



Water Issues Dominate CSD Board Meeting

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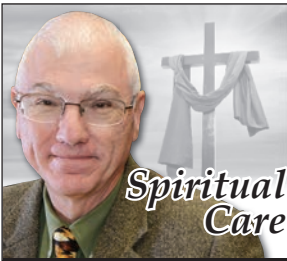
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Moratorium Petition Drive Launches After CSD Meeting

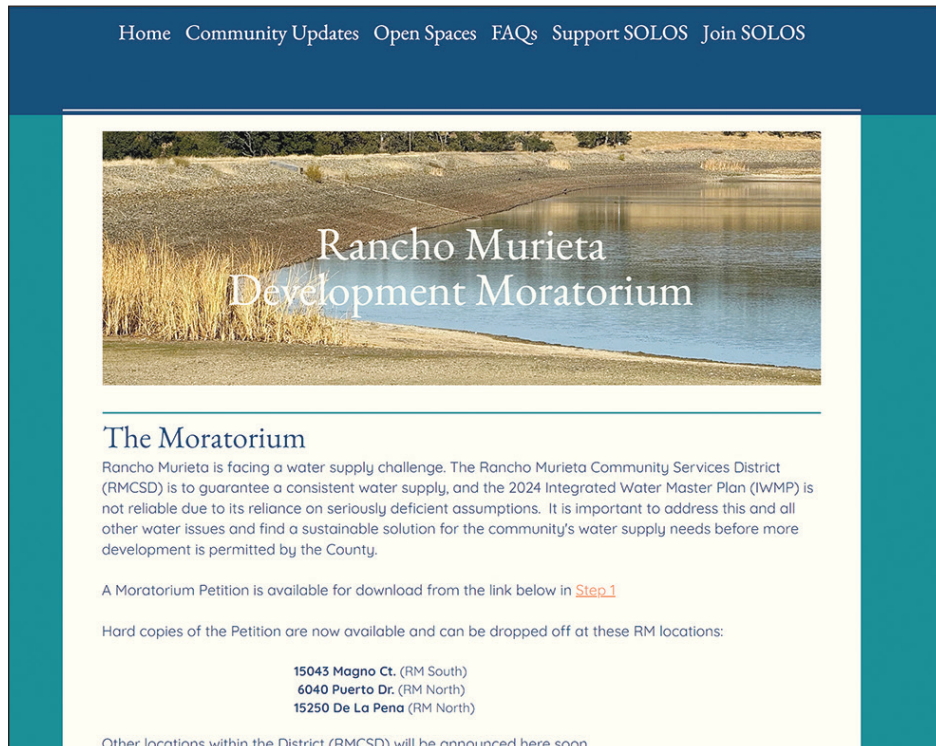
By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Should the Rancho Murieta Community Services District declare a water emergency to halt all new hookups?

At the instigation of Director Steve Booth, the board members discussed this idea for the first time during their meeting on July 17. Their new attorney advised that the district "isn't quite there yet" and also highlighted other complicating issues that need consideration.

John Merchant, who was in the audience, launched a petition drive several days later demanding that the district declare a moratorium on development. A harsh critic of the 2024 Integrated Water Master Plan that is still in process, Merchant is a past CSD board member and the vice-president of Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces (SOLOS).

Before the board meeting, Booth asked that an action item be placed on the agenda to declare a temporary water emergency "to halt all new water hookups, distribution expansion, and construction approvals until the



A petition asking the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board to declare a moratorium on new development is posted on the Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces (SOLOS) website. Courtesy photo

water capacity can be assessed."

"I'm not one to slam my fist and say no more development," Booth explained during the meeting. "But I do believe we have enough information today to establish that a shortage of water is foreseeable."

However, Booth's action item morphed into a discussion item after the district's new legal counsel Patrick Enright advised it wouldn't meet

the California Water Code requirements. "Counsel eloquently shared with us that based on the timing of my request and the timing of this board meeting, we could not have satisfied the procedural requirements to have a public hearing," Booth explained.

Nevertheless, Booth said he would continue to advocate for a public notice and a hearing to initiate a water emergency declaration as soon as possible. Enright

said the district must publish at least a seven-day notice in a local newspaper before a hearing can be held.

The day after the meeting, Merchant took to social media saying "that CSD does not seem to understand the urgency here." He asked residents if they would sign a petition demanding that CSD implement a moratorium. Within 36 hours, 300

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Retired professional football players Rick Jennings, left, and Rod Martin show off their Super Bowl rings at the 2023 Gold Rush Classic. Jennings is one of 24 sports celebrities participating in this year's tournament. Photo by Gail Bullen

Gold Rush Classic Slated Aug. 22 and 23

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Slated to unfold at the Rancho Murieta Country Club on Aug. 22 and 23, the Gold Rush Classic has already lined up two dozen sports celebrities who are ready to play in the Pro-Am golf tournament.

The lineup is expected to include Michael Carter, Marcus DuPree, Gary Gerould, Rick Jennings, Greg Loyd, Greg Ostertag, Polynice Olden, Reggie Theus, Kenny Thomas and Greg Vaughn, plus 13 other sports celebrities

Celebrating its fifth year, the Gold Rush Classic is still seeking a few more sponsors. Interested parties can email johnj@goldrushclassic.org.

In addition to being a celebrity Pro-Am tournament, the Gold Rush Classic will offer a \$1 million hole-in-one contest, a celebrity skins challenge, a celebrity draft party, a farm-to-fork- dinner and a live concert with Where the Stars and Guitars Shine.

Open to the public, the concert will feature the popular country band Moonshine Crazy. The 8 p.m. performance is slated at Lake Clementia. The tickets, \$25 and under, will be sold at the usual ETC outlets.

An overview of the tournament with complete details can be found at <https://birdease.com/Goldrushclassic>.

Funds generated from this event will support Jordan's Guardian Angels, Make-A-Wish Foundation, 1st Tee of Sacramento, Gold Rush Charlies, the Rancho Murieta Community Church Youth Group, the Murieta Trail Stewardship, the Rancho

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Cripple Creek Band Draws Sell-Out Crowd



The Cripple Creek Band performs to a sold-out crowd at the Lake Clementia Amphitheater on July 6. It was the second concert of the season sponsored by Entertainment, Theatre & Culture for Rancho Murieta (ETC). Photo by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Even before The Cripple Creek Band sounded a note at the Lake Clementia Amphitheater on July 6, the second concert of the season had already broken two records.

This news came from Jane Rosetta, the president of Entertainment, Theatre & Culture for Rancho Murieta (ETC), which presents the summer concert series.

"The first thing that is record-breaking is this crazy heat. You guys are tough," Rosetta told the

crowd. "And we also have never sold out this early. That's because Cripple Creek has such a loyal following."

Nor did the Sacramento-based band disappoint as they shared their southern rock style of country music with the packed amphitheater.

Before the concert began, two youngsters from the Murieta Dance Company performed in a short program, and the Entertainment, Theatre & Culture emcee recognized the sponsors and used a cannon to fire T-shirts into the crowd. The concert also served as the wedding reception for a Rancho Murieta couple, with about 250 guests in attendance.

Cripple Creek

The Cripple Creek Band first performed at an Entertainment, Theatre & Culture concert in 2016, sharing the billing with a Taylor Swift tribute band. The band has also performed at various events, including the Gold Rush Classic golf tournament, the Rancho Murieta Community Church, at private parties and at the annual fundraiser for the Murieta Bulldogs traveling baseball team, with the next one slated for Aug. 10.

