

Girl Scouts Kick off 2024 Cookie Season

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CHP Celebrates 96 New Officers

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nol Park News

VOL 33 • ISSUE 01

Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

Students Take the Stage!

JANUARY 12, 2024



SCPH AWARDED GRANT FOR CHILD SAFETY ED



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VOLUNTEER AWARD NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN



MEET PARKS

COMMISSIONER

JOE FLORES

PAGE 2

Story by Kristina Rogers, photos by CKM VAPA students

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Good theater keeps the drama on stage while those

tle to ensure the magic works. There is serious alchemy brewing at C.K. McClatchy High School's Visual and Performing Arts program (aka VAPA). The

theater is where students discover themselves, build friendships and learn life-

gled school schedules

then remained on campus until 9 p.m. preparing for a show. Like all productions, the students are in charge. A set designer sketches the designs and creates

Continued on Page 7



SacRT Holding Two Hiring **Events in January**

SacRT News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -

The Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) is hosting two in-person hiring events specifically to help bring onboard more bus drivers and fill other essential positions. SacRT offers extremely generous and competitive benefits for medical, dental, paid sick leave, retirement, and tuition reimbursement. Also, signing bonuses are available for bus

Hiring Event Details:

Thursday, January 11, 2024, 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Friday, January 19, 2024 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location:

drivers.

SacRT Auditorium 1400 29th St., Sacramento,

(Accessible by bus routes 38, 67, and 68, light rail to the 29th Street Station, and SmaRT Ride)

SacRT is hiring for several bus driver positions, including full-time and part-time positions, and will provide paid training and assistance with obtaining necessary permits and commercial driver

licenses (CDL).

Some of SacRT's open

positions include:

-Bus Operators -Paratransit Operator

-Paratransit Dispatcher

-Rail Maintenance Worker -Safety Specialist

-Security Operations Center Specialist

-Transit Ambassador

Candidates should bring

a valid ID and employment history (last 10 years of work).

SacRT is offering free rides for candidates attending the hiring event; they simply need to print or screenshot the free ride flyer.

Learn more about the hiring events at sacrt.com/ hiringevents.



VAPA teachers Mollie Morrison and Tylen Einweck.

behind the scenes hus-

long skills.

from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.,

Recently, the kids jug-

Classic Car Unity Picnic Rings in 2024



PAGE 2

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Story and photos by Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) -The annual Lowrider Unity Picnic rang in the new year in Land Park on January 1, 2024. Impalas, Chevys, Pontiacs and more filled the Land Park Panhandle. The scent of barbecue tri-tip and hot dogs floated through the air while Lowriders from all over California, Nevada and Washington came to show off their classic cars. Land Park neighbors stopped by to view the beautiful autos and wish each other a

Happy New Year. The event began at 8 a.m. and ended by 4:30 p.m. Drivers then moved to downtown to cruise the State Capitol. Car club leaders of Majestics, Fear None, Good Intentions and Family First helped organize the panhandle event. Several club members remained to pick up trash and clean up afterwards. This event is considered a tradition to the lowrider community.





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LandParkSacNews.com

2 • LAND PARK NEWS **JANUARY 12, 2024**

Joe Flores

Interview by Kristina Rogers. photos by Joe Flores

Recently, I sat down with Joe Flores at Barrio Café to learn about his position.

What is the role of a parks commissioner?

"I am a liaison between neighbors, the city council office, and the parks department. I am the unfiltered voice for these groups. I assist in creating events and advocating on behalf of all three. We have over 230 public parks across the city. Each has different neighborhood groups and park stewards with whom I communicate.

I meet with eleven other park commissioners once a month at City Hall. Most of our time is behind the scenes, meeting folks for coffee chats and community events. That's where the true work happens."

How did you become a parks commissioner?

"District 7 Council Member Rick Jennings appointed me. There is a stipend to attend monthly meetings, but it's a volunteer position. The term is four years, and I'm in my second year."

How have you partnered with the community?

"Last September, I put together a tree-planting event in William Land Park. We had 20 trees to plant. I first contacted the Land Park Community Association to see if they would partner with me. Then, I got volunteers from a local high school and city college. When there are trees to plant in a park on a lovely day, the answer is usually yes, but I still must ask. Together, many hands make light work!"

