



**Local Author
Calls Up
Baseball Fans**

PAGE 9

**The Sun is Rising
on Public
Safety**

PAGE 8



East Sacramento News

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FEBRUARY 9, 2024

**SEE
INSIDE**

**SAC JEWISH FILM
FESTIVAL CELEBRATES
25 YEARS**



PAGE 2

**LEAFY GREENS
THRIVE IN THE
WINTER**



PAGE 3

**CAPTAIN JOSEPH
FOUNDATION HOLDS
FUNDRAISER**



PAGE 10

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Airshow With New International Flair



Frece Tricolori takes a colorful flight. Photo courtesy of Frece Tricolori, Pattuglia Acrobatica Nazionale, Aeronautica Militare, Rivolto Air Base, Italy

By Tamara M. Warta

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Capital Airshow, which typically roars through Sacramento Mather Airport each September, is returning

again for 2024 - but with a new date and a distinct European flair.

This year, the 18th annual California Capital Airshow will feature Frece Tricolori, the Italian Air Force's military jet

demonstration team. It will also be primarily an evening event, happening July 13 and 14. The changes may be surprising to airshow regulars, but excitement truly is in the air for the switch

to summer and the international celebration it's bound to bring.

"Every year we want to do something fresh, we want to do something new. We want to bring *Continued on Page 2*

Bringing The World To Sac

Local Shop Lifts Up Communities from Across the Globe



From left: owners Josh Varner and Scott Farrell.

**Story and photos by
Kristina Rogers**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Stepping into Zanzibar, you are welcomed by meditating Buddhas, fierce dragons, and an array of

tribal curiosities. The first thing to consider is which part of the world you visit first? Morocco? Kenya? Mexico? Tibet? At last count, the store offers items from around 125 countries.

The name fits. "Zanzibar is an island off the coast of Tanzania in East Africa," explains Josh Varner. "The infamous Silk Road was the method of transportation, but Zanzibar was the destination. Whatever

needed: spices, lumber, dried fish. For centuries, the world stopped there."

Josh Varner and Scott Farrell have been business partners for 25 years. They lost the lease to *Continued on Page 4*



To those who know me, as well as those who don't, I am very proud to be your councilmember. As such, there are a lot of issues that we will work on together, and I look forward to working with you to make things better in the city that we love with all our heart. In the thirty-seven years I have lived in Sacramento, I have not seen homelessness at the level that I see it now. You have expressed to me that addressing homelessness in our city, community, and neighborhoods is the first, second, and third priority. The Mayor and the Council agree with you wholeheartedly. At the recent council priority-setting workshop, it also designated homelessness as the foremost concern for the city, followed by public safety as the second priority, and infrastructure/basic city services as the third.

Many of you are aware of the framework within which we must operate when addressing homelessness, including the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals decision in Martin v. Boise and multiple federal court injunctions that have, at times, halted or limited enforcement. It's important to note that the necessary shelter beds and services are provided by the county, as outlined in the City/County Partnership Agreement. I believe we all understand that developing long-term solutions for shelter and services will take time due to the complex nature of the issue.

The impact of the homeless crisis on our community's quality of life has been profound. This crisis has had stark consequences for residents, businesses, and visitors to our city. Despite the challenges posed by the Boise decision and enforcement injunctions, as a city government, we must proceed to ensure compliance with Sacramento City Code and relevant state statutes such as the California Vehicle Code. This compliance effort is aimed at addressing the quality of life and public safety issues resulting from homelessness on our streets.

For me, compliance with *Continued on Page 7*

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Sacramento Jewish Film Festival Celebrates 25 Years

March 9 - 24, 2024

The Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Since 1997, the Sacramento Jewish Film Festival (SJFF) has presented the best films reflecting the rich cultural diversity of the Jewish experience. In 2024, the festival celebrates its SILVER JUBILEE, with 30 plus feature films over two weekends of live theatre and two weeks of films streaming online. The event will take place March 9 - 24, 2024.

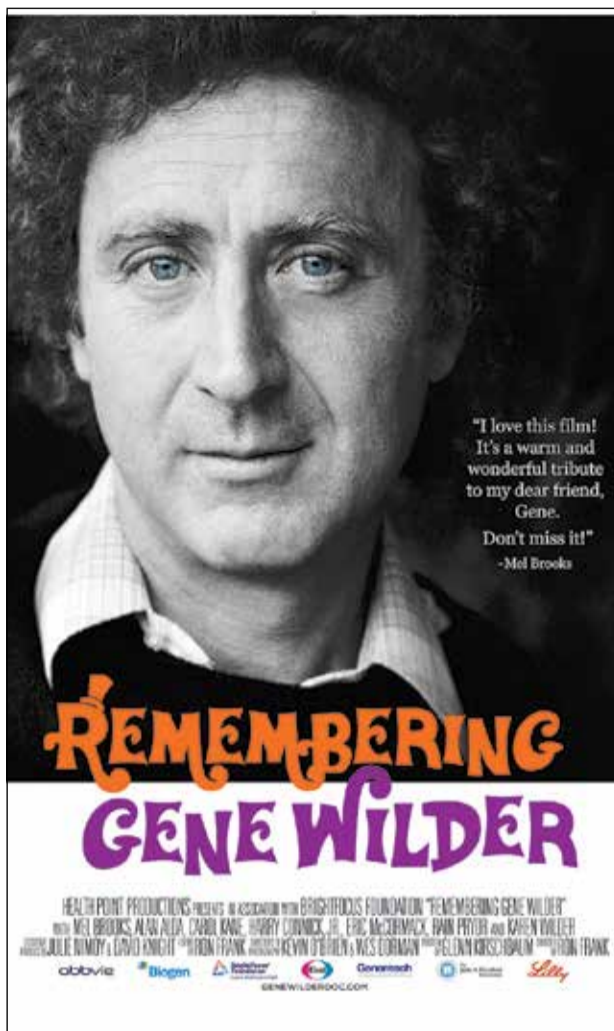
The variety of films include comedies, dramas, and documentaries from all over the world, plus Q&As, mini-concerts, special panels, and in-person receptions.

Opening weekend will be live on the big screen at the Veterans Memorial Theatre in Davis on Saturday night, March 9 and Sunday, March 10.

Closing weekend will be live in-theater at The Center at 2300 Sierra Blvd in Sacramento on Saturday night, March 16 and Sunday, March 17.

