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RIVER VALLEY TIMES

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Summerfest Coming to Stonehouse Park



The Swing Wave ride attracts many riders at a past Summerfest carnival. The event will transform Stonehouse Park into a country fair on Oct. 6 and 7. Photo by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen River ValleyTimes Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The annual Summerfest Carnival will return to

Stonehouse Park in Rancho Murieta on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 6 and 7. The town fair tradition will delight kids and grown-ups with carnival rides, games, tasty food, a

beer and wine garden, live music, a spinning Ferris wheel and other exciting rides. The event is only open to Rancho Murieta residents and their guests. After the gates open at

5 p.m. on Friday, the party will really kick off at 8 p.m. with a performance by Take 2. Sherrie Carrillo, a Summerfest spokesperson, said the “great
Continued on page 5

RM Security Chief Reports on Crimes, Departmental Activities

By Gail Bullen River ValleyTimes Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Although the original “incidents of note” may have happened weeks earlier, Chief Kelly Benitez added interesting details when he delivered his monthly report to Rancho Murieta Community Services (CSD) Board of Directors on Sept. 20. Benitez described a recent mailbox burglary at Murieta Village and two August incidents in which a man broke into a home on the south and a partially clad woman ran through the woods behind the community. He also updated the board on other departmental happenings.

Post Office burglary

According to the security log, a patrol officer contacted the Murieta Village manager on Sept. 14 to take a report about the burglary of the box of mailboxes in front of the clubhouse and to review the surveillance camera from the incident the night before. The camera shows the woman was a white female about 40 to 50 years old wearing a black top and white pants. The Village camera didn’t catch the vehicle plate.

Benitez said the suspect used a screwdriver to pop open the mailboxes. She stole various packages and letters before she fled.

Benitez said the CSD surveillance camera at the entrance to the mobile home park captured the license plate. When security staff ran it through the CSD computer system, they discovered it was associated with an Amazon driver who had made a delivery inside the gates several months earlier. She was driving a vehicle and not a branded Amazon truck.

Benitez said security supplied the footage and information to the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office. “Hopefully they will be able to make an arrest,” he said.

Burglary in progress

A patrol officer was dispatched to a burglary in progress at a home on
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Algae, Drought Water Supply Discussed at CSD Meeting



Director Linda Butler objects to a separate study that looks at the feasibility of using water from Clementia Reservoir in a drought. She said it should have been included in a study already underway.

By Gail Bullen River ValleyTimes Reporter

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - Concerns about two of the community’s three reservoirs were topics when the Rancho Murieta Community Services Board of Directors met on Sept. 20.

The first was the discovery of dangerous blue-green algae at Chesbro Reservoir. The second was a study to determine whether it would be feasible to use some water from Clementia Reservoir in a severe drought.

Other topics had to do with the district’s new billing website and updates

about development and an overdue audit report. Security Chief Kelly Benitez also discussed significant incidents that had taken place since the last board meeting as part of his monthly security report. See the separate story in this issue.

Blue-green algae

Michael Fritschi, director of operations, said the mats of blue-green algae (Cyanobacteria) had been found in the north end of Chesbro Reservoir after a resident reported concerns about the appearance of the water earlier in the month. Because Cyanobacteria has the potential to cause drinking

water complications and can be toxic to people and pets who are exposed to it, the district contracted with Solitude Lake Management to treat that section of the lake. He said the company would apply a low dose of copper sulfate algaecide the following day (Sept. 21).

Fritschi indicated that residents following the rules hadn’t been at risk because bodily contact isn’t allowed in Chesbro Reservoir where the water treatment plant is located.

When questioned by President Tim Maybee, Fritschi said that algae growth is typical when the weather gets hot, and the water contains nutrients

often from lawn fertilizers draining into the lakes.

Director Linda Butler said she didn’t recall this happening before and said it was scary stuff.

Fritschi said a small patch of blue-green algae showed up after he came to work for the district two years ago. But they waited it out, and it went away. “But this one had progressed to the point where I wanted to take some action rather than waiting,” he said.

Director Randy Jenco said he has lived next to Chesbro for 20 years and has noticed algae growth every year. “Some years it’s worse. Others not so
Continued on page 3



The image shows a mat of concerning blue-green algae at the north end of Chesbro Reservoir. Harmful to people and pets, the algae was treated on Sept. 21. The Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board discussed the algae at its Dec. 20 meeting. Courtesy photo

Speed Cameras, Budget, Revised Rules are RMA Board Topics

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The recent installation of four lidar speed cameras, a proposed 2024 budget with a \$3.50 dues increase, two rule changes, and the upcoming board election were topics at the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on Sept. 19.

The board also approved purchases to spruce up the RMA Building meeting room and playgrounds and took in updates from the committee chairs in a fast-moving meeting that was over in 45 minutes.

Speed cameras
The installation of four new lidar speed cameras was at the top of the list when General Manager Rod Hart delivered his monthly report. He said the project had been in the works for more than a year.

Hart hopes the new cameras will make the community safer. “In the last few months, we have had some near misses in regard to vehicles versus pedestrians, and this is what this governing body is trying to prevent from ever happening in the future,” he said.

The four cameras have been mounted on poles on Murieta Parkway, Pera Drive, Murieta South Parkway, and Riverview Park.

Hart said RMA will give the community substantial warning with a public notice, signage,

and a 60-day grace period before issuing citations.

Budget
Hart presented a proposed budget for the 2024 fiscal year that would increase the net funds required from \$4.5 million this year to \$4.6 million. He said the Finance Committee had reviewed and approved the budget at their Sept. 14 meeting.

The proposed budget recommends a 2.2% assessment increase of \$3.50, which would bring the monthly assessment to \$160.75 per member per month.

The directors voted to hold their budget hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 11. During that session, the board could consider possible additions to the budget.

Rule changes
Board President Scott Adams, who chairs the Governing Documents Committee, received board approval to send two proposed non-architectural rule changes out to the community for a 28-day review. One has to do with fireworks and the second with identification.

The proposed change to the fireworks rule significantly increases the fines for the illegal use of fireworks. The harsher penalties stem from a July 4 incident at the Gazebo in which at least seven people suffered minor injuries including two small children. The escalating fines will

begin at \$1,000 for the first violation, \$1,500 for the second, and \$2,000 for the third and subsequent violations.

The rule also specifies fines for the misuse of “safe and sane” fireworks with escalating fines of \$100, \$200, and \$300.

The second rule about identification was updated to include RMA compliance officers and expands the description of illegal activity that gives rise to a request for identification. The text has three parts.

A. Any person believed by an RMA Compliance Officer or RMCSO Security Officer to have committed a violation of law, RMA governing documents, or RMCSO Ordinances shall immediately stop the activity upon request, identify himself or herself, and give his or her residence address. If the person asked to identify himself or herself is a guest, the guest must provide the RMA resident’s name.

B. If a non-member refuses to identify himself or herself or refuses to identify the resident of whom he or she is a guest, the non-member may be escorted out of the community.

