

Awards, Bonsai Trees are Garden Club Topics

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RMA Board Responds to Evacuation Gate Emails



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41ST YEAR • ISSUE 3

Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughhouse, Wilton

**RM Writers' Book Explores Local History** 

FEBRUARY 7, 2025

## SEE INSIDE

### VITALANT DRAWS 52 PINTS IN RM BLOOD DRIVE



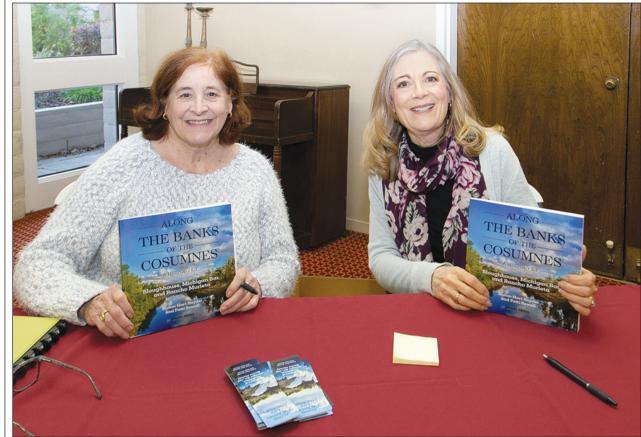
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### A NEW CHAPTER FOR DISTRICT 4



PAGE 12 YOU NEVER EVEN CALL ME BY MY NAME





Patti Sewall and Susan Hart Snyder hosting a book launch on Jan. 11 at The Villas Clubhouse. Photo by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Longtime Rancho Murieta residents Susan Hart Snyder and Patti Sewall have devoted their hearts, souls and pocketbooks to writing a new book: "Along the Banks of the Cosumnes – a History of Sloughhouse, Michigan Bar, and Rancho Murieta." The book's back cover provides the best summary. "Along the Banks of the Cosumnes explores the vibrant history of the determined folk who struggled through floods, drownings, murder, and the riches and ruin of mining, while establishing farms, ranches, and hamlets. It also highlights the development of Rancho Murieta, a community that shares those who came before them – a valley where neighbors are close-knit, vistas are stunning, and tree-studded paths lead to the pristine waters of the Cosumnes River."

The book came about by chance. Between 2020 and 2023, Snyder wrote 21 articles on local history for the River Valley Times. "I just felt like we have this fabulous history here, and I wanted to capture it," she said. "I had all kinds of primary sources. We have folks here who descended from people who were here from the pioneer days, like the ranchers."

Snyder hadn't considered compiling her articles into a book until 2022. That's when Carole Kramer, who was helping to organize the Rancho Murieta Country Club's 50th anniversary

## Sloughhouse Levee Erosion Prompts Emergency Declaration

### By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA** (MPG) - The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors officially ratified a Proclamation of Emergency on Feb. 4 in response to significant, uncontrolled levee erosion in Sloughhouse, according to a county news release.

The county's proclamation was issued in response to Reclamation District 800's emergency declaration on Feb. 3.

Reclamation District 800 maintains and repairs 34 miles of privately-owned levees along the Cosumnes River between Rancho Murieta and Freeman Road off Dillard Road in Wilton and Freeman Road off Grant Line Road in Sheldon.

Brian Takemori, the board president of Reclamation District 800, said the district engineer identified two areas of concern in Sloughhouse on Feb. 3. The first eroded levee was on a ranch west of Dillard Road, south of Jackson Highway. While the board had previously designated this levee for repairs, their engineer considered it a lower priority than others, according to comments made at past board meetings. The second location was at the end of Old Vine Road, which branches off Sloughhouse Road. Takemori said water from a broken irrigation pipe was eroding the levee. In response, Reclamation District 800 brought in Asta Construction to make a small repair at the site on Feb. 4. Takemori said the board made the decision to declare an emergency after they met at the ranch levee on the morning of Feb. 3 and expected high water levels. Fortunately, he noted, those predictions did not materialize. Takemori explained that when Reclamation District 800 declares an emergency, the Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services becomes involved and the Division of Flood Management at the State Department of Water Resources is also notified. According to the county news release, an evacuation notice wasn't needed and the threat of levee failure remains low. However, residents living near Dillard Road south of Jackson Highway should register at the Sacramento Continued on page 6

the love of the region with

Continued on page 5

# **Tesla Resumes Work on EV Charging Station**



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Construction is underway in the Bel Air parking lot to install a Tesla electric vehicle charging station, with completion expected in six to seven weeks. Photo by Gail Bullen

### By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA CA (MPG)** - After a false start nine months ago, Tesla has begun work on an electric vehicle (EV) charging station in the Bel Air shopping center in Rancho Murieta.

Tony Velez, chief financial officer of Rancho Murieta Properties and manager of the shopping center, said he was surprised when Tesla emailed him on Jan. 10, stating its intent to proceed with constructing an EV charging station. Tesla abruptly canceled the project in May, according to Velez.

Velez said Tesla held a construction meeting two weeks after he received the email and work began on Jan. 27. This time, however, Tesla is using its employees for the project.

"It will take them about six to eight weeks to finish that project and then they will have to wait for SMUD to energize it," Velez said. "But they think that should be fairly quick."

Velez confirmed that a Tesla

R4 Supercharger station with 12 units is being installed. According to Wikipedia, the newer R4 Supercharger stations feature longer cables to accommodate a broader range of electric vehicles and are equipped with credit card readers, potentially allowing non-Tesla owners to charge without needing the Tesla app. The V4 Superchargers can also deliver up to 350 kW of power, improving charging efficiency and speed.

Continued on page 4

### TheRiverValleyTimes.com

# **RMA Board Discusses Geese Control, Trail Maps**

### By Gail Bullen **River Valley Times** Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - An entertaining report about geese control measures, a request to approve developer-proposed trails, and an alternative to keep Greenfield emails were key topics when the Rancho Murieta Association Board met on Jan. 21.

The directors also discussed automating remote gates for evacuation and bid farewell to Director Renee Bechthold, who is stepping down from the board. (Refer to the separate stories in this issue.)

As always, at the year's first meeting, the directors appointed residents to eight board committees. They also received reports from the chairs of the same committees and touched on several other topics, all within 50 minutes, an unusually short meeting.

### **Geese Control**

During public comments, Kent Fowler introduced himself as a retired veterinarian with an equine practice on the Monterey Peninsula for 27 years. He then worked for the California Department of Food and Ag as a regulatory veterinarian for 17 years. He also serves on the Rancho Murieta Country Club Board of Directors.

Fowler suggested the board might be interested in his perspective on geese, given the association's problem with excess geese at the popular Clementia Reservoir beach.

After Fowler and his wife moved to Rancho Murieta, others told them there was no solution to the "horrendous numbers of geese on the golf courses." He didn't believe it.

In December 2022, he proposed a pilot project to the country club board to reduce the goose population. His plan involved using his dog Cooper, a Pembroke Corgi, to chase the geese. While this proved highly effective, the geese managed to evade the dog on the eight holes with water. The solution was a remote-controlled electronic speedboat to harass them.

"Since that time, we've been out there every day for the last two years," Fowler said. "It's had a dramatic effect in reducing the population."

Using a spreadsheet, Fowler tracked the number of geese chased off the golf courses. In 2023, he and Cooper successfully chased away more than 15,000 geese, reducing the number to just over 7,000 in 2024, a 50% decrease.

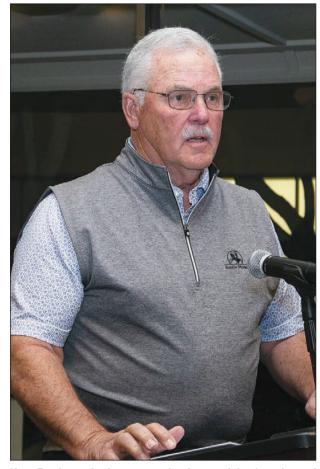
Before initiating the project. Fowler sent fecal samples to a Davis laboratory." What we discovered was both E coli and Bacillus cereus, both of which are human pathogens," he said." My bigger concern is avian influenza, and that should be your biggest concern with the goose population as well."

Fowler also commented about the association's plan to use a propane cannon to deter geese at Clementia. While he believes it will be effective initially, he doubts its long-term success, citing a similar approach with seagulls at the Kiefer Landfill. He noted that geese are highly intelligent and will likely adapt quickly, simply relocating to other community areas rather than being permanently deterred.

