



Retirement, Water Bills, Barcodes are CSD Topics

PAGE 4

Women's Club Welcomes Spring with Bingo, Bling and Beans

PAGE 12



RIVER VALLEY TIMES

41ST YEAR • ISSUE 8

Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughouse, Wilton

APRIL 25, 2025

SEE INSIDE

RMA MEETING COVERS SECURITY



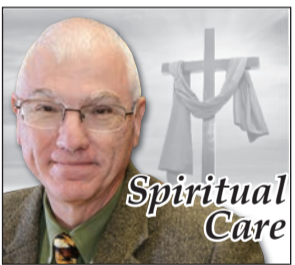
PAGE 2

NEW GM COMES WITH RESPECT



PAGE 5

LEARN TO SHARE THE ROAD ON LIFE'S HIGHWAY



Spiritual Care

PAGE 9



Scan our QR Code for a direct link to our online edition!

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

Egg Hunters Flock to Stonehouse Park



Children dash for eggs at the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Family Picnic hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta on April 19 at Stonehouse Park.

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Drawn by sunny skies, families flocked to Stonehouse Park on April 19 for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Family Picnic.

It was a happy contrast to the past two years when rainy weather

dampened the beloved event sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta.

Kiwanian Cookie Whalen, who organized the event, said the weather this year couldn't have been better, which helped draw the largest turnout ever: approximately 450 attendees, including kids, parents, grandparents and a dozen well-behaved dogs.

The day's highlight was the Easter

Egg Hunt, divided into three age groups for children ages 2 to 10. The event also featured photo ops with the Easter Bunny, a petting zoo, Easter-themed crafts, glitter tattoos, a Rancho Murieta Dance Company performance, and refreshments including popcorn, juice and water.

The East Division of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office

Continued on page 3

RMA Board Rift Emerges at Contentious Meeting

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A rift between Rancho Murieta Association Director Danny Carrillo and the rest of the board emerged during a contentious meeting on April 15.

Carrillo said that the board had excluded him from the executive sessions in an email to supporters before the meeting and in a statement read during the public comments at the open session.

"Since February, I have been entirely removed from these critical discussions despite continuing to serve as a duly elected director," Carrillo said.

Carrillo said he was first accused of disclosing confidential information from an executive session two years ago and, more recently, of threatening to do so again. He categorically denied ever sharing confidential details but



Rancho Murieta Association Director Danny Carrillo explains that other board members are excluding him from executive sessions. He was speaking at the April 15 board meeting.

acknowledged that he has argued behind closed doors for specific issues to be discussed in open sessions to promote transparency.

A dozen supporters of Carrillo attended the meeting and three spoke to express their concerns. Among them was

Nelly Bloom, who said that she was troubled that the community had not been informed about the change

Continued on page 6

CSD Financial Overhaul Recovers \$623,000 in 15 Months



By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Although past-due audits have been delayed, fixing the accounting so they could happen has resulted in the recovery of \$623,000 for the Rancho Murieta Community Services District.

Mark Matulich, director of finance and administration, shared the news during his report on the state of accounting at the Finance Committee meeting held on April 10.

Matulich said the amounts owed to the district that the staff identified and collected during this period were as follows.

Unpaid developer deposit fees totaling \$142,000. "If we hadn't looked into this, the district would have just eaten this," Matulich said. These deposits help ensure the district recovers costs during the review and inspection of new development.

Unpaid security impact fees totaling \$125,000. They are required when developers connect to the water system to help pay for security capital improvements. The fee of \$1,200 per lot "was completely forgotten about," he said.

Past-due and unpaid utility bills totaling more than \$100,000 "that people just didn't pay." This included 40 homes that had never been set up with district accounts and, in one case, went unbilled for 14 months.

Water treatment plant reimbursements totaling \$256,000. "You may have heard these referred to as previously funded infrastructure," he said. The reimbursements came from The Retreats and Riverview subdivisions.