C. A violation of this rule may result in a fine which shall be in addition to any fine relating to the violation of law, RMA governing documents, or RMCSO Ordinances.

Elections
Director Patrick O’Hern, who chairs the

Nominating Committee, reported that four residents have applied to run as candidates for the next board election that will take place at the annual meeting on Nov. 30. They are Scott Adams, Renee Bechtold and Danny Carrillo, who are incumbents, and David Harmon.

The board approved his suggestion that the Candidates Night be held at 6 p.m. on Oct. 11 at the RMA Building. They will be asked four questions drafted by the committee. The fifth question will come from suggestions by the audience.

In other business
• Director Chis Childs, who chairs the Ad hoc Security Committee, said CSD Security Chief Kelly Benitez spoke at their Sept. 14 meeting and relayed some surprising information about instances of patrol officers being harassed by residents. Childs also secured board approval to remove member Rebecca Armstrong Reali from the committee at her request because of health issues. He described her as a valued member of the committee and said he would miss her expertise.
• Adams, who also chairs the Communications Committee, said the 2024 member directory will be published. However, because of problems getting enough advertising, the committee is discussing how to make a directory happen in 2025.



General Manager Rod Hart tells the Rancho Murieta Association directors that he expects four new lidar speed cameras will improve safety in the community. He was speaking at the Sept. 19 board meeting. Photo by Gail Bullen

• Hart reported that the work on the new Calero Reservoir ramp and dock was in progress and likely would be completed by the end of October.

• Director Danny Carrillo, who chairs the Maintenance Committee, said RMA will add improvements to the Riverview Dog Park such as concrete pads, picnic tables, and shade trees. A water fountain and a dog fountain will also be installed.

• Carrillo also reported that a landscape architect company has provided a concept for improvements to the South Murieta entrance. It includes drought-tolerant plans to replace the turf, the elimination of the large water feature, and the addition of a new fountain. The plans will be sent to the Architectural Review Committee for review.

• Director Renee Bechtold who chairs the Recreation Committee, said her group took in a presentation from the Rancho Murieta Fishing

Club, which is asking for \$3,000 to populate Chesbro with more adult Black Fish. The committee also discussed upcoming Bingo games and chose Stonehouse Park for a trick or treat event on Oct. 28.

• The board approved spending \$9,183 from reserves to replace some of the carpets in the RMA Building.

• The board approved spending \$7,839 from reserves to replace some of the damaged window coverings at the RMA Building.

• The board approved spending \$5,245 from reserves to apply a fiber landscaping material under several playground structures where the wood chips had deteriorated.

• Hart reported that the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office will hold a community meeting at the RMA building on Nov. 15. More details will come later.

The next regular board meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 17. ★

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Kiwanis Helps Local Kids, Disadvantaged High Schoolers

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter and Kitty York Kiwanis Club Member and Photographer

The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta manifested its motto of “Serving the Children of the World” big time by organizing two events to help kids within one week.

The first was the Rancho Murieta Family Activities Expo held at Stonehouse Park on Sept. 10, which showcased a myriad of opportunities available for kids. The second was a Kiwanis Farm to Fork Dinner on Sept. 16 at Clementia Reservoir that raised funds for disadvantaged high schoolers who don’t qualify for regular scholarships.

Family expo

In partnership with Rancho Murieta Association (RMA) and the Ranch Murieta Community Services District (CSD), the Kiwanians brought more than two dozen organizations that set up booths at the basketball courts

to show what they had to offer to kids. The participants included local Scouting troops, the robotics team from Pleasant Grove High School, Cosumnes River Little League, and the Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club

Live demonstrations were also part of the fun with a Mule Creek State Prison dog sniffing out drugs, Jiu-Jitsu instructors showing their moves, and Murieta Dance Company students previewing their annual recital.

Youngsters also earned a discount at the food truck by having their passports stamped at 10 different booths.

Kiwanians Dee Utterback, Cookie Whalen and Patti Maffei organized the expo. Utterback said the enthusiasm level was high, but she wished more community kids had attended the first-time event. “It was quality over quantity,” she said.

But there is always next year now that the Kiwanians have a good handle on organizing the event, Utterback said.



A Kiwanis Farm to Fork dinner held at Clementia Reservoir on Sept 16 raises money for disadvantaged high schoolers who have turned their grades around but don’t qualify for regular scholarships. Courtesy photos

Farm to Fork

The Kiwanis Farm-to-Fork Dinner raised scholarship funds for TAS-Turn Around Scholarships, which is administered by the Elk Grove Regional Foundation. TAS provides scholarships to disadvantaged students who turn their grades around in their final years of high school but aren’t qualified for scholarships. A touching note from one of last year’s scholarship winners placed on all of the tables helped bring home the meaning.

Chef KC brown, the new executive chef at the Rancho Murieta Country Club used his extensive experience to create a five-course feast. Each table was lavishly decorated, thanks to the table hostesses who brought centerpieces, silverware, and wine glasses from home. Always supportive, the Knights of Columbus hosted the corking table and Kiwanis Key Club from Rancho Murieta, Sheldon High School, and Pleasant Grove High School were excellent food servers, Scout Troop 633 helped with the set up and take down, and Mike Gulden emceed.

This was the second year Kiwanian Carol Prinzo organized the sell-out event although she received assistance this year from Jeannette Edwards. “Overall it went really well,” Prinzo said. “The weather was phenomenal. The volunteers did a stellar job. The table decorations were absolutely stunning, and the food was terrific,” she said. Prinzo didn’t yet know how much the fundraiser netted but said that last year’s event brought in almost \$8,000. Prinzo said her entire summer was consumed with preparing for the event. “But the end result will be worth if we make a bunch of money,” she said. ★



Pleasant Grove High School Robotics Team members interact with young attendees.



Chef KC Brown adds finishing touches to the salads as teenage Key Club members wait to serve the farm to fork dinner.



Two dozen organizations participate in the Rancho Murieta Family Activities Expo held in Stonehouse Park on Sept. 10. Kiwanis presented the free event in partnership with Rancho Murieta Association and the Rancho Murieta Community Services District.



All of the tables are individually decorated by the table hostesses.



Youngsters at the expo collect stamps from the different booths to earn a discount at the food truck.

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Record-breaking Year at The California Capital Airshow

By Lindsey Nelson, Niche Communications

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The California Capital Airshow (CCA), presented by Sacramento County in partnership with the City of Rancho Cordova, successfully wrapped its 2023 Airshow on Sunday, September 24, with more than 105,000 attendees at the two-day full-capacity event. The 17th Annual Airshow featured performances from the world's most talented pilots and thrilling aircraft, including the legendary United States Air Force Thunderbirds jet demonstration team.

To kick-off the weekend, the Airshow hosted a free community event on Friday at Village Green Park in Rancho Cordova. Attendees met airshow performers, including the USAF Thunderbirds, and enjoyed live music, food trucks, and activities provided by local STEM and sports organizations.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Sacramento skies were filled with the sound of U.S. Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt II Demonstration Team, the return of the U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster Demonstration, U.S. Navy F-18 Super Hornet, an awe-inspiring lineup of world-class civilian aerobatic performers, and an extraordinary selection of rare World War II aircraft.