According to lead singer Neal Morgan, that connection has made a difference.

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Water Issues Dominate CSD Board Meeting

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Water issues dominated the discussion when the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board of Directors met on July 17.

The most urgent matter was the recent discovery of a leak in the pipe that transports water from the Cosumnes River to Clementia.

The most controversial issue was a board member's recommendation that the district declare a moratorium on new water connections. (See the separate story in this issue.)

Other water topics included a report from the district's engineer about the capacity of the community's two water tanks. A community activist also told the board that she would file a public records request to obtain information from the water supply study currently underway. Another community activist complained about the way that the district is reporting the community's water supply in its monthly utility reports, and a board member requested that a study be conducted for Lake Clementia to determine its actual capacity.

In other business, the board approved the final list of the Capital Improvement Projects. The board was also informed of a timetable to complete three audits, received an update about a recent sewer leak and reviewed job descriptions. Additionally, a Murieta Village landlord complained about the district's handling of a broken water pipe at his rental.

Major Leak

Interim Director of Operations Travis Bohannon informed the board that a leak was discovered in the Clementia spillway on June 19. Further investigation revealed that the 33-inch line transferring raw water from the Cosumnes River to Calero Reservoir was leaking. TNT Industrial Contractors exposed an inspection plate and inserted a video camera,



Interim Director of Operations Travis Bohannon points out a leak in a video taken of a crucial pipe that carries raw water from the Cosumnes River to Calero Reservoir. The Rancho Murieta Community Services District board authorized him to make emergency repairs at the July 17 meeting. Photos by Gail Bullen

which identified multiple leaks and cracks in the pipe.

Bohannon requested the board's permission to initiate repairs immediately, rather than waiting the five weeks required to put the project out to bid. One concern was the potential delay in acquiring a new pipe. He emphasized the importance of completing the repair before Nov. 1, the date when the district is authorized to draw water from the river. The board voted unanimously to authorize the work under an existing agreement with TNT Industrial Contractors. The repair will remain an agenda item until the work is completed.

Water Tanks

Bohannon brought the district's contracted engineer, Joe Domenichelli, to the board meeting to discuss the agenda item "water distribution storage capacity for Residences East and West."

Whether the Rio Oso Water Tank's storage capacity is adequate to supply the subdivision was a topic at two prior meetings of the Improvement Committee, which is comprised of Directors Randy Jenco, Martin Pohll, Bohannon, General Manager Mimi Morris and other staff. Stories about the two committee meetings can be found in the June 28 and July 5 River Valley Times newspapers, available online.

Domenichelli said he was asked to look at the Rio Oso Tank first because the water levels had been dropping lower than they should.

"We are getting to

the limit of the operational storage in that tank," Domenichelli said. "Adding a significant number of units is just going to impact it more."

The engineer said his initial analysis indicated that adding 68 units in the first phase of the 198-lot subdivision would drop the water level less than half a foot, as long as the new homes have low water-use landscapes.

"It's not going to have an impact where we are going to be in trouble," Domenichelli said.

Director Linda Butler asked him what would happen by adding the remainder of the lots.

Domenichelli suggested that a comprehensive analysis of the entire water distribution system, including the larger Van Vleck Tank, should be conducted because some improvements could be made.

"But overall, the storage volume that we have puts you right on the edge," Domenichelli said. "We are going to try and do whatever we can to make it continue to function correctly. But in my opinion, the big picture is to get more storage out there."

The discussion touched on many other aspects of the water distribution system. Bohannon also highlighted an incident when a car knocked over a fire hydrant in the back lakes a couple of years ago, causing the Rio Oso tank to drop from 27 feet to empty in just five hours.

After President Tim Maybee asked Domenichelli if he could provide direction, the engineer emphasized the importance of examining the entire system.

Director Randy Jenco agreed, stating that Domenichelli should begin the analysis immediately. "It should have started yesterday," Jenco said.

Domenichelli actually presented a \$42,000 proposal to analyze the entire system at the June Improvements Committee meeting. Jenco and Pohll asked Morris to schedule a special board meeting to approve it because they didn't want to wait five weeks until the next meeting. Instead, Morris asked the engineer to reduce his proposal's scope so it would fall within her \$25,000 spending authority.

The board also directed Domenichelli to move forward with his suggestion to install a flow meter at the Rio Oso tank to better track water usage. He said the installation cannot occur until cooler weather.

Community activist Janis Eckard told the board that it would be impossible to accurately size a future tank unless the current water study is revised to show how many homes the current water supply can support.

Audience member Jay Hannum, a contractor, said the district should consider bringing in a treated water line from Sacramento instead of building a new water tank. Asked after the meeting how much it would cost, he estimated \$11 million. That would have been far cheaper than upgrading the water treatment plant for \$14 million, Hannum said.

Other Water Topics

As she has done many times before, community activist Janis Eckard came



Community activist Janis Eckard informs the board that she will file a public records request to get answers to some questions she has been asking since March 2023.

to the podium to point out problems with the current water study. Eckard said that it is based on inaccurate data and unachievable assumptions.

Eckard also said she has been asking questions since March 2023, with many questions going unanswered.

For that reason, Eckard said, she was submitting a Public Records Act request. Eckard said she would take action to enforce her request if she didn't get answers before the next board meeting.

John Merchant, another community activist, objected to the monthly raw water storage report delivered to the board. He argued that including Clementia storage in the report is confusing because the water in that reservoir is designated solely for recreational use.

President Tim Maybee said he would refer Merchant's concern to the Improvements Committee for further discussion.

Director Linda Butler inquired about conducting a bathymetric study on Clementia. She noted that previous studies revealed that both Calero and Chesbro had less water than previously assumed for decades.

Maybee responded that the board had chosen not to survey Clementia at the same time as the others to reduce costs.

However, he said he would have Morris look into the cost and present the findings to the Improvement Committee

Capital Improvement Projects

Also on the agenda was a

public hearing to consider approval of the district's Fiscal Year 2024/25 Capital Improvement plan with proposed infrastructure projects for the year. The total budget for the 12 projects was \$4,958,369 of which \$3,122,150 would be spent this year. Six projects were carryovers from the prior year and one project came under budget after it went to bid.

The most expensive projects include the Granlees pump station safety improvements, a filter bed rehabilitation at Water Treatment Plant 2, the replacement of the communication system at the plants and lift stations, the rehabilitation of two sewer lift stations, and converting the wastewater plant from using chlorine to bleach.

The board approved the list of projects.

In Other Business

Director of Finance Mark Matulich said in his report that the Finance Committee would move to a quarterly meeting schedule to allow staff to work on prior year accounting and audits. The 2021-22 audit would be presented at the October meeting, the 2022-23 audit at the January meeting and the 2023/24 audit at the April meeting.

Bohannon reported that a June 12 sewer leak at the 6A lift station near Bass Lake had been fixed for \$18,647.

The board tabled a revised job description for the director of operations so it could be amended and approved a revised description for the patrol officer position. Morris reported that a fourth officer is poised to join the district in August.

Murieta Village resident Dale Schell protested the district's decision not to fix a water line at his rental, arguing that it was not a private line as claimed.

Maybee said he would discuss the issue with Morris and have staff schedule a meeting with Schell.

The board's next regular meeting is slated for Aug. 21. ★

Gold Rush Classic Slated Aug. 22 and 23

Continued from page 1
Murieta Kiwanis Club, the Pleasant Grove High School Golf teams and other children's charities in Sacramento and beyond.