As Fowler left the podium, O'Hern told him that his dog provides a constant source of entertainment. "Every morning my wife stands at the kitchen, and every morning I hear: 'There's Cooper."

### **Trail Map**

Hart reported that **Rancho Murieta Properties** has submitted a revised trail plan for the proposed Rancho North development. The new map no longer includes the villages



Kent Fowler, retired state veterinarian, explains how he and his dog have helped reduce the geese population on the golf courses. Photo by Gail Bullen

behind the reservoirs, as plans for their development have been dropped. (For more details, see "Development Behind Reservoirs is Ruled Out" at www.therivervalleytimes. com.)

Hart said the new trail map aligns with the Parks Committee trail map and the park development agreement. He recommended that the board direct their park representatives to vote to approve the plan as submitted, as it aligns with the existing trail map requirements.

The board voted 4-1 to approve Hart's recommendation. Director Danny Carrillo voted against it, saying he wanted more time for review. Directors Chris Childs and Renee Bechthold did not vote as they were absent.

### **Greenfield Email**

Hart told the board that residents concerned about losing their ranchomurieta. org email may have another option once Greenfield Communications shuts them down. He said Greenfield will allow 100 residents to keep their current email address, which will be automatically transferred to a hidden email. Residents should contact Hart for more information.

### **Other Business**

During public comments, resident Victoria Kalman complained about a neighbor's "excessively nosy heating and cooling system." She said it was incumbent on the board to take some action.

During his Compliance Committee report, Director Tom Reimers proposed increasing the fines for residents and guests who interfere with RMA compliance officers and Rancho Murieta Community Service patrol officers. O'Hern referred the proposed rule change to the Governing Documents Committee for a recommendation.

This story is also online at www.therivervalleytimes.com.



### Karen Hoberg

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## Awards, Bonsai Trees are Garden Club Topics

### By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - River Valley Garden Club members presented awards and learned about Bonsai trees at their monthly meeting at the RMA Building on Jan. 28.

The first award was a \$200 grant to a Boy Scout for his Eagle Scout project focused on gardening. The other two awards were certificates recognizing service to the club. Roger Steel from the American Bonsai Association of Sacramento was the featured speaker.

One reason the garden club diligently raises funds through plant sales, including the upcoming Garden Stroll on May 11, is its longstanding commitment to promoting local horticulture. The club directs its proceeds toward scholarships for college students studying horticulture and provides grants for local gardening and beautification projects.

The club's \$200 grant to Boy Scout Alexander Hoberg to support his Eagle Scout project was significant, as it aligns with the club's mission. He plans to revamp the Consumnes River Elementary School Garden to make it usable during the winter months.

The club didn't present Hoberg with the usual giant check at the meeting, as they had already provided him with a regular-sized check to begin his project. Instead, they invited him to share his plans for the CRES Gardens.

After introducing himself as a member of Scout Troop 633, Hoberg



Jan Mathews presents Scout Troop 633 with a Penny Pines certificate in recognition of their service to the River Valley Garden Club. From left, Hunter Steichen, Alexander Hoberg and Zachary Homes accept the award. Photos by Gail Bullen

outlined his plan to revamp the school's existing garden, enabling students to grow crops during the winter. His project includes constructing greenhouses over the plots and lining the fences with chicken wire to keep out mice and voles. Additionally, he plans to plant fruit trees on either side of the garden.

"The impact form this garden would be giving the elementary school children experience in agriculture, which would spark some future interest in the industry," Hoberg said.

Hoberg is building on a foundation laid by the garden club, which initially established the CRES garden several years ago. In 2024, Berniece Jones led an effort to restore the garden after it suffered from vandalism and neglect. Members of the garden club and Scout Troop 633 collaborated on the project to bring it back to life.

That was one reason the club presented a Penny Pines certificate to Boy Scout Troop 633 at the January meeting. Alexander Hoberg, Zachary Homes, and Hunter Steichen accepted the honor on behalf of the troop.The club also presented Karen Hoberg, a long-time supporter and garden club member, with a Penny Pines certificate dedicated to her mother, the late Marian Hoberg.

The club supports Penny Pines, a U.S. Forest Service program that enables organizations to contribute to reforestation efforts. Each time the club donates \$68, enough to reforest an acre, it receives a Penny Pines certificate and has the opportunity to dedicate the contribution in honor of a person or organization.

Vice President Margaret Watson Hopkins introduced the featured speaker, Roger Steel, who is affiliated with the American Bonsai Association of Sacramento. She noted that Steel studied for 15 years under Kathy Shaner, the first female bonsai graduate recognized by the Nippon Bonsai Association of Japan. After completing his apprenticeship, Shaner encouraged him to share his knowledge by teaching others the art of bonsai.

A bonsai tree is a miniature tree grown in a pot using specialized techniques to control its shape, size and overall aesthetics.

Steel brought smaller bonsai trees and two students to the garden club meeting. He began by explaining that the first syllable in bonsai is pronounced like "bone," not "bon."

Steel explained that bonsai is an accessible hobby that anyone can take up. He emphasized that the key is to start by learning a few basic techniques rather than trying to master every nuance right away.

Steel recommended that beginners start with an inexpensive nursery tree like a juniper rather than attempting to create a bonsai from scratch.

He explained that this allows new practitioners to learn the fundamentals without a significant investment.

Regarding care, Steel advised dedicating about 20 minutes per month to each bonsai tree, focusing



Roger Steel explains how he has grown three Bonsai trees over time. From left are a wide-based trident maple, a persimmon tree and a crab apple tree, which are respectively 25, 10 and 25 years old.



Alexander Hoberg outlines his Eagle Scout project, which is being partially funded by the garden club. He plans to revamp the gardens at Consumes River Elementary School so they can be used in the winter.

on proper watering, fertilizing, and pruning. He recommended using a slow-release fertilizer like EB Stone and cautioned against overwatering or overfertilizing, as both can cause problems. He places fertilizer inside empty tea bags to prevent fertilizer from washing away, allowing for controlled nutrient release.

Steel also discussed the artistic aspect of bonsai, encouraging participants to consider the overall "story" or design they want their tree to convey. He demonstrated techniques such as wiring branches to create movement and shape and methods for repotting and root pruning to maintain the tree's desired proportions.

Throughout his presentation, Steel emphasized the importance of patience and working with the tree's natural growth characteristics rather than forcing it into an unnatural form. He shared his own experiences, both successes and mistakes, to illustrate the learning process.

More about the art of bonsai can be found at www.abasbonsai.org.

For more photos, see rivervalleytime.com. ★



## **Tesla Resumes Work on EV Charging Station**

### Continued from page 1

Tesla initially planned to install an EV charging station in Rancho Murieta last May. On April 11, a Tesla project manager held a construction meeting at the site to brief outside contractors submitting bids for the project.

However, like many projects nationwide, according to CNN and other news reports, the Rancho Murieta EV charging station was canceled in May when Tesla disbanded the team responsible for the company's charging infrastructure.



Contractors gather for a construction meeting on April 11, 2024. However, work did not begin after Tesla disbanded its EV charging team the following month, sparking nationwide concern. Photo by Gail Bullen

According to CNN reports, Tesla's decision sparked widespread industry concerns about the future of

Tesla's charging network. However, by November, Tesla announced plans to launch V4 Supercharger

stations in 2025. According to The Verge, a technology news website, these new stations are designed



The Tesla V4 Supercharger features a longer cord to accommodate a broader range of vehicle models. Twelve units will be included in the Rancho Murieta station. Courtesy photo

to improve charging efficiency for vehicles such as the Tesla Cybertruck and EVs from other manufacturers.

Velez said he began discussions with Tesla more than seven years ago when the Murieta Inn was under construction.

Tesla initially installed

a Level 2 charger at the hotel, according to Velez, and reached out to him about two years later, proposing the installation of 12 fast chargers at the shopping center.

This story was posted to www.rivervalleytimes.com on Jan. 31.



### DANIEL BRUCE GOSSETT • 11/09/1941 - 01/27/2025

Daniel Bruce Gossett, lovingly known as Bruce, passed away of natural causes on January 27, 2025, at home, in Rancho Murieta, California, at the age of 83.