"The feeling of bringing the Airshow back to full capacity for the first time since 2019 is indescribable," said Darcy Brewer, CCA Executive Director. "It was a perfect weekend, made even more memorable by seeing the joy and excitement the event brought to the Sacramento region's families and aviation enthusiasts."

True to CCA's mission of nurturing young people's interest in STEM careers, the Airshow hosted a special 'Girls in Aviation Day' on Saturday, where girls ages 8-18 were invited to learn more about what their future may look like in aviation,



An aircraft serves as the main entrance to the event.

aerospace, or related career fields. The event featured mentors from Travis Air Force Base, UPS, Beale Air Force Base, Metro Fire, Mach 5 Aviation, Aerospace Museum of California, and William Jessup University.

"The greatest thrill for us this weekend is knowing that we have inspired young people to dream big and explore the world of aviation and STEM," said Terrence McNamara, CCA Board Chairman.

At the center of the Airshow was a 'Cold War Legacy' pop-up museum, which honored Mather Air Force Base's integral role in the Cold War and efforts such as the Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis, and Vietnam War. Attendees took in informational exhibits and were able to get up-close to Cold War-era aircraft throughout the event including Colonel Douglas MacArthur's "Connie."

"We are especially grateful to the over one thousand volunteers who work tirelessly to produce this thrilling and meaningful community event every year," said Darcy Brewer. "We simply couldn't do it without them."

Special thanks also to CCA sponsors

Sacramento County, the City of Rancho Cordova, Knight Elk Grove Dodge, 7Up, Lockheed Martin, Modern Aviation, Michelob Ultra, Visit Rancho Cordova, Thunder Valley Casino Resort, Matheson, SMUD, Atlas Disposal, Fox 40, and iHeart Media.

The Airshow's performances, themes, exhibits, and activities are new and different every year, and planning is already underway for 2024. CCA will be releasing more information about that event in the coming months. For more information on the Airshow, go to www.californiacapitalairshow.com.

Established in 2004, the California Capital Airshow 501(c)3 plans and operates the exciting, family-friendly annual event designed to honor the Sacramento region's rich aviation heritage and veterans while using the power and magic of flight to inspire young people. CCA gives back to the community through STEM scholarships, charitable group donations, and exciting educational youth programming throughout the year. For more information, please visit the California Capital Airshow website. ★

Algae, Drought Water Supply Discussed at CSD Meeting

Continued from page 1 much," he said.

Clementia as water source

A study that will look at the feasibility of using some water in Clementia Reservoir as drinking water in the event of a severe drought was sharply questioned during the meeting.

Director Butler said she was "appalled" when she learned the Improvements Committee endorsed a staff decision to spend \$15,400 with West Yost Associates for a separate water study at Clementia Reservoir. The committee, which is comprised of two board members and staff that considers infrastructure issues in depth, made that decision at their Sept. 12 meeting.

President Maybee said that Director Stephen Booth who wasn't able to attend the board meeting shared Butler's concern.

Butler said she didn't understand why the new study wasn't part of the Integrated Master Water Plan (IMWP) study that is currently being prepared by the Maddaus and Adkins consulting firms. "I don't understand why we would be considering another company and another expense," she said. "Also, where is the money coming from?"

Andrew Ramos, the district's contract attorney, asked Fritschi to provide some background about the new study. Fritschi said the consultants have already listed Clementia, which is the recreational reservoir, as a possible source of drinking in a severe drought based on the district's water rights.

Under the Clementia water rights, all of the water that drains into the lake must be used for recreation. However, any water that CSD pumps from the Consumnes River could be used for potable water. The district has pumped well over 1,000 acre feet in the last seven or eight years.

However, two state agencies are involved, the Department of Water Resources and the Department of Health Services. "While Water Resources says you can use anything you pump from the Cosumnes for potable use, the Department of Health Services says you can't unless you do x, y and z," Fritschi said.

The district contracted with the engineering consulting firm, West Yost Associates because it has

expertise on this issue and has a relationship with the Department of Health Services. He said the study went beyond the scope of the work by the two consulting firms preparing the IMWP. The money to pay for it comes from the reserves.

Maybe said he expected a handful of questions to come up that "truly didn't fall under the scope of work." He suggested waiting to consider them together unless timeliness was an issue.

Director Martin Pohll, who is a member of the Improvements Committee, recommended against delaying the study. "I think we have to give Maddaus and Adkins some direction on whether we want to pursue the use of the water right and whether it will be feasible," he said.

General Manager Mimi Morris said the issue came up after work on the master plan study began, and it wasn't part of the original scope. She described the study as "an essential next step before the IMWP gets too much further down the road."

Maybe said it was now clear to him about the difference between the water rights and the feasibility of using that water before he ended the discussion by moving on to the next topic.

Other business

• Morris said the district has a new billing website that will allow customers to see their bill history, track payments, and see their water usage. It also allows the use of a credit card or bank draft for bill payment. The district scheduled training sessions to help customers use the new site during the past week.

• Morris reported the long over-due 2020-21 audit was taking longer than expected because of a few outstanding items that were essentially an audit formality.

• Fritschi reported that the district had contracted with the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to abate the weeds in the community's drainage ditches beginning Sept. 25. Although the first-time use of sheep and goats was popular last year, the cost became unaffordable this year.

• Morris said the district had reserved the Murieta Room at the country club for another town hall meeting on Nov. 2 to discuss the IMWP.

• Fritschi reported the district had reviewed the

drainage study and the rough grading plans for 61 out of 99 proposed lots at the Residences East subdivision near Stonehouse Park. He said the district found some problems with the drainage plan that could allow the release of sediment. He said the developers haven't gotten back to the district.

• Fritschi reported the district plans to replace the electrical system at Lost Lake, a small retention pond in the south owned by the country club that is also maintained by CSD and Rancho Murieta Association.

• The board voted 4:0 to deny a claim on the district and hundreds of other agencies by Cari McCormick. The plaintiff was never a district employee and isn't alleging any wrongdoing by the district as he files a class action lawsuit against CALPERS.

• Resident Marilyn Haugen asked if the district could give discounts to seniors. The CSD attorney said the answer was "unfortunately no" because of the way Proposition 218 had been written. California voters approved Proposition 218 in 1996. It expanded restrictions on local government fundraising.

• Fritschi provided an update on improvement plans for a half dozen sewer lift stations. Construction has already begun on lift Station 3B on which serves a few homes on Camino Del Lago and Clementia Circle but most critically disposes of wash water from Water Treatment Plant 1. The bid was \$141,334.

• Morris reported the district has 76 requests under the Public Records Act, with 57 completed, 15 determined not to have any responsive records, and four still in process.

