



**Rain No Bother
For Egg Hunters
at Stonehouse**

PAGE 2

**The A's
Are Coming
to Town**

PAGE 6



RIVER VALLEY TIMES

40TH YEAR • ISSUE 07

Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughouse, Wilton

APRIL 12, 2024

**SEE
INSIDE**

**ELECTROFISHING
SURVEY AT
CLEMENTIA**



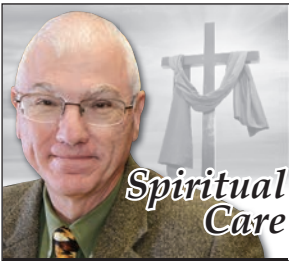
PAGE 5

**RMA OK'S
PICKLEBALL,
PAVING FUNDS**



PAGE 4

**DON'T
GAMBLE WITH
FAITH**



PAGE 11

PRSRTD STD.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CARMICHAEL, CA
PERMIT NO. 350
**OR CURRENT
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

Little League Celebrates 33 Years With March 23 Opening Day



Cosumnes River Little League (CRLLE) opens its 33rd season with its Opening Day Parade to Stonehouse Park on March 23. Carrying the banner are Wyat Wooley, left, and Will Baehr. Photos by Gail Bullen

**By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter**

RANCHO MURIETA (MPG)

Despite rain earlier in the morning, a patch of blue sky opening momentarily when the Cosumnes River Little League (CRLLE) held Opening Ceremonies 2024 on March 23.

The event began with a parade of 26 teams caravanning to Stonehouse Park where they assembled on the main baseball field for the opening day ceremony.

The highlights included the introduction of the teams, the recognition of volunteers and sponsors, the ceremonial first pitch, a recognition of girls playing softball, and the presentation of the colors. An exuberant Dinger, the official River Cats mascot, also took part in the festivities.



After getting a high-five from River Cats mascot Dinger, the Sun Devils rush onto the field as their team is introduced.

Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta served a hot dog lunch afterward.

Led by a Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District engine, the parade began on Murieta Parkway and went up

Escuela Drive, which was lined with spectators. Each team rode in its own version of a decorated chariot, and the high-spirited players tossed

Continued on page 3

CSD Board Approves Rate Increase Notice

**By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter**

RANCHO MURIETA (MPG)

The Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) recently mailed a notice regarding proposed rate increases for 2024/25. The notice indicates that an average customer residing inside the gates might face a 15.39% monthly increase.

However, it's crucial to note that this increase represents a worst-case scenario as per state law under Proposition 218. Such notices are required to list the maximum potential rates, although the actual rates are expected to be lower upon final budget approval in June.

Discussions during the March 20 board meeting revealed that the staff and board are exploring various options to mitigate the

SAMPLE BILL Proposed FY 24-25 RANCHO MURIETA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT					
Average Monthly Customer Bill					
Residential Metered Lot (Inside the gates)					
	Current Monthly Rates	Proposed Monthly Rates	\$ Change	% Change	
	July 1, 2023	July 1, 2024			
Average Usage in CF					
Water	1,471	1,471			
Residential Base (excluding reserves)	\$ 42.84	\$ 52.26	\$ 9.42	22.0%	
Reserve Contribution	14.00	14.00	-	0.0%	
Water Base Charge	56.84	66.26	9.42	16.6%	
Water Usage (per 100 cubic foot)	\$2.17 → \$3.26	31.92	47.87	15.96	50.0%
Total Water	88.76	114.14	25.38	28.6%	
WTP Debt Service Charge	6.00	6.00	-	0.0%	
Wastewater					
Residential Base (excluding reserves)	54.12	59.53	5.41	10.0%	
Reserve Contribution	14.00	14.00	-	0.0%	
Wastewater Base Charge	68.12	73.53	5.41	7.9%	
Solid Waste (avg. 65 Gallon Container)	38.96	44.75	5.79	14.9%	
Solid Waste Administrative Fee	3.00	3.00	-	0.0%	
Security Tax	32.18	32.82	0.64	2.0%	
Drainage Tax	5.64	5.75	0.11	2.0%	
Total RMCSB Bill	\$ 242.66	\$ 280.00	\$ 37.34	15.39%	
The actual rate increases may be less than but in no case more than the proposed rates above.					

A sample bill shows increase for the average gated community customer. Photo by Gail Bullen

impact on individual bills before the public rate hearing scheduled for May 15.

In other business, the board took in updates on using Lake Clementia as a drinking water source, pay increases, the loss of two

part-time gate officers, and forthcoming water plan meetings. See the separate water story in this issue.

Rate increase

The sample bill accompanying the notice

demonstrates a 15.39% increase for the average gated community customer, translating to an additional \$37.34 per month. Consequently, the current monthly bill of

Continued on page 5



Grant Funds Sheldon Levee Repairs

**By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - A \$390,000 award from the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to reimburse 2023 storm damage repairs and three emergency levee repairs in early March in Sheldon were topics when the Reclamation District 800 (RD800) Board of Trustees met at the Wilton Community Center on March 21.

The board also took in an update about efforts to secure \$5 million in reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for other emergency repairs after the January 2023 storms and approval to fix three levees in Sloughouse downstream from Rancho Murieta.

Another update was that a \$500,000 planning grant secured for the district by State Sen. Roger Niello had been reinstated.

Background

Reclamation District 800 maintains and repairs 34 miles of privately-owned levees along the Cosumnes River between Rancho Murieta and Freeman Road off Dillard Road in Wilton and Freeman Road off Grant Line Road in Sheldon. The funding to maintain the levees at a 10-year flood standard comes from an assessment district that generates only \$514,000 a year. The January 2023 storms broke the district's levees in three locations and caused massive erosion elsewhere. Already in debt, the district increased its line of credit to make more than \$6.5 million in emergency repairs. As of the March meeting, Reclamation District 800 owed \$7.125 million to the Bank of Stockton.

Cal OES reimbursement

On March 14, the California State Office

Continued on page 4

Rain No Bother For Egg Hunters at Stonehouse

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA (MPG)
Although rain fell as the Kiwanians set up for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Family Picnic at Stonehouse Park on March 30, they persevered because their event had been billed as “rain or shine.”
Fortunately, the precipitation subsided to intermittent, light showers by the opening at 10 a.m. Despite the sprinkles not sparing two of the three egg hunts, the youngsters were undeterred.

“The kids don’t care if they get wet,” explained Cookie Whalen. She organized the event, along with fellow Kiwanian Bronwyn Anthony

One of the parents enjoying the celebration was Craig Pierson, who expressed his appreciation for the annual event.

“It brings families together for all the right reasons,” Pierson said.

The highlight was the Easter Egg Hunt, which was divided into three age groups for kids ages 2 through 10. It also featured photo ops with the Easter Bunny, Easter-themed crafts, a twisted balloon artist, two glitter tattooists, a Rancho Murieta Dance Company performance and refreshments featuring cotton candy, popcorn, juice and water.

The Central Office of the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department sent a large contingent comprising young Explorers, volunteers and deputies. Capt. Vanessa Vaden said they were impressed with the turnout as many youngsters frolicked in front of a department bubble machine.

“Everyone was so engaged. We did a ton of fingerprinting,” Vaden said.

Firefighters from the Sacramento Metropolitan



Daniel Bailey, 3, is thrilled with his bounty after participating in an egg hunt. Photo by Gail Bullen



Unable to grab bubbles out of the air, Peyton Santiago gets down low to snag them. Photo by Gail Bullen

Fire District also brought their fire trucks to the event and handed out stickers.

Rancho Murieta disc jockey Chris Perris provide the musical background and kept the event on track with timely announcements.

Another major component of the event was the Easter Bunny tossing her carrot in the air.

“Brooke (Blaisdell) was a fabulous Easter Bunny.

It’s a hard job for a teenager, Whalen said.

The event concluded with a performance by Murieta Dance Company. The Mini Competition Team dancing to “J’dore Paris” were as cute as they could be, according to Whalen.

Three groups stuffed 4,500 plastic eggs before the event: the Rancho Murieta Girl Scouts, the K-Kids Club at Cosumnes



Egg hunters are undeterred by rain at the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Family Picnic sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta on March 30 at Stonehouse Park. Photo by Gail Bullen



The Murieta Dance Company Mini Competition Team performs to “J’dore Paris.” Courtesy photo



Youngsters line up to greet the Easter Bunny. The face behind the bunny suit was high school junior Brooke Blaisdell, the Rancho Murieta Key Club president. Photo by Gail Bullen

River Elementary School and the Rancho Murieta Key Club. The 2-to 4-year-olds found stickers in their eggs but the older kids got candy.

Key Club members also helped out the day of the event by distributing the eggs before and between each hunt, collecting the emptied eggs and lending aid to the 20 Kiwanians staffing the event. Scouts from Troop 633 also

helped with the setup and takedown.

“We couldn’t do it without the volunteers,” Whalen said. “There are a lot of moving pieces but everyone shows up and pushes.”

Whalen also praised the Rancho Murieta Association Maintenance Department, which set up the tents and flags, cordoned off the areas and delivered all the chairs and

tables.
“Those guys are unbelievable,” Whalen said. “When we had a little snafu with the electricity, they were right there to help.”

Whalen said she and Anthony began planning the event in January. Despite the weather somewhat dampening the attendance this year, “overall it went very well,” she said. ★

A Veteran

Thank

TODAY

RETIRED COUPLE

HAS \$1MIL TO LEND ON CA. REAL ESTATE*

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY

Buys T.D.s and Buys/Lends on Partial Interests

OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal (818) 248-0000 Broker

WWW.VIPLoan.COM *Sufficient equity required - no consumer loans

Real Estate License #01041073 CA Department of Real Estate, NMLS #339217

Private Party loans generally have higher interest rates, points & fees than conventional discount loans

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. It encompasses five lakes, greenbelts, rolling hills and stately oaks.

rmhl.acceleragent.net

• 7281 Lone Pine Drive, Suite D102, Rancho Murieta, CA, 95683

Karen is a Presidential Award Holder with the Masters Club of the Sacramento Association of Realtors for over 37 years.

