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Draws Crowd
to Kiwanis
Concert

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Women's Club
on Trip Down
Memory Lane

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RIVER VALLEY TIMES

39TH YEAR • ISSUE 38 Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughouse, Wilton OCTOBER 13, 2023

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Feel the Summerfest Pulse



The Zipper and the Vista Wheel are major attractions when Summerfest unfolds at Stonehouse Park between Oct. 5 and 7. It was the 22nd year for the event.

Story and Photos
By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Much like the enchanted village of Brigadoon, Summerfest sprang to life

as a bustling hamlet at Stonehouse Park between Oct. 5 and 7.

It's the second biggest community event of the year in Rancho Murieta and is only eclipsed by the July 4 celebration.

Sherry Carrillo is a

member of the eight-person committee that has presented Summerfest since 1999 except for the pandemic. "Everything went so smoothly," she said. "We were able to use modern technology for a cashless bar, so people didn't have to get

in line for funny money and the bar. Bingo was a blast, and we were able to spread out the carnival to increase the number of rides."

Setting up a full-fledged carnival inside a gated community makes Summerfest

Continued on page 3

Two Hurt in Early Morning Shooting at Equestrian Center

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Two grooms working for trainers at the Sacramento International Horse Show were shot after an early morning fight broke out at an impromptu soccer game at the Murieta Equestrian Center on Oct. 5, sources said.

One was so badly injured that he was airlifted to a hospital, but the other went by ambulance, according to Sgt. Amar Gandhi, the public information officer at Sacramento County Sheriff's Office (SSO). Although their injuries initially appeared life-threatening, both were reported in stable condition the following day, he said.

Gandhi said a hodgepodge of event workers were playing an after-hours soccer game in a covered dirt area when a physical altercation broke out. "One of the subjects left the facility, came back with a gun, and shot the two subjects," he said.

Gandhi said the 2:20 a.m. shooting, appeared targeted and didn't pose a threat to the community. "We've got really good leads. It's just a matter of identifying who this person is and getting warrants," he said.

As of the deadline for this story, the shooter hadn't yet been identified or arrested, Gandhi said.

Nor did he have any information on the victims other than they were male adults. A horse magazine has identified them as Ricardo Mendoza, 21, and Martin Cazares, age not listed. Both have been working as grooms for Northern California stables.

The SSO spokesperson was asked if the shooting affected the horse show. "We were able to minimize our footprint there pretty quickly," Gandhi said. "They got everything pretty much wrapped up by 7 o'clock. I'm sure the operators are happy we are out of there."

Continued on page 7

Wilton Neighbors Win Appeal to Stop Cell Tower

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

WILTON, CA (MPG) - Against all odds, a group of Wilton residents stopped the construction of a wireless tower in their neighborhood when they won an appeal at the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors meeting on Sept. 26.

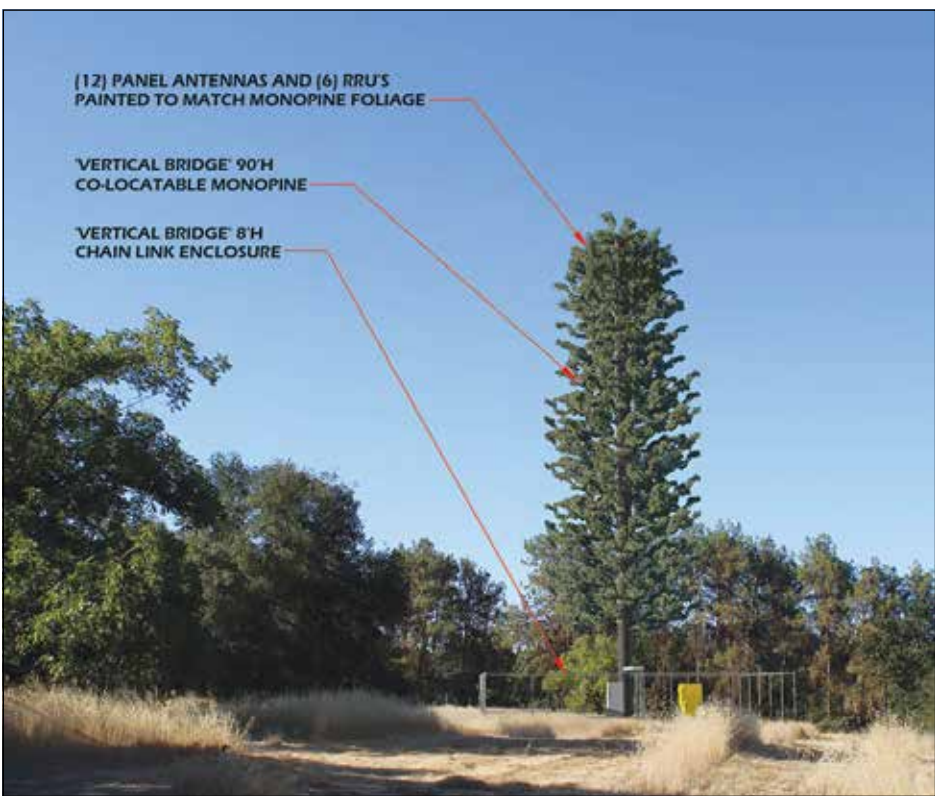
Fritz Krauss, one of the organizers, said that "outstanding" support from Supervisor Pat Hume helped them win. He said residents were concerned about the aesthetic impact of the tower, the damage to property values, and "The preservation of our rural way of life."

A company building the tower for T-Mobile had sought county approval for a use permit and variances to construct the 90-foot tower to look like a giant pine tree at 9527 Tavernor Road.

The appeal to the supervisors actually came from the Cosumnes Community Planning Advisory Council (CCPAC) at the request of the neighbors. Community advisory councils like the CCPAC are intended to gather community response to proposed projects and to make recommendations.

After about 50 residents, nearly all opposed to the tower, showed up at the CCPAC's May meeting, the

Continued on page 5



The image shows a proposed wireless tower on Tavernor Road in Wilton that was nixed after neighbors appealed it to the Sacramento Board of Supervisors on Sept. 26. Courtesy photos



Supervisor Pat Hume makes the motion to uphold an appeal submitted by the Cosumnes Community Planning Advisory Council.

Music Mike Draws Crowd to Free Kiwanis Concert at Clementia

By Gail Bullen
River Valley times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A long-time favorite of Rancho Murieta residents, Music Mike enthralled his young audience when an interactive concert at the Lake Clementia Amphitheater on Sept. 24.

Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta sponsored the free event that drew 263 kids, parents and grandparents. Youngsters ranging in age from about 2 to 10 years gathered in front of Music Mike on the dance floor as the adults and shy children watched from the hill.

