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Land Park News

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Bringing You Community News For Over 30 Years

JUNE 7, 2024

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Disabled Veteran Gets 'Best Buddy'



It's love at first sight when Veteran Dennis Deutscher meets his new friend, golden retriever Lily.

**Story and photos
by Susan Maxwell Skinner**

CITRUS HEIGHTS, CA (MPG) - A four-legged friend has quadrupled happiness for a Mather veteran with PTSD syndrome. Former US Navy electrician Dennis Deutscher (55) recently took delivery of a service-puppy-in-training, golden retriever Lily.

"It's one of the brighter experiences of my life," says Deutscher. "For me and Lily, the sky is blue and the sky's the limit."

The adoption was made possible by a recent "Ride For Reason" fundraiser for the Carmichael-based Higher Purpose Foundation. Fronted by Tesla rock band singer Jeff Keith, the nonprofit organization sponsored a 400-rider motorbike convoy from Folsom to Roseville.

Although the event collided with a rainstorm, Keith and friends hung tough and raised \$24,000. Proceeds will help youth in foster programs and have provided Deutscher with a gold-coated companion.

The veteran and pup introduction brought tears to many eyes. At All Stage Canine Development in Citrus Heights, the 12-week-old golden retriever jumped from
Continued on Page 5



Julie Van Houten is the new St. Francis Catholic High School assistant principal. Photo by Bill Smith Photography

New Asst. Principal Named at St. Francis

St. Francis Catholic High School News Release

EAST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - St. Francis Catholic High School is proud to announce Julie Van Houten as its new assistant principal.

Van Houten, who holds a Master of Arts in education, is a member of the executive staff and has been serving as the social studies department chair for the past two years. She will assume her new role effective July 1.

"St. Francis is an amazing school that needs to be celebrated," said Van Houten. "As a current teacher and parent of a St. Francis student, I have a strong understanding of the academic, social and emotional needs of the key stakeholders: students, families and teachers."

"I am excited about the opportunity to continue working and collaborating in an environment where I can contribute to the quality of an all-girls faith-based education," she said.

Van Houten started in the Elk Grove Unified School District in 2001 and joined St. Francis Catholic High School in 2016 as a social studies teacher, including AP U.S. history and AP government and politics.

Van Houten is also an adjunct professor at Sacramento State University where she teaches aspiring multiple subject and social science teachers.

"We are excited to have Julie take on this position of leadership at St. Francis," said Principal Elias Mendoza. "Her time as a faculty representative on our executive staff, her innovative approach to curriculum and instructional delivery, and her passion for the mission of St. Francis make her the perfect choice."

Volunteer for Capital Airshow



A California Capital Airshow volunteer guides a budding aviation enthusiast through one of the Airshow's interactive exhibits.

California Capital Airshow News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - California Capital Airshow, presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, invites community members to sign up as airshow volunteers for the 2024 Airshow.

This year's Airshow at Mather Airport on July 13 and 14 features aerial performances by Italian Jet Team Frecce Tricolori and the United States Air Force Thunderbirds Jet

Demonstration Team.

More than 1,000 community members make up the corps of volunteers that help bring the California Capital Airshow to life each year. The Airshow is looking for adults, age 18 and older, to volunteer.

"Airshow volunteers play a vital role in supporting California Capital Airshow's mission to inspire the next generation through the wonder of flight," said Darcy Brewer, executive director of the California Capital Airshow. "Their efforts make a huge impact for our nonprofit and they

get to build a sense of community while enjoying the behind-the-scenes excitement of producing a truly spectacular event."

Volunteers will be fed and provided with water throughout the day, in addition to receiving a commemorative "Airshow Crew" T-shirt, the opportunity to make new friends, and the Airshow team's deepest gratitude for supporting this nonprofit event.

Those interested are encouraged to complete volunteer registration at californiacapitalairshow.com/become-a-volunteer. ★

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LandParkSacNews.com

Alice Astafan Shares Her Story

Retired Major General Highlights Achievements (and Challenges) in New Memoir

By Annie Kerr

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Being the first female two-star general in the Air Force Reserves is only one of 85-year-old trailblazer Alice Astafan's many accomplishments. She was also a CEO, worked at the Pentagon, was personally appointed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and is now a published author.

But that's merely scratching the surface. Astafan's memoir, "Lady Leader Leaves Lasting Legacy," takes the reader through a detailed journey of her extraordinary life, leaving inspiration and courage along the way.

Messenger Publishing Group had a recent conversation with Astafan at her Carmichael home. Tucked away in a peaceful neighborhood, the Astafan house is warm and inviting. Astafan is quick-witted, energetic and wildly interesting. "Why do newspaper people care so much about my age?" she laughed when asked.

A longtime Carmichael resident, Astafan hails from a farm in rural Alabama, which is obvious when her honey-sweet Southern accent comes out. Born Nora Alice Davidson, she spent her childhood among eight other siblings (seven also served in the military), helping with farmwork and living off the land.

Dreaming of a bigger life, she later put herself through the University of Alabama by working various jobs on campus. There she studied biology and chemistry. "Roll Tide!" she said at one point of the newspaper interview,

alluding to the Alabama slang.