The original Gold Rush Golf Tournament was held at the Rancho Murieta Country Club from 1983 to

1987. During those years, the tournament became a significant event in the Senior PGA Tour calendar.

It also attracted legendary golfers, including Arnold Palmer, who won the tournament in its inaugural years. ★



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Grant Line Road Funding to Aid RM Residents

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG) - Regional leaders celebrated the United States Department of Transportation's allocation of \$25 million to the Capital SouthEast Connector project at a July 17 news conference held at the Teichert Aggregate Plant on Grant Line Road.

The federal grant will address long-standing safety issues on a three-and-a-half mile segment of Grant Line Road between White Rock and Douglas Road in Rancho Cordova by transforming it into a four-lane roadway with a separate lane for bikes and pedestrians.

Once all segments in the 34-mile-long Connector are constructed, it will link Interstate 5 at the town of Franklin to Highway 50 in El Dorado Hills by transforming Kammerer, Grant Line and White Rock roads into an expressway.

Rancho Murieta resident John Merchant, who became an advocate for the Connector several years ago, attended the press conference. He said the federal grant was good news for Rancho Murieta. That's because Grant Line Road provides an alternative route to Folsom when Scott Road floods in the winter.

Merchant has also described Grant Line Road as a critical evacuation route should Rancho Murieta residents be threatened by a wildland fire or if they need to access emergency services during a flood. The new construction will fix a segment of Grant Line north of Douglas Road that flooded



Congressman Ami Bera says the grant could serve as a catalyst for completing construction of the Capital SouthEast Connector. Photos by Gail Bullen

in the New Year's storm.

Merchant and the Connector became household words in Rancho Murieta in 2021 when he led an unprecedented effort to secure \$3.5 million from SACOG (Sacramento Area Council of Governments) to fund the Scott Road alignment with the Connector. Without the SACOG funding, the alignment's construction would have been put on hold for years.

Rancho Cordova Councilman Garrett Gatewood, who chairs the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Board of Directors, was the press conference emcee and described Congressman Ami Bera as the driving force behind the grant.

"This is a huge milestone for our region," Gatewood said. "I want to say thank you to Ami Bera because he really led the effort in so many ways. He is such a blessing to the city."

Bera told the crowd he has been seeking grants for the Connector from the federal Department

of Transportation (DOT) since his election in 2012 but he didn't get any good news until about a month ago.

"To get this \$25 million is really a catalyst for us to finish the entire project," Bera said. "We've got a real opportunity to do this right, to grow and really do this right."

Bera is also seeking another \$10 million for Rancho Cordova as part of the congressional appropriations process, he said.

In addition to Bera and Gatewood, six other regional leaders spoke at the celebratory event. They were Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume, who represents Rancho Cordova; Construction & General Laborers Local 185 Business Manager Doyle Radford; Rancho Cordova Vice-Mayor Siri Pulipati; Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper, who lives in Rancho Cordova; Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Assistant Chief Jon Rudnicki; and Congressman Kevin Kiley.

During their remarks,



Congressman Ami Bera presents a \$25-million check to the Capital SouthEast Connector representatives on July 17 at a Teichert Aggregates plant on Grant Line Road. From left are El Dorado County Supervisor John Hidahl, Bera, Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume, Rancho Cordova City Councilmember and Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority Chair Garrett Gatewood, Capital SouthEast Connector Executive Director Derek Minnema, Elk Grove City Councilmember Sergio Robles, State Sen. Roger Niello and Folsom City Councilmember Mike Kozlowski.

the glaring safety issues on Grant Line Road and politicians working across the aisle were reoccurring themes.

Safety

Gatewood said using the grant money to make Grant Line Road improvements will make Rancho Cordova safer.

"If you look behind me, this is literally the most dangerous road in the region," Gatewood said. "This road is what we call death alley. There are more accidents than anywhere else in the region."

Kiley provided the grim statistics. He said that 125 accidents and three fatalities had occurred within a four-year time span.

Rancho Cordova Vice-Mayor Pulipati shared her personal experience with the dangerous conditions on Grant Line Road. One day, while driving along the road, she saw a wide-bodied truck approaching from the opposite direction and moved a little to the right.

"The next thing I know, my tire hits the edge of the road. (My vehicle) blew through the fence

and rolled over a couple of times in the middle of a field," Pulipati said. "I walked away without any major injuries but not everybody got that lucky."

The grant "is a big step" in making Grant Line Road safer, more connective and more sustainable, Pulipati said.

Sheriff Cooper described Grant Line Road as a critical route to the South County.

"This is kind of late in coming but we need it," the sheriff said. "It's a safety issue for our motorist public and for your first responders."

Rudnicki, who heads the fire district's emergency medical services, said that flooding and frequent wildland fires compound the problems along Grant Line Road.

"What we are celebrating today is an engineered solution to solving many problems," Rudnicki said.

Political teamwork

Hume thanked Bera for his extensive work securing the grant.

"He and I may not have the same letter in the parentheses behind our

names and we may disagree on policies from an ideological standpoint," the county supervisor said. "But I know in my heart of hearts that he represents his constituency from his heart of hearts."

Kiley also referred to the political divisions in the country. He said one way to overcome them is through regional projects that tangibly affect people's lives.

"That is why I think that 'Connector' is the perfect name," Kiley said. "This is all about connecting people, connecting regions and connecting communities."

Bera was asked his thoughts following the ceremony.

"With all the dysfunction in Washington, D.C. that is now going on around the election, it feels good to be home," he said. "It reminds me that my most important job is actually representing folks in Sacramento."

Background

The funding request was submitted by the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority, the Sacramento County Department of Transportation and the City of Rancho Cordova.

The Grant Line project was one of 148 different road construction projects that received funds as part of the \$1.8 billion Federal Administration Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainable and Equity (RAISE) grant program.

The program's goal is to fund eligible surface transportation projects that will have a significant local or regional impact advancing the federal priorities of safety, equity, climate and sustainability and workforce development. ★

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Flights of Fancy: Regulation Without Representation

Commentary
by Sue Frost

I would love to be able to drive an affordable car that hovers over traffic and runs on a spoonful of tap water, but since that technology doesn't exist, it would be crazy to impose regulation on consumers

But that is exactly what the California Air Resources Board (CARB) is doing by pushing tough environmental rules they claim will reduce pollution from boats, trucks, and trains, aiming for a carbon-neutral future. These new regulations rely on technology that doesn't currently exist, so their justification is based more on science fiction than practical reality.

In January, California Air Resources Board started implementing the California Advanced Clean Fleets (ACF) regulation. This builds on their earlier Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) rule. Both are designed to force companies to replace current fleets with zero-emission vehicles. California has 13



Sue Frost: "Unelected bureaucrats are imposing massive new regulations based on science fiction and driven by activist ideology rather than engineering or common sense." Photo courtesy of Sue Frost

ports and moves millions of tons of produce to markets every year, so it plays a huge role in the U.S. transportation system.

The controversy gets even worse when we look at the rail sector. Last fall, California Air Resources Board wanted to bring in stricter pollution standards for all trains in California. They hoped to force rail companies to use advanced technologies that aren't yet practical or affordable. New locomotives could cost \$4 to \$5 million each, which might bankrupt

smaller rail companies and would raise the cost of everything from produce to blue jeans. Trains account for less than 0.5% of air pollution, so even if the technology worked and was affordable, the impact would barely be measurable. These regulations could also disrupt supply chains since different states would need to swap out locomotives at California's border to meet these new rules.