This is the most prestigious award given.

Thank you to all of our clients in 2023 for another successful year.

BRE #00670687

Rancho Murieta’s Top Realtor for 44 Years and counting.

*Source: MLS for residential, Not including “Residential Income”

Karen Hoberg,

Broker/Owner

(916) 947-6910



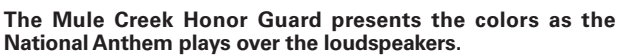
Continued from page 1
candy to the onlookers.

Dinger was waiting when teams reached the park. He high-fived most of the players before their teams ran into the main baseball field as disc jockey Chris Perris introduced them and played inspiring music.

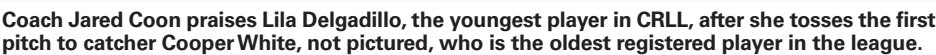
Once all the teams were lined up in the outfield, Perris introduced CRLP President Chris Kassel. "Welcome to this year's Little League season," Kassel said. "We are looking forward to a great season."

Kassel thanked the CRLP sponsors, particularly Zeta Broadband for the field sponsorships. He also pointed out how it takes considerable effort, coordination and helping hands to make CRLP happen.

"I want to say thank you to all the parents,



managers, coaches, volunteers, board members and everyone for their dedication and support to our community," he said. "We live in a great place."



the two All Star teams from last year and asked the players, coaches and managers to tip their hats so they could be recognized. "Both teams played hard. They played fair and they represented our community with such great strength and class," she said

Meyers announced the first pitch with two "special players." Clint Pritchard, who is the oldest registered CRLI player in his last year, was the catcher. The pitcher was Lilah Delgadillo. At not quite 4 years old, she is the youngest player in the league. Although she couldn't

throw the ball far, she threw it straight to much applause.

Meyers then announced a surprise first pitch with a daughter and mother to celebrate "Girls with Games," the 50th anniversary of girls in Little League." "I just sprang it on them," she said. "So April (Kershaw), you will be the catcher, and your daughter Ariel will be the pitcher."

Both pulled it off with aplomb, although they had to use a baseball and April Kershaw had to catch with her bare hands.

The final event on the program was a presentation of the colors by the

Mule Creek Prison Honor Guard while the National Anthem played over the loudspeakers.

The teams and the audience on and around the bleachers were dismissed to a rousing version of "Take Me Out to The Ball Game."

Waiting under three nearby canopies were members of the Kiwanis Club who grilled 1,200 hot dogs, slapped them in buns, wrapped them in foil and served the delicious result with chips and water.

Five games also were scheduled at noon and later in the day. ★

RV & BOAT STORAGE • SELF STORAGE

STORAGE PRICING	
SIZE (WxL)	PRICE (\$/mo)
8 x 8:.....	\$127.00
8 x 10:.....	\$143.00
8 x 20:.....	\$212.00
8 x 40:.....	\$287.00

RV & BOAT PRICING	
SIZE (WxL) ...	PRICE (\$/mo)
11 x 20:.....	\$150.00
11 x 25:.....	\$155.00
11 x 30:.....	\$165.00
12 x 40:.....	\$185.00
12 x 50:.....	\$200.00

Office Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm
 (Gate Hours 6am-7pm Daily)

24 Hour Video Surveillance • 50' Wide Drive Aisles
Dump Station • Propane Sales

us at www.rmairport.com

***Propane Available at
Rancho Murieta Airport***



***Propane
Tanks
Refilled
Here***

***Propane
Tanks
Refilled
Here***

***Propane
Tanks
Refilled
Here***

only \$4.50 per gallon

RMA Board Approves Spending For Pickleball, Paving Amenities

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA (MPG) - It was much ado about amenities and infrastructure when the Rancho Murieta Association Board held its monthly meeting on March 19 that lasted only 32 minutes.

General Manager Rod Hart reported that he is investigating the costs of adding new ball fields to Stone House Park. The board approved expenditures for three other amenities: new lighting at the pickleball courts, three new scoreboards at Stonehouse Park and the July 4 fireworks show.

Investing in infrastructure, the board voted to spend more than half a million dollars on pavement repairs.

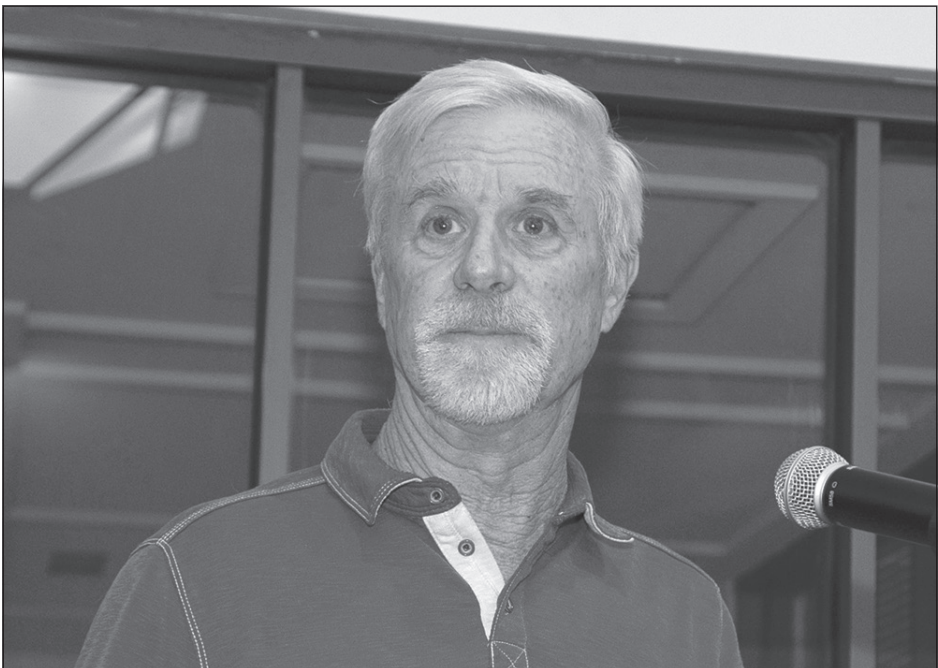
In other business, the board took in updates on hiring deputies for July 4, midge fly remediation, committee chair reports and a favorable audit report.

Board President Scott Adams also reported on the earlier closed session. He said the directors discussed a small claims court case in which the association is the defendant and the trail system for the Residences East subdivision. RMA and the developer are at odds on how the trail should be built.

See the story about the dispute in the Jan. 26 issue of the River Valley Times. Past issues are now available on the RVT website.

Escuela Drive

In his general manager's report, Hart said that he and Architectural Manager Mark Parksons are exploring the cost of developing the Escuela Drive park site as an extension to Stonehouse Park. The 14-acre site sits on the south side



Warren Hughes is president of the Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club that is paying \$10,000 of the cost to install new lights at the Stonehouse Park courts. The Rancho Murieta Association board unanimously approved the remaining \$23,015 needed for the lighting at their March 19 meeting. Photo by Gail Bullen

of Escuela Drive, which was originally proposed as a school site and later as the location for a community center, neither of which panned out. The site currently has a practice field thanks to a donation from Summerfest.

Hart told the board that existing ball fields at Stone House Park are overtaxed, especially on the weekends.

He said they are considering the addition of a majors ball field for use by the older Little Leaguers, another field designated for adult softball, which also could be used by Little League, and a soccer field.

Off-duty deputies

Hart also informed the board that he

had initiated the process of requesting the presence of six off-duty Sacramento County Sheriff's deputies for duty on July 4. RMA faced challenges in hiring deputies for last year's celebration. Hart is also exploring alternative options, including arrangements with private security firms.

Midge flies

Hart asked Maintenance Manager Troy Schaffner for an update on midge fly mitigation at Laguna Joaquin. Schaffner indicated that the same strategies used last year led to a significant reduction in midge fly populations.

The staff will implement a two-step approach to tackle the algae, which serves as the primary food source for midge flies:

first, the application of a green dye to limit sunlight penetration, and second, the use of a peroxide-based product.

Schaffner noted that recent rainfall delayed the start of these measures and necessitated a request to the Rancho Murieta Community Services District to lower the water level by a few inches.

Other business

- After Accounting Manager Coleen Hagyard reported the association had received "a clean audit" for the 2023 fiscal year, Adams said RMA should get an A+ for its financial condition when compared to other HOAs.

- The board unanimously approved spending \$525,000 for upcoming asphalt repairs and \$21,000 for asphalt consulting services. The funds will come from the reserves.
- A contract worth \$21,500 for this year's fireworks show on July 4 was also approved by the board.

- The board unanimously approved spending \$23,015 to add new lighting at the pickleball courts at Stone House Park.

Additionally, the Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club is contributing \$10,000 to the total cost of \$33,015. Schaffner estimates the installation timing at six to eight weeks.

The RMA share is coming from the exclusive use fund.

- A unanimous decision was made to allocate \$18,172 to replace the three aging scoreboards at Stonehouse Park. These funds will be drawn from the reserves.

- Director Patrick O'Hern, chair of the Architectural Review Committee, reported that the Residences East developer attended their March meeting to ask about annexation into RMA. ★

Grant Reimburses Sheldon, Wilton Levee Repairs

Continued from page 1
of Emergency Services announced the approval of more than \$390,000 in reimbursements to Reclamation District 800 under the California Disaster Assistance Act. The funding was to help cover the costs of two emergency levee repairs after the January 2023 storms.