Accompanying himself on guitar, banjo and kazoo, Music Mike led the kids in favorites songs, told stories and jokes, and kept the kids hopping.

Under his direction, the children twirled scarves, marched and skipped around the amphitheater, danced up a storm, and rolled down the hill like hot dog rolls.

Music Mike sang many familiar songs such as “Skidamarink”, “Itsy Bitsy Spider”, and “Skip to My Lou”. He also modified the lyrics from songs. “Jail House Rock” turned into patty cakes and Humpty Dumpty, and the “Kids Came Marching In”, not the saints.

The children loved his teasing when he announced prizes would be underwear and launched into “Old McDonald had an Apartment.”

“No,” they shouted before supplying the



Music Mike encourages youngsters to gather in front of him as he begins his concert at Clementia Amphitheater on Sept. 24. Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta sponsored the free event. Photos by Gail Bullen

“Baa-baas and the “Moo Moos” when he returned to the regular lyrics of “Old McDonald Had a Farm”.

Every time he asked for volunteers to hand out scarves, to lead the singing or to demonstrate dance moves, the older children frantically waved their hands to get chosen.

Kiwanis sponsors the event every year as a way to give back to the community. Joe Mazzone came up with the idea years ago, and Joanne Brandt was this year’s organizer. The club brings in bottled water, and Kiwanian Kitty York supplies cotton candy. The club also brought in Face Painter Judi Peterson, who stayed busy throughout the event.

All of the adults questioned loved the show. Michelle Leslie said it was the third year that her five children have attended. “They love it and have a blast,” she said.

Mike Grmoyes has been performing as Music Mike in the greater Sacramento



The youngsters sing and act out 'Itsy Bitsy Spider'.



Parents come down from the hill to dance with their kids.

area for nearly 25 years. He said his most recent Rancho Murieta performance was “A lot of

fun. The kids listened so good, and everyone participated,” he said. “The weather was perfect too,



Music Mike asks youngsters to grab a maracas or a tambourine to be his band as he sings the ‘A B C Song’.



The children line up behind Music Mike as he sings 'I've Been Working on the Railroad'.



Emily Leslie is the first of many youngsters to have their faces painted.

probably the best weather since I have been coming out here.”

Grmoyes is available

for birthday parties and other children’s events. He can be reached at 530-823-2380.

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Summerfest Pulsates for Three Days at Stonehouse Park

Continued from page 1
extraordinary and extremely convenient for residents.

The carnival rides ranged from a merry-go-round and swirling strawberries for the younger set to high-velocity rides like The Zipper for the older kids and adults. Attendees of all ages tested their skills at a dozen carnival booths where the friendly workers were eager to help them win a colorful prize.

Summerfest also boasted two nights of live entertainment, a boisterous Bingo game, a poker tournament, a wine and beer garden, and food trucks offering everything from lobster dishes to street tacos. The idea is to have something for everyone because Summerfest is truly a community event, Carrillo said.

The three-day party kicked off Thursday with a “Boots & Bling” wine and dinner gala that drew about 450 sponsors and their guests.

Raley’s was again Summerfest’s presenting sponsor. Another two dozen companies and families supported the event at the Diamond, Gold, and Silver levels. The Diamond sponsors included Rancho Murieta Homes and Land, Supervisor Sue Frost, Notaries to You, West Coast Equine Foundation, CMCS Randy and Erika Kremer, and Zeta Broadband.

Carrillo had special thanks for Karen Burns, who manages the Bel Air store, and her team. In addition to the title sponsorship, they brought special salads to the gala and bottled water. “It’s such a great partnership, and they love it out here,” Carrillo said.

Without the sponsors, there would be no Summerfest “because they enable us to keep the prices as low as possible,” Carrillo said. “All of our costs have gone up exponentially including 100% for the carnival and tents.”

She said her heart broke when she read on social media that some residents couldn’t afford to come both nights. “I just want them to understand that we didn’t want to raise the prices, but our hands were tied.”

Carrillo said her committee also depends on more than 100 volunteers to make Summerfest happen. In a win-win, they are paid \$10 an hour that goes to their special cause or charity. The Pleasant Grove High School Wrestling Team filled many slots this year.

The Brass Ring Amusement carnival rides continued to delight for a second year. Long lines of teens waited to hop on The Zipper and the Star Tower. Accompanied by their parents or grandparents, the younger set gravitated to



An aerial view from the Ferris wheel shows Stonehouse Park transformed into a carnival.

a Christmas train and a tug boat.

Summerfest also brought in eight other activities separate from the carnival to dial up the fun. They included bungee jumping, mechanical bull riding, archery tag, and giant bubbles. Shadow Glen Riding Stable also donated a petting zoo that included a pony with fuzzy baby fur, a placid steer, and a horse for riding.

The Saturday Bingo game sponsored by the RMA Recreation Committee was packed as usual, but the poker tournament drew the largest crowd Carrillo has seen in five years.

Summerfest presented live entertainment at the beer garden stage on Friday and Saturday nights. The 10-piece band, Take-2, rocked the stage on Friday with four vocalists singing today’s hits and yesterday’s classics.

DJ Zawai, a popular Sacramento DJ known for his eclectic taste in music, performed on Saturday night. His first selections seemed only to attract preschoolers who flocked to the grassy dance floor to cavort and dance. But grown-ups joined the party later.

However, before the DJ began spinning tunes, Carrillo jumped on the stage to thank the attendees, the sponsors, and the volunteers. “I really want you to know that this is such a great community. We are so blessed to be here,” she said.

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 start. All Summerfest proceeds go back to the community to support educational and recreational projects for youth and families. ★



Team leaders from the Rancho Murieta Bel Air store pose in front of a display that recognizes Raley’s as the presenting sponsor of Summerfest this year. From left are Taylor Rasmussen, who is in charge of the bakery, Chelsey Rust, the produce department, Karen Burns, the entire store, Joe Rodriguez, the wine department, and Janie Pfeiffer the floral department. Joey Vang, the assistant store team leader isn’t pictured.



Ten-month-old Lucy exudes happiness as she rides the merry-go-round with her parents Randy and Dawn Waite.



Coached by carnival worker Lisa Landry, Melia Roghwell tests her mettle on The Striker. She won a prize because she hit the target hard enough to ring the bell.



Joclyn Gladius manages to stay on the mechanical bull for 23 seconds. The ride was one of eight outside attractions that weren’t part of the commercial carnival.



Guided by his father of the same name, Juan Cole readies his dart in hopes of popping a balloon. A dozen carnival games lured attendees.



