stars. And they sent more talent into the system when they were traded by the A's last season, according to Adib.

Chris Carter, now an outfielder with Stockton, was part of that new talent. He's been a key part of the Ports' season-opening hot streak in which they won 24 of their first 32 games, such as when he hit a two-out, three-run home run in the bottom of the 11th inning to give Stockton an 8-5 win over the Modesto Nuts. "My time in Stockton thus far has been great," Carter said. "Everyone around town is pretty enthusiastic, and the people I've met have been very supportive. It's always exciting when they come out and support us, and make us feel at home."

Continued on page 14



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Welcome home

After playing for parts of six decades at “vintage style” Billy Hebert Field, the Ports moved into their new home, Banner Island Ballpark, in 2005. The 4,200-seat stadium (with another 1,000 on lawn seating) isn’t on an island, but years ago the land it now sits along West Fremont Street near downtown

Ten quick facts about the Stockton Ports

The Stockton Ports are a founding member of the California League, which was formed in 1941.

The Ports’ name came from the fact that at that time they played in the city with the state’s only inland port.

In honor of its place as the inspiration for Ernest Lawrence Thayer’s famous “Casey at the Bat” poem, the team briefly changed its name to The Mudville Nine for the 2000 and 2001 seasons.

Stockton has won more league championships - 10 - than any other active California League team.

Through 2007, the Ports were the league’s winningest team, with a cumulative record of 4,051-3,629.

Historians Bill Weiss and Marshall Wright named the 1947 Ports to the list of 100 Greatest Minor League Baseball Teams, ranking them No. 98. Their run to the league title that year included a 26-game winning streak, a California League record.

The Ports’ original home, Billy Hebert Field, was named after a man who became the first player in all of organized baseball to give his life for his country when he was killed in action in the South Pacific Theatre of War. The Ports played there from 1941 to 2005.

From 1980 to 1991, they were America’s winningest Professional Minor League Baseball team, earning 977 wins and three championships.

Since 1941, the Ports have been a minor league affiliate for 12 major league teams: the Los Angeles Dodgers, Oakland Athletics (3 times), Chicago White Sox, St. Louis Browns, Chicago Cubs, St. Louis Cardinals, Baltimore Orioles (twice), California Angels, Seattle Mariners, Milwaukee Brewers, Cincinnati Reds and Texas Rangers.

The 2008 squad began the season 24-8, the best start in team history.

and the Deepwater Channel used to be surrounded by water, according to team officials. Somehow, the name Banner Island stuck.

To say the new ballpark is a staple of downtown would be an understatement: Banner Island draws about 200,000 fans each year, according to State Assemblyman Cathleen Galgiani. Galgiani helped push through a bill that exempted the ballpark from a limitation on advertising of alcoholic beverages. “Since its opening in 2005, the ballpark has been influential in the revitalization of Downtown Stockton,” Galgiani said. “Removing the regulation would provide more investment and expansion opportunities for the Stockton Ports to continue to succeed in bring entertainment to our city.”

The entertainment includes a myriad of special events, big games and community programs scheduled this summer, including:

- Manager’s luncheons in June and August, where Ports fans can dine with Ports Manager Darren Bush, team players and fellow fans, and participate in a Q & A session.

- “Ports Go Green” night on June 14, a joint effort with the City of Stockton to promote environmental responsibility.

- “A’s Night” on July 18, where players celebrate the team’s affiliation with the Oakland A’s with a series of A’s-themed jerseys that will be auctioned off to fans.

- A fishing tournament on the Delta in late July, benefiting the Ports Anchor Fund. Fans can go fishing with a favorite Ports player and a Bass Pro Fisherman.

- “Jimmy Buffet Tribute Night” on Aug. 29, where Banner Island Ballpark will be virtually taken over by the laid-back and festive attitude resulting from Jimmy Buffet and his music.

Budget buster

Ever try to take a family of four

to see a baseball game at one of the major league parks? It can be pricey. It's not Disneyland-level, but you'll still drop more than \$100 to \$150 for average seats. Comparable seating at Banner Island is \$30 to \$40 total – and with a smaller venue, you get a much better view.

Tickets are available individually (from \$5 for grass seats to \$15 for padded club seats with access to a bar), by group outing (\$5 to \$10 per ticket depending on size of group), by package plan (12 or 24 games, \$72 to \$216), or season tickets (\$200 and up).

For the kids

If your son or daughter is bored with the same old birthday bash, take them out to the ballgame. Or at least to the ballpark. The Ports feature birthday parties, little league batting cages and baseball camps. They also support little leagues and youth baseball programs through the Little League Sponsorship Program, and sponsor an annual youth baseball camp where kids age 6 to 12 can learn baseball fundamentals from Ports players and coaches (for more information on any of these, call 209/644-1900 or visit www.stocktonports.com).

Circle your calendars

Heading into the summer – and the All-Star Game in Myrtle Beach, S.C. on June 24 – the Ports were at the top of the California League's Northern Division with the league's best record. And although there's a lot of baseball left until the playoffs start in September, there are still a number of "can't miss" games involving your hometown team:

Ports vs. San Jose Giants, June 16-18, 7:05 p.m.; July 12-14, 7:05 p.m., 6:05 p.m. and 7:05 p.m., respectively: Aside from being the Ports' closest competition in the Northern Division standings (as of press time), these games match up the A's affiliate against that of their Bay Area rivals. The



Giants, defending California League champions, have had the upper hand thus far in 2008, winning four of the first six games (as of press time).

Ports vs. Modesto Nuts, July 1-3, 7:05 p.m.; Aug. 5-7, 7:05 p.m.: In the old days, this was the rivalry, pitting the area's two local teams – one (Modesto) representing the A's from the major leagues, the other (Stockton) teeing off for the Milwaukee Brewers. These two squads won five California League titles between them from 1980 to 1990. The two teams met in the playoffs eight times during that span. If you're really into the rivalry, these two teams meet 10 more times in Modesto – a mere 30 miles away – from June through August.

Ports vs. Bakersfield Blaze, July 26, 7:05 p.m.: As the dog days of summer continue, the Ports plan to get people fired up for football season with "Raider Nation Night 2008," featuring the Oakland Raiderettes at Banner Island Ballpark. Come out decked in silver and black (and gold) and show some love for the Ports, the Raiders and the Raiderettes.

Ports vs. Visalia Oaks, Sept. 1, 6:05 p.m.: The regular season finale is also Fan Appreciation Night, with a yet-to-be-determined special prize giveaway to a fan.

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