The two projects were a levee break at the end of Fig Road that cost \$758,000 to repair and massive erosion at the end of Lee School House Road that cost \$1.72 million.

District engineer Patrick Ervin won fast-track approval to fund the two repairs from the National Resource Conservation Service, which is a division of the federal Department of Agriculture. While the district bore the upfront costs, the National Resource Conservation Service provided 75% reimbursement.

Ervin also applied for reimbursement of the district's 25% share from the California Office of Emergency Services. While the office typically subtracts 6.25% from such reimbursements, it paid the entire amount. The exception was granted because Ervin had requested a waiver due to the district's financial straits.

Ervin told the board he was hopeful that the State Office of Emergency Services also will pay the district's 25% share of FEMA reimbursements for other levee repairs after the January 2023 storms.

New emergency repairs

Ervin reported on three new repairs initiated after a March 2 high water event damaged levees on the Sheldon side of the river.

"Although it was projected to be just above the monitor stage, the river came up faster and sooner than we thought. It was a lot higher than they projected at 2½ feet below

flood level," Ervin said. "We noticed some seepage coming through the levee we had to take care of so we declared an emergency."

The most substantial damage occurred along the levee adjacent to the Bradley Ranch breach in Sheldon, stretching the length of a football field before its repair in 2023. Ervin noted that the new site exhibited sloughing on the land side, with water emanating from rodent holes, necessitating extensive repairs carried out by Asta Construction.

"I think it was our next most likely break but we took care of that," Ervin said.

Additional damage was identified at mile markers 21.2 and 21.8 on the Sheldon riverbank downstream from the Folsom Canal. At one location, situated at a sharp bend in the river, significant erosion was observed, exacerbated by the rising water levels.

Ervin estimated the total cost of the three repairs to be approximately \$300,000.

During discussions, Ervin and the board addressed a recurring issue regarding Asta Construction's practice of adding a 15% time and materials charge to invoices to cover subcontractor management and material transportation expenses. Concerns arose as FEMA reportedly denied some claims based solely on this 15% overhead charge.

Ervin highlighted the dilemma: "The state mandates a 15% charge for these services, yet FEMA disapproves."

Rebecca Smith, the district's contract attorney, acknowledged this challenge as common in other districts, particularly in emergency situations.

FEMA funding

Ervin provided an update on his efforts to secure FEMA funding following



An aerial image shows emergency levee repairs at the end of Bradley Ranch Road in Sheldon after a high-water event on March 2. Courtesy photo

the January 2023 storms. However, the uncertainty persists regarding whether the district will receive this funding, as FEMA previously failed to reimburse Reclamation District 800 for an approved levee repair in 2010, contributing significantly to the district's \$2 million debt before the 2023 storms.

This time, Ervin is pursuing approximately \$3 million in FEMA reimbursements for levee repair work conducted between December 30 and February 24.

Given Reclamation District 800's emergency declaration, it stands to potentially receive 100% reimbursement. Ervin meticulously compiled and submitted about 400 documents, recognizing the importance of streamlining the process to increase the likelihood of payment, as advised by the FEMA program manager.

In addition, Ervin has submitted paperwork for approximately \$1.5 million in post-storm repairs between Feb. 27 and July 17, eligible for a 75% reimbursement rate.

Furthermore, Ervin has initiated the approval process for permanent repairs on three levees situated between Rancho Murieta and Dillard Road, comprising one on the right bank and two on the left.

These repairs, estimated at \$700,000, will undergo a comprehensive permitting process, which means the repairs will take years.

Niello grant

Last summer, Reclamation District 800 received promising news with the allocation of a \$500,000 grant by Senator Niello in the 2023/24 state budget, designated for the financing of Reclamation District 800's long-range planning efforts.

Ervin halted work on the application to transfer the money from the state Department of Water Resources upon discovering that the funds had been frozen, due to the state's budget deficit. However, subsequent developments have seen the grant reinstated.

Ervin said he implemented a dedicated tracking system to monitor the time devoted to planning activities. That includes recent engagements such as a levee inspection conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and participation in a working group convened by Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume to evaluate the Cosumnes River watershed.

Smith, the district's contract attorney, is also documenting her time

spent on planning initiatives for potential reimbursement from the grant. She said the trustees also could be reimbursed for their involvement in planning activities.

In other business:

Trustee Leland Schneider informed the board that he had tasked Trevor Dosh, the district's new maintenance supervisor, with obtaining quotes from an arborist to remove a "giant, humungous" oak tree that had fallen onto the Lee School House Road levee. Although the tree proved too large for Dosh to handle alone, he managed to trim it sufficiently to make the levee road accessible.

Schneider also provided an update from Dosh, who was still overseeing the tree removal. Dosh had conducted extensive patrols, averaging 10 to 12 hours daily during periods of high-water levels, and had identified rodent holes posing potential threats.

Additionally, Dosh successfully restored all equipment to working order and procured straw and ryegrass for erosion control at emergency repair sites.

"He's ensured the levees are navigable and clean, and he's even marked the old concrete anchors from the former hops farms to

facilitate contractor mowing," Schneider said.

- The board deliberated but deferred a vote on allocating approximately \$30,000 to replace the district's pickup truck with a used vehicle. Subsequent to service, Dosh discovered the need for an \$8,000 transmission repair.

- District treasurer Perla Tzintzun-Garibay informed the board that Sacramento County had utilized funds from the district's general account with the county to settle a \$350,000 payment to the Bank of Stockton, accompanied by \$38,062 in interest.

Tzintzun-Garibay clarified that technically, the county acts as the district's treasurer, ensuring that funds are available and addressing any outstanding debt, although this process had not been consistently followed in the past.

- Tzintzun-Garibay recommended establishing a disability payments account with the state, given the district's employment of a full-time staff member and occasional part-time hires. The board unanimously approved the creation of the account.

The board's upcoming monthly meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 18 at Wilton Community Center, 9717 Colony Road. ★



California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Max Fish, left, and Ben Ewing begin a fish survey at Clementia Lake on March 25. The cords hanging from the dropper in front of the board emit currents that shock the fish so they can easily be netted and measured. Photos by Gail Bullen

CDFW Conducts First Electrofishing Survey at Clementia Lake

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA (MPG)The large-mouth bass populating Lake Clementia might be smaller than their relatives in larger lakes but they still comprise a “solid fishery.” That was the initial conclusion after two biologists from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) conducted an electrofishing survey at Clementia on March 25.

Electrofishing uses a mild electrical current to stun the fish, which are then collected and measured before being released. California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists use electrofishing to survey fish populations in streams, rivers and lakes.

The Rancho Murieta Fishing Club, particularly President Jim Monical, was able to arrange the first-time survey by California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists Ben Ewing and Max Fish. Monical also had to get permission from the Rancho Murieta Community Services

District (CSD), which manages the water in the lakes. Ewing told the Improvements Committee that the survey would result in a written report providing a percentage of each species in the lake, along with the length, weight and age ranges.

“The big one is the length to weight ratio because that gives you an idea of how they are doing,” he said.

Expressing their enthusiasm, the committee approved the survey.

After being twice delayed by bad weather, the survey got a late start on March 25 because of a problem with the generator needed to stun the fish. However, the Rancho Murieta Association Maintenance Department came to the rescue.

“It was a team effort,” Ewing said. “They had all the tools.”

Because the Rancho Murieta Community Services District doesn’t allow gasoline engines on the three reservoirs, the biologists lifted theirs out of the water and wrapped it inside a bag. To navigate, they used an electric motor supplied by Monical.

Ewing told the fishing

club members that they were only conducting a preliminary survey of Clementia because they didn’t have time to survey the entire shoreline. They began by collecting fish near the dam and then bringing them to the swimming dock to measure their lengths and weights. They next surveyed the reedy shoreline on the lake’s north side near the dam before returning to the boat dock.

At both survey locations, Ewing placed the netted fish into a live well, actually an ice chest, to keep them viable until they could be measured. Once the second biologist tabulated the measurements, Ewing tossed the fish overboard.

Ewing netted 16 bass during the survey. As he was measuring them near the dam, Ewing told the occupants in a nearby boat that a couple of them were a little “snaky,” that is, thinner than they should be.

When he surveys ponds and lakes with catch and release regulations, Ewing said, he often sees very snaky fish with big heads and long bodies.

“A lot of times, when



Ben Ewing prepares to net a fish in the reeds on the north side of the lake.



Ben Ewing measures an open-mouth bass on the Clementia Lake dock as Max Fish records the results.

there is no harvest, you get a stunted population,” he said. “It’s like giving a bunch of people one cheeseburger.”

Ewing said that wasn’t the case at Clementia, which is catch and release, even though the bass are smaller than in lakes like New Hogan Reservoir or Clear Lake.

“That’s because there is so much bait fish in here. We are seeing no shortage of golden shiners,” he said. “So that is going to be really helpful.”

Nick Kanemoto, a professional bass fisherman, told the biologist that the bass in Lake Calero are in even better shape.

“The fish in there are really healthy,” Kanemoto said. “The average size is a lot bigger than the biggest one you have got there.”

Fishing club member Jay Solomon explained why the bass in Calero have an advantage. “That’s because it has been stocked three years in a row with black-fish,” Solomon said.

After returning to the board dock, Ewing was asked his initial assessment of Clementia. “It’s still a solid fishery,” he told the onlookers.

After Soloman and others urged CDFW to come back again, Ewing told them they would consider it.