Lori Underwood left, and Mayra Abraham exalt when a friend wins at Bingo. The RMA Recreation Committee put on the popular event and gave away \$50 gift cards as prizes.



Cyrus Waters hates the alligator ride. Behind him are Alma and Lucia Aguayo, who love it.



Taking off in the Rock N Tug are Layla Essaff and friends Karyn, Ron, and Megan Castillo.



Summerfest Committee Member Sherry Carrillo thanks the attendees as DJ Zawai prepares to spin tunes on Saturday night.



Take-2, a high-energy dance band, performs on the beer garden stage Friday night.

Rancho Murieta, a 3,500-acre country-club community, is an oasis of emerald fairways and manicured greens, built along the scenic banks of the Cosumnes River.

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Elvis Impersonator Takes Women’s Club on Trip Down Memory Lane

Story and Photos
By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - When Jeremy Pearce was in the third grade in 1983, the school’s talent show was coming up. Eager to look like Elvis Presley when he sang “Blue Suede Shoes”, he asked his mother, a hairdresser, to spray his hair black, “Halfway through the performance when the little girls in third grade began looking at me differently, I knew I had found my calling,” Pearce told a crowd at the Rancho Murieta Country Club on Sept. 27. He was performing at the Rancho Murieta Women’s Club luncheon.

Pierce has been singing “Blue Suede Shoes” at every show over the past 40 years with 4,000 performances in and out of the county “because it reminds me of that little kid who had a dream,” he told his audience.

His appearance marked his second time performing for the women’s club. He drew a sell-out crowd in 2019.

Billing himself as one of the top Elvis impersonators in the world, the Fresno-based entertainer didn’t disappoint in the looks and moves department. With poufy black hair, dimples, and wearing a costume that was authentic down to the last spangle, he gyrated and ground his hips in the same way that got The King into trouble with the police in the 1950s.



Many audience members, including Ginny Macko, left, and Virginia Wolfe, accept Pearce’s offer to pose for photos after his show.

Much to the delight of the audience, Pearce spent nearly as much time cavorting through the crowd as performing on the stage. And, as happened at Elvis Presley concerts, his assistant draped a succession of scarves around his neck to soak up a bit of his essence. Then, without missing a beat, he bestowed them on different giggling audience members.

After beginning the show with his third-grade selection, Pearce performed a dozen Elvis favorites, including some requested by audience members. He also threw in anecdotes about the history of the tunes including the “Hawaii Wedding Song”.

“This was at the end of the movie, and Elvis has the girl,” he said. “That’s because, in all the Elvis movies, he meets the girl,

makes her mad, but wins her back in 90 minutes. He made the same movie 33 times.”

He also recalled Elvis recording “In the Ghetto.” Although his manager told Elvis not to perform any message songs, he insisted saying that he had to change with the times.

“It was a good thing too, because this became a monster smash hit in the latter part of his career,” he said.

Pearce finished his show by performing the three most downloaded Elvis tunes in 2023 in reverse order. Third was the 1957 number-one hit “Jail House Rock”. The second was “Suspicious Minds.” He said the dancing required was so strenuous that Elvis stopped performing the song when he turned 40.

“I should probably stop doing it too,” he admitted.

After his assistant helped him don a cape, Pearce said would finish his performance with the same song that Elvis used to close his concerts in the 1970s and which closed his world-wide concert “Aloha from Hawaii via Satellite” which was beamed to 40 countries to an audience of a billion and a half.

“That was more than people watching the first walk on the moon,” he said. “But if you think about it, that is the power of Elvis. That also is the power of women.”

Thanking the crowd for “being a fantastic audience”, Pearce wrapped up with “Can’t Help Falling in Love.”

Many of the audience rose to their feet to applaud



Marilyn Swimley is delighted as ‘Elvis’ croons ‘Love Me Tender, Love Me True.’



Pearce gets down low as he performs ‘Suspicious Minds’, as his assistant Diane Pearce enjoys the moment.

his performance. As the commotion died down, some trooped up to the stage to have their photo taken with Pearce in front of a backdrop that memorized many Elvis performances in Las Vegas.

Audience member Susan Kurtz said she “was so happy see him come back because he was such a hit the last time.” But what especially touched her was

that he remembered two audience members from his 2019 performance and gave them scarves. The two were Katie Thames, who has Downs Syndrome, and Boots Conway, who is now president of the women’s club.

The club’s next event will be a holiday tour of homes on Dec. 8. It will be preceded by a light breakfast at the country club

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Elvis impersonator Jeremy Pearce delights his audience when he performs at the Rancho Murieta Women’s Club luncheon at the Rancho Murieta Country Club on Sept. 27.



Pearce draws 109 attendees to the Murieta Room.



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Wilton Neighbors Win Appeal to Stop Cell Tower Construction

Continued from page 1
council voted 4:1 to recommend denial of the project. When the county planning commission took up the issue on July 26, a smaller group of neighbors did their best to voice their concerns. But the commission voted 3:0 with one abstention, to approve the project.

Two days later, Krauz asked the CCPAC to file an appeal to supervisors on their behalf so they wouldn't have to pay \$4,200 if they appealed themselves. The CCPAC voted 4 to 3 to file a community appeal and designated council member John Merchant to handle it.

Lawrence said after the CCPAC agreed to appeal for them, Krauss organized a group that included Lawrence, Heidi Haugen, Bruce Peart, and Marinda Borg to plan their approach.

Before the board meeting, Merchant told the neighbors they had "a snowball's chance in hell" of winning the appeal. The county's design review committee had approved the project even before the planning commission did. The county planning staff also recommended board approval. Merchant also recalled instances in past years when CCPAC recommendations were not heeded at the higher levels.

Merchant said he was elated at the 4:1 vote by the board to uphold the appeal. Krauss, who lives in The Ranch subdivision, and his fellow organizer Dan Lawrence, who lives on Tavernor Road, were equally happy.

Merchant had arranged some extra time at the board meeting so Lawrence could present a PowerPoint outlining their objections

to county variances for the project. The PowerPoint included photos with a helium balloon showing the height of the tower and the inability of existing trees, some of them dying, to screen it from view.

Lawrence believes one slide was especially effective. It showed a coverage map from the T-Mobile website that showed 5G coverage in the neighborhood when the applicant had shown many "granular" maps showing spotty coverage.

About a dozen neighbors attended the board meeting, with seven going to the podium to decry the tower. However, one opposing comment came from neighbor Daniel Spear, who phoned in his support for the tower. "The reality is we do need this thing. Our cell phone coverage is extremely poor in my area," he said.

Hume told the other supervisors he didn't believe they could deny the use permit but did have the discretion to deny a special development permit that would nearly double the current standard, going from 55 feet tall to 90 feet tall. He noted there had been considerable community opposition to the height variance.

