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Pocket News

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Gophers in the outfield

When will the rodents be ousted from Cougar field?

see page 6

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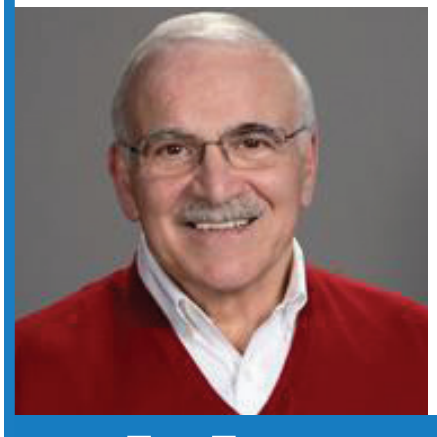

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Hops and Handlebars: Prostate cancer non-profit to hold fundraiser at Device's Pocket location

By Devin Lavelle

Hops and Handlebars comes to Device on Oct. 9 from 3 to 7 p.m. Hops and Handlebars is a local non-profit that works to raise funds and awareness to fight prostate cancer. This will be their second year partnering with Device on a special beer release of an IPA bearing their organization's name!

In 2020, the event was held at Device's Ice Blocks location, but this year, Device owners Ken and Melissa wanted to move the event to the Pocket, "because it's more relevant in this area, given the demographics of the population," said Melissa. "The recommendation is

see Device page 3

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Cover photo by:
Steve Crowley



Device:

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to start screenings at age 50 for most men, but if you're in the high-risk category, screenings should start at age 40," Anna tells us.

High-risk is largely based on family history, your father, brothers, uncles, including experiences on your mother's side. This is why communication around prostate cancer is so important. "Early detection is key, if we can talk about it more and make it less of a taboo topic to talk about your prostate health, that is really where the difference is made," she said. A family history of breast cancer is also linked to prostate cancer risk (and vice versa), so don't limit the conversations to the men in your family.

When detected early, prostate cancer is treatable. One in eight American men will have prostate cancer during his lifetime, but if caught early, nearly 100 percent survive, according to Zero (zerocancer.org), the national non-profit Hops and Handlebars supports. When allowed to spread before detection and treatment, however, survival drops to just 30 percent. Black men die at twice the rate of the overall population.

Hops and Handlebars was created by Anna and Ryan Pessah in memory of Ryan's father, Dr. Benjamin Pessah. "My dad was a doctor, a podiatrist. He was really caring in that regard and would always take care of his patients and be there for his patients. My uncles tell me a story about my dad, walking down the boardwalk in San Diego, where I was raised as a child. He saw an individual walking poorly. My dad looks at my uncle and says this man needs orthotics. He goes up to the guy and sets an appointment. He did not have insurance or any way to pay, but he had his orthotics and was soon walking better. That's just the kind of guy my dad was," Ryan said.

They work with local breweries and beer gardens (Hops) to raise money and awareness. And Ryan has been known to wear a pretty impressive handlebar mustache from time to time, building on the old "Movember" concept.

Ken and Melissa are excited to support this cause. Melissa pointed out that Ken has a history in his family, making it very personal, and went on to say, "I love community building. To me personally, I think it's really cool to bring this to the Pocket. I think it's really relevant here and what we've noticed, people just love having things happen in the community that's more personal, with more of a neighborhood feel. I just love to support someone who's passionate about what they're doing and bringing that community, educational piece as well," Melissa said.

The event will feature the 2021 release of Hops & Handlebars Hazy IPA from Device, live music, fun craft vendors from Outsiders Collective (it's never too soon to start thinking about your holiday shopping), even custom tie-dye tank tops for purchase!

If you miss the event, you can still support the cause (and enjoy the beer!) by swinging by Device and picking up a pint or a few cans. But don't wait, it will be available for a limited time only.

Device is located at address 7485 Rush River Drive, Suite 650, Sacramento, CA 95831.



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Sacramento Zoo could relocate to Elk Grove

City, zoological society to study potential relocation, expansion in that south county city



Photo by Lance Armstrong

The Sacramento Zoo has been located in William Land Park since 1927. Zoo officials are considering relocating this capital city institution to Elk Grove.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

After years of exploring potential, new zoo sites in Sacramento without resolution, Sacramento Zoo officials are considering relocating this nearly century-old capital city institution to Elk Grove.