The fishing club organized the most recent fish stocking at Lake Calero on Feb. 20. The Freshwater Fish Company of Wilton dispersed 300 adult black-fish that will be forage fish for the bass. Monical said a total of \$4,500 was donated to cover the cost: \$3,000 from the Rancho Murieta Association, \$500 from the River Valley Garden Club, \$700 from fishing club members and \$300 from Bill Kenney. ★

CSD Board Approves Rate Increase Notice

Continued from page 1

\$242 would rise to \$290. Murieta Village customers would face a 13.84% increase, amounting to \$26.16 extra per month.

General Manager Mimi Morris and Director of Finance and Administration Mark Matulich explained the rationale behind these proposed increases.

Presently, the proposed budget outlines expenditures totaling \$9.65 million, with revenues of only \$8.4 million. This creates a shortfall of \$1.26 million, which the proposed rate increase aims to cover.

Morris emphasized that this amount would ensure a balanced budget. “It would get us right at the zero net, so we are not in the black and not in the red. We are just as close to fully covering the cost as possible.”

Matulich detailed that \$929,000 of the deficit is attributed to recommended rate hikes in water, wastewater, and solid waste services, with the remaining portion allocated to security and drainage funds, limited by a 2% annual tax increase cap.

Director Stephen Booth said the \$1.26 million shortfall represented 11.1% of the current operating costs. “We are talking about inflation under 5%, personnel costs at 5 ½% plus,” he said. “We started with a small deficit (\$400,000) this year. How did we get to an 11% shortfall.”

Matulich said the current year has a net operating deficit of \$1 million. He said one of the problems was the budget formatting used in the past that he and Morris have since fixed. Previously, restricted classifications of revenue that couldn’t be spent on expenditures were comingled with those that could be spent.

Morris also explained that the true deficit also was obscured by the application of property taxes. For instance, the application of \$400,000 in property taxes to the water fund in this fiscal year left it a deficit of just over \$100,000.

Booth pointed out that one reason the water fund operational costs were going up next year was because of the recent reallocation of administrative costs, which reduced the administrative calculation for security and added it to water. Matulich confirmed that was the case.

Morris told the board she understood that the proposed increases would be a hard pill to swallow, saying she and Matulich would continue to evaluate the revenue and expense numbers. Matulich said the board could divert some of the property taxes to stabilize the rates although it would diminish the amount going into the underfunded reserves.

In the end, the board voted unanimously to approve the mailing of the

rate notice. Director Marty Pohll had this observation” “The real hard choices are going to be made later when we actually set the budget and decide if any money is coming from property taxes to alleviate some of these increases,” he said.

The proposed rate increases and the 2024/25 budget will undergo further review at the Finance Committee meeting on April 11 and the board meeting on April 14. The public rate hearing is scheduled for the May 15 board meeting at 5 p.m.

In other business:

- Director of Operations Michael Fritschi reported that consultants looking at permitting Lake Clementia as a potable water reservoir found two options, both involving considerable red tape. The first would be prohibition of bodily contact or swimming. The second would be seeking a statutory exemption.
- Morris reported the district has lost two part-time gate officers and hopes that community residents will apply for the job.
- Morris reported the Communications Committee had finalized work on a document to govern the district’s overall communication strategies.
- The board approved the resolution needed to combine a district election for two board vacancies with the Nov. 5

general election. The seats are currently held by Booth and Pohll.

- The board approved the recently completed 2020/21 audit, with President Tim Maybee saying it had been a “monumental lift” by the current accounting employees. Matulich said he expected the audits for 2021/22, 2022/23, and 2023/24 to be completed by February, 2025.
- Although Morris said the new contract with union employees wasn’t ready for board approval, Operating Engineers Local 3 representative Michael De Anda said the MOU was ratified on Feb. 24. De Anda asked the board to make the increased pay retroactive to Jan. 1. Not doing so would penalize the union employees because they rejected the MOU in December, he said.
- The board approved a 5.5% increase to the salary schedule of non-represented employees to align with increases negotiated for union employees.
- The board approved a salary increase for Morris. With a 5.5% cost of living increase, it brings her adjusted monthly salary to \$17,070. The increase would be retroactive to Jan. 1.
- Fritschi provided the update on public meetings about the Integrated Water Master Plan with the first session scheduled at the April 17 meeting at 5 p.m. ★

WE SUPPORT
FIRST RESPONDERS



The A's Are Coming to Town



The City of West Sacramento and River City Regional Stadium Financing Authority are thrilled that Sutter Health Park will now be home to the Oakland Athletics. Photo courtesy of West Sacramento

By Angela Underwood

WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Oakland Athletics have changed their dug-out location and it's at 400 Ballpark Drive, West Sacramento.

Known as the A's, the Major League Baseball team will call Sutter Health Park home for the next three seasons in West Sacramento before moving into a new stadium on the Las Vegas Strip in 2028. The A's are moving, following failed negotiations with the City of Oakland about a new lease for the coliseum there.

"The A's look forward to making Sutter Health Park their home for the next three years through the move to Las Vegas," an Oakland Athletics spokesperson told the West Sacramento News Ledger on April 5.

The home of the West Sacramento River Cats will become the interim venue for the A's, beginning with the 2025 Major

League Baseball season. Mayor and Chair of the Financing Authority Martha Guerrero shared her excitement over the partnership.

"We're delighted to welcome the Oakland A's and Major League Baseball to West Sacramento," said Mayor Guerrero. "This is a great honor, and we're looking forward to hosting visiting MLB teams and fans from throughout the region at our beautiful ballpark along the Sacramento River."

As a former affiliate of the A's, "there are many shared connections with the River Cats, its players and the wonderful fan base in West Sacramento," according to the Oakland Athletics spokesperson, who added, "The A's extend their appreciation to the Kings and the City of West Sacramento for hosting the A's."

West Sacramento City Manager Aaron Laurel said West Sacramento is ready



Here is the Sutter Health Park entrance, which will welcome thousands of Oakland A's fans now that the Major League Baseball team will call West Sacramento home temporarily. Photo courtesy of Sacramento River Cats

for the professional baseball team, noting that Sutter Health Park's location offers stunning views of Tower Bridge and downtown Sacramento.

"As the City of West Sacramento prepares to welcome the A's, excitement is building among residents and businesses alike," Laurel said.

According to Laurel, the beer garden Drake's BARN and the French-inspired wine bar Franquette across the street from the stadium are two businesses that will benefit from the A's new location.

"There are also several other restaurants along West Sacramento's Third Street corridor within walking distance of the ballpark," Laurel said. "Together, with our neighbors across the river in Sacramento, there will be no shortage of amenities available to A's fans and those from visiting teams."

Yolo County Supervisor Oscar Villegas,

who governs the Sutter Health Park region and serves with Mayor Guerrero on the Financing Authority board, said he is proud to support the temporary relocation of "this fantastic franchise" to West Sacramento.

"Hosting the Athletics in Yolo County represents a significant opportunity for economic growth and community enrichment," Villegas said. "I am confident that this will foster a profound sense of community among our residents."

Residents now have two mascots to be proud of, with A's mascot, Stomper, joining Dinger, the Sacramento River Cats' mascot. The A's have captured nine World Series titles, including four since moving to Oakland in 1968.

"We're prepared to accommodate the A's and the River Cats to ensure a seamless transition for both teams and their fans," Laurel said.



MEMORIAL

DENNIS MARC MARTEL • 4/7/1942 – 3/14/2024

Dennis Marc Martel, 36 year resident of Rancho Murieta passed peacefully away on March 14, 2024, a few weeks shy of his 82nd birthday, with his loving wife and family by his side.

Dennis was born in Niagara Falls, New York to Leo and Winnie Martel on April 7, 1942. He graduated from LaSalle Senior High School, and then attended Tyler Junior College in Tyler, Texas. Dennis continued his education earning his BA from Cal Poly and he also earned his master's degree.

He moved to Los Angeles where he met and married Marcelina Ynostrosa and with whom he had daughters Francine, Nicole (who pre deceased him), and La Nette.

Dennis began his career with the California Department of Corrections (CDC) in 1966 as a correctional officer at the Correctional Training Facility at Soledad.

He worked at various prisons as well as in the Parole and Community Services Division in Watts, Los Angeles. Dennis was employed for over 33 years with the CDC and promoted quickly to his highest position as the Chief Deputy Warden at Mule Creek State Prison.

In 1981, he met and married Pahl Schulz. The two lived in many different locations as Dennis rose through the ranks of the CDC.

In 1988, Dennis and Pahl moved to Rancho Murieta and together they enjoyed golf, camping, water



skiing, scuba diving, photography, and physical fitness. Dennis also was an avid reader. But most of all they enjoyed travelling the world together.

While living in Rancho Murieta, Dennis served on the Rancho Murieta Country Club Board of Directors, as well as serving on the Rancho Murieta Men's Golf Club Board of Directors and as Past President.

Dennis was an avid Oakland Raiders fan and a devoted sports enthusiast.

Dennis is survived by his loving wife Pahl, his daughters Francine and La Nette, brothers Leo (Fay), Matthew (Sue), Michael (Melinda), Paul (Lynda), and sister Renée, as well as 6 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, and many nephews, and nieces he adored.

He will be remembered for his humor, generosity, intelligence, and fun loving spirit. A celebration of life will be held at the Rancho Murieta Country Club on Sunday April 14th 2:00 ~ 4:00 pm.



MEMORIAL

JACK CRAWFORD • 1943-2024

In loving memory of Jack Crawford, a pillar of integrity and strength, whose journey from humble beginnings to remarkable success has left an indelible mark on all who knew him. Born into modest circumstances in Stockton, California, Jack served in the Army, then became the first in his family to pursue higher education. Following his graduation from Sacramento State and an initial career as a CPA, Jack graduated from University of Pacific's McGeorge School of Law on his path to a distinguished career as a respected attorney.