"Therefore, I would make a motion to uphold the CCPAC appeal of this project and deny the planning commission recommendation," he said.

Supervisor Sue Frost quickly seconded the motion and later said: "I think when the community speaks so loudly, I think we as representatives should support it."

Referring to his background in geography and

cartography, Supervisor Phil Serna told the applicants that the online coverage map did T-Mobile a disservice. "So it is a little disingenuous to say, well it is not an accurate scale for one thing, but it is for another."

Supervisor Patrick Kennedy said he would vote against the appeal. "I think we have to recognize that these utilities are essential to our everyday life," he said.

Hume agreed with Serna about the maps and said he found it "specious" that the applicants said they couldn't find a different site. He also noted that improving rural broadband access is different from a city.

"It's a whole different kind of lifestyle out there," Hume said. "To think we are just going to drop in an urban style infrastructure no matter how cleverly disguised into the rural area is presumption."

Board Chairman Rich Desmond said he wasn't convinced the tower was necessary in the area. "I'm convinced by the community today, and I will be supporting the motion, so with no further comments, please vote."

Kennedy was the sole nay vote on the motion to uphold the appeal.

In other business related to Rancho Murieta, the board voted unanimously to approve a one-year time extension for a subdivision map for the Residences of Murieta Hills East and West. Located near Stonehouse Park, the two subdivisions have 198 proposed lots.

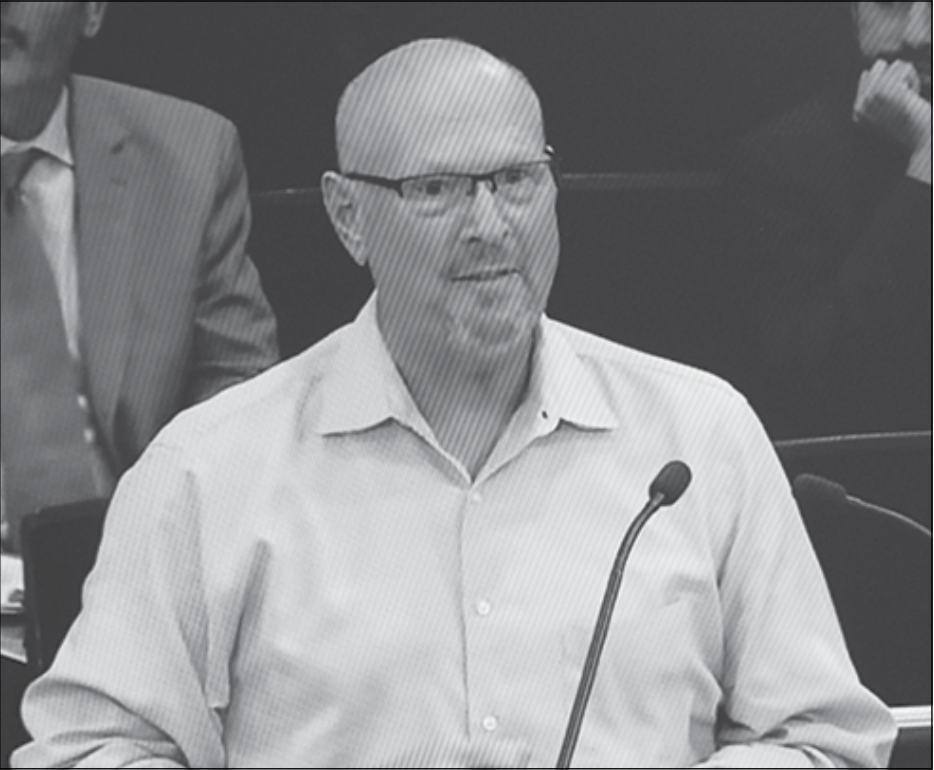
★



A photo taken by residents uses a helium balloon and a meter to illustrate the height of the proposed wireless tower.



A map submitted by residents shows that T-Mobile claims on its website that it has 5G coverage in their neighborhood. The applicant submitted several maps showing spotty coverage.



Wilton resident Dan Lawrence presents a PowerPoint explaining objections from the neighbors.

Big Bird Ignites Fire on Ranch Southeast of RM

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - A large bird flying into powerlines touched off a fire that burned nearly 11 acres of grass on ranch land southeast of Rancho Murieta early in the morning on Oct. 3, according to Cal Fire.

The fire was initially reported at the Rancho Murieta Airport at 12:20 a.m., according to the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) Security log. After the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (Sac Metro) asked for assistance in locating the fire, the patrol officer couldn't find any sign

of fire at the airport. However, it was later located on the east shore of the Cosumnes River near Arkansas Creek, the log said.

Wendy Oaks, a Cal Fire public information officer, said the firefighters accessed the fire from Meiss Road. "Although it was a pretty big fire, we didn't have any media calls," she said.

Oaks said eight Cal Fire and Sac Metro fire engines responded along with two water tenders and a dozer. Two Cal Fire hand crews were dispatched and remained on scene for a time to patrol the burned area and to keep it contained, she said.

Oaks said a "big bird" that flew into some power lines caused the fire. She didn't know the species.

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Oriental Fruit Flies Detected in Sacramento County

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the United States Department of Agriculture, have initiated an extensive survey and eradication plan in response to the detection of nine male oriental fruit flies (OFF), *Bactrocera dorsalis*, near the city of Rancho Cordova and the American River Parkway in Sacramento County.

The initial detection was confirmed on Sept. 12, 2023. The detections were made as part of our coordinated pest prevention system that protects our agriculture and natural resources from invasive species, with early detection as a key component to successfully eradicating an infestation before it can become established.

The extensive survey, also known as a delimitation survey, consists of multiple oriental fruit fly traps at prescribed densities going out 4.5 miles in each direction from the oriental fruit fly detection sites. These nine OFF will trigger a quarantine, which will be announced shortly by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Following the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), agricultural officials use “male attractant” technique as the mainstay of the eradication effort for this invasive species. This approach has successfully eliminated dozens of fruit fly infestations in California. Trained workers squirt a small patch of fruit fly attractant mixed with a very small dose of Spinosad, a natural pesticide made by a soil bacterium and approved for use on organic crops, approximately 8-10 feet off the ground on street



Bactrocera dorsalis, the oriental fruit fly, can enter the state is by “hitchhiking” in fruits and vegetables brought back illegally by travelers. Photo Courtesy of Martin Hauser/California Department of Food and Agriculture

trees and similar surfaces; male fruit flies are attracted to the mixture and perish after consuming it. The male attractant treatment program is being carried out over an area that extends 1.5 miles from each site where the oriental fruit flies were trapped.

