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RIVER VALLEY TIMES

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SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

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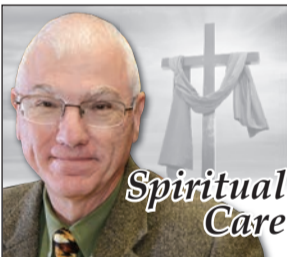
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CSD Board OKs Providing Water, Sewer to Subdivisions



A development issue attracts approximately a crowd of 50 to the meeting. Here, audience member Ted Hart is at the podium. Photos by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Considering whether to provide water and sewer to already approved subdivisions became a fraught topic when the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board held its monthly meeting on Aug. 21.

The board voted three to two in favor after district counsel Patrick Enright recommended approving will-serve letters for the Riverview Development with 130 lots and the Residences of Murieta Hills with 110 lots. Enright warned the board that rejecting the letters could expose the district to litigation. Sacramento County entitled both subdivisions nearly 20 years ago.

Board President Tim Maybee and Directors Randy Jenco and Martin Pohll voted yes. Directors Steve Booth and Linda Butler voted no.



Booth and Jenco presented dramatically different scenarios when explaining their votes.

Jenco recalled the turmoil of the 1990s when developers and the Rancho Murieta Association sued each other.

"It was a quagmire of lawsuits," Jenco said. "Nobody won. It just cost everybody a lot of time and money."

Jenco argued that voting against issuing the will-serve letters would be futile, as the district would likely be sued the following week and ultimately be required to provide water, all while burdening the district and ratepayers with litigation costs.



Making key points are, from above left, Patrick Enright, Steve Booth, Randy Jenco and John Merchant and Mimi Morris, left.

"As a fiduciary of the ratepayers, I'm not going down that path. Let's get this done today," Jenco said.

Booth described the potential consequences if the district faced a dry year without any rain (similar to the 1997-1998 drought) and was unable

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Son Accused of Brutal Murder in Wilton Area

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

WILTON, CA (MPG) - A 29-year-old man accused of brutally murdering his mother was arrested following a five-hour standoff Aug. 28 at a home on Alta Mesa Road in the Wilton area.

Sacramento County Sheriff's Office spokesman Sgt. Amar Gandhi said John Martinez, 29, was arrested on a murder charge.

"Detectives learned that Martinez hit the victim, his 64-year-old mother, repeatedly with a shovel," Gandhi said. "He then ran her over with his vehicle and tried to set her on fire."

The Sacramento County Coroner's Office has identified the victim as Salud Martinez, 64. Other media outlets reported that her husband was out of the country at the time of the incident.

Gandhi said the initial report came from a worker on the property who saw a woman down in her driveway. The Wilton Fire Protection District was dispatched to a medical aid call in the 11500 block of Alta Mesa Road at 2:11 p.m. Aug. 28. Although inside the fire district, the house has a Galt mailing address.

The Sheriff's Office was called to assist at 2:40 p.m., due to suspicious circumstances.

"When deputies arrived, it was clear the woman had been assaulted and was deceased," Gandhi said. "They learned an adult son was likely still inside the house and began efforts to have him exit."

Despite several announcements over the public address system, the adult son "refused to exit or communicate with the deputies outside," Gandhi said.

The Sheriff's Office then deployed its SWAT Team, hostage negotiators, K-9 and drone teams, and armored vehicles including The Rook. At approximately 8 p.m., the SWAT Team entered the residence and took

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St. Vincent De Paul Celebrates 25 Years



After the celebratory mass on Aug. 18, Bishop Jaime Soto greets attendees individually, including Marie Dunaja. She is one of the original parishioners. Photo by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - On Aug. 18, parishioners and visitors of St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church gathered to celebrate its 25th anniversary as a missionary church affiliated with St. Joseph's Church in Elk Grove.

The church building, which was originally dedicated in 1999, has been a cornerstone of Rancho Murieta for a quarter of a century.

The Aug. 18 event began with a

celebratory mass officiated by Bishop Jaime Soto, head of the Sacramento Diocese. Following the mass, attendees enjoyed a short program and a buffet breakfast in the church's meeting hall.

During the program, Pastor Julito Ompilla welcomed the large crowd, expressing gratitude for the community's support. He was followed by emcee Ed Alameida, who recognized the generous contributions of the Anderson family and acknowledged John Jackson, the church's builder. Jerry Hathaway, one of the

original parishioners, then shared a brief but entertaining history of the church, adding a personal touch to the celebration.

Soto concluded the program by explaining the religious significance of the celebration, highlighting the parish's spiritual journey. His closing prayer included a blessing for the tables filled with mostly homemade food.

The celebration also featured a wealth of memories from the past 25 years, with a continuous slideshow

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St. Vincent De Paul Celebrates 25 Years



Bishop Jaime Soto, shown at the podium, officiates the solemn mass that initiates the anniversary celebration.

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projected on the back wall and numerous photo albums on display for attendees to reminisce.

Telling Quotes

Ompilla, who has served as pastor of the Rancho Murieta church since 2016, expressed his joy in being part of the “momentous” celebration.

“I firmly believe that the greatest structure of our church, aside from the gift of faith, is you, the parishioners, the laity,” he said. “Since I’ve started my priestly ministry here, as your pastor, I have always been inspired by your dedication, your commitment, your support and your generosity to make our church what it is today.”

Alameida honored the contributions of the late Fred Anderson, who, along with other Anderson family members, donated the land for the church.

“It’s obvious we would not have this beautiful mission church here at St. Vincent De Paul without the generosity of the Anderson family, who have been instrumental in building the church,” Alameida said.

Soto expressed his appreciation for the cherished memories shared with the congregation.

“I want to just again congratulate all of you and give my sincere thanks to all the many benefactors and everyone who continues to labor in this part of the Lord’s vineyard,” Soto said. “And let us pray together that this good work will continue.”

Church History

When introducing Hathaway, the emcee referred to him as the “parishioner emeritus,” a fitting title for the 96-year-old, who was one of the original church members.

Hathaway began his talk by welcoming “the bishop,



From left, speaker Jerry Hathaway, Pastor Julito Ompilla and emcee Ed Alameida share a laugh.



Bishop Jaime Soto addresses the crowd inside the meeting hall where tables are brimming with food.

the pastor and everyone else to this 25th anniversary of the St. Vincent De Paul Church started by Monsignor Albert O’Connor.”

The first Catholic church in what later became Rancho Murieta was built in the mid-1800s when Irish priests were establishing churches in mining towns such as Jackson, Sutter Creek, Amador City and Ione. Irish settler John Driscoll donated land for the church and enlisted the help of other settlers to construct it between 1853 and 1860. The modest church featured 10 windows and 10 pews on each side of the main aisle.

A circuit-riding priest based in San Francisco

said mass every other Sunday. Individuals from all denominations attended as it was the only service in the area.

However, according to legend, the first mass did not go as planned for the priest. Dressed in his robes, the priest knelt before the altar, only to suddenly leap up and begin a frantic dance.

“He ran out of the church followed by a swarm of bees,” Hathaway recounted. “He had knelt on a knot hole in the floor under which was a beehive.”

As was customary at the time, land next to the church was designated for a cemetery, which was open to all denominations.

The church itself was closed in the early 1990s when St. Joseph’s Parish was established in Elk Grove.

“The rickety building was later torn down, but the cemetery is seen daily by golfers on the 15th hole of Rancho Murieta South,” Hathaway said.

Decades later, in 1986, the first mass in Rancho Murieta was held at the Rancho Murieta Country Club, with about 100 attendees. Later that same year, Pastor Appleby of the Rancho Murieta Community Church generously shared his facilities, initially at the FAA and then at a location in the parkway. According to Hathaway, mass was even



First dedicated in 1999, the St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church in Rancho Murieta is now 25 years old. An anniversary celebration was held inside the stucco-sided church on Aug. 18. Photos by Gail Bullen



Carol Anderson Ward, center, who increased her father’s land donation to the church, visits with contractor John Jackson and Lynda Jackson. He built the church.

held at the local firehouse during this period.