Jack was a devoted husband, sharing 58 years of unwavering love and partnership with his beloved wife Sharon. Together, they nurtured a family founded on the principles of love, laughter, education, hard work, and integrity. He leaves behind two adoring children who cherish his legacy (Jack Crawford Jr., Sheri Crawford) and three beloved grandchildren who were the light of his life. A voracious reader and consummate learner, Jack understood the transformative power of education, ensuring that both his children pursued academic excellence and college degrees.

His commitment to self-improvement and knowledge was matched only by his dedication to his community, where he served as a trusted advisor to many through his law practice in Northern California for over 50 years. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Jack was a playful friend, known for his deep camaraderie and ability to mobilize others for unforgettable adventures and international travel. An avid golfer and skilled poker player, he thrived in the company of his buddies from the



Rancho Murieta community and his brothers from the Optimist Club cherishing the bonds forged over friendly competition, shared experiences, and philanthropic activities.

Jack's legacy extends far beyond his professional achievements and recreational pursuits. He forever altered the trajectory of his family, instilling core values of leadership, self-reliance, inspiration, and bold moves that will resonate for generations to come. His enduring marriage, his commitment to family, and his unwavering pursuit of excellence and adventure serve as a testament to a life well-lived. Though he may no longer walk among us, Jack's spirit will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. In honoring his memory, let us carry forward his legacy of love, laughter, health, and learning, ensuring that his impact on our lives remains everlasting.

A private event for family and friends will be hosted in mid-April to celebrate Jack's 80 years of adventures.

Call (916) 619-8189 to advertise with us today!

River Valley Times • Messenger Publishing Group

CSD Board to Discuss Water Supply For Developments

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Will Rancho Murieta have sufficient water to support upcoming developments, particularly given the challenges posed by climate change and drought?

This question will take center stage as consultants present the third phase of the Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP) at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) Board meeting on Wednesday, April 17. The meeting will commence at 4 p.m. to accommodate regular business, with the Integrated Water Master Plan presentation scheduled for 5 p.m.

The Integrated Water Master Plan's first phase focused on evaluating the community's water supply, while the second phase assessed both current and future water demand. Both reports are available on the district's website in a StoryMap format, along with links to the original source documents. The forthcoming third phase will explore various options and scenarios aimed at achieving a balance between water supply and demand under different conditions.

Operations Manager Michael Fritschi has outlined a schedule of

upcoming meetings to discuss the Integrated Water Master Plan. Consultants will commence the April 17 presentation by reviewing the initial two phases before delving into the interactive model of the Integrated Water Master Plan during the third phase. This model will be used to illustrate how climate change and hydrology could impact water availability, allowing for the integration of different alternatives, assumptions, and policy options.

Fritschi noted that the scenario model will undergo further review by the board on May 15, during which the board will consider which elements to incorporate into the Integrated Water Master Plan draft.

Additionally, the scenario model will be presented to the public at a town hall scheduled for May 30 at the Rancho Murieta Country Club. Fritschi said that subsequent meetings to discuss the draft Integrated Water Master Plan and its formal acceptance are yet to be scheduled.

The completion of the first phase of the Integrated Water Master Plan last August furnished valuable insights into Rancho Murieta's water supply system, including details on water rights and reservoir volumes. The StoryMap documents available on

the Community Services District website illustrate the collection, storage, and distribution of water within the community.

According to Rancho Murieta's water rights, the total amount of water that can be diverted from the Cosumnes River for direct use and storage cannot exceed 6,368 acre-feet per water year (spanning from October 1 to September 30). To provide context, one acre-foot of water is sufficient to cover a football field with a foot of water.

Phase 2 of the Integrated Water Master Plan was presented at a town hall meeting in November, providing insights into historical and current water demands, as well as projected future demands based on the best available information regarding anticipated development. Consultants shared three water demand figures at the town hall: the existing demand stands at 1,716 acre-feet per year, while the projected future demand at full build-out of development is estimated at 1,575 acre-feet. Thus, the total demand at full build-out would amount to 3,290 acre-feet per year.

Water supply studies conducted in 2006, 2010, and 2016 concluded that the community has enough water for future development. ★

Dispute Erupts Over Phone Theft at Bel Air Market

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- A dispute erupted inside Bel Air Market on April 9 after a phone was snatched, resulting in a physical confrontation between the victim and two suspects. Mel Outram, sergeant of the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) security department, reported that while the victim managed to retrieve her phone, she sustained minor scratches during the altercation.

Contrary to social media reports, Outram clarified that the incident did not

involve attempted armed robbery. According to him, the victim, a young woman from Sloughhouse, left her phone unattended on the food counter near the hot dishes. Upon discovering it missing, she suspected two nearby women in their 30s. Despite their denial of involvement, the victim alerted the store manager and utilized her cell phone to track the missing device.

Ultimately, they located the phone at the checkout counter, where the suspects were attempting to utilize Apple Pay. However, their transaction was declined by the clerk. The victim reportedly confronted the suspects and successfully retrieved

her phone after a struggle, sustaining scratches in the process. Additionally, Outram noted that someone had photographed the suspects at the checkout.

Following the suspects outside, the victim photographed their vehicle and license plate. She also discovered one of the suspect's EBT cards on the ground. However, by the time Outram arrived five minutes later, the suspects were gone.

When the victim contacted the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, she was advised to file an online report due to the unavailability of a responding deputy. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Garden club slates indoor plant talk

Bringing your garden indoors with house plants will be the topic when Marlene Simmons, known as the "Plant Lady," talks to the River Valley Garden Club on April 23 at the RMA Building. The doors open for the social hour and raffle at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting and presentation will begin at 7 p.m. Simons is a curator at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory and is a podcaster for the "Flower Power Garden Hour." More information about the club is at river-valleygardenclub.net.

Murieta Village trash and treasure sale April 27

The Murieta Village Social Club will hold its annual trash and treasure sale on Saturday, April 27 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Vendors will sell their wares at the clubhouse

patio and in carports and driveways throughout the village. Vendors who want to sell at the patio can rent a table. The cost is \$20 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Call Jackie VanBuskirk at 916-354-1544 to reserve a table.

RMA has rattle-snake training for dogs

The Rancho Murieta Association Recreation Committee is sponsoring a rattlesnake avoidance training for dogs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 19 at the RMA Office. Call 916-354-3500 to schedule an appointment. The cost is \$150 per dog or \$100 per dog for retraining.

RM blood drive slated April 29

The Rancho Murieta Women's Club's next blood drive is Monday, April 29 from noon to 6 p.m. at the Rancho Murieta Community Church,

14670 Cantova Way. Make appointments to donate online at donors.vitalant.org by using blood drive code SMFM053 or call Vitalant at 877-258-4825. Walk-ins will be accommodated if space permits. Donors will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card for Local Bean Cafe that was donated by Carole Thames of Town & Country Real Estate. All donors receive a 10% off coupon for Local Bean Cafe. Please bring a photo ID. For questions, call Vitalant at 877-258-4825 or Vitalant.org.

CSD has opening for gate officers

The Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) has an opening for a part-time security gate officer.

The district encourages residents to apply. For information, visit ranchomurietaCSD.com. ★



A Veteran Thank Today



Entertainment, Theatre & Culture for Rancho Murieta

Entertainment, Theatre & Culture for Rancho Murieta Announces a

\$2000 College Scholarship

to be Awarded to a Rancho Murieta Graduating High School Senior

This year's essay questions are listed below. Please select one of the following:

- How have Technology, Artificial Intelligence and Social Media influenced the Arts for the better or for the worse?
- What is it about the Arts (dance, music, visual art, theater) that sets your soul on fire?
- How do the Arts (dance, music, visual art, theater) and Cultural Events improve our Society?

Entry Forms Available at RMA Building or By Request at stephslaus2@ranchomurieta.org

Information:
Stephanie Stanislaus
916-354-0901

Submission Deadline:
May 30, 2024

Keeping the Arts Alive in Our Community!

PURCHASE • REFINANCE

FIXED RATE LOANS

15 Year Term Fixed Rate Loan		30 Year Term Fixed Rate Loan	
RATE	APR	RATE	APR
5.250%	5.55%	6.000%	6.18%
180 Monthly Payments of \$8.04 per \$1,000 Borrowed		360 Monthly Payments of \$6.00 per \$1,000 Borrowed	

Check the El Dorado Advantage:
✓ No Application Fee ✓ No Prepayment Penalty ✓ Local Processing and Servicing



EL DORADO SAVINGS BANK

Serving our local communities for over 65 years!

ELK GROVE • 9003 Elk Grove Blvd. • 916-685-3936
RANCHO MURIETA • 7185 Murieta Drive • 916-354-2661
SHELDON • 8973 Grant Line Road • 916-686-0200

Se Habla Español

Maximum loan \$650,000.00, primary or vacation residence. 20% minimum cash down payment on purchase. 25% equity required on refinance. Other loans available under different terms.

LOAN TERMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Member FDIC
NMLS ID 419256

www.eldoradosavingsbank.com 800-874-9779





Glenn Guenard & Ross Bozarth

are dedicated to the victims of accidents.

We help with serious injuries that require serious representation.

We are the Law Offices Of Guenard & Bozarth.

We have over 80 years of experience on our legal team... the most experienced law firm in Elk Grove. If you are looking for results Call GB Legal 24/7/365 at 888-809-1075 or visit gblegal.com

DO YOU KNOW THESE GUYS?

Insurance Companies Know Them Because They Have Paid Them Over

\$130 Million Dollars

WE CAN HELP!

