

PAGE 5

Kiwanis Slates Easter Egg Hunt on April 19

PAGE 2



41ST YEAR • ISSUE 7

Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughhouse, Wilton

APRIL 11, 2025

CSD TACKLES WATER ISSUES



PAGE 8

ROOTING UNTIL THEY TURN THE LIGHTS OUT



PAGE 14

IS IT EVER TOO LATE TO TALK TO GOD?



PAGE 9



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

Planners OK Massive Solar Facility



Consultants Michelle Smira and Jim Gillum refer to a large map as they advocate for the Coyote Creek Agrivoltaic Ranch project at the March 26 meeting of the Cosumnes Community Planning Advisory Council.

Story and photos by Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- Despite strong objections from environmentalists and the Wilton Rancheria, and acknowledging some of their own concerns, the Cosumnes Community Planning Advisory Council (CCPAC) voted 5 to 2 on March 26 to recommend the construction of a massive solar facility north of Rancho Murieta. The vote took place during a meeting at the Wilton Community Center.

Work on the Coyote Creek Agrivoltaic Ranch, located on the historic Barton Ranch along Scott Road, is expected to begin in about a year and take 18

months to build.

The proposed solar facility will span 2,700 acres of pastureland on both sides of Scott Road, an area comparable in scale to the Sacramento International Airport property. Approximately 1,412 acres will be developed to support the project. It will include a 200-megawatt solar array capable of powering up to 40,000 homes and a 100-megawatt battery storage system designed to deliver electricity for up to four hours. The project applicants plan to integrate seasonal grazing around the solar arrays, use strategic landscaping to help screen the panels from view and establish a permanent conservation corridor. All electricity generated

will be supplied to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

The applicants are Barton Ranch LLC, which will retain ownership of the property, and Sacramento Valley Energy Center, a subsidiary of D.E. Shaw Renewable Investments based in New York City. D.E. Shaw is also developing a smaller solar facility on Dillard Road near Wilton, where work is currently underway. It previously developed and now operates the solar facility at Rancho Seco.

The CCPAC first reviewed the project on Feb. 2, 2022. While council members and attendees raised some questions, the project encountered little significant opposition

during that initial presentation.

The Sacramento County Office of Planning and Environmental Review brought the project back to the Cosumnes Community Planning Advisory Council on March 26 following the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report. The public review period began on Feb. 28 and will close on April 18. At the March 26 meeting, planners requested that the Cosumnes Community Planning Advisory Council vote on whether to recommend approval of the project, which the counan informational basis on cil did. The County Planning Commission is scheduled to hold an informational meeting on April 14 to gather additional

Continued on page 6

VFW Remembers Vietnam Vets at Gazebo Ceremony



The local observance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day unfolds at the gazebo on March 29. The Rancho Murieta Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars presented the event. Photo by Gail Bullen

Story and photos by Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Murieta Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) hosted a local National Vietnam War Veterans Day observance at the community

gazebo on March 29. Congress designated the day in 2017 to honor Vietnam veterans and their families, offering a moment of

national gratitude for their service and sacrifice. VFW Post Senior Commander Ted Ryon emceed the brief but solemn program, which included a history

of the military working dog program

in Vietnam, a remembrance of individual service members killed in the war, and recognition of four post members who died in the past year. The ceremony also featured two patriotic bugle performances, a flag presentation, prayers, and moments of reflection.

The most emotional moment came from Senior Vice Commander Bill McCarver.

McCarver began his presentation by asking the Vietnam veterans in the audience to raise their hands, which they did. "I salute you and welcome you home," he said. "I'd also like to honor the 58,318 brothers and sisters who did not make it home and are listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall."

With tears in his eyes, McCarver then paid tribute to other veterans of the war that didn't make it home. He served as a Sentry dog handler with the 35th Security Police Squadron at Phan Rang Air Base in 1967 and 1968 and was present during the Tet Offensive.

McCarver explained that the Sentry Dog Teams served as the first line of defense around the base to prevent ground attacks by the Viet Cong. "We had 26 miles of perimeter and 69 dog teams that worked from dusk till dawn," he said. "Our motto was 'We walk alone,' and our dogs were known as the 'Angels of

Continued on page 3

Rift in Leadership **Continues** at CSD



By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- Two new developments have emerged in the ongoing rift between the general manager and the board president of the Rancho Murieta Community Services District. Still, they seem to cancel each other out in resolving the conflict.

General Manager Mimi Morris, on paid leave since Jan. 6, returned to work on March 24. However, on the same day, Board President Steve Booth notified the district that he would be unable to attend any committee or board meetings for the time being.

Attorney Katherine Read of the law firm Richards, Watson & Gershon confirmed both developments in an April 4 email.

Read is handling both an internal grievance that Morris has filed against Booth and a government claim she has brought against the district. While her claim primarily concerns Booth, it also names Directors John Merchant and Linda Butler, as well as District Counsel Patrick Enright, as district employees responsible for causing harm. However, it does not name Directors Randy Jenco or Tim Maybee.

Morris has alleged that Booth discriminated against her, a claim he has adamantly denied. Read also confirmed that the investigation into Morris' grievance is ongoing.

When the River Valley Times contacted Morris on April 4, she confirmed she had returned to work on March 24 and expressed surprise that the matter wasn't mentioned at the March 19 Board meeting. When asked if she had any thoughts about returning, Morris said she had none to share.

The River Valley Times also contacted Booth for comment, asking him to explain his decision and what needs to happen for him to return. Booth responded by email on April 4:

"I plan to be in attendance for the April 16 Board meeting," he said. "Beyond that, I think it best if I do not comment."

The rift between Morris

Continued on page 9

TheRiverValleyTimes.com

2 • River Valley Times

Kiwanis Slates Easter Egg Hunt on April 19

By Bronwyn Anthony

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta will present its annual Easter egg hunt and no-host family picnic on Saturday April 19, at Stonehouse Park from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will happen, rain or shine.

Children, their families, and guests are invited to join the Easter egg hunt, featuring more than 4,500 plastic eggs filled with stickers and candy. In addition to the free egg hunt, kids can enjoy a variety of activities, including a petting zoo, Easter crafts, cookie decorating and glitter tattoos. Popcorn, juice and water also will be available for

a family-friendly price. Parents may purchase activity and refreshment tickets using cash or credit cards.

The Easter Bunny will also be on hand for photo opportunities. The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District will display their trucks and equipment, unless they're called away for an emergency, and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department will host an information table.

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the soft-ball field outfield and will be divided by age groups, with the following starting times: 11:20 a.m. for ages 2-4 egg hunt with stickers, 11:40 a.m. for ages 5-7 egg hunt with candy and 12:00 p.m. for ages 8-10 egg hunt

with candy.

The event will conclude with a special performance by the Murieta Dance Company at 12:30 p.m.

The Kiwanis Club thanks the Girl Scouts, the Cosumnes River Elementary K-Kids and the Rancho Murieta Key Club for stuffing the plastic eggs, the Rancho Murieta Key Club for helping with the various activities and refreshment sales, and Scout Troop 633 for helping to set up and tear down the event.

The Kiwanis Club also thanks the Rancho Murieta Association for their invaluable help in making our Easter egg hunt a joyous time for our Rancho Murieta families. Hope to see you there



Youngsters line up to greet the Easter Bunny at the 2024 Easter egg hunt. Photo by Gail Bullen

Please contact Bronwyn Anthony at 916-384-6444 for more information. Bronwyn Anthony, a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta,

is one of the organizers of this cherished annual event. ★







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.

0363-25 ® A trademark/service mark of Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Reg. U.S. Pat. & Tm. Off.

Karen is a Presidential Award Holder with the Masters Club of the Sacramento Association of Realtors for over 39 years.

This is the most prestigious award given.

Thank you to all of our clients in 2025 for another successful year.

BRE #00670687



Rancho Murieta's Top Realtor for 45 Years and counting.

*Source: MLS for residential, Not including "Residential Income"

Karen Hoberg, Broker/Owner (916) 947-6910

rmhl.acceleragent.net • 7281 Lone Pine Drive, Suite D102, Rancho Murieta, CA, 95683



VFW Remembers Vietnam Vets at Gazebo Ceremony

Continued from page 1 the Night."

McCarver said approximately 5,000 dogs were deployed to Vietnam, with 10,000 handlers assigned to them. During the war, 239 handlers and 232 canines were killed in action, including three teams at his base.

He added that it has been reported that the canine teams saved more than 10,000 lives during the war. "That's in addition to saving their own handlers, and I can attest to that," McCarver said.

At the war's end, about 200 military canines were reassigned to bases outside the United States. "The remaining 4,800 were euthanized and never left Vietnam," McCarver said.

He added that the fate of those dogs continues to haunt their former handlers. "I would like to honor my sentry dog, Duke, Tattoo Number 0828, who ensured that I was able to return home," he said. "I miss you, buddy. Thanks for taking care of me."

Another heartfelt remembrance came from VFW member Dan Pennington. He grew up in a sparsely populated county in the Appalachian Mountains, where coal mining was the way of life. One by one, he paid tribute to the nine young men he grew up with who died in the war.

Later in the program, Ryon recognized four members of the post who had died in the past year: Jerome Hoberg, Dan Klaff, Ronald Squire, and Walter Dunajski.

Reflecting on the formation of the Rancho Murieta post two and a



The photo shows Bill McCarver handling his dog Duke in Vietnam. Courtesy photo

half years ago, Ryon said it never would have happened without the help of Dr. Richard Weiss, a Rancho Murieta resident who introduced him to the state VFW commander and adjutant.

Ryon thanked VFW Post member Jay Soloman for organizing the event and the VFW Auxiliary for providing refreshments.

He also acknowledged the Blue Star Memorial By-Way in front of the gazebo. Spearheaded by Debbie Kolmodin and Nancy Compton, the River Valley Garden Club erected the memorial to honor the Armed Forces of America.

In another event happenings, Scout Troop 633 presented the colors, with Scout Master Jason Dodson and Scouts Alexander Hoberg, Zachary Holmes, and Tristan Lace participating.

Audience member Marilyn Haugen also commended the care the



Dan Pennington pays tribute to nine soldiers from his Appalachian Mountain community who died in the war.

Veterans Administration provided to her husband, Capt. David Haugen, a flight surgeon who was exposed to Agent Orange in the war.

VFW Chaplain Jerry Robison offered brief prayers at the beginning and end of the ceremony, assuring that they would never forget the fallen

Tai Wieler, a jazz education major at Sacramento State, played his bugle to provide patriotic music for the ceremony. He began with the "National Anthem" early in the program and concluded with a solemn rendition of "Taps," performed from a distance as the final tribute.

See additional photos at therivervalleytimes.com. ★



Bill McCarver fights tears as he explains the history of the military working dog program in Vietnam. When the war ended, the military euthanized 4,800 of the 5,000 dogs.



A distant bugler plays "Taps" to conclude the ceremony. Tai

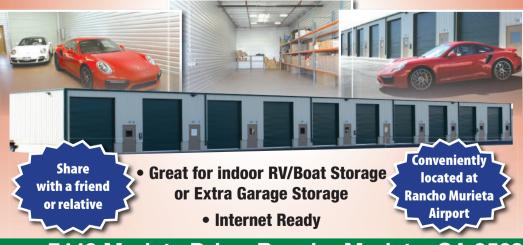


Debbie Kolmodin maintains the Blue Star Memorial By-Way outside the gazebo. The River Valley Garden Club erected it to honor the Armed Forces of America.