While fruit flies and other invasive species that threaten California’s crops and natural environment are sometimes detected in agricultural areas, the vast majority are found in urban and suburban communities. The most common pathway for these pests to enter the state is by “hitchhiking” in fruits and vegetables brought back illegally by travelers as they return from infested regions of the world or from packages of homegrown produce sent to California. Help protect California’s agricultural and natural resources; please don’t pack a pest when traveling or mailing packages.

“Invasive non-native fruit flies are serious pests for California’s agricultural industry and backyard gardens,” said Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner Chris Flores. “These recent detections remind us that we need to remain vigilant in protecting our agricultural and natural resources. When traveling abroad or mailing packages to California, we urge the public not to bring back or ship fruits and vegetables

as they are pathways for oriental fruit flies and other invasive species entering our state.”

The oriental fruit fly is known to target over 230 different fruit, vegetable and plant commodities. Important California crops at risk include grapes, pome and stone fruits, citrus, dates, avocados, tomatoes and peppers. Damage occurs when the female fruit fly lays her eggs inside the fruit. The eggs hatch into maggots, which tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption.

The oriental fruit fly is widespread throughout much of the mainland of southern Asia and neighboring islands, including Sri Lanka and Taiwan, and it has invaded other areas, most notably Africa and Hawaii.

Federal, State and County agricultural officials work year-round, 365 days a year, to prevent, deter, detect, and eliminate the threat of invasive species and diseases that can damage or destroy our agricultural products and natural environment. The efforts are aimed at keeping California’s natural environment and food supply plentiful, safe and pest-free.

Residents with questions about the project may call the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner’s office at 916-875-6603 or the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899. ★

Nation’s Finest Educational Program to Help Veterans in Need

Nation’s Finest News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - Veterans’ advocates and community leaders joined together at the California State Capitol on September 12, 2023, to launch a 3-month campaign by Nation’s Finest to raise awareness about programs and services to help Veterans in need.

Coinciding with National Suicide Prevention Month, the community outreach program aims to shine a light on the alarming statistics impacting Veterans – from mental health and high suicide rates to homelessness and unemployment -- and help connect Veterans and their families to resources that honor their service and ensure their care and success.

“The suicide rate among Veterans remains high, with approximately 17 Veterans committing suicide each day, and on any given night, over 40,000 Veterans don’t have a place to call home in our country,” said Chris Johnson, President & CEO, Nation’s Finest. “As a nation, we can and should do better to honor those who have sacrificed and served, which is why we are launching this program to raise greater awareness and help connect Veterans to the help and services they need.”

Through Veteran’s Day, Nation’s Finest will host a series of community awareness events in California, Arizona, and Nevada, that bring together community leaders, Veterans’ advocates, and community partners to ensure Veterans and their families have access to services, programs, and the care available to them. Each event will feature a Nation’s Finest mobile service unit staffed by trained professionals to assist Veterans, as well as community partner booths to provide educational information about available services. On display will be a powerful storytelling exhibition honoring Veteran heroes for making a difference in the lives of Veterans. At each event, Nation’s Finest will present special awards to

local Veterans who have gone above the call of duty to help Veterans and their families in their local communities.

During a ceremony on the west steps of the Capitol, seven local Veteran heroes from Northern California were honored for their service. Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg joined Nation’s Finest to present special medallions to them for their work. A special storytelling exhibition featured their stories and that of other Veteran heroes, which will also be on display through September 30th in the window fronts of the historic Weinstocks Building in downtown Sacramento located at 1130 K Street.

“These local heroes exemplify the spirit of our community and continue to answer the call of duty in helping those who have served access mental and behavioral health care, including housing stability, employment and suicide prevention services,” said Mayor Steinberg. “I applaud the efforts of Nation’s Finest in launching this important program and so many other Veteran organizations, community partners, and advocates, who work tirelessly to ensure our Veterans can get the care they need and deserve.”

Sacramento area recipients of the Nation’s Finest 50 Local Heroes Award include Gail Belmont, Don Harper, Kia Phillips, Steve Reed, Preston Sharp, Julie Baumgarten, and Michael Harris. Their personal stories, along with all the Nation’s Finest awardees, are featured in the exhibition and on the Nation’s Finest website at www.NationsFinest.org, along with information about the Community Outreach Program.

Harris, a U.S. Army Veteran and Sacramento native credits the work of Nation’s Finest and the support he received at Mather Veterans Village for helping change his life during vulnerable times, saying, “It was a life-changing experience to be so humbled to have to ask for

help with you are vulnerable and broke. They helped lift me up and gave me a chance.” Today, Michael helps other Veterans, particularly those facing homelessness. He is also Chair of the California Black Agriculture Working Group, where he is dedicated to bringing equity to Black agricultural producers.

The Nation’s Finest Community Outreach Program is funded through the support of many community partners, including Verizon (presenting partner), U.S. Veterans Affairs, Safeway, the Land of the Free Foundation, Comcast, Turton Commercial Real Estate, Enterprise Community Partners, and the Charles M. Shulz Museum, among others.

“Verizon is honored to join together with so many community partners in supporting Nation’s Finest and their mission help Veterans in need,” said Sophia Garcia, Director, External Affairs & Local Engagement at Verizon. “Verizon is committed to helping Veterans and their families with access to smart technologies that improve connectivity to the programs, services, and care available to them. It’s through community partnerships like this that we can work together to make a difference.”

This year marks 50 years since Nation’s Finest was founded to support Veterans returning from the Vietnam War by providing critical housing, health, and employment support to ensure Veterans reach their full potential. During the past five decades, the programs and impact of Nation’s Finest has continued to grow, having served 150,000+ veterans and providing \$275 million in direct services in 31 locations in California, Arizona, and Nevada, as well as through national services. Additionally, through its mobile service unit program, Nation’s Finest can reach thousands more Veterans each year, who lack access to care by bringing resources directly to them, particularly those living in rural areas . ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Garden Club Hosts Green Acres Expert on Oct. 24

A gardening expert from Green Acres Nursery & Supply will be the featured speaker at the Oct. 24 meeting of the River Valley Garden Club at the RMA Building. The doors will open at 6 p.m. for fellowship, refreshments and a raffle. “An Evening with Greg Grayton” is slated to begin after the business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Grayton is the community outreach director for Green Acres and has a huge bank of knowledge about local gardening issues. He will also bring door prizes. The first meeting is free for nonmembers.

CSD Slates Organics Workshop on Oct. 24

Learn more about recycling organics when the Rancho Murieta Community Services District sponsors a workshop on Oct. 24 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the CSD Building. Cal-Waste began collecting organic waste in Rancho Murieta in January. It stems from Senate Bill 1386 which

was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown in 2016. It requires that organic materials be kept out of landfills to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Per the law, residents must separate organics from their garbage and place food scraps, and food-soiled paper into the same cart as yard trimmings.