Astafan was first inspired to serve her country when she attended a movie theater at age 19. She saw a cutout of a woman dressed in an Air Force uniform, advertising women's enrollment in Officer Training School. This piqued her interest, so she joined the Air Force in 1960, where she would become very successful. Little did she know that she would go on to make history as the first female two-star general in the Air Force Reserves. To clarify, a two-star general is nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Being one of the only women among thousands of men in the Air Force, it would be safe to assume there was some disadvantage due to the time period. However, Astafan was sure to point out, she didn't face much sexism or prejudice in the military, and if anything, the men she worked with were protective and supportive of her. Astafan reminisced that they recognized her work ethic and loyalty and gave her the promotions she deserved.

"Throughout my career, I had 42 male supervisors and they all treated me with great respect," she said.

Astafan's military career lasted 38 years, taking her throughout the world. Her duties included developing and finalizing logistics plans, inventorying war readiness material, coordinating and planning support for aircraft and hundreds of personnel, and much more.

From Thailand to Austria to England to Africa, she

traveled near and far, eventually landing at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City in 1965, where she met her future husband, Peter Astafan, a civilian employee. The pair married in a small ceremony in 1968.

"He was perfect," Astafan said. "He didn't have a jealous bone in his body."

When Peter was assigned to Fort McClellan in 1973, he and Astafan moved to Carmichael. Shortly after their move, the Astafans welcomed a baby boy named Patrick. He would be their only child. To juggle motherhood and her booming career, Astafan stepped down from her 13-year stint of active duty and joined the Air Force Reserves. This gave her more ability to care for Patrick and still do the job she loved. Impressing all her supervisors, it was only a few years later in 1988 when she was named a general and received her first star.

What made Astafan so successful? She said it was all about following the Air Force mission, being a team player and working to the best of her ability. Her grit and determination were recognized and she proved herself capable every single time she was promoted.

While continuing her successful career, the unimaginable happened when Patrick was diagnosed with leukemia in 1992. While Patrick was fighting leukemia, Astafan somehow kept rising up the military ladder, traveling and working in logistics at the Pentagon, officially receiving her second star in

1993, while also supporting her son.

Unfortunately, Patrick lost his hard-fought battle in 1994 at age 20, which turned Astafan's world upside down.

"He was a jewel, he really was," Astafan said. Patrick's legacy has since been honored with a scholarship fund in his name at both Oklahoma Christian University and California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), which has helped fund nearly 200 students' education.

Then in 2021, Peter died from retrograde amnesia, which was another unimaginable loss.

"We had been married for 53 years, four months, and nine days. My life will never be the same," Astafan wrote in her memoir.

When asked how she kept going after losing both her husband and son, Astafan points to sky, referring to God. She honors both Patrick and Peter in her memoir's Chapter 15, "My Soulmate and My Angel – Love is the Greatest Blessing of All".

After retiring from the Air Force in 1998, Astafan immediately dove into a new role as the CEO of the Federal Technology Center, which works with state, federal, and local government contracts. She stayed in that role for 10 years. In addition, she was appointed by former Gov. Schwarzenegger to serve as the chairperson on the California Veterans Board. She served on 20 boards of directors with no compensation, wrote and gave 100 speeches across the country, was the grand



Dressed in her red, white, and blue, Alice Astafan poses proudly with her book in her office. Photo by Annie Kerr

marshal of the Sacramento and Elk Grove Veteran's Day parades, and even got her master's in both early childhood education and international affairs from California State University at Sacramento.

Astafan hopes her passion for this country will inspire American youth to serve their country, chase their dreams and believe in themselves.

"Quite frankly, the country needs women to serve," Astafan said. "We need good honest people to serve our nation so our way of life can forever be safe and in place. Why do so many people want to come to America? Think about it."

She provides words of wisdom to young people: "You do not have to be born with a silver spoon in your mouth. You can dream big, set goals, work honestly and diligently, and become most anything in America. Also, it is not

what happens to you along the way, it is how you handle those things. Life is short; it is like a drop of dew on a blade of grass; in the morning it is there but it is soon over. Make your time on this Earth count for something!"

There is so much more to her story. Astafan has lived what can only be described as a remarkable life and has changed the lives of others, as well. Devoted to every role she has had, whether it was picking cotton on her childhood farm, being a wife and mother, a mentor, a CEO or a two-star general, Astafan has lived a life full of hard work, selflessness, patriotism and integrity.

Leaving no stone unturned, Astafan's book is filled to the brim with her past speeches, every article written about her and a vast array of photos. It is now available to purchase on her website (aliceastafan.com) or on Amazon. ★



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Honoring General Bud Anderson

Aerospace Museum of California News Release

MCCELLAN, CA (MPG) - On May 17 at 5:29 p.m., World War II Triple Ace Brigadier General Clarence E "Bud" Anderson passed away in his home peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family. He was 102.

Brigadier General Anderson, a true American hero, achieved more than 16 victories in aerial combat during World War II while flying his P-51 Mustang, Old Crow. Throughout his distinguished military career, Anderson flew three different models of the P-51 Mustang, all proudly bearing the name and paint

scheme of "Old Crow."

The Aerospace Museum of California "extends heartfelt condolences for the passing of this remarkable U.S. Air Force pilot. His bravery and dedication to our country's freedom will forever be honored and remembered at the Aerospace Museum of California.

Our world is a better place because of him and the incredible legacy that he leaves behind. Always a kind gentleman and a true friend of the museum, Bud graciously signed autographs, answered any questions, and offered a firm handshake accompanied by his warm Anderson smile. He generously shared his incredible



A young Bud Anderson is happy to serve his country.

stories and personal artifacts with the public and his contributions have enriched our understanding of history and inspired countless individuals.