FEATURING

- Epoxy floors available
- 200 amp 3 phase power
- Roll up and man door
- Pre plumbed
- for bathrooms
- LED lighting
- Insulated
- Fire sprinklers



Rancho Murieta RV & BOAT STORAGE • SELF STORAGE



Bidwell

Latrobe

16



SIZE (WXL) PRICE (\$/mo) 8 x 8:\$127.00 8 x 10:.....**\$143.00** 8 x 20:.....**\$212.00** 8 x 40:....**\$287.00 RV & BOAT PRICING**

SIZE (WXL)... **PRICE** (\$/mo) 11 x 20: \$150.00

16

12 x 50:....**\$200.00** Office Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm

(Gate Hours 6am-7pm Daily) 24 Hour Video Surveillance • 50' Wide Drive Aisles **Dump Station • Propane Sales**

7443 Murieta Drive, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683 • Visit us at www.rmairport.com

• SERVICE • RENTALS • BATTERIES

GIPSON GOLF CARTS AUTHORIZED DEALER

NEW LOCATION

7000 Alameda Dr. Rancho Murieta, CA 95683 (over the hill at the driving range)

Zack Bowden (916) 806-0920 zackbowden@ gipsongolfcarts.com

www.gipsongolfcarts.com

Propane Avallable at Rancho Murieta Airport



Propane Tanks Refilled Here



only \$3.65 per gallon

4 • River Valley Times APRIL 11, **2025**



MEMORIAL

BRIGADIER GENERAL JEROME NIKOLAI HOBERG • 05/02/1928 - 03/17/2025

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the passing of General Jerome Nikolai Hoberg on March 17, 2025. A remarkable man with a distinguished career, he served as an officer and a decorated pilot in the United States Air Force and in the California Air National Guard. Jerome was also an esteemed architectural designer and builder. His legacy of creativity, integrity and generosity will be deeply remembered

and honored. While Jerome was in high school, one of his art teachers was the renowned Orre Nobles. Mr. Nobles offered to sponsor Jerome to attend a famous art school in Paris upon graduating from high school. From an early age, it was evident that Jerome had exceptional talent. However, another opportunity presented itself and Jerome chose to serve his country.

At the end of World War II, the U.S. military introduced a college equivalency test, allowing individuals to enter officer training without a fouryear degree. Jerome was the only high school graduate in Washington State to pass this test. He was immediately sent to flight school and became a pilot in the U.S. Air Force. Jerome was stationed in Ashiya, Japan, during the Korean War, flying medical evacuation and transport missions. While there, he taught himself to read, write, and speak Japanese.

After his active duty service, Captain Hoberg returned home to Seattle, Washington

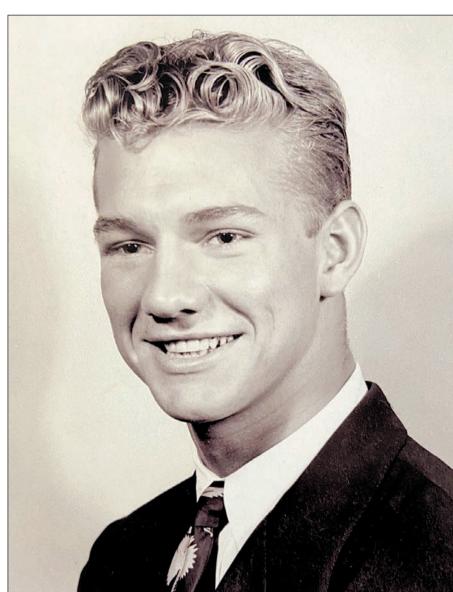
and met the girl of his dreams, Marian Yosie. Jerome decided to pursue his education and moved to Los Angeles to study architecture at USC. Marian joined him in Los Angeles and they were married on June 3, 1955. While living in Southern California Jerome and Marian welcomed first a daughter named Karen Myreka and then a few years later a son named Jerome Nikolai II.

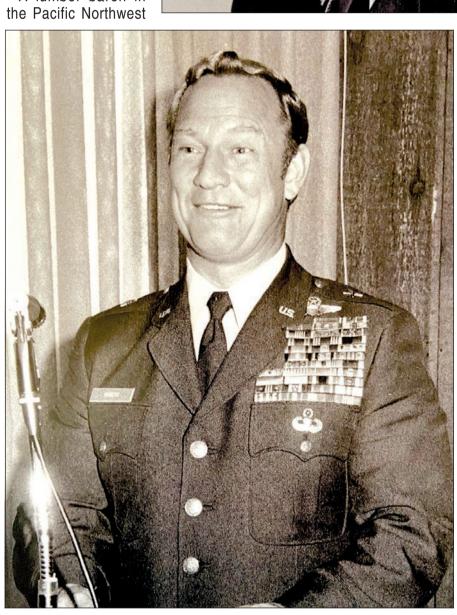
During Jerome's senior year at USC, a professor and developer asked him to design home plans, compensating him with a lot in Bel Air. Jerome and his wife, Marian, borrowed money from family and friends to design and build a unique mid-century modern home. Elizabeth Taylor's parents admired his work and commissioned him to design a custom home for them in Bel Air. With the proceeds from the sale, the Hobergs purchased another lot where Jerome designed and built a home for his

family. In 1961, Major Hoberg was reactivated by the Pentagon to support operations during the Bay of Pigs Invasion and the Cuban Missile Crisis. A highly decorated pilot, he frequently flew esteemed figures, including Bob Hope, Lana Turner, Janis Page and Jerry Colonna, during USO tours. In 1969 Colonel Hoberg transitioned from Active Duty to serving full time for the California Air National Guard continuing his service as a pilot. This career change relocated

Sacramento, California where their third child, Jahn Erik Hoberg was born. During this time Colonel Hoberg served as one of Governor Reagan's military advisors and pilots. In 1978, at the age of 50, Hoberg attained the rank of Brigadier General in the Air Force. Although Governor Reagan wanted to appoint General Hoberg to return to Washington D.C. as the Inspector General for all Air Guard Units nationwide, the General chose not to accept the position. Hoberg had already designed and built custom homes in Oregon and California and he wanted to retire from the military to refocus his career on his true passion, architectural design and development.

A lumber baron in







contracted Jerome in 1974 to design and build an exceptional home that incorporated rare Curly Redwood and other unique lumber. This house, located in Eugene Oregon was later donated to the University of Oregon School of Architecture. This house stands as one of the centerpieces for the University's architecture program.

In 1979 Jerome working began full-time as an architectural designer, builder, and developer. Hoberg, his wife and three children moved to the emerging community of Rancho Murieta, embracing its growth and potential. Collaborating with developer Ray Henderson, Jerome designed homes that

seamlessly combined

aesthetics and functionality. Among his many projects, he built Rancho Murieta's most spectacular home, Midori Yama "Green Mountain"; at 14913 Guadalupe Drive. This Zen-like retreat features custom teak furniture and an indoor rock waterfall, reflecting his love for Asian art and architecture. Inspired by his travels to Asia during military service and subsequent family and business trips, Jerome commissioned craftsmen to hand-carve the home's furniture and cabinetry. His family accompanied him on many of these trips, fostering a deep appreciation for the beauty, culture, and people of Asia.

tom homes in Rancho

Murieta leaving an

Hoberg designed and built over 300 cus-

indelible mark on the community. Drawing from his innate talent and extensive knowledge in architectural and landscape design, gained from years of study at USC and abroad, he shaped the community's character through stunning landscaping and beautifully crafted homes.

Beyond residential designs, Hoberg played a pivotal role in Rancho Murieta's development. In 1984, he was the developer, commerciai designer, landscape architect, and builder of the Plaza Shopping Center. This was a major milestone in the community's growth. His vision and contributions continue to inspire and influence generations.

Later in life, Jerome transitioned to partial retirement. He loved to travel, especially to warm, sunny destinations where he could enjoy the seashore. His family fondly remembers his love for relaxing on the beach and perfecting his tan. A man of refined taste, Jerome had a deep appreciation for fine art, gourmet cuisine, exotic cars, and mankind with their unique experiences. With his bright eyes, kind heart and big smile, Jerry had a special gift for making people feel loved and valued.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 69 years, Marian. He is lovingly remembered by his daughter, Karen Myreka; his sons, Jerome Nikolai II and Jahn Erik; and his cherished grandchildren, Nikole Emiko, John Kiyoshi, Elsa Kate, and Alexander Nikolai. His legacy lives on through his family, who continue to honor his memory.

RMA Discusses Mysterious Devices, Approves Purchases

Story and photo by Gail Bullen **River Valley Times** Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- Advance communication at its worst and best took center stage at the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on March 18.

The most glaring example of miscommunication came from an unnamed contractor conducting a traffic study who, without notifying anyone, attached seven devices to street signs throughout the North, prompting considerable alarm on social media.

In contrast, the best example of clear communication came from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, which informed the association about upcoming soil sampling in preparation for underground cable replacement later this year.

In other business, the board approved several purchases, including a new pontoon boat for Laguna Joaquin, shade covers for the two dog parks and the spray park, a new fiber ground cover for two playgrounds, a computer upgrade, and a fireworks contract. The board also approved two rule changes, one of which significantly increased the fines for egregious interference with compliance officers. A resident also complained about traffic issues on De La Cruz Drive.

Communication **Board President Patrick** O'Hern reported that he and General Manager Rod Hart began investigating the appearance of mysterious devices throughout the community around 8:30 that morning. Hart said he had a good idea of what the devices were and reached out to the developers. Tony Velez, chief financial officer for Rancho Murieta Properties, initially told him that a contractor had placed traffic counters on Stonehouse Road but wasn't aware of any inside the gates. Shortly after, Velez called Hart back to confirm that the devices were indeed placed by their contractor, adding that he hadn't been notified either.

When Hart asked how the contractors gained access, Velez told him they went to the gate, explained their purpose and were issued a vendor's pass. Hart said the equipment would be removed the fol-

lowing day. "We are as discouraged as everybody else about the fact they were in here without us knowing what they were about."

Audience member



Board President Patrick O'Hern displays a photo of a leaking pontoon boat to explain the need for a new one. The board authorized the purchase at its March 18 meeting.

Tom Shewchuk asked whether the incident reflected a communication gap between RMA and the Rancho Murieta Community Services District. Director Scott Adams responded that he didn't view it as a gap between the two agencies, though there may have been an issue at the gate.

"That's something we will have to figure out with CSD to make sure it doesn't happen again," he

On a more positive note, Hart shared that SMUD told him it will conduct soil sampling in preparation for the "much-needed" replacement of underground cables later this

"I just want the community to know that you'll see some contractors doing small potholes so they can understand the soil conditions at those locations," he said.

Hart said SMUD has not yet provided a schedule, but he expects the work to begin in late spring or early summer. The project will start on Murieta Parkway, beginning near the RMA administrative building and ending just short of De La Cruz. Additional work is planned for a large section of Puerto Drive and Venado Drives. Hart noted that most of the work will take place along the shoulders of the roads, although some vaults providing access points may be located within the roadway.

"We are as discouraged as everybody else about the fact they were in here without us knowing what they were about."

-Tony Velez, Rancho Murieta Properties

Hart and Maintenance Manager Troy Schaffner will inspect the roads once the work is completed.

"SMUD has been really good at communicating with us, and their contractor is Lund Construction. which has done a fantastic job with the finish work at the end," he said. He added that the SMUD schedule will be posted on the RMA website as soon as it is

Purchases

Although the board effectively approved spending \$31,000 for new shade structures at the North and South dog parks and the spray park in Riverview Park, the funding isn't from RMA's operating budget. Instead, it will come from the Parks Fund, which is supported by developer fees and overseen by the Parks Committee, which is composed of two representatives from RMA,

two from the development community and one from CSD. The board voted 6-0 to update the parks matrix to include the shade structures and to authorize the two RMA representatives to vote in favor of the expenditure. At Hart's request, the CSD board approved the same actions at its meeting the following night.