River Valley Garden Club Sponsors Smokey the Bear Contest

All students in grades one through five at any school are invited to participate in a poster contest sponsored by the River Valley Garden Club. The contest is about Smokey the Bear and needs to state somewhere on the poster - “Only you can prevent forest fires”. Please contact Berniece Jones at 916-354- 2873 to get poster paper and more information about the contest. We will deliver poster paper and contest rules to anyone who wants to enter. The contest ends Nov. 1. Prizes will be awarded for each grade level. The first place prize is \$20 and second place is \$10. All first prize winners will

be entered into the state level competition. River Valley Garden Club is affiliated with National Garden Club, Pacific Region, and California State Garden Clubs.

Sheriff’s Office to Host RM Meeting on Nov. 15

The Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office is inviting all Rancho Murieta residents to attend a community meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 60 at the RMA Building.

Kiwanis Seeks Sweats for Vets Donations

Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta is once again asking for monetary donations to its Sweat for Vets program. This is 14th year of helping veterans who are hospitalized at the Sacramento VA Medical Center in Mather. Please make your check out to Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta Sweat for Vets. Cash donations and Walmart gift cards are also welcome. Mail donations to Kiwanis at P. O. Box 855, Rancho Murieta, or put them in a drop box at the

RMA building. If you have any questions call Diann Swan at 916-343-0656. Thank you for your support of this program.

VFW to Seek Auxiliary Members with Oct. 14 Social

The Rancho Murieta post of Veterans of Foreign Wars recently formed an auxiliary and is inviting potential members to a barbecue social on Oct. 14 at 5 p.m. It will be held at Hanger 23 at Rancho Murieta Airport. To be eligible, an auxiliary member must have a relative who qualifies to be a member of the VFW. For example, an auxiliary member could be a mother, spouse or grandson. To be eligible for VFW membership, a person must meet two requirements. First is having served in the Armed Forces of the US and receiving an honorable discharge. Second, the person must have served on foreign soil or hostile waters.

CSD Slates Water Plan Townhall on Nov. 2

The Rancho Murieta Community Services

District will present a town hall meeting at 6 p.m. on Nov. 2 to update the community about the preparation of an Integrated Water Master Plan. Consultants are currently working on the study, which will forecast the community’s water needs over the next 20 years in the midst of climate change and droughts. The meeting will be held in the Murieta Room at the Rancho Murieta Country Club.

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.

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. ★

Two Hurt in Early Morning Shooting at Equestrian Center

Continued from page 1

Equestrian Center Statement

Maryann Subbotin, who manages the equestrian center, was asked if the victims worked there. She said both worked for trainers showing their horses. Subbotin confirmed that the horse show remained on schedule. She said the only interruption was due to “the sadness around this unfortunate incident. However, the horse show will go on.” Subbotin also sent a joint statement from the equestrian center, the horse show, and West Palms Event Management, the show organizer. “We are deeply disappointed and saddened that something like this would happen at our facility and want to underscore that there is absolutely no place for this type of lawlessness and criminal behavior,” it said.

The statement also thanked the sheriff’s office and extended “deep concern” to all involved. It said none of the involved individuals were employed by the equestrian center or the horse show, and it appeared that the shooting was an isolated event that followed a personal dispute. “The safety and security of “our exhibitors, spectators, and staff is our absolute priority, and we have increased our security for the event,” the statement said.

CSD Patrol Response

A Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) patrol officer was the first on the scene, according to Security Supervisor Kelly Benitez. The officer was on routine patrol at the Operating Engineers Local 3 training center when he

heard four gunshots. After he arrived at the equestrian center, a woman approached him saying someone had been shot. A man also came up to give him the license plate of the shooter who had already left the scene in an older Toyota pickup, Benitez said. The officer wrote on the log that both witnesses were staff members. When the patrol officer reached the two victims, one was bleeding profusely. “One of the victims was shot in the neck area, and he provided first aid to keep him from bleeding out,” Benitez said. “He also notified the fire department and the sheriff’s office, which responded and took over.” Benitez said the officer couldn’t talk to the victims “because of a language barrier.” The security supervisor described the officer’s response as another win for the department. After the officer heard the gunshots, he immediately responded, took cover until contacting the witnesses, made immediate notifications, and provided immediate first aid. “That’s why you have security. I wish we could cover (the shifts) 24 hours a day, “ Benitez said. “But Measure R failed, and we don’t have the resources.” Benitez said the response to the shooting was a second recent win for the security department. He was referring to a home invasion in the south where a man in his underwear and under the influence of drugs broke into the home of an elderly couple on Aug. 26. “We were able to protect the victims until the full force of the sheriff’s office responded 15 minutes later,” Benitez



Riders wait to compete in a renowned horse show at the Murieta Equestrian Center about six hours after a shooting that seriously injured two grooms on Oct. 5 Photo by Gail Bullen

said. “They (SSO) had to use a beanbag, a K-9, and several personnel to apprehend him,” Benitez said.

Victim Fundraisers

The equestrian center manager referred the River Valley Times to an article written by Melissa Wright for The Chronicle of the Horse magazine at <https://www.chronofhorse.com>. The story said two grooms were shot and seriously injured after an apparent altercation at an impromptu soccer game involving a group of grooms and exhibitors that took place in a covered area near the stabling area of the equestrian center. It identified the most seriously injured worker as Ricardo Mendoza, 21. An amateur rider from St. Helena, Lily Berlin, set up a GoFundMe page for Medoza. On Oct. 6, she described him as a “a good kid” who had been the victim

of a senseless shooting. “He is undergoing extensive medical treatment for his injuries and has had two emergency surgeries today to deal with two gunshot wounds to his face and neck,” Berlin said. “He is in critical condition in the surgery ICU at a leading trauma center.” Berlin told the Chronicle that Mendoza freelances and works for different trainers at different shows rather than being employed by one barn, and he comes from a family of professional grooms. Berlin also told the Chronicle that she was one of the first people on the scene of the shooting and had been at the hospital with Medoza since then. Berlin said the doctors and surgeons made it clear that the shooter was trying to kill Mendoza. Dale Harvey, the CEO of West Palms Events, which organizes the horse show, identified

the second victim as Martin Cazares. He was shot in the shoulder. He was in better condition the following day after the shooting and had been moved out of the Intensive Care Unit. Cyd Lisa, of Navato, a trainer at Longview Stables where Cazares had worked for 12 years, set up a GoFundMe page for him. “He is an integral part of our Longview Family, and without him, our horses and riders would not be who they are today,” she wrote. “He has three young children at home, and we know that all donations will help during this time of need.” Harvey told the Chronicle didn’t believe the shooter was working at the horse show. As best as he can determine, someone invited the suspect to participate in the soccer game. “I’m trying to get to the bottom of who that might have been,” he said.