Noting that the total reached \$623,000, Matulich said the staff was able to recover the funds "because we took the time to understand how critically important it was to learn how the district operates, to identify the problem areas, and to do the work ... in fixing

Continued on page 9

RMA Board Discusses Perimeter Security

Story and photos
by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The community's perimeter emerged as a common thread in three key reports at the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on April 15.

Greg Pryor, president of the Rancho Murieta Fire Safe Council, renewed his call to automate the Escuela Gate during evacuations and apologized for coming on too strong at previous meetings.

Traffic Engineer John Long provided an update on a CALTRANS grant to fund a study to improve Jackson Highway. The goal is to enhance emergency evacuation routes from Rancho Murieta and ensure better access for emergency vehicles during heavy flooding.

Director Chris Childs, the chair of the Perimeter Security Ad Hoc Committee, reported that the group has identified serious vulnerabilities along the gated community's boundaries. He also commended a Rancho Murieta Community Services officer for stopping a trespasser attempting to fish at Laguna Joaquin.

The most significant development was the public disclosure of a rift between Director Danny Carrillo and the rest of the board. (See the separate story on Page 1 of this issue.)

Escuela Gate Automation

As president of the Fire Safe Council, Greg Pryor has spent years advocating for the automation of the Escuela Gate and the Bent Grass Court gates so they can be opened along with the two main gates during emergency evacuations. In his most recent presentation to RMA in January, Pryor focused solely on the Escuela Gate. That shift occurred because the Fire Safe Council decided to seek approval to automate the Bent Grass gates from the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD), which owns them. The CSD Board has not yet discussed the proposal.

Speaking during public comments at the April meeting, Pryor opened with an apology. He explained that his passion about the gate and safety issues came from his role as president of the Fire Safe Council and his background as a former fire captain, but he acknowledged that his approach may have strained



Greg Pryor, president of the Rancho Murieta Fire Safe Council, distributes a handout at the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on April 15, renewing his request that the board approve the automation of Escuela Gate for emergency use only.



Retired traffic engineer John Long updates the board on a CALTRANS grant awarded to study improvements to Jackson Highway to enhance fire evacuation routes and maintain access during flooding events.



Greg Pryor apologizes for coming on too strong at previous board meetings, acknowledging that his passion for fire safety may have affected communication with the board.



Director Chris Childs, who chairs the subcommittee investigating the security of the community's perimeter, praised the actions of a CSD security officer for professionally handling a trespassing incident near the Lago Drive gate.

communication with the board.

"I've probably come on pretty strong, and I apologize for that," he said. "I believe we have accomplished a lot together."

Pryor also apologized for insisting that the board had voted to fund the gate but failed to follow through. After further research, he realized he had been mistaken.

Pryor highlighted several community accomplishments in fuel mitigation and fire safety, including securing a \$4.4 million ladder fuel reduction grant, establishing a shaded fuel break on Scott Road, achieving the FireWise Community designation—which has helped lower insurance premiums—and obtaining a CALTRANS grant to study ways to improve evacuation routes along Jackson Highway.

Pryor said if communication could be opened and the gate automated in the next year, "I want to say to the community and the board that I will personally pay for the automation of Escuela Gate because I really believe in it."

Pryor also provided each director with a handout: a copy of the minutes from a stakeholders meeting convened last year by former Supervisor Sue Frost to focus on automating the remote gates for evacuation.

"We had the chief and a fire marshal in the stakeholder group, who agreed this was a real issue," Pryor said. "Their conclusion was that it was the

best idea that anyone could come up with, and they said they wouldn't stand in the way of us getting it done."

Two audience members, Patrick and Marji Salo, also advocated for the automation of Escuela Gate.

CALTRANS Grant

John Long, a retired engineer, updated the board on a CALTRANS grant obtained by Sacramento County that will fund a study to improve Jackson Highway infrastructure. The goal is to make it safer and more accessible during wildfires or flooding emergencies.