The Law Offices of Guenard & Bozarth represent injured people.

Our Office is located at 8830 Elk Grove Blvd. in the heart of Elk Grove.



New Home BUILDING SUPPLY

"Since 1949"

5310 Franklin Blvd. • Sacramento

(916) **455-3057**

- We have all the hard-to-find sidings
- Quality lumber for any size project
- Competitive pricing
- Variety of deck materials
- Local Steving family owned & operated

California Spends More on Schools with The Neediest Kids

Here's How It's Succeeded and Failed

By Carolyn Jones,
CALMatters.org

A decade after California revolutionized the way it funds schools, nearly everyone agrees the initiative has done what it was meant to do: improved math and reading scores and brought more resources to students who struggle the most.

And nearly everyone also agrees that the Local Control Funding Formula, as it's known, could use a tune-up. Black and Latino students' test scores have improved but still lag behind their white and Asian peers, and schools in affluent areas still spend far more per student than schools in poorer neighborhoods.

But overall, researchers and superintendents say, the system introduced under Gov. Jerry Brown has remade California's schools for the better.

"Gov. Brown had a good idea," said Adam Clark, superintendent of Mt. Diablo Unified in Concord. "(The funding formula) has given school districts the tools and resources to really address the needs of students. And it gives parents and the community a voice."

Jaime Green, superintendent of Trinity Alps Unified in Trinity County, put it more succinctly: "Without LCFF, our district would not be open."

Under the Local Control Funding Formula, the state gives school districts a base amount of money calculated by attendance, but funnels extra funds for low-income students, English learners and foster youth. Districts have freedom to spend the money on whatever programs they think will help their students, with guidance and accountability through a public local planning process.

Prior to the funding formula, California schools were financed through local property taxes, a system that had been in place for 40 years. Districts with lower tax revenues got extra money from the state, up to a certain limit, and the state doled out dozens of grants for specific programs.

Districts like Trinity Unified, located in California's poorest county, barely stayed afloat under that system because the extra money was not enough to cover expenses, especially considering the large number of students living in poverty.

The overall amount of spending was low due in part to Proposition 13, the 1978 ballot initiative that capped property taxes and resulted in deep cuts to state spending. By the mid-2000s, California was near the bottom of states nationally in school spending, student test scores and nearly every other educational measurement. Linda Darling Hammond, president of the State Board of Education, described it as "a broken system."

Simplifying and Decentralizing School Funding

Brown, who was elected to his second stint as governor in 2010, said he got the inspiration to overhaul school funding from Mike Kirst, who served as president of the State Board of Education during both of Brown's stints as governor. Kirst and his colleagues had proposed the idea of a weighted formula a few years earlier, but it was shelved when the economy crashed in 2008.

Gathering support from legislators, teachers unions, parent groups and school boards, Brown, Kirst and their allies helped get the funding formula enacted in 2013.

The simplicity, along with shifting power away from the state, appealed to Brown.

"I liked the idea of reducing complexity, of giving money where it was most needed," Brown said in December at a conference on the impact of the funding formula. "You need goals, you need standards, but you have to let local people do their thing."

It coincided with a trio of other



The Wellness Center at College Park High School is a place where students can find a quiet and relaxing environment without leaving school. Pleasant Hill, March 15, 2024. Photo by Manuel Orbeagozo

big changes in California education: passage of Proposition 30, a sales tax which raised about \$6 billion annually for schools; introduction of the Common Core reading and math curriculum; and the Smarter Balanced standardized testing system.

Within a few years, the improvements were obvious in California classrooms. By 2019, before the pandemic, reading and math scores in all grades had improved, graduation rates rose, suspensions and expulsions fell, and more students met college admission requirements for the state's public universities. A report by the Learning Policy

Overall School Spending is Still Unequal

Another problem is the overall amount of school spending generally, some said. Even though low-income schools now have much more money than they did a decade ago, it's not enough to address the needs of students facing complex challenges. And schools in affluent areas still spend far more per student, thanks to parent donations and local bonds and taxes.

Jack O'Connell, who was State Superintendent of Public Instruction prior to the Local Control Funding Formula, agreed. While he considers the

who meet more than one of the formula categories should be counted twice, not once. Schools should receive extra money for English learners who are also low-income, for example.

Basing School Funding on Enrollment, Not Attendance

In Trinity Alps Unified, in the mountains of Trinity County in Northern California, the funding formula has made a world of difference — not just for students but for the entire community, said superintendent Green. Prior to the funding formula, the district received less than \$12,000 per student from all sources; now it's closer to \$20,000.

violate Proposition 209, the affirmative action ban that prevents the state from linking money to students' race or ethnicity.

Gov. Gavin Newsom last year introduced a tweak to the funding formula that directs extra funding to specific schools based on high rates of student turnover, low-income students or students whose parents didn't graduate from high school. The equity multiplier, as it's known, is intended to reach students who have the highest needs.

'Deep inequities' in California

But that's not enough, said Natalie Wheatfall-Lum, director of TK-12 education policy at Ed Trust-West, an education research and advocacy organization. California should repeal or scale back Proposition 209.

"We still have deep inequities across the board," Wheatfall-Lum said. "But by fixing LCFF we have a huge opportunity to support racial equity. ... The stakes are very high. How we fund schools is the foundation of our education system."

Ed Trust-West also recommends that the state hold districts accountable for the academic performance of specific student groups, such as Black and Latino students, and pay more attention to the progress of English learners, whose test scores have barely budged since the finding formula was introduced.

But money isn't always the answer, Brown noted at a conference in December. Bumps in school funding, while helpful, can't be expected to solve problems as deeply embedded as poverty, racism and inequality, he said. Factors beyond school play a huge role in students' outcomes.

'More Than Money' to Help High-Needs Students

At College Park High in Pleasant Hill, the district used funding formula money to open a wellness center two years ago. Furnished with couches, comfy chairs, student-created artwork and private enclaves for one-on-one meetings with counselors, the wellness center is a popular place for students to relax and socialize. In addition to mental health services like peer counseling and therapy dogs, the center offers yoga, meditation, games and a quiet place to do homework. A social worker is always present.

Stephanie Perez, a senior at College Park, said the wellness center has been a lifesaver — literally. It's given her a reason to stay in school and motivation to stay healthy.

"If this place wasn't here, I'd be out drinking, smoking, ditching school, getting bad habits," Perez said. "They really care about you, listen to you, give you a shoulder to cry on. I come here to ease my mind." ★



College Park High School students can visit the Wellness Center during school hours and after school to take a break and reset before returning to their activities in Pleasant Hill on March 15, 2024. Photo by Manuel Orbeagozo for CalMatters

Institute found that an increase of \$1,000 in per-pupil spending over three consecutive years resulted in a full grade level improvement in math and reading.

California now ranks near the national average in school spending, as well as in math and reading scores. Although scores fell in the wake of the pandemic, they didn't fall as far as they did in other states and are slowly beginning to creep upward.

But challenges persist. One common gripe among superintendents is the annual plan required to chart goals and priorities. The Local Control Accountability Plan is a key part of the funding formula's accountability and parent involvement components, but it can be a headache, superintendents said. It entails community meetings, surveys, data analysis and detailed explanations of spending for the public, county and state to review.

The plans are often so dense with jargon that even though they're posted online, reviewed at school board meetings and shared with parents, few people wade through them — thereby not providing the accountability they're intended to.

funding formula a landmark in California education, he thinks the state needs to increase the base amount of money it gives schools. Currently, that amount ranges from \$11,000 to \$12,300 per student, which poses a challenge for middle-class districts without large numbers of low-income students or wealthy parents willing to donate thousands.

"There's no question things are better off now," O'Connell said. "But increasing the base grant might be the best way to help all students."

Kirst said he was confident the funding formula would work, but he's surprised at its political staying power and how entrenched it's become in the education landscape.

He'd like to see the formula adjusted to take into account regional costs of living, so districts in expensive areas get more money. And he'd like to see the poverty measurement change. Currently it's based on how many students meet the federal standards for a free or reduced price meals. But with so many districts now offering free lunch to all students, he said, the state should consider using other criteria.

He also thinks that students

That money goes a long way in Trinity County, funding everything from art classes to after-school programs to special education.

"We feel very blessed to have this formula," Green said. "LCFF allows us to stay open and serve our children at a high level."

An improvement Green and other superintendents would like to see is funding based on enrollment, not attendance. Currently, the state disperses money to districts based on average daily attendance. But chronic absenteeism soared during the pandemic, resulting in lower revenues. While enrollment is also declining in many areas, absenteeism is the bigger challenge, Green said.

Going forward, some advocates are calling on the state to tie extra funding directly to students' race. The impact of systemic racism, they say, is too profound to ignore. They argue that Black and Latino students often fall through the cracks, especially if they attend affluent schools, or if they attend low-income schools in affluent districts. The state has shied away from such a policy for fear it would

CALL-A-PRO



AZTEC SOLAR
INC.

JACK STANGER
SOLAR ENERGY EXPERT
Electric • Hot Water • Pool Heating
(916) 853-2700 • (916) 802-1830
FREE ESTIMATES

LC# 550110

jack@aztecsolar.com • www.aztecsolar.com



ANDRADE

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Residential & Commercial
Repair • Maintenance • Replacement
Tune Up
Andrade Heating & Air Conditioning
(916) 747-9882

“We truly believe honesty is the best policy.”
~AJ & Jen Andrade



License #955437



Kitchen and Bath Remodel Specialist

- Specializing in Kitchen & Bath Remodel
- Custom Tile & Stone Work
- Granite Counter Tops • Hardwood Flooring
- Outdoor BBQ and Patios
- Paint • Plumbing • Electrical

NO Material Mark-Up!