A hero, legend, fighter ace, role model, and American icon, may he forever fly in blue skies. General Bud, you will always be remembered."

Learn all about his legacy and more at <https://toflyandfight.com/>.



Bud Anderson stands in front of his beloved Old Crow plane. Photos courtesy of the Aerospace Museum of California

Anderson has made many incredible contributions to aviation, and he will continue to inspire future generations to explore STEM careers. His love and passion for education are at the heart of the museum's mission to "honor the past and inspire the future through STEM education."

Service Salutes Heroes

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

CARMICHAEL, CA (MPG) - Carmichael's Vietnam Monument was last weekend central to Memorial Day commemorations. Flags, flowers, and memories were shared by more than 100 visitors.

US Army Brigadier General Don Currier (retired) gave the address. "The vast amount of this country's success has come because of sacrifices made so we could have our freedoms," considered Currier. "This great nation did not happen in a day; it took more than 200 years -- and the blood and toil of those who came before us.

"Heroes aren't found in sports arenas or movies,"



Carmichael Scouts raise flags for Memorial Day observances.

he continued. "They're found on battlefields. We all benefit from these heroes, and from the pain shouldered by their families."

Reverend Kathleen Marie gave the invocation. The La Sierra High graduate is sister to Thomas Pigg, one of 15 Vietnam war dead



Veterans and supporters gather for a Memorial Day service at the Vietnam Monument, Carmichael. The edifice commemorates La Sierra High School alumni who died in Vietnam.

Nature Area. Dedicated in 1972, it honors La Sierra High School alumni who fell in the long conflict.

Those commemorated are Robert D. Anderson, Mark W. Burchard, Robert S. Byrnes, Jerry Cowser,

Kenneth R. Escott, Gary R. Field, Herbert Frenzell, Frank Thornburg, Ralph Guarienti, Larry H. Morford, Thomas C. Pigg, Randall B. Rainville, Kim Richins, Jeffry Tharaldson and Robert A. Willis.

Koobs Nature Area is located at 5325 Engle Rd, Carmichael. Access is available first Saturdays monthly, March through October. For information go to Koobs Nature Area's Facebook page.

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PENDING!!

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LAND PARK

Stately French Colonial with all the upgrades of a New Build that showcases a contemporary flair w/ exposed steel columns and beams! Spacious formal entry with high ceilings and lovely stairwell. Downstairs offers formal dining, formal living room w/ fireplace, mantle and TV hook-up. Gathering room has an open floorplan to the kitchen for entertaining at it's BEST! Large sliding glass doors and rolling kitchen window both open to a large patio offering a great combination of an inside/outside feel. Kitchen has concrete counters and over-sized island to accommodate large gatherings. Included are two sinks, two dishwashers, Wolf range with two ovens & grill, pot filler, refrigerator w/double freezers, microwave and warming oven. Access to basement and bath off kitchen. Gathering room has two wine refrigerators. Upstairs landing offers two study areas, laundry closet and wrapping room. Four upstairs bedrooms and three baths. Primary bedroom has abundant closet space, balcony that overlooks the yard, pool, patio and hot tub. Spacious bathroom has a marble over-sized shower, tub, marble floors and dual sinks. Two car garage w/ an attached guest house (approximately 809 sq ft) includes bedroom, office, full bath and Cabana room that opens to yd. and pool area. **3628 19th Street \$2,500,000**

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LAND PARK

One of the most distinguished properties in all of Land Park! This beautiful and spacious Tudor has all the charm & artisan details of a bygone era. Located on a lg. corner lot it features an expansive front portico with two sets of French doors to living room. Spacious formal entry, magnificent living room w/cathedral ceilings, lg. brick fireplace, many windows and rich in woodwork. Spacious formal dining room w/wainscoting & Dutch doors to brick patio & bkyd. Beautiful kitchen w/marble counters, custom island w/ sink, dish cabinet w/leaded glass doors, pantry and eating area w/bay window. Two downstairs bdrms, one a guest bdrm w/bath. The other bdrm is set up as an office. Lg. hall bathroom featuring vintage tile. Detailed staircase leads upstairs to a large landing with storage closets. Two spacious upstairs bdrms share a bath w/shower. The oversized primary bdrm has French doors to a balcony. Primary bath has closets, tub, shower & storage. Random planked and hardwood floors throughout, laundry room w/sink, mudroom, basement, two car garage and new shake roof. Bkyd features multiple patio areas, fountain & mature landscaping. Studio apartment above garage with kitchenette and bath. **1901 11th Avenue \$2,495,000**

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The Kitchen Table Serves All

Local Shop is Centerpiece for Foodie Fans

Story and photos by
Kristina Rogers

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A delightful neon sign and retro-kitchen display say “Welcome to the Kitchen Table” at the East Sacramento store on 810 Alhambra Blvd. The owner, Susan O’Brien, was busy bringing in products from her car, speaking with staff, and putting the finishing touches on displays. For someone who appears so in charge, it may be surprising to know this is her first experience as a shop owner.

“I was a psychologist and decided it was time to leave, but I couldn't really retire. We still had kids at home.” She smiles, “My husband encouraged me to get another job, but when I decided to do this, he was surprised.”

As anyone knows, owning a business is not a nine-to-five endeavor. But O’Brien envisioned a kitchen boutique focused on carefully curated cooking tools and community gatherings. It was a niche area she didn’t see represented. She entered the 2017 Calling All Dreamers competition, produced by the Downtown Sacramento Partnership and became a finalist. “I didn’t win, but the learning and support I got through that process encouraged me to move forward independently.”