The impetus for the grant was the extensive flooding during the 2023 New Year's storm, which temporarily cut off access to Rancho Murieta. In response, three Rancho Murieta residents affiliated with the Fire Safe Council—John Long, Greg Pryor and John Merchant—began conferring with former County Supervisor Sue Frost. She and Merchant put together a bus tour for county staff and elected officials to view the flood-prone areas firsthand, followed by a roundtable meeting a few days later that included representatives from law enforcement, fire services and CALTRANS.

Long said the participating Sacramento County staff recognized the critical safety concerns about evacuating during a wildfire and ensuring Jackson Highway remains open

during floods so emergency vehicles can access the community. As a result, they decided to pursue grant funding to address both issues, with Long assisting in the application process.

"Our application convinced CALTRANS of these safety risks, and they awarded the county a grant last summer," Long said.

However, CALTRANS took some time to process the grant, which delayed the county's ability to go out to bid until February. A consultant has been selected to conduct the study, and the county is expected to sign a contract soon. Long added that he will serve as a volunteer advisor for the project, which will evaluate Jackson Highway from the Amador County line to Grant Line Road. The final product will be a comprehensive plan presented to the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors for approval.

"The important outcome I see from this effort is, one, we will know how long it will take this community to evacuate under various scenarios, and two, it should lead to an agreement with CALTRANS on a set of needed improvements to their highway," Long said.

Long told the board he attended the meeting to give them a heads-up.

"Probably by next month, the RMA will be asked by the county or its consultants to participate in this important study," he said.

Perimeter Security

Director Chris Childs, chair of the Perimeter Security Ad Hoc Committee, reported on the group's activities, including a field survey of the community's western boundary. He described walking through wet grass and marshlands while wearing safety vests to assess security risks.

During the walk, the committee identified a significant vulnerability in the northwest corner of the community, where there is no fence and individuals can easily enter from Stonehouse Road. Childs also noted that they observed a mountain biker effortlessly crossing the fence near a radio tower—indicating unauthorized access to the community.

Childs emphasized that the perimeter security vulnerabilities are "staggering" and said the committee is actively working on potential solutions. That effort will include collaborating with Mark Parsons, RMA's architectural review manager, to clarify property ownership and maintenance responsibilities along the boundary.

He added that the committee plans to present "really substantive suggestions" for the board to consider and their associated budget impacts.

"I think we owe it to the residents to make this place as safe as we can," he concluded.

Childs also shared a story about a trespasser who was caught in the

act, thanks to the quick response of a CSD security officer. Childs was waiting at the signal to turn onto Murieta Parkway when he noticed a pedestrian in the crosswalk carrying two fishing poles and pulling a Yeti cooler stacked with two tackle boxes.

A CSD security officer approached the man as he ducked under the trees and attempted to enter through the Lago Drive gate. When Childs identified himself to the officer a short time later, he learned the man was not a resident but claimed he was meeting someone at Laguna Joaquin. He couldn't provide a name but attempted to call someone. The officer told Childs he would wait to confirm the resident's identity if one showed up—or escort the trespasser out of the community if not.

Childs praised the officer's conduct.

"I would like to commend the CSD Security Department for doing a really good job," he said.

Other Business

During his general manager's report, Rod Hart announced that Tractor Supply will host the National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day event on May 3 from noon to 3 p.m. He emphasized the importance of resident participation in helping to maintain Rancho Murieta's FireWise Community certification, which has contributed to reduced insurance premiums. Hart noted that first responders, the Fire Safe Council and other key stakeholders will participate in the event.

Director Danny Carrillo, chair of the Communications Committee, reported that his group is still working to obtain a Meta Verification subscription, which would enhance RMA's visibility on its website and Facebook page.

"We are still on the waiting list," he said. "Evidently, it is a popular feature."