Through an exclusive negotiating agreement, announced on Sept. 23, the city of Elk Grove and the Sacramento Zoological Society will spend the next six months studying the feasibility of relocating the zoo to about a 60-acre portion of a 98-acre parcel at the northwest corner of Lotz Parkway and Kammerer Road, in Elk Grove.

That undeveloped land is currently owned by Kamilos Companies.

A press release notes that the city of Elk Grove recently secured an option to purchase that 60-acre property, which would be appropriately zoned for a zoological park upon that city's approval of a use permit.

The city of Elk Grove's efforts coincide with the zoo's mission to have animals that it can conserve, and also house additional animals that guests are most interested in viewing. An expanded zoo would also provide larger living spaces for the animals.

Elizabeth Stallard, president of the zoological society's board of trustees, told this publication that the Elk Grove site aligns with the zoo's existence as a regional amenity.

see Zoo News page 5

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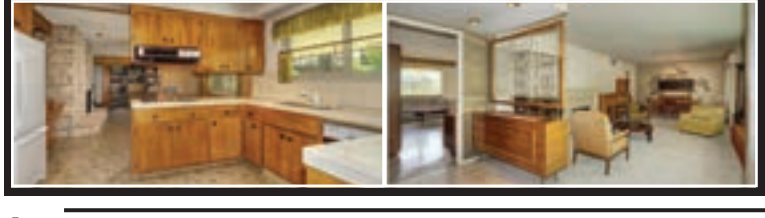



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Zoo News

continued from page 4

Stallard spoke about the city of Elk Grove interest in bringing the zoo to that city.

"We reached out recently to the city of Elk Grove and we were thrilled to find out that they shared our enthusiasm for this project and for the possibility (what) an expanded zoo located in Elk Grove would bring – not just for animals, but for people, too," she said.

Stallard referred to the need to relocate the zoo from its longtime Land Park site and expand it at a larger location as "urgent."

"Animal care standards have improved, including the required minimum space requirement to keep animals in care in a zoological park," she said. "All 14.7 acres here in Land Park have proved themselves to be insufficient. We've outgrown our space."

The current zoo site also provides extremely limited parking for its guests.

Stallard stressed that there is a need to continue to support the zoo's "critical mission" of supporting conservation and education.

Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh-Allen mentioned that Elk Grove is "well positioned" to provide space that would support a new zoo.

"Elk Grove has land that can support the growth and expansion that the zoo needs to survive and thrive as a regional attraction for the future," she said. "The Sacramento Zoo has been a cultural education institution in our region for generations, and a new facility would allow them to inspire and connect more people with the natural world."

Sacramento City Council Member Angelique Ashby acknowledged the challenges that the zoo faces at its current site.

"The zoo, as it sits right now in Land Park in Sacramento, does not have large enough enclosures for the animals to meet current standards for the Association of Zoos (and Aquariums)," she said. "(Zoo officials) were given a period of time to remedy the situation, and the clock is ticking on them.

"In order for them to continue to exist, they have to find a larger space and build more of a free-roaming type of zoo for the animals. I wanted to help (Sacramento) do that. We did several studies, and the studies indicated that in the city of Sacramento, the two best locations to site a new, modern-day zoo were both in Natomas, in my (council) district."

Those sites were North Natomas Regional Park, at 4989 Natomas Blvd., and the site of Sleep Train Arena, the closed North Natomas entertainment facility that was known for the majority of its years as ARCO Arena.

Ashby mentioned that she is "very supportive" of having the zoo relocate to Natomas. However, she noted that many of her fellow City Council members did not support that effort for such reasons as the expense of the zoo buildout and investing in the zoo in Natomas.

Although Ashby told this publication that she prefers to have the zoo remain in Sacramento – and more specifically in Natomas – she is also supportive of the Elk Grove plan as an alternative.

"The Sacramento Zoo should be in Sacramento, if possible," she said. "I would love for it to be in Natomas, but if it's not in Natomas (or elsewhere in Sacramento), Elk Grove sounds good to me, too. I just don't want us to lose our regional amenity."

Ashby added that the Sacramento City Council will soon discuss the status of the zoo, and their interest in having the zoo remain in the city of Sacramento, but in a larger location.

"(Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg) put out a statement (on Sept. 23) that he wanted the (Sacramento) City Council to take a vote on whether or not they want to pursue the zoo," she said. "My assumption is that in the next few months that will happen. If they vote not to pursue the zoo, then the city (of Sacramento) will do nothing.