The board also approved two expenditures for the Maintenance Department. The first was the purchase of a new pontoon boat for \$12,599 due to the structural deterioration of the existing boat, which was in such poor condition it couldn't even be sold for salvage. RMA staff use the pontoon boat on Laguna Joaquin to maintain the pumps and fountains and to apply dye and algaeci-

The board also authorized spending \$5,600 on new playground fiber at Stonehouse and Clementia Parks. O'Hern, who chairs the Maintenance Committee, noted that the selected company will provide a truck to "blow the fiber in, which will save maintenance a significant amount of time."

Funding for both the boat and the playground fiber will come from

Director John Van Doren, who chairs the Finance Committee, motioned to approve spending reserve funds of up to \$20,688 to upgrade all RMA workstations to meet Windows 11 requirements. The upgrade will require replacing some of the older computers. The motion passed unanimously.

Director John Haviland also received unanimous approval for a \$22,000 contract with Pyro Spectaculars for the July Fourth fireworks show. The board discussed the situation last summer when a subcontractor for the company failed to show up due to a heat wave.

"Our maintenance guys actually saved us on that one," Hart said.

Hart explained that he insisted on a partial refund from Pyro Spectaculars, even though the company had requested to apply it as a credit toward this year's contract.

Rules

The board unanimously approved changes to two rules and referred another to the Governing Documents Committee, chaired by Director Adams.

The primary rule discussed prohibits residents, guests and vendors from interfering with RMA and Rancho Murieta Community Services District employees. While the fines for verbal abuse remained unchanged, the penalties for assaulting or intimidating employees increased to \$1,000 for the first offense, \$1,500 for the second and \$2,000 for subsequent violations. Adams noted that the board

received three public comments on the rule during the community review period. Although one resident opposed it, Adams said he didn't see a need for revisions. The board approved the rule change with a 6-0 vote.

The board also approved a procedural change to the sign standards rule to bring it into compliance with State Department of Real Estate requirements. This change had also gone through a community review.

Additionally, the board approved a request from Director Tom Reimers, who chairs the Compliance Committee, to amend the gate policy. Reimers proposed adding a provision requiring residents to make notifications when they change license plates so the information matches their barcodes. The committee also recommended using different barcode colors for various types of users. The board voted to refer the proposal to the Governing Documents Committee for further review.

Other Business

Director Danny Carrillo reported that the Communications Committee is continuing its efforts to improve the official RMA website. Audience member Tom Shewchuk acknowledged the committee's good work but noted that its focus is limited to RMA. He suggested adopting a more comprehensive, community-wide approach that includes the broader Rancho Murieta community.

Audience member Darci Jurschak also raised concerns about traffic issues on De La Cruz Drive, particularly at the intersection with La Pena.

"Since we've been here since the first of November, we've noticed an exorbitant number of golf carts and cars running that stop sign," she said. "The golf carts actually are going faster than most of the cars." She also reported problems with the lack of landscape maintenance in the Residences subdivision

Although the board typically does not respond to audience comments, O'Hern assured Jurschak that the two staff members responsible for architectural and compliance matters were present and had noted her

just down the street.

concerns. The RMA Board's next meeting will be at 6:30

p.m. April 22. This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com ★

MEMORIAL

JANICE ANN MARSAC • 10/20/1943 - 03/18/2025

Janice Ann Marsac, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and friend, passed away peacefully with family at her side on March 18, 2025, at the age of 81 in Rancho Murieta. CA. She was born on October 20,1943

James and Charlotte Grippi. Jan has joined her loving husband Albert Marsac and other loved ones who have passed before

Jan was a long time Rancho Murieta resident and community

YOU KNOV

E GU

Insurance Companies Know

Them Because They Have

Paid Them Over

\$130 Million Dollars

in San Mateo, CA to volunteer. She loved golf and her weekly poker games. Known for her positive personality, warmth, kindness, strength and an occasional witty comment; Jan leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter, she will be

dearly missed by all.



Glenn Guenard & Ross Bozarth

are dedicated to the victims of accidents. We help with serious injuries that require serious representation. We are the Law Offices Of Guenard & Bozarth.

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

WE CAN HELP!

The Law Offices of Guenard & Bozarth represent injured people. Our Office is located at 8830 Elk Grove Blvd. in the heart of Elk Grove.

MEMORIAL

RUTH ELLEN DRAGASH • 05/22/1945-03/04/2025

Ruth Ellen Dragash, aged 79 of Rancho Murieta, California, passed away on March

Ruth was born in Sacramento, California, on May 22, 1945, to Dorothy and William Morgan. Ruth is survived by her high school sweetheart, Mike Dragash, to whom she was married

over 60 years, and their two sons, Michael Dragash Jr. and Matthew Dragash, as well as many beloved relatives and friends.

Ruth was a loving mother, devoted spouse and cherished friend. She lived her life to the fullest with her husband, enjoying many travels, whitewater rafting, golf trips and various social activities.

Ruth was an avid golfer, having played in many competitive



tournaments through-Northern California, and also had two holes-in-one. Later in life, she also fell in love with quilting and put her passion into creating many beautiful quilts. Ruth loved spend-

ing time with her dear friends, whether it be on the golf course, in a restaurant, playing

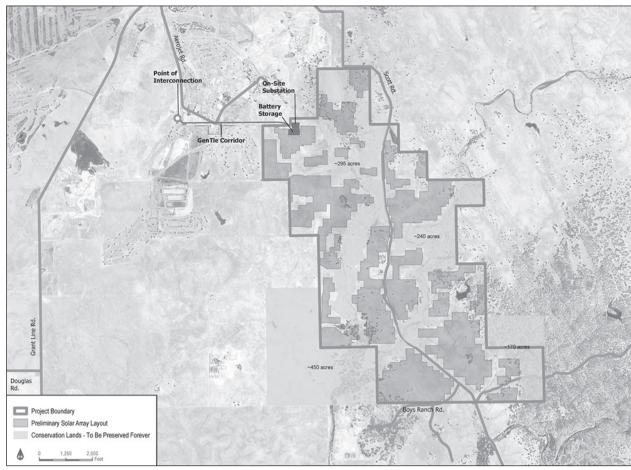
Mahjong and Mexican Train or just hanging out.

Ruth's kindness, wisdom, humor, and unwavering love for family and friends will be remembered and cherished deeply. Her ability to listen as a friend and her generositv when it came to helping others was unmatched. She will be deeply missed by all she knew.

A celebration of Ruth will be announced in the months to come.

6 • River Valley Times APRIL 11, **2025**

Planners OK Massive Solar Facility



The project map shows the location of the solar utilities and the dedicated conservation corridors.

Continued from page 1 public comments.

After the comment period ends, county staff will prepare the Final Environmental Impact Report, complete a staff report, and return it to the Planning Commission for a formal recommendation. According to lead planner Kimber Gutierrez, the final decision will rest with the Board of Supervisors. She and the applicant anticipate that public hearings will be held in the fall or winter, with construction potentially beginning in the spring of 2026.

Applicants

After the county planner outlined the project and the request for entitlements, two consultants representing D.E. Shaw, Jim Gillum and Michelle Smira, provided additional details. They said the project would remove carbon from the atmosphere, which is equivalent to taking 80,000 cars off the road, allow grazing activities to continue and keep the land under the Williamson Act. They also noted that trees removed for the project would be replaced one-toone, and more than 1,000 acres would be permanently preserved. Smira added that conservation easements established through the project would make extending the boundary of urban services for future development more difficult.

One of the ranch owners, Herb Garmes, said the project would help ensure the family can continue its ranching operations. "Our goal since the 1890s has been to perpetuate grazing and ranching," he said. That's what we are good at, and that is what we intend to keep doing."

Environmentalists

Five audience members opposed the project, arguing that its environmental costs outweighed the benefits of renewable energy. They cited the expected loss of 4,500 of blue oaks, the removal of 45 acres of woodland canopy, disruption of rare habitat, safety hazards for wildlife, potential impacts on groundwater and the transformation of scenic rolling hills into an industrial landscape.

The most critical comment came from David Wright, who spent eight years reviewing projects with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. While emphasizing his support for solar energy, Wright said, "This is probably the most landscaping-wrecking project I have ever seen."

Wilton Rancheria

Michelle St. Clair, executive director of cultural preservation for the Wilton Rancheria, said the project's footprint falls within a historically and spiritually significant landscape for the tribe. "Once destroyed, these cultural resources, our connections to ancestors, ceremony, and place cannot be reconstructed, relocated, or replaced," she

St. Clair also accused the county of having "unilaterally closed consultation" with the tribe. Smira said the applicants were eager to collaborate with the tribe to address their concerns.

CCPAC Comments Some Cosumnes

Community Planning **Advisory Council members** focused their comments on Scott Road's designation as a scenic corridor, with Board President Dan Reid and Councilmembers Fred Hegge and John Merchant raising concerns about the county's ability to enforce protections consistently. Merchant pointed out that the current "scenic view" already includes "a solar field, two quarries and a dirt bike track."

The county planner acknowledged that staff had determined the project "will have a significant and unavoidable impact on your scenic view" and noted that the final decision would ultimately rest with the Board of Supervisors.

Merchant also raised concerns about traffic impacts. At the 2022 hearing, he had asked whether a right-of-way within the project site could be dedicated to eliminate the most dangerous blind curve, in the event Scott Road is ever improved. Cameron Shew, a county transportation engineer, responded that the county does not have the legal justification to require such a dedication.

Merchant further asked whether the transportation department would implement warnings if five or six construction trucks became backed up on the road. Shew said no, explaining, "We don't really have that kind of real-time information."

However, Cosumnes

Community Planning Advisory Council members' primary concern was finding a balance between the impact of large-scale solar projects on open space and agricultural lands and landowners'

property rights.

Reid expressed skepticism about whether SMUD truly needed the project, referencing a previous estimate that suggested it would take around 25 square miles of solar panels to meet Sacramento County's energy needs, a figure he implied was unrealistic. Councilmember Jim Perham also questioned the project's location, asking whether they were "shoving these solar panels...into areas that it doesn't need to be," and suggested there might be more suitable sites for such developments.

However, Reid, Perham, Merchant voiced strong support for landowners' right to make sustainable economic decisions about their property.

Before making the motion to recommend approval of the project, Reid took time to explain why he would vote in favor despite having opposed an earlier solar project on Dillard Road near Wilton, a stance shared at the time by all other CCPAC members.

Reid acknowledged the effort the applicants had put into the project and recognized the challenges agricultural families face in holding onto their land. "I appreciate them exploring their options. While this is not my desired option, I want to see that we have a



Herb Garmes, a Barton Ranch owner, explains the project will



Wilton Rancheria representative Michelle St. Clair said believes the project will damage the tribe's cultural resources.

community here, so I am a yes," he said.

Perham, Hegge, Merchant, and Bob Hunter also voted ves. Evan Winn and Jim Crowder voted no.

Earlier in the meeting, Winn inquired about the Aerojet groundwater plume, but Garmes responded that it only affected a small corner of the ranch and was being properly contained.

As Winn left the meeting, he told the River Valley Times that he had initially planned to vote in favor of the project but changed his mind after hearing the public comments.

The River Valley Times contacted Crowder after the meeting to get his comment. "I acknowledge the benefits of solar energy,

but I was disappointed in how the developer wasn't showing any flexibility or willingness to address the concerns brought up that evening," he said in an

The next opportunity

for public comment will be at a County Planning Commission meeting scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on April 14 at the County Administration Building. The hearing will also be live-streamed via Zoom. The agenda and related materials are available at http://bospublicmeetings. saccounty.gov.

In their final action during the meeting, the CCPAC re-elected Reid as the board chair and Hunter as the vice chair.