• Resident Betty Ferraro asked the board to authorize the attorney to research Measure J, which is the special tax referendum passed by voters in 1998 putting CSD in charge of patrol. She said it was needed in light of research being conducted by an RMA committee looking at security options given the CSD operations aren't fully funded by the Measure J taxes. Maybe and Pohll told her it would be premature to research anything until CSD gets a proposal from RMA.

The board will hold its next meeting at 5 p.m. on Oct. 18. ★



A sold-out crowd of more than 105,000 attendees enjoyed 204 acres of event space on September 23-24. Photos by Rick Sloan

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MEMORIAL

MELBA OUIDA LEDBETTER MOSHER • 6/1/1927 – 9/20/2023

Melba Ouida (Ledbetter) Mosher entered eternal rest on September 20, 2023. Our darling mother was born June 1, 1927, and was ninety-six years old at the time of her passing. She will be welcomed into heaven by her beloved husband of 58 years, William (Bill) Mosher, who has patiently waited for her since his passing in 2008.

May she be sweetly reunited with her parents, Fay (Barton) and Lester Ledbetter, Aunt Alva Barton, Uncle Jesse Riola, brother Bill Ledbetter, and the only son of Melba and Bill, William (Billy) Mosher, Jr.

Melba is survived by daughters Faye (Robert) Krull of Galt and Ouida (Herb) Garms of Sloughhouse and Billy's widow, Kay Mosher of Rancho Murieta.

Melba was blessed with five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. Kathleen (John) Davis and daughters, Gabby and Taylor. Jonathan (Kirsten) Krull and children Hudson and Peyton. Melanie (Jeff) Siesser and children, Madelyn Baiz and Billy Baiz, Jackie (Preston) Hanford III and sons, Preston IV and Herbie. Caitlin (Paul) Smith and daughters, Sophia and Roselyn. All will carry with them countless memories of grandma, each one precious and made with love.

Melba grew up spending her summers in Lake Tahoe. It was there, riding her dearest horse, Pet, that she was the happiest. She loved to ride across Desolation Valley, up Mount Tallac, or up to the Star Lake. It was where she was always happiest and dreamed to be.

Melba was a descendant of the Barton family on her mother's side, whose rich family history included Sam and Rebecca Kyburz. Rebecca Kyburz, Melba's great-great grandmother, was the first Emigrant American woman to live at Sutter's Fort in Sacramento. Service and adventure, had been in Melba's blood for generations. Her mother, Fay, and Aunt Alva Barton



donated the land for the very first hospital in Lake Tahoe in 1962, the Barton Memorial Hospital.

A lifelong advocate for education, Melba's own academic career began at the Rhoads School House, once on Sloughhouse Road and now a historical landmark located in Elk Grove Park, standing beside a bell donated by Melba many years after her attendance. Melba's contribution to the local education system dates to 1948 when her family donated a part of their property on Jackson Road that became Cosumnes River Elementary School. 60 years later, the library at the new Cosumnes River Elementary School was named the Ledbetter Family Library, where their family legacy continues to this day.

After graduating from Elk Grove High School in 1945, Melba, then Ledbetter, majored in Education and minored in Art at Sacramento State College and was part of the inaugural graduating class of 1949. Her passion for education led her to become a teacher, a profession she

held in the highest regard. She taught for several years in Courtland and Elk Grove.

Melba married Bill Mosher August 5, 1950 and they lived their whole lives together on the Mosher Ranch. The ranch, located on Grant Line Road, had been in Bill's family since 1936, and Melba brought a great deal of knowledge and experience from her years growing up on her own family's ranch. Together they ran a dairy and then years later beef cattle. Melba raised paint and quarter horses which brought Melba immense joy. Melba was also a world traveler having visited several countries in Britain, Europe, Italy (Rome and the Vatican), Russia, Africa and throughout North America throughout her life. After the loss of Bill, Melba continued to run the ranch without her husband, and it is this home, where they raised their children, that she remained up until she passed away.

Melba's husband, Bill, was also a graduate of Elk Grove High School, class of 1943, and together they were both called Super Grads for their community

devotion and contributions to the city of Elk Grove. They shared a passion for being of service to others, and of education. At their ranch, they hosted Spotlight on the Ranch, a local scholarship fundraiser for the Elk Grove Regional Scholarship Foundation. They were an essential and integral part of the successful Annual Trail Ride fundraisers for Project R.I.D.E, therapeutic horseback riding program for children and adults with special needs, in addition to her longtime support of the Center.

Melba's impact on her community was evidenced by her involvement as one of the Founding Members of the Patrons Club of Cosumnes River Junior College, A member of the Historical Society, and the Mexican Heritage Scholarship. She was also a member of several elk grove clubs such as the LTA, Republican Women, the Garden Club and Native Daughters of the Golden West, along with a member of the Sacramento County Farm Bureau.

Melba, our mom, lived a beautiful life, surrounded by exceptional friends and her devoted family. Her time here was spent in the service of others. Her legacy will continue for generations, through her passion for education, support of others reaching their highest potential, and knowing that above all else, there is nothing too difficult to overcome with the love of your family. She was a survivor, a pioneer, and a matriarch. We love you more than words will allow, and we will dream of you in heaven, riding your horse along the water's edge.

A viewing will be held Monday October 2, 2023 at 5:00pm followed by a rosary in Melba's honor at 6:00pm at East Lawn Chapel on E. Stockton Blvd in Elk Grove.

The funeral mass will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Elk Grove, Tuesday October 3, 2023 at 10:00am.



Matsui, Lofgren, Merkley Reintroduce Legislation to Give Individuals an Opportunity to Invest in Building America’s Clean-Energy Future

Modeled after WWII victory bonds, Clean Energy Victory Bonds would spur investment in clean-energy projects, create jobs, & help U.S. fight the climate crisis

**Matsui Press
News Release**

WASHINGTON D.C. - Congresswoman Doris Matsui (CA-07), Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren (CA-18) and U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) reintroduced the Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act, bicameral legislation to give individuals the opportunity to buy Clean Energy Victory Bonds and help build America’s clean-energy future. Modeled after the highly successful victory bonds sold during World Wars I and II, which raised billions of dollars to finance the costs of war, Clean Energy Victory Bonds would help the country create jobs and save taxpayers money while investing in clean-energy infrastructure.

The bill would direct the U.S. Secretaries of Treasury, Energy, and Defense to develop and issue \$50 billion in Clean Energy Victory Bonds that support energy efficiency, solar, wind, geothermal, and electric vehicle efforts. For as little as \$25, all Americans would be able to voluntarily purchase these Treasury bonds to invest in clean energy.

The sale of the \$50 billion worth of bonds annually could be leveraged to inject \$150 billion into clean-energy innovation and create more than one million jobs.

“The climate crisis necessitates strong, unified action to curb its devastating consequences. By giving everyday Americans the tools to be an active part of the clean energy transition, we are building greener, more resilient communities,” said Congresswoman Matsui. “This legislation provides crucial resources to grow our clean energy economy, increase domestic energy security, and create good-paying jobs for years to come.