Board President Pat O'Hern, who chairs the Maintenance Committee, reported that the Pickleball Club has approached RMA requesting three additional courts. He also noted that the Entertainment, Theatre, and Culture Committee (ETC) is seeking more concrete work at the Lake Clementia Amphitheater.

Director John Haviland, chair of the Recreation Committee, said the spray park will open May 24 and that planning is underway for July 4 celebrations.

This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com. ★



Rancho Murieta
HOMES & LAND



Rancho Murieta, a 3,500-acre country-club community, is an oasis of emerald fairways and manicured greens, built along the scenic banks of the Cosumnes River.

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

rmhl.acceleragent.net

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

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

Egg Hunters Flock to Stonehouse Park

Continued from page 1
 sent a team of deputies and volunteers to the event, with badges proving their most popular giveaway. Firefighters from the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District also took part, handing out stickers beside their fire trucks.

Rancho Murieta disc jockey Chris Perris provided the musical backdrop and kept the event running smoothly with timely announcements.

New this year was a separate, unannounced egg hunt for children with autism. Whalen said a small group of families reached out because their children wanted to participate but would be overwhelmed by the noise, excitement and the “big, scary Easter Bunny.”

As a result, “We decided to do a smaller, quieter egg hunt off to the side,” she explained.

Between 10 and 12 children participated.

Two youth groups filled the plastic eggs with stickers and candy ahead of the event: the K-Kids Club at Cosumnes River Elementary School and the Rancho Murieta Key Club made up of high school students. “It took them a good month after school and on the weekends to stuff 4,500 eggs,” Whalen reported. “It was a huge, huge job.”

Key Club member Desiree Ntale volunteered to be the Easter Bunny, posing for family portraits before a balloon backdrop and kicking off each egg hunt.

“The kids just loved the Easter Bunny and the animals from the farm in Wilton (at the petting



Violet Lynch, left, Evan Lynch, Samuel Lee and Henry Lynch pose for a photo with the Easter Bunny (Desiree Ntale).



Antonio Chavez shares his Easter candy with his sister, Debahny Chavez.

zoo),” Whalen said.

Key Club members also pitched in on the event day,

distributing eggs before and between each hunt, collecting emptied eggs

and assisting the approximately 20 Kiwanians staffing the event. Scouts



Payton Gray is all smiles at the petting zoo.



The Murieta Dance Company’s Mini Competition team performs “Butterfly Fly Away” by Miley Cyrus.



Spencer Apland beams as his son JoJo shows off the bunny mask he assembled at the craft booth.

from Troop 633 also supported the Kiwanians with setup and takedown.

Whalen also praised the Rancho Murieta Association Maintenance Department, saying they had been “absolutely fabulous” in handling the canopies and other heavy lifting.

Whalen said it took a small army of volunteers to plan and execute the event, but they had a lot of fun along the way.

“It was all about the kids and the families and bringing them together,” she said.