The Kitchen Table opened in the Fall of 2017, and since then, it has grown into two locations: Land Park and East Sacramento. The East Sac location just moved into a bigger space last March.



The new, larger East Sacramento store is at 810 Alhambra Blvd.

“This site is three times as big as the old one, which means we can do so much more here,” says O’Brien. And she is filling it up fast with eclectic kitchen bowls, high-end cookware, and locally sourced foods and décor.

The Land Park shop at 2665 Riverside Blvd. has been gaining attention since its grand opening in April 2023. The focal point for that store is a giant farm table, the epicenter for seasonal displays of wonderment. I spoke to employee Judy Raglan, who cheerfully walked me around the store. My head was on a swivel, absorbing the whimsical English crockery and eye-catching serving ware. She pointed to a shelf stocked with bright kitchen gadgets, and giggles: “We call these the tools you didn’t know you needed until you saw them!”

However, for serious cooks, the most impressive items are found in products like the Smithie Ironware collection. Hand-forged cookware from North Charleston, South Carolina, The Kitchen Table is the only carrier in the Sacramento region. There are also beautiful saucepans and pots from Netherton Foundry, made in Shropshire, Britain (O’Brien’s husband is a Brit, and they toured the foundry themselves). This is “heritage piece” cookware meant to be used and passed down through the family. If you struggle to find the perfect high-end gift for the cook who has everything, this may be the item they’ll brag about to their foodie friends.

But honestly, even if you don’t know how to boil water, the store is incredibly fun. There’s unique neighborhood home decor,



Owner Susan O’Brien stands at the welcoming display at the East Sacramento shop.



Judy Raglan holds a sign at the Land Park store.

Land Park and East Sac pillows, baby gifts, dog gear, and an assortment of local art. Holidays bring new decorations and retro tchotchkes to freshen up the home. They also keep a regular supply of seasonal specialties. Mocktails are trending; visitors can find a nice array of alcohol-free organic elixirs, cocktail mixers, and recipe books. Glampers will see next level smores supplies and barbecue sauces for their summer adventures.

Both shops have their own personalities, which are reflected in the different types of events.

The Land Park location is focused on craft nights like calligraphy and succulent arrangements. Once the kitchen space is completed, the East Sacramento store will focus on cooking demonstrations and classes. And both stores offer knife sharpening days, usually on the third Thursday of the month.

Since O’Brien’s is a woman-owned shop, she believes in spreading the love. She works with SacVendorConnect to host pop-ups in her parking lots. Local family businesses offer goods such as spices, baked treats, hand-made

cutting boards, and home-grown pickled green beans.

O’Brien is proactive about hosting fundraisers and book drives for Wellspring Women’s Center, a local organization supporting women and children in crises (www.wellspringwomen.org).

The Land Park store also has a bin to donate art supplies. So, if you went on a crafting spree and never got around to those projects, you can do some good and drop them off.

At a time when some local businesses struggle to keep their doors open, the Kitchen Table has found a place in the hearts of Sacramento locals. It could be attributed to Susan O’Brien’s gift of using food as her love language. She said, “I’ve always enjoyed bringing people around the table to eat good food and reconnect.” And her guest list continues to grow.

To learn more about The Kitchen Table, visit their website at: www.kitchentablesac.com. ★

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Meticulously Maintained Home in Desirable Curtis Park

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Meticulously maintained piece of history home nestled in the desirable Curtis Park neighborhood with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Home has coved high ceilings, original casement windows with new sashes, refinished original heart of oak floors and thoughtfully updated with period-appropriate touches. Granite counters, high-end appliances, farmhouse sink, pantry, built-in office, custom real wood cabinetry, custom maple block appliance shelf grace the kitchen. Updates include copper pipes at the City curb, central heat and air and tankless water heater. Service porch with inside laundry. Additional space in full basement and attic. The large lot adorned with 100-year-old plus trees offers privacy, alley access and a unique patio. A newer roof and updates to electric and plumbing enhance functionality.

2 Beds | 1 Bath | \$710,000 | 1,443 Sq Ft.

ABOUT TOWN

Land Park Volunteer Corps Gardening Days
Wear your gardening gear and join LPVC at Base Camp behind Fairytale Town’s parking lot. All ages welcome.
Volunteers receive free coffee and donuts in the morning. A hot lunch is served after work. Arrive Saturday morning for the following dates and times in 2024:
July 13, 8 a.m.
Aug. 3, 8 a.m.
Sept. 7, 8 a.m.
Oct. 5, 9 a.m.
Nov. 2, 9 a.m.
Depending on weather, dates and times may change.

Music on the Green is June 28
The band Four Barrel is set to play Music on the Green from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, June 28 at William Land Golf Course.
For details go to: www.williamlandgc.com

Trucks & Such in Garcia Bend Park
This family fun event is hosted by District 7 Councilmember Rick Jennings from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. June 21 and Aug. 16

in Garcia Bend Park.