I’m pleased to join Congresswoman Lofgren and Senator Merkley to reintroduce this important legislation which provides Americans a roadmap for investing in our collective future.”

“I often hear from people who want to do their part in the fight against climate change, but don’t know how. The Clean Energy Victory Bonds Act provides Americans with an opportunity to invest, within their means, in innovative technologies that will yield profits both for themselves and the world,” said Congresswoman Lofgren. “This is my sixth time reintroducing this bill. I feel strongly that, as momentum continues to build in California and around the country to be good stewards of our environment, we must employ proven economic growth-based tactics to tackle climate change. We all benefit when we invest in the future.”

“The clean energy economy is the future—and every American, regardless of their wealth, should have a chance to benefit from it,” said Sen. Jeff Merkley. “This legislation would help to open that door, while also fueling our transition toward the renewable energy sources that will help us kick our addiction to fossil fuels and create a safer environment for our families. That’s the kind of win-win solution we need to deliver the bold climate action we need to tackle climate chaos and also create jobs in the 21st century economy.”

Background

The Clean Energy Victory Bonds would raise extra funds for investment in clean-energy and energy-efficiency deployment, including by:

- Providing additional support to existing federal financing programs available to States for energy efficiency upgrades and clean energy deployment;
- Providing funding for



Photo Courtesy of Kervin Edward Lara

clean energy investments by all federal agencies;

- Providing funding for electric grid enhancements and connections that enable clean energy deployment;
- Providing funding to renovate existing inefficient buildings or building new energy efficient buildings;
- Providing tax incentives and tax credits for clean energy technologies;
- Providing funding for new innovation research, including ARPA-E, public competitions similar to those designed by the X Prize Foundation, grants provided through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy of the Department of Energy, or other mechanisms to fund revolutionary clean energy technology;
- Providing additional funding for zero-emission vehicle infrastructure and manufacturing;
- Providing additional funding to existing federal, State, and local grant programs that finance clean energy projects; and
- Providing prioritized funding for clean energy projects that are located in and reduce energy rates in disadvantaged and vulnerable

communities.

**The Clean Energy
Victory Bonds
would:**

- be available to the public in denominations as low as \$25;
- accrue interest based on savings achieved through reduced-energy spending by the federal government and interest collected on loans provided from proceeds of the bonds;
- be capped at \$50 billion each year.

In Connecticut, “Green Liberty Bonds” have been issued, and batches have sold out because the demand is so great.

**Support from
Sustainability &
Business Groups**

The bill is supported by more than 30 organizations, including Green America, American Sustainable Business Council, National Wildlife Federation, Earth Equity Advisors, Florida for Good, Vert Asset Management, 17 Communications, Natural Investments, Horizons Sustainable Financial Services, Inc., Chicory Wealth, Tulipshare, Zevin Asset Management,

Adasina Social Capital, Sustainable Advisors Alliance LLC, Legacy Vacation Resorts, Salt Palm Development, Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg Indiana, School Sisters of Notre Dame Cooperative Investment Fund, Farm Girl Capital LLC, Greenvest, Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, Transformative Wealth Management, LLC, Communitas Financial Planning PBC, TFG Kauai, LLC, Longwave Financial, Ceres, Figure 8 Investment Strategies, US Partnership for ESD, Detroit Green Skills Alliance, United Church Funds, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR), Impact Investors, SharePower Responsible Investing, Self-Help Ventures Fund, and Harkins Wealth Management.

“Americans from around the country support clean energy that will create jobs while addressing the climate crisis. In World War II, Victory Bonds offered Americans a way to support the war effort. Now, Clean Energy Victory Bonds will offer all Americans a safe investment, open to anyone, to support

the rapid adoption of the solar, wind, and battery storage technologies that will benefit communities, workers, and the planet,” said Todd Larsen, Executive Co-Director For Consumer and Corporate Engagement, Green America.

“Clean Energy Victory Bonds provide a much-needed economic boost to U.S. businesses and economy. This bill provides a financing mechanism that allows the private sectors and all Americans to provide the needed dollars for building a more just and sustainable economy,” said David Levine, Cofounder and President, American Sustainable Business Network.

“This summer’s extreme, record-breaking weather provided ample new evidence of just how devastating the changing climate can be for wildlife and vulnerable communities. This legislation offers a novel way to build on recent federal investments to speed up efforts to address the climate crisis, while helping households save money,” said Shannon Heyck-Williams, Associate Vice President of Climate and Energy, National Wildlife Federation. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**Deadline to receive
emergency alerts is
Oct. 1**

This is a reminder from the Sacramento County of Emergency Services. On Jan. 1, 2023, Sacramento County and incorporated cities began using a new emergency alert system. To ensure you received alerts about fires, floods and other emergencies during the transition, any contact information you had in our previous system was temporarily moved to the new system. On Oct. 1, 2023, we will delete all the contact information brought over from the previous system allowing us to maximize the benefits of the new system and reduce over-notifying our community. This will not affect you if you signed up at www.sacramento-alert.org on or after January 1, 2023. If you signed up prior to January 1st, 2023, and wish to receive emergency and community alerts, we ask that you go to www.sacramento-alert.org and create an account before Oct. 1, 2023. Adding your address to your account will help ensure you only receive alerts that are relevant to you. It will also help our office better assist you in the event of an emergency.

sacramento-alert.org and create an account before Oct. 1, 2023. Adding your address to your account will help ensure you only receive alerts that are relevant to you. It will also help our office better assist you in the event of an emergency.

**RM blood drive
slated Oct. 23**

The Rancho Murieta Women’s Club is sponsoring its final blood drive for 2023 on Monday, Oct. 23 at the RM Community Church from noon to 6 p.m. Everyone is asked to schedule an appointment to donate blood at donors.vitalant.org using blood drive code SMFM053, on the Vitalant App, or by calling 877-258-4825. Donors will be entered into drawings for a \$25 gift card from Rancho Murieta Ace Hardware donated by Carole Thames with Town & Country Real Estate and a \$25 gift basket from Ace Hardware.

Each donor will also receive a 50% off coupon from the Super Sourdough sandwich, soup and salad shop.

**RMA slates
Candidates Night
on Oct. 10**

The Rancho Murieta Association is sponsoring Candidates Night on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 6 p.m. at the RMA building. The candidates for three open seats on the board are Scott W. Adams, Renee Martel Bechthold, Danny Carrillo, all incumbents and David R. Harmon

**Take a kid
mountain biking
slated on Oct. 7**

The Murieta Trails Stewardship (MTS) will sponsor Take A Kid Mountain Bike Riding at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7 at Clementia Reservoirs. Young attendees are asked to bring their bikes and MTS will provide the donuts. MTS will set up a bike maintenance station where they can

learn about bike maintenance and have a tire flat fixed. MTS also will take the youngsters on age-appropriate trail rides.