Bruce was born in Cecil, Pennsylvania, where he spent his early years with his parents, Dan and Nell Gossett, and his younger brother Don. From a young age, Bruce was passionate about sports and cherished the friendships he formed during his school years, attending high school reunions up to the 50th.

In 1964, at the end of his college years, Bruce's athletic talent led him to the NFL, when he was signed as a rookie kicker for the Los Angeles Rams. He enjoyed a distinguished career spanning 6 years with the L.A. Rams and 5 years with the S.F. 49ers. During this time he settled in California with his first wife and their two children Kim and Daniel.

After retiring from Professional Football, Bruce continued his involvement in



sports as the National Sales Mgr for a television station that broadcast 3 major league franchises.

Bruce's generosity and love for community were evident through his dedication to charity golf tournaments. In 1983, he launched the Bruce Gossett Golf Tournament benefiting the March of Dimes, which ran for 11 successful years and earned him a grant in his name.

It was at this first tournament in 1983, that Bruce met Linda, they married a year later and shared 41 wonderful years together.

After retiring to Rancho Murieta in 2002, Bruce directed his competitive spirit towards golf and his peaceful side to fishing.

He also treasured time spent with family and friends, where he could barbecue and toast with a beer. We will always cherish our last Christmas together with family and filled with joy

Bruce is survived by his beloved wife Linda; his children Kim and Dan, his stepdaughter Tracy, three grandchildren, Veronica, Nicole and Nick; three great-grandchildren; Charlotte, Josie and Ford

A celebration of Bruce's life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Habitat for Humanity or Wounded Warriors. May his memory bring comfort to all that knew him.



### ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

MEMORIAL

### BONNIE BOBO • FEBRUARY 9, 1941 – JANUARY 12, 2025 JOY

A creative at heart, Joy Bobo brought ambition and extraordinary vision, enthusiasm and passion to her marriage, her family and her communities until the day she passed in Sacramento, California. She lived up to her name in each chapter of her life, sharing her love of life with everyone in her presence, whether engaging in art or athletics or travel or the profound faith that defined her eighty-three years on earth. As the eldest daugh-ter born to Ted and Herb Jones in Marcola, Oregon, Joy Jones (McDonald) was big sister to Gay, Merry and Wanda in a house filled with love and laughter until the tragic passing of her father. She was then raised by her dad Dean McDonald, whom the grandkids affectionally called Papa Mort. A stellar athlete and star basketball player at Grants Pass High School-where she was named best female athlete-Joy was also known for styling fabulous outfits, even back then. She surprised her family when at eighteen she moved to California to begin her life with a boy she met at age fifteen, a kid named Gary DeVon Bobo whom she met near a lake at Sierra Bible Camp. Their friendship continued by writing letters and culminated in her moving to Sacramento to live with a girlfriend before marrying Gary in 1960 at twenty-one years old. Their marriage epitomized a true love affair and partnership of two go-getters that lasted over sixty years and is reflected today in the lives of their children and grandchildren. The young couple moved next to Gary's parents on Farm Lane where they soon began their family and gave

birth to Wendy, Tammy and Chris. Each day Gary went off to work at Bobo Sheet Metal and Joy managed the home inside and out so they



and playing games. . . simply spending time together. It was Joy and Gary's pride

and joy. Joy and Gary bought a home at The Lakes Country Club in 2007 in Palm Desert. They loved splitting their time between home and the desert and really considered this to be their happy place. They met many new best friends there and Joy called it "old coot college" because she said they partied like college students, but didn't have to worry about money. They played golf and enjoyed a well-deserved life of leisure. Throughout her life Joy was an artist, a decorator, a fashion icon. Her beautiful paintings still hang in many homes, and two of Joy and Gary's houses were featured in magazines and newspapers. Joy applied that same distinction to herself and totally put herself together every morning. She paid attention to Gary's choices, too, and he was chosen "Best Dressed in Sacramento" in the 70s, which he entirely attributed to Joy. She definitely kept Gary on his toes. In a less glamorous role, during the pot belly pig fad, she bought one for Gary-named Won Tonand ended up falling in love with it. She soon became pseudo-mom to around thirty pot-belly rescue pigs! Joy and Gary spent their last chapter living next to their kids, grandkids and great grandkids in Rancho Murieta where they enjoyed many beautiful friendships. Joy went to weekly Bible studies and painted every week with her best friends, affectionately called the Ya-Yas. They met every week over wine to share joys and sorrows and chuckle over the minutiae of life.

Gary spent the most time with their family. Every day was spent with one kid or grandkid or another. They were a constant presence in their lives, not just as family, but as friends to their kids and grandkids. After Gary died in June of 2023 Joy still traveled with her kids and grandkids and spent much of her time with them, but a piece of her was missing. It was never the same again without her soulmate. Barely a week after her beloved Gary passed in 2023 she found an unopened envelope that included specific wishes for his memorial. Turns out she nailed most of it, with the exception of not playing one song. She gig-gled about it afterward, with a casual, "Oh well!" Maybe they're laughing about it now that they are reunited in heaven, side by side once again. They can look down at the humongous legacy that they established for their family. A legacy of hard work, charity, and most of all the love that they left behind to Wendy Mazzoni (Joe Mazzoni, deceased), Tammy O'Brien (John O'Brien) Christopher Bobo (Tina Bobo), and grandchil-dren Carly Nicholas, Austin Bobo, Bailey Iwasa, Scarlett Wickman, Killian O'Brien, Giovanni Mazzoni, Gabriela Mazzoni, Dominic Mazzoni, as well as great-grandchildren-Hayden Bobo, Micah Bobo, Noa Bobo, Matthias Bobo, Remy Nicholas, Teddi Nicholas, Blake Iwasa, and Callahan Wickman. In lieu of flowers, the family invites you to support Young Life at https://younglife.org or a check can be mailed to Young Life, 9460 Stone Springs Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95624.

could be free to enjoy weekends with their kids.

Joy always had a desire to do more than just be a mom, and soon the two natural achievers began acquiring rentals and flipping them before it was popular. She'd fry chicken and pack up a picnic dinner and as soon as Garv got off work, they'd take their kids and picnic and go work their side hustle updating houses.

Their shared passion for building and decorating homes found them designing and constructing their own family cabin on a lot they bought in Pollock Pines. Every weekend they loaded the kids into the station wagon and drove up to work long, hard days building the cabin. This partnership was a recurring theme throughout the rest of their lives.

Joy was the idea girl, and Gary made her visions come true.

They spent years raising their kids in Valley Hi Country Club where they met some of their best friends...friendships that lasted throughout their lives. Joy learned to golf and excelled at that sport as well. All summer she and her girlfriends took all the kids to the club pool where they swam and wreaked havoc as voung adolescents, creating memories that live on today.

As the consummate mom and homemaker, Joy regularly volunteered for the kids' activities. She joined Junior League of Sacramento and a women's sorority as well, both which she loved, and in which she took an active role. Then she and Gary stumbled upon Young Life, a Christ-centered ministry that helps kids know Jesus, grow

in their faith, and serve Him. Since the two of them had been raised in strict legalistic churches, Young Life was a breath of fresh air.

They spent the next two decades working diligently to bring kids to Christ alongside Randy and Colleen Jackson. As leaders they held weekly meetings in their home, jammed packed with up to a hundred kids at times. Gary led the talks and skits, and Joy led the songs. They spent summers as counselors at Young Life camps in California and Canada. Many lives were changed by this power couple for Christ.

As the kids went off to college, Joy decided on a new career that embraced travel, another of her passions. She educated herself on the industry and at age forty jumped into the business, opening a travel agency she called Southpointe Travel.

She hired her best friends and together those fierce women took the travel world by storm!

Joy and Gary traveled often with their kids, regularly exposing them to new places and new experiences. As Wendy, Tammy and Chris grew up and had their own families, Joy and Gary passed on their love of travel by organizing numerous large family trips. They blessed their grandkids with visiting dozens of countries while they were still young.

In a beautiful nod to their love affair that started near a mountain lake, at around age sixty Joy and Gary built a wonderful home on Lake Almanor. It was here that the whole family spent so much time together. Their kids came often and brought their own kids. The grandkids grew up fishing and boating, laughing, dancing

In addition to being so close to friends, Joy and



# **State Water Project Increases 2025 Allocation Forecast**

### California Department of Water **Resources News Release**

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - On Jan. 28, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced an update to the State Water Project allocation forecast for 2025. The allocation has increased to 20 percent of requested supplies, up from 15 percent in December. The State Water Project provides water to 29 public water agencies that serve 27 million Californians.