The two-week Sacramento Horse Show is one of the Murieta Equestrian Center’s biggest events of the year with 600 horses on the grounds. Harvey told the Chronicle he was expecting a sell-out crowd of 3,000 for the marquee event on Oct. 7, which was the \$200,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup. “This is a big weekend for us traditionally, and we have a huge public that comes to this event, so we typically have a lot of security for this event anyway,” Harvey told the Chronicle. “Because of this, it has been enhanced.” The links to the GoFundMe pages can be found at <https://www.chronofhorse.com/>. As of Oct. 8, \$20,975 had been donated for Mendoza and \$32,450 for Cazares. The top donor for both men was the Sacramento International Horse Show with \$5,000. ★

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. 22**
- Two extra patrols.
 - Trespassing, 5:52 p.m. The Villas, juveniles at the pool, UTL.
 - Fireworks/gunshots, 9:35 p.m. Hole 3 on north, UTL.
- Sept. 23**
- Two extra patrols.
 - Shoplifting, 2:35 p.m. Bel Air, observed shoplifter paid for groceries.
 - Safety advisal, 10:05 p.m. Via Robbia Court, report of an unattended fire pit. The patrol contacted the resident who said he had stepped inside to get a few things and was going back to fire.

- Sept. 24**
- Four extra patrols.
 - Lost juvenile, 4:51 a.m. Rio Circle, patrol contacted the 14-year-old. SSO contacted her father and asked him to pick her up, which he did.
 - Animal complaint, 3 p.m. Lago Drive, golf cart with a dog off-leash, GOA.
 - Speed enforcement, 4:39 p.m. Murieta Parkway, one citation.
 - Disturbance, 8 p.m. Pera and Lago Drive, report of female screaming, UTL.
- Sept. 25**
- Three extra patrols.
 - Parking enforcement, 3:58 p.m. Colvert and Lago Drives, three citations.
- Sept. 26**
- Four extra patrols.
 - Parking enforcement, 3:35 a.m. Murieta North, three citations.
 - Accident, 1:09 p.m. location. No one was around when patrol arrived. The gate officer advised an unknown resident driving a golf cart was transported by Sac Metro for evaluation.
 - Loud boom, 9:35 p.m., Guadalupe, report of loud boom behind the house. No signs or fireworks or explosions were found.
- Sept. 27**
- One extra patrol.

- Parking enforcement, 5:56 a.m. RM North, two citations.
- Sept. 28**
- One extra patrol.
 - Trespassing, 1:52 p.m., under Yellow Bridge, two individuals fishing, left upon request.
 - Resident complaint, 6:26 pm. Via Sereno, Neighborhood dispute. RP said neighbor has been parking and driving in his front yard for years. When patrol advised him to contact RMA Compliance. He said he never got an answer back. When patrol told him he didn’t see any violations, the RP was upset and told him to leave.
 - Water leak, 6:43 p.m. Ventana and Trinidad Drives, patrol took picture of water seeping from road and advised dispatch to contact CSD.
- Sept. 29**
- Miscellaneous, 8:05 p.m. behind Burger King, report of transient loitering. UTL.
- Sept. 30**
- Parking, 3:20 p.m. Yellow Bridge, report of parking near it. They left upon request.
 - Speeding enforcement, 5:59 p.m. Murieta Parkway, three citations.
 - Welfare check, 7:56 p.m. Rio Oso, RP

- requested a welfare check on an elderly man. He was doing fine.
- Oct. 1**
- Five extra patrols.
 - Accident, 2:52 a.m. Guadalupe and 12 park, gold cart hit an unoccupied truck. CHP evaluated the diver and determined she wasn’t under the influence. Her passenger suffered head and knee injuries and was transported to Kaiser South.
 - Trespassing. 2:40 p.m., an unspecified location on the golf course, juveniles yelling at golfers. UTL.
 - Suspicious person, 5:10 p.m. entrance to Murieta Village, report of transient sleeping, UTL.
 - Disturbance, 6:45 p.m. Callaway near 13th hole. Patrol didn’t hear any screaming and RP didn’t have an address for the source of the noise.
 - Welfare check, 7:37 p.m. Guadalupe Drive. Custody dispute. The husband called SSO for a welfare check because to minor kids were home along. SSO handled the welfare check. Code 4.
 - Follow up, 9:22 p.m. Murieta Plaza, report of homeless transient loitering behind the plaza. White male adult wearing a blue hoodie, tan pants and white shoes. GOA.
 - Follow up, 10 pm.

- Near the fire station, report of transient. Patrol located transient but didn’t observe any crime or trespassing.
- Oct. 2**
- Four extra patrols. One was at the equestrian center for a special event.
 - Parking enforcement, 4:24 a.m. RM North, two citations.
 - Trespassing, 5:48 a.m. South Gate, Prius avoided the main gate to enter. Patrol found the vehicle on Feathery Court. The driver was delivering to Amazon. Because of a language barrier, the driver didn’t understand the gate signs. He was advised o RMA rules, logged into the system and released.
- Oct. 3**
- Three extra patrols including the equestrian center because of a special event.
 - Fire, 12:20 a.m. airport, report of fire, Sac Metro asked for help finding it. It was located east of the Cosumnes River southeast of the airport. Engine 359 left the airport to find an access road to the fire (Meiss Road.) Patrol saw multiple fire trucks arrive at the fire. It was extinguished at about 2:30 p.m.
 - Parking enforcement, RM S, two citations.
- Oct. 4**
- Log not supplied.
- Oct. 5**
- Two extra patrols.

- Gunshots, 2:20 a.m. equestrian center, officer on routine patrol at OE3 school when he heard four shots. When he responded to the equestrian center, staff informed him a suspect had shot two individuals and fled in a vehicle. Rendered first aid and notified SSO and Station 59. SSO took over the investigation and completed the report.
 - Animal complaint, 8:25 p.m. Topspin Way, dog barking, patrol heard the dog, but dispatch was unable to reach the owner.
- Wilton Fire**
- Thirteen medical aids between Sept. 26 and Oct. 4
- Sept. 28**
- Structure fire, 10:42 a.m. 10531 Sisters Court, Elk Grove.
 - Commercial structure fire, 9:58 p.m. Cherokee Lane and Colony Road.
- Sept. 30**
- Commercial structure fire, 11:40 a.m. 400 D Street.
 - Investigation, 11:14 p.m. Alta Mesa and Woods Road.
- Oct. 3**
- Grass fire, 12:25 a.m. 7748 Murieta Drive.
- Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office**
- No incidents reported.