**County parks slates
Dillard Ranch
meeting Oct. 17**

Sacramento County Regional Parks has completed the master plan for the Dillard Ranch park in Wilton. and has slated a public meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wilton Community Center at 9717 Colony Road, Wilton. The parks department also has posted the master plan at its website. Google for Sacramento Regional Parks – Dillard Ranch. The master plan show the 10 acres on the corner of Dillard and Davis Roads. At this time the funding is limited so rehabilitation and development will probably take place phases as funding or grants become available. For questions contact Recreation Supervisor Amber Veselka at veselkaa@saccounty.gov.

gov.

**Compelling film
about wildfire pro-
tection slated Oct. 1**

The multi-award-winning documentary, Elemental: Reimagining Our Relationship with Wildfire, will screen in Rancho Cordova City Hall on Sunday, Oct. 1 at 1:30 p.m. as part of the California Capital International Documentary Film Festival. The screening will be followed by a live Q&A with Greg Pryor, a retired Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Captain, who is president of the Rancho Murieta Area Fire Safe Council. Tickets are available at: <https://www.calcapdocfest.org/films/elemental/> The film takes viewers on a journey across the nation with top experts to better understand fire. It begins with the harrowing escape from Paradise.

**Bingo slated in
Wilton on Oct. 7**

Bingo has returned to Wilton. Bingo is held

on the first Saturday of the month, and the next games are slated on Oct. 7, and Nov. 4. The doors open at 6 p.m., and Bingo begins at 7 p.m.

**Sacramento Valley
Conservancy slates
gala on Oct. 5**

The Sacramento Valley Conservancy, which manages the Deer Creeks Hill Preserve, invites you to the 28th annual “Treasures of the Valley – A Taste of the Sacramento Valley,” featuring local food, drink, music, and silent auction items. The celebration will be held in the historic Johnston Lodge at Camp Pollock on Thursday, Oct. 5 from 6 to 8pm. and features updates on land conservation projects, recent restoration, and site improvement projects. Tickets are available for \$75 at www.SacramentoValleyConservancy.org. All proceeds go to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy to continue its work protecting and stewarding the Sacramento Valley landscape. ★

Planning Commission Books Library Project For Smooth Sail To Council

By Sharon Pearce

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - A special meeting of the Elk Grove Planning Commission on Monday resulted in a unanimous vote to revamp the defunct Rite Aid building at Elk Grove Blvd. and Waterman Road to become the city’s new library.

The Capital Improvement Project Design Review met with highly favorable response from the attending three commissioners, George Murphey, Juan Fernandez and Oscar O’Con. Chair Sandra Poole and Vice Chair Suman Singha were absent.

Extensive study was made at the meeting of the planned remodel at 9260 Elk Grove Boulevard presented by Christopher Jordan, Director of Strategic Planning & Innovation. Included in the approval is that the Project, under a Type 1 Design Review, will be exempt from the CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.

A presentation of the project will be made before the city council at its meeting toward the end of October, said Jordan.

The library associated with Franklin School

would likely be repurposed, Jordan reported.

Some of the features of the new library if it receives approval by the Council would be changing the current windows out for more window light, a patio space off the Children’s Collection area, where a family restroom and a wellness room as required by code, would be located. Another large restroom would be located at the opposite end of the building. Outside would be a six-foot high protective open fence around the Children’s patio space.

The design calls for two entrances, book lockers, three close-in bike racks, and covered outdoor seating with string lighting and seatwalls. The parking lot will have electrical vehicle charging stations. A Blue light was requested for the lot.

Lengthy discussion was had on driving conditions around the site. Commissioners requested there be some speed bumps added in the lot, and a possibly a “No Right Turn” sign where the current right turn lane from Elk Grove Blvd. to Waterman Road is located. It was also adamantly requested by commissioners that adequate security cameras be

included for staff and public safety.

A public comment was made that not only are drivers driving rapidly around that right turn lane onto Waterman, but are using it as an occasion to then make a U-turn by flipping back. It was also reported that some drivers are using that lane to continue driving straight ahead.

Commissioner Fernandez raised the possibility that a bike rental venue might be associated with the facility in the future. There was also public comment as to adding pertinent landscaping tools and lawnmowers in a stored shed on the site.

Commissioner Oscar O’Con said he “loved the design, and was all in favor of the plan.” Commissioner Juan Fernandez concurred and voiced again that safety was his main concern. Commissioner George Murphey commended the “good design,” saying it was “needed,” and also emphasized the need for security. Murphey said he “fully supported it.”

Commissioner Fernandez moved for approval. Commissioner O’Con seconded, and the motion to approve the Project passed unanimously.

Adjourned at 7:20 pm. ★

Summerfest at Stonehouse Park on Oct. 6 and 7

Continued from page 1
dance band” will perform today’s hits and yesterday’s classics. “We are adding a horn section, that will make it even more fun,” she said.

The 8 p.m. Saturday night concert will keep the dance momentum going with DJ Zawi. He is a popular Sacramento DJ known for his eclectic taste in music, his ability to read the crowd and his energetic performances, according to Summerfest. He will take song requests.

Although not open to the public, Summerfest will present a Wine Gala on Thursday, Oct. 5 to thank the event sponsors. Attendees will enjoy fine wines and food, music, dancing, and even a few carnival rides reserved exclusively for them. Dressing up to match the theme of Boots & Bling is being encouraged.

Raley’s is the presenting sponsor for Summerfest this year. Another two dozen companies and families are supporting the event at the Diamond, Gold, and silver levels. The Diamond sponsors include Rancho Murieta Homes and Land, Supervisor Sue

Frost, Notaries to You, West Coast Equine Foundation, CMCS Randy and Erika Kremer, and Zeta Broadband.

Rancho Murieta Association will sponsor Bingo at 1 p.m. on Saturday, and players will win \$50 gift certificates. It will be followed by Summerfest Poker at 2 p.m. The wine and beer garden will be open on both days, and five food trucks will feed the hungry each day. Tickets will only be sold online at the Summerfest website <https://summerfest-ranchomurieta.org/> or at the gate. Both the Friday and Saturday wristbands will cost \$35. Children 4 and younger are free. Summerfest accepts Visa, Master card, American Express, and Discover.

The Summerfest Committee has put on the fundraiser since 1999. Summerfest is a 501c non-profit with no paid directors, officers, or staff. The current committee members are Sherry Luman-Carrillo, Mike Martel, Jasmine Schmelz, Sid Williams, Lori Ogden, Kim Doughty, Jake Killian, Chloe Carrillo, and Makayla Oei.

Summerfest has raised approximately \$1 million since its beginnings. All Summerfest proceeds go back to the community to support educational and recreational projects for youth and families.