"(If the city (of Sacramento) decides to pursue the zoo, then I presume they'll put together a package for presentation to the zoo for an alternative to whatever they're working on with Elk Grove to be reviewed after the exclusive negotiations period is over."

Ashby noted that wherever the new zoo is constructed, it will be built in phases. She estimates that the project would be completed in four or five phases.

"The first phase is obviously land acquisition," she said. "The second phase will probably be some of the easier enclosures to build, some of the open spaces.

"That first phase is going to cost about $100 million. The question is how much of that can the zoo fundraise versus how much does a city – Elk Grove or Sacramento – or the county of Sacramento or whoever have to pay, and if so, where would that money come from? And this is where the city of Sacramento really got hung up on. They just didn't want to commit to a $100 million project around a zoo."

Ashby added that the second phase of the project would cost at least another $50 million, and that a full buildout of the zoo would cost about $150 million, aside from land acquisition.

"I'm basing that off of feasibility studies that the zoo had done," she said.

Sacramento Zoo has long history in capital city

The Sacramento Zoo is among the capital city's most cherished institutions, having regularly drawn local and regional visitors to its site within William Land Park since its opening in 1927.

Established with a collection of more than 40 animals, the zoo, which is located at 3930 Land Park Drive, opened in a relatively modest state within a 4-acre parcel at the southwest end of William Land Park.

To support and raise funds for the zoo, the Sacramento Zoological Society was established in 1958.

Three years later, a major renovation project improved the zoo and doubled its size.

Eventually, the zoo outgrew its space and various larger Sacramento area sites were considered for a relocation of the zoo.

Zoo officials also became worried that the zoo's relatively small size could eventually result in a loss of its national accreditation, since the zoo is required to regularly expand its animal habitat spaces.

The Sacramento Zoo, which is home to about 500 native, rare and endangered animals, is one of more than 200 accredited institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

The zoo board ultimately determined, in 2010, to maintain the zoo at its current site for the following 20 years.

However, in 2018, the zoo board unanimously voted to relocate the zoo from its current, 14-acre location to a 50- to 60-acre site, which would include additional land for an accompanying parking lot. But that pursuit did not result in a plan for the zoo to remain in Sacramento.

With negotiations in place for a potential relocation and expansion of the Sacramento Zoo in Elk Grove, Stallard mentioned that future details of that option will be regularly presented with transparency.

"We know the public is just as excited as we are, and people will be anxious to know more about our plans," she said. "Transparency is a key value for both the city and the society, and we plan to update the public about our discussions as soon as possible, and regularly throughout the process."



Gophers in the outfield: When will the rodents be ousted from Cougar field?





By Monica Stark

Near the Sacramento River, gophers love the consistency of the earth there in those Kennedy baseball fields, and they've been making it their home for more than four decades.

It's not uncommon to see a gopher pop up during practice, but those tunnels, ramps, valleys, and sinkholes they create have tripped up some ballplayers who've suffered from knee, leg, and ankle injuries.

The baseball/softball fields have not been updated since the school was constructed in the '60s.

Sound familiar? Longtime readers will recall when the football team advocated loudly and fundraised for their new stadium. With artificial turf and an all-weather track, the gopher nuisance over there came to a halt.

Safety audits date as far back as 2006. As stated in the 2006-2015 Sacramento City Unified School District Facilities Master Plan regarding John F. Kennedy High School, "...There is a gopher (or other rodents) problem in the football field and, possibly on the baseball/soccer fields, that is a safety issue."

So, when will the gophers be ousted from the Cougars outfield?

The school district has attempted gopher abatement many times at Kennedy and

see Gophers page 7

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Photos by Stephen Crowley

Varsity Baseball Coach Jason Landreth with ballplayers on the fields at Kennedy High School.



Gophers:

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will begin again right before spring season over the course of three phases with the pinnacle being the construction of new baseball and softball fields, bleachers and fencing around both fields.

Asked toward the end of last month when that final hurrah would happen, the district has yet to respond.

Varsity Baseball Coach Jason Landreth addressed the Board of Education on Sept. 16 at a special meeting. A former professional baseball player and Texas Tech University player, Landreth, who grew up in the neighborhood said that fields "look the exact same as they did when (he) played for Pocket LL back in 1986. Nothing has ever been done to upgrade the fields since the school was built. We don't even have a fence for any of the fields, so we are way behind all other programs, including Burbank."