During a Congressional hearing, a representative from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District claimed that trucks might be cleaner for transporting freight than trains, contrary to long-established facts. This statement indicates bureaucrats favor trucking over rail services, paradoxically increasing truck traffic and undermining purported environmental benefits of reducing train operations, all while the state continues to pour billions of dollars into the ill-fated California High-Speed Rail. It just doesn't make sense.

California Air Resources Board defends these regulations by comparing current train emissions to the future performance of an imaginary electric freight truck fleet envisioned by the new Advanced Clean Fleets rule. There are a host of problems with this pie-in-the-sky analysis:

California does not produce nearly enough electricity to support an electric truck fleet (or an electric train fleet.)

California does not have the charging infrastructure needed to deliver electricity to support the imaginary fleet.

Electric trucks have an optimal range of 250-300 miles, but truckers currently average over 500 miles per day.

The technology exists to replace the neighborhood Amazon delivery truck with an electric version; current technology can't replace the long-haul freighters who deliver the goods to the Amazon warehouse.

California has over 400,000 heavy freight

trucks delivering goods across the state, and fewer than 4,000 are electric (mostly for short-range delivery).

There is not enough manufacturing capacity to replace all 400,000 heavy trucks.

California Air Resources Board has no viable plan for the disposal of old diesel trucks and engines they are trying to regulate out of existence.

The real problem with California Air Resources Board's approach is that unelected bureaucrats are imposing massive new regulations based on science fiction and driven by activist ideology rather than engineering or common sense, and without input from those directly impacted. These speculative regulations pose a threat to the viability of existing transport systems, would drastically increase the costs of energy, food, and other goods, and raise concerns about the equitable and effective governance of environmental policies.

As debates continue

and the Environmental Protection Agency considers California Air Resources Board's waiver request, the decisions made will significantly influence the future of national transportation and economic stability.

I want cleaner air, but rather than relying on slogans and science fiction, we should concentrate our resources on proven methods we already know will reduce emissions, like improving roads and highways to reduce traffic jams and modernizing ports and freight transfer stations so trucks are not forced to idle for hours waiting for loads.

Thank you for reading, and as always if you want to contact me, call me at 916-874-5491 or e-mail me at SupervisorFrost@saccounty.gov.

Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost represents the 4th District, which includes the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, North Highlands, Rio Linda, Elverta and Rancho Murieta. ★

Stay Comfortable and Save Money During Heat Wave

SMUD News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- The Sacramento area continues to experience above-average heat this summer, with temperatures expected to top 100 degrees on multiple days.

Power reliability is a core value and SMUD (Sacramento Municipal Utility District) has enough power resources to meet expected demand, barring a grid or other emergency

such as wildfire or unexpected significant power shortfall.

While SMUD customers enjoy some of the lowest utility rates and bills in California, air conditioning is one of the largest energy consumers in the home and can drive up bills during these hot summer months. SMUD is helping residents prepare to stay comfortable in their homes while staying within their budget, with energy- and

money-saving tips.

It's easy to keep energy use in check without giving up cooling comfort. One of the easiest ways to save is to pay attention to when you use energy. Energy rates are cheapest during off-peak hours before 5 p.m. and after 8 p.m. That means customers can save by minimizing energy use during weekdays between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Another easy step is to prevent your home from

heating up, which can reduce immediate cooling costs and help save on long-term costs from wear and tear on cooling equipment.

SMUD has more energy-saving solutions on its website and offers additional tips to save.

Use fans and close blinds on windows that get direct sun.

Swap out light bulbs for LEDs.

Change your air filter

and clean your HVAC unit.

Use a programmable/smart thermostat to help control HVAC use.

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Avoid using multiple large appliances at the same time, especially during peak hours.

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Trail Proposal, July 4 Review are RMA Board Topics

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A long-unresolved proposal to build a trail through a wooded area of the Residences East and West subdivision surfaced again at the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on July 16.

Another notable topic was General Manager Rod Hart's report on the July 4 events. He credited the Maintenance Department staff for ensuring the fireworks show proceeded as planned and expressed gratitude to the Sacramento Sheriff's Office for keeping the community safe.

In other business, the board adopted a new communication policy that will result in the creation of a Facebook page to better inform the community and implemented a new rule designating no-parking areas behind the gates. The board also approved a "Battle of the Bay" baseball trip organized by the Recreation Committee.



Developer Bob Keil advocates for his latest proposal to build a trail in a wooded area of the Residences East and West. He was making his case at the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on July 16. Photos by Gail Bullen

Trail

The construction of a pedestrian and bike trail that would connect Puerto Drive to Escuela Drive through the Residences East and West had been under discussion for many months, with developer Bob Keil on one side initially proposing a 6-foot natural surface trail while the board required a Class 1 paved trail that was 12 feet wide with shoulders.

The last public discussion of the issue, which at times became contentious, took place at the May 2 meeting of the Parks Committee. This committee comprises two representatives each from the Rancho Murieta Association (RMA) and the development community, with one representative from the Rancho Murieta Community Services District acting as a tie-breaker.

During the Parks meeting, Board President Scott Adams and Keil announced they had reached a trail agreement for Unit 1 of the subdivision with 68 lots in a non-wooded area. The agreement arose after the Community Services District advised it had to build a 10-foot paved road to access the sewers in the subdivision. Keil agreed to relocate his proposed nature surface trail to the access road, and to pave it. Rancho Murieta Association agreed, although it was only 10 feet wide.

However, in Unit 2, the sewer road could provide only a partial compromise. Although Keil shortened the trail to reach the Community Services District road, it still left 1,400 feet passing through a wooded area. Keil argued that building a

12-foot paved trail would cause significant damage to numerous trees and would be very costly due to the required removals.

Adams continued to advocate for a 12-foot paved trail, noting that Keil had known about the Rancho Murieta Association requirement from the beginning. After an extensive back-and-forth discussion, the Parks meeting ended without any resolution on the Unit 2 trail.

At the July meeting, Hart informed the board that Keil had updated his Unit 2 map. Keil proposed installing a graded 8-foot-wide natural trail and offered to deposit \$50,000 into an account for the Rancho Murieta Association to pave the trail later. However, if the Rancho Murieta Association did not pave the trail within five years, Keil requested that the money be returned to him. Hart suggested that if the directors agreed with this proposal, they should vote to forward Keil's request to the Parks Committee.

During the discussion, Hart seemed to express a preference for the idea of an 8-foot trail if the Rancho Murieta Association paved it, noting that it wouldn't require the removal of any trees. He explained that the association doesn't face the same Sacramento County tree restrictions as the developer. However, he cautioned that widening the trail to 10 feet could damage the drip lines of the trees.

Hart told the board he had asked a paving contractor that has done considerable work in the community for a bid to compare to Keil's estimate for \$50,000, but he hadn't heard back as of the meeting.



General Manager Rod Hart shows the location of the proposed trail.

Several directors said they didn't like the requirement to refund the \$50,000 in five years if the trail weren't paved because of many potential uncertainties. Keil said he was open to another trigger.

In the end, Adams said he would schedule a special meeting after Hart obtained his paving estimate. As of press time, that meeting hadn't been scheduled.

After the meeting, Adams told the River Valley Times that the trail was still under discussion. "It is going to be up to the board whether they want to agree to 10 feet wide, 8 feet or 12 feet," he said.

July 4

Hart began his general manager's report by explaining the impact of the heat wave on the fireworks show.