Monsignor Albert O’Connor, then pastor of St. Joseph’s, approached Fred Anderson with the idea of building a church in Rancho Murieta. Fred and his wife, Pat Anderson, agreed to donate the land for the church, making the project possible.

“Monsignor O’Connor, Dick Valladao and Dave Zuercher rode around with Mr. Anderson to look for a site and chose the site here, Cantova Way, because the road and utilities were already there,” Hathaway recalled.

O’Connor began gathering and storing various amenities for the new church, including stained glass windows from the bishop’s former residence, pews from St. Pius Seminary in Galt and Stations of the Cross that were hand-carved in Italy.

More support came from the Anderson family.

“Dave Luccetti, Mr. Anderson’s son-in-law and president of Pacific Coast Building Products, donated all the lumber,” Hathaway said. “And Mrs. Anderson donated a terracotta baptismal font.”

Operating Engineers Local 3 managed the site work and re-routed a drainage ditch that crossed the property. Parishioners contributed by sanding and staining the old pews.

“Many, many more pledged money to pay for St. Vincent De Paul,” Hathaway said. “The benefactors of our church are acknowledged on the wall to your right as you enter the nave.”

Hathaway said Bishop William K. Weigand dedicated the site at a special mass in June 1998. “During his homily, the bishop defined the character of the man who brought this all together.

Quote: ‘Some priests are known as great builders and Monsignor O’Connor is among that number. He builds, not only with mortar and stone, but more importantly, he is a great builder of the spiritual community.’ End quote,” Hathaway said.

O’Connor saw “the final creation of his elaborate dream when St. Vincent De Paul was dedicated on March 29, 1999,” Hathaway said.

Dennis Gish was the architect and contractor. John Jackson was the builder.

Two years later, it was decided to expand the facility to include a large social hall, offices and classrooms. Auxiliary Bishop Richard Garcia blessed the completed complex in May 2004.

After O’Connor suggested a prayer garden next to the church, Hathaway said, “Dick Valadao took the bull by the horns and asked Matt Kalmanson to draw a couple of rough plans for his Eagle Scout Project. After the Monsignor gave his OK, Dick designed the grotto with six-foot cinder block walls as a border.”

“Dick and I did all the construction of the grotto, which included placing the 1,100-pound statue of the Blessed Mother on the pedestal,” Hathaway said.

They also fabricated and installed the 14 pedestals for the Stations of the Cross and collaborated with the landscape contractor. Bishop Weigand dedicated the garden in December 2006.

Hathaway concluded his talk by noting that O’Connor served as pastor of St. Joseph’s and St. Vincent De Paul for 19 years. Then he became pastor of Holy Spirit Church, where he served five years until his retirement. ★

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.

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Metropolitan Fire Slates Station 59 Open House

The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is hosting an open house at Station 59 in Rancho Murieta from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 21. Residents are encouraged to tour the station, meet the crew and pick up Metro Fire swag and other giveaways. Photo courtesy Metro Fire

Son Accused of Brutal Murder in Wilton Area

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Martinez into custody. Martinez was arrested for murder and transported to the Sacramento County Main Jail where he is being held without bail. Martinez was arraigned during a

brief appearance in a jail courtroom on Aug. 30 and was assigned a court-appointed counsel.

Due to an ongoing strike by county prosecutors and public defenders, no representatives of the

prosecution or defense were available to comment after the arraignment.

Martinez's next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 16. ★

Matthew Malone contributed to this article.

Risk of West Nile Virus Continues

Sacramento Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - While Labor Day is the last holiday of the summer, mosquito activity and the risk of West Nile virus continue for all area residents.

On Aug. 30, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District reminded the public to protect themselves from mosquitoes, especially as many would be at outdoor activities for the long holiday weekend.

"Mosquito samples and dead birds are still testing positive for West Nile virus," said District Manager Gary Goodman on Aug. 30. "While we have been enjoying the cooler weather, temperatures are expected to climb back up next week. This means mosquitoes will be out and there is still a possibility of being bitten and becoming sick with West Nile."

"Stay protected by always using an effective repellent when spending time outdoors," Goodman added.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using an insect repellent that



The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District urges residents to prevent mosquito bites as West Nile virus is still a risk. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District

contains the active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or the plant-based Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Be sure to always follow label directions when applying repellent.

This season, virus activity has been steady and widespread in both Sacramento and Yolo counties.

"We still have a few weeks before the summer season officially ends so it's very important for everyone to do their part and protect themselves, especially as we head into the holiday weekend," Goodman said.

While West Nile virus is the main concern, the invasive mosquitoes, Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus continue to spread throughout both counties.

Invasive mosquitoes are a public health threat because they are capable of transmitting debilitating diseases such as Zika, dengue and chikungunya.

Invasive mosquitoes were detected for the first time within district boundaries in 2019 and since then have been spreading quickly, according to the district.

To report a mosquito breeding source or for current information about any treatments planned within Sacramento or Yolo counties, visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net.

Residents can also subscribe to mailing lists to receive email notifications for mosquito treatments by zip code at www.FIGHTtheBITE.net. ★

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Security, Outstanding Loan are CSD Board Topics

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Unlike most sparsely attended Rancho Murieta Community Service District Board meetings, the Aug. 21 meeting drew a crowd of about 50.

The primary reason for the increased attendance was the board's consideration of will-serve letters to provide water and sewer to 240 lots in two subdivisions already been approved by Sacramento County. (For more details on that discussion, see the separate story in this issue.)

The meeting began with General Manager Mimi Morris presenting a longevity award to Utilities supervisor Ron Greenfield, recognizing his 10 years of service to the district.

"Your continuous contributions and unwavering support have made a significant impact on our team and our organization as a whole," Morris said.

Board President Tim Maybee also commended Greenfield for his round-the-clock dedication to the district, saying, "Your 24/7 commitment often goes unnoticed but we see it and deeply appreciate it."

In addition to honoring Greenfield, the board discussion touched on a range of issues, including security concerns, an outstanding loan to Rancho Murieta Country Club and a report about repairs to the community's most critical water pipe.

Security

Director Linda Butler requested an update on security following the general manager's report, which noted the unexpected resignation of Sgt. Mel Outram and the decision of a new hire not to report for duty, leaving the district with only two active patrol officers.

Board President Tim Maybee responded first, explaining that district staff are in the midst of negotiating a new contract with the Rancho Murieta Association regarding patrol services and those negotiations are ongoing. This prompted Butler to



Audience member Richard Gehrs expresses concern about a district loan to the Rancho Murieta Country Club. Photo by Gail Bullen

inquire about plans for the vacant security chief position. Maybee, along with Finance Director Mark Matulich, explained that the decision not to replace former Security Chief Kelly Benitez was made during the budget process to allocate funds for a fourth patrol position. Matulich noted that with four patrol officers, including a sergeant, the district would have been just eight hours short of achieving full coverage.

Butler asked if the board could reconsider the security chief position, stating, "I don't think we are doing well without one." Maybee agreed to place the topic on the agenda for an upcoming board meeting.

Audience member Jay Solomon also voiced concerns about security, questioning the district's recent decision to hire for an Information Technology (IT) position.

"It seems like security and infrastructure should be our top priority when it comes to our expenses," Solomon said.

In response, Maybee addressed three key points regarding the current security situation. First, he noted the grand jury's recommendation that the district use only Measure J taxes to fund security. Second, Maybee referenced the 2021 rejection of a proposed rate increase, which likely cost the district about \$1 million in potential funding. Third, Maybee highlighted that Measure R, which would have fully funded security operations, was also rejected by voters.

Director Steve Booth clarified that the grand jury report was advisory, not a mandate. Booth also expressed his opinion



General Manager Mimi Morris presents Utilities Supervisor Ron Greenfield a certificate of appreciation for 10 years of service to the district at Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board meeting on Aug. 21. Photo by Gail Bullen

that both the proposed rate increase and Measure R were premature, citing "inadequate financial records and accountability that preceded this board."

In previous board meetings, Booth had indicated his satisfaction with the efforts of General Manager Morris, Finance Director Matulich and other staff members in working to get the district back on track financially.

Country Club Loan

Audience member Richard Gehrs expressed concern to the board about a loan that the district made to the Rancho Murieta Country Club, which is reportedly on the verge of bankruptcy. Gehrs asked what steps the district is taking to ensure the loan is repaid.