All-Festival Passes are \$150 and include all in-person films and streaming films, plus receptions and film chats. Weekend passes and individual film tickets will also be sold. The website will go live, and tickets and passes will be on sale on January 22, 2024.

Visit the festival website at <https://sacjewishfilmfest.org/> for a complete list of



REMEMBERING GENE WILDER celebrates the beloved star of classics such as "The Producers," "Blazing Saddles," and "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory." Gene's life is brought to life through never-before-seen home movies and photographs, as well as the intimate insights of friends and colleagues including Mel Brooks, Alan Alda, Carol Kane, Harry Connick Jr., (Saturday night, March 16, at the Veterans Memorial Theatre in Davis.) Photo courtesy of Sacramento Jewish Film Festival

feature films, shorts, special events, ticket sales and sponsorship opportunities.

Questions? Call the Jewish Federation at (916) 486-0906 or email jbirch@jewishsac.org.

Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/SacJewishFilm>

Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/>

sacramentojewishfilmfestival.org/

SJFF is a program of the Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region.

The mission of SJFF is to showcase thought-provoking, entertaining films that inform, inspire, and celebrate the Jewish story for audiences everywhere. ★

California Capital Airshow Takes Off This Summer with New Format and International Flair

Continued from page 1

our community something different," says Darcy Brewer, Executive Director of the California Capital Airshow. "We survey the insiders every single year. We heard a couple of different things from people. They wanted to see something they've never seen before, and they wanted us to bring back the night show we did in 2018."

The "insiders" Brewer refers to are the approximately 60,000 Air Show Insider® members of the California Capital Airshow community. Becoming an Insider is free and provides early access to tickets, helpful discounts, and a chance to view airshow schedules and events prior to the general public.

Famous for their interactive STEM exhibits, large airplane and fighter jet displays, food and family activities, the airshow is well-known as a distinct stand out from the approximately 450 air shows that happen each year across America.

"We are one of the largest," said Brewer. "We want to be different."

With the arrival of Frece Tricolori, which has not performed in North America in 30 years, this year's airshow is sure to delight both regular patrons and some new faces.

"We start flying at 6pm and go nonstop until 10pm. And that last half hour is going to literally blow you away," says Brewer. The event includes what the organization is referring to as a "choreographed

pyrobatic musical," featuring fireworks, daredevil jet maneuvers, music, and more.

"In the air, on the ground and throughout the year - the airshow crew is all about honoring those who serve, and inspiring the next generation --- but this year we'll be doing it all in two different languages --- so if you've ever been to Italy and love it, or dreamed of going to Italy --- we're making it more simple this summer and bringing Italy to you," said Brewer.

This is the only location in the western United States where you will be able to be a part of

Frece Tricolori's full airshow performance, get the chance to see their colorful jets up close, and maybe even meet team members on the ground.

"People in America love the US jet teams, the rest of the world loves the Italian jet force," says Brewer. "Brush up on your Italian and get ready for a once in a lifetime experience."

The California Capital Airshow has taken to the international skies one time prior - in 2017 they welcomed the French government for a one-day event over Easter weekend. Now, with that experience under their belt, the organization is going big. The Frece Tricolori team includes 75 members, as well as multiple government dignitaries that are expected to be in attendance.

Outside of the stunning

displays and huge draw from the world's best pilots, the California Capital Airshow is unique for another reason - its commitment and passion for community past and present. The group is a non-profit that supports other non-profits. Groups are invited to apply to work at the airshow and raise funds for their various causes. \$79,000 went out to non-profit groups through parking lot and concessions volunteerism.

"We're all about STEM education, scholarships, and youth programs," noted Brewer. The group has many interactions with young people, equipping them to grow up to become whatever they dream.

"We try to inspire the next generation to get a job where they wake up in the morning feeling the same way the staff at the California Capital Air Show feels," Brewer says with pride when speaking about the great work environment found within the organization. Her enthusiasm and love of life is contagious, as is her passion to get people excited and involved about the air show and all it signifies.

"We like shining a spotlight on a region that we love. If you like history, aviation, or international flavor - there's something for you and we will make sure it happens before the gates open."

You can find out more about the upcoming airshow by becoming an Insider at californiacapitalairshow.com. ★

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This home is 10 years old but lovely home in the West Park community of highly desirable Roseville! Looks and feels like new! Lovely open kitchen to living area concept. All stainless-steel appliances, brand new refrigerator is included. Espresso colored cabinets and granite counter tops with a large eat at bar. Step out onto the terrace for your morning coffee or evening happy hour! The lower level has new Lino vinyl plank flooring. Two bedrooms and a full bathroom, laundry area, brand new washer/dryer are included. Patio access and garage entry from the ground floor. Main level has the primary bedroom with a walk-in closet. Just a block from the community park and a short drive to shopping! This home has solar, dual level controls, average electric bill is \$80 in Winter, \$150 in summer/month. Newly painted front door, and front porch railing. Super clean, ready for a new family to move right in. Hurry it is not easy to find an almost new single-family home at this price in Roseville!



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Leafy Greens Thrive in the Winter

Story and photos by Mitch Barber

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Under the freeway at 8th and W streets, adjacent to downtown Sacramento, there is a bustling farmers' market on Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. The freeway provides a concrete canopy to protect visitors from the rain in the wet months, and a shady refuge when temperatures creep toward 100 degrees.

This writer visited the Certified Farmers' Market on February 4th. At a table close to the main entrance, next to the parking lot, sits a husband and wife pair, Dan and Renae Best. They operate and manage the market they said was founded in 1980.

Renae humbly boasted that the Certified Farmers' Market is one of the largest in California, and that growers come from near and far — counties like Sacramento and El Dorado that are close by, and distant areas like the North Coast and Fresno.

When asked what was in season, Renae emphatically said "leafy greens," which became the focal point of this article.

The first stall visited was the Salle Orchards tables where Billie Jean Salle greeted this MPG writer, standing behind a bevy of green leafy vegetables. She owns the farm in Wheatland with her husband of over 50 years, Nick, who happened to be born on the farm. Their children Nicole and Gene do the farming while Billie Jean displays the produce at the market.

Bille Jean explained the various ways to eat leafy greens — vegetables such as curly and dino kale, swiss chard, and cabbage — saying, "The possibilities are

endless." There are cabbage rolls, soups, stews, vegetable lasagnas, and chips (like kale chips). Cats enjoy the produce as well; she mentioned that some customers make natural, nutritious cat food that includes leafy greens.