Bonded/Insured
LIC# 914319

Design Construction Workmanship
Cable Davis 916 220-2937 CWD7
www.DavisCustomWorks.com



25 Years Experience!
Driveway • Patio • Walkway • Pool Decks • Concrete Removal
Stamped • Salt Finish • Exposed Aggregate • Colored • Broom Finish
Call a trusted Murieta/Wilton Contractor
References available in your neighborhood
FREE WRITTEN ESTIMATES
Glen Cramer (916) 871-2561
www.cramerconcrete.com

BBB

Lic# 686244



Apex
Rancho Murieta Residents
Owned & Operated
“Particular Homeowners Deserve Apex”

Quality Service At Competitive Prices!!!
We currently provide pest protection for over 500 homes in your community!!
Call Today and Compare!
Be sure and ask about our Murieta Special!!!
354-0209



Honor Thy Elders...
Senior Living Transitions, LLC

- All Care Facilities
- Independent Living • Respite
- In Home Care Providers
- Companion • VA Aid
- Medical Alert • Estate Planning

Gerontology Degree
Caryl Abshire, LNHA
www.HonorThyElders.com
916 320-3631

Over 25 years experience



THE LAW OFFICE OF JOHN QUIRING

John R. Quiring
Attorney at Law
TRUSTS, WILLS, PROBATE & BUSINESS LAW
Notary Services Available
14670 Cantova Way, Suite 233
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683
john@quiringlaw.net
916.794.6279



TREE TECH SERVICES
Serving the Green Industry

A subsidiary of TreeTechnology, Inc.
Free Estimates • Senior Discounts

SENIOR DISCOUNT
FREE ESTIMATES
CERTIFIED ARBORISTS
ST.CONT.LIC.#653836
www.treetechservices.com



We Express Excellence in Auto Repair
All Insurance Claims Welcome
Auto Body EXPRESSIONS Inc.
Written Lifetime Warranty



685-5078
9734 Dino Dr., Elk Grove
www.autobodyexpressions.com





BEST PRICE Stump Grinding & Tree Service

CALL Jessie –
FREE ESTIMATES
209-210-0625

DICK'S RANCHO Glass
New & Repaired

Fogged or Leaky Windows?

Patio Door Rollers, Custom Mirrors, Shower Doors & Window Screens

Since 1956
363-6554




“The Low-rate Leader for Purchase & Refinance Loans”
Bruce Boal
Commerce Financing
RM resident over 20 years!

916 354-8819
NMLS# 1070092

WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS







Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

I'm not sure you played the Powerball this month, but the jackpot skyrocketed past \$1 billion when no one won.

I know the odds are terribly impossible, but maybe Chaplain Norris' winning numbers can help you win that jackpot.

That's right. Today I will reveal my divinely inspired numbers.

Well, the "divine" claim is probably an overreach, but I do know that if you pick numbers above 31, you're likely to be the sole winner. That's because most people choose their birth dates.

So with that in mind, can I get a drum roll?

Chaplain Norris's winning numbers are 35-40-45-50-55-60. Bonus number 65.

Yup, I know choosing numbers in

Don't Gamble with Faith

Yet, still others rely on the big-spin approach and take the one they land on. Others see faith like picking the right card out of a newly shuffled deck.

And some play faith the way they play a bluffing poker hand, refusing to let anyone see the cards of doubt they hold.

The problem with these approaches is they produce a routine of losing, much like those who return each night to the same casino only to lose again.

The faith choice made with these methods usually ends up discarded, much like a Lotto ticket on a gas-station driveway.

Faith has little to do with winning or losing. Faith is too important to treat with the same glibness we use to choose our winning numbers. Perhaps it's more about investing in who we are, not about gambling on what we never had.

Maybe faith comes about when we invest in the search. We find it inspired by the conversations, the discussions, the questions, and the debates that we have with others. In fact, I believe God prefers honest "searchers" or "questioners," even when they challenge him directly, even when they are unflattering.

Jesus suggested faith might well be something compared to a mustard seed. A mustard seed is the tiniest of seeds, yet in ratio, it grows into one of the biggest plants. Faith starts from the smallest beginnings in the hearts of people and produces not a personal profit, but a powerful and personal transformation.

Well, all this talk about winning the lottery made me wonder what might happen if I actually bought a ticket. I mean, if I ever bought just one, what might happen?

I may never know.

But if you do happen to win with my divine numbers, please remember my favorite charity – Chispa Project. I think it's fair to say that any gift can be an investment in faith.

Announcement: Make a sure bet on education. I'm returning to Honduras in June to help Chispa Project create six new libraries, reach 4,000+ more students and 200 teachers. Your donations are needed to buy 9,000 new books. Send donations or column comments to 10556 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. Email comment@thechaplain.net or message at (843) 608-9715. www.thechaplain.net. ★

Local Classifieds

Advertise in your local community newspaper
Call 916-773-1111

Advertising

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 7-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-844-439-5645 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (Cal-SCAN)

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-855-424-7581. (Cal-SCAN)

Automotive

DONATE YOUR CAR TO KIDS Fast Free Pickup – Running or Not - 24 Hour Response - Maximum Tax Donation – Help Find Missing Kids! Call 1-888-491-1453. (Cal-SCAN)

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? Your car donation to Patriotic Hearts helps veterans find work or start their own business. Fast free pick. Running or not! Call 24/7: 1-877-529-0495. (Cal-SCAN)

Tiene un vehiculo no desea-do? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriotic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama ahora: 1-844-244-5441 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)

Get your deduction ahead of the year-end! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-844-491-2884 today! (Cal-SCAN)

Car Shows

AUTO SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW
Manteca Auto Swap Meet & Car Show Sunday April 14th Orchard Valley Promenade take Union exit off 120 located right next to JCPenney. 6am-2pm IG Svaautoswapmeets or call 209-513-8651.

Concrete

SONDROL CONCRETE
25+ years experience. All types of finishes. Patios, driveways, slabs Walkways, Spa pads. Tear out/ Replace Tractor work. *Written estimates.* Lic. # 778034 **916-955-1083**

Kevin Young CONCRETE & Pumping
Since 1994 Custom Concrete •All Finishes•Patioes •Walkways•Driveways •Slabs• RV Pads, etc. Free Estimates. Lic# 699627 **(916)826-6926**

3DR CONCRETE
All your concrete needs. Bobcat services, driveway repair. Comm & Res. Lic # 968987 insured (209)570-7304

Concrete

Perez Landscaping & Concrete
•Concrete Finishing/ Stamping
•Landscape installation and Design
•Sodding, •Planting
•Irrigation •Retaining Walls
•Yard maintenance. Free estimates. Fore more info. call **916-834-2352** email Elverperez@att.net Lic #14-00016214

Financial Services

Over \$10K in Debt? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 1-888-231-4274. (Cal-SCAN)

Help Wanted

Residential Care Home located in Galt is currently in search of an individual possessing exceptional communication skills, patience, computer proficiency, ability to conduct light house cleaning, meal preparation, and a valid driver's license. While preferred, DSP 1 & 2 certifications are not mandatory. Paid training is provided, with a starting wage of \$18 per hour, increasing to \$20 with DSP 1 & 2 certification. Nights , weekends and PM shifts are currently open. For inquiries, please reach out to Phyllis at (209) 981-6484

Housekeeping, caregiving, childcare: rates negotiable. Please call (209) 429-9470.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER -

Prepare and review submittals. Monitor progress of construction activities. Control corrective actions. Prepare cost estimates and budgets. Interpret and explain contracts and technical information to others. Collaborate with architects, engineers, and other construction specialists. Work with RMS 3.0, Primavera P-6, and Microsoft Office 365. Worksites: Sacramento, CA. Up to 15% domestic travel based on project needs required. Salary: \$77,605/yr. Send resume using ref. code 4773 to: Cecil & Cecil Enterprises, Inc., 3741 Business Drive, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95820. Attn: Kara Olivarez.

Senior Chemist

Pharmaceutical manufacturing and research co. (Sacramento, CA) seeks Senior Chemist to develop analytical methods and provide technical support to formulation development. Design, execute, monitor, interpret, and document analytical activities related to method development, validation and technology transfer. Follow the cGLP, cGMP, cGCP, cGDP, and use analytical techniques such as HPLC, GC, dissolution and perform method development and validation for assay, RS & dissolution. Utilize knowledge of identification and characterization of impurities. Salary: \$104,478.00 to \$110,000.00. Send resumes to: HRD, Nivagen Pharmaceuticals Inc., 3050 Fite Circle, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95827

MPG

Help Wanted

Tido Financial Inc., in Elk Grove, CA seeks an Investment Compliance Officer to monitor investment activities, ensuring adherence to regulations, in-house policies, and client guidelines. High School Diploma, two years job related experience and Computer Skills. Proficient with MS Office required. To apply, email resume to: tido@tidofinancial.com

HIRING NOW: FULL-TIME CAREGIVER NEEDED!