District 7 Sponsors Music in the Park
Music, food trucks and fun! Sponsored by District 7 Councilmember Rick Jennings.
June 28, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Jazz in the Park @William Land Park “Panhandle”
June 30, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Music in the Park @ William Curtis Park
July 12, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Jazz in July @Marriott Park
July 19, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Jazz in July @Garcia Bend Park
July 26, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. @Belle Cooleedge Park
July 28, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Music in the Park @Curtis Park
August 25, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Music in the Park @ Curtis Park

Fairytale Town Family Campout
Camp under the stars and explore Fairytale Town at night.
Campouts are for the weekends of June through August. Friday arrival at 5:30 p.m. and depart Saturday at 7 a.m. Scheduled dates: June 14, July 20 and August 9

Go to: www.fairytal-etrown.org for details.

Elks' Lodge Calendar of Events
Farmer’s Market, 9 am-1 pm every Saturday.
Elk’s Lodge Sunday Breakfast, 8:30 am-11 am every Sunday. Bring your friends and family; \$15 tax included. Best deal in town. 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. Guests are VERY welcome!
Water Aerobics, Monday 10 am, Wednesday 2 pm, Friday 10 am
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 elks6.net for weekly menu.

Karaoke
Thursday 7 pm
Saturday 7:30 pm
Friday Happy Hour, Friday 4-7 pm
Line Dancing, 2nd and 4th Fridays

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 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.
For more information about upcoming activities offered by Sacramento area museums, visit the user-friendly website at SacMuseums.org. ★

Disabled Veteran Gets ‘Best Buddy’

Continued from Page 1
a trainer’s arms, bounced past a dozen onlookers and claimed her future master.
“How did she know it was me?” marveled the vet. “It was like someone sprayed me with some magic dust. She was excited and kissing me. I could help but tear up.”
Deutscher’s military career ended in 1992. The aviation electrician serviced F 18 Fighters during Operation Desert Storm. At 19 years old, he was devastated by a 1989 explosion on board the supercarrier USS America.
“I was right by the explosion,” he recalled. “Two of my friends died. My PTSD came mostly from then. I fought things I’d seen, also the stress of long wartime hours. In my generation, we hid our feelings. I didn’t know I had PTSD ’til a couple of years ago. It cost me jobs and ruined relationships. Substance abuse was the only way I could calm my brain.”
After his troubled years and a spell of homelessness, Deutscher is now drug-free and lives in Veterans Village, Mather, where he’s at last being treated for his emotional



Lincoln-based RRUFF Healing Heroes sponsors present a check contributing \$5,000 toward the cost of service dog Lily’s training at All Stages Canine Development in Citrus Heights.

injuries.
“Lily is a game-changer,” he said of his new friend. “I had dogs growing up. I knew a service dog would brighten my days and be a huge support for me.”
Lily has not disappointed.
“She’s so good,” Deutscher said. “She sleeps by me and doesn’t move ’til I wake up. Then she puts her arms on my shoulders and kisses me to say good morning.”
“From the moment I met her, it’s been awesome,”

“Lily is a game-changer. I had dogs growing up. I knew a service dog would brighten my days and be a huge support for me.”
— Dennis Deutcher

he said. “I feel my anxiety level has changed. She makes me calm. We go on walks and if people talk to her, she’ll give them a few seconds, then come right back to me. She never leaves my side. She’s my best buddy.”

A Tesla fan since high school in Lodi, Deutscher connected with the Higher Purpose Foundation, a cause his rockstar hero Keith supports, during the motorbike ride fundraiser.
Explained Foundation President Whitney Webb,



Veteran Dennis Deutscher, kneeling in the center, and pup, Lily, are joined by service dog sponsors Al Gonzalez, RRUFF Healing Heroes; Higher Purpose Foundation supporter Teri O’Sullivan; Foundation President Whitney Webb; Vicki Curtis, RRUFF Healing Heroes, All Stage Canine Development owner Miranda Viani; and Yvette Kroesing, Creme Brulee Goldens.

a Carmichael resident: “We’d decided to use some of our funds for a dog for a veteran. When I met Dennis, we talked and both ended up in tears. I knew right away he was meant to receive this gift.”
Bred by Crème Brulee Goldens, Sacramento, the dog’s initial food, veterinary costs and training are covered by the gift. RRUFF Healing Heroes, a Lincoln-based agency that sponsors service dog training for disabled veterans, also contributed \$5,000 to training costs.
“I don’t see how Lily

could be better than she already is,” Deutscher said. “But we’ll learn skills together. If it makes her a better dog, it’ll make me a better person.”
“I’d wanted a service dog for some time. Because of the cost, it just wasn’t possible. Everyone involved in this gift has shown me love and compassion,” Deutscher said. “It’s truly a God thing that they found me and gave me this fantastic companion.”
Learn about the Higher Purpose Foundation at www.higherpurposefoundation.org. ★

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Governor Appoints Three to Superior Court Bench

Friends & Amateur Radio Communications Enthusiasts News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Ham radio operators from the Friends & Amateur Radio Communications Enthusiasts in the Sacramento County area will participate in a national amateur radio exercise from 11 a.m. Saturday, June 22 to 12:59 p.m. on Sunday, June 23.

Hams set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to showcase the science, skill and service of amateur radio. It is an exciting opportunity to learn, connect and demonstrate the capabilities of this hobby. Use the Field Day Locator at www.arrl.org/field-day-locator to find a site near you and join the celebration. The Friends & Amateur Radio Communications Enthusiasts group will set

up operations in Diamond Springs.

Hams from throughout North America ordinarily participate in Field Day by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations to demonstrate their skill and service. Their use of radio signals, which reach beyond borders, bring people together while providing essential communication in the service of communities. Field Day highlights ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent, wireless communications network.