"For the first time in my tenure here, the Pyro (Spectaculars) technician showed up and informed our maintenance managers that none of his contract workers were willing to work in the heat," Hart said. "So, he was there by himself when he normally would have had a crew of 10 working from morning to night."

Hart reported that Maintenance Manager Troy Schaffner deployed four staff members to get trained on the wiring at 10 a.m., and they continued working in the extreme heat that was exacerbated by fireproof material on the dock until the fireworks show began at 9:30 p.m.

"So kudos to our maintenance guys," Hart said. "We wouldn't have had a fireworks show if they hadn't been willing to go out there."

Hart also apologized to the community for the late elimination of the safety zone barricade for the fireworks show.

"For the first time ever, nobody could get to the dance floor (at the gazebo) with the DJ music having a good time until the fireworks show," he said.

Director Danny Carillo asked if Pyro Spectaculars would provide a partial refund. Hart said that was still under discussion. The company wanted to credit a refund against next year's contract, but Hart is thinking about this year's contract.

Hart also described the security for this year's event as amazing. It was comprised of California Highway Patrol officers at

the gates, sheriff's deputies inside the gate along with a new security company that worked out better than any firm before. He said that two of the deputies actually worked both the morning and night shifts.

Hart said that having a show of force was helpful when dealing with teenagers at North Beach. "We didn't get any talk-back. Everyone was saying 'Yes, sir,' he said. "It ended really well. We were able to control that environment, keeping it a nice family event."

Last year, a group of teenagers, many of them drinking, assembled outside the gazebo before the fireworks show. One set off an illegal firework that caused minor injuries to seven people, including children.

In Other Business:

Hart reminded the community that it was illegal to turn left or right on Jackson Highway when driving a golf cart. Most are turning left as a shortcut to get to Starbucks.

Hart emphasized that being able to cross the highway is a privilege "that could be taken away from us much faster than you know."

The board approved holding the annual meeting on Nov. 21, appointed Director Patrick O'Hern as the chair of the nominating committee and appointed Jim Moore as the elections supervisor.

A revised communications policy was approved that will result in a new Facebook page. Director Danny Carillo said its sole purpose would be to provide basic information to draw residents to the association's website.

Director Renee Bechthold received approval for the Recreation Committee to sponsor an Aug. 18 bus trip to watch the "Battle of the Bay" between the Oakland A's and the Giants. Because of ticket price concessions and sponsorships from Summerfest and Kiwanis, the committee will sell the tickets for only \$50.

The board also approved a new rule specifying no-parking areas, after making some minor changes based on community suggestions.

The board's next regular meeting will be on Aug. 20. ★



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We Must Protect Veterans' Access to Mental Health Treatments

Commentary by
Anthony J. Principi

As a nation, we have a sacred duty to support the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms. That responsibility doesn't end when their service does. Once military members return home, we must ensure they have the health care they need to live their best lives -- including treatments for mental health conditions.

Bipartisan majorities in Congress have made a priority of this issue, notably with their overwhelming support for the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019.

Unfortunately, though, a single provision in the



Anthony Principi

2022 Inflation Reduction Act threatens to undermine this progress. The law is inadvertently discouraging the development of next-generation psychiatric medications that could benefit countless veterans. The good news is that an easy, bipartisan fix is now in the works.

Mental health challenges remain heartbreakingly common among our

nation's heroes. Rates of PTSD are higher among veterans than civilians. Sadly, it is estimated that 17 veterans die by suicide every day, and over half of veterans living with mental illness aren't receiving treatment.

These painful statistics reflect the unique stresses and traumas of military life. Combat exposure, family separation, reintegration into civilian life -- each can take a heavy psychological toll.

Drug researchers have responded to mental illness with an expanding arsenal of treatment options. The United States is currently responsible for about half of all new medications developed worldwide.

But affordability is also an important issue. To address it, the IRA gave

Medicare the authority to negotiate with drug makers for lower prices. To help ensure pharmaceutical developers have time to recoup their investment costs, lawmakers wisely granted newly approved medicines a period of exemption from price negotiations.

But oddly, this exemption period isn't the same for all drug types. Under the law, new "large molecule" biologic medicines are exempt from government price negotiations for 13 years after FDA approval, whereas small-molecule drugs receive only nine years of exemption.

Unsurprisingly, this disparity is already leading drug companies to deprioritize or abandon small-molecule treatments.

In a recent survey of over two dozen prominent biopharmaceutical firms, 63% said they plan to shift investment away from small molecules because of the IRA.

This alarming trend could have serious consequences for veterans seeking treatment options for mental illness. Small molecules have a key advantage when it comes to treating mental health conditions: they're thin enough to cross the blood-brain barrier. That's why small molecules make up virtually all psychiatric medications, from antipsychotics to antidepressants.

The IRA's bias against small molecules will also worsen existing inequities in care access. Small-molecule medications usually come as

easy-to-use pills, while biologics typically require injections or IVs administered by a healthcare professional.

Thankfully, a straightforward, bipartisan fix has already emerged. The Ensuring Pathways to Innovative Cures (EPIC) Act would align price negotiation timelines for small molecules and biologics, giving each category 13 years of post-approval protection.

As millions of veterans struggle with mental health or behavioral conditions, we need to protect their access to innovative therapies. That starts with passing the EPIC Act.

Anthony Principi served as Secretary of Veterans Affairs from 2001-2005. This column first appeared in Stars and Stripes. ★

Director Booth Files for Seat on CSD Board

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Director Steve Booth has announced that he will run for a seat on the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) Board of Directors, according to a July 17 news release.

Booth was appointed to the board in December 2022 and is currently finishing the final two years of the four-year term vacated by the previous incumbent. The board election will be held as part of the Nov. 5 general election.

The other director position with an opening is currently held by Martin Pohll. As of deadline for this story, he declined to say whether he will seek re-election.

Candidates for the two openings on the board have until Aug. 9 to file their paperwork with the Sacramento County Office of Voter

Registration and Elections.

Booth retired from full-time work in labor relations and human resources in November 2021.

He works part-time as an independent arbitrator adjudicating management-labor disputes throughout Central and Northern California.

He is also the current chairman of the Sacramento County Civil Service Commission.

Booth explained his decision to seek election.

"I want to continue to be the 'Voice of the Community' on the CSD Board. CSD and the community at large face crucial financial, infrastructure and water supply challenges," Booth said.

"The community deserves a representative who will demand consistency, accountability and transparency as well as act in the best interests of the community." ★



Director Steve Booth emcees a Rancho Murieta Community Services District town hall meeting to explain proposed rate increase on April 26, 2023. Booth has announced plans to file for the election on Nov. 5. Photo by Gail Bullen

Moratorium Petition Drive Launches After CSD Meeting

Continued from page 1

people said they were in favor, according to Merchant. Since then, the petition has been made available on the SOLOS website and elsewhere. Merchant said the goal is to collect 1,000 signatures.

In his first post, Merchant explained that the petition wouldn't force the board to do anything. However, it will be sent to Sacramento County and the State Water Resources Control Board. "It will help us to be in a position if, in the end, public opposition is our last resort," he wrote.

Attorney Comments

Enright informed the board that the water code allows the district to adopt a moratorium if there is an actual water shortage or a projected future shortage or drought. The district also has broad powers to address the situation. "We can cut it off immediately with no new connections," he said. "Or we could phase it in over a period of time."