This story is online at $therivervalley times.com. \bigstar$



Cosumnes Community Planning Advisory Council members reviewing the project are, from left, Fred Hegge, Jim Perham, Dan Reid, John Merchant, Jim Crowder, Bob Hunter and Evan Winn.





* Press Release *

Raleys

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF SUMMERFEST



SUMMERFEST CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR COMMUNITY

As we embark on the planning for the 25th Summerfest celebration we wanted to take pause and not only thank all of our volunteers and sponsors, but to also share information on how your efforts and generosity positively affect our community.

Every cent raised by Summerfest goes directly towards organizing our annual event and enhancing the quality of life in our community. To date, Summerfest has raised over a million dollars, including donated services, thanks to the generous support of our attendees and sponsors.

Summerfest has raised funds for Consumes Elementary School, providing essential resources and opportunities for students to thrive. We also support the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, helping to foster leadership and community values in young people. The Cosumnes River Little League has also benefited from our contributions, allowing children to participate in healthy and active pursuits.

We are dedicated to recognizing and rewarding those who embody the spirit of volunteerism and service within our community. Scholarships have been awarded to outstanding students who demonstrate a commitment to giving back and making a difference. In addition to these efforts, our funds have supported various other initiatives, including:

- Environmental conservation projects
- Community health and wellness programs
- Local arts and cultural events

We are committed to making our community a better place to live, and we are grateful for the continued support that makes Summerfest a success year after year.



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

- · Stonehouse Softball Diamond
- Stonehouse Park Scoreboard
- Stonehouse Park Field Lights
 De Data Links
- Dog Park LightingSplashpark at Riverview
- Pickleball Courts
- Lake Calero Dockand more...



WE LOVE YOU, RANCHO MURIETA



Sponsors Wine Gala will be 10/2/2025 Summerfest Main Event 10/3/2025 & 10/4/2025



Sponsors Wine Gala Theme

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999

To celebrate our 25th year of Summerfest, we're turning back the clocks to the 90's. Come in your best 90's themed outfits!!!

THANK YOU SPONSORS

We'd like to thank our 2024 Sponsors. Without your support and generosity, our community event wouldn't be possible!!!

Title Sponsor - Raley's

And all our Wine Sponsors!!!

Diamond Sponsors - Rancho Murieta Home & Land, CMCS, Notaries to You, Zeta Broadband, The Murieta Inn & Spa and West Coast Equine Foundation

Platinum Sponsors - Supervisor Sue Frost, Pac Machine Company

Gold Sponsors - Envision Realty Services, Murray Trailers, HIP Entertainment & Events, Town & Country Real Estate, The Home Harmony, Tri Counties Bank,

Murieta Pet Hospital, The Residence at Murieta Hills

Silver Sponsors - Deb Brittan Team, Key Relaty Center, Lexus of Roseville, Murieta Portraits, SFT Inc., Safety-Kleen, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Red Barn

Events, Universal Custom Display, Clark Pest Control



To secure your sponsorship for 2025, please visit our website www.summerfest-ranchomurieta.org/become-a-sponsor

8 • River Valley Times APRIL 11, **2025**

CSD Board Tackles Water Issues

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- From responding to the water moratorium petition to addressing low levels at the Rio Oso Water Tank, the Rancho Murieta Community Services District directors tackled a range of water issues when it met on March 19.

Other water topics discussed during the four-hour meeting included the formation of a working group to review data in the draft Integrated Water Master Plan and the adoption of a position supporting the need for a one-year community water supply.

The board also added fee increases to the proposed 2025-26 budget and re-initiated the process to impose a new barcode sticker fee. (See separate story in this issue.)

In other business, the board approved a contract to upgrade the sewer lift station at the Rancho Murieta Country Club, received a report from the board's ad hoc committee, approved a contract with a facilitator for an upcoming goal-setting workshop, and reviewed monthly staff reports on utilities, security, finance and IT.

Water Moratorium

President Steve Booth addressed the agenda item that was probably of the most interest to the community: "Response to **SOLOS** Regarding Petition for Water Connection Moratorium."

The petition drive originated from the July 17 Board meeting. Booth had requested an action item on the agenda to declare a temporary water emergency until the community's water capacity could be evaluated. Although the board discussed the proposal, it did not take any action. District counsel Patrick Enright noted that the district "isn't quite there yet" and pointed to other complicating factors.

The following day, John Merchant, vice-president of Save Our Lakes and Open Spaces, voiced his concerns on social media, stating, "CSD doesn't seem to understand the urgency here." Several days later, he and SOLOS launched a petition drive calling for a water moratorium, which 2,025 community members ultimately signed. Merchant joined the CSD board on Dec. 6 after running unopposed for a vacant seat.

Save Our Lakes and Open Spaces President Cheryl McElhany presented the petition at the Dec. 18 board meeting. She urged the directors to declare a water emergency under applicable state law to protect the existing water supply. Booth told her that no action could be taken at that meeting as the item was only listed as a discussion topic. However, Booth assured her that the board would consider the petition at a future meeting.

Booth said, "On behalf of the board, I'd like to thank SOLOS and the impressive number of community members who took the time and effort to prepare and submit the petition the board received at our meeting in December 2024."

Booth then highlighted several developments since the moratorium petitions were submitted in December.

He noted that the Improvements Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee, made up of himself and Director Merchant, have discussed the need to review and update the data in the draft Integrated Water Master

Booth said that the board would consider forming a working group to carry out that task later in the meeting. If approved, the "refined data" produced by the group would then be available to a new consultant or the board to develop a concrete plan for meeting current and projected water supply needs.

"Pending resolution of those matters yet to be decided by the board," Booth said, "neither the Improvements Committee nor the Ad Hoc Committee is prepared to recommend invoking State Water Code Section 350 to impose a moratorium on new water connections, as requested in the petition."

On the other hand, "Doing so remains an important tool available to the board if a serious shortfall needs to be addressed," Booth said.

Rio Oso Water Tank

The sharp drop in water levels at the Rio Oso Water Tank during heat waves has been a recurring topic of concern at district meetings since last summer.

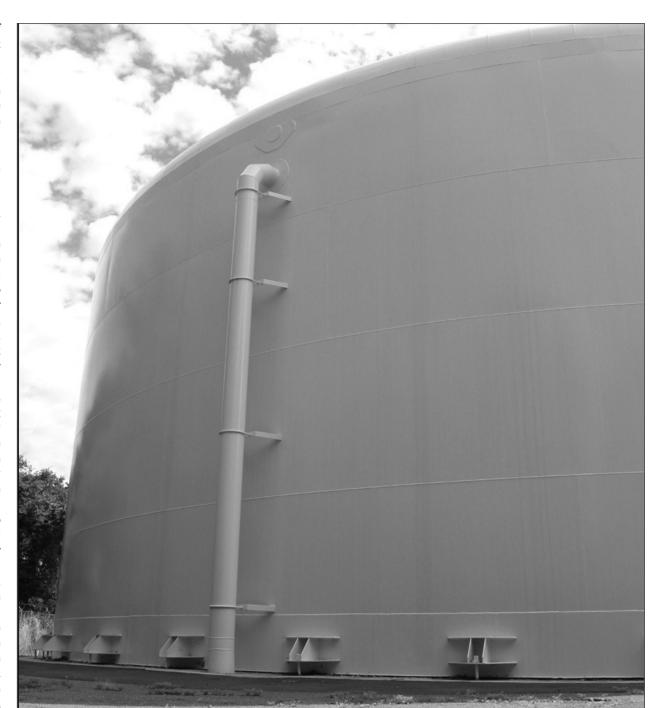
The pressurized Rio Oso Tank, which holds 1.2 million gallons, serves the upper zone of houses north of the second Guadalupe Drive. Rio Oso has also been designated as the water tank for the already approved 198lot Residences subdivision near Stonehouse Park and for the 116-lot Village H in the proposed Rancho North subdivision. The 3-million-gallon Van Vleck Tank uses a gravity system to serve the remainder of the community.

Asked to study the issues with the Rio Oso tank, Joe Domenichelli, the district's contract engineer, said the long-term solution is to construct a new tank in the upper zone to support current and future water demands as additional homes are built.

However, until a new tank can be constructed, Domenichelli proposed a throttling alternative as an interim solution to help balance water levels between the two existing tanks. The plan involves installing valves that automatically regulate water flow during peak demand periods, particularly in the early morning when upper-zone irrigation is at

Variety of deck materials

• Local Steving family owned & operated



A solution to prevent low water levels at Rio Oso Water Tank during heat waves is one of many water-related topics discussed at the board meeting on March 19. Courtesy photos

tank to support an additional 50 dwelling units.

action item on the March board agenda.

According

absent from the meeting.

IWMP Working

Group Booth asked Merchant to speak to the agenda item addressing community inquiries about the Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP) and the formation of a working group to handle questions related

to the plan. "What I suggested initially was that we form a working group to review that data and, using as a template, the questions and comments from Janis Eckard and myself that quarreled with that report through its process," Merchant said. He added

Impressed with the

throttling alternative, the Improvements Committee asked the engineer to prepare a proposal for designing the new system, which was added as an

Domenichelli's proposal, designing the control valve will take 18 weeks before it is ready to bid and will cost \$54,954. The work will also involve coordinating with the district's contract electrician to integrate the new valve into the district's electronic control system and hiring a subcontractor to conduct a topographic survey and create a base map for the new discharge facility.

The board ultimately voted 4-0 to approve the proposal, setting a budget not to exceed \$55,000. Director Tim Maybee was

agreed to join the working group with Operations Director Eric Houston to address those issues.

The Moratorium

moratorium on new development.

development is permitted by the County.

After Merchant made the motion to form the working group, Director Randy Jenco asked about involving Lisa Maddaus, the engineer who co-authored the Integrated Water Master Plan.

"You said you might be willing to sit down and talk to Lisa," Jenco said. "If you're going to put together a group, wouldn't the idea be to sit down with Lisa and get your questions answered?"

Merchant responded that he first wanted to meet with those who had identified inaccuracies in Maddaus' data before speaking with her directly.

"Then we can have a conversation. If she has reason to convince us that what we're saying is incorrect, we can take that under advisement," Merchant between Jenco and Merchant, Booth called for a vote on the motion to form the working group. Booth, Merchant and Director Linda Butler voted in favor, while Jenco voted against.

Rancho Murieta velopment Moratorium

Rancho Murieta is facing a water supply challenge. The Rancho Murieta Community Services District (RMCSD) is to guarantee a consistent water supply, and the 2024 Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP) is

not reliable due to its reliance on seriously deficient assumptions. It is important to address this and all

other water issues and find a sustainable solution for the community's water supply needs before more

screenshot from last summer shows a petition on the Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces

(SOLOS) website urging the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board to declare a

Water Reserve **Policy**

Booth also asked Merchant to address a topic he had placed on the agenda: the adoption of a position that the district should maintain a oneyear water supply reserve for current customers and entitled developments. Merchant spoke at length about his reasoning, emphasizing that even if Clementia Reservoir could be used during an extreme drought, it would only provide five to six months of water. He then made the motion to adopt the policy.

Booth proposed two amendments to the motion. The first directed district counsel Enright to explore the process for amending the district's water rights to Clementia Reservoir.

"I also think we should direct Mr. Houston and Mr. Matulich (Mark Matulich, director of Finance and Administration) to issue an RFP for a geotechnical study on groundwater augmentation of our supply, as we've been discussing in the Improvements

Committee," Booth said. Merchant agreed to the amendments but Jenco pushed back. Jenco said he didn't see the logic in the move since the district had already spent thousands of dollars on consultants to determine how much water was needed and how to secure additional supply. Jenco argued that adopting an arbitrary policy wouldn't help clarify the steps that need to be taken. When Booth called for a vote, he, Merchant and Butler voted in favor, while Jenco voted against.