Join our team at an adult residential facility in Rancho Cordova catering to individuals with developmental disabilities. No experience required, immediate start! Starting pay: \$16.50/hr. Apply Today! Call: (916) 709-2728

Home Improvement

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. For a limited time, we're cutting all installation costs in half and offering a FREE safety upgrade! (Additional terms apply. Subject to change and vary by dealer. Offer ends 6/30/24 Call 1-833-985-4766 (Cal-SCAN)

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-888-989-5749 (Cal-SCAN)move. (Cal-SCAN)

ALL PHASE HOME REPAIR

Elk Grove, CA
•Electrical •Plumbing
•Fencing •Fans •Decks
•Doors •Windows •Tile
Flooring •Trim base-board •Sheetrock •Dry Rot Texture •Painting
•Lighting •Concrete
•Sprinkler Repair
•Framing and more!
All phases of home repair & any construction needed. Big or small. Quality work guaranteed!
Low prices- free est. Serving Elk Grove, Rancho Murietta, Galt, Wilton, Herald, Sac. & Surrounding Areas
Bus. Lic. #1023318
(916)287-6164 local

Insurance

SAVE BIG on HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-rated insurance companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444/year! Call 1-844-410-9609! (M-F 8am-8pm Central) (Cal-SCAN)

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-203-2677 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/calnews) (Cal-SCAN)

Advertise in your local community newspaper

Call (916) 773-1111

Automotive

Elk Grove Shell
Your Local Full Service Auto Repair Shop
Committed to Customer Satisfaction

Specializing In:
• Oil Changes
• Smog Repair
• Smog Inspection
• Safety Inspection
• Transmission Service
• Brakes
• Wheel Alignment

• Check Engine Light Diagnosis
• Tires
• Tune-Up
• Batteries
• 30, 60, 90K Service
• Brake & Lamp Station

Mon-Fri, 8-5 • 916-685-7796

8901 Elk Grove Blvd.

99 Elk Grove Blvd. Franklin
Elk Grove Blvd.
N
OFFICIAL SMOG CHECK
OFFICIAL BRAKE ADJUSTING STATION

Roofing

JIM MOYLEN ROOFING
1981 License # 407605
A+ Rating with BBB.
Specialize in Re-Roof, Prompt Repairs, Low Slope Roof, Seamless Gutter Installation.

Free Estimates! Open Monday-Saturday
916-531-2793 Cell
Tile Repairs

Junk Removal

MS Hauling
•Junk Removal
•Garage Cleanouts
•Yard Debris
•E-Waste
Mention this ad and receive 15% off!

Call (916)207-5702
License # 778034

Landscaping

YARD CLEANUP & DECORATIVE ROCK
One time cleanup pruning. Also bark, weed control, sod, seed, pruning, sprinkler systems, hauling, etc. Mobile homes, commercial or residential. Local gardener.

916-205-9310 or 916- 627-9000

BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE

Artificial Turf | Fencing
Retaining Wall | Concrete
Drainage | Irrigation
Planting | Tree Trimming
209-251-9387
LIC# 1108441

YARD CLEAN UP

Sod installation
Landscape installation
Lawnmowing services
Fence repair

Call for free estimate
916-271-7265

Painting

Shelton Painting, Inc.
• Repaints: Exterior & Interior
• Dry Wall Repair
Free Estimates
(209) 745-7897
3 Generations of Quality Painters
#908019
We accept Visa & Mastercard

NO PROBLEM

PAINTING
Interior / Exterior
NO JOB IS TOO BIG
Serving E.G. & Galt since 2004
Mike Johnson - Owner
916-257-9609
Bonded & Insured Lic#953045

Roofing

PREMIER ROOFING INC.
LIC# 1097848
• ROOF REPAIR
• ROOF MAINTENANCE
• COMPLETE RE-ROOF
• NEW ROOFS
• GUTTER CLEANING
CELL 209.810.6233
209.745.7565
1premierroofing@gmail.com

SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROOFING & GUTTERS

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
• NEW ROOF INSTALL
• TEAR OFF & REROOF
• ROOF REPAIR
• OVERLAY ROOF INSTALL
• DRY ROT REPAIR
• SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALL
• GUTTER REMOVAL & INSTALL
• GUTTER REPAIR
• GUTTER GUARD & INSTALL
• DOWNSPOUTS INSTALL
• CUSTOM COLORS
FREE ESTIMATES!
916-719-8288
RAMON M., FOREMAN/OPERATOR
LIC# 1072137

Legal Action

Did your job give you MESOTHELIOMA?
If you developed MESOTHELIOMA or LUNG CANCER from on-the-job exposure to ASBESTOS then speak to one of the USA's most active law firms in this area – with \$19 BILLION in verdicts and settlements achieved in nearly 40 years of service. Call 800-CANCERS today for a free and unpressured consultation.

WEITZ & LUXENBERG PC
ASBESTOS | DRUGS/MEDICAL DEVICES | ENVIRONMENTAL | NEGLIGENCE
1880 CENTURY PARK EAST, SUITE 700 | LOS ANGELES, CA 90067
1-800-CANCERS | WWW.CANCERS.LAW
ATTORNEY ADVERTISING: Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Weitz & Luxenberg P.C. is a registered Law Corporation with the California State Bar, cert.#18529, Benno Ashraf, Esq.

Tractor Work

MAC Industries DIRT WORK
•Excavations •Utility Trenching •Foundations-All types
•Laser Grading & Dozer work •Driveways •Building Pads •Drainage-All Types
•Field Mowing / Firebreaks •Flail •Bushog
•Septic System Installation •Drilling •Foundations
•Post •Tree holes •Trenching •Irrigation
•Drainage •Rototilling •Disking
License #919198 & Insured
Michael- 916-747-9667 Bill- 916-869-1019

Real Estate Loans

RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimportant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Company www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-principal DRE 01041073. No consumer loans. (Cal-SCAN)

Roofing

ROUTT ROOFING
Specializing in Res Roofing & Repairs
We Hand Nail for Quality!
Free Estimates
916-423-1288 or 209-748-5588

BBB Since 1975 Lic.#302302

MPG

Advertise in your local community newspaper

Call (916) 773-1111

MPG

Advertise in your local community newspaper

Call (916) 773-1111

MPG

Call (916) 619-8189 to advertise with us today!

River Valley Times • Messenger Publishing Group

MPG

VFW Remembers Vietnam Veterans at Gazebo



Story and Photos
by Gail Bullen

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Murieta Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) hosted a local observance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29 at the gazebo. Designated by Congress in

2017, March 29 serves as a national day to express gratitude and pay tribute to Vietnam veterans and their families for their dedicated service and sacrifices. Despite heavy rain, the event attracted numerous VFW members, along with their families and friends. In the photo

above, Vietnam veterans in the audience are asked to stand. In the photo below, post officers Adjutant Steve Bianchi, Senior Vice Commander Bill McCarver, Commander Ted Ryon, Quartermaster Don Craig and Chaplain Rick Davis preside over the ceremony. ★



GOLF SCORES



Stableford winners included, from left, Brenda Rutherford, Patty Harris, Doris Hanson and Therese Yannuzzi. Photos courtesy of Rancho Murieta Women's Golf Club

Spring Fling Draws 58 Players

By Nancy Clevenger

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Murieta Women's Golf Club (RMWGC) held its first major tournament of the year this week, The Spring Fling. Fifty-eight women participated in this event, which was held on a beautifully warm day. Rancho Murieta Country Club's north course was in excellent condition with well-groomed and bright green fairways, with greens cut to perfection. The weather, combined with the company of friends on a delightful spring day, led to a terrific day of golf. Darlene Delmore organized the fun-filled and competitive event.

There were four flights of women playing in this Stableford net-score format competition. Winners in all flights received prizes.

In Flight 1, the leaders were Helen Kang, Yao Guo



Diane Raggio enjoys the weather and golfing with friends at The Spring Fling event at Rancho Murieta Country Club.

and Joanna Graf. Flight 2 winners included Alison Gomez, Sue Baldinger and Grace Suk. Brenda Rutherford, Trish Lawver and Doris Hanson took home the honors in Flight 3, while Flight 4 top net scorers included Carmen Heimbecker, Nancy Kilborn and Patty Harris.

Competition was also held for the golfer who hit their tee shot closest to the pin on the north course holes 12 and 2. That honor went to the same person for both holes, Yao Guo,

whose ball came within a few feet on both holes.

The next major event for Rancho Murieta Women's Golf Club is the 2024 Murieta Classic Invitational.

This three-day event May 8-May 10 will use the north and south courses of the club. For more information about this fun golfing activity or for information about joining Rancho Murieta Women's Golf Club, contact Melody Hayes at (916) 216-4720 or mkmhayes@aol.com. ★

Choose from 100s of Fabrics

FLEXSTEEL HOME

6 pc Catalina

\$1529 reg \$1699

059213

Choose your fabric!

Brooklynn, CPO
(Chief Persuasion Officer)
5th Generation, Naturwood Family

Sofa Sale

All sofas, loveseats, sectionals, chairs, ottomans, and recliners are on sale!*

Choose from 100s of Fabrics

356199

stanton

90" Tasha

\$1149 reg \$1279

Choose from 100s of Fabrics

473194

stanton

88" Linda

\$1199 reg \$1349

Choose from 100s of Fabrics

264085

stanton

96" Brooklynn

\$1349 reg \$1499

Choose from 100s of Fabrics

512873

FLEXSTEEL HOME

80" Digby

\$1879 reg \$2099

Power Reclining Sofa

438545

FLEXSTEEL HOME

82" Broadway

\$2497 reg \$2837

*limited to stock on hand

Power Reclining Sofa

375453

FLEXSTEEL HOME

81" Fenwick

\$2999 reg \$3399

Choose from over 100 Sofas, 35 Sectionals, 90 Chairs & 70 Recliners

Naturwood

HOME FURNISHINGS

Mon - Fri 10am – 6pm
Sat 10am – 6pm • Sun 11am – 6pm

12125 Folsom Blvd.
Rancho Cordova
916-351-0227
www.naturwood.com

"Tell 'em Brooklynn sent you!"



Largest Selection of

★ PROUDLY ★

MADE IN THE USA

with U.S. & Imported Materials

Products

*Sale applies to all indicated items except "Special Buys" and all "Mega Clearance". Sale price not available in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Allow time for delivery on some items. Sizes and colors are approximate. Sale ends 04/28/24.