Enright indicated he was still familiarizing himself with the Integrated Water Master Plan, which is currently with the consultants, and other reports. "We have to make sure our ducks are in line so it is defensible," he said. "We need to verify the data and the assumptions and come to an agreement as to what they are," he said.

Enright said the district also has contractual issues with two financing and servicing agreements (FSAs) that were used to raise money for the water plant upgrade, which are in different stages. He said many homes under the 670 FSA (covering previously approved developments such as the Residences and Riverview) have already been built or have "will serve" letters. He said approximately 300 homes are yet to be constructed.

However, the proposed Rancho North subdivision with 697 lots and 39 acres on Jackson Highway that is covered by the second FSA hasn't yet received any entitlements from the county "So they are basically at ground zero," Enright said.

"If you have a vested right to do something, you've got a much better case to say that the moratorium should not apply to you," he explained.

Enright said the courts will also want to



Community activist John Merchant is leading the petition drive. He launched it after attending the July 17 CSD Board meeting. Photos by Gail Bullen

know how the district is trying to augment its water supplies to resolve the issue. "We need to get firm numbers as to what those alternatives are, the projected costs, and how they can be potentially financed, whether through the argumentation fees and other means," he said.

The courts also give water agencies the discretion to determine if a water augmentation option isn't feasible. One reason could be the extreme cost. "The courts aren't going to make the district go bankrupt," he said.

The attorney also emphasized that the district has "a firm duty to provide water to its current residents."

He also noted that the district must factor in Senate Bill 552 which requires that communities like Rancho Murieta have a backup plan for drought.

While some people in the community "would like to cause a pause at this time, I don't think we are quite there yet," the attorney said. "That is something I'm going to continue looking at and report back to you on a monthly basis."

Board Comments

In board comments afterward, Director Martin Pohll said the district "has to get our data in line. I think that means we've got to get the Integrated Water Master plan concluded, so if there is a moratorium, we would have a basis."

Booth believes the board should take a position on how much risk is acceptable, citing an earlier report by the district's interim operations manager.

"Mr. Bohannon told us that knocking over a hydrant at Calero a few years ago drained the Rio Oso Tank to its bottom in five hours," he said.

Booth said the consultants preparing the water plan are "clearly steering towards a finding that there's a clear need



Saying a water shortage is foreseeable, Director Steve Booth initiated the moratorium discussion at the board meeting.

to augment our water supply, especially in light of already approved development, let alone the proposed stuff on the horizon."

But to date, the consultants haven't provided the board with the solid means to provide the augmentation, he added.

"My opinion is we need the timeout now until the scope of the shortfall is clearly known," Booth said. "I don't believe that the majority of the board agrees with me on those points. But that's my point of view on behalf of this community at large."

Director Linda Butler said Booth had taken the words out of her mouth. "We have a responsibility to this community to not place it at risk," she said.

Director Randy Jenco asked Enright whether the district had indicated to Rancho North developers that they would have water to develop by taking their money to expand the water treatment plants. "Would we be liable for whatever it has cost to date plus the loss of the use of the property?" he asked.

"That's why, if we are going to do a moratorium, and if we can't augment the supply, I'd want to do it sooner than later with Rancho North," the attorney responded. "I don't want to be on the hook to pay for their lost profits or expenses they are going to incur trying to get entitled."

Booth concluded with this comment: "Mr. Enright has cautioned us to move a little more cautiously and make sure we have dotted our 'i's' and crossed our 't's'," he said. "The majority of the board favors spending some more time ferreting through some of the details."

Background

Documenting a water emergency under Section 350 of the California Water Code may be challenging for the district. The



Patrick Enright, the district's new legal counsel, explains the district "is not quite there yet."

consultants working on the Integrated Master Water Plan have already concluded the community would have enough water for future development if the district augments its water supply by using Clementia as source of drinking water and digging emergency wells. Their conclusion also assumes that the golf courses could be irrigated with river water and that an increase in recycled could offset the need for potable water.

However, two community activists, Merchant and Janis Eckard, a longtime critic, have conducted extensive research related to the past and current water plans. They have repeatedly informed board that the current study relies on inaccurate data and unachievable assumptions.

Lisa Maddaus, one of the consulting engineers, defended their work at the most recent town hall.

"I am not here to put fraudulent numbers together for you. Neither is Dan or his team," she said. "We are all engineers and professionals."

Addressing the plan at the June board meeting, President Tim Maybee said he wanted to make it clear "that decisions are not going to be made in the next days weeks or months. We have numerous items to work through."

More recently, questions arose as to whether the Rio Oso Water tank could adequately supply the Residences East and West subdivision next to Stonehouse Park where the first phase of 68 lots is under construction. The district's engineer, Joe Domenichelli, told the board that the district is "on the edge."

He believes that the first phase of the subdivision would lower the tank water's levels by less than a foot if it doesn't allow lawns. However, Domenichelli wasn't confident about all 198 lots. See the separate story in this issue. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sheriff's Office Service Center Open House is July 31

The Sacramento Community Sheriff's Office is reopening a service center in Rancho Murieta in partnership with the Rancho Murieta Community Services District.

A grand opening has been slated at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 31 at 10 a.m. at the district's administrative building. The participants will include the new Volunteers in Partnership with the Sheriff (VIPS) and several top officers with the sheriff's office Central Division.

The service center will be located inside the Community Services District administration building and the Volunteers in Partnerships will operate it between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Mondays.

The Sheriff's Office shuttered the Rancho Murieta service center during the pandemic.

Hotel Slates Free Concert Aug. 3

The Murieta Inn and Spa will present a Mexican Spirits Event from 5 to 9 p.m. Aug. 3 at the hotel's patio and park.

Dylan Carbone & Band will provide live music. Admission is free and tickets to taste Mexican spirits will cost \$40.

Murieta Bulldogs' Concert Fundraiser is Aug. 10

The Murieta Bulldogs Baseball Club will present its annual concert fundraiser from 3 to 10 p.m. Aug. 10 at the Murieta Equestrian Center at 7200 Lone Pine Drive. The Cripple Creek Band is the featured entertainment.

This family friendly environment includes a barbecue sampling contest from

the best chefs in Rancho Murieta, raffle and silent auction items, food trucks and a bar that will open at 6 p.m. with wine, beer and mixed drinks. Bring a lawn chair but no coolers or glass of any kind.

A general admission ticket is \$40 or \$45 at the door. Tickets can be purchased online by searching for Murieta Bulldogs at zeffy.com. Email questions to murietabulldogsbaseball@gmail.com.

Public Invited to Country Music Concert at Clementia

The popular country music group Moonshine Crazy will be the featured entertainment at the Lake Clementia Amphitheater on Friday, Aug. 23.

Although the "Where the Stars and Guitars Shine" concert is intended to be the culmination of the Gold Rush Classic golf tournament, the entire community is invited. The tickets will cost \$25 or less, and will be available at the usual ETC outlets.

More specifics will be upcoming. The concert begins at 8 p.m.

Gold Rush Classic Tournament Set for Aug. 22-23

We are thrilled to announce and would be excited to have you participate in the 2024 Gold Rush Classic on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 22 and 23, 2024, at the Rancho Murieta Country Club.

The Gold Rush Classic is a celebrity Pro-Am Golf Tournament, a Celebrity Challenge, a Million Dollar Hole-in-One contest, a Celebrity Draft Party, a Farm-to-Fork Dinner, and a Stars and Guitars concert featuring great live music.