See additional photos at therivervalleytimes.com. ★

RANCHO MURIETA AIRPORT

(916) 354-9889

20 minute drive from Folsom and El Dorado Hills

1,000, 1,500, 2,000, 3,000 Sq. ft. Boutique Garages and Shop Space

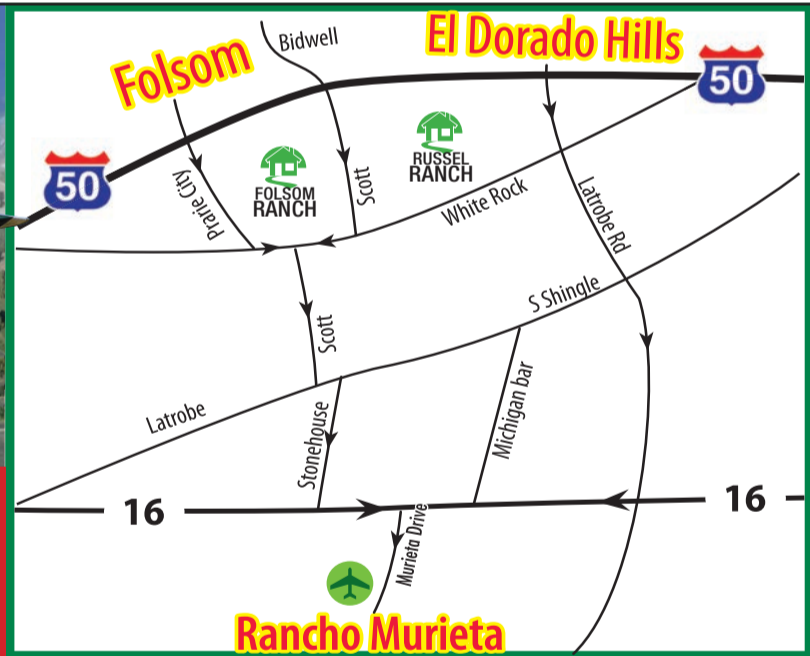
FEATURING

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

Share with a friend or relative

- Great for indoor RV/Boat Storage or Extra Garage Storage
- Internet Ready

Conveniently located at Rancho Murieta Airport



RV & BOAT STORAGE • SELF STORAGE

SIZE (WXL)	PRICE (\$/mo)
8 x 8:	\$127.00
8 x 10:	\$143.00
8 x 20:	\$212.00
8 x 40:	\$287.00

SIZE (WXL) ...	PRICE (\$/mo)
11 x 20:	\$150.00
11 x 30:	\$155.00
11 x 35:	\$165.00
12 x 40:	\$185.00
12 x 50:	\$200.00

Office Hours Mon-Sat 8am-4pm (Gate Hours 6am-7pm Daily)
 24 Hour Video Surveillance • 50' Wide Drive Aisles
 Dump Station • Propane Sales

7443 Murieta Drive, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683 • Visit us at www.rmairport.com
 SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS • BATTERIES

GIPSON GOLF CARTS

AUTHORIZED DEALER

EZGO
 A Textron Company

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 Available at Rancho Murieta Airport

Propane Tanks Refilled Here

only \$3.65 per gallon

Retirement, Water Bills, Barcodes are CSD Topics

Story and photo
by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board discussed a range of topics at its April 16 meeting, but none were fraught, like some issues at past meetings.

The highlight of the meeting was the board's recognition of Ron Greenfield, who has retired as the district's utility supervisor. Other topics included a water bill complaint, Cal Waste rate adjustments, proposed Capital Improvement Projects for the 2025=26 fiscal year budget, a repair at the Water Treatment Plant and an ordinance raising barcode sticker fees. Two residents also objected to the draft Integrated Water Master Plan.

Three key figures were absent from the meeting, including Board President Steve Booth, who has informed the district he will not be attending meetings for the time being. (See the story in the April 11 issue or online at therivervalleytimes.com.) Also absent were Director of Finance and Administration Mark Matulich and Director of Operations Eric Houston, both out sick.

Ron Greenfield

Ron Greenfield was honored at the board meeting for his 11 years of service to the Rancho Murieta Community Services District. The board approved a resolution recognizing his contributions as utilities supervisor. Greenfield told the board he plans to spend his first six months of retirement "chilling, traveling and fishing."

Board members and staff congratulated him, with Director Linda Butler noting that he already looked younger, and adding that the "ladies in the front office" all agreed.

Water Bill Complaint

During public comments, resident Kristie Wagner addressed the board about an issue with her water bill that she had been trying to resolve for months. Wagner explained that when she purchased a home on Colina Lane in July 2022, the district failed to record the change in ownership and did not send her any water bills. She only became aware of the problem in July—after her tenant moved out—when she received an unbilled account notice for \$4,656.