He said the fields have gotten so bad that the ground has actually sunken throughout areas of the entire outfield and has become a serious danger to the young student-athletes of JFK.

"We have John Purcell come out and walk the fields and he has admitted they are now unplayable and needs emergency work done to guarantee the safety of our young student-athletes. As a parent of five children of my own, and with my experience in organized baseball for 30-plus years, I can say these outfields are some of the worst playing surfaces I have ever seen. We have had numerous players fall, trip, and hurt ankles, wrists, and knees already in my short time leading this amazing school. It is only a matter of time before a young man or girl gets seriously injured. I am pleading the board for help with Measure R."

In a fight for safety and equity, parents have contacted their school board and city council members because their players have had to play in dangerous situations or play at Conlin. Meanwhile, the C.K. McClatchy High School baseball field has a new fence. Burbank has a new field and Hiram Johnson is working on getting a new field as well.

Parent Stacy Corcoran, whose son plays for the Cougars, wrote to the school board for public comment at the special meeting. "At this point, I'm not wondering IF a student will be injured, but WHEN ANOTHER STUDENT WILL BE INJURED? Our student-athletes have ALREADY been injured by stepping into gopher holes and balls taking bad hops."

Corcoran said a parent was injured by a ball that went through a hole in the netting last season and had to go to the emergency room. Parents were told a work order was submitted last year for that repair, yet the netting still has holes.



Gopher holes have made the baseball/softball fields unplayable at John F. Kennedy High School.





Velez Martial Arts held a grand opening celebration on Sept. 25



Photos courtesy of Joey Velez

Velez Martial Arts held a grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 25, which included prizes, raffles, and a demo performance.

Located in the Grocery Outlet shopping center on Riverside Boulevard at 6427 Riverside Blvd., Velez Martial Arts offers classes in Tae Kwon Do, kickboxing, life skills, leadership training, and general health and fitness.

Owned by Joseph Velez, a 4th-degree black belt with 20-plus years of experience, and Aileen Velez, the school's program director, instructor, and personal trainer with a degree in Kinesiology and 20 plus years of personal training experience, Velez Martial Arts actually opened for business in 2017 inside of the multipurpose room at Yav Pem Suab Academy (formerly Lisbon Elementary).

The hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 4:30 to 9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon and 4:30 to 9 p.m.

see Velez page 9





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Velez:

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Faces and Places: ACC concert streamed online

Photos by Stephen Crowley

ACC Greenhaven Terrace hosted an outdoor concert in their courtyard on Monday, Sept. 13, featuring singer Maeley Tom, a Pocket/Greenhaven resident. The concert was recorded and premiered on YouTube and Facebook a few days later, which Ted Fong mentions is another way ACC is keeping seniors engaged and connected through music in a safe environment. "With the live stream afterward, we are reaching other seniors in the community who are homebound and isolated," he wrote the Pocket News.

Fong noted that "Maeley is a celebrity in her own right, a former high ranking official in the California legislature and several state agencies." She recently published her memoirs and people in the community know her, but not necessarily as a performer. Her book, available on Amazon, is called, "I'm Not Who You Think I Am: An Asian American Woman's Political Journey."











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Alzheimer's Association Walk to be held on Oct. 16

What may look like a solemn procession of individuals carrying flowers in memory of loved ones through Swenson Park Golf Course in Stockton on Saturday, Oct. 16 will be a swell of families and friends raising money for the Alzheimer's Association.

With the coronavirus impacting large gatherings, the AA announced on their website the event encourages people to be fully vaccinated to attend. Also, with safety on people's minds, people may choose to walk in their own neighborhoods. The event begins with an 8 a.m. registration, followed by a ceremony at 9 a.m. and the walk at 9:30 a.m.

Elsie Warner, whose husband Don Warner of 60-plus years, has a form of dementia known as Lewy body, has varying degrees of forgetfulness from one day to the next. She and her daughter Denise Campion have participated in the walks in past years (except last year) and have been strong advocates for the Alzheimer's Association for the support that they have received as caregivers and family of Don Warner. In a previous year, Elsie was pushed in her wheelchair by friends and family on her walk team. They said they appreciated the feeling of camaraderie at the walks.