Morris said the country club has been consistently making payments and Matulich reported that the club still owes \$45,000 with the loan term ending in June 2026.

Gehrs said he had read the agreement.

"The loan specifically says if they declare bankruptcy, they are in default, and we can demand payment," Gehrs said. "If they don't pay, we can cut off the water."

District counsel Patrick Enright told the board he would review the loan agreement. The loan dates back to 2021 when the board voted to loan the Rancho Murieta Country Club \$115,816, drawing the funds from sewer reserves. The loan was intended for emergency repairs and upgrades to the Bass Lake Pump Station, which is critical for irrigating the north golf course with reclaimed water from the district.

During the original discussion, it was noted that if the pump station failed, it would impact both the country club, which would lose its ability to irrigate, and the district, which would be unable to dispose of its reclaimed water. This was a significant concern, as a similar issue occurred in 2006 when the state fined the district after reclaimed water from Bass Lake spilled into the Cosumnes River.

Broken Pipe

Interim Operations Manager Travis Bohannon provided an update on the repair of the 2½-mile water line, which has been in place for about 50 years and conveys raw water from the Cosumnes River to Calero Reservoir.

The issue was first discovered on June 20 by resident Roger Brandt, who noticed water leaking through a concrete slab in the Clementia Dam spillway. A subsequent investigation revealed that the likely cause was a break in the 33-inch raw water line beneath the concrete. By Aug. 1, TNT Industrial Contractors had exposed the water line and used a camera to inspect it from a nearby manhole. Further digging led workers to the exact location of the pipe break.

Bohannon explained that the repair couldn't use the same type of pipe because it would take a year to acquire. Instead, they opted to replace the 10-foot damaged section with a 36-inch wide pipe, using flanges to connect the different-sized pipes. Bohannon anticipated the work would be completed by Sept. 13.

Butler asked if the rest of the pipe could be inspected with cameras. Bohannon



A section of pipe with a huge hole is being replaced in the line that conveys water from the Cosumnes River to Calero Reservoir. Photo courtesy CSD

responded that it wasn't feasible because there is only one other inspection manhole near Clementia and Bass Lake and the camera could only travel about 45 feet in either direction, limiting the ability to inspect the entire line.

Butler told Bohannon that his report wasn't very reassuring.

"If we can't pump from the river, we are done," she said.

Butler said that the issue should be addressed as an emergency.

"My take on this particular topic is that we need to find some money to figure out how fast we can fix that pipe and make it new," Butler said.

In Other Business:

Audience member Janis Eckard raised concerns about a Public Records Act request she made at the July board meeting. While the district did provide some documents, Eckard said, her key question remained unanswered: how drought conservation measures were determined in the Integrated Master Water Plan, which has yet to be finalized. Eckard also said that she was challenging nearly every aspect of the study.

The board approved a new contract with Domenichelli & Associates for engineering services. Only one other firm submitted a bid when the district recently put out a request for proposals.

Bohannon reported that utility employees had been dealing with "leak after leak after leak." Fortunately, all of the leaks have been in service lines and not water mains.

Bohannon reported that some residents had issues with the taste and odor

of their water, which he attributed to high temperatures. In response, staff treated the water at Plant 2 with activated carbon and flushed nearby lines. Bohannon said that resolved the problem.

Audience member John Merchant, a former district board member who will be returning in December, reported that he and Save Our Lakes and Open Spaces (SOLOS) had obtained 1,400 signatures on a petition demanding the board declare a moratorium on development.

Morris apologized for her absence from the July board meeting, explaining that her vision was impaired due to eye surgery she had undergone the week before. Morris also mentioned that Matulich was unable to attend as well, as she had approved his family reunion trip when he was hired.

Morris formally introduced Andy Lee, the new district's IT manager, who began work in April. She said that Lee was well-equipped to handle the district's IT issues.

Morris thanked Matulich and Bohannon for taking on extra work created by the resignations of Operations Manager Micheal Fritschi and Security Supervisor Kelly Benitez.

The board unanimously voted 5-0 to direct Butler to vote in favor of an agreement to build an 8-foot dirt trail in a section of the Residences subdivision. Butler serves as the district's representative on the five-member Parks Committee. (For more details, refer to the Rancho Murieta Association meeting story in this issue.)

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



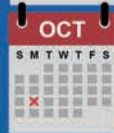
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CSD Board OKs Providing Water, Sewer to Subdivisions

Continued from page 1

to pump water from the Cosumnes River into the reservoirs. As of June 1, even if Lake Clementia were utilized for potable water, the remaining water in the reservoirs would last only 5.3 months without any conservation measures and 10.6 months with a 50% conservation plan in place.

“Are you willing to gamble on that slim margin in the event that we either have insufficient flow on the river or some other disruptions and we aren’t able to pump the customary amount of water?” Booth said.

Booth and Director Linda Butler also asked to table the discussion until board members have the Integrated Water Master Plan draft in their hands. But they were overruled.

In other business at the meeting, the board recognized Utilities supervisor Ron Greenfield for 10 years of service, took in updates from staff and approved an engineering contract. (See the separate story in this issue.)

Attorney Recommendation

District counsel Patrick Enright told the board that about half of the will-serve letters had already been authorized for the developments that participated in the 670 Facilities Services Agreement (FSA) to partially fund the expansion of the water treatment plant. The others were The Retreats and Lakeview, which is donating what would have been 99 lots to the Sacramento Tree Foundation.

“As part of that agreement, we are to issue will-serve letters if they have complied with all the conditions in the agreement,” Enright said.

However, the district has put two conditions in the will-serve letters. The first is adhering to water efficiency standards and the second is conserving water usage in a drought by as much as 50%. Enright said that the projects will be phased in over three to four years with the connections subject to the water supply augmentation fee in place at the time.

“These projects are kind of on hold at the moment, but my recommendation is to approve the will-serve letters because if we don’t approve them, we subject ourselves to litigation,” Enright said.

The attorney said that the Rancho North subdivision, which hasn’t yet been entitled, would be a different situation.

“We don’t have sufficient water to add another 1,000 units,” Enright said. “So

Rancho North has got to bring their own water supply with them if they want their developments to go forward.”

Opposing Comments

As soon as the attorney finished commenting, Director Linda Butler made a motion to deny the approval of the will-serve letters under the 670 FSA.

“We just need some time,” Butler said later.

Booth seconded the motion and asked to speak first. Booth said he had taken extensive notes during recent educational meetings with staff and consultants about the water plan, which he and other board members attended. He noted that the figures in the plan have been contested, with some community members believing the water supply is overstated and the demand is understated.

However, for the sake of discussion, Booth said he relied on the consultants’ figures to create a two-page analysis of the water supply and demand, which he distributed to the audience and the board. He reviewed the numbers in his handout and concluded with a prediction of what could happen in a worst-case scenario if the district were unable to pump water into the reservoirs. Booth’s handout is included in the Aug. 21 board meeting packet, available online on the district’s website.

Booth also emphasized that he has never used the term “moratorium” during the past three months of discussions. He further noted that adding new hookups at Riverview and the Residences would transform the district into an urban water provider, bringing “a whole new set of requirements, obligations and hoops we’ll have to jump through.”

John Merchant, one of several audience members opposing the will-serve letters, is a former district board member who will return to the board in December. Along with the Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces group, Merchant is currently circulating a petition calling for the district to declare a moratorium on future development.

Merchant cited the federally funded

American River Basin Study, which includes the Cosumnes River. One of the study’s predictions is that declining snowpacks will lead to reduced spring river flows.

“There isn’t going to be any water to top off the reservoirs,” Merchant warned. “If you start the year with less than the 100% that was on Stephen’s chart, that’s a disaster. ... I just think it’s damn dangerous to proceed with this.”

Later in the meeting, Merchant acknowledged the positions of Jenco, Maybee and Pohll concerning the risk of being sued.

“We know we’re going to get sued if we don’t provide water upfront and we’re going to get sued if we don’t provide water on the back end,” he said. “So it’s kind of like picking your poison.”

Supporting Comments

If the board voted against the will-serve letters, Jenco said, “We will have a lawsuit filed against us within the next week because, contractually, we are obligated to find them water if we don’t already have it.”

Jenco also noted that the increase in water demand wouldn’t be significant: 281 acre-feet out of a total demand of 1,997 acre-feet.

“The key to this whole thing is finding a way of making everybody happy with their money and not going down this lawsuit thing where we have to start adding a

line item to our budget to defend ourselves against developers,” Jenco said.

Les Hock, who oversees the Riverview development, said his project is down to the 11th hour. “The will-serve letter is the last item we need for the county to be able to record the final map,” Hock said.

“Without it, the entire project could be at risk of termination, which leaves us in a really poor position given the amount of infrastructure we’ve already constructed, not only in Riverview but elsewhere,” Hock said.

Given the modest pace of home sales, Hock added that he has no issue with extending the development over three to

four years as outlined in the will-serve letter.

Audience member Tom Shewchuk emphasized the need for growth in the community, with the country club’s health the most important aspect.

“If we don’t get more members, the country club will fall apart in my opinion,” Shewchuk said. “So please figure out the water issue so we can grow and make Rancho Murieta what we all want it to be.”

Audience member Mike Martel, a former district board member, expressed concern that there ultimately might not be enough water for everyone. However, Martel also voiced sympathy for the FSA 670 developers, acknowledging their substantial investment of millions of dollars.

“I believe you guys are in a very difficult position, and no matter what you do, you are going to piss somebody off,” Martel told the board. “But I do believe your fiduciary duty is to protect the residents and district. I understand the water but the 670, to me, is way past disapproving.”

Director Martin Pohll agreed with Martel’s position.

“The board has to be a fiduciary to protect the district and all the residents out here from litigation,” Pohll said. “Lastly, we don’t have a completed master plan, which gives us some ammunition for the rejection.”

General Manager Mimi Morris described the work by the consultant (Lisa Maddaus) as very sophisticated.

“I believe in its accuracy and her ability to project various factors that will influence the community’s water,” Morris said. “So, in an average year, all of the existing plus the anticipated development would have enough water, just enough. But it is the uncertainty of the drought that pushes it into uncertainty.”

Additional factors include climate change, causing snowpacks to melt earlier, and not having space in the reservoirs.

“Regardless of whether you approve one more house or whatever happens with the country club, the bigger issue is you need to figure out another water supply or another storage option or both,” Morris said.

Butler’s motion to deny the will-serve letters was voted down three to two and Booth’s motion to table the discussion until the board had the water plan in their hands was also voted down three to two. Jenco’s motion to approve the will-serve letters was approved three to two. ★

“We don’t have sufficient water to add another 1,000 units. So Rancho North has got to bring their own water supply with them if they want their developments to go forward.”

— Patrick Enright, District counsel

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Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Football season has begun, but make no mistake about it, basketball fans are eagerly anticipating the upcoming camp and pre-season for the Sacramento Kings.

This year's team will take on a decidedly offensive look, as they have added a perennial 20 points per game with DeMar DeRozan to their already potent offense.

Last season with the Bulls, DeRozan averaged 24 points per game, but he has exceeded 27 points per game twice in his already legendary career. This bodes well for the hometown team, as three-point shooters like Keegan Murray, Malik Monk, and De'Aaron Fox will undoubtedly get better looks, as defenders try to control the frenetic mid-range game of DeMar DeRozan.

The Kings can actually put 5 scorers on the court at the same time, and although Keon Ellis is known for his ferocious defense, his offensive game has come to life as well. We saw a man among boys in the NBA summer league, as Keon did pretty much what he wanted as he scored at will against the newcomers and younger players in the league.

Keon's experience from last year, particularly as a starter, will in all likelihood lead to a standout year in the upcoming campaign.

Starters for the Kings that we can already pencil in include Domantas Sabonis, De'Aaron Fox, Keegan Murray, and of course the standout offseason acquisition of DeMar DeRozan. That leaves one spot to be filled, and everyone seems to be coming up with their own personal favorite. The leading candidates are Malik Monk, Keon Ellis, and Kevin Huerter who is returning from a shoulder injury that cut short his 2023/2024 season.

Huerter and Ellis are accustomed to starting, but Malik Monk has made it known that he would like to transition from the 6th man position to the starting lineup.

The unknown quotient is coach Mike Brown who has a difficult decision to make. Hopefully he will give each of the three an opportunity to start in preseason games, but the preseason is short, and the body of work will be minimal to make a decision.

There are those for whom it's not who starts but who finishes, but I respond by

saying, starting is a place of pride, and I've yet to meet the player that would rather come off the bench than start a game.

Trey Lyles has never gotten the love from coach Brown that Keon Ellis receives, and I contend that Trey has acquitted himself well, and to the point that his name should be in the conversation. When Trey plays alongside Sabonis the Kings present a much more formidable front line, and Lyles could be the missing ingredient the Kings need to give Domantas the wingman he needs to help clean the boards.

The truth is, whether Huerter, Monk, Ellis, or Lyles, all four of these players represent quality NBA talent, and Brown has some notable ballers to make his final selection.

All that said, the bench will be strong this year, and if Alex Len can take just one more step, I believe this 1st round draft choice from 2013 could finally live up to the potential that so many pundits believed that he had when originally drafted.

I like Len's game, and his effort is unquestionable. He acquits himself well when Sabonis needs a breather, and if he can take that next step, I can see moments when he and Sabonis are on the court together.

If I haven't yet mentioned your favorite player, dark horses like Colby Jones, Jordan McLaughlin, Boogie Ellis, or newcomers Orlando Robinson and Isaiah Crawford are waiting in the wings to make their presence known.

Just as Keon Ellis emerged last season, one of these players is waiting to show the Sacramento Kings fans that they deserve some accolades, and it will surprise me if I'm not surprised by one of the aforementioned candidates.

Let's not forget that we haven't even mentioned Kings' top draft choice Devin Carter, and although he is scheduled to miss the first half of the upcoming season, Devin no doubt will be eagerly awaiting his opportunity to show the Sacramento fans why this 22-year-old was drafted #13 overall.

Get ready Kings fans, for a season that will rival any you've seen so far, and as always if you have comments, please send them to vgarriskingsfan@gmail.com.

All the best! ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Development Petition Draws More Signatures

Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces (SOLOS) reports that as of Sept. 1, 582 Rancho Murieta residents had signed a petition being circulated by the all-volunteer group.

The petition demands that the Rancho Murieta Community Services District declare a moratorium on development because the community faces a water supply challenge. The petition can be found online at solosrm.org/moratorium. The petition will be officially presented to the district directors at their next board meeting at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18.

Pianist Richard Glazier Slated at Women's Club Luncheon

Renowned pianist Richard Glazier will bring a unique perspective on Broadway and Hollywood through his music at the Rancho Murieta Women's Club luncheon on Sept. 25. Attendees will also enjoy a delicious lunch.

The reservation deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 13. For more information, contact Cindy Shamrock at 916-354-1981 or Barbara Armstrong at 916-541-1884.

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 at <https://www.summerfest-ranchomurieta.org/tickets>. Tickets will also be sold 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 Oct. 5 for attendees 18 years and older. A participant link will be posted soon.

Kiwanis Presents Music Mike Sept. 22

Music Mike returns to Lake Clementia Amphitheater on Sunday, Sept. 22. Enjoy music from your childhood while Music Mike entertains the

children and leads them in singing and movement activities. Cookies and water will be available from 4:30 to 5 p.m. The music starts promptly at 5 p.m.

This is a free event for Rancho Murieta families and their guests. The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta is thrilled to sponsor the annual Music Mike concert.

Speaker to Discuss Gardening Trends

The River Valley Garden Club's meeting on Sept. 24 will feature a presentation by Debbie Arrington, co-creator of the Sacramento Digs Gardening daily blog. She will discuss gardening trends for 2025.

The meeting will take place at the RMA Building, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. and the program starting at 7 p.m. For more information, visit the club's website at www.rivervalleygardenclub.net.

Sacramento International Horse Show Returns

The Sacramento International Horse Show will return to the Murieta Equestrian Center.

The Sacramento International Welcome Week will run between Wednesday, Sept. 25 and Sunday, Sept. 29. The International Horse Show will run from Wednesday, Oct. 2 to Sunday, Oct. 6.

Tickets are available at westpalmsevents.com.

Kiwanis Club Selling Farm-to-Fork Dinner Tickets

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

Tickets are \$80 per person and available online at www.rmkiwanis.org through Sept. 20.

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.

Since the event will be outside on the lawn, seating is expanded this year. Tables are round and able to accommodate from eight to 12 seats.

There will be a full, no-host bar set. If you want to bring your own wine, there will be a \$15 corkage fee collected at the entrance. Chef KC is developing the menu.

Thank you, Rancho Murieta community, for helping support our youth. We deeply appreciate it.

Wilton Fire Chili Cookoff is Oct. 12

The Wilton Firefighters Association has slated its Chili Cook off 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 Burn Institute and other local charities.

Wilton Bingo Games Held Monthly

Wilton Bingo is the first Saturday of each month in the Wilton Community Center located at the corner of Colony Road and Dillard Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. and Bingo starts at 6 p.m. The cost is \$10 for 10 games.

Our Good Neighbor table is still happening, so if you can donate a quality used item, it would be appreciated. All proceeds go to two nonprofit organizations: the local Parks Council and the Wilton History Group.

For more information, call Lorraine at 916-212-8896. ★

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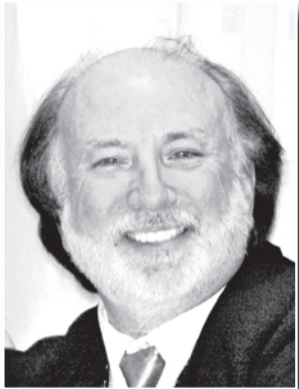
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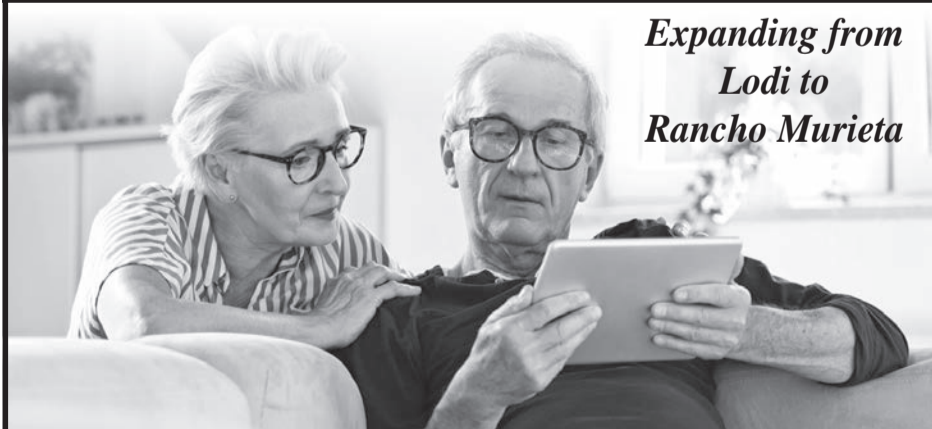
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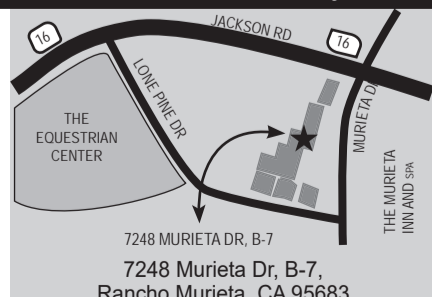


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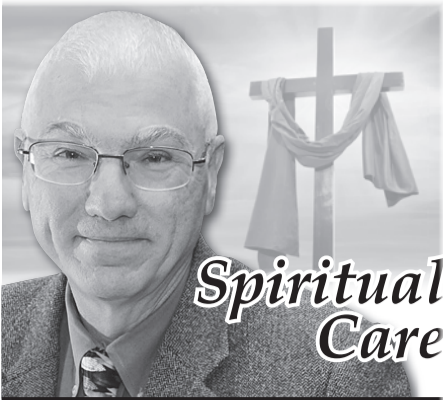
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BY NORRIS BURKES

Last year I wrote a book called, "Tell It to the Chaplain." If you've seen it, then you're likely wondering why this headline makes the opposite request.

My title refers to certain phrases people use that cause me to jokingly reply, "Don't ever say that to a chaplain."

When they cock their head in search of an explanation, I tell them that I'm a retired healthcare chaplain and I may inject a totally different meaning into common sayings.

For instance, I once asked my photo-journalism professor if he could stay after class to explain my new camera.

"I really can't," he said, "I'm on my way out."

"Please don't say that to a chaplain," I replied. "'On the way out' means you're going to meet God."

"No - no. I have a faculty meeting," he said. "And God's not often there."

On another day, I ran breathlessly to an airline gate, only to be told by the agent,

"They've already departed."

Ouch. Don't say that to a chaplain.

"Departed" describes someone who has taken flight to their celestial destination. At some point, chaplains call these folks the "dearly departed."

On a different occasion, my neighbors described how they moved out of the city into our forested lake community in the California foothills.

"It just feels like we're in a better place now," the husband blurted.

I winced at "a better place" since the phrase most often describes the afterlife.

In another example, I was walking with my friend Roger through a sports stadium when he abruptly stopped at a concession stand to buy a Pepsi.

"Keep walking," he said, "Meet me on the other side."

Of course, I knew he was simply asking me to meet him at our seats on the other side of the stadium.

But as a chaplain, he should have known that I'd make a heavenly inference that we'd not meet again until we got to the "Other Side."

Finally, I once stood on the banks of the Jordan River as our Israeli tour guide pointed toward the land "just beyond the river."

I nudged my wife and said, "I wish he wouldn't say that."

I started humming the refrain to Fanny Crosby's hymn, "Near the Cross."

"Departed" describes someone who has taken flight to their celestial destination. At some point, chaplains call these folks the "dearly departed."

"In the cross, in the cross, Be my glory ever; Till my raptured soul shall find Rest beyond the river."

Becky groaned, recognizing this as one of my favorite fragments.

I jest with these phrases because I love puns, but I also appreciate them as a comforting way to remember the three people I've lost in the past four years.

My brother, the one I called "Brotherman," died of COVID in December 2020. He was so full of conspiracy theories that he wasn't contented in this world, so I really do feel a sense of comfort knowing he's very much "in a better place."

And, as you know, I lost my mother last month. I thank all of you who sent me numerous messages and cards.

But most reassuring is how I still hear the notes of her operatic voice singing those Crosby hymns. "Near the Cross" was among her favorites, and I take consolation believing she's found her "rest beyond the river."

However, my most difficult loss came four years ago this month, when I lost my life-long best friend, Roger Williams. On the last day I saw him, we sat on his couch, shoulder to shoulder, the same way we'd stood for 45 years.

As we said our temporary goodbyes, I held his cooling hand and laid my head on his shoulder. Then, in between my sobs, I told him that I'd see him "on the other side."

"That's OK, Norris," he said. "It'll be all right." Soon he was asleep. Four days later, Roger died at 63 years of age.

So, sometimes all I have left to say is "See you, Mom. See you, Roger. See ya, Brotherman. I'll meet you all "in a better place," "on the other side" just "beyond the river."

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Gold Rush Classic Returns as Two-Day Fundraiser

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A revival of a famous golf tournament that originally put Rancho Murieta on the map decades ago took place for the fifth time at the Rancho Murieta Country on Aug. 22 and 23.

The centerpiece of the Gold Rush Classic – Where the Stars & Guitars Shine was the celebrity Pro-Am golf tournament with 22 celebrities, such as Sacramento Kings player Malik Monk, retired football star Tim Brown and retired baseball player Brian Hunt.

The two-day event also featured several other major attractions, including a celebrity draft party, a \$1 million hole-in-one contest, an awards ceremony and a concert open to all residents, headlined by the country band Moonshine Crazy.

Most of the funds raised went to two life-changing charities: Jordan’s Guardian Angels and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Jordan’s Guardian Angels is a Sacramento-based foundation leading a large-scale research project to understand and treat Jordan’s Syndrome in children, a rare genetic disorder. The Make-A-Wish Foundation fulfills the wishes of critically ill children in California and Nevada.

The fundraiser benefited other area groups, including Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta, Rancho Murieta Community Church, Pleasant Grove High School golf program and 1st Tee of Sacramento.

The organizer was longtime resident John Jacobs, who tries to make the Gold Rush Classic better every year.

“We think this is an event that Rancho Murieta can embrace and come together as a community, all while raising money for good causes,” Jacobs said. “With regard to the celebrity aspect, we think it helps Rancho Murieta to have an event like no other golf tournament in the Sacramento area.”

Jacobs recruited 22 celebrities to play in the golf tournament. All are retired, except for Malik Monk, who currently plays with the Sacramento Kings. Monk described Jacobs as a friend who recruited him to play in the tournament.

The football celebrities included Tim Brown, Greg Lloyd, Michael



Retired football player Michael Merriweather and Sacramento Kings basketball player Malik Monk are ready to hit the links on Aug. 23. Monk received the highest bid in the celebrity auction held the night before.



Retired basketball player Greg Ostertag checks out the raffle prizes. This was his fifth year participating in the Gold Rush Classic.



Retired baseball player Brian Hunter poses with team members Dave Walker, left, and Christian Montano. Hunter received the second-highest bid in the celebrity auction.

Merriweather and Pete Shaw. The former basketball players included Greg Ostertag, Reggie Theus and Kenny Thomas. Baseball players included Brian Hunter, Fernando Arroy, Ray Durham and Greg Vaughn, who splits his time between Sloughhouse and Las Vegas and is a Rancho Murieta Country Club member.

Jacobs said that the Gold Rush Classic wouldn’t have happened without the many generous sponsors. He specifically thanked Karen Hoberg with Rancho Murieta Homes & Land and Harrah’s Northern California.

Jacobs couldn’t have managed the event without more than 40 volunteers.

“All were dedicated and offered to help



Twenty-two sports celebrities pose for a photo before heading out to play in the Gold Rush Classic where the Stars and Guitars Shine Tournament was held at the Rancho Murieta Country Club on Aug. 22 and 23. Photos by Gail Bullen



Retired football player Tim Brown chats with Frank Larosa, left, and Scott Marsh, both broadcasters with the KHTK sports radio station.

in more ways than originally asked,” Jacobs said. “They went above and beyond, and we hope they will all return next year.”

A highlight of the event was the awards ceremony held after the tournament. A team led by former 49ers Superbowl Champion and All-Pro player Dwight Hooks came in first in the tournament. The other players were Kevin Stillman, Chad Wood, Brian Lee-Lauduski and Ryan Carbonetti.

Baseball player Ray Durham won the Celebrity Shootout. As for the \$1 million hole-in-one contest, Rancho Murieta resident Paul Miller came closest for the fourth consecutive year, this time landing within 8 feet 8 inches of the flag.

The event culminated on Aug. 23 with a concert featuring the country band Moonshine Crazy at Lake Clementia Amphitheater. The concert, which was open to everyone in the community, drew around 400 attendees.

“Moonshine Crazy was a pleasure to work with and they provided a great show,” Jacobs said. “We are certainly entertaining having them again next year.”

A touching moment took place just before the shotgun tournament began. Sports radio broadcaster Frank Larosa

assembled the 22 celebrities on the hill across from the pro shop so they could introduce themselves and receive a briefing on the rules.

When former baseball player Greg Vaughn took the microphone, he announced that it was football player Pete Shaw’s 70th birthday and handed him a special gift: a keychain with his late son’s thumbprint.

Vaughn recounted a moment from about a year ago when he and Shaw were returning to Sacramento.

“We got the call you never want to get. His son was taken away from us,” Vaughn said. “We just want to let you know that we love you, Pete. Happy birthday.”

As the applause faded, Shaw’s wife, Kari, shared that his son had served 13 years in the U.S. Army and was found dead in his barracks, due to a previously undiagnosed heart condition. Kari Shaw explained that she had asked the examining doctor to take a thumbprint but wasn’t sure what to do with it until she received help from Adrian Blanco Jewelry, one of the tournament sponsors.

“Adrian was so kind. He called and said, ‘We want to do this for Pete,’” she said. “So, thank you, Christy, and thank you, Adrian, for making this happen.” ★

Suicide Prevention Month Can Save Lives

By MPG Staff

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA (MPG) - September is Suicide Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness and discuss this urgently increasing crisis, according to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness).

NAMI has sobering statistics: Suicide is the second leading cause of death among those aged 10 to 14, the third leading cause of death among those aged 15 to 24 and the 12th leading cause of death overall in the U.S.

Or, as the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports, more than 49,000 people in the United States died by suicide in 2022. That’s one death every 11 minutes.

And millions more experience suicidal thoughts.

Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background, according to the NAMI website at nami.org.

While suicidal thoughts are common, however, they should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

Many events and activities promoting suicide prevention awareness will be held locally, regionally and nationally throughout September.

During Suicide Prevention Month, NAMI and numerous other mental health organizations stress that all of us can help prevent suicide by reaching out to those who need help.

The National Institute of Mental Health lists



Calling or texting the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at any time of the day, any day of the week, could help save someone’s life. Graphic courtesy of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.

five action steps to help someone having suicidal thoughts.

The first step is **Ask** “Are you thinking about suicide?” It’s not an easy question to ask but it can help start a conversation.

The second step is **Be there**: Listening without judgment is key to learning what the person is thinking and feeling.

The third step is **Help keep them safe**: Reducing access to highly lethal items or places can help prevent suicide.

The fourth step is **Help them connect**: Connecting the person with the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (call or text 988) and other community resources can give them a safety net. You can also assist by reaching out to a trusted family member, friend, spiritual advisor or mental health professional.

The fifth National Institute of Mental Health step is **Follow up**: Staying in touch with the person after they have experienced a crisis or been discharged from care can make a difference.

Studies show that supportive, ongoing contact can play an important role

in suicide prevention.

The advocacy groups say to educate yourself and others about suicide prevention by checking out the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at www.samhsa.gov/find-help/988.

And visit the Suicide Prevention Resource Center at sprc.org/: Each year, the resource center creates many ways to get involved.

The U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration invites residents throughout the country to participate in 988 Day on Sept. 8. 988 Day is a national initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the federal agency’s 988 resource and emphasizing the importance of mental health and suicide prevention.

According to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline website at 988lifeline.org, “We can all help prevent suicide. The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.” ★

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Lawsuit, Trail are RMA Board Topics

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The settlement of a lawsuit and the development of a subdivision trail were key topics when the Rancho Murieta Association Board of Directors met on Aug. 20.

The board also approved several expenditures and received reports from the board committee chairs during the 45-minute session.

Lawsuit

General Manager Rod Hart began his monthly report with positive news regarding the settlement of a lawsuit against the association that was filed by Greenfield Communications in December 2021.

In its lawsuit, Greenfield alleged that the association and past General Manager Greg Vorster falsely represented the community's cable infrastructure as well-maintained and mostly in conduit before a lease agreement was signed in 2014. Greenfield became aware of the infrastructure's poor condition during construction, making the installation of optic fiber more costly.

Hart reported that a written settlement had not yet been signed and said he would share additional details when available.

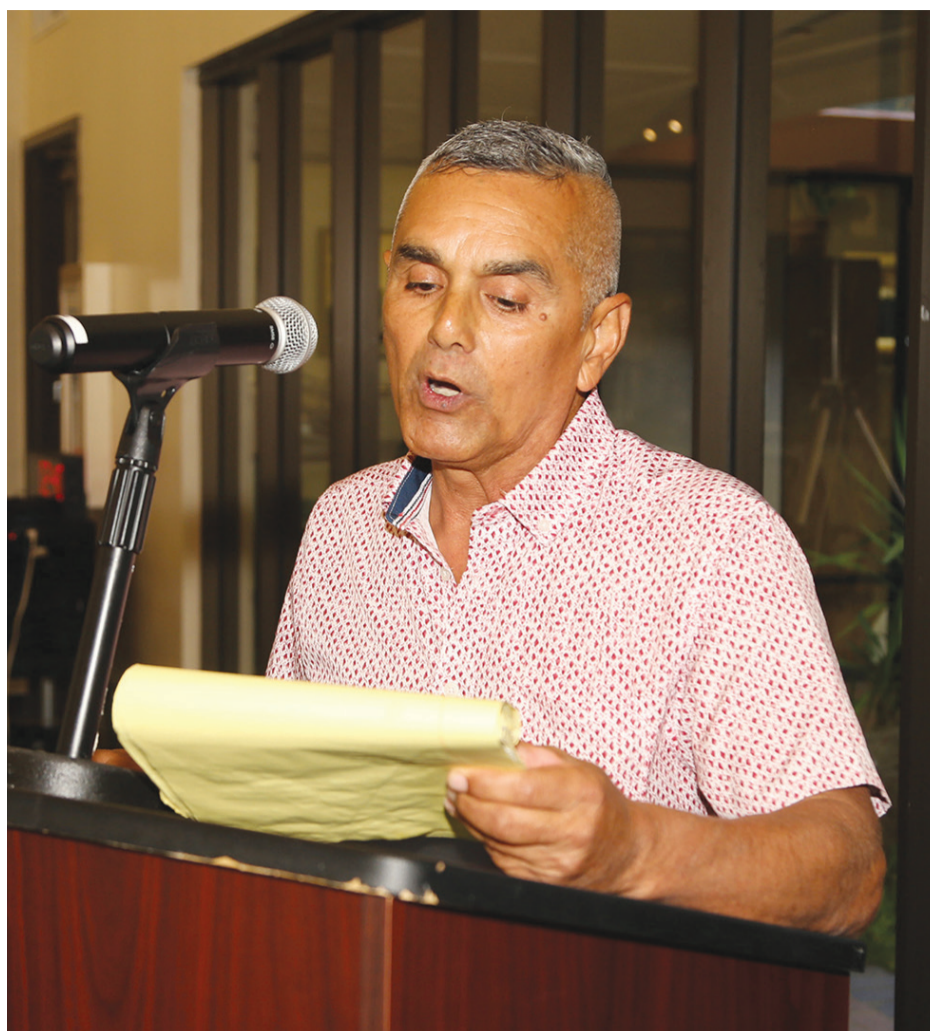
"We are very pleased to have closed this issue for a minimal cost to the association," Hart said. "The settlement will come from this year's operating budget without affecting dues."

Subdivision Trail

In an unusual move, Director Danny Carrillo took to the podium to address his fellow directors during public comments. Carrillo expressed his objection to a decision made at a special board meeting on Aug. 2. At that meeting, the board voted five to one to essentially approve the construction of an 8-foot dirt trail through a wooded section of the Residences East subdivision. Carrillo was the sole dissenting vote. The final decision will be made at a future Parks Committee meeting.

Under a compromise reached, developer Bob Keil will grade the trail, install a wooden bridge over a sensitive area and grant a 20-foot wide easement to the association for future trail maintenance. Keil will also deposit \$50,000 into an account that the association will use to pave the trail at a later time.

Carrillo expressed frustration, stating that the board initially wanted a 12-foot paved trail but allowed the developer to persuade them into approving the 8-foot dirt trail.



During public comments on Aug. 20, Rancho Murieta Association Director Danny Carrillo voices his objections to fellow directors approving a subdivision trail. Photo by Gail Bullen

"I feel the developer has grossly taken advantage of us as an association," Carrillo said.

Carrillo also reiterated his argument from the special meeting that any board members who had privately communicated with the developer should have recused themselves from the vote, due

to a potential conflict of interest. Director John Van Doren, an attorney, had responded at the earlier meeting, clarifying that a conflict of interest would only arise if a board member stood to gain financially and that mere communication with the developer was not grounds for recusal.

In Other Business

Hart reported that the association is renegotiating a 24-year-old agreement with the Rancho Murieta Community Services District that allows district patrol officers to enforce non-safety-related, non-architectural rules for the association.

The board approved

a renewal of its regular insurance policy for \$150,257, which is a 4.2% increase or \$6,067, and \$55,000 for the workers compensation policy that has increased 20% or \$9,000. The policies renew in September each year.

The board approved a \$6,119 bid to clean the RMA Building roof.

The board approved spending \$4,295 for an annual review of financial statements by the association's auditing firm.

The board appointed three residents to the Nominating Committee chaired by Director Patrick O'Hern. They are Brian Correia, John Haviland and Raymond Lazada.

Director Tom Reimers, who chairs the Compliance Committee, said his group was discussing a rule that allows 24-hour passes for guests with recreational vehicles and trailers visiting residents. Due to the lack of security patrols, guests are staying longer than allowed, Reimers said.

During public comments, resident Carl Westphall asked the board for a copy of the internal dispute resolution (under Civil Code 5900) and a document explaining the Compliance Committee's operational procedures. Adams said he would refer his request to Hart.

The board next meets at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 17. ★

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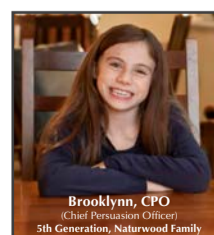
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Saluting Labor: SouthEast Connector Paves Path to Opportunity

By **Derek Minnema**,
Executive Director
Capital Southeast
Connector JPA



While the Capital SouthEast Connector will make travel safer and greatly improve traffic flows on local highways, it also has enormous social benefits as a ladder of career opportunities.

“This project creates opportunities and pathways for second-chance individuals,” said Laborers Local 185 Business Manager Doyle Radford Jr. during a recent event. “People who don’t typically get opportunities will get a chance to work in the trades and learn valuable skills to improve their lives.”

His organization has a robust apprenticeship program for inexperienced or experienced workers in many fields including concrete placement, pipe

laying, asphalt paving, erosion control, and the building of fences, bridges, and buildings.

Thousands of workers on the Connector, from heavy equipment operators to welders, plumbers, electricians, carpenters, and virtually every trade, will literally pave the way to a better future for the region.

The Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway, stretching from Elk Grove to Highway 50 in El Dorado County, is more than just a roadway project. It is a transformative initiative designed to

widen and upgrade a historically dangerous route into a modern, efficient, safe corridor to help meet the transportation needs of our growing population.

This expressway project stands as a testament to how public infrastructure can create equitable opportunities for individuals and enhance the region’s quality of life. By providing jobs and opening doors for career-seeking individuals, the Connector is building pathways to better lives.

The laborers who bring these projects to life do so with skill, dedication, muscle and sweat. Their work is about more than just laying asphalt and concrete; it is about creating opportunities, enhancing safety, and producing economic prosperity.

According to a 2022 economic study, the

completed Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway will generate \$1.8 billion of increased regional economic output, and \$770 million of new labor

income. It will save commuters between \$500 million and \$1.5 billion in travel time over 20 years compared to using current roadways.

The Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway is a shining example of what can be achieved through collaboration, determination, and hard work.

The project’s importance was highlighted recently when it received a \$25 million federal RAISE grant. The RAISE program—Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity—recognizes projects that contribute to evenhanded outcomes, especially for communities that have historically

been underserved.

The RAISE funds will be used to reconstruct a section of Grant Line Road and correct deadly curves and elevations that obstruct the view of oncoming traffic. Longstanding drainage issues that currently cause flooding and hinder first responders during emergencies will also be fixed.

From an environmental standpoint, the SouthEast Connector Expressway has been designed from its inception to avoid negative environmental impacts where possible, and the modern design will eliminate many negative environmental impacts from the roadway’s current structure.

In partnership with the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan, the project is designed to ensure the long-term viability of area plant and wildlife species while

preserving agricultural and ranch land.

When completed, the Capital SouthEast Connector will reduce greenhouse gases, pollutant emissions, vehicle miles traveled, and regional congestion. The project has obtained environmental permits and has agreed to purchase lands to replace impacted agricultural land or vernal pools.

From every perspective, the Capital SouthEast Connector is a winning proposition. Your support is vital to the project’s successful completion. To express your support or if you have questions, please email us at ConnectorSupport@sacounty.gov.

Derek Minnema is a civil engineer, and the chief executive leading the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority. ★

What Everybody Ought to Know...

About Transportation and Traffic in Sacramento County

Why Are We Publishing This Information

The Capital SouthEast Connector is the largest and most significant road project in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties, but its value to the region is often unknown to residents.

The Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority (the agency responsible for designing and building the expressway) hopes to change that through a series of ads appearing over the next several weeks. The ads will explore the Connector’s history and future, its financing, its challenges, and its successes.

Please send your comments about these ads, or any questions you might have, to ConnectorSupport@SacCounty.gov

For more information or to sign up for our newsletter, visit our website at ConnectorJPA.com or go to our YouTube channel @[southeastconnectorexpressway](https://www.youtube.com/southeastconnectorexpressway)

specifically to construct a new expressway connecting I-5 and Hwy 99 in the Elk Grove area to Hwy 50 in El Dorado County, now known as the Capital SouthEast Connector. Since the vote, the tax has generated about \$2 billion. To date, the Capital SouthEast Connector has received about \$58 million of those funds, which were paired with federal and state funds to complete 11 miles of the 34-mile project.

Where have the transportation tax funds not allocated to the Capital SouthEast Connector been used?

The transportation sales tax funds are allocated according to a formula voters approved when they approved the tax. The largest single recipient of the funds since the tax began is the Regional Transit Authority (38%, amounting to \$709 million) for operating and maintaining light rail and bus services; and providing transportation options to seniors and individuals with disabilities. Street and road maintenance projects have received 29.4%, amounting to \$545.5 million. Overall, capital improvement projects have received 20.4%, amounting to \$377.4 million. The rest of the funds went to smaller projects, and less than ¼ of one percent is spent on program administration.

What has the Sacramento Area Council of Governments’ role been in the Capital SouthEast

What is the Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway?

The planned Connector is an expressway that will link Interstate 5 and Highway 99 near Elk Grove to Highway 50 in El Dorado County. The new expressway will relieve congestion by directing commuter and commercial traffic around the city on a safe expressway. Travelers to and from areas south of Sacramento will no longer need to go through the city to get to their destinations. The Capital SouthEast Connector Expressway also features a parallel bike and pedestrian trail.

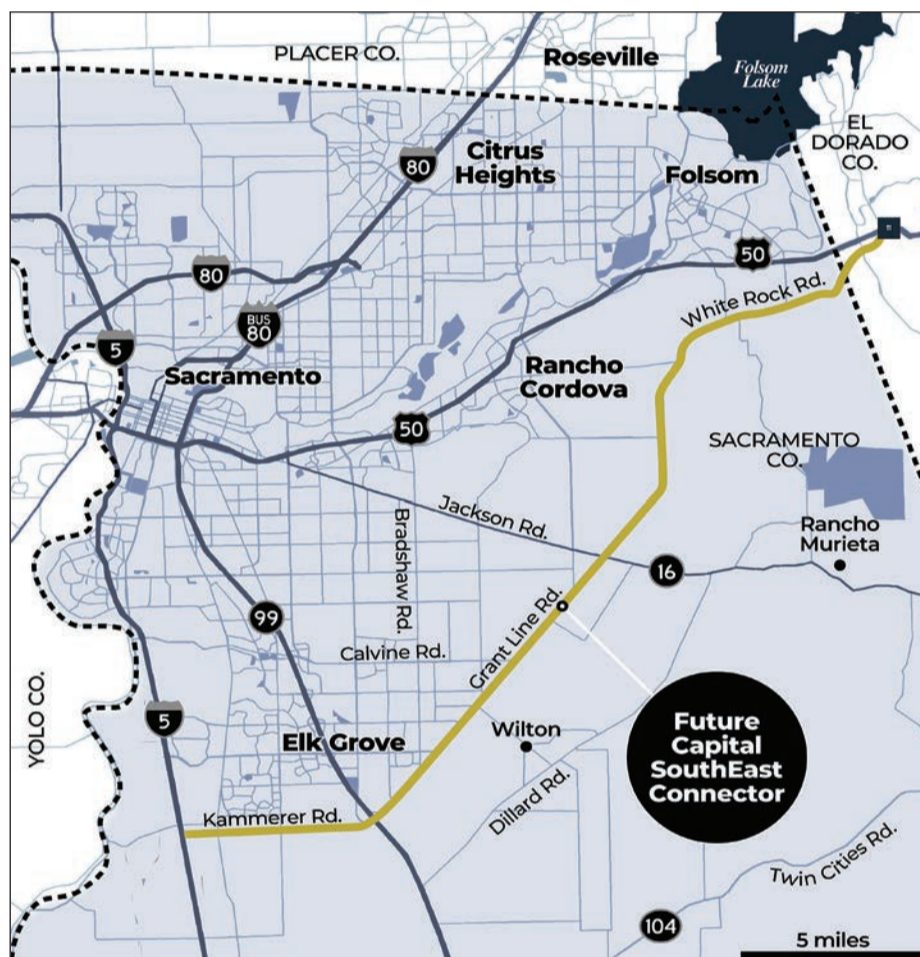
Who will benefit from the SouthEast Connector Expressway when completed?

The entire region will benefit from reduced congestion on area highways,

particularly Hwy 50, and from fewer toxic fumes spewing from thousands of vehicles stuck in traffic. Southeastern Sacramento County residents will have a safe new route to avoid Hwy 50 congestion and bypass downtown traffic. Businesses, companies, farmers, and ranchers will also be able to receive supplies and send products to market more safely and quickly. Most importantly, the modernized roadway will be safe to travel, unlike current conditions that endanger lives.

Who approved building the SouthEast Connector Expressway?

In 2004, by a 3-1 margin, voters agreed to tax themselves for 30 years for transportation maintenance, road improvements, mass transit, mobility for seniors and people with disabilities, and



Map showing the location of the future Capital SouthEast Connector

Connector’s construction.

The Capital SouthEast Connector is part of the “Sacramento Blueprint,” adopted over 20 years ago by SACOG’s board of directors and still consulted today. The Blueprint’s goal is to integrate land use and transportation planning to improve the region’s quality of life. It was SACOG’s idea to create the Capital SouthEast Connector Joint Powers Authority to manage the design and construction of the expressway. Over the years, SACOG has been mostly supportive of efforts to advance the project, and SACOG recently determined that constructing a segment of the project was the region’s number one transportation priority, greatly enhancing a successful project application for federal funding.

What environmental impacts will the SouthEast Connector Expressway create, and how will they be mitigated?

Like any road project, the Capital SouthEast Connector will affect the environment during and after construction, but all federal, state, and local regulations to protect the environment are being followed. After construction, the environment will be greatly enhanced due to a design that controls and channels damaging groundwater that currently floods the roadway and adjacent lands. The Connector Joint Powers Authority is a member of the South Sacramento Conservation Agency (SCCA) that oversees compliance with

the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan and its rules for road construction. The Connector project has obtained environmental permits and has also agreed to purchase lands to replace impacted agricultural land or vernal pools in accordance with the conservation plan’s vision.

How will the Capital SouthEast Connector affect bike and pedestrian traffic in the area?

Bicyclists and pedestrians who currently face grave danger will be able to avoid traffic entirely by using a paved, Class 1 bike trail that will be built separate from the expressway along its entire length. The bike trail is designed to enable residents to walk or ride their bikes to visit friends in neighboring communities; or peddle to work, local restaurants, stores, parks,

and entertainment venues; or simply to exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

How can residents support construction of the Capital SouthEast Connector?

Your support is vital to our successfully applying for funds to complete the project. Telling your local, state, and federal elected representatives that you support the project is very helpful. You can also learn more about the project or sign up for our newsletter on our website at www.connectorjpa.com. Alternatively, you can use the QR code on this page, visit our Instagram page at www.instagram.com/connectorjpa or our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/SouthEastConnectorExpressway Please send questions or comments to ConnectorSupport@sacounty.gov.

Connector’s White Rock Road Improvement



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR PROJECT

www.ConnectorJPA.com



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