Hams from the Sacramento, El Dorado and Placer County area will also use radio stations set up in their homes or take to their backyards and other locations to operate individually or with their families. Many hams have portable radio communication capability that includes alternative energy

sources such as generators, solar panels and batteries to power their equipment.

Hams have a long history of serving our communities when storms or other disasters damage critical communication infrastructure, including cell towers.

Ham radio functions are completely independent of the internet and phone systems and a station can be set up almost anywhere in minutes.

Hams can quickly raise a wire antenna in a tree or on a mast, connect it to a radio and power source, and communicate effectively with others.

For more information, contact the California Department of Technology Radio Association (N6CDT) at najarzadeh@stateofca.gov or visit the Amateur Radio Club (KF6NNM) Friends & Amateur Radio Communications Enthusiasts page at www.kf6nnm.net. ★

Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Gov. Gavin Newsom recently announced the appointment of three judges to the Sacramento Superior Court bench.

Jaya Badiga, of Sacramento County, has served as a Commissioner at the Sacramento Superior Court since 2022. She was a Sole Practitioner from 2018 to 2022. She served as an Attorney at the California Department of Health Care Services in 2020 and at California Governor's Office of Emergency Services in 2018.

Badiga was Managing Attorney at WEAVE Inc. from 2013 to 2018 and Attorney Advisor at Galaxy Architects & Infrastructure from 2010 to 2013. She served as Staff Counsel at the California Employment Development Department

from 2009 to 2010.

Badiga earned a Juris Doctor degree from the Santa Clara University School of Law and a Master of Arts degree in International Relations and International Communications from Boston University. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Robert S. Lapham.

Amy Holliday, of Sacramento County, was elected in March 2024 to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Allen H. Sumner. The Governor's interim appointment allows her to immediately assume the position she would otherwise begin in January 2025.

Since January 2020, Holliday has served as Assistant Chief Deputy managing prosecutors in the Central Operations Bureau and use of Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy to solve and prosecute cases. She has

prosecuted several cold cases including People of the State of California v. Joseph James DeAngelo (the East Area Rapist/Golden State Killer).

Holliday earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law.

Allison Zuvela, of Sacramento County, has served as a Retired Annuitant Deputy Public Defender at the Yolo County Public Defender's Office since 2023 and served in several positions there from 2003 to 2021, including Chief Deputy Public Defender and Assistant Chief Deputy Public Defender. She served as a Deputy Public Defender in the Tulare County Public Defender's Office from 1995 to 2003.

Zuvela earned a Juris Doctor degree from California Western School of Law. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Sharon A. Lueras. ★

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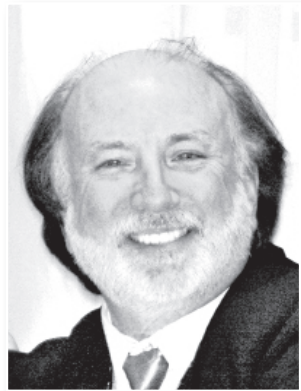
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Smoot's Landscaping Bringing Beauty to Homes for 40 Years

By Annie Kerr

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Scott Smoot is no stranger to revitalization. His company, Smoot's Landscaping, has been in business for more than 40 years and Smoot has acquired a long list of accomplishments. Since its beginning, Smoot's Landscaping has been refurbishing homes, taking the customer's vision and adding touches of elegance in the East Sacramento, Curtis Park, and Land Park areas, but also extends to greater Sacramento. Smoot's Landscaping is a well-renowned business and has been recognized in area publications, as well as Street of Dreams and Garden Tours of East

Sacramento. How did this success come to be? Smoot's friendly and down-to-earth nature could be a contributing factor. Smoot has been perfecting his skills since he was very young. "I've been doing landscaping ever since I was a kid," Smoot said. "I started out by mowing lawns to installing plants for clients, then I put myself through school and was doing landscaping in the summer." After putting himself through school, Smoot began his landscaping business, which has been his passion ever since. Smoot said he is considered a boutique landscaper because a big component of his business is catering toward the very specific



Pictured here is a patio bursting with color and class by Smoot's Landscaping.

ideas and requests of his customers. "I try to make it a natural environment mostly to keep down the maintenance factor. Many people do not know how

to maintain gardens, so we do gardens that require little or no upkeep," Smoot said. "Lately, we've been doing a lot of drip irrigation because of water restrictions."

Smoot's Landscaping services include landscape designs, yard and garden renovation, water features, stone and concrete patio and walkway installations, drip and sprinkler



Scott Smoot, owner of Smoot's Landscaping. Photos courtesy of Scott Smoot

irrigation systems, exterior lighting, and consultations/free estimates. "Our landscape projects include traditional to modern-contemporary looks to a very natural vibe, depending on the home and client," Smoot said. For more about Smoot Landscaping, visit smoot-landscaping.com or call Smoot at 916-454-1300. ★



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2. The monthly maintenance fees for ACH origination will be waived for twelve (12) billing cycles from the date service is set up. The waived ACH origination maintenance fee will be posted to your account and then credited back during the promotional waived period. The 13th month the waiver for the ACH origination maintenance fee will be removed, the resulting fee can either be offset by earnings credit balances or charged to the account. If sufficient credit is not available to offset the entire fee, the portion that is unable to be offset (or the entire fee, if applicable) will be hard charged to the account.

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Searching for Faith Isn’t for the Faint of Heart

I’m still on a Baltic Sea cruise this week with Holland America. It’s been good sailing, but I carry motion sickness medication just in case.