She said of leafy greens, "You can grow some of them year-round, when it isn't hot. Heat makes lettuce bitter."

Another vendor was Brent Levin who sells organic produce from Spreadwing Farm, a farm he owns with his wife and another couple. The farm is in Rumsey, a very small town in the Capay Valley. He was all smiles.

At the entrance of his stall were an assortment of kales for \$3 a bunch — dinosaur, red Russian, and white Russian kale. He said his favorite way to prepare them was simply cooking them in butter with garlic salt. He said other folks juice them.

He also sells head lettuces and cabbage, which is a disputed leafy green. He talked to customers and weighed produce while taking part in the interview.

And the farm's name? It comes from a type of dragonfly: one of the female owners specializes in entomology. He got specific with the leafy-green growing season on his farm: November through April or early May.

Lettuce was \$3.50 per head, and cabbage was \$2 per pound. The different kales were \$3 a bunch.

Bargains were to be found at the Toledo Farms booth on the north side of the market. Juan Toledo, who owns the business with his father Federico Toledo, was selling heads of lettuce for \$1. They also sell dandelion greens, swiss chard and kale.

What does one do with dandelion greens? Juan said they



Cabbage for sale at the Salle Orchards stall.



Spreadwing produce, from left, leeks, red Russian kale, dinosaur kale, and white Russian kale.



Brent Levin stands at his Spreadwing Farm stall, ready to serve.



Juan Toledo, owner of Toledo Farms, stands behind his economically-priced produce.



A variety of chards, and spinach on the right, at the Barbageleta Farms stall.



Martin Barbageleta, left, and Francisco Barbageleta, right, stand in front of their company truck and farmers' market sign.

are good "juiced, roasted, diced up, and in salad." He said people are split into "eat-it-raw" and "cook-it" camps.

Theirs is an organic, family-owned farm in Lodi.

Next door was Barbageleta Farms, based in Linden, which is just to the east of Stockton. Martin and

Francisco Barbageleta were speaking Spanish when this writer approached — a customer was slinging the Spanish language, as well.

Martin explained that his Swiss chard that was a rainbow of colors is best steamed or boiled, and cooked with other things, like meat.

He said that the current weather was conducive to chard growth and that it is too hot during the summer for it to grow well. He was selling leafy bunches of spinach, as well. Bunches of greens were \$3 and two for \$5.

Unfortunately, about 10 vendors canceled on February

4th, largely due to the high winds. Fortunately, the freeway's columns serve as a wind break, as well.

Why not come out and shop on a Sunday in the temperate friendly confines of the Certified Farmers' Market under the freeway? ★




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PLANNING COMMITTEE
Planning Committee
Tuesday, January 16, 2024
(9:30 AM - 10:30 AM)
Join the committee and be part of welcoming the new members, connecting new members with our events and other members, improve the memberships, & create new ideas of how to grow the Chamber
3027 I Street
Event Contact: Andrea Crettol
treasurer@eastsachamber.org



Business After Hours MIXER
5:30-7PM
January Chamber Mixer
Thursday, January 18, 2024
(5:30 PM - 7:00 PM)
Location: The Closet Trading Company
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Bringing The World To Sacramento

Local Shop Lifts Up Communities from Across the Globe

Continued from Page 1
their Midtown shop in January 2020 and toured 87 buildings to find their “Goldilocks location” at 1315 Broadway. The space is 4,000 square feet and floor-to-ceiling international delights.

When I asked about the most unusual item they’ve sold, Scott replied, “The most interesting was a lion’s hairball, which was three centuries old. The Masai of East Africa use it as a talisman for good fortune.” He grinned, “These are extremely rare, but lions are just big cats when it comes down to it.” (And to think we are throwing our cats’ hairballs away!)

Josh pointed to a decorative wooden longhouse door from Papa New Guinea. “In this tribe, the men stay in a giant hut on stilts with this door as the only entrance. The tribes’ precious treasures and loot are stored there. When invaders stick their heads in the large hole, they got whacked and dragged inside.”

Typically, most shoppers are just searching for a unique gift, and that’s an easy sell. Prices vary from pocket change to investment. Scott and Josh are connected to over 2,000 artisans across the globe whom they visit regularly.

Scott explained: “If you point to anything in the store, we can tell you who made it and show photos and video of their process.” They work with individual artisans, small family workshops, cooperatives, and women’s groups. Quality and fair trade is a top priority. “Others come to these artists wanting



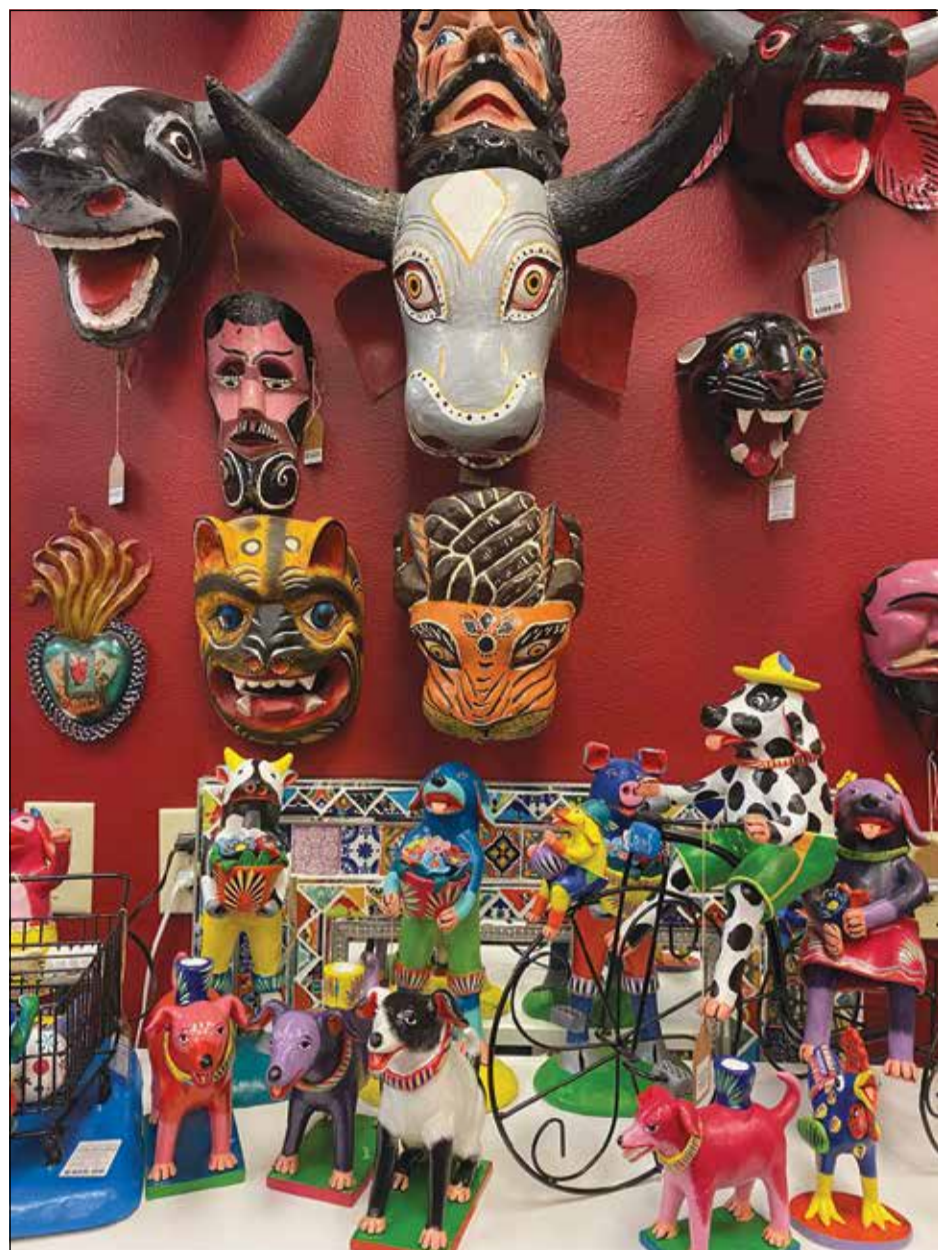
Wooden longhouse door from Papa New Guinea.