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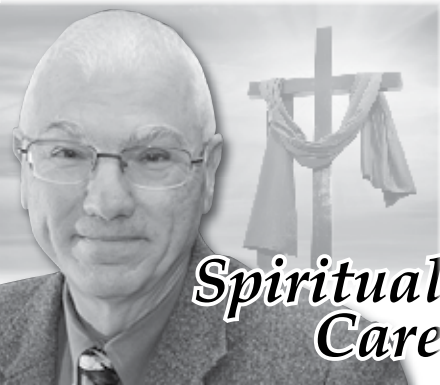
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Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

I sent an email to readers a few days ago with this plea:

“A historic girls school has asked Chispa Project to help them establish a library at José Cecilio del Valle located in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

We need your help to raise the needed \$5,000.”

A few minutes later I received a reply asking if Chispa Project was “Christ-centered.”

I have to assume the question to be sincere, but my Southern Baptist roots hear judgment.

If you’ve been reading this column for a few years, you know that my daughter Sara started Chispa Project to create small libraries in under-served Honduran schools. And most of you know that Chispa is not about evangelizing those schools.

It feels like my inquisitor wants

Living with Chispa Chutzpah

me to say, “You bet it is! We stock our libraries with boatloads of Bibles, Jesus stories and salvation pamphlets.”

And if that answer will bring a large donation, I might.

Not really.

Still, I strive to formulate a reply for my examiner.

My mind drifts to one of the first schools the project helped. Prior to Chispa’s arrival, the school library consisted of a dozen books from their teachers’ personal collections. Few were in Spanish and most books weren’t suitable to the children’s reading levels.

The school principal escorted Sara and I into each classroom. Most rooms bulged with 42 students squeezed three-to-a-seat at desks intended for only two students.

Despite the bleak design, the school’s walls sprouted spirit posters boasting of the school’s dedication to reading. The principal led a student-cheer with snapping fingers that emphasized the English translation of the word “Chispa” – spark. During the cheer, the principal told the children that Chispa Project books would spark their education.

Later in the morning, children poured onto the playground. They had no sports equipment, nevertheless, their imagination sparked their made-up games. Kids climbed and dangled from the small soccer goal posts on each side of the playground. They paused occasionally to stare down at the tall, white chaplain watching them from a bench.

Returning to the question, “Is Chispa Project Christ-centered?”

An educational organization doesn’t become “Christ-centered” just because it incorporates theology into its written mission statement. After all, reading is still reading whether you’re reading the Bible or a science textbook. Math is always just math. Add 2+2 and you get the same result whether summed by a Christian, Jew or atheist.

The Christian part, or the “Christ-centeredness,” comes not from the organization, but from the heart of the one serving. A nonprofit needn’t be parochial to be “Christ-centered.” Jesus taught that whenever we help “...someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.”

In the six years I’ve been going to Honduras, I can testify that the mission of Chispa Project beats with the

heart of Jesus who said, “Let the little children come to me ... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

“Is that what you told him, Dad?” Sara asked.

“I told him that and one more thing.”

Sara was quiet, sensing what was coming.

“I asked him how much he’d be sending,” I added.

Sara shook her head. “I’ve always admired your chutzpah.”

I smiled. “It’s what I like to call “Chispa chutzpah.”

Her groan at the dad joke remains memorable.

Please consider donating online at www.chispaproject.org/girls or sending a check made to “Chispa Project” to 10556 Combie Rd Suite 6643 Auburn CA 95602.

This column excerpted from the Chispa chapter in my upcoming book, “Tell it to the Chaplain.”

If you didn’t get my email, be sure and sign up for my weekly column by email at thechaplain.net/newsletter. Send comments to comment@thechaplain.net. Leave recorded comments at (843) 608-9715..



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River Gravel Project Roars Ahead

**Story and photos
by Susan Maxwell
Skinner**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Bulldozers and monster truck sightings are now as common as wildlife on the Ancil Hoffman Park walking trail.

Though small boys might delight in the roaring excavators, big fish are the real beneficiaries. The area defined as Upper River Bend is the sight of a \$ 3.6 million project to help threatened salmonids.

Started last month, the eight-week project continues annual Sacramento Water Forum efforts. Chinook salmon and steelhead populations must have movable stones for nesting and egg laying. To this end, 30,000 cubic yards of small-diameter gravel will be moved from an adjacent bar into the river flow.

Excavated areas will become a side channel and 11 acres of spawning and rearing habitat will result. New native plantings will provide shelter and attract insects to feed baby fish before their

swim to the Pacific.

For millions of years, salmonids managed the process unaided. But since the Gold Rush, man-made river alterations have threatened migratory species. The American River and its tributaries once offered 200 miles of breeding sites. More than 150 years of river development have reduced possibilities to about 12 miles.

Dam construction blocked spawning paths and barred natural gravel movement. “The lower part of the American River is gravel-starved,” explains Water Forum Habitat Manager Erica Bishop. “Some salmon and steelhead return to home waters and can’t find a place to spawn. Fish can’t build nests without the right physical conditions.

“Though the Nimbus Hatchery has a role in juvenile fish production, the Water Forum’s focus is to help adult salmonids complete life cycles naturally.”

The current project must wrap before fall salmon migration crowds the passage. After Chinook giants,



Carmichael’s iconic water tower stands amid the \$3.6 million project to restore salmon spawning beds on the American River. Water Forum Habitat manager Erica Bishop watches excavation progress near Ancil Hoffman Park.

steelhead nest in the same gravel beds. “Our work is targeted over time frames least likely to affect migrating fish,” says Bishop. “Swings between drought and flood condition create challenges; we focus on long-term habitat improvement.”

A nearby 2021 Water Forum project supported 30 percent of threatened steelhead reproduction for that season. “Results are immediate,” notes Bishop. “Fish begin to spawn as soon as we finish our projects. Our restored habitats certainly

work.”

The Ancil Hoffman project will wrap by mid-October. Though construction areas are fenced, park trails are still operational and rafting is not impacted. In-river work pauses at weekends.

Water Forum projects are supported by the Bureau of Reclamation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, CA Prop 68 funding, Sacramento City and County and signatory water agencies. Learn about the Water Forum at www.waterforum.org ★



Water Forum Habitat Manager Erica Bishop explains the 2023 habitat restoration project to Ancil Hoffman Park hiker Al Trivett.



A \$3.6 million project continues restoration of salmon spawning beds on the American River. Water Forum Habitat manager Erica Bishop watches excavation progress near Ancil Hoffman Park.

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