This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com. ★



Find out what's happening in your local area

Arrest Logs updated daily

THERIVERVALLEYTIMES.COM

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.

March 17

1:10 p.m. Suspicious Person, Bent Grass Court (Murieta South): Reporting party stated upon arriving at home a male dressed in all black ran from the front of property and jumped over the fence at the end of Bent Grass Court onto Jackson Road, Jackson Road was checked with no findings of suspect or vehicles nearby. Contact was made with RP who stated no forced entry at the home observed. Multiple passes were made on Jackson Road and nearby golf course; suspect gone on

9:37 p.m., Bass Lake: Patrol observed white GMC Sierra attempting to access Bass Lake. Patrol proceeded toward the vehicle; using vehicle equipped public address system advised vehicle of Back Area regulations and requested vehicle to leave area; vehicle complied without incidents. RMCSD database search revealed vehicle registered as RMCC member with limited access to the RM community. Vehicle was escorted out of the area. Vehicle last seen outbound on Murieta Parkway.

March 19

2:53 a.m. RMA Rule Violation, Lago Drive: Unlicensed driver, 16-yearold, involved in golf cart collision with minor property damage. Citation issued.

March 21

1:24 a.m., Rancho Murieta Airport: Patrol came upon an open hangar and two individuals outside of the hangar. One person was on a blue motorcycle. The subject not on the motorcycle explained that they had just returned from a trip and were loading into the hangar that they rent from the airport. They explained that they knew they shouldn't ride the cycle due to the time of night and said they would pack up and leave.

3:19 a.m., North Back Area Lake Calero: Patrol located Dodge Ram at the peninsula near boat ramp.

Guest without resident fishing after hours past sunset. Driver was advised of the rules and requested to leave area immediately; driver complied without any incidents. Vehicle was escorted out of the area. Citation issued.

3:30 a.m., RMA Rule Violation, Celebrar Street (Murieta South): Vehicle parked without moving over 72 hours. Citation issued

5:57 a.m., Venado Drive: Refused entry of two vendors/painters who arrived hour early for a job. Entry denied, advised to return at 7 o'clock.

6:27 a.m., Vandalism, Rio Oso: Patrol made contact with the homeowner and according to them they noticed one of the tires of the vehicle was flat and upon inspection found the side of the tire was actually slashed. Homeowner has no idea who could have done it. The homeowner has no cameras outside their house. Patrol advised reporting incident to Sheriff's Department for further investigation.

March 22

12:36 a.m., Plaza: Patrol came upon a white male 5'7" brown hair, beard, jeans, blue jacket, skateboard, backpack. Subject stated he was a resident in the north but wasn't getting along with his brother at home so he was spending time outside. Subject agreed to leave plaza.

March 24

11:54 a.m., Feathery Court (Murieta South): Complaint of the smell of smoke in the air. Upon arrival, found neighbor on Boundary Court with enclosed fire pit in backyard. Advised resident of complaint who complied and put out wood chips that were burning.

5:07 p.m., Lake Chesbro: Patrol observed a boat in the water. Located a golf cart with a boat trailer parked at the boat ramp. Golf cart registrant does not possess current 2025 RMA boat registration.

10:03 p.m., Clementia Park: Patrol located Ford F-150, contacted occupants of the vehicle, male and female adults. Vehicle occupants are not vendors, guests. Driver stated they came to enjoy the lake, found lake information on Google search. Driver advised of trespassing and requested to leave area;

driver complied without incident.

March 26

1:48 a.m., RMA Rule Violation, North Back Area: Guests without resident in Honda Accord after hours past sunset at Lake Calero. Citation issued.

4:47 a.m., RMA Rule Violation, Dulzura Court (Murieta South): Unauthorized vehicle without 24-hour pass, driveway parking. Trailer attached to Chevrolet pickup parked overnight parked in driveway. Citation issued.

March 27

12:35 a.m., North Back Area, Lake Calero: Patrol located Honda Accord from March 26 incident; vehicle accessed North Back Area lake Calero after hours past sunset. Attempted to contact driver of vehicle; negative results; vehicle quickly left area once observed RMCSD patrol approaching. Vehicle exited back area and continued outbound on Murieta Parkway to Murieta North exit to westbound Jackson Road.

March 29

12:34 a.m., Burglary, Country Market: Reporting party told North Gate officer that subjects were banging on the door to the Country Market/Chevron. Patrol found white sedan, possibly Toyota Camry, which departed upon arrival. All doors locked and secured and surrounding area cleared.

April 2

5 a.m., RMA Rule Violation, Chesbro Court: Vehicle parked overnight in Guest Parking. Citation issued.

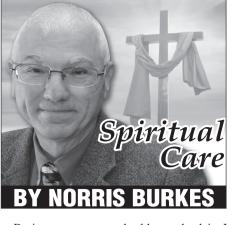
April 3

1:12 a.m., Bass Lake: Patrol observed vehicle headlights behind Bass Lake at the top of the hill. Once vehicle noticed RMCSD patrol, vehicle quickly proceeded deeper into the Back Area toward the river. Area search conducted; unable to locate vehicle.

5:14 a.m., RMA Violation, Trinidad Court: Trailer attached to Ford pickup parked overnight on street without 24-hour

pass. Citation issued. 5:29 a.m., RMA Violation, Lindero Lane: Vehicle overnight parked on street in front of the house. Citation issued. *

Is it Ever Too Late to Talk to God?



During my career as a healthcare chaplain, I would often feel like I was pastoring a parade. That's because, by definition, my chaplain relationship with patients was a temporary one. I suppose that's why I am relieved when a

patient asks if they can call me "Pastor" instead of "Chaplain." I hear their request as an invitation to assume the more personal role of their family pastor.

However, that's not quite how it started with a patient I first knew as "Mr. Penny." I call him "mister" because that's how he introduced himself when I entered his hospital room at Houston Northwest Medical Center in 1992.

I reciprocated his formality by introducing myself as "Chaplain Burkes."

At first, I thought he was using titles in recognition of our age difference. But eventually it seemed like it was more about him wanting to distance himself from the three-piece-suited chaplain who matched his stereotypical idea of the "preacher."

Doctors told Penny he had inoperable brain cancer, but he didn't want to talk about that. The balding, bony man just wanted to chat.

During his next several hospitalizations we talked sports – either the Houston Oilers or my lunchtime basketball games with local clergy.

For Penny, the greater the emotional distance we could maintain from reality, the better. Finally, though, on his last hospitalization,

his nurse summoned me from lunch to tell me Penny had a favor to ask. Thinking this sounded like the call to a

deathbed confession, I made a quick exit from the cafeteria toward the ICU. I walked into his room to find his wife strok-

ing his fevered head. 'Oh good," she said. "I'm glad you're here

today and not playing basketball." "Knee problems," I said.

"He wants to ask you something." I looked at the figure on the bed, twisted

and ghostly. His raspy breathing suggested he wouldn't have much strength for this

conversation, so I leaned over the bed and called to him as if announcing my presence through a dense fog.

"Mr. Penny, it's Chaplain Burkes," I said. "Is there something you want to ask me?"

He nodded. "Teach me..." he said, his voice

He took a fuller breath and added, "Teach me

Confused by his sudden approach to an intimate moment, I searched his wife's face for

She was chewing on her thumbnail. "He's embarrassed."

"Embarrassed?" I asked.

context.

"He's afraid he's being hypocritical to wait until his death to talk to God," she added.

I nodded. It's a common reasoning I hear from patients. Jesus summarily dismissed this poor logic in

his conversation with two insurgents occupying crosses on either side of his. The first man spent his last hours mocking Jesus and goading him to use his power to save

everyone. But the other guy was quite the opposite. He felt shame for his past life, so he asked Jesus,

"Remember me when you enter your kingdom." Jesus swiftly responded. "Today you will be with me in paradise."

Instead of disqualifying the dying man for being hypocritically tardy, Jesus assured him that he would be rewarded in the promptest

"Mr. Penny," I said. "I think you'll find that God cares very little about your past.

He mostly cares about what you'll do with

the next minute of your life." Penny nodded.

"Prayer is just talking to God," I added. "It's not theologically complicated. Just talk from Penny closed his eyes and began moving his

lips. I couldn't hear what he was saying, but

when he opened his eyes his expression told me that he'd heard God's voice. I know this because the "mister" who had been so dependent on titles to gain distance

from spiritual matters shifted his heart to say one last thing to me.

"Thank you, Pastor. Thank you."

Sign up to receive this weekly column in your email box at https://thechaplain.net/newsletter/ or send me your email address to comment@ thechaplain.net.

All of Norris's books can be ordered on Amazon. Autographed copies can be obtained on his website www.thechaplain.net or by sending a check for \$20 for each book to 10566 Combie Rd. Suite 6643 Auburn, CA 95602. ★

Fraudulent Invoices Hit **County's Planning Customers**

Sacramento County News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) -Sacramento County officials have been made aware of a fraudulent email scheme targeting both current and former planning customers.

The scam involves sending fake invoices using the names of county officials and the official Sacramento County logo, instructing recipients to wire money. The current reports of this scam utilize an email address of "planning-applications. saccounty.gov@usa.com."

Customers are urged to be cautious and not respond to these emails or send any payments. Anyone who receives a suspicious email of this nature should forward it to sacplan@saccounty.gov for review.

"Sacramento County takes this matter very seriously and we are actively working to educate our customers so that they don't fall victim to this scam," said Sacramento

"We urge our customers to remain vigilant and verify any financial requests directly with the county before taking action. If you're unsure whether an invoice is official, contact us to verify."

County Planning Director Todd Smith.

The Sacramento County Department of Technology is investigating the incident and will collaborate with law enforcement if necessary.

The Sacramento County Department of Finance issues planning customer invoices through the U.S. mail and does not instruct customers to wire funds as a method of payment. Payments are only accepted by mail to P.O. Box 1587, Sacramento, CA 95812, in person at county locations, and certain payments are accepted online.

If you would like to verify the authenticity of an invoice from Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review, email sacplan@saccounty.gov or call 916-874-6141.

PURCHASE • REFINANCE FIXED RATE LOANS

RATE 5.000%

180 Monthly Payments of \$7.91 per \$1,000 Borrowed

RATE

360 Monthly Payments of \$5.84 per \$1,000 Borrowed

Check the El Dorado Advantage:

✓ No Application Fee ✓ No Prepayment Penalty ✓ Local Processing and Servicing



RANCHO MURIETA • 7185 Murieta Drive • 916-354-2661 SHELDON • 8973 Grant Line Road • 916-686-0200

ELK GROVE • 9003 Elk Grove Blvd. • 916-685-3936

Maximum loan \$650,000.00, primary or vacation residence. 20% minimum cash down payment

on purchase. 25% equity required on refinance. Other loans available under different terms. LOAN TERMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE **FDIC** www.eldoradosavingsbank.com 800-874-9779







Rift in Leadership Continues at CSD

Continued from page 1 and Booth became public on Jan. 6, when the board held a special meeting to evaluate her performance. Before the board moved into closed sessionwithout Booth-Morris publicly accused him of retaliation, discrimination, and harassment. She also disclosed that she had filed an internal complaint against him following the Nov. 20 board meeting.

her performance during

the open session of the

November board meeting.

Booth responded on

Morris' primary complaints center on Booth's alleged insistence that she return to the office some months after being allowed to work from home due to a medical condition. She has also claimed that Booth harmed her reputation by discussing

> to deny her government claim. That action enabled Morris to move forward

Jan. 7 to the River Valley Times, stating, "I categorically deny that there has been any discrimination against her for any reason."