Wagner said the situation resulted from the district's failure to follow its policies, including failing to record the deed transfer, issuing monthly bills or shutting off water for non-payment.

She told the board that if those procedures had been followed, she would have known about the billing issue much sooner. She asked for the board's help in resolving the matter.

Deb Brittain, a real estate agent, also addressed the board, pointing out that Wagner had omitted a key detail: She was selling the Colina Lane property, with escrow scheduled to close the following day.

Brittain proposed transferring the outstanding water bill to Wagner's current



Director John Merchant, right, reads a resolution recognizing Ron Greenfield, who is retiring after 11 years as the utility supervisor for the Rancho Murieta Community Services District. The brief ceremony took place at the April 16 board meeting.

Rancho Murieta residence to avoid delaying the property sale. She explained that this approach would allow the sale to proceed while giving the board time to resolve the billing issue. The board, particularly Director Tim Maybee, agreed with the proposal, as did Wagner and District Counsel Patrick Enright. General Manager Mimi Morris was directed to confirm the arrangement with the title company the following day.

Cal Waste

Also, during public comments, resident and former Board Member Betty Ferraro raised concerns about the Cal Waste green waste contract and proposed rate increases. She referenced a prior notification indicating residents would no longer place household green waste in their containers and would receive a credit. However, she said she had not seen any such credit applied and was troubled to see Cal Waste requesting a budget increase. Ferraro questioned whether the credit issue had been resolved and why rates were increasing, expressing frustration that the community might end up "holding the bag" for Cal Waste's mistakes.

Morris explained that SB 1383 introduced significant challenges for waste haulers by requiring stricter organic waste separation and limiting disposal options. These new regulations have made it more expensive for haulers to manage waste, contributing to rising costs.

She noted that while the district had initially hoped to reduce expenses through a low-population waiver, the actual savings were minimal. Morris added that the district is exploring alternatives, such as local composting, so Cal Waste doesn't have to transport green waste to Yolo County. Still, any potential cost savings from such efforts are limited.

Regarding the proposed rate increase for the upcoming year, Morris said the company's contract with the district includes an annual rate adjustment tied to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It is an

escalator to help the service provider keep pace with inflation.

Cal Waste owner Rudy Vaccarezza said they are committed to working with the district to find the best path forward and are willing to help navigate the complexities of the new regulations. He also noted that the district received a waiver from conducting route audits (trash policing) and said Cal Waste is now seeking direction from the board on the desired level of service going forward.

Capital Improvements Projects

During her review of the proposed 2025-26 fiscal year budget, General Manager Mimi Morris presented a list of proposed Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) totaling approximately \$5 million, all of which would be funded from reserves. Director Randy Jenco expressed concern that the \$5 million figure was too high, noting the district is only contributing \$2.6 million to reserves next year. He recommended shifting the CIP discussion to the Improvements Committee to prioritize projects and reduce overall costs. The board appeared to support his suggestion.

Infrastructure Repairs

Plant Supervisor Travis Bohannon, filling in for Director of Operations Eric Houston, briefed the board on two repair projects. He explained that during a scheduled rehabilitation at Water Treatment Plant 2, removing media from the filter bed revealed several additional issues requiring repair. He recommended completing the work now to avoid repeating the process later, and the board approved an updated repair cost of \$75,000. Bohannon also reported that repairs to the Alameda Lift Station have been postponed until winter to minimize disruption to the Rancho Murieta Country Club during peak play and to avoid the \$15,000 cost of providing portable toilets on site.

Integrated Water Master Plan

Two residents raised concerns about the draft of the Integrated Water Master Plan

(IWMP), with Tom Harry speaking during public comments and Janis Eckard submitting a written letter.

Harry strongly opposed a proposed alternative that suggested existing residents should conserve water to accommodate future development. He urged the board to remove that option from the plan, arguing that conservation by current residents should not be used to support growth.

He also noted that although developers recently withdrew plans for the villages near the back lakes, the land remains developable and should still be factored into water supply planning.