While January has been incredibly dry across California, storm runoff into the state's reservoirs came in higher than forecasted at the end of December allowing for a modest allocation increase. Storms in late November and early December had a positive impact by saturating the ground, allowing for storms through December to more efficiently runoff into reservoirs.

More storms are needed, and the longrange forecast does hint at a return to wet conditions in early February that could bring much-needed rain and snow.

"We are in the middle of our biggest months for precipitation for California, and unfortunately January has been very dry, putting a significant dent in our season," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "A return to wet weather is critical for our season's success and it will take many more storms to make up the deficit and further boost water supply deliveries."

Despite the dry conditions, California has effectively managed its reservoirs to keep storage above average for this time of year. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's largest reservoir, is currently at 127 percent of average for this time of year. San Luis Reservoir, which is jointly operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, is at 102 percent of average for this time of year.

Reservoirs in Southern California are also near or above their historical averages.

Each year, the department provides State Water Project allocation forecasts based on available water storage, projected water supply, and water demands. Allocations are updated

monthly as snowpack, rainfall, and runoff information is assessed, with a final allocation typically determined in May or June.

As the winter progresses, if California sees an increase in rain and snowfall, the allocation forecast may increase. Learn more about how the State Water Project allocation process works at https://water.ca.gov/News/Blog/2025/ Jan-25/Get-the-Facts-About-the-State-Water-Project-Allocation.

The allocation forecast notice to State Water Contractors and historical data on SWP allocations are available at https://water. ca.gov/programs/state-water-project/management/swp-water-contractors.

# **RM Writers' Book Explores Local History**

Continued from page 1 celebration, asked if she could write a book about the local history.

Snyder was intrigued. Although she had published several novels and a book of essays, she sought help from Sewall, who had 20 years of experience as the editor of a law enforcement magazine.

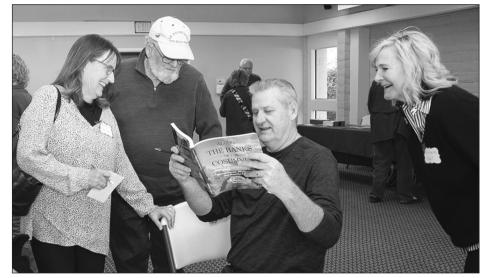
"I would never have taken on a project of this scope without Patti's help and knowledge of publishing," Snyder said.

However, when they met with Kramer and the other organizers, they realized the group sought a book explicitly focused on the country club. After the meeting, Snyder and Sewall looked at each other and said, "No."

"Susan had a bigger vision for the book," Sewall explained. "She wanted to tell the full history of the valley, including places like Sloughhouse and Michigan Bar."

Snyder and Sewall also felt uniquely qualified to write about Rancho Murieta's more recent history, as their families were part of the community before any homes were built on the north.

"It took a valley to write this book," they say in their acknowledgment. They held countless conversations with the descendants of Miwoks, Mormon settlers, pioneers, forty-niners, and one-room school teachers." They also interviewed Rancho Murieta residents, those who had been in the community since the 1970s and more recent arrivals. Some even provided memorabilia from earlier days. Snyder and Sewall also reviewed numerous books, newspapers, magazines, newsletters, videos and reports. Their research led them to an 1850s photo of a mining camp in the Library of Congress and a significant 1908 artifact on eBay. Snyder wrote most of the historical content, drawing from her published articles and incorporating new material, including profiles of several key individuals.



From left, Kathy Mehrten, Robert Mehrten, Bob Keil and Michelle Keil read about their ancestors who settled the Cosumnes River Valley in the mid-1800s. Photos by Gail Bullen



Jo Gusman is touched as Jon Snyder shows her the profile of her father, Tony Gusman, in the book. He represented the evolution of Rancho Murieta from a turkey ranch into a golf course community.



Jay Schneider watches the authors sign his new book. His family has owned the Schneider Ranch since 1857.

the Cosumnes River. It includes five chapters and concludes with a gallery of photos showcasing current activities in Rancho Murieta.

### **Pioneers, Gold Rush,**

Cosumnes Store and Post Office in Sloughhouse. In 1986, the post office was relocated to its current site in Rancho Murieta.

Chapter Three tells the story of the early ranchers, whose names, Schneider,



Susan Hart Snyder holds a Michigan Bar postcard from 1908 that she found on eBay. Sadie Belcher is the great-great aunt of Rancho Murieta resident Susan Sozzi.

transformed the Cosumnes River Valley landscape and the lives of its residents. Rancho Murieta was

inspired by a mid-1960s discussion within the Operating Engineers Local 3 Pension Trust Fund first residents, purchasing about the need for a training facility. Several board members, who were also developers, believed that apprentices should gain hands-on experience by constructing projects as part of their training. The assistant business manager, Dale Marr, was tasked with finding a suitable property. In 1965, the Operating Engineers brought in Ray Henderson, a developer who had helped shape Cameron Park. Henderson agreed to assist with the purchase and oversee the development of what would become Rancho Murieta. The Operating Engineers purchased the 2,200-acre former Granlees Ranch for \$1.25 million and an additional 1,300 acres from eight smaller farms. Two years after the purchase, their plans were approved, and they also secured the necessary water rights in the next two years. The grand opening of the Operating Engineers training facility on Nov. 11, 1969, was a momentous event, drawing 1,400 attendees, including then-Gov. Ronald Reagan. "After that colorful start, the Operating Engineers took to every manner of heavy equipment and artfully carved out an airport, lakes, a water treatment plant, a golf course, whatever needed doing," according to the book. The North Course, designed to feature championship-level terrain, opened on Oct. 10, 1971, with a simple ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Operating Engineers built the first residential

development, Murieta Village, next to the training center in November 1972. Snyder's parents, Ted and Dixie Hart; and Sewall's parents, Ed and Margie Sewall, were among the two initial lots and orderhighly anticipated and a welcome development for the community.

In 1990, Winncrest Homes announced plans for Rancho Murieta South, including constructing 200 residential lots.

The book concludes with a "Gallery of Twenty-First Century Life in the Cosumnes River Valley," featuring photographs taken by Snyder, Sewall and a half-dozen amateur photographers from the community. The images capture moments of everyday life, including a deer and a golf cart driver peacefully ignoring each other, scenes from Summerfest, pickleball matches, the July 4 parade, the Optimists operating their ice cream truck, and various Kiwanis and Boy Scout events.

Sewall contributed the introduction to the Rancho Murieta chapter and detailed the development of Murieta Village. She also managed nearly all of the editorial work.

"Patty did a ton of the proofreading and mountains of editing," Snyder recalled.

Sewall also served as the liaison with the publisher, which was time-consuming due to their meticulous attention to placing more than 180 photographs and the overall layout. Maintaining that level of quality came at a financial cost, which the authors had to absorb themselves as the book continued to grow in length.

The end result was "coffee-table-looking book" complete with glossy pages and a quintessential cover featuring

### Schools

The first chapter, titled Slough House, as it was named back then, traces the area's early history beginning in 1844. That's when Jared Sheldon was awarded a Mexican land grant and, along with other pioneers, settled along the Cosumnes River. In 1851, a large group of miners gunned Sheldon down after he built an irrigation dam on the river. News of his shocking murder made national headlines. Today, a commemorative plaque marking the site can be found on the path between the river and the South Course.

The second chapter focuses on Michigan Bar, one of several small communities that emerged in the valley during the Gold Rush. Once home to 1,000 and 2,000 residents, the town boasted a Wells Fargo and a post office. In the 1870s, settler Charles Ruman acquired the bridge and surrounding land, becoming the local toll taker. Although the town had disappeared by the 1950s, his descendants still reside in the picturesque setting.

Another notable town was Bridgehouse, situated on the east side of the Yellow Bridge, now part of the golf course. Other small hamlets in the valley that have since vanished included Live Oak, Cook's Bar, Sebastopol and Katesville.

Although Michigan Bar was larger than Sloughhouse, its post office was closed in 1935 due to partisan politics, forcing residents to travel to the

Mehrten, Grimshaw, and Van Vleck, still echo in the valley, as many of their descendants remain in the area. Another notable early rancher was Francis Edward Connor. After he died in 1990, his wife sold their 420-acre ranch to John Driscoll, whose land bordered theirs.