During the Jan. 6 closed session, the board voted 4-0 to place Morris on administrative leave pending an investigation of her grievance. Two days later, Morris's attorney filed a government claim against the district, elaborating on her allegations against Booth. Under California law, employees are required to file a government claim before initiating a lawsuit against a governmental entity, allowing time for potential resolution before litigation. In an executive session

at the Feb. 19 board meeting, the board voted 4-0

with a lawsuit. The board also held a

special meeting on March 14 to address two agenda items: "Conference with legal counsel - anticipated litigation" and "Public employee discipline/ dismissal/release, administrative leave status." Booth was excluded

from the closed session. The remaining board members conferred by phone with Read, a colleague of the district counsel, and an attorney representing the Golden State Risk Management Authority, the district's insurer. After the closed session,

Merchant announced that Morris would be returning from administrative leave.

This story is online at

therivervalleytimes.com. ★

Sacramento Zoo's Baby Giraffe Has a Name

Sacramento Zoo News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento Zoo is excited to announce that its adorable baby Masai giraffe, born on March 1, has been given the name Sumi. The name was selected though an online vote.

The name Sumi was inspired by sumac browse, a favorite snack of Sumi's mother, Amirah, during her pregnancy.

The name is a playful nod to the sumac tree and also honors the important role that the local community plays in supporting the zoo's giraffes through its browse donation program.

The browse donation program allows the zoo to feed many of the animals, including the giraffes, chimps, lemurs and many birds, food that is exactly like what they would consume in the wild. They enjoy nibbling leaves, stripping bark, and chewing on stems to keep their brains busy and bellies full.

Every day the Sacramento Zoo feeds pounds of browse (non-toxic branches and leaves from specific species of trees and shrubs). The browse donation program allows members of the public to donate tree and shrub trimming from specific species of trees and shrubs to feed the zoo inhabitants.

These donations help provide fresh, nutritious browse for the giraffe herd, enriching their diet and environment. For more on the browse donation program visit, saczoo.org/browse-donation.

Thank you for your support. With your vote, you helped raise funds for a new shade structure for the zoo's giraffes. Your donations are already being put to good use, with construction on the new structure already underway.



Sacramento Zoo's adorable baby Masai giraffe, born on March 1, has been named Sumi. The name was selected though an online vote. Photo by Sacramento Zoo

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

Announcements

IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY and suffered an infection due to use of a Bair Hugger (Blue Blanket), between 2020 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. attorney Charles H. Johnson (800) 535-5727 (Cal-SCAN)

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

Autos Wanted

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to PICKUP. 24 hour response. Running or not. Maximum Tax Deduction and No Emission Test Required! Call 24/7: 1-877-434-6852 (Cal-SCAN)

GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PA-UNWANTED TRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. All 50 States. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. 408-6546 Call 24/7: 1-855-

Tiene un vehiculo no deseado? Donelo a Patriotic Hearts! Recogida rápida y gratuita en los 50 estados. Patriot-ic Hearts ofrece programas para ayudar a los veteranos a encontrar trabajo o iniciar su propio negocio. Llama aho-ra: 1-855- 408-7368 (24/7) (Cal-SCAN)

Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure Call Heritage for the Blind To-day at 1-844-491-2884 today! (Cal-SCAN) (Cal-SCAN)

Cellular Plans

Consumer Cellular - the same reliable, nationwide coverage as the largest carriers. No long-term contract, no hidden fees and activation is free. All plans feature unlimited talk and text, starting at just \$20/ month. For more information. call 1-844-908-0605.

Classic Cars

GALT AUTO SWAP MEET & CAR SHOW Saturday April 19, Galt Market Grounds, 6 am-2 pm. Turn those parts into CA\$H. Follow us on **IG Sjvautoswapmeets** or on FB San Joaquin Valley Auto Swap Meets & car show info line. 209-513-8651.

Concrete

Perez Landscaping & Concrete

Concrete Finishing/ Stamping •Landscape installation and Design •Sodding, •Planting Irrigation •Retaining Walls •Yard maintenance. Free estimates. Fore more info. call 916-834-2352

email:Elverperez@att.net

Lic #14-00016214

Concrete

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

SONDROL CONCRETE

25+ years experience. All types of finishes. Patios, driveways, slabs Walkways, Spa pads. Tear out/ Replace Tractor work.

Written estimates. Lic. # 778034 916-955-1083



Financial

Struggling with debt? If you have over \$10,000 in debt we help you be debt free in as little as 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call Now: 1-877-435-

For Sale

Kings tickets Best Seats in G1 for the \$ Section 218 Row B 7 & 8 Private box area 1st row balcony halfcourt; 16 folding chairs in one row. No one in save \$ 916-595-5379

Health/Wellness

Attention: VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! A cheaper alternative to high drugstore prices! 50 Pill Special - Only \$99! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW: 1-888-

Help Wanted

Dry Creek is looking for qualified individuals to join our team!

Open positions for: Drywall Hanger & Finisher/Painter Finish Carpenter

Must have at least 4 years' experience, pass a background check, a clean driving record and current driver's license. Must have own transportation

Benefits include:

401(k) and 401(k) matchingHealth and Dental Insurance Paid Holidays and Vacation

If you have any or all the skills listed, you are encouraged to apply. Please send resumes to: info@drycreekconstructionco.com.

Help Wanted

Looking for Personal Care Aide/Caregiver -\$17.50/hour, located at Curly

Anne's Residence, Inc., 10435 Danichris Way, Elk Grove CA 95757; Telephone 916-897-9136. Contact: Marv Anne De Los Santos.

Home Improvement

ALL PHASE

HOME REPAIR Elk Grove, CA

*Electrical *Plumbing
*Fencing *Fans *Decks
*Doors *Windows *Tile
Flooring *Trim baseboard *Sheetrock *Dry
Rot Texture *Painting
*Lighting *Concrete
*Sprinkler Repair
*Framing and more!
All phases of home
repair & any construction

epair & any constructior needed- Big or small.

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-888-248-0815. Have zip code of service location ready when you call! (Cal-SCAN)

Jacuzzi Bath Remodel can install a new, custom bath or shower in as little as one day. a limited time, waiving ALL installation costs! (Additional terms apply.) Subject (Offer ends 6/30/25.) Call 1-833-985-4766.

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-thelifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Step 1888-989-5749

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available.
Call: 1-877-252-9868 (Call-SCAN)

(Cal-SCAN)

Home Warranty

Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANC-ES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call:1-855-411-

Insurance/Health

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a dis-count plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844203-2677 www. dental50plus.com/calnews

Internet

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Direct and get your first free months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/ mo. Some restrictions apply 1-888-641-DIRECTV 5762 (Cal-SCAN)

Automotive



Your Local Full Service Auto Repair Shop Committed to Customer Satisfaction Check Engine

Specializing In: Oil Changes

Smog Inspection

Transmission Service

Quality work guaranteed!
Low prices- free
est.Serving Elk Grove,
Rancho Murieta, Galt,
Wilton, Herald, Sac. &
Surrounding Areas

Bus. Lic #1023318 (916)287-6164

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

Junk Removal

MS Hauling

Junk Removal Yard Debris

Mention this ad and receive 15% off!

License # 778034

Landscaping



Complete Landscape Design/Installation, Sprinkler System Installs/Repairs, All Types Concrete Work, Fence Installation. **Retaining Walls-**All Types, Drainage Systems-all types, Landscape Lighting,

Maintenance Company WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTER CARD

& Installation. Est 1987

American Construction & Property

BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE

209-251-9387



Tires

• Tune-Up

Batteries

Brake &

Smog Repair

Safety Inspection

Brakes

Wheel Alignment

Lamp Station Mon-Fri, 8-5 • 916-685-7796



8901 Elk Grove Blvd.

Light Diagnosis

• 30, 60, 90K Service

Landscaping

YARD CLEAN UP

Sod installation

_andscape installation

Lawnmowing services

Fence repair

Call for free estimate

916-271-7265

YARD CLEANUP &

DECORATIVE ROCK

One time cleanup prun-

ing. Also bark, weed

control, sod, seed, prun-

ing, sprinkler systems.

hauling, etc. Mobile

homes, commercial

or residential.

Local gardener.

916-205-9310 or

916-627-9000

Miscellaneous

DID YOU KNOW Newspa-

per-generated content is so

valuable it's taken and repeat-

ed. condensed. broadcast.

tweeted, discussed, posted, copied, edited, and emailed

countless times throughout

the day by others? Discover the Power of Newspaper Ad-

vertising. For a free brochure call 916-288-6011 or email

cecelia@cnpa.com (Cal-SCAN)

Painting

Shelton

Painting,

Inc.

Repaints: Exterior

• Dry Wall Repair

Free Estimates

(209) 745-7897

Generations of Quality Painter

We accept Visa &

& Interior



Roofing

JIM MOYLEN ROOFING

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

Tile Repairs

 Garage Cleanouts E-Waste

Call (916)207-5702

CREATE YOUR PARADISE

Residential/commercial American Landscape Design

6)612-0776

Artificial Turf | Fencing Retaining Wall | Concrete Drainage | Irrigation Planting | Tree Trimming

Real Estate

V.I.P. TRUST DEED COMPANY OVER 40 YEARS OF FAST FUNDING

Principal (818) 248-0000 B WWW.VIPLOAN.COM *Sufficient equity required - no

Se Habla

Roofing

Espanol NEW ROOFS ROOF REPAIR

• ROOF MAINTENANCE • GUTTER CLEANING COMPLETE RE-ROOF CELL 209.810.6233

209.745.7565 1premierroofing@gmail.com



ROOFING & GUTTERS RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL NEW ROOF GUTTER

INSTALL
• TEAR OFF & REROOF ROOF REPAIR

OVERLAY ROOF

INSTALL

•DRY ROT REPAIR
•SEAMLESS
GUTTER INSTALL

REMOVAL & INSTALL •GUTTER REPAIR •GUTTER GUARD & INSTALL

• DOWNSPOUTS INSTALL **COLORS**

FREE ESTIMATES!

RAMON M., FOREMAN/OPERATOR LIC# 1072137 **Tractor Work**



MAC Industries DIRT WORK

Bill- 916-869-1019

business purpose Real Estate loans. Credit unimport-ant. V.I.P. Trust Deed Com-

pany www.viploan.com Call 1-818-248-0000. Broker-prin-cipal DRE 01041073. No

Roofing

consumer loans.

Excavations •Utility Trenching •Foundations-All types Laser Grading & Dozer work Driveways Pads •Drainage-All Types

•Field Mowing / Firebreaks •Flail •Bushog •Septic System Installation •Drilling •Foundations
•Post •Tree holes •Trenching •Irrigation •Drainage •Rototilling •Disking License #919198 & Insured

Painting

Michael- 916-747-9667

Real Estate Loans RETIRED COUPLE \$\$\$\$ for



WASHING **ROOF MOSS** REMOVAL Interior / Exterior

PRESSURE

ving E.G. & Galt since 2004 Mike Johnson - Owner 916-257-9609

DE COT EI EOLON

ROUTT ROOFING Specializing in Res Roofing & Repairs

We Hand Nail for

Quality!

Free Estimates

Lic.#302302

916-423-1288 or 209-748-5588









APRIL 11, 2025 River Valley Times • 11

CSD Board Reviews Barcode and Rate Increases

Story and photos by Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Director Randy Jenco led the charge at the March 19 Rancho Murieta Community Services Board meeting when he won approval of a \$4 rate increase to help fund the reserves and a resurrection of a barcode sticker fees ordinance to fund 24-hour security.

Reserve Rate Increase

Jenco's proposal to increase the monthly reserve contribution from \$14 to \$16 for water and wastewater followed a presentation by Mark Matulich, director of Finance and Administration, who outlined the draft proposed budget for 2025-26.

Matulich proposed a minimal increase in the operating budget, \$9.583 million, compared to 9.521 million this fiscal year, a \$62,480 increase of .07%. That translated into a very modest increase in customer rates for next year.