The Gold Rush Classic raises philanthropic proceeds for Make-A-Wish, Jordan's Guardian Angels, 1st Tee of Sacramento, Rancho Murieta Youth Programs, and other key children's charities in Sacramento and beyond.

More information is available at <https://birdease.com/Goldrushclassic/>

Summerfest Tickets Are on Sale

Summerfest is slated to return on Friday, Oct. 4 and Saturday, Oct. 5 to Stonehouse Park, and tickets are now on sale on the website: www.summerfest-rachnomurieta.org/tickets.

Tickets will only be sold online or at the event. For the first time, a \$20 discount will be available with the online purchase of four tickets.

A cornhole tournament will be a new event that will take place on Saturday for attendees 18 years and older. A participant link will be posted soon.

Kiwanis Club Slates Farm-to-Fork Dinner on the Green

Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta will hold its third annual Turn-Around-Scholarship (TAS) fundraising dinner at the Rancho Murieta Country Club on Saturday, Sept. 28.

The Turn-Around-Scholarship Program, administered by the Elk Grove Regional Scholarship Foundation, provides scholarships to Elk Grove Unified School District high school students who have overcome adversity to improve their GPA score to at least 3.0 by graduation.

This year, the event will be hosted at the Rancho Murieta Country Club. The event

will be held outside on the lawn, which expands the available seating. A full, no-host bar will be set up outside.

If you bring your own wine, there will be a \$15 corkage fee collected at the entrance. Tables are round and able to accommodate eight to 12 individuals at the table.

The Kiwanis Club is again looking for its creative and talented table hostesses to provide magical and elegant centerpieces. Chef KC is developing a fantastic menu.

More information will be provided soon about ticket sales and pricing.

Thank you, Rancho Murieta community, for helping support the youth. It is appreciated.

Save the Date for Wilton Fire Chili Cookoff

The Wilton Firefighters Association has slated its Chili Cookoff from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 12 at the Wilton Community Center and at CW Dillard Elementary School.

In addition to chili tasting, the event will feature a car show, vendors, music, food trucks, a beer garden and a kids' zone, complete with games, bounce houses and a rock-climbing wall.

For a chili cook-off booth, contact Patsy Nemetz at 209-648-5030. For a vendor booth, contact Codi Craig at 630-441-2082 or sales@eternaliron.com.

To enter the car show, contact Randy Upham at 916-708-5589 or rupham60@gmail.com.

The event will benefit the Sacramento Firefighters Bun Institute and other local charities. ★

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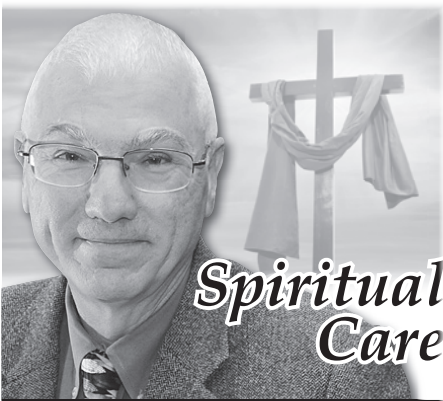
Events open to Rancho Murieta residents, real property owners and their guests, ETC sponsors and Rancho Murieta business owners. Tickets available at Ace Hardware and ETC ticket tables.

Note: Discounted tickets for ETC Members are only available at Ace Hardware and ETC ticket tables.

Membership Info: Sue Delmore 916-837-9715

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CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED & SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES.
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Keeping the Arts Alive in Our Community!



BY NORRIS BURKES

Bible Will Inspire Our Olympians

It's here that God tells Adam and Eve that because of their transgression, there will be no more free lunch. Their survival will require hard work because it'll only be "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food. ..."

When a gymnast stumbles over his answers in a news interview, the reporter might suggest a favorable answer to his own question. Journalists call those questions "softballs" and will often add, "I'm not trying to put words in your mouth." That news reporter is trying to evoke a printable quote as he unknowingly plagiarizes 2 Samuel 14:3: "And Joab put the words in her mouth."

In sports competition, a cyclist might revel in his rival's failure by saying his competitor "bit the dust." Those words convey the vengeful spirit expressed in Psalm 72:9 "... and his enemies will lick the dust."

"Rise and shine!" is an admonition a few coaches may use to awaken their Olympians for an early morning training routine. They do so without realizing they are quoting the prophet Isaiah, who said, "Arise, shine, for your light has come. ..." (60:1).

Or a swimmer in a tight race might

modestly describe her win "by the skin of my teeth." She is quoting Job 19:20, "I have escaped only by the skin of my teeth."

And when a track star tells us they are "just going to concentrate and run the race before them," they make a vague reference to Hebrews 12:1: "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

When a high diver speaks in resigning tones of the poor scores received from international judges, they may choose their comment from two different verses.

"I have to trust 'the powers that be,' they may say, without thought to Romans 13:1: "... the powers that be are ordained of God."

Or as the diver looks to his poor showing on the scoreboard, he may unknowingly quote Daniel 5 as seeing "the writing on the wall."

The humble relay racer knows hers is a team competition with no "I" in the word "team." So, when asked about her chances in an upcoming race, she resists the temptation to brag saying, "Pride comes before a fall." She perhaps knows she's quoting Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." Of course, the one I expect to hear most

often will be from coaches trying to lift the spirits of those athletes going home without gold medals. "You can be proud to have competed for the USA because 'You fought the good fight!'"

Those words should inspire them just as they may motivate the rest of us couch potatoes to get up and move. After all, they are the words that inspired Timothy when the Apostle Paul told his co-pastor to, "Fight the good fight for the true faith" (I Timothy 6:12).

Go, Team USA!

I owe inspiration for this column to Steve Prokopchak's list of 30 Everyday Sayings That You Didn't Know Originated from the Bible. See steveprokopchak.com.

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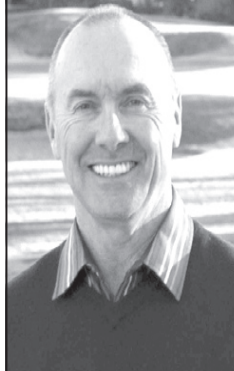
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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Summer league is drawing to a close, and the Kings are putting together the pieces that will become the 2024/25 team.

Keon Ellis looks like a man among boys as he has thrashed opposing defenses and is tearing up the summer league. Keon is showing why coach Brown used him extensively last season, and finally made him a Kings starter. Ellis, out of Alabama, was undrafted in 2022, and had to painstakingly work his way through the G League to eventually find favor with coach Brown and the Sacramento Kings. His tenacity on defense was noted early on, and with the departure of Davion Mitchell he will undoubtedly be called upon to stop some of the top guards in the NBA this season.

The maturation of Ellis gives credit to coach Brown and his patience with young players with promise, and he is hoping to see that same maturation in rising star Keegan Murray.

The acquisition of DeMar DeRozan has hit the team like a thunderbolt, but it's the supporting cast that will need to give the Kings quality minutes off the bench if the team is to return to the playoffs.

Monte McNair receives high marks in my book and has shown a degree of patience rarely seen in young GMs. He has refrained from the knee-jerk reaction trades and is showing himself to be a tough negotiator. Resisting numerous offers for Keegan Murray needs to pay off this season, and I for one am more than ready for Keegan to take a leap forward.

Murray's defense improved last season, as did his mid-range game, and if he can effectively use his three-point prowess that compliments his other skills, the 2024/25 season could be a breakout year for Keegan.