Driscoll's grandson, Art Granlees, continued acquiring adjacent properties over the years and was the rancher who sold 2,600 acres that would become Rancho Murieta. The old Connor Ranch was excavated to create Calero Reservoir.

During the Gold Rush, one-room schoolhouses sprang up like mushrooms, a history detailed in Chapter Four, Cosumnes River Valley Schools. The most famous was the Rhoads School, which was eventually relocated to Elk Grove Park.

The remaining schools in the area were Rhoads, Michigan Bar, Stone House, and Wilson. In 1947, they were joined to form Consumnes River Union Elementary School.

### **Rancho Murieta**

Chapter Five, which explores the development of Rancho Murieta, begins with the legend of the community's namesake, Joaquín Murrieta. During the Gold Rush, he and his notorious band of outlaws roamed the region, robbing and killing with impunity. A novelist later misspelled his name as "Murieta," a version that endured over time.

Next is an account of the labor organization that ing new mobile homes.

A 1973 ad in the Sacramento Union offered members unlimited weekday golf for \$35 a month. According to the book, they had access to a large, elegant clubhouse and challenging golf course "that was seriously devoid of golfers."

John McNamee, the country club's first tennis pro in 1975, recalled that the original developers envisioned Rancho Murieta as a resort destination for snowbirds. Their plan envisioned homeowners flying into the private airport, staying in townhouses without garages, golfing, playing tennis and enjoying the scenic surroundings. Despite having a playground near the entrance, the development was never originally designed with children in mind.

"That's the reason for the cottage lots and homes without garages," the book quotes him saying.

In 1973, renowned horsewoman Barbara Worth collaborated with the Operating Engineers to design and manage the equestrian center. The Operating Engineers sold it to Fred Anderson and his daughter, Carol Anderson Ward, in 1982.

The grand opening of the South Course on April 28, 1979, was a lavish affair. Guests dined on the Yellow Bridge.

The airport hosted its most significant event in August 1986, drawing 30,000 spectators for an airshow. The opening of Plaza Foods in 1988 was

### **Book Sales**

Snyder said they ordered 400 limited-edition copies, hoping to sell them directly to the community for \$35 each.

Their book launch on Jan. 11 at The Villas Clubhouse drew a modest crowd, mainly people with personal connections to the book. Their next stop five days later at the Murieta Inn wine-tasting event was a much different story when they sold 54 books within an hour and a half.

Since then, their book has been selling briskly at Ace Hardware in Murieta Plaza, thanks to co-owner Julie Jackson offering retail space. Snyder and Sewall also plan to sell books at upcoming club meetings. In the meantime, they can be contacted for individual purchases at papalini9866@gmail.com.

Although the timing is uncertain, the books will sell online at Amazon. com for \$39.95. Snyder explained that the books won't have "Limited Edition" on the front cover and will feature matte pages.

For Snyder and Sewall, writing the book has been a deeply personal endeavor that preserves the rich history of a community they have been part of for decades.

"We just have faith that the community will appreciate it," Sewall said. "So far, they have."

This story is also online at therivervalleytimes.com.

### **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

### **Gate Access Training** Slated at CSD

Want to make it easier for your guests to get through the gates? If so, plan to attend a Community Connect event from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11 at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District building.

The Gate Access program is available for all residents who live behind the gates. It provides an easy way to register guests for efficient passage through the gates. District staff will also be available to help residents sign up for automated bill paying.

### **Bookmobile Makes Weekly Stops at Murieta Village**

River Valley residents in need of a good book need only show up for the weekly Bookmobile visit from 9 a.m. to noon every Wednesday.

The Bookmobile parks in front of the Murieta Village Clubhouse. Visitors can apply for a library card at saclibrary.org.

The Bookmobile carries a full range of books. Residents can also order books online and have them delivered via the Bookmobile.

### **Deer Creek Hills Preserve Open**

Effective Feb. 1, the Sacramento Valley Conservancy began presenting a variety of events at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve.

The activities include self-guided hikes, equestrian rides and guided hikes that cover topics such as Gold Rush history and mushroom identification.

Check the event page at sacramentovalleyconservancy.org.

### **Free Firewood Available**

Rancho Murieta residents in need of

firewood can find a free source adjacent to Greens Park and behind the reservoirs, following the completion of a fuel reduction project.

After parking on the roads in these areas, residents can gather large pieces of wood lying on the ground and carry them back to their vehicles.

### Wilton Bingo Games **Held Monthly**

March bingo will be on Saturday, March 1. Doors open at 6 p.m. with food available for sale and bingo starts at 7 p.m. in the Wilton Community Center (9717 Colony Road, at Dillard Road).

All proceeds go to two non-profits: the local Park Council and the Wilton History Group.

The next bingo will be on Saturday, April 5. Questions? Call Lorraine Robinson at 916-212-8896.

### **River Valley Times Expands Online Coverage**

Starting now, the River Valley Times will provide more timely updates on local events through its online platforms. Certain events will now be reported within one to two days of their occurrence, ensuring that residents stay informed between the bi-monthly distribution of the printed edition.

Online updates will include a mix of brief summaries, in-depth stories and photos

Readers can access these updates on the newspaper's website at www.therivervallevtimes.com.

Follow the River Valley Times on social media on Twitter at x.com/RVTMPG8 and on Facebook atfacebook.com/ Therivervalleytimes.

## **SECURITY LOGS**

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

### Jan. 19

1:24 a.m., Concerned neighbor informed of excessive smoke in area, coming from neighbors' chimney. Patrol responded; unable to find smoke or fire; area cleared.

11:45 p.m., Welfare check, Murieta Plaza: Welfare check requested for daughter near home due to argument. Patrol made contact; subject stated she is headed to friends and will leave shortly.

### **Jan. 20**

12:49 p.m., RMA rule violations, North back area/Lake Calero: Patrol found group of guests having a bonfire in the North back area of Lake Calero. Contact made, subjects advised of rules and resident cited. Fire department arrived to ensure fire was extinguished.

1:03 p.m., Parking, Yellow Bridge: Unoccupied vehicle parked at County Bridge in no parking zone. Patrol made contact with two subjects, advising of trespass under Yellow Bridge and no parking zone. Subjects gathered items and left area.

1:35 p.m., Assist other agency, Golden Circle: Sacramento Sheriff's Department requested welfare check due to numerous requests. Patrol responded and found home unoccupied; no signs of resident home; SSD updated.

2:49 p.m., Resident complaint, Lake Calero: Report of juveniles by walking path playing with fire around lake and paths. Patrol and RMA compliance checked around lakes; area cleared. Fire department was updated upon their arrival.

### **Jan. 21**

3:34 p.m., Resident complaint, Stonehouse Park: Report of dogs off leash. Patrol made contact with owners of dogs in the area, advising to not let dogs off leashes.

6:23 p.m., Disturbance, Country Store:

### Report of subject yelling in front of store. Patrol made contact with clerk who stated it was a minor verbal argument between customers. Both parties were gone on arrival

10:32 p.m., Guadalupe Drive: Resident reported vehicle's alarm was set off. Patrol was requested to check area. Upon arrival, no signs of vandalism or forced entry. Area was cleared.

### **Jan. 22**

12:50 p.m., Citation, Camino Del Lago: RMA rule violation. Patrol observed vehicle in North back of Lake Clementia. Vehicle evaded patrol; camera review identified vehicle. Citation issued.

2:35 p.m., Juvenile delinquency, North Gazebo Park: Juveniles riding bicycles in unsafe manner. RMA compliance requested assistance from CSD officer. Contact made, juveniles advised and citation issued.

### **Jan. 23**

9:57 a.m., Welfare check, Murieta Parkway: Person reported sitting on Murieta Parkway near 17th Fairway. Patrol checked areas between Guadalupe Drive and Domingo, unable to locate subject.

### **Jan. 24**

12:25 p.m., Resident complaint: Reporting party called in non-barcode vehicle with vessel on Lake Clementia. Guest was advised of RMA rules and immediately took vessel out of the lake. Guest stated resident just left and was advised of rule stating guest has to be with resident.

1:36 p.m., Suspicious person: Party reported suspicious person loitering in front of Chevron gas station. Person advised from patrol vehicle loitering not allowed and showed him where the bus stop going out of town was.