things cheaper; we want things better,” explained Varner. “If they spend twice as much time making the product, we’ll pay more.” Some of their artists are world-famous, with pieces in the Louvre and Smithsonian.

The owners are also sticklers about no child labor, but support youngsters learning a trade, which is different. Varner

said, “One of my most prized possessions is a piece of Mexican folk art by a 4-year-old. Her parents are master artists. It was the first thing she made, and now she’s in her early twenties and a famous artist in her own right.”

Life-long friendships are formed by helping, too. They support programs that teach tribes how to dig wells and get micro-loans



Artisan creatures from Mexico.

for new businesses. During the pandemic, they continued to trade with over 250 families in Mexico and over 300 jewelers from India when other income sources dried up.

I’ve been a fan of Zanzibar for some time. Where else can you try out various Tibetan singing bowls? Or enjoy an array of creatures in eye-catching hues by the Indigenous

Zapotec Indians of Oaxaca, Mexico? The store carries incense and stone bracelets to every size of fanciful Day of the Dead skeletons. A large off-site storage unit allows the owners to frequently freshen up the shop with something new.

Right now, their biggest challenge is competition from online shopping. Josh explained, “We noticed sales dropped

in the Summer of 2022. We’ve lost about 40% to 80% in the last 18 months. This is sad because people don’t know where their merchandise comes from. Sure, it’s cheaper, but that means it comes at a cost to someone.”

Shoppers need not worry about humanely sourced global treasures when they visit Zanzibar. ★

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ABOUT TOWN

Valentine's Day Colors Crawl Feb. 10

Presented by Xoso Sport & Social League at Midtown, Sacramento CA

Feb 10, 2024 at 04:00 pm - 11:00 pm (Sat)

Sacramento's favorite Valentine's day event is back! Whether you're already committed or single and ready to mingle, come join the fun! This event is 21+.

Dress in the color of your choice:

Red: Single
Blue: Undecided
Black: Taken and off the market

Tickets:
Early Bird, \$10, General \$15

Location:
Midtown, Sacramento, CA 95816

Enjoy a free drink at check-in (valid before 5pm), exclusive drink and food specials, waived covers, and crawl photography.

To get tickets and learn more, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-valentines-day-color-crawl-tickets

Sacramento Cat-stravaganza Feb. 10 - Feb. 11

Presented by Loving Cats Worldwide at Cal Expo, Sacramento CA

Feb 10, 2024 at 09:00 am - 04:00 pm (Sat) Feb 11, 2024 at 09:00 am - 04:00 pm (Sun)

Cat lovers unite for a family-furr-iendly weekend. Support local charities and rescues as part of our adoption event. Witness an International Cat Competition, see the most beautiful cats in the world strut the CatWalk, see who wins in Best in Show, learn all about cats, and get your furry friend a gift in our shopping village!

Admission Info:
One day ticket:

Children (age 0-4) Free
Youth (age 5-17) \$12
Senior \$12
General \$17

Two day ticket:
Children (age 0-4)

Free Youth (age 5-17) \$18
Senior \$18
General \$27
Location:
Cal Expo
1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95815

To learn more and to purchase tickets, visit cal-expostatefair.com/event/sacramento-catstravaganza

Curtis Park Book Club with Crawford's Books Feb. 13, Mar. 12, Apr. 9

Curtis Park Book Club is back for 2024!

Join Track 7 Brewing Company and Crawford's Books every second Tuesday of the month in the Curtis Park taproom for Book Club! Crawford's Books will be leading the discussion. Track 7 Brewing Company is located at Track 7 Brewing Co. - Curtis Park, 3747 W. Pacific Ave, Ste F, Sacramento, CA 95820

The event dates and times are: Feb 13, 2024 at 07:00 pm (Tue), Mar 12, 2024 at 07:00 pm (Tue), Apr 9, 2024 at 07:00 pm (Tue).

Questions? Contact Crawford's Books at sue@crowfordbooks.net

Your Elks 6 Lodge needs your help!

Help is needed in the office from 9 - 3 Monday through Friday to answer phones, sell event tickets etc.

We also need help in the Rental office to answer the phone.

If you can lend a hand even if it is half a day or one day per week, please contact me and I will get your information to the appropriate person.

For questions or to volunteer call or send text message to Sue Hill 215-327-7712.

Elk's Lodge Calendar of Events Elk's Lodge Sunday Breakfast

Every Sunday 8:30am - 11am
Bring your friends and family

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Guest are VERY welcome!

Water Aerobics, Monday 10 am, Wednesday 2 pm

Yoga, Monday 12 pm, Wednesday 3:30 pm
Lodge members free.