Under his initial proposal, the average customer inside the gates would have seen a monthly increase of \$6.81, representing a 2.5% rise. Starting in July, the current monthly rate of \$271.97 would increase to \$278.79.

However, adding in the increased reserve fees approved by the board, the proposed monthly rate will increase to \$10.81, representing a 3.97% rise. Starting in July, the current monthly rate of \$271.91 will increase to \$282.18.

Matulich used a PowerPoint presentation to explain the draft of the proposed budget. He said the overarching goal for the 2025-26 fiscal year was to achieve a balanced operating budget, ensuring that operating revenues for each of the five funds—water, wastewater, drainage, security and solid waste—cover their respective operating



Director Randy Jenco, speaking at the March 19 board meeting, said he isn't worried about social media feedback as he proposes changes that will increase costs to Rancho Murieta Community Services District ratepayers.

expenses

The proposed budget includes 24-hour security coverage of the gates and patrol shifts, partially funded by an annual barcode sticker fee of \$10 per vehicle.

Matulich stated that the proposed budget allocated all \$970,000 in anticipated county taxes to the reserves and the \$1,042,733 generated through the \$14 reserve contributions. Combined with other revenue sources, a total of \$2.626 million would be directed into reserves.

The board appeared satisfied with Matulich's budget review. It seemed poised to move on to the next part of the agenda item—authorizing the issuance of the Proposition 218 notice—when Jenco suddenly remarked, "I'm going to beat this horse to death."

Although allocating \$2.6 million to the reserves sounded substantial, Jenco pointed out that past reserve studies indicated the district should be setting aside two to three times that amount.

"I just don't feel like we are making any inroads here," he said.

Jenco acknowledged that people are reluctant to pay more for anything, whether eggs or water. "But I am willing to take the hit on social media because I don't pay any attention to social media," he said. "We've got to look at this \$14, and in my opinion, we ought to make it \$16 this year and \$18 next year because our next reserve study is going to say the same thing it did six years ago: that we aren't putting nearly enough money into the reserves."

President Steve Booth told Jenco he could present his idea as a motion for the board to consider. Jenco promptly moved to increase the reserve contributions for water and wastewater from \$14 to \$16

His motion also required staff to revise the draft budget and the proposed Proposition 218 notice accordingly.

Matulich reported that the increased contribution would raise the proposed \$1.042 million going into reserves to just under \$1.2 million.

"That's a significant amount of money," he said, adding that amending the proposed budget and Proposition 218 notice would be easy.

would be easy.

During the discussion,

Director John Merchant
referenced the recent

Lumus study, which assessed the district's infrastructure needs and estimated that \$20 million would be required in the short term, with another \$20 million in the midterm. Merchant expressed his support for the \$2 increase but emphasized that the district would ultimately need long-term financing or bond layering, a strategy used by other water districts to fund major infrastructure improvements.

"Ultimately, what that debt allows you to do is to stretch out your rate structure," Merchant said.

Operations Manager Eric Houston acknowledged that the \$2 increase wasn't a full solution to the district's long-term infrastructure needs, but he called it a step in the right direction. He also noted it could contribute to improving the district's bond rating.

The board concluded the discussion by voting 4-0 to approve the increased reserve contribution, which would result in higher rates. Director Tim Maybee was absent from the meeting.

Barcode Sticker Fees

The discussion about increasing barcode fees

arose after Jenco requested that security funding be added to the agenda. The Security Department is currently facing an \$80,000 shortfall due to the recent implementation of 24-hour patrol coverage.

The board ultimately voted 4-0 to restart the ordinance process to implement a new \$10 barcode sticker fee. The fee is intended to cover this year's security shortfall and will be included in the budget for the next fiscal year to support continued 24-hour patrol coverage.

In November, the board approved Matulich's proposal for an amended budget to increase staffing to enable 24-hour patrol coverage starting Jan. 4. However, funding this plan required raising the barcode sticker fee for a new car from \$10 to \$25 and introducing a new annual per-car fee of \$10. Implementing these fees required a two-step ordinance adoption process scheduled for the board's December and January meetings.

Following the November meeting, the district published a notice about the proposed barcode sticker fee, which sparked an outcry on social media.

In December, the board approved the first reading of the ordinance to implement the fee, believing there was enough time to engage with the public before making a final decision.

However, when the board reconvened in January, President Booth announced that the Finance Committee had recommended tabling the ordinance and revisiting the fee during the budget process. The board also received emails from 11 residents opposing the fee increase; the emails were included in their meeting packet.

When Booth asked Matulich how tabling the ordinance would impact the security budget, Matulich explained that it would create an immediate \$85,000 shortfall in

the funds needed to cover additional staffing costs for the remainder of the year. When pressed for alternatives, Matulich said the only available solution would be to use property tax revenue to fill the gap.

Ultimately, Booth, Butler and Maybee voted to table the ordinance, while Jenco and Merchant opposed the motion.

The issue of addressing the shortfall remained unresolved, though both Jenco and Maybee voiced strong opposition to using property tax revenue to fill the gap.

They cited the Grand Jury's recommendation that the district stop relying on property taxes to cover security shortfalls and instead allocate all such revenue to reserves. Jenco reaffirmed that position at the March meeting.

When the security shortfall came up on the agenda, Booth stated that the board faced a choice: fund the \$80,000 gap or reduce staffing.

He acknowledged that he had initially voted to approve the barcode sticker fee increase as part of the amended budget but later reversed his position after receiving significant public feedback—an action that contributed to the current shortfall.

A lengthy discussion followed, though not all of it stayed on topic.

Booth eventually turned to District Counsel Patrick Enright to ask about the process for revisiting the ordinance authorizing the barcode sticker fee. Enright advised that the board would need to start the process from the beginning.

Jenco promptly moved to restart the ordinance process, and Merchant seconded the motion, which passed with a 4-0 vote.

Booth then directed Enright "to get us back on track" by preparing a barcode sticker ordinance for a first reading at the next board meeting.

This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Save the Date for Farm to Fork Dinner

The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta is pleased to announce the 4th Annual Farm to Fork Dinner will take place on Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Rancho Murieta Country Club.

Last year's event was spectacular, and we are excited to partner again with the Country Club for this event.

Once again, we are fundraising for the Turn Around Scholarship program in the Elk Grove Unified School District Foundation. This program targets deserving students who have turned their scholastic efforts around to graduate with at least a 3.0 GPA to advance their education.

Thank you, Rancho Murieta Community, for supporting our Kiwanis Club and helping us to support our youth. More information will follow.

RM Blood Drive at New Location on April 28

Vitalant will host its next Rancho Murieta Community blood drive at a new location on Monday, April 28 from noon to 6 p.m.

It will be held at the St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Church, 14673 Cantova Way. The sponsors are the Rancho Murieta Women's Club and the Knights of Columbus.

Appointments to donate can be made online at donors.vitalant.org by using blood drive code SMFM053 or by calling Vitalant at 877-258-4825. Walk-ins will be accommodated if space permits.

Donors will be entered into a Vitalant drawing for a chance to win one out of two \$10,000 gift cards.

Donors also will receive a coupon for a free donut at the Local Bean Café and will be entered into a drawing for a gift basket from Ace Hardware.

from Ace Hardware.

Eat well and drink plenty of water prior

to donating and please bring a photo ID. If you have eligibility questions call Vitalant at 877-258-4825 or navigate to Vitalant. org. One donation can save more than one life. There is no substitute for blood that can only come from volunteer donors.

ETC Offers Scholarship Essay Contest

Entertainment, Theatre & Culture for Rancho Murieta (ETC) is sponsoring its annual essay contest for graduating high school seniors who live in Rancho Murieta North or South. The winner will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship, which will go directly to the college, university or trade school she or he will attend in the Fall of 2025 or Spring of 2026 for application toward tuition and fees.

Essays must address one of three questions: 1. How have Technology, Artificial Intelligence, and social media influenced the Arts for the better or for the worse? 2. Discuss why you feel it is important to support Arts Education in the schools and the Arts in our Communities 3. Explain how Experiencing the Arts, dance, music, visual art, theater has made you a better person.

Essays must be 550 to 600 words

in length and entries must be postmarked by May 30. The contest winner will be announced on July 26 at Lake Clementia amphitheater prior to the concert. The application form with contest rules is available at the Rancho Murieta Association Building or by request at philan.etcrm@gmail.com. For more information about the schol-

arship program, contact Stephanie Stanislaus, Philanthropy chair, at 916-354-0901.

Bookmobile Librarian to be Recognized April 23

to be Recognized April 23

Neal Denton, the Bookmobile librarian, is retiring after 35 years with the

Sacramento County Library. His last day in Rancho Murieta will be from 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 23. The Bookmobile will be parked at the Murieta Village Clubhouse parking lot.

Please join us as we thank Neal for his 18 years with the Bookmobile. Cards, gifts and baked goods would be welcomed.

Garden Club Features Rosarian at April 22 Meeting The featured speaker at the April 22

meeting of the River Valley Garden Club will be Charlotte Owendyk, a master rosarian with the Sierra Foothills Rose Society.

The event will be held at the Rancho Murieta Association Building, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. and the program beginning at 7 p.m. Attendance is free for first-time visitors.

Garden Club Slates Garden Stroll, Plant Sale Extravaganza The River Valley Garden Club

has scheduled its annual Plant Sale Extravaganza and the second biannual Garden Stroll for May 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Rancho Murieta.

The plant sale will take place in the

Rancho Murieta Association parking lot, while the Garden Stroll will showcase six local gardens and feature the work of six artists. The club is collecting donations for the event. To contribute, contact Deb at 916-730-7403 or Margaret at 916-955-6707.

Additional details about the club and its activities can be found at rivervalleygar-denclub.net.

April 15 Meeting to Explain Discontinuation of RM Bus

Discontinuation of RM Bus
Sacramento County is inviting residents
to attend a Rancho Murieta virtual meeting
to provide feedback on a recommendation

to discontinue the East County Transit

service from Rancho Murieta Parkway South and Rancho Murieta Airport bus

stops to downtown Sacramento.

County staff will discuss the recommendation from a recent transit study, review recent ridership and gather feedback. The meeting will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. on April 15. Join the meeting at: https://bit.ly/RMtransit. Or, dial in by phone at 916-245-8966. The meeting ID is 750 291

564#
For questions, contact Benjamin Rady at RadyB@sacCounty.gov or 916-974-4479.

CSD Establishes Security Hotline Email

Rancho Murieta residents with security issues have a new option for contacting the Rancho Murieta Community Services District to receive a timely response: securityhotline@RMCSD.com.

Residents also can reach security 24 hours a day by calling 916-354-CARE (2263). However, residents experiencing a life-threatening emergency requiring immediate police, fire or ambulance assistance should call 911.

SOLOS Slates Celebration A

Spring Celebration April 27 Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces

(SOLOS) invites all residents to a spring celebration at Lake Clementia from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27. The event will include grilled bratwurst with all the fixings, live music by the New Age Quintet, and lawn games such as bocce.