In her letter, longtime community advocate Janis Eckard emphasized that neither she nor Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces is anti-development.

"But I am anti-running out of water," she wrote. Eckard stressed the importance of correcting the draft IWMP to "determine once and for all how many homes could be supported by the existing water supply."

Insurance

Morris informed the board that staff is exploring ways to reduce insurance costs, including reconsidering a specialized policy for the dams, which has risen from \$11,000 to \$47,000.

She said Houston was comfortable not purchasing the policy, citing the minimal risk of catastrophic failure associated with earthen dams. The board directed that Houston provide additional context on the condition of the dams and potential risks at a future meeting.

Barcode Ordinance

The board waived the first reading on a do-over ordinance that imposes a new fee of \$10 per vehicle for barcode stickers. The ordinance will be brought back in May for final adoption. The board held the first reading on the same ordinance in December but didn't complete the process because of some community objections.

The renewal fee will first appear on the June monthly service bill sent around July 1 and then annually on the January 1 bill.

Other Business

The board also discussed the need to maintain an inventory of emergency replacement parts, particularly for the aging steel pipe beneath Lake Clementia. Bohannon noted that purchasing spare pipe sections can be costly: around \$30,000 to \$40,000 for 20-foot segments. Directors Jenco and Maybee suggested keeping some critical parts in stock to enable quick repairs when needed.

Morris also reported on recent repairs to the Cosumnes Irrigation Association (CIA) Ditch, which totaled \$75,000, with the district responsible for one-third of the cost.

The work included applying Gunitite to a section of the ditch, removing trees and addressing additional issues uncovered during a recent post-storm inspection.

The board also approved a revised job description for the utility supervisor.

This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com. ★

Senate Debates Adding an Official State Snake

By MPG Staff

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

- According to the official news release from State Sen. Roger Niello's office, the Governmental Organization Committee passed Senate Bill 765 on April 8. The bill establishes the giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) as the official state snake.

Currently, California does not have an official state snake.

According to the California State Library website, California does have a plethora of other official state symbols. For example, the state bird is the California quail, the state fabric is denim, and the state fish is the golden trout.

Many obscure symbols make the State Library list, like folk dance, fossil, lichen and mushroom, but no snake currently makes that list.

Senate Bill 756 proposes to correct the oversight.

The official news release from Senator Niello's office states:

The giant garter snake



Senate Bill 765, introduced by State Sen. Roger Niello, would establish the giant garter snake as the official state snake of California. Photo by Brian Hansen, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

was listed as threatened in California in 1971 and federally recognized as threatened in 1993. Its population has declined by more than 90% in the past century.

Since then, there have been conservatory efforts in support of the snake

in the wetlands and rice fields.

"Found in wetlands across the state, the giant garter snake is an essential part of our natural heritage and helps keep the balance in the environment," said Sen. Roger Niello, the author of Senate Bill 765.

"I am proud to be part of the effort to make the giant garter snake the official state snake and raise awareness about its important role in our state's environment and agriculture."

Michael Starkey, the Founder and Executive Director of Save The

Snakes, said, "Designating the giant garter snake as California's official State Snake is more than a symbolic gesture; it's a crucial step in raising awareness about this vulnerable species and its vital role in our state's ecosystems." He continued, "This

designation will amplify conservation efforts, fostering public education and ensuring the protection of this unique and ecologically significant reptile for generations to come. It's a chance to highlight the importance of wetlands and the delicate balance of nature within California."

California Rice Commission President and CEO Tim Johnson expressed the commission's support.

"With 95% of California's wetlands now gone, rice fields and the canals that feed them have become valuable habitat for the giant garter snake. Our farmers are working with researchers and water districts to understand how our fields can provide even more habitat to this iconic species."

Senate Bill 765 now moves on to the Senate Floor.