One of the services that Denise has appreciated has been the 24-hour helpline.

By going to alz.org you can find out the closest resources, support and educational programs to you.

Additional Sacramento area Alzheimer's Association events that are coming up include a yard sale at Campion's house on Saturday, Oct. 9 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., 134 Partridge Drive, Galt. Furniture, household items, interior decor, yard and garden, tools, garage workbench/cabinet, clothes, purses, prints, paintings, window treatments, bath towels and accessories, electronics, holiday frames, books toys, bedding, quilt set, office supplies, materials and craft supplies. From 2 to 3 p.m., fill a bag full for $2; 3 pm. Make an offer on all remaining items; 3 p.m., children's toys and fall theme basket raffle drawing, $1 each. All proceeds will go to the Alzheimer's Association.

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S
alzheimer's association



If wondering if your loved one has Alzheimers…

Source: alz.org

According to alz.org, the following information indicates the difference between Alzheimer's and typical age-related changes, if you are wondering about someone you may suspect as having the disease.

Someone with Alzheimer's can often make bad decisions, versus occasional poor decision making.

Someone with Alzheimer's may not be able to keep track of their finances, versus someone who might miss paying a bill once in a while.

Someone with Alzheimer's may not know if it's summer or winter. Someone with typical age-related changes in this category includes not knowing the day of the week but can figure it out later.

Someone with Alzheimer's might have difficulty having a conversation versus someone who forgets which word to use in the middle of a conversation.

Someone with Alzheimer's might lose things and not be able to retrace steps to find them. Someone who has typical age-related changes might include losing things from time to time.

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Infinite Giving: Neighborhood-based fitness center gives back to the community



By Monique Hollowell
Special to the Pocket News

Established in 2019, Infinite Giving Inc. is a Sacramento-based organization that gives back to local nonprofits through community fitness experiences. Infinite Giving provides needed items to local schools and centers that cater to the homeless and transitional circumstances for children, women and families.

Monique Hollowell, the founder of Infinite Giving 916, started this organization off the pure passion of wanting to help her local communities & recognized that no matter what type of giving you do, anything & everything goes a very long way. She is a Greenhaven/Pocket native who attended Bear Flag & Didion Elementary and transitioned to Sam Brannon Middle School and graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. After leaving the area for 8 years on a collegiate scholarship and recieving her undergraduate degree from the University of Washington and her MA from the University of San Francisco, she decided to come back to her neighborhood to start a mobile fitness/rehabilitation business & raise her own family in the community that she loves. "Now 15 years later, the need for us to give and volunteer is at an utmost priority, which is why I blended my two passions (fitness & giving) and created Infinite Giving 916," Hollowell said.

Over the last 2 years Infinite Giving has held two events in the Greenhaven/Pocket area, resulting in over 5,000 donated items to our local non profits in Sacramento. Coming into their third year, they've expanded

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Giving:

continued from page 12

and are looking forward to amazing things ahead.

"We have welcomed Dr. Kawanaa Carter to our team who brings an abundance of talent & true passion of giving to our organization, in addition to expanding to a second location, 'Infinite Giving 209', in Stockton. Our goal is to lead by example and encourage others to participate in the simple model of fitness & giving by hosting a free with donation community fitness event (walk, cycle, yoga, zumba, swim, etc) in their city," Hollowell said.

They are hosting their 3rd Annual event at Garcia Bend Park on Sunday October 24th! They are collecting donations from 8 a.m. to noon. The 2 Mile River Walk will start at 8:30 a.m. If you are in the Stockton area, Infinite Giving will be hosting 2 free indoor spin classes (10:30am & 11:15am) on Saturday October 16th at Sweat Fitness Center (Donations 8am-12pm).

For the events please bring a needed item from the list below. All cash donations recieved will go towards buying items on the list.