I wonder if that medication would have helped me some years ago when I went to my doctor hoping for a simple steroid shot for the bursitis in my shoulder.

(Stop me if I’ve told you this story before because I think I may have.)

As the nurse smeared the injection site with disinfectant and placed a surgical drape over my shoulder, it was clear that this wasn’t going to be a plain old shot.

To mask my anxiety, I started cracking jokes.

“Will this steroid buff me up and help me play amazing baseball?” I asked.

The doctor seemed unamused as she began



reciting the list of things that could possibly go wrong. It was simple things such as nerve damage, infections and twitching.

“Don’t worry,” she said as I eyed the door, “we’ve never had a problem.”

Easy for her to say. She was on the giving end of the three-inch needle.

“Do you mind if I sing a hymn?” I asked.

“No, go right ahead,” she said.

I began to hum, “Shall We Gather at the River?” but her glare suggested that I change that tune.

A few moments later, as she began the deep injection, I had a news flash. To be more precise, a hot flash.

“Simple” quickly became complicated. “I think I’m going to faint,” I said. It felt like severe motion sickness.

“Lie down,” the doctor advised, “and don’t forget to breathe.”

Breathing wasn’t my problem at that moment; it was my hearing that felt impaired. I’ve always heard that hearing was the last thing to go before you die.

Then came a muffled question from the nursing assistant. “Do you feel your heart beating faster?”

“I don’t think so,” I whined as I felt her offering her hand. I’d always heard that in a near-death experience, someone will take your hand and walk

you through a tunnel toward the light.

“Your pulse is slowing a bit, but don’t worry,” the doctor reported, “I think you’re having a vagal response.”

“What’s a vagal response?” I asked.

I didn’t hear an immediate answer, so I persisted.

“Is that some kind of anaphylactic shock?”

I wanted her to know I knew some medical lingo. Anaphylactic shock is a life-threatening condition where blood pressure becomes too low to sustain life.

I wondered if it might be the kind of thing that often precipitates near-death experiences.

“Lord,” I silently prayed, “if this is going to be a near-death deal, please send me back before my column deadline.”

I was imagining the

headline: “Chaplain Reports Existence of God After Near-death Experience.”

It was definitely Pulitzer-Prize stuff; but as I thought about it, I wasn’t sure I was ready for an exclusive with the Holy. So, I nodded to the doctor and pronounced, “We’re done here.”

Nevertheless, I did learn a few things.

First, I learned that sometimes the best evidence we have of God’s existence is the warm hand of another. Thankfully, this means that God will always have a pulse, even when I don’t.

Second, I think maybe sometimes we need to allow God to find us through the kindness of others. I was looking for God down that tunnel and, while I didn’t see God, I did see someone who showed compassion.

In other words, God showed up and she was wearing scrubs.

The third thing I learned is the definition of a “vagal response.”

“A vagal response,” my doctor explained as she called me back from the proverbial tunnel of white light, “is pretty much like fainting.”

“We’ll have to try this next week. I’ll get you a prescription for Xanax for your anxiety.”

Wow. I guess searching for faith isn’t for the faint of heart.

Headline: “Chaplain faints again, misses deadline.”

Send comments to 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. Email comment@thechaplain.net or message at (843) 608-9715. Read previous columns or order books at www.thechaplain.net. ★

\$2.4 Million for Clean Buses California Groundwater Supply Up

Office of Rep. Ami Bera News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - On May 29, U.S. Representative Ami Bera, M.D. (CA-06) announced that Sacramento City Unified School District has been selected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to receive \$2,440,000 in rebate funding to purchase eight electric school buses.

The Clean School Bus Rebate Program, funded through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, will help accelerate the transition to zero-emission vehicles and help replace older, diesel fueled school buses, which have been linked to asthma and other conditions that harm the health of students and surrounding communities.

In March, Congressman Bera welcomed EPA Region 9 Administrator Martha Guzman for a roundtable discussion with regional stakeholders and toured Lion

Electric’s all-electric truck, bus and minibus manufacturing facility in Sacramento County. This funding announcement builds on Bera’s commitment to investing in zero-emission vehicle manufacturing that will create job opportunities and pave the way for cleaner and greener transportation options in the greater Sacramento region.

“I am thrilled that the EPA selected Sacramento City Unified School District as a recipient of this vital funding to modernize and transition its school bus fleet toward zero-emission vehicles,” said Representative Bera. “I was proud to vote for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which provided this funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality around our schools and neighborhoods while supporting critical investments in our region’s infrastructure and create good-paying jobs here at home.” ★

Office of Gov. Gavin Newsom News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - For the first time since 2019, California’s groundwater storage has increased – a direct result of state and local actions to capture and store more water underground during last year’s historic wet season.

California achieved 4.1 million acre-feet of managed groundwater recharge in 2023, with an overall increase in groundwater storage of 8.7 million acre-feet – equivalent to 26.1 million households’ usage over an entire year.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and

the state took action to help local communities during last year’s wet season, expanding groundwater recharge by 1.6 million acre-feet. Newsom signed executive orders to expand groundwater recharge by 400,000 acre-feet, as well as signing legislation to build more infrastructure.

The state streamlined groundwater recharge permits to allow for 1.2 million acre-feet of groundwater recharge, as well as investing in groundwater recharge projects.

It invested millions for 67 stormwater projects to take advantage of major storm events.

It also set the statewide goal to expand average annual groundwater recharge by at least 500,000 acre-feet as outlined in the Water Supply Strategy.