Martial Arts, Monday 5 pm

Pickleball, Mon & Wed 9 am-12 pm, Thu 4:30-7:30 pm, Sun 4-7 pm

To sign-up or confirm schedule, join playtimescheduler.com

Improv Night, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6-8 pm

Wednesday Night Dinner, 5:30 to 7 pm
See above and elks6.net for weekly menu.

Karaoke

Thursday 7 pm

Saturday 7:30pm

Friday Happy Hour Friday 4-7 pm

Land Park Softball

Softball is back in Land Park and will now be a part of the Land Park Pacific Little League organization. LPPLL has been a pillar in our community since 1954 and is welcoming softball under their umbrella this SPRING!

Early Bird Registration is NOW OPEN!

Visit lppll.com/registration to register and learn more.

Sacramento Area Museums Showcase Region's Farm-to-Fork Roots All Year Long

The Greater Sacramento region is rich with popular museums and destinations that offer diverse and enriching experiences for individuals, families, residents, and visitors alike. Given the critically important role agriculture continues to play in the region, many local museums offer special exhibits, experiences and activations that highlight ever-enduring Farm-to-Fork

connections. A sampling of some of the Farm-to-Fork offerings at local museums includes the following:

California Agriculture Museum – Woodland is home to an entire museum focused on agriculture, filled with a unique collection of harvesters, wheel and crawler-type tractors, combines, trucks, art, artifacts, rotating interactive exhibits and much more. In all, the museum tells the history of Farm-to-Fork, dating back to the Gold Rush era and how the industry evolved from horse drawn to steam driven to fuel powered machines to harvest and transport California's bounty.

California State Railroad Museum & Foundation – A Fruit Growers Express refrigerated rail car is on permanent display inside the Museum's Roundhouse. Museum visitors can explore this historic rail car and exhibit, "Farm to Fork: A Public History," and learn about how refrigerated rail cars enabled California farmers, growers, and producers send farm-to-fork freshness all over the country. Visitors can step inside the historic Fruit Growers Express rail car to see how the ice-cooled rail cars transported produce and built an agricultural system that exports more wealth than the California Gold Rush. Plus, the popular weekend excursion train, Sacramento Southern Railroad – currently on pause due to an important rail repair project – runs on the historic Walnut Grove Branch Line. This rail line transported pears, asparagus, celery, seeds, and other products from the Delta communities to markets nationwide.

Sacramento Children's Museum – Young visitors hungry to learn about fresh food have a variety of options at the Children's Museum, including at the miniature Leo's Market and Leo's Food Court (a miniature market of food carts), about bees and honey with the in-house beehive, and an interactive train table highlighting Sacramento's agricultural landscape in

miniature, complete with mini livestock. Plus, the Children's Museum will be at the Farm-to-Fork Festival (September 22-23) sharing vegetable stamp printing with visitors.

SMUD Museum of Science & Curiosity – MOSAC's interactive exhibits bring the story of water to life, demonstrating how our region is working together to conserve this natural resource for now and future generations. The "Water Challenge" exhibit lets museum visitors actively shape a watershed's flow, create a tune for saving water at home, and choose between local or non-local foods to buy based on how everyday decisions impact conservation efforts — all while learning about the environmental footprint along the way.

Utility Exploration Center – The City of Roseville's Utility Exploration Center (UEC) is a testament to the region's commitment to sustainable living and resource conservation. Nestled in the heart of a region renowned for its Farm-to-Fork movement, the UEC acts as an educational hub, encouraging residents and visitors alike to delve into the intricacies of energy and water conservation, waste reduction, and sustainable practices. By fostering an understanding of how we use and preserve resources, the UEC underscores the importance of our agricultural roots.

For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, "like" them on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/SacMuseums, follow them on Instagram and Twitter @SacMuseums or visit the user-friendly website at www.SacMuseums.org.

Friends of Sutter's Fort Announces Discounted Admission Rates

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Friends of Sutter's Fort, in partnership with Sutter's Fort State Historic Park, is proud to present a series of family-friendly events and activations

this fall highlighted by holiday themed movies, an all-ages concert, and adventurous self-guided evening tours by flashlight or lantern light.

For those interested in visiting inside Sutter's Fort State Historic Park (that is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily), all Fort admission fees will be waived for the duration of a major roof replacement and seismic stabilization project that is currently underway. Visitors can observe the rehabilitation project firsthand and tour the Central Building, which remains open.

Friends of Sutter's Fort is a 501c3 charitable foundation. As a state park cooperating association, we collaborate with California State Parks at Sutter's Fort State Historic Park to preserve and protect historic structures, and artifacts, and to engage visitors of all ages. For more information, please visit www.sutters-fort.org

Elks 6 Lodge Winter Blast February 24, 2024

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Tickets will go on sale in the office by 12/10.

Online ticket sales will be available soon, watch for the announcement.

Note the 5\$ savings for tickets purchased by February 3.

Bunny on the Green Saturday, March 16th, 2024

Late morning/early afternoon, exact time to be determined.

Location: William Land Park Golf 1701 Sutterville Road.

Families are encouraged to come and meet The Easter Bunny for the 2nd Annual Bunny on the Green. It is free to visit the Bunny and take photos. There will also be a childrens' Easter Bonnet contest and putting activities. Guests can purchase food and mimosa's for the adults. More details to come soon. ★

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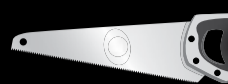
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Spiritual Care
BY NORRIS BURKES

A Dream For All

Keith seemed to always be fighting someone on the schoolyard. It was even rumored that he was once suspended for hitting a teacher.

He persuaded us that we needn't fear these black children – as long as “us white kids stick together.”

“Don't anyone talk to them,” he commanded. We agreed. We'd follow our appointed leader and stick together.

“If they cause any trouble,” Keith said, slamming his fist into his palm, “we'll show them who really runs this playground.”

We weren't just counting on Keith; we were counting on our geography too.

For you see, while many U.S. towns were segregated by only railroad tracks, Richmond was segregated by a freeway. And with the district out of money for bussing, we thought our school would be safe from integration.

And it would have been – except for one thing.

“The tunnel,” as the kids called it, was a darkened pedestrian walkway under our freeway that reeked of urine and was paved with broken soda bottles..

Located only a few hundred yards from our playground, the tunnel was forbidden territory. All of our parents warned that none of us were to ever cross through the tunnel that connected the black community to the white one.