School Needed Items/ Donations List: children's underwear (new & all sizes), children socks (new and all sizes), gift cards (Walmart, Target, grocery store, fast food), diapers, wipes, sippy cups, baby food

Women's Shelter/ Transitional Center Needed Items/Donations List: Travel size toiletries, art supplies, household supplies, bedding, towels, blankets, feminine hygiene products, cleaning supplies

Requested items specifically for our Stockton event include those listed above in addition to: Food items (Meat)

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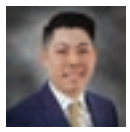
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Community Call-Out for Participation in Photography Month Sacramento in April 2022

Led by Viewpoint Photographic Art Center – a nonprofit organization located in Midtown Sacramento – and in collaboration with many involved partners including the City of Sacramento, the next Photography Month Sacramento is scheduled for April 2022. A variety of diverse and eclectic events are planned that include special exhibits, receptions, Open Call competitions, meet-ups, workshops, lectures, photo shoot gatherings, and more. Photography Month Sacramento creates a shared platform for galleries, museums, educational institutions, libraries, retail establishments, photographers, and patrons to celebrate and elevate the art of photography. Interested participants are encouraged to create or highlight their own exhibits, displays, lectures, receptions, workshops, demonstrations, temporary public art displays, art walks, photo shoot meet-ups, and other special events to help showcase the art of photography. First launched in 2018, the biennial collaborative visual arts celebration has expanded to include Sacramento, Placer, Nevada, Yolo, and El Dorado Counties.

How to Get Involved: businesses, museums, and organizations

Involvement in Photography Month Sacramento for businesses, museums, and organizations is easy. The month-long regional showcase offers a great way to highlight visually enticing photographic programming already in place (maybe by incorporating a fresh visual element or hosting a special activation), introduce a concept in the planning stages, or create something unique to engage enthusiasts and connect with new audiences throughout the region.

How to Get Involved: Individual Photographers

Photography Month Sacramento is open to everyone – professional and amateur photographers alike – and offers wonderful opportunities to launch and/or exhibit photographic work, or to create a grassroots collaborative exhibit with friends interested in this visual art. Those interested are encouraged to get creative and plan individual activations and/or contact favorite local coffee houses or restaurants to see if they might host an exhibit or reception in April 2022.

Once any photography-related concepts are confirmed by businesses, organizations, museums or individuals, Photography Month Sacramento participants are encouraged to post information details about any upcoming events at www.photomonthsacramento.org/events, a community curated calendar that is connected to and supported by Sacramento365.com. For maximum awareness, exposure, and collaboration opportunities, participants are encouraged to post information by December 31, 2021.

To explore available sponsorship opportunities or find out more detailed (and continually updated) information about Photography Month Sacramento 2022, visit www.photomonthsacramento.org.

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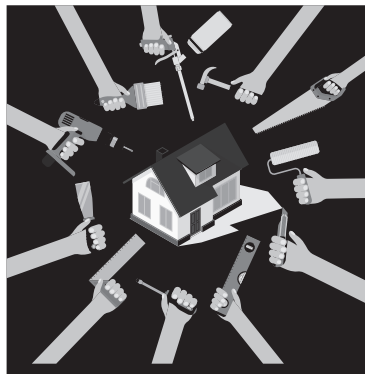

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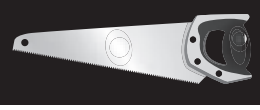

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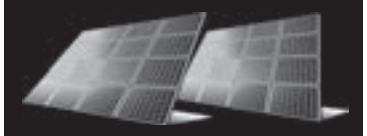

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Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk coming to Sacramento region

By Susan Laird
VCN editor emeritus

An iconic national 5K run/walk is coming to Sacramento on Nov. 6.

That morning, at 9 a.m., Sacramento's William Land Park will host the first annual Sacramento Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk.



Photo courtesy

The inaugural Sacramento Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk will be held at Sacramento's William Land Park at 9 a.m. on Nov. 6. This event is held annually in New York City (pictured), and is expanding to cities throughout the nation. Proceeds benefit the families of first responders who gave their lives in the line of duty, and catastrophically wounded members of the armed services.

Run. Walk. Honor.

Just like the original "T2T" 5K held in New York City every year, this event will symbolize New York Firefighter Stephen Siller's final footsteps from the foot of the Battery Tunnel to the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001, and pays homage to the 343 FDNY firefighters, 71 law enforcement officers, and thousands of civilians who lost their lives.

Proceeds from the race go to benefit the Gold Star families with young children of first responders who lost their lives in the line of duty, and catastrophically injured service members.

Local woman inspired

This year, more than 30,000 people participated in the New York event. But not everyone has time to travel to the east coast for a 5K event. So, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation is expanding the event to cities nationwide.

East Sacramento resident Mary Parra is coordinating the event's debut in the Sacramento area.