2023 Summerfest Schedule	
Thursday, Oct. 5	5:30 to 11 p.m.- Closed sponsor event.
Friday, Oct. 6	5 p.m - Carnival gates open Food trucks lineup: Allen BBQ, Bangin Bowl, Nash & Proper, Yolandas Tacos & Tamales, Café a la Mode. 8 p.m- Performance by Take 2 11 p.m - Gates close.
Saturday, Oct. 7	12 p.m. - Carnival gates open. Food truck lineup: California Street Tacos, Cousins Maine Lobster, Gameday Grill, Smokin Ewe BBQ, Cowtown Creamery. 1 p.m - Bingo \$50 certificates. 2 p.m.- Poker. 8 p.m - Performance by DJ Zawi. 11 p.m. - Gates close. ★

RM Security Chief Reports on Crimes, Departmental Activities

Continued from page 1
Cozumel Drive at about 9:15 p.m. on Aug. 26. Benitez said the officer contacted both victims who were husband and wife. The victims stated that an unknown male wearing only shorts had physically broken down their front door and began yelling and screaming various statements and was still inside their house.

The officer also saw and heard the suspect banging on the garage door. He advised the suspect that the sheriff’s office was responding and attempted to calm him.

The patrol officer stayed with the victims until deputies arrived in about 15

minutes. Benitez said the deputies entered the residence and utilized nonlethal force to take the suspect into custody.

The incident showed why the community has security, Benitez told the board. “Not only were we there in a couple of minutes, but we were able to take the victims aside and protect them without engaging the suspect until the sheriff’s department got there.”

When Benitez reviewed the officer’s body camera afterward, he could hear that some neighbors were upset with the officer. “Why isn’t there more security? What took you so long?” Why

aren’t you doing anything...My response to that is the officer did exactly what he was supposed to do,” he told the board.

After the meeting, Benitez told a reporter that the deputies had deployed bean bags, and he also said the suspect is a Rancho Murieta resident.

According to a social media report posted at the time of the incident, the deputies also deployed a K-9, which bit the suspect several times.

The River Valley Times requested further information about the incident from the sheriff’s office but hadn’t received a response as of the deadline for this story.

Woman screaming

On Aug. 4 about 5:21 p.m. a security officer met with a reporting party (RP) about a woman screaming for help near Lake Clementia, Benitez reported. The RP walked back to Lake Jean and contacted an unknown woman and formed the opinion that she was possibly under the influence of an unknown substance or in need of mental help. The woman was partially clothed and covered in mud and screaming. She fled from the RP deeper into the woods behind Lake Jean.

The RP returned to Lake Clementia and

met with a security officer who contacted the sheriff’s office and Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Station 59. The firefighters were unable to respond due to the terrain and without knowing the specific location of the female, Benitez said.

The sheriff’s office responded approximately three hours after the incident and could not locate the woman. She was eventually discovered and reported to the sheriff’s office the following morning. She was off-site from RMA property, Benitez said.

Other business

• Benitez said that CSD had worked with

the Rancho Murieta Association (RMA) about gate denials to non-residents trying to enter the community to visit estate sales or ETC concerts. They mistakenly thought they were open to the public.

• Benitez said the district was still working with insurance to begin \$10,000 to \$12,000 in repairs to the South Gate that was struck by a trailer.

• Security had 90 patrol shifts in August but didn’t cover 35 of them because of patrol vacancies.

• Security provided extra patrol when RMA lidar speed cameras were installed on the north and south. ★

SECURITY LOGS

Following is a summary of activity for the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Security Department for the following dates. Note: these log entries are condensed. For full security log details, go to the CSD website at www.rmcsd.com. A quick link to the security logs is on the home page.

*RP = Reporting Person
GOA = Gone on Arrival
UTL = Unable to Locate
BOLO = Be on Look Out
NFI = No Further Information
QOA = Quiet on Arrival
HBD = Had Been Drinking*

Rancho Murieta

Sept. 11
• Parking enforcement, 2:34 a.m.

Camino Del Lago and Guadalupe, two citations.
• One extra patrol

Sept. 12
• Six extra patrols.
• Parking enforcement on the north and south, five citations.

Sept. 13
• Five extra patrols.
• Parking enforcement, 12:28 a.m. locations on the north, four citations.

Sep. 13
Log not provided.

Sept. 14
• Mailbox theft, 2:26 p.m. Murieta Village Clubhouse, Village cameras showed the suspect was a white female 40 to 50 years wearing white pants and a black top. The camera didn’t catch the license. (However, the CSD camera caught the plate. See security story.)

• Rule violation, 5:38 p.m. Pera Drive, report of solicitors. GOA.
• Accident. 7:38 p.m. Lago Gate, report of golf cart hitting the inbound gate. The gate arm escaped damage, and no one was hurt.

Sept. 15
• Two extra patrols.
• Water leak, 7:32 p.m. Stonehouse Park, drinking fountain continuously running. Message left for RMA Maintenance.
• Stop sign violations, north, and south, two citations.
• Animal complaint, 9:25 p.m. Rio Oso, barking dog, the homeowner came home and took care of the dog.

Sept 16.
• One extra patrol,
• Attempted burglary, 4:12 p.m. Murieta Village RV lot, fencing cut but not enough to fit a person. RP advised to contact SSD.

• Rule volition, 10:45 p.m. Riverview Park vehicle after hours, unable to locate the driver.

Sept. 17
• Three extra patrols.
• Rule violation, 12:55 a.m. hill at Calero Reservoir. Patrol found a Toyota Tundra parked on the hill. Used PA to advise the driver to leave, which happened.
• Parking enforcement, 3:58 a.m. Respeto Court, a vehicle left overnight in guest parking, cited.
• Stolen vehicle, 3:15 p.m. Murieta Inn, follow up on theft of a scooter. The manager said they reported the incident to CHP earlier and will be reviewing surveillance footage.

Sept. 18
• Four extra patrols.
• Stop sign enforcement, 1:04 a.m. Murieta

Parkway and Lago. Patrol couldn’t obtain the license plate while following the vehicle, but the North Gate license plant reader captured it. Citation issued.
• Parking enforcement, 3:22 a.m. three locations on the south, three citations.

Sept. 19
• One extra patrol.
• Parking enforcement, 3:47 a.m. Lago Drive, one citation.

Sept. 20
• Three extra patrols.
• Parking enforcement, 3:36 a.m. Murieta South, two citations.
• Disturbance, 11:41 p.m. country club driving range, report of two males consuming alcohol after hours. GOA.

Sept. 21
• Three extra patrols.
• Parking violations, south, three citations.

Wilton Fire
• Eight medical aids between Sept 12 and 19

Sept. 12
• Public assistance, 12:30 p.m. 11248 Mann Street.

Sept. 13
• Public assistance, 10:53 a.m. 9257 Tavemor Road.
• Grass fire, 2:27 p.m. Bisbee and Flagstaff Drive.

Sept. 15
• Accident, 8:27 p.m. 11297 Alta Mesa Road.

Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office

Sept. 7
• Robbery of an individual, 9:55 a.m. 9700 block of Dillard Road, Wilton. The location is a gas station. ★

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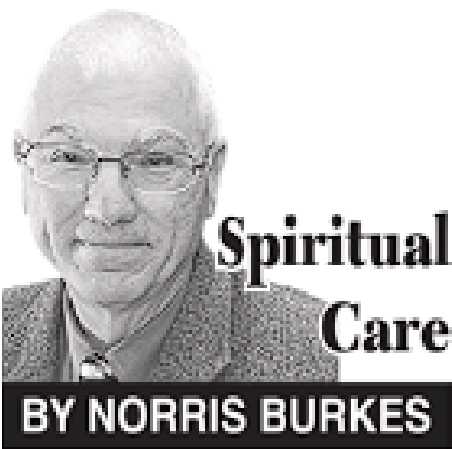
The Spats



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKLES

PK is an old-time church abbreviation for “preacher’s kid.”

My wife and I are both California PKs. Her dad pastored Fairvale Baptist Church for 49 years in Fair Oaks and my father pastored multiple churches, moving us every 3-4 years to a California congregation.

We were PKs and proud of it. But my siblings and I also knew that our title was sometimes applied in a pejorative sense to describe the bratty kids that ran unabated through the sanctuary before and after service.

As in when the choir director stage-whispered to the choir, “Wouldn’t you know it? It’s those PKs running through here like hooligans!”

My mom used to advise me that if I was ever asked why PKs don’t behave, I should tell my detractor that PKs are bratty because they spend too much time around the DKs – deacons’ kids.

I suppose it was inevitable that Becky and I would have a gaggle of PKs of our own. After I graduated from seminary, we welcomed our

PKs Beget PKs

firstborn the way most people do. But over the next five years we moved through the process of adopting a full sibling group of three.

So, I’ll often tell people we have one “homemade” child and three store-bought children. My humor here means no disrespect to the adoption choice – in fact, quite the opposite.

I use the expression to convey a sense of purposeful decision. We didn’t just want more children – we wanted these particular children.

But I must tell you that prayer was the only way we could raise four children.

And Mrs. Chaplain was a PW. No, not Pastor Wife.

She has a reputation as a PW, prayer warrior. I use that term warrior because her prayers sometimes result in people getting hurt.

Some years ago, she prayed that our college-age daughter, Sara, would find a way to get more rest. Sara was a world traveler, an avid lacrosse player, and she was majoring in three subjects.

Prayer outcome: A week later, Sara broke her thumb, and it wasn’t just an ordinary break. It required surgery and rehab. I guess the prayer worked. Sara dropped her extracurricular activities and lived a slower-paced life.

Simultaneously, my wife prayed to find more quality time with our then 12-year-old daughter, Nicole. With

Sara successfully out from thumb surgery, Nicole broke her foot. The doctor prescribed no walking, and Nicole spent many hours with Becky during the next two months. Prayer request granted.

Then, about the same time, she started praying for me. Like my oldest daughter, I too had been keeping a hectic schedule.

Becky prayed I’d reduce my writing deadlines to spend quality time with family. Her prayer established a “target lock” on me sometime Saturday afternoon as I finished one writing project and was assembling my entry for a contest, all the while multitasking on a sermon in the midst of making travel arrangements for another cross-country speaking tour.

I grabbed my chest. Breathing hurt and the pain stretched from my navel to my throat. I was thinking: heartburn, I’ll be OK. But as a hospital chaplain, I’d heard too many people sing the heartburn tune of denial that later turned out to be their funeral dirge.

With the calm demeanor of a drowning rat, I asked my PW to drive me to the emergency room. Within a few minutes of arrival, I took my first nitroglycerin tablet and the pain subsided.

The short version of this story is I spent 23 hours in the hospital cardiac ward under observation. Diagnosis: heartburn from hell.

The prayer hit its mark with

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accurate precision, but fortunately it was only a warning shot over the bow intended to just wing me. My busy schedule slowed significantly, and my wife cut another notch in her prayer belt.

At this point, I should say to my readers that if you’ve read all of this, and you’d still like me to pass on your prayer request to the PW, be forewarned. I’ll be asking you to sign a release form.

Column excerpted from Norris’s upcoming book, “Tell it to the Chaplain.” My books are available on my website at www.thechaplain.net Send comments to comment@thechaplain.net. Leave recorded comments at (843) 608-9715.


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We sincerely hope we have not forgotten anyone and apologize if we have omitted your name!

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Elk Grove School Board Wrestles Over Explicit Books

By Sharon Pearce

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - What is appropriate to teach on sexual diversity in schools? The Elk Grove School Board focused at length on this question Tuesday night as it is required to hold a position on it.

The Board heard dozens of statements and a presentation on LGBTQ sexually explicit material where many argued it be used for teaching in Elk Grove schools. Voices denouncing homophobia were present, claiming rights to have graphic material in the library. Opponents, including those speaking to protect small children from this subject matter, were under-represented by comparison to students, parents and other adults demanding acceptance and tolerance.

A presentation was made on legal rules under In Loco Parentis, an historical rule that gives teachers parental rights to select material to be taught in the classroom, in lieu of parents being present. It was pointed out that teachers perform in a quasi-parental roll according to set law. Several dozen individuals spoke, not so much on having graphic books available, but to having a right to their own sexual diversity and practices. Two speakers from dozens gave specific examples of experiencing physical intolerance and bullying.

Some parents complained that the Board was ineffective at

allowing students to just be themselves without being turned to this subject for which they lack mature discernment. Most of the statements begged that sexually diverse students be recognized, and this explicit material be supported.

Representatives of various ethnic LGBTQ communities pleaded for recognition, respect and tolerance of their rights. It was encouraged that parental rights be made clear for non-English speaking parents, and that parental rights for students with disabilities are listed and available for pick up at schools.

Thirteen genders were revealed as allowed to be taught in the Elk Grove School District via California standards. Book banning was generally opposed as a practice by all. The issue was on making available graphic texts on non-mainstream sexual practices. Teachers who were parents spoke favorably for comprehensive sex education.

Case law was explained as to parents not being allowed to dictate what is to be taught in schools. It was indicated that alternatives are offered, such as parents removing children from school. The Fair Act, which states that LBGQT contributions must be taught in Social Science and History classes was explained.

One spokesman asked these meetings be limited only to parents of

children in Elk Grove schools. Some of what is being emphasized in schools that is controversial is that girls and boys undress in front of each other in certain classes, plus other concepts taught to young children are by definition “child sexual abuse.”

It was pointed out that children’s rights must be protected by parents; that was the point of parent’s rights.

In closed session litigation related to In re: Juul Labs Inc., Marketing, Sales Practices, and Products Liability was approved for settlement. Laguna Creek Region presented a slide report on the schools’ academic and extra-curricular activities for the year.

Employees of the year were recognized and the Miwok Indigenous Tribe was formally recognized as being the original possessor of the land that Elk Grove Schools sit on, and such Acknowledgement will be read at all future graduations and other events.

Other School Board resolutions adopted unanimously were that the Week of the Administrator be Oct. 8-14, the United Way drive is Oct. 2-23, the Walk & Roll to School Day is Oct. 4; National Bullying Prevention is Oct. 19 and Digital Citizenship Week is Oct. 16th

The session ended at 11:45 pm. ★

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