So, one September morning in 1967, as troop strength in Viet Nam approached 500,000, a small group of 10-year-old soldiers in the war on prejudice emerged from the tunnel. They carried the look of a scraggly group

of Pop Warner football players returning to a halftime deficit – overwhelmed both by the size of the field and the stakes of the game.

Among those kids were Deborah, Agnes, Geoffrey and Gregory. I still remember their names because that was the first time I truly “saw” a black person.

Usually my columns work toward a dramatic climax, but the most dramatic thing in today's story is that nothing happened. No drama. Nothing Keith didn't beat anyone up. Nobody rioted or protested. We just had life happen right amongst us. Agnes stole my pencils, but Deborah stole my heart. Gregory beat me out on the history quizzes. Both he and Agnes easily beat me in the 50-yard dash.

No drama until that first Thursday in April 1968. Sometime after the evening fog returned to the Richmond hills, a friend came over to tell me he'd just heard that Martin Luther King had been assassinated in Memphis

Now, almost fifty-five years, it seems to me that in the end, our little school became part of King's dream as it was “...transformed into a situation where little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.”

That's my history. What's yours?

Please email me so I can add you to my weekly column email. My books can be purchased on my website www.thechaplain.net. Comments are received at 10556 Combie Rd Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602 or by email comment@thechaplain.net or at (843) 608-9715. ★



Councilmember
Rick Jennings
Dist. 7

Continued from Page 1
our city codes to address crime, public health issues, trash problems, public safety concerns, and their impact on businesses is the missing piece of the puzzle. While our enforcement efforts are limited by the Boise decision, there are still actions we can take. In fact, the courts have indicated that “camp management” to ensure compliance with local codes and address issues related to trash and public health is permitted. The challenge lies in striking the necessary balance between achieving code compliance and providing the shelter and services homeless individuals need.

My decision and action have been informed by my experience with my church's Winter Sanctuary Program. My wife and I were actively involved in this ministry, partnering with other faith communities during the winter to provide shelter to the homeless. The most impactful aspect of this experience was observing the same individuals returning year after year. Despite services offered day after day, month after month, and year after year, the same individuals continued to return.

I cannot condone allowing homeless individuals to remain trapped in a cycle of disordered thinking and related activities. While this approach may not be popular or supported by everyone, I firmly believe that we need to implement disruptive actions to break the cycle of disordered thinking and behavior among the homeless, with the hope that they will become more receptive to receiving services. The current problem is that the overwhelming majority of homeless individuals are resistant to accepting services. As the Mayor often points

out, during one encampment cleanup, 33 homeless individuals were offered shelter and services, but only one person accepted. Unfortunately, this low level of service acceptance is the norm rather than the exception.

For me, the issue lies in finding the balance between addressing the impacts on our community's quality of life and providing shelter and services. While I am not a member of the working group between the city and county, the participation of council and board of supervisors members is limited by the state law known as the Brown Act. Consequently, when the first report on the City County Partnership was delivered at the end of May this year, I requested a council workshop on enforcement. I was pleased that the council agreed to this, and in late June, we had a discussion that provided direction to staff to return with an aggressive program for code compliance and relevant state statutes. Working closely with staff, my office and the council passed a resolution at the beginning of August by a 7-2 vote to enhance enforcement and secure the necessary budget authority to ensure code compliance. Subsequently, the Sacramento Homeless Union sued us, and a federal judge imposed an injunction on the city, preventing us from enforcing our codes.

The 7-2 vote was pivotal because it also included the Homeless Response Protocols, establishing the Rapid Response Model with a focus on code compliance as the goal. This demonstrates our commitment to balancing the need for quality of life and public safety while working towards shelter and services, which is a significant step forward.

Enforcing compliance

with critical infrastructure regulations, restrictions on nighttime park activities, sidewalk ordinances, the California Vehicle Code, and rules regarding the storage of private property on public land can all be enforced under the Boise decision. This aims to strike a balance between addressing quality of life issues and providing shelter and services. Through discussions with staff, it has become evident that they require additional tools to better mitigate the impacts on quality of life and public safety.

Councilmember Guerra and I introduced a daytime camping ordinance for city council consideration. We collaborated with staff to devise a plan to mitigate the impacts on quality of life while our partnership with the county focuses on shelter and services. We are drawing insights from cities like San Diego that have already implemented similar measures and seen significant reductions in their homeless populations.

By prohibiting daytime camping, homeless individuals will be required to store their belongings through a city-provided program or private means. They will be limited in what they can pack up and move each day. The hope is that they will avail themselves of services offered during compliance actions or later at a CORE center or other facilities. The proliferation of illegal encampments in our city cannot continue. For far too long, we have not adequately addressed the impact of homelessness on our community's quality of life and public safety. As your councilmember, my council colleagues and I are actively working to bring about this change while remaining committed to providing shelter and services through our partnership with the county. ★



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Voter Registration and Elections Update

My Voter Portal

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Voter Registration and Elections is excited to introduce My Voter Portal (MVP) to access your voter registration record, view your ballot status and voting history, access accessible election materials, view your County Voter Information Guide, obtain information regarding the current election, find Vote Center and Official

Ballot Drop Box locations near you, and so much more!

Visit the My Voter Portal link and check it out on the Sacramento County website. If you have questions or need help, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.gov, or use the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone). ★

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The Sun is Rising on Public Safety

A Commitment to Protecting, Connecting, and Preserving Public Safety in Sacramento

Story by Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - On January 31st, Sacramento District Attorney Thien Ho gave a public safety address to a packed room at Clunie Hall. Guests included Police Chief Kathy Lester, elected officials, colleagues, community leaders, crime victims, and friends. D.A. Ho laid out his department's mission and here are a few important highlights.

To begin, since January 2021, more than 600 people have died in Sacramento County of Fentanyl. D.A. Ho explained those numbers are expected to rise. Most parents don't know social media is the leading platform for drug dealers. Counterfeit pills mixed with fentanyl are marketed online as "prescription pills."

Laura Didier was there to share her story about how her own son got access to one such counterfeit pill. It was Christmas break in 2020. Her son Zack was a straight-A student, athlete, and musician. He was a good kid, and parents didn't seem to have any reason to worry. Unfortunately, Zack went online and bought a pill marketed as a prescription Percocet, but it wasn't. He tried it once, and his father found him dead in his bedroom. It was a somber reminder deadly drugs are now easily accessible to anyone, anywhere. With tears, Laura said, "He'll always be 17."