Elected in 2022, Senator Niello represents California Senate District 6, which covers portions of Placer and Sacramento counties. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



There are the times in the life of an NBA city, when sadness becomes an almost overwhelming reality. For some it is a different emotion because as fans we come in all shapes and sizes. But for those of you that are simply angry, let me say to you that life is too short, and if anything, this franchise needs your positive energy more than your anger.

The person responsible for giving away Davion Mitchell and then trading away the heart of the franchise in DeAaron Fox, has been given his walking papers, and many would say rightfully so.

Yes, the Sacramento Kings have a new general manager, and his name is Scott Perry. Unlike his two predecessors, Perry comes to the Kings with a resume of experience.

Sacramento is not new to Scott Perry, as he spent a short stint as the Kings vice president of basketball operations in 2017. After only three months in the head office, Perry was hired by the New York Knicks as their general manager.

Make no mistake about it, the position of GM with any NBA club is a chess piece of invaluable proportion. Fortunately, Scott Perry comes with not only experience in his role, but NBA respect as well. This bodes well for a franchise in desperate need of a captain that can navigate a ship.

Fans immediately wonder what Perry's first moves will look like, and will Doug Christie remain as the head coach of the Kings moving into the 2025/2026 season? Many believe the answer is yes, as Vivek Radadive apparently holds Christie in high esteem.

Whether it's choosing the coach or draft choices, the Kings owner has shown a penchant for being centrally involved in all moves involving this team. He has been criticized for being too involved and has even been given credit for the decision to draft Marvin Bagley over Luka Doncic in the 2018 draft.

At the end of the day, virtually every owner has the final decision as it relates to all moves, but the most successful organizations know the value of the basketball minds they hire, and those people need to know they have a level of autonomy when it comes to decision making. In short, let

people do the job they've been hired to do, and respect their ability to do it.

Every NBA team has a culture, and as a new general manager walks in the door, that culture is about to change.

What fans want and hope for, is a culture that not only fosters comradery and cogent decision making, but an environment that says loudly, "we know what we're doing and we're good at it."

Poor decision making has robbed the Kings of a first-round draft choice in the upcoming draft, so before Scott Perry sits down at his new desk, he will have to decide if he needs to reconcile a pathway that includes a move that can secure a first-round draft pick. Easier said than done, and there will need to be a player in this draft that makes a move like this necessary.

NBA insiders say this draft is a better than average class, so this is not a good time to be sitting on the sideline.

After making the playoffs just two seasons ago, the Kings finished 40-42 this season, and many might say that it was overachieving considering the upheaval that was the 2024/2025 season.

Without question, the team and the fans are looking for a steady hand that can create not just confidence, but genuine excitement as the 2025/2026 season begins.

I believe this is possible, and I want to give this new GM my utmost support as he steps in at a difficult time and knows without a doubt, he has a big job to do.

Very soon Sacramento Kings fans will discover if players like Keegan Murray and even newcomer Zach Lavine have a future in a Kings uniform.

Attempting to reassemble a team in mid-season while making dramatic changes to the lineup proved too much the Sactown ballers, and this offseason will be one of the most critical in many years.

Take a deep breath Kings fans but don't lose hope. More changes are undoubtedly in the offing, and shortly you will see if the experience that Scott Perry brings to this team will pay the dividends fans are praying for.

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

Social Security Matters

When Should My Wife Claim Social Security?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: My wife was born in July 1959, and her recent SS benefit estimate is \$3,337 at her full retirement age, or \$4,397 at age 70. She is presently employed full-time and intends to continue working until she is aged 70. She is wondering when the most financially advantageous time would be to draw her SS retirement. **Signed: Planning Ahead**

Dear Planning Ahead: Obviously, the best time for your wife to get the highest possible monthly Social Security benefit would be age 70. Provided your wife's life expectancy is at least average (about age 87 for a woman her current age), she will likely receive the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits by waiting until age 70 to claim.