Gone is veteran Harrison Barnes, but the Kings picked up 6'9" Jalen McDaniels in his stead.

McDaniels, out of San Diego State, was drafted 52nd overall by the Charlotte Hornets in the 2019 draft, and like Keon Ellis has had to prove his mettle by working his way through the G League, and now opportunity has finally knocked.

The Kings need someone to fill the

role left by Harrison Barnes, and the only question is whether McDaniels can prove to coach Brown that he is that guy.

The summer league has given the Kings a glimpse of Drew Timme, and although he's received mixed reviews, Timme is a heady player with a big body on a team that is short on big bodies. He remains a long shot to make the team, but the competition is good to see, and I would love to see Timme get some G League opportunities if he doesn't make the big club.

First-round draft choice Devin Cater underwent successful shoulder surgery but won't be available for the start of the season. That means offseason acquisition Jordan McLaughlin from the Minnesota Timberwolves will likely be called on to back up the Kings all-world point guard De'Aaron Fox, and with the absence of Davion Mitchell, the presence of McLaughlin could be vital if the Kings want to get off to a hot start. Like Fox, McLaughlin is lightning quick and a competent ball handler.

The starting lineup is anything but certain at this point, but I am convinced Malik Monk needs to be one of the five every night.

Trey Lyles has been an underused big body for the Kings, and if Sacramento is to return to the playoffs, this diamond in the rough needs to log considerably more minutes than last season, and if this occurs, I believe good things will happen. The starting lineup could look something like this: De'Aaron Fox with Malik Monk and Keon Ellis in the back court, with Keegan Murray and Domantas Sabonis carrying the load down low.

That represents a small lineup, but with Trey Lyles and Jalen McDaniels coming off the bench, and the scoring punch of six-time All-Star DeMar DeRozan, I expect to see the Kings production return to the high temperature we enjoyed two seasons ago.

It's still very early, so let's wait and see if Monte McNair has more surprises in store for us.

All the best! ★
Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com

GOLF SCORES



Therese Yannuzzi, left, with a low gross of 39; and Deborah Contini, with fewest putts at 15, pose for a photo. Photo by Cathy Niley

Hot Rounds for Niners' Golf Group

By Nancy Clevenger

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

The Rancho Murieta Country Club (RMCC) Women's Golf Group recently held its monthly Charm and Putt competition. The nine-hole friendly competition was followed by a delicious plated lunch and monthly meeting.

At the Niner meeting, held in the delightful Terrace Lounge at RMCC, announcements were made. The RMCC Women's Golf Club will be hosting the Niners for

a social mixer coming up soon. Additionally, the Niners are currently in second place in River Valley Team Play. Captain Alison Gomez made announcements about RMCC hosting the final round of Team Play this month. At the end of the meeting, the winners of the Charm and Putt were also announced.

While the temperatures hit 100 degrees during play, the ladies persevered to complete the round. Splendid play ensued as the ladies battled it out on superb course conditions. Patty Harris beat out

the ladies with a net score of 32 on the front nine of the North Course, playing the ball down and hitting with consistency. Therese Yannuzzi was medalist with a 39, only three strokes over par.

Tapping the ball into the hole only 15 times was Deborah Contini. The greens were running fast in the heat, and Contini used that to her advantage.

All female members of RMCC are encouraged to join the Niners' Golf Group by contacting Captain Pamela O'Hern at plohern@sbcglobal.net. ★

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Cripple Creek Band Draws Sell-Out Crowd

Continued from page 1

“We’ve just connected with Rancho Murieta in a way that is different from other places,” he said. “I think it is because, deep down, we are patriotic and I think they are, too.”

Another factor is drummer Travis Simas, who lives in Rancho Murieta.

“So it helps that Travis is deeply rooted in the community and constantly reminds people we are out here,” Morgan said.

Morgan expressed the band's gratitude for the opportunity to perform in Rancho Murieta.

“We enjoyed every second, although it was hot,” Morgan said.

The band's playlist reflected the influence of country artists such as Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Eagles, Alabama and Tom Petty. Even “Purple Haze” by Jimi Hendrix came out as country. They also included five original songs from three albums.

“We really appreciate you guys singing along and at least pretending to know the words,” Morgan told the crowd as he introduced one of the original songs, “Coming In Hot.”

An enthusiastic crowd packed the dance floor throughout the performance, and their exuberance reached new heights with singing and fist-pumping as the band performed their last encore, “Wagon Wheel.”

Program

Entertainment, Theatre & Culture emcee and Board Member JT Turner began the program by thanking several sponsors,



Musician Travis Simas, a Rancho Murieta resident, sings and drums at the same time. Photo by Gail Bullen



Musician Eric Anderson takes a stand with his fiddle music. Photo by Gail Bullen

including the title sponsor, Realtor Karen Hoberg.

He also reported that another sponsor, Pac Machine Company, which has been providing generators for the Entertainment, Theatre & Culture concerts for the past 20 years, had come through after an emergency earlier in the day.

After learning the power supply used for several recreational vehicles had burned up in a recent fire on Clementia Hill, “Fred (Kesich) was kind enough to come down and get it sorted out,” he said.

Turner also introduced two students from the Murieta Dance Company, siblings David and Gemma Schneider. They performed



Newlyweds Jason Russo and Charlotte Dubey pose with their children. To their left are Jaxon and Riley Russo. To their right are Riley and Sindu Dubey. They held their reception at the amphitheater where they had purchased 125 ETC tickets for their guests. Courtesy photo

a duet, “I Am Here for You,” which illustrates the unconditional love between brother and sister.

“They cleaned house at every competition with this dance,” Turner told the crowd.

Turner also demonstrated a new cannon that fires T-shirts supplied by Go 4 Pizza and Zeta Broadway. Since it was his first time, Turner had some trouble aiming the new device. But all of the ejected T-shirts found eager takers.

Wedding

The concert also served as a wedding reception for Jason Russo and Charlotte Dubey, with approximately 250 attending. The couple purchased 125 tickets at the Entertainment, Theatre & Culture Kick-off. The other guests bought their tickets at Ace Hardware.

“This was a second wedding for both of us,” Dubey explained. “We wanted for it to be a casual affair with our children, family and friends who were all going to attend the Cripple Creek



Lead singer Neil Morgan plays an acoustic guitar with great aplomb. Photo by Gail Bullen

concert anyway, as we all have for years.”

They had planned to hold the ceremony at the bocce ball court park, but they had to move it to the RMA Building at the last minute.

“But my amazing community of friends pulled together to give me a gorgeous event, and I married Jason Russo, and everything was absolutely perfect,” she said.

Weather

On July 6, the temperature set a new record at 110 degrees, although it had

dropped to 102 degrees by 8 p.m. Attendees coped with the heat, according to Board Member JP Peterson. “People showed up a little later than usual, but it didn’t affect the energy or participation,” he said. “Everyone really enjoyed the concert regardless of the warm weather.”

The third Entertainment, Theatre & Culture concert of the season will take place on July 27 with Bee Gees Gold, the ultimate salute to the Bee Gees. Tickets can be purchased at Ace Hardware in Murieta Plaza. ★



ETC emcee JT Turner, right photo, uses a smoking cannon to fire T-shirts into the crowd. Youngsters, above, do their best to snag a T-shirt as it flies over their heads. Photos by Gail Bullen



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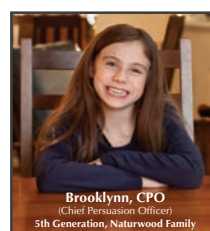
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