Heartbroken, she wanted to make something good from this tragedy. Didier partnered with the District Attorney's office to promote "one pill can kill." Now she

joins Thien Ho and Angela Webb to speak at educational school forums about fentanyl awareness. They plan on expanding their youth-focused program in 2024. To learn more about One Pill Can Kill and watch Zack's story, go to: 1pillcankillsac.com.

Awareness is vital to helping protect our communities, but accountability is equally essential. Thien Ho is working with other District Attorneys to provide harsher sentences for drug dealers. The loss of even one life is too much to allow a dealer to walk away without real consequences.

He noted January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month. According to the California Department of Justice, California is the #1 state for human trafficking. (<https://oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking/what-is>). The Human Trafficking Unit in the District Attorney's office partners with the Sacramento Child Exploitation Task Force (CETF), which includes the Sacramento County Sheriff, FB, and Sacramento Police Department. And while they aggressively pursue and prosecute human traffickers, child predators, and domestic abusers, there is a new outreach arm. Victims of these crimes can go to [GetHelpSac.org](https://gethelpsac.org) for answers. There, they can access organizations like My Sisters House, Weave, and the Community Against Sexual Harm (CASH).

The discussion moved to the fear and crime our local businesses and property owners are experiencing. It's no secret that retail theft has skyrocketed in California. The D.A.'s office is taking



District Attorney Thien Ho giving the State of Public Safety Address. Photos courtesy of District Attorney's Office

aim with a new organized retail theft unit. Not only are they focused on fighting the crimes that shutter our local businesses, but D.A. Ho is advocating for answers to nearby encampments as well. He noted that these homeless camps "put people between compassion and chaos."

To help people on the street get back on their feet, Thien Ho supports the development of a shelter model called Hope for Sacramento. This model allows anyone on the streets to get shelter and move toward sobriety and housing at a reasonable pace (hopeforsacramento.org).

District Attorney Ho knows Incarceration isn't the only solution to crime. This is why his office has another answer. Non-violent offenders will receive an opportunity at redemption with the new Changing Courses program.

Instead of prison, those accused of a crime can choose to enter an apprenticeship program in the trades. If they complete the program, they can move toward a lucrative job, and a real future. D.A. Ho explained, "This allows them to change their course from a life of crime to a life of construction."

Still, there is another hurdle that our law enforcement professionals can't handle alone. Current legislation in California is one of the biggest obstacles to public safety. That is why Thien Ho and District Attorneys across California are advocating for a measure to be added to the fall ballot called The Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act. Many law enforcement professionals point to Prop 47 as a contributor to the rise in crime



Laura Didier sharing her story about her beloved son.



Thien Ho and Sacramento Police Chief Kathy Lester

across California. It's been ten years since the proposition passed, and they believe it is time to change things. Interested folks can review the petition details and how to get involved go to: casafecommunities.com.

The presentation ended on a hopeful note. D.A. Ho believes Sacramento has

been sleeping, and although it's a slow process, she is waking up. The sunrise is coming, and our Thien Ho is welcoming us with coffee.

To review the entire presentation and learn more about the Sacramento District Attorney's office, go to: sacda.org. ★

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Local Author Calls Up Baseball Fans with New Book

By Tamara Warta

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (MPG) - The San Francisco Giants baseball team clearly has countless fans across Northern California, and have inspired many young baseball players to dream of going on to the Major Leagues themselves. One of those dreamers was Zak Ford, who grew up in the 1980s and 90s — the heyday of Candlestick Park.

Ford not only enjoyed cheering from the stands at many a Giants game growing up, but he also heralded from some pro-ball genetics. His great-uncle, Larry Powell, pitched in 14 professional seasons in the 1930s through 1950s. He was picked up by the Boston Red Sox out of spring training, but was released two weeks later. Powell was then signed by the Boston Braves, but again was released — this time after only one week. His MLB dreams died without ever stepping into a game.

Ford grew up knowing of Powell's experience, but never asked him how that journey felt. Instead, Powell

— who struggled to hit .200 throughout his own Little League years — decided to write about baseball instead.

Ford's book, *Called Up: Ballplayers Remember Becoming Major Leaguers*, may not include Larry Powell's perspective, but it does delight readers with 109 stories of MLB players reflecting upon the moment they were called up to the big leagues. Written in a first-person narrative, it's a human interest book that will obviously be enjoyed by baseball fans, but written with such skill that it will also draw in readers that have limited knowledge of the process and history of the game.

"It really captures the feelings and emotions of becoming a MLB player," says Ford. "To be able to capture 109 stories about the achievement is something I'm very glad of being capable to do."

Out of the 109 featured in the book, about 10 of them are local to the Sacramento region — those that either came out of the area, and reside in the Sacramento region now.

Ford himself grew up in the Rancho Cordova area and now lives in Cameron Park. He works in workforce development policy, which aims to improve outcomes for people with disabilities. He was also a member of the Folsom-Cordova School Board from 2010-2018.

Ford clearly has a passion and enthusiasm for people and bettering the world around him, but the world of baseball — and later writing about it — has always captured him.

"I've always been a fan of baseball dating back to when I was a 7- or 8-year-old kid," says Ford. "I kind of realized that I was going to have to choose a different avenue for me to find my niche in the game and decided to pursue writing. I've basically been doing it as a hobby since I was a teenager. One of the goals I've always had was to write a baseball book, and now at 45 [years old] I've achieved it."

To write the book, Ford interviewed former MLB players for about two and a half years. When asked what stories really stuck out to

him, Ford took a thoughtful pause to answer.

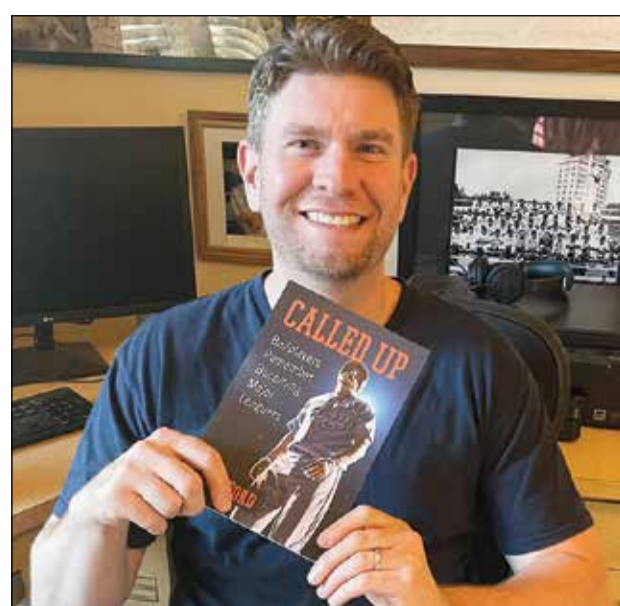
"All of these players had to exhibit extreme dedication and perseverance to meet the goal of becoming a MLB player," he said. "All of them are great inspirational stories. I grew up a Giants fan, and I was able to capture the stories of some of the guys who came up with the Giants during the time I was a young baseball fan. Those are the stories that stick out to me."