2:25 p.m., Animal complaint, Medella Circle: Report of dog escaping from backyard and attacking another dog. Patrol took report from both parties. Animal control responded to investigate and take report.

## **Ballot Measure Proposes Secession by California**

### California Secretary of State News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - California Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., is addressing misinformation surrounding a ballot measure recently cleared for signature gathering and encouraging Californians to educate themselves about the initiative process and the measures currently in circulation.

On Jan. 23, Weber announced the approval of a new ballot initiative for signature gathering, a routine step in California's direct democracy process.

The proposed initiative, if enacted, places the following question on November 2028 ballot: "Should California leave the United States and become a free and independent country?"

practice designed to promote transparency and encourage public awareness.

"It has come to my attention that misinformation is being circulated, falsely claiming that I am 'organizing an effort for California to secede from the United States," stated Weber. "This is absolutely false. Such misinformation, whether intentional or not, is unacceptable, as it erodes trust in our democratic institutions. I urge everyone to turn to trusted sources like my office or their local elections office to verify information about ballot measures or any election-related matters."

Weber emphasized that announcements of approved ballot measures are not endorsements but a legal requirement that supports transparency and civic engagement. "I encourage all Californians to educate themselves about the initiative process and to explore the measures currently in circulation." Weber added.

# Sloughhouse Levee Erosion **Prompts Emergency Declaration**

Continued from page 1 County Alert website or text "levee" to 77295.

Reclamation District 800 funds the maintenance and repair of 34 miles of privately owned levees through an assessment district that generates approximately \$500,000 annually.

800 increased its line of credit to finance more than \$6.5 million in emergency repairs

The district has received some federal and state help **Emergency Management** Agency) has yet to reimburse Reclamation District 800 for spending nearly \$5 million on the other repairs. As of the Jan. 16 meeting, Reclamation District 800 owed \$7 million to the Bank of Stockton. In 2024, State Sen. Roger Niello secured a \$500,000 state grant for the district but the funds are restricted to long-range planning and cannot be used for levee repairs.  $\star$ 

For statewide initiatives, the state attorney general prepares the legal title and summary required on petitions. Once finalized, this language is sent to both the proponent and the secretary of state, officially enabling the measure to proceed.

Announcing these approvals is standard

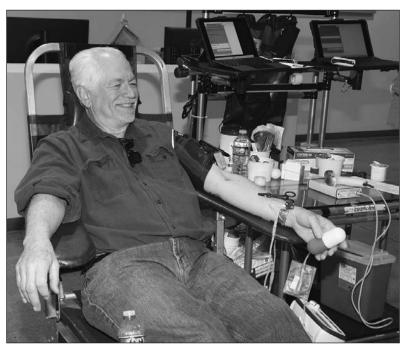
For more, see the Statewide Initiative Guide at elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/ ballot-measures/pdf/statewide-initiative-guide.pdf.

The January 2023 storms caused levee failures at three locations and extensive erosion throughout the district. Already in debt, Reclamation District in paying for the repairs. The National Resource Conservation District reimbursed the district for 75% of the \$2.5-million cost to fix two levees. and California Governor's Office of Emergency Services funded the district's 25% share. However, FEMA (Federal





# Vitalant Collects 52 Pints in RM Community Blood Drive





Vitalant, the local blood bank, collected 52 pints of blood during a community blood drive sponsored by the Rancho Murieta Women's Club at the Rancho Murieta Community Church on Jan. 27. On the left, Ron O'Connor cheerfully donates blood. On the right, the church's worship area is transformed into a blood donation center. Photos by Gail Bullen

# **RMA Board Responds to Evacuation Gate Emails**

### By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - After receiving a flurry of emails from residents about the automation of remote gates for evacuation use, the Rancho Murieta Association directors took a few minutes to address the issue at the Jan. 21 board meeting.

The directors also received an entertaining report on geese control and effectively approved a revised trail map proposed by developers. Additionally, the board bid farewell to Director Renee Bechthold, who is stepping down. (See separate stories in this issue for more details.)

Since 16 residents were concerned enough to send emails about automating remote gates, the board expected some to attend the meeting, as they had on Dec. 10. Although none of them showed up, General Manager Rod Hart and two board members acknowl-



Rancho Murieta Association General Manager Rod Hart confirmed receiving emails from residents concerned about automating remote gates for evacuation use. The issue was addressed at the Jan. 21 board meeting. Photos by Gail Bullen

chapter in a long-standing dispute between the association board and the Rancho Murieta Regional Fire Safe Council, led by its outspo-

of the community are their top priorities. They have warned that opening the emergency gates before a first responder's arrival could lead to chaos, mainly if a resident crashes while exiting onto the roadway. Prvor attended the Dec. 10 board meeting in a last-ditch effort to sway the board after two previous efforts facilitated by then-Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost, failed to gain traction. He read a two-page letter outlining why the Escuela Gate should be automated for evacuations. Two other Fire Safe Council members and three residents also voiced strong support for the proposal.

recommendation, the RMA Board does not respond to public comments except in limited circumstances.

An interesting wrinkle that emerged was Pryor's focus solely on automating the Escuela Gate when reading his letter. When River Valley Times asked him why the Bent Grass gates were not included, Pryor explained that the Fire Safe Council will seek assistance from the Rancho Murieta Community Services District for automating those gates, as they are located on district property. Following the December board meeting, a Fire Safe Council supporter posted Pryor's letter on social media, along with a plea urging residents to email the RMA Board before the January meeting.

Director Danny Carrillo suggests an alternative to automating the remote gates.

manager's report. He urged anyone with a concern about emergency evacuation to reach out to him. "It is important to note that we are doing something, and it is very important that we use due diligence in that process," he said. "My door is always open."

When asked about the emails afterward, Hart said residents submitted 15 emails and one letter. Two opposed automating the gates, while among the 14 supporters, several expressed concerns about being locked inside a gate while trying to escape a fire. Adams said the board would continue to research every aspect of gate automation such as their functionality and the authority to open the gates. "We take emergency preparedness very seriously," he said. "We'll continue to look into this, and, eventually the board will make a decision."

Childs and Tom Reimers so they can re-evaluate the information and bring it back to the board for discussion.

"As a clarification, we are moving forward and trying to reach a resolution," he said.

Director Dan Carrillo proposed an alternative evacuation option, reporting that he had conducted his own tests using a grinder and bolt cutters to cut through the chains securing the gates in less than a minute. He expressed confidence that enough community members have access to these tools and could quickly open the gates in an emergency. Carrillo has also heard other people say they would ram the gate if it were a matter of life or death. "I don't see the need at this point for the automated gates," he said. "I believe we have a lot of options." O'Hern said anything said that night would be considered by the entire board. "We will address that once we get clarification and an evaluation of what's going on," he said.

edged their concerns during a brief discussion.

Director Scott Adams stressed that the board takes emergency preparedness very seriously. He said the board would continue looking into gate automation and would eventually decide.

Board President Patrick O'Hern also announced he was referring the issue to the association's Perimeter Security Ad Hoc Committee so that group could re-evaluate the information and report back to the full board for a discussion. O'Hern also clarified that the board was moving forward and was trying to reach a resolution.

#### Background

The brief discussion marked the latest ken board president, retired firefighter Greg Pryor.

The Fire Safe Council has proposed automating Escuela Gate on the north and the Bent Grass Court gates on the south, allowing them to be opened alongside the two main gates during an evacuation. Under the council's proposal, the incident commander or their designee would use a cell phone to unlock the gates with a code stored at the interagency fire dispatch center.

The assocaition's position, as has been expressed by General Manager Rod Hart and O'Hern in 2024 meetings, is that the gates should only be opened once a fire responder is on the scene to direct traffic. Both have emphasized that the health and safety

However, since the six individuals spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting, the board did not respond, aside from one clarifying remark from Adams. As a general practice, following a state law

#### **Board Discussion**

Hart acknowledged the feedback during his general

Adams also noted that he had prepared more comments but was cutting them short because Pryor didn't attend the meeting.