Guests are encouraged to bring their

own chairs and favorite beverages. Tickets are \$20, with free admission for children 12 and under. Advance ticket purchases are available at Ace Hardware and The Local Bean. For ticket delivery within Rancho Murieta, email contact@soloarm. org or call 916-595-1718. ★

CALL-A-PROFESSIONAL



6.75%

CHECK THE EL DORADO ADVANTAGE:

- ✓ FIXED RATE for 5 Years
- ✓ Local Processing & Servicing
- ✓ No Closing Cost on Qualifying Transactions; Except for Appraisal/ Evaluation Costs
- **Have Funds Available for Current** and Future Needs
- Home Improvement, Debt Consolidation, College Tuition
- ✓ Interest May be Tax Deductible



Member **FDIC**

www.eldoradosavingsbank.com RANCHO MURIETA • 7185 Murieta Drive • 916-354-2661

ELK GROVE • 9003 Elk Grove Blvd. • 916-685-3936 **SHELDON** • 8973 Grant Line Road • 916-686-0200

Se Habla

The initial Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is currently 6.75% for a new Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC), and is fixed for the first 5 years of the loan which is called the draw period. After the initial 5 year period, the APR can change once based on the value of an Index and Margin. The Index is the weekly average yield on U.S. Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of 10 years and the margin is 3.50%. The current APR for repayment period is 7.875%. The maximum APR that can apply any time during your HELOC is 15%. A qualifying transaction consists of the following conditions: (1) the initial APR assumes a maximum HELOC of \$200,000, and a total maximum Loan-to-Value (LTV) of 70% including the new HELOC and any criteria (14) the product residence (2) years period to require the MELOC and any criteria (14) the product residence (2) years period to require the MELOC and any criteria (14) the product residence (2) years period to require the MELOC and any criteria (14) the product residence (2) years period to require the MELOC and any criteria (14) the product residence (2) years period to require the MELOC and any criteria (14) the product residence (2) years period to the pr (1) the Initial APPA assumes a maximum HELOC of \$200,000, and a total maximum Loan-to-Value (LTV) or 70% including the new HELOC and any existing 1st Deed of Trust loan on your residence securing the HELOC must be a single-family home that you occupy as your primary residence; (3) if the 1st Deed of Trust loan is with a lender other than El Dorado Savings Bank, that loan may not exceed \$300,000, have a total maximum Loan to Value (LTV) of 65% and may not be a revolving line of credit. Additional property restrictions and requirements apply, All loans are subject to a current appraisal or property evaluation. This cost will be disclosed in your commitment letter and paid at loan closing. Property insurance is required and flood insurance may be required. Rates, APR, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Other conditions apply, A \$525 early closure fee will be assessed if the line of credit is closed within three years from the date of opening. An annual fee of \$85 will be assessed on the first anniversary of the HELOC and annually thereafter during the draw period. Ask for a copy of our "Fixed Rate Home Equity Line of Credit Disclosure Notice" for additional important information. Other HELOC loans are available under different terms. Notice" for additional important information. Other HELOC loans are available under different terms

John Taylor

Farmers Insurance Agent/Broker

14650 Cantova Way, St. 204 Rancho Murieta, CA 95683 jtaylor3@farmersagent.com



For All Your Insurance Needs — In Business **Since 1984**





License #: 0678249

Call today for a policy review and quote!

(916) 485-3236

916-402-6021 (Cell)

Edward Jones®

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

% APY* Minimum deposit \$10,000

%

% APY*

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



Linda Sobon Financial Advisor

2360 East Bidwell St., Suite 102 Folsom, CA 95630 916-673-6549

 $Annual\ Percentage\ Yield\ (APY)\ effective\ \textbf{10/16/2024}.\ CDs\ offered\ by\ Edward\ Jones\ are\ bank-issued\ and\ FDIC-insured\ up\ to\ \$250,000$ (principal and interest accrued but not yet paid) per depositor, per insured depository institution, for each account ownership category. Please visit www.fdic.gov or contact your financial advisor for additional information. Subject to availability and price change. CD values are subject to interest rate risk such that when interest rates rise, the prices of CDs can decrease. If CDs are sold prior to maturity, the investor can lose principal value. FDIC insurance does not cover losses in market value. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Yields quoted are net of all commissions. CDs require the distribution of interest and do not allow interest to compound. CDs offered through Edward Jones are issued by banks and thrifts nationwide. All CDs sold by Edward Jones are registered with the Depository Trust Corp. (DTC).

FDI-1867K-A © 2022 EDWARD D. JONES & CO., L.P. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.







Erin Howard • 354-8677

7281 Lone Pine Dr. Ste 105 • Murieta Plaza



Publisher, Paul V. Scholl

River Valley Times is a member of Messenger **Publishing Group**

To submit your articles, information, announcements or letters to the editor, please email to:

Publisher@mpg8.com. Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have

at (916) 773-1111.

email access, please call us

RIVER VALLEY TIMES

Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughhouse and Sacramento County.

It is the intent of the River Valley Times to strive for an objective point of view in the reporting of news and events. It is understood that the opinions expressed on these pages are those of the authors and cartoonists and are not necessarily the opinions of the publisher or our contributors.

The River Valley Times is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts or materials. The entire contents of the River Valley Times are copyrighted. Ownership of all advertising created and/or composed by the MPG is with the publishing company and written permission to reproduce the same must be obtained from the publisher.

Subscriptions should be mailed to River Valley Times, 7144 Fair Oaks Blvd. Suite 5, Carmichael, CA 95608.

The River Valley Times is published twice monthly. Call (916) 773-1111 for more information.

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.







916-773-11

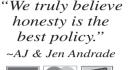
All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.

TheRiverValleyTimes.com

CALL-A-PROFESSIONAL













HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING Residential & Commercial Repair • Maintenance • Replacement

Tune Up

Andrade Heating & Air Conditioning (916) 747-9882



CALL Jessie –

FREE ESTIMATES

209-210-0625





Rancho Murieta Residents **Owned & Operated**

"Particular Homeowners Deserve Apex"

Quality Service At Competitive Prices!!!

We currently provide pest

protection for over 500 homes in your community!!

Call Today and Compare!

Be sure and ask about our Murieta Special!!!

354-0209



Honor Thy Elders... Senior Living Transitions, LLC

- All Care Facilities
- Independent Living Respite
- In Home Care Providers
- Companion
 VA Aid
- Medical Alert Estate Planning Gerontology Degree Caryl Abshire, LNHA

www.HonorThyElders.com 916 320-3631



"The Low-rate Leader for Purchase & Refinance Loans"

Bruce Boal | 916

California Home Loans

RM resident over 20 years!



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

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

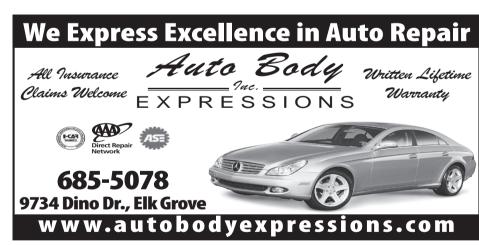
www.treetechservices.com



VISA

(916) 688-7979 | 1-800-821-TRIM









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

Since 1956

363-6554

Brighten a Senior's Day

Volunteer with Meals on Wheels Sacramento County We need compassionate volunteers to deliver meals, support our community cafes,

or help with clerical tasks. Your kindness helps our elderly neighbors maintain independence and dignity through improved nutrition.

For more information and to sign up, visit mowsac.org or call (916) 444-9533. Be the reason someone smiles today. Volunteer with us and make a heartfelt difference.



Kings Korner By V.G. Harris



For the Sacramento Kings, life is like a box of chocolates, you never know you're going to get.

After a blowout loss to the Orlando Magic, the Kings sustained back-to-back close losses to the Indiana Pacers and the lowly Washington Wizards. For many Kings fans, it was their darkest hour.

Radio talk shows lambasted the Kings, and many even suggested the team was playing to opt out of the playin, in favor of securing a first-round draft pick.

I would never accuse the Kings of

I would never accuse the Kings of tanking, because I don't believe it's in their DNA. There is far too much pride in these gladiators for any of them to take a night off.

True, at times they look like they've never seen a basketball before, but I see effort on the court every night, and I believe in this eccentric group that has captured the hearts of so many fans.

With negativity abounding the Kings drubbed the Charlotte Hornets 125-102 in a game that was never in question, but looming ahead was the indomitable Cleveland Cavaliers.

No one gave the Kings a chance and considering that the Sactown boys had just handed the Cavaliers a shocking loss in Sacramento just three weeks earlier, the Cav's were just waiting for payback.

In a game that was thoroughly enter-

In a game that was thoroughly entertaining, the Kings played like a team on a mission, and outplayed the Cavaliers for 48 minutes, handing the Eastern Conference leader only their 16th loss of the season.

Domantas Sabonis came to play and made a statement early, scoring 15 of his 27 points in the first quarter. Zach Lavine showed off his offensive prowess by adding 37 huge points in a 120-113 win over the Cavaliers and making the potential for postseason basketball a very real possibility for the Sacramento Kings.

But this win doesn't just portend postseason basketball, it sends a message to every negative pundit, and every Kings fan, that on any given night this newly assembled group of ballers, can beat the best that the NBA has to offer.

Hope is a fleeting emotion, but on this night in Cleveland, the Kings gave every fan a reason to play on. No more nonsense about playing for draft picks. Instead watch the movie "Hoosiers" again, and while you're at it why not plug in "Miracle on Ice".

I remember the 1976 Warriors that with only one star, went on a run that saw them winning four straight games over the Washington Bullets and shocking the basketball world.

These things happen, and they're the very reason we watch basketball.

We as fans are blessed with an eclectic group that have come together under difficult circumstances, and with a rookie coach, are trying to do what every supposed expert believes they can't do.

Well call me Pollyanna, because I decide what I believe, and I'll be rooting until they turn the lights out.

For many fans, your favorite player isn't even a member of the starting five, and that is what drives you. Bench rotations are ever so critical, and whether it's Malik Monk, Isaac Jones, or even Doug McDermott, fans live and die with every shot.

I was astounded to hear that Vegas has the Detroit Pistons as 6 ½ favorites over the Sacramento Kings Monday night, and every player on the Kings should take that as an insult. Put a chip on your shoulder and show the Pistons how they just defeated perhaps the best team in the Eastern Confernce the night before.

Look for anything that brings motivation and let's end this season on a high note.

Will the Kings finish 500 or better? I don't know, but I'll be watching, and I know anything is possible.

The offseason and its moves will take care of itself. It's time to put the hammer down and play basketball the way every fan knows this team is capable of.

Stay tuned Kings fans because the playoffs are more than just a pipe dream!

All the best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgharriskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Youth Orchestra's 'Harmony Across Time' Plays April 26 at State Railroad Museum



Purple Silk musicians perform at the California State Railroad Museum. Photo courtesy of Purple Silk Music Education Foundation

I-HOCK Communications News Release

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- The California State Railroad Museum & Foundation are proud to welcome the Great Wall Youth Orchestra for special live musical performances on Saturday, April 26.

The "Harmony Across Time" concert uses music to connect railroad history with the present and future for an immersive cultural experience. With a visual backdrop surrounded by historic locomotives, railcars and railroad stories that have lasted through the ages, the multi-sensory concert experience inside the museum is in partnership with the Purple Silk Music Education Foundation.

Student musicians will perform on traditional

Chinese instruments, adding an extra layer of cultural immersion to the visit.

The live performance and public schedule for April 26 is as follows:

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Small "spot" performances at various locations throughout the museum.

1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.: Main performance in Roundhouse.

2:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.: Audience and museum visitors are invited to meet the talented students and see the instruments after the conclusion of the live performance.

Visitors who come to experience the concert may also want to explore and tour the world-class museum. Of particular interest, the "Chinese Workers' Experience" exhibit in the first-floor Transcontinental

Gallery showcases and shares stories of the of Chinese railroad workers who were essential in the building of the Transcontinental Railroad. In addition, the Railroad Museum is home to the priceless "lost" Gold Spike and precious artifacts cast at the same time as the gold spike used at the Promontory Summit ceremony, plus the famous "Last Spike" painting by Thomas Hill that illustrates the scene of the famous joining of the Union and Central Pacific Railroads.

The concert is included with the price of museum admission. The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Regular admission is \$12 for adults, \$6 for youth (ages 6 to 17), and free for children 5 and under

For more, visit californiarailroad.museum.