Sean Estes, who is now active with Giants broadcasts, is one example of a player that shared his story of being a number one pick.

"It took him four or five years to reach the major leagues," Ford recalls. "He was up in the major leagues for the majority of the next 12 or 13 years."

The lesson to be learned? Never give up on your dreams.

"There are many stories that show ups and downs, that show hardship and overcoming adversity. It's an inspirational book about going through that journey and showing dedication and perseverance," said Ford.



Zak Ford, author of *Called Up: Ballplayers Remember Becoming Major Leaguers*. Photo courtesy of Zak Ford

Since his book's publication, Ford has done virtual presentations for baseball groups, as well as a local book signing. He's also working on a second book. Potentially entitled *Next Up*, the new manuscript will focus on MLB players' lives in the normal workforce outside of baseball — perhaps disproving the belief that all MLB players retire wealthy.

"The vast majority of them need to have jobs after their

playing careers," says Ford.

"There are players that have had pretty big challenges trying to find what's next, while others have that hustling mentality they picked up in baseball that serve them well after their playing days. That scrappy mentality has paid off."

It has paid off for this successful local author as well. You can keep up with Zak's career by visiting his website, zakford.com. ★



VOTE EARLY! AVOID LINES



March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election

Vote Early and Vote by Mail.

All voters will be mailed a ballot

- You should have received your official ballot in the mail.

You can return your ballot starting February 5th

- By mail, no postage necessary
- At a Ballot Drop Box
- At a Vote Center (starting February 24th)

You can find a full list of Ballot Drop Boxes and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide, in your mail ballot packet, or at www.elections.saccounty.gov

Vote Early! Vote by Mail.

Update your language preference

Every registered voter will receive an official ballot in the mail containing contests, candidates, and voting instructions in your preferred language. If you prefer your ballot and voter information in Spanish, Chinese, or Vietnamese, update your language preference online by scanning this QR code or call (800) 762-8019.



The Presidential Primary is Party Specific

During the March 5, 2024 Presidential Primary Election voters will nominate one presidential candidate from each party to run against each other in the November 5, 2024 General Election. To vote for the presidential candidate you want in the primary election, ensure you are registered with your preferred party by visiting www.elections.saccounty.gov or calling our office at (800) 762-8019.



If you would like to change your party, reregister at: registertovote.ca.gov or scan:

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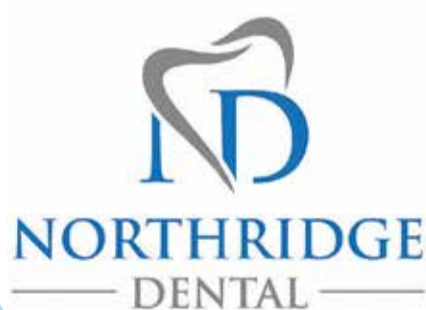
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Captain Joseph House Foundation Holds Feb. 17 Informational Fundraiser at El Camino High

Captain Joseph House Foundation News Release

(SACRAMENTO, CA) (MPG) - Captain Joseph House Foundation, which opened in 2022, will share information about the development, growth and status of the Gold Star Family program on Feb. 17.

This is the first such presentation in a community with a donor-rich base of support, according to Captain Joseph House Foundation founder Betsy Schultz. The foundation is in memory of Special Forces Army CPT. Joseph Schultz, her son and an El Camino High School graduate. Joseph Schultz was killed in Afghanistan on Memorial Day weekend, May 29, 2011.

The nonprofit foundation's mission is to honor Fallen Heroes through remembering and caring for their Gold Star Families left behind, according to Schultz, a Gold Star mother.

Within days of her son's death, Schultz recognized that something was missing in the continuum of care for Families of our Fallen Heroes: the opportunity to bond with others experiencing a similar loss.

Forming the nonprofit Captain Joseph House Foundation, Schultz donated her large "bed and breakfast" to the organization and began converting it into a respite home for Gold Star Families.

Gold Star Families from every military branch and from every state in the U.S. may



Joseph Schultz and his proud mother, Betsy Schultz, was taken in 2010 when the El Camino High graduate earned his Green Beret in North Carolina. Photo courtesy of Special Forces Army CPT

qualify for the Family-to-Family respite program. A respite week, with up to three families meeting together, provides an opportunity for sharing a common love and loss, Schultz said. It is also a time to celebrate the life of one's hero and build new relationships that can last beyond the week at Captain Joseph House, located in Port Angeles, Washington.

There are no fees for the families, which includes roundtrip airfare, daily transportation, lodging, all meals and recreational activities. Volunteers, in-kind, discounted services and financial donations to the foundation made it possible to open the doors of the house to welcome Gold Star Families in 2022, Schultz said.

"Your donations have been sincerely appreciated," Schultz said.

"Fundraising will continue to ensure this opportunity will be available for Gold Star Families to participate in future years."

The Captain Joseph House Foundation's State of the Foundation is from 7 to 9 p.m. Feb. 17 at El Camino High School Center for the Arts, 4300 El Camino Ave., Sacramento. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Admission is \$25 per ticket and free for anyone 19 years old and younger. Tickets are available at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/6232423> or <https://m.bpt.me/event/6232423> or at the door.

For more information, call 360-460-7848 or go online to www.CaptainJosephHouseFoundation.org or [Facebook.com/CPTJosephHouse](https://www.facebook.com/CPTJosephHouse).



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*Since the State of California requires that tax be paid on all retail sales, we reduce the purchase price by an amount equal to the tax on the reduced purchase price except "Special Buys", all "Mega Clearance", Serta Arctic and iComfort products. Offers not available in conjunction with any other promotion, discount, or financing. Offers not available on previous purchases. Sale ends 2/25/24.