O'Hern announced that he was referring the gate automation issue to the Perimeter Security Ad Hoc Committee, which is being chaired by Directors Chris

*This story will also be posted online at therivervalleytimes.com.* 

## **Governor Announces Appointments of Hoffman, Dunzweiler**

### Office of Gov. Newsom News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On Jan. 28, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced the following appointments:

Deborah Hoffman of Sacramento has been appointed chief deputy director at the Office of Tax Appeals. Hoffman has been special advisor at the California Department of Veterans Affairs since 2020, where she was previously senior advisor for Communications from 2019 to 2020. She was undersecretary of the California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing Agency from 2017 to 2019. Hoffman was deputy press secretary in the Office of Governor Brown from 2015 to 2017. She was assistant secretary of Public and Employee Communications at the California Department of Corrections from 2012 to 2015. Hoffman was deputy secretary of Communications and External Affairs at the California Environmental Protection Agency from 2011 to 2012. She was communications director and policy consultant in the Office of Senator Fran Pavley from 2009 to 2011. Hoffman was a reporter at KXTV ABC10 News Sacramento from 1995 to 2009. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism from California State University, Northridge.

This position does not require Senate confirmation, and the compensation is \$187,104. Hoffman is registered without party preference.

### Dunzweiler Named Chief Deputy General Counsel

Krista Dunzweiler of Sacramento has been appointed chief deputy general counsel in the Office of Legal Affairs at the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, where she has been chief deputy general counsel since 2019. Dunzweiler held several positions at the California Department of Justice from 2014 to 2019 including deputy attorney general IV and deputy attorney general III. She was an associate at Locke Lord LLP from 2011 to 2014, Bullivant Houser Bailey from 2008 to 2011, Diepenbrock Harrison from 2006 to 2008, and at Weinstraub Genshlea Chediak from 2004 to 2006.

Dunzweiler earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, and a Master of Arts degree in Communications and a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Psychology from the University of the Pacific.

This position does not require Senate confirmation, and the compensation is 229,236. Dunzweiler is a Democrat.



Former KXTV ABC 10 reporter Deborah Hoffman of Sacramento has been appointed chief deputy director at the Office of Tax Appeals by Gov. Gavin Newsom. Photo courtesy of CalVet.ca.gov

## **Bechthold Resigns from RMA Board**

### By Gail Bullen **River Valley Times Reporter**

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Rancho Murieta Association Director Renee Bechthold was fondly remembered for the joy she brought to the community following President Patrick O'Hern's announcement of her resignation at the board's Jan. 21 meeting.

O'Hern said he would miss her dearly. "She was a wonderful, wonderful director," he said. "Her heart was completely around the recreation. She loves the people out here."

Bechthold did not attend the meeting but later said that serving on the board had been an honor and a privilege. She particularly enjoyed her role as chair of the Recreation Committee.

"However, I am now facing health concerns that require my full attention, so with a heavy heart, I have stepped down from this position," she said. "I wish to thank everyone for their support during my tenure, especially my fellow board members."

The board appointed Bechthold as a director in November 2022 to fill the vacancy left by Joanne Brandt's resignation. She was elected a year later and served a total of two years.

Director Scott Adams said Bechtold dedicated significant time to recreation



As the RMA Recreation Committee chair, Bechthold oversees the association's Trick-or-Trunk event in Stonehouse Park in October.

activities, including reviving the baseball trips. "She was at every one of these events," he said.

Adams added that working with her on the board had been a privilege. "She was a great-hearted human being and ethical," he said. "I can't say enough things about Renee."

O'Hern said he will never forget Bechthold's demeanor when she requested funding for a recreational activity. She was quiet and easygoing when making the initial request, but when she received unanimous approval, she shouted, "Yes!"

"It was hilarious and a lot of fun to watch her," O'Hern said. "I wish her the best."

General Manager Rod Hart described Bechthold as a dedicated and amazing person, who paid great attention to detail. "Many of these events, I don't know that I have ever seen them run more smoothly," he said.

Hart also noted that he considered the Recreation Committee, which Bechthold chaired, to be one of the most important committees within the homeowners association. "What Renee has done and continues to do is bring joy to the membership," Hart said.

Bechtold moved to Rancho Murieta about 10 years ago and ran her insurance claims business from home. She quickly became involved in the Rancho Murieta



Renee Bechthold is resigning from her position as a Rancho Murieta Association Board director after two years of service due to health concerns. Photos by Gail Bullen

Women's Club, serving on the board for two years and frequently making phone calls for the group's blood drives.

Bechthold was an active member of the Optimists Club of Rancho Murieta for seven years. She also served as club president last year when the Optimists disbanded in February due to dwindling membership.

However, Bechtold ensured the club's signature event, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, continued. As chair of the Recreation Committee, she arranged for the association to take over hosting the beloved tradition, which had been cherished for 20 years.

This story is also online at www.therivervalleytimes.com.

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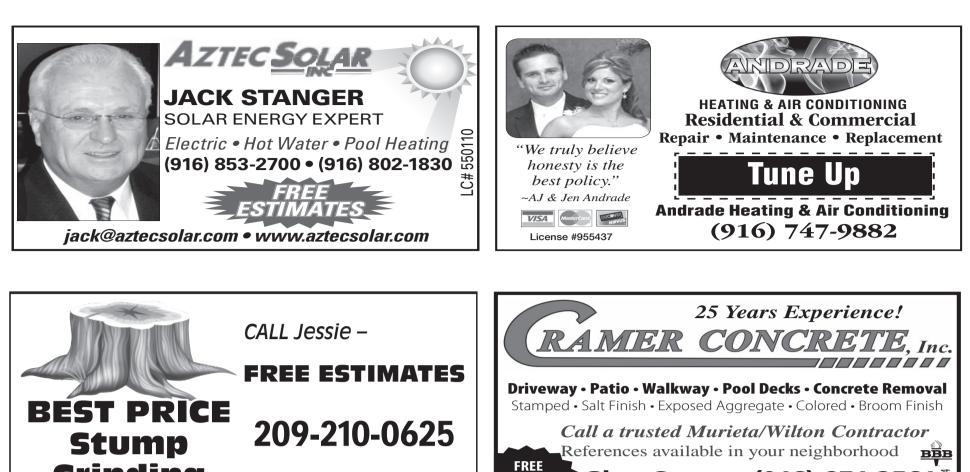
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## **2025 Black History Month Discussed**

### By Association for the Study of African American Life and History, asalh.org

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** -Black History Month is an annually observed monthlong celebration of African American life, history and culture.

Founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in February 1926, what was formerly known as Negro History Week became a monthlong celebration as a way to promote, research, preserve, interpret, and disseminate information about Black life, History, and culture to the global community.

The relevance of February goes back to 1926, when Dr. Woodson first established "Negro History Week" during the second week of February. And why that week? Because it encompasses the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, both men being great American symbols of freedom.

More importantly, Dr. Woodson chose them for reasons of tradition. Since Lincoln's assassination in 1865, the black community, along with other Republicans, had been celebrating the fallen President's birthday. And since the late 1890s, black communities across the country had been celebrating Douglass'. Well aware of the pre-existing celebrations, Woodson built Negro History Week around traditional days of commemorating the black past.

The 2025 Black History Month theme, African Americans and Labor, focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds, free and unfree, skilled, and unskilled, vocational and voluntary, intersect with the collective experiences of Black people.

Indeed, work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture. Be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor's role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black people's

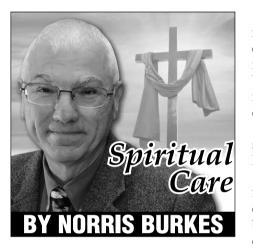


Black History Month was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in February 1926. Photo courtesy of asalh.org

work has been transformational throughout the U.S., Africa, and the Diaspora.

The 2025 Black History Month theme, "African Americans and Labor," sets out to highlight and celebrate the potent impact of this work.

## You Never Even Call Me By My Name



During my adolescent years, I rarely introduced myself with verbal clarity. My soft introductions were hard to hear and communicated more doubt than any kind of confident identity.

I'd try to tell people that my name was Norris, but they'd often respond with a one-word question. "What?"

If I repeated my introduction, my inquisitors only became more frustrated. "What? Did vou say Morris?"

Even if they heard "Norris," they might say, "Yes, but what's your first name?" The assumption was that Norris could only be a surname.

So, by the time I graduated from high school in 1975, I'd had enough of the confusion. I anticipated an opportunity to end it when I accepted a summer job Out in Northern New Mexico, the name experiment seemed harmless enough. After all, it was only a summer job. Since I was headed for Baylor University in Texas, I resolved to leave my AKA-Ed life in New Mexico's high desert.