"I learned about the Tunnel to Towers Foundation and saw up close how it makes an incredible impact on families of first responders who have suffered a great loss," Parra said. "I was drawn to learn more about the organization and that led me to be inspired to put together a 5K for the Sacramento region. This is one of 70 5Ks across the country benefitting the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. This money benefits their In the Line of Duty Program, which provides mortgage-free homes to our nation's catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, and Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children."

Parra explained that the Tunnel to Towers Foundation was established by a group of siblings who lost their brother on 9/11.

"FDNY Stephen Siller, on 9/11, had just gotten off duty when he heard the call for help over the scanner in his truck," Parra said. "He turned around, strapped 60 pounds of gear on his back and ran through Battery Tunnel (now the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel) to the Twin Towers, where he gave up his life while saving others."

For six years running, T2T has achieved the highest rating, four stars from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities.

Local impact

Tunnel to Towers has quietly been a large part of the Sacramento region over the years, Parra explains.

"They paid off the mortgage of fallen Modesto Police Officer Corporal Ronil Singh in January, 2019, as well as the mortgage of fallen El Dorado County Sheriff Deputy Brian Ishmael in October 2019, and fallen Sacramento County Sheriff Deputy Adam Gibson this past February," she said. "I think it's important to support the organization that has made a big impact on our local first responders' families and our community."

How to participate

As an inaugural event in the Sacramento region, the T2T 5K Run & Walk expects to be on a more intimate scale than it's parent in NYC. Parra hopes to have a few hundred participants this year, then grow the event every year as awareness spreads.

"We would love to have as much support as possible for our inaugural 5K," Parra said. "If you don't want to run or walk, we are also looking for volunteers. You can reach us at sacramento@tunnel2towers.org."

Still time to register

To participate, visit t2t.org. Click on Get Involved, then on Register. Select "Sacramento." There, you will have the option to register for the event or to donate. There is also an option to do a virtual run. The website has additional details for the day of the race, when to pick up t-shirts, fundraising, teams, etc. For a $5 discount, use promo code FANDF.

Doing good in the neighborhood

T2T has a four-star certification by Charity Navigator – its highest rating. Roughly 93 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to T2T's programs and services. The organization's Chairman and CEO, Frank Siller, is an uncompensated volunteer.

slaird@handywriting.com



Land Park resident shares his passion for classic autos



Photo by Lance Armstrong

Land Park resident Bob Esparza stands next to his 1964 Studebaker Hawk.



This Studebaker Hawk grill is fashioned after a Mercedes grill.

By LANCE ARMSTRONG

Land Park resident Bob Esparza has had a passion for old automobiles since his youth, growing up in the Tahoe Park area.

Esparza, a 1975 graduate of Hiram Johnson High School, told this publication that this passion was greatly inspired by the many cars that he has owned during his life.

"That started back in high school," he said. "My first car was a 1957 Pontiac. (He later had) a 1937 Ford and a 1965 Pontiac LeMans. After that, we had two 1936 Oldsmobiles, and then I got my 1970 (Pontiac) GTO convertible, and then after that was the 1961 Ford Galaxy convertible. After that was the 1970 Chevy Nova. Then came the 1963 Ford F100 truck."

Esparza added that old cars have always been a part of his life.

"I just kind of grew up around old cars," he said. "We always had them – me and my dad and my uncles," he said. "My brother and I always worked on old cars. It was just a pride for us to wash it and shine it and go out for a Sunday drive after church, visit Grandma, and we would put the top down.

"It just means a bit of freedom to have an old car, that I can just drive around in something unique that no one else has."

Also fueling his interest in cars was the 1973 film, "American Graffiti," which was released while he was attending Johnson High. This pop culture hit film features many classic cars.

"I remember seeing (that film) in high school," he said. "Then (there was the 1950s- to 1960s-themed television series) 'Happy Days.'"

Also memorable for Esparza is the "hot rod row" that was in Hiram Johnson High's parking lot.

"Everybody parked their old cars: the Mustang fastbacks and the Camaros and the Firebirds, all that stuff there," he said.

Esparza, 64, currently owns two classic automobiles: a 1964 Studebaker Hawk and a 1948 Ford truck.

He mentioned that it was not a quick process for him to acquire his Studebaker.

However, after some delays in the negotiations in about 2019, he eventually traded his 1947 Hudson for the Studebaker.