Recharging groundwater is key to California’s strategy for expanding water supplies and defending against hotter and drier conditions.

During this year’s storms alone, the Delta Conveyance Project could’ve captured enough water to supply 9.6 million people; the streamlined Sites Reservoir Project could hold enough water for 32 million households’ yearly usage. ★



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Big Day of Giving Big Deal for Nonprofits

Story and photos by Susan Maxwell Skinner

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Local nonprofit organizations were big winners in the May 7 Big Day of Giving. Many achieved support that surpassed their hopes.

Choreographed by the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, the 24-hour give-a-thon this year helped 826 organizations and raised record donations. Gifts totaled more than \$13.25 million. Since the 2013 inception of this annual appeal, public philanthropy has helped Sacramento, Yolo, El Dorado and Placer County charities to the tune of \$100 million.

Administered by the American River Natural History Association, Effie Yeaw Nature Center is funded solely by public support. Big Day of Giving boosted donations by \$65,000.

“We had matching funds from two of our strongest supporters,” said staffer Kalee Christensen. “It was an exciting day for us watching our computers and seeing funds come in. They’ll help us enormously.”

Carmichael Library Friends gained a share of almost \$98,000 donated to Sacramento Public Library’s Friends organization. Summer reading programs and a scheme that gives free books to hundreds of Carmichael children will be funded.

“We’re so grateful for community generosity,” said local Friends President Barbara Safford. “The lifetimes of many wonderful children will be enriched by reading.”

Carmichael Kiwanis raised \$12,500. It also benefited from a \$500 booster prize for most donations between 5 and 6 a.m. A random prize from Big Day of Giving organizers brought in another \$100.

“I’m always impressed by the generosity of our club members and our community,” said Kiwanian Mike Koerner. “We’re all about helping kids. These donations go a long way toward that aim.”

Carmichael Parks Foundation gained almost \$20,000 to boost park beautification and youth programs. This total



Carmichael Kiwanis Club members rejoiced at \$12,500 in donations.

includes gifts from the Borman family, community benefactor Susan Marszal and former Supervisor Susan Peters.

Current Supervisor Rich Desmond included the Parks Foundation among 24 Big Day of Giving donations.

His choices included Carmichael Kiwanis, Sacramento Fine Arts Center, Fair Oaks Rotary, Carmichael HART and the San Juan Education Foundation.

“I dedicate District 3 discretionary funds, as well as my personal funds,” he said. “I chose organizations that help our most vulnerable residents, care for animals, promote arts and culture, and generally improve quality of life.”

Boosted by Desmond’s donation and a further \$20,000 in gifts, Sacramento Fine Arts Center exceeded hopes.

“These donations are vital to keeping the center and our programs going,” said Sacramento Fine Arts Center executive Angelia Gordon. “We’re grateful for so much generosity.”

Nature protectors opened wallets wide across the region. Placer Land Trust yielded nearly \$194,000. The American River Conservancy reaped more than \$34,000. The American River Parkway Foundation and Save the American River Association gained \$21,048 and \$18,395, respectively.

Rancho Cordova’s Soil Born Farms, which promotes sustainable food production, harvested almost \$21,000.

May 7 also restocked food closets. Donors fed Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services more than \$255,000; Sacramento Loaves and Fishes more than \$165,000; Yolo Food Bank almost \$146,000. Locally, Fair Oaks/Orangevale



Carmichael Library will benefit from the recent Big Day of Giving. Giving a thumbs-up for almost \$98,000 in donations to Friends of the Sacramento Public Library are Sacramento Library staffer Catlin Greenwood, left, and Carmichael Library Friends Barbara Safford, Margot Howard and Sydney Sadler.

Food Bank gained more than \$33,000. Carmichael’s Homeless Assistance Resources Team was boosted by almost \$5,000.

Top regional beneficiaries included Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera with more than \$327,000 to sing about. The Salvation Army drummed up more than \$322,000; Sacramento SPCA scooped \$221,705; ACC Senior Services got \$204,957.

Culture was handsomely applauded. B Street Theatre (The Sophia) raised nearly \$104,000. The Crocker Art Museum collected more than \$92,570. CapRadio beamed in around \$94,000. Stage patrons backed Fair Oaks Theater Festival to the tune of \$10,000.

In North Highlands, California Aerospace Museum was refueled with more than \$26,000.

“Sending kids to programs for hands-on STEM learning would not be possible for some families without this generosity,” said museum director Karen Jones. “Almost 86 per cent of our summer campers are on scholarships. These are largely

enabled by BDOG.”

Youth charities compelled grown-up generosity. Sacramento Children’s Home collected more than \$176,500. Shriners Hospitals brought in \$82,677. Kiwanis Family House banked \$73,500-plus. Children’s Receiving Home of Sacramento supporters gave more than \$59,000.

“Big Day of Giving allows the community to learn about nonprofits,” explained Sacramento Region Community Foundation officer Kelly Siefkin. “Participating organizations also love to build relationships with new donors. This year, we lowered the gift minimum to \$10. This made philanthropy more accessible.”

Perhaps \$10 doesn’t seem much. But small donations make a huge difference. With average gifts still under \$50, they added up to \$13.2 million.”

The next Big Day of Giving is scheduled for May 1, 2025. For more details, visit www.bigdayofgiving.org.

Footnote: This report reflects BDOG leaderboards. Some May 7 donations are not recorded by this source. ★

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