What kind of projects are



Joe Flores in William Land Park.

you working on this year?

"In January, I am working with the South Pocket Homeowners Association to plant ten trees in Marriott Park. Later, I plan to help a neighborhood group near Cervantes Park create a native plant garden. Later this year, the Del Rio Trail will have a ribbon cutting. I am talking with Rick Jennings and several neighborhood associations to celebrate the moment.

Finally, each parks commissioner hosts 916 Day every September. I'm still trying to figure out what to do for it this year. If you have any ideas, I'm all ears."

Why do you volunteer?

"My parents were in public service, and my dad was in law enforcement. My grandparents owned a Mexican restaurant for over thirty years. My great-grandparents were also business owners. Public service is deep in my blood. I take my son to events so he will be the next generation.

It's the literal planting of seeds where your work will outlive you. When I advocate for youth, their wins feel like my wins. You become a family by teaming up and putting

in sweat equity together. That's what keeps me going as a volunteer."

Who would be a good fit for the Parks Commissioner role?

"A social person who likes to volunteer and interact with their community. Someone who wants to make a positive impact and can navigate government systems. This is hard work. There will be many "no's," but it takes someone to celebrate the "yeses" and allow them to grow. It seems thankless and challenging, but when you see the smiles, it's all worth it.

For example, I spotted graffiti on a sign in a Pocket-Greenhaven park. It was a holiday weekend and there were no city services, so I went and scrubbed the graffiti off. Some pickleballers and Girl Scouts noticed me and stopped to help. It was that spirit of volunteerism that kept me energized. It was a great example of community ownership in the park. It only takes one person to "spark" and activate others. As parks commissioner, you get to be that spark."

People can reach out to Joe Flores at acatl2000@ gmail.com.

Meet Parks Commissioner 5 Over 50 Volunteer Award **Nominations Open**

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Sacramento County is celebrating individuals who are 50 years of age and older who dedicate their time, energy, and passion to making our community a better place. The Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission is now taking applications for its 5 Over 50 Volunteer Award.

Nominees must be 50 years of age or older, actively involved in volunteer work, and residents of Sacramento County. If you know someone who meets the criteria and has made an impact in Sacramento County, nominate them for the 5 Over 50 Volunteer Award. Learn more about the application process and access the form by visiting the Adult and Aging Commission page. Two letters of reference are required. The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 9.

The 5 Over 50 Awards will be presented on May 21 during a Sacramento County



Over 50 Volunteer Nominations now open. Photo courtesy of Sacramento County

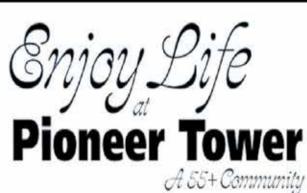
Board of Supervisors meeting. The award is presented in May to coincide with Older Americans Month. Five nominees will receive the award, with one person selected from each district within Sacramento County.

Sacramento County's Adult and Aging Commission members look forward to celebrating the winners. The 5 Over 50 Award not only recognizes these individuals for their hard work but also celebrates their impact in making Sacramento County a great place to



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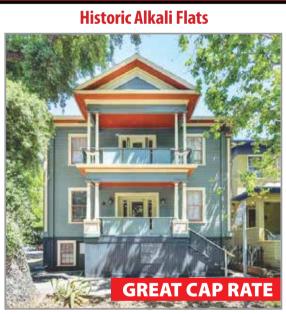
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CHP Celebrates 96 New Officers

By Debra Dingman **MPG Editor**

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Many people spend years begrudging the California Highway Patrol because they were pulled over by a CHP Officer for some reason they did not feel was warranted. But after attending one of the graduations at the California Highway Patrol Academy in Sacramento, one might easily hold feelings of respect and honor instead.

Every facet of the program was succinctly orchestrated from being directed where to park to lining up to enter the event. Guests were greeted professionally with a genuine smile by blue-shirted cadets. Hundreds of family members waited in anticipation.

Upon entering the huge gymnasium with rows and rows of seats, one saw an entire wall of 4 x 8-feet photos of pictures—each portraying a different division of the service including SWAT Team, Mounted Horse Patrol, Academy Instruction, Road Patrol, Air Operations, Motor Officer, Motorcycle and Bicycle Patrols. What they didn't show was task force members, Headquarters and Division Personnel uniformed and Nonuniformed. Dispatchers, Auto Theft Task Forces, Commercial Enforcement Personnel, K-9s and more.

"There have been thousands of officers in this place," said Jim Ward, a retired CHP Officer who lives in Dixon. "But, it is far from routine. This is extraordinary. You are seeing less than 3-percent of those who actually apply." Ward served for 16 years on the Santa Ana freeway before moving to northern California duties.

Soon after the families and friends were seated, nearly 100 men and women marched into the California Highway Patrol Academy graduation ceremony with eyes straight ahead and showing serious faces wearing the traditional CHP uniform symbolizing authority and professionalism: the camel-colored pants, olive green jacket, and the cream-colored Trooper hat.

Commissioner Sean Duryee opened the ceremony and spoke about CHP training which is revered worldwide and consists of a regulated system of academics, exercise, diet, and self-discipline. Those honored had just completed the 6-month live-in Academy where their commitment meant missed birthdays, anniversaries, births of children, and holidays.

He told how they would receive their badge number and badge stating they would stay with them for life and talked about what each point of the star represents: character, integrity, judgment, loyalty, courtesy, honor, and knowledge.

"You've earned the right to wear it," he said. "That badge belongs to the people behind you. That badge represents the trust they have in vou." He also spoke to the graduates about their futures. "The tragedies of others will become your daily routine. You will show empathy, take time to listen, give a shoulder to cry on, and show compassion.

Don't ever become cocky or arrogant. The moment you stop learning and growing, you start limiting your future."

Keynote speaker Barbara Rooney, California Office of Traffic Safety Director shared the wide variety of backgrounds that the graduates came from. There were a couple musicians, EMTs, and firefighters.

"Almost all branches of the military are represented here and 1st to 3rd and even 4th generations of officers in the family. There was a preschool teacher, marathon runner, private pilot, computer engineer, and even a juggler," she said. "Ten have received the Governor's Medal of Honor."

She reminded them they were all joining a 100-yearold agency created in 1929 to provide uniform traffic law enforcement throughout California, assuring the safe, convenient and efficient transportation of people and goods on its highway system.

"Now, there are 7,000 uniform personnel in our state with 40 million people," she said congratulating them.

The governor added his remarks through a televised message.

"I'm adding my voice to the chorus who honors you," said Governor Gavin Newsom. "We have the 5th largest law enforcement agency in the country and you have earned our respect and trust. We extend our gratitude, thanks, and welcome."

A video presentation of the extensive training followed and the audience saw situational experiences where cadets were drilled on how to fight criminals and save lives.

Special recognitions were given for class officers, marksmanship, outstanding athlete, and most inspirational cadet. Afterwards, they lined in front of the buildings for the official 'badge pinning' while taking photos with proud spouses and family members. They will earn a generous base salary of \$109,248 during their first year plus full health and dental benefits for themselves and their families.

The ceremony is one of three per year and was closed with the entire graduating class reciting the Code of



The large photos of various roles of CHP officers were displayed from chin-lift bars in the



Filing into their graduation ceremony, new CHP Officers were captured in photos by hundreds of proud families. Photos by Debra Dingman

Honor with raised right hands swearing that they "would lay down their life rather than swerve from the line of duty."

Watch Soon

The CHP has just released to the public an inside look at its live-in training facility with this month's programming of the new reality series, Cadets. Premiering Jan. 17 on the CHP's YouTube page, the nine-part docuseries focuses on a cadet class navigating the six-month journey through the CHP Academy on the way to becoming officers.

The release of Cadets is part of the CHP's ongoing, multi-year recruitment campaign to recruit and hire 1,000 officers. A trailer for the series, produced entirely by CHP staff, is available online.

"Cadets is not just a series; it's a testament to the CHP's commitment to excellence, diversity, and the relentless pursuit of transforming individuals from all walks of life into dedicated officers ready to serve the community," said the Commissioner Duryee. "We are excited to offer a start-to-finish look inside our Academy as future law enforcement officers are brought to life."

Viewers will "ride along" with nine cadets as they overcome physical and mental adversity throughout the journey to earning their badge and becoming a CHP officer. The audience will also hear firsthand from the cadets as they speak candidly about their experience.

"By sharing their experiences, in their own words, we hope to inspire more service-minded individuals to follow in their footsteps and join us for a rewarding career in law enforcement," added Commissioner Duryee.



Sue Olson 916-601-8834

sue@sueolson.net CalBRE# 00784986

landparkhomes.com



LAND PARK

Large corner lot in Land Park. Enjoy this remodeled "move-in" condition 2 bd. / 2 bath home on a lovely tree lined street. Beautifully refinished hardwood floors in the spacious living room with bay window, plantation shutters, fireplace with insert and recessed lighting with dimmer. Enjoy cooking in the delightfully remodeled kitchen with quartz counters, under counter recessed lighting, stainless steel dishwasher & sink, gas range / oven and three door pantry. Both bedrooms have ceiling fans and wood floors. Hall bathroom has restored cast iron tub with shower and vanity with marble counter. Second bath is in the back bedroom and features a large tiled shower. Plantation shutters throughout, many dual paned windows, inside laundry room with cabinets, folding area and access to back porch. Two driveways, single car garage. 3041 17th Street



LAND PARK

Nestled in the heart of Land Park on a tree lined street, this spacious three-bedroom 2.5 bath home features formal tiled entry, living room with fireplace & bookshelves, oversized formal dining room with window overlooking backyard, galley type kitchen with island eating area, stainless steel appliances, tiled backsplash and access to patio. Downstairs desk area with adjoining bath, and TV / gathering room with sliding door to yard. Three upstairs bedrooms, updated hall bath with new vanity, floor and shower. Primary bedroom with large walk-in closet, updated bath with shower over tub. Lots of wood floors, central heat and air, basement and two-car garage. Backyard covered patio with privacy drapes, brick fence and small storage shed. Don't miss this one! 1154 Swanston Dr. \$1,075,000



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ABOUT TOWN

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@ crawfordbooks.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.

Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink Open Nov. 8 - Jan. 15

Sharpen your skates and perfect your triple axel—the Downtown Sacramento Ice Rink returns to the heart of the city on November 8! Feel a chill blow down K street as you approach Ali Youssefi Square and be teleported into a winter wonderland at the ice rink.

Regular Hours Tuesday - Thi

Tuesday - Thursday 2 - 9 PM, Friday - Sunday 10 AM - 10 PM, Closed Mondays except for holidays.

Special Events

Dec. 9 – Xfinity Free Skate

Dec. 10 - Crafting Kindness

Dec. 16 – Silent Disco Ugly Sweater Party Dec. 17 – First Step

Communities Donation
Jan. 7 - Crafting

Tickets are available at the entrance to the rink

Kindness

when you arrive to skate.

For more info about holiday hours and scheduled events, visit www.godown townsac.com/events/signature-events/ice-rink/

Breakfast With Santa at the Elks Lodge Dec. 17

Two of the best kept secrets in Sacramento are at Elks Lodge 6.

The first secret is they have a wonderful breakfast every Sunday from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Keep it a secret from the kids, but Santa will be there on Saturday, December 17th.

The breakfast will be closed on December 24th and 31st for the holidays.

The breakfast starts with a wonderful omelet The rest of the menu includes: pancakes, french toast, waffles, and biscuits and gravy. There is also potatoes, sausage, bacon, and of course either orange or tomato juice. Don't forget the coffee! All of that for \$15, and children under 10 are half price. That price includes tax and tip [donations to the Purple Pig are encouraged].

That second best secret is the Elks have an indoor swimming pool and athletic facilities with handball courts. While you are there you can have a tour of the facilities.

The Elks Lodge 6 is at 6446 Riverside Blvd.

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

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

family \$15 tax included

Made to order Omelets or eggs any way you want. Bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, waffles, coffee large parties should call for reservations

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

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

To sign-up or confirm schedule, join playtimes-cheduler.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

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (August 28, 2023) -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 Farmto-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 Farmto-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-tofork 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

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

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 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.suttersfort.org

Elks 6 Lodge Winter Blast February 24, 2024 Last year was a sellout

 You don't want to miss this great event.
 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.

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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Land Park News

Serving Land Park and Sacramento County

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Call Linda Pohl and Melissa Andrews for advertising or other inquires at 916-429-9901.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.







6 • Land Park News **JANUARY 12, 2024**



A regular reader wrote me last month to say, "We ALWAYS enjoy your columns and read them to our Sunday-school class."

I could hear the "but" coming in her compliment about the Chispa Project column when she asked, "May we hazard some chutzpah of our own by pointing out a grammar error?"

"You wrote, 'The school principal escorted Sara and I....' It should read '... escorted Sara and me...."

I slapped my forehead as I recognized the mistake that has haunted me in at least a half dozen columns. As my proofreader tells me, "The correct pronoun following any verb is the objective pronoun: me, him, her, us, them. It's never I or myself."

Sadly, both my proofreader and my wife schoolteacher wife missed it this time.

I can't begrudge people their grammar peeves. My wife gets in a dither anytime she sees a misplaced apostrophe.

Recently, she let out a shriek while typing an email. "What's wrong?" I asked, expecting a spider.

"I accidentally turned a plural into a possessive."

She was simply pale. I shrugged. Guess everyone has his or her battles.

I save my battles for people who insist on using what I call "comfort grammar." I call it that because it's used to comfort the bereaved. The language consists of at least four common phrases.

1. "Everything happens for a purpose."

When I hear this one, I

Issue Citation

want to scream, "Really? Is there a purpose for drunk drivers, tornadoes or incompetent medicine? I haven't found it."

I think it's better to tell the grief-stricken person, "God is here. I am here. We will walk through this together."

2. "They are in a better

If you heard that after losing a son or daughter, wouldn't you want to ask, "Why is that better than being with me?" Or maybe you'd be ready to conclude, "Then I want to go there

Maybe a better response would be, "Tell me about what you believe happens

after this life." 3. "I know how you feel."

I actually heard a woman say while commiserating with a new widower, "I know it's not the same thing, but I lost a dog once."

It's better to say, "I can't know how you feel, but I'd love to hear what she meant to you."

4. "God won't give you more burdens than you can handle."

Just one big problem with that comfort grammar - The Bible doesn't say that!

The phrase is a poor paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 10:13 which is more accurately paraphrased as "God will not allow us to be tempted beyond our ability to escape."

The verse refers to the temptation to steal, lie or cheat. It has nothing to do with the number of tragedies we experience. This misquote will often burden people with a message that God "gives" them calamities.

People who use this comfort grammar aren't really trying to comfort the bereaved. They are trying to wrap the tragedy into a neat box so they can assure themselves that it won't happen to them.

The truth is that comforting grieving people has nothing to do with saying the correct thing. It has nothing to do with your thoughts and prayers. Instead, it has everything to do with being present to those who hurt.

That's why I'm leaving you with this better alternative.

Don't speak. Just do.

Avoid the halfhearted offer, "IF there is anything I can do, just ask."

Don't make them ask. Just do.

At my father's funeral, my sister made a sign-up list for those who said, "If there's anything I can do....

"Yes," she said. "Here's our volunteer sign-up list."

Using the list, people agreed to answer phones, drive relatives to the airport or bring meals. One man agreed to mow my mother's lawn for a year.

Not everyone will know what to say to the anguished, so my best advice when you find yourself at a loss for words is

"Say little. Do much." The doing will say more

than you can ever imagine.

Send Chispa Project denotations, grammar corrections or comments to 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602 or by email comment@ thechaplain.net or at (843) 608-9715. For more on how to comfort the grieving, check out my books on my website at www.thechaplain.net.

Grammar Police Public Health Awarded Grant for Child Safety Seat Education

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY. CA (MPG) - In our continued effort to enhance child safety on the road, Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has once again joined forces with partner agency Mercy San Juan to continue the successful car seat safety program. Aimed at educating parents and caregivers on the proper installation and use of child safety seats, this initiative is made possible through a \$78,546 grant generously provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS).

The grant, which funds an array of community outreach events, prioritizes education classes and training sessions tailored to underserved and refugee communities. The comprehensive car seat safety program encompasses various components, all designed to empower parents and caregivers with the knowledge and resources needed to ensure the safety of their little ones as they travel.

Key features of the program include:

-Child Safety Seat Inspection Events and Education Classes: The initiative will host events dedicated to inspecting child safety seats and providing educational classes to parents and

-Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) Training and Recertification Courses: To bolster expertise in child passenger safety, the program will offer training and recertification courses for Child Passenger Safety

-No-Cost Child Safety Seats for Families in Need: Families facing financial constraints will have access to child safety seats at no cost, ensuring that economic barriers do not compromise the safety of children.

-Community Outreach Efforts in Underserved Communities: Collaborating with local organizations, the program will actively engage in community outreach efforts to promote car seat safety in underserved areas.

Dr. Kasirye, the Sacramento County Public Health Officer, highlighted the essential role of OTS grant funding in assisting families, caregivers, and education professionals in ensuring children's safety. Emphasizing that safeguarding children is a collective priority, "Properly secured car seats are pivotal in preventing harm to children in the unfortunate event of a crash," states Kasirye.

Sacramento County residents interested in learning more about the program can contact Riley Stoltenburg at StoltenburgR@saccounty.gov or call (916) 875-6094.

The funding for this critical program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Sacramento County remains committed to ensuring the safety of its youngest residents through proactive community engagement and education on proper car seat usage.







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JANUARY 12, **2024** LAND PARK NEWS • 7

McClatchy Students Get Lessons in Professional Stagecraft

Continued from Page 1 3D models for review. A carpentry team handles woodworking and installation. Costumes are pulled, assembled, and sewn by students as well. It's plenty of responsibility and pressure but they love it.

VAPA teachers Tylen Einweck and Mollie Morrison help students become "mini-professionals." They proudly say the new theater, which opened in 2018, provides the same lighting, equipment, and software found in Carnegie Hall. Einweck also helps students get headshots and build resumes. Several alums have jumped into professional theater work at Broadway at Music Circus, UCLA, and UC Berkeley.

Students' passion for the

arts is fueled by the feeling they can be themselves. VAPA Teacher Mollie Morrison says, "Theater can be competitive, but these kids focus on teamwork. They don't let a friend fall; when someone has a down day, others lift them up. They work together for creative problem-solving. It's all so good for their brains and emotions. And it's beautiful. I can see them blossoming before my

Colleague and theater teacher Tylen Einweck agrees. Einweck and Morrison's partnership began in 2016. Morrison was an avowed "theater nerd" living her dream as a new teacher in VAPA. Einweck's passion made him a force as a dependable

student director. After high school, he earned a degree at Los Angeles's prestigious AMDA College of the Performing Arts. Unfortunately, the pandemic dried up most arts jobs. Einweck boomeranged back to Sacramento after a call from Morrison about a new teacher position. Their partnership has created a solid blueprint: guide and support, then sit back and watch.

There are other benefits, too. Regardless of personal income, VAPA students can attend field trips. In 2023, forty-five students saw the Tony award-winning musical Hadestown. They also attended Hairspray and traveled to San Francisco to see Six. These are impactful moments for students who haven't had the opportunity

to experience professional theater.

These experiences cost money, and as a public school, VAPA relies on volunteers and ticket sales to pay the bills. A dedicated group of VAPA booster parents help organize fundraisers. Individual donors and community groups also help fill wish lists (lumber for sets can get pricey). Despite this support, some expenses are difficult. A decent sound system wasn't thoroughly considered during the theater remodel. The current system needs updating. Morrison and Einweck must rent a two-thousand-dollar sound system for each show. The added cost cuts into the program.

When I asked how much a new sound system would cost, Einweck replied, "A theater-quality system would run around thirty-thousand dollars. And it would also make us ADA-compliant. Right now, guests with auditory issues can't hear the plays." (Local philanthropists interested in funding a new sound system for the McClatchy High School Theater can contact Tylen Einweck at tylen-j-einweck@scusd.edu.)

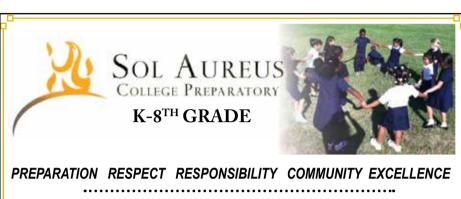
The students were busy

Students perform in the recent punk/emo version of Romeo and Juliet.

cleaning up from an emo/ punk version of Romeo and Juliet (available on the CKM VAPA YouTube channel https://www.youtube. com/@ckmvapa553). On closing night, students gave speeches at their cast party and handed out paper plate awards such as "most likely to give a pep-talk." They hugged, they cried, and then went home to start over on Monday.

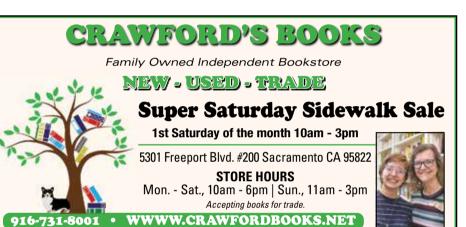
The "Little Women" musical will debut in the spring with a live orchestra. Get your tickets because, unlike Shakespeare, the show is copyrighted and cannot be recorded for later viewing. That means if you miss the show, you've missed it for good. Tylen Einweck explains, "Theater is naturally ethereal; it's special because it's here in this room with us for five days, and then it's gone. Then we do something new. You gotta see it while it's happening."

Visit the CKM VAPA website: https://ckmvapa. org/. Theater tickets are available for in-house shows and live streaming.



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8 • LAND PARK NEWS **JANUARY 12, 2024**

Girl Scouts of Northern California Kicks off 2024 Cookie Season

Girl Scouts of Northern California News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- Girl Scouts of Northern California will kick off their 2024 Cookie Season on January 29. Consumers in all 19 counties from Gilroy to the Oregon Border can support their local girl entrepreneurs by ordering from the iconic cookie lineup online at ilovecookies.org. Local shoppers can also locate cookie booths starting February 11 for in-person cookie sales. The 2024 Northern California cookie season will run through March 17, and all cookie flavors are \$6 a box (shipping fees additional).

This season, cookie lovers can enjoy the full assortment of Girl Scout Cookies,

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including Thin Mints, Trefoils, Samoas, Tagalongs, Do-Si-Dos, Lemon Ups, Toffee-tastic, Girl Scout S'mores, and Adventurefuls. Visit www.ilovecookies.org for more information.

Girls Scouts of Northern California is one of the largest councils in the country, offering unique outdoor experiences, civic engagement, entrepreneurship opportunities, skill-building, leadership, and fun. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the cookie program are used locally and provide critical funds for girls' access to affordable programming, the outdoors, camp and program centers, STEM, financial aid, and volunteer support services. Girl Scouts and their troops depend on these funds to support their community service efforts.

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This year, over 16,000 Girl Scouts in Northern California will participate in the cookie entrepreneurship program with the goal of selling \$4.3M packages of cookies.

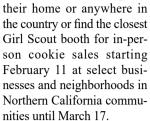
"I am thrilled to kick off another exciting cookie season and to support our cookie entrepreneurs in having a fun and successful year," said Bri Seoane, CEO of Girl Scouts of Northern California. "Each vear, these budding entrepreneurs impress us with their dedication to achieving their goals and supporting local initiatives. Through this program, they contribute to their communities and gain invaluable life and business skills that will serve them for a lifetime. I am immensely proud of each and every participant!"

acquire essential life skills, including money management, team building, public speaking, and decision-making. Girl Scouts can earn a variety of badges and awards to develop valuable business skills, including Cookie Business badges, Financial Literacy badges, Cookie Entrepreneur Family pins, and Entrepreneur badges. Ultimately, this entrepreneurship program serves as a vital steppingstone, equipping girls and gender-expansive youth with lifelong skills, and instilling a deep sense of confidence that they will carry into the future.

How to Purchase Girl Scout Cookies This Year

Starting January 29, consumers can source Girl Scout online via digital cookie stores at ilovecookies. org and have their favorite

Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts of Northern California. cookies delivered straight to



About Girl Scouts of Northern California

The mission of Girl Scouts

of Northern California is

to build girls of courage, www.gsnorcal.org.

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ship of over 24,000 youth

and over 21,000 adult vol-

unteers in a 19-county area

that stretches from Gilroy to

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