"We signed each other's pink slips over," he said. "He got my old car and I got his Studebaker."

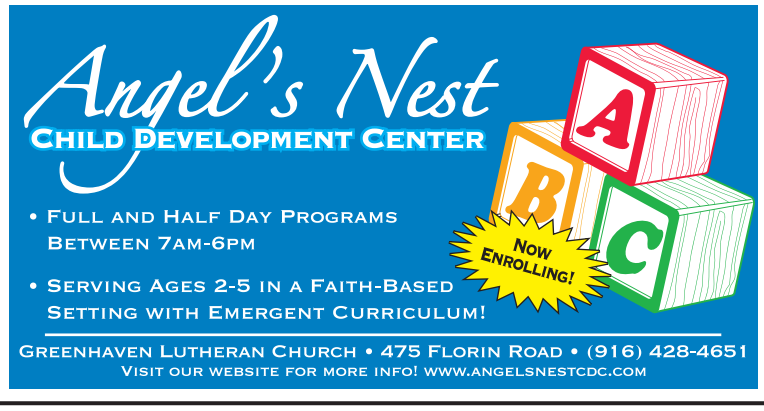
Esparza noted that his Studebaker is one of the last Hawks that were manufactured.

"(Nineteen hundred and sixty-four was) the last year that they made the Hawk, then Studebaker moved operations to Canada and they (manufactured their last automobile) in 1966," he said. "They only made between 1,400 and 1,500 of those Hawks."

The Studebaker Corporation has roots dating back to 1852. It was then that brothers Clement and Hen-

see Autos page 19







Bob Esparza is the sixth owner of this 1964 Studebaker Hawk.



This 1948 Ford truck is parked in front of the home of its owner, Bob Esparza.

Autos:

continued from page 18

ry Studebaker established a blacksmith shop in South Bend, Indiana.

Studebaker's history includes manufacturing horse-drawn wagons and later automobiles. Its production of wagons ended in 1920.

As for the Hawk, Esparza mentioned that he was drawn to that model during his youth.

"The Hawk, when they first came out, I first saw those in high school," he said. "They were unusual, especially that Mercedes grill type that they have. (Also), the roofline, which was fashioned after a 1958 (Ford) Thunderbird."

Esparza is the sixth owner of his Studebaker, which no longer has its original color and engine.

He referred to his Studebaker as "a dream to drive."

"It was (originally) sold as a personal luxury car," he said. "Studebaker was going after the European market when they redesigned the Studebaker. From 1952 to 1953, you see a drastic change, (and) 1953 became a lot smaller."

In about 2016, Esparza and his father, Steve, who died two years later, began rebuilding the 1948 Ford.

Both the Studebaker and Ford bring an old-time feel to Esparza's neighborhood street, as the cars line the front of his Land Park property.

Esparza, who has a long career in the printing industry and also operates a pet care service, spoke about his 1948 Ford.

"The 1948 was the first of the F100 series that came out," he said. "It was a new body style." The car, Esparza noted, was a tremendous project to put together.

"It had no windows," he said. "It was primer red, primer blue, primer green, (and) had no hood on it. So, Pop and I put some time into that and fixed it up, updated it. New transmission, stick shift, new (modified 350 Chevy) engine in there. It was kind of a work of joy between us.

"When my dad passed away in 2018, that was kind of my inheritance, so it's kind of my joy."

Beyond his strolls in his classic cars along Land Park Drive, Broadway and other streets of Sacramento, Esparza also enjoys showing his automobiles at car shows from Sacramento to Vacaville.

His classic automobiles have been featured at William Land Park car shows, and at the time of his interview for this article, Esparza was looking forward to participating in a car show at the California Automobile Museum on Front Street.

Esparza noted that one of his most enjoyable aspects of owning classic automobiles is the friends he makes through conversations about those vehicles.

"I've made a lot of friends through cars, through car clubs, different ages," he said. "I've got buddies who are 17 years old and I've got buddies who are in their 70s and 80s. And we all have something in common, and that's cars."

In providing more evidence of his love for classic cars, Esparza mentioned what he would do if he won many millions of dollars in the California State Lottery.

"If I won the lotto tomorrow, I would probably go out and try to rescue every old car there is, and start my own (automobile) museum," he said. "Through museums and the education of cars, you can teach people so much about transportation history, about styling, about the way it changed travel throughout the United States."

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