Not so fast. I wouldn't be the only staff member from the camp headed for Baylor.

Imagine the surprise on the face of the freshman girl I escorted to the homecoming bonfire when we were greeted by two of my former New Mexico coworkers who called me "Ed."

In the weeks that followed, my old camp friends continually called me Ed, compounding the confusion among my new Baylor friends. My roommates were further puzzled when they brought in mail addressed to "Ed Burkes."

During my sophomore year, David Allen Coe's, "You Never Even Call Me by My Name," became a favorite song. By my senior year, I'd persuaded all of my friends to call me Norris once again – with only one exception.

That exception was the especially spirited blonde I'd met in that New Mexico camp named Becky. Through four years of college, my roommates teased me at every mail call. "Yoo-hoo, Ed!" they'd croon in a falsetto voice. "She wrote you another letter."



Mark your calendars for March 7 in the friendly confines of Golden One Arena, as it should be a night to remember. Yes, on that night when the San Antonio Spurs arrive, you'll have the opportunity to once again witness the fastest man in the NBA, and you guessed it, none other than former King DeAaron Fox.

Emotions are running high right now as arguably the best overall player in Sacramento Kings history leaves the Sactown family to join the San Antonio Spurs.

What do I think of that? Sad simply doesn't get it. There's a hole in my heart, but a gratitude for a player that turned back the clock when it comes to professionalism and fan involvement.

DeAaron has comported himself with a degree of elegance and grace seldom seen in professional athletes. I feel that Sacramento is not only losing an amazing athlete, but an amazing family as well. Make no mistake about it, the Foxes are a package, and they will steal your heart.

I fondly recall a moment earlier this season in which DeAaron took a hard fall at the edge of court where the baseline meets the sideline. He went head over heels, and as he rolled over to get up, who was there to assist but none other than his wife who was sitting on the front row with his son. It made me smile as DeAaron was helped to his feet by Recee, and then it was on with the game. DeAaron Fox really is.

Sunday Feb. 2 will be a day that most Kings fans will never forget, and as big a trade as the Luka Doncic for Anthony Davis was over the weekend, for those of us that love the Kings, it pales in comparison.

The nuts and bolts are that DeAaron Fox is going the San Antonio Spurs in a 3-team trade that also sends Jordan McLaughlin to the Spurs, and Keven Huerter to the Chicago Bulls.

What the Kings receive in return is 2-time all-star Zach Lavine who at age 29 is right in the heart of his prime. Zach was the longest tenured player on the Bulls squad, so like most Kings fans, Chicago is likely shedding tears. Lavine is scoring 24 points per game this season, which is just a hair below the scoring output of Fox.

Not to be ignored by any means in this blockbuster trade, are the 6 draft choices that come with the trade. The Kings receive 3 #1's and 3 #2's and it will be years before the Sacramento Kings and their fans are able to see the full completion of this trade.

Zach Lavine does not solve the missing component at the power forward position, but many believe that another move is coming prior to the trade deadline this week. Auspicious in all of this, is the remarkable 3-point shooting that Lavine brings with him. Currently shooting just over 44% ranks among the league leaders, and as Keven Huerter departs, leaving Sacramento as somewhat of a disappointment from beyond the arc, a 44% 3-point shooter is just what the doctor ordered. That combined with a field goal percentage of over 50% is notable for a guard in the NBA, so let's all take a deep breath, and a collective wait and see approach. Will I miss DeAaron Fox? Do I believe he is the #1 overall best first round pick in the history of the Sacramento Kings? 1 say heartily, YES!

at a church conference center outside Santa Fe, New Mexico.

A few weeks later, I entered the grounds ready for a change. The first person I met introduced himself and I responded with the first syllable of my middle name, "Ed." I was not only using my middle name, but I'd adopted the abbreviated version.

I still remember his reply – "What? Did you say Fred?"

It was quickly apparent that my lack of confidence was still causing me to mumble my name. "Ed" rolled off my tongue with no more clarity than did "Norris."

By the end of the summer, I'd already received a lot of grief from my mother who constantly reminded me that she wouldn't have named me Norris if she had intended for me to go by Ed. I returned to Norris. It took a lot of persuasion to get this girl to call me Norris. She preferred the name Ed and it seemed as though she'd never concede. However, at our wedding in 1980, she finally made a pledge to forever call me Norris.

"Norris," she said, "I take thee to be my wedded husband. To have and to hold, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part."

Happy 45th anniversary, sweetheart. You've always known who I am, even though I often lack a clue. Your love changes me because it honors the best in me.

It is a love for the person God created me to be, not what I should, could or would have been. And in that love, I find the most cherished reminder of the love of God.

And that is something Ed and Norris will cherish forever.  $\star$ 

I will miss watching his young son clapping gleefully, and DeAaron streaking to the hoop and scoring baskets that would be beyond the capability of most NBA players.

I won't forget his record setting 60-point performance against the Minnesota Timberwolves, albeit in an overtime loss, but it took nothing away from the highest scoring single game total in franchise history.

I can't help but smile and nod my head when I remember DeAaron taking several minutes to talk with my grandson and sign his treasured DeAaron Fox rookie card prior to a game last season. The photos of that moment along with the card itself will be something my grandson will never forget, and it simply is who

Godspeed DeAaron Fox and may you and your family thrive in San Antonio! You will be missed!

Your thoughts are always welcome an vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com.



# A New Chapter for District 4

### **By District 4** Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez

It's official: I am now your Sacramento County District 4 Supervisor! Words can hardly express how honored and grateful I feel to have the opportunity to serve our community. When I decided to run for supervisor, I didn't begin by reaching out to super-PACs or big donors. Instead, I focused on connecting with real people throughout District 4. I visited neighborhoods, schools, businesses and community events to listen directly to your challenges, hopes and priorities. These conversations shaped my campaign and will continue to guide me in office. To me, representation means amplifying the voices of the people, and that starts with truly listening.

As I step into this role, I want to share my top five immediate priorities for District 4: priorities rooted in the values and concerns you've shared with me.

Addressing 1. Homelessness with Real **Solutions:** Homelessness has touched nearly every corner of our district, from businesses to schools and neighborhoods. The current situation is unacceptable. We need a comprehensive approach that not only addresses the immediate effects on our community but also provides meaningful services to help individuals break free from the cycle of homelessness. This includes funding programs that target root causes like substance abuse and mental health issues, expanding access to supportive housing; and partnering with nonprofits,



County Sacramento Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez. Photo courtesy of Rosario Rodriguez

faith-based organizations and local governments to create innovative solutions. The time for empty promises is over; it's time to take action.

2. Fighting Crime and Keeping Our Communities Safe: Public safety is essential to any thriving community. As your supervisor, I will focus on fighting crime and ensuring our neighborhoods are safe places to live, work and raise families. I will support our district attorney and sheriff in cracking down on crime and holding offenders accountable, while also advocating for programs that build trust between law enforcement and the community. Collaboration is key to creating safer neighborhoods for everyone.

3. Improving Roads and Transportation: If you've driven through District 4, you know how desperately our roads and highways need attention. From potholes to gridlock, our transportation infrastructure has been neglected for far too long. I'll prioritize securing funding to repair and improve our roads and advocate for major projects like completing the Capitol

Connector to ease congestion along Highway 50. These improvements will enhance daily life for residents and attract businesses and investors to our region.

4. Supporting Local **Businesses and Job** Creation: Thriving businesses are the backbone of thriving communities. I'm committed to making it easier for businesses in our district to succeed by cutting red tape, streamlining regulations and providing the support they need to grow and create jobs. Whether it's a small, family-run business or a larger enterprise, my goal is to foster an environment where entrepreneurs can thrive, employees feel valued and opportunities are abundant.

5. Engaging with the Community: I believe government works best when it is transparent, accountable and inclusive. That's why I'm committed to staying connected with you through newsletters, community meetings and surveys. Your input will shape our decisions and ensure we're addressing the issues that matter most. We'll continue the tradition of quarterly community meetings, with updates to encourage participation and collaboration. Additionally, we're forming citizen advisory committees to focus on pressing issues like homelessness, public safety and transportation. If you're interested, please join us; we want your voice at the table.

Reach Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez at at 916-874-5491 or SupervisorRodriguez@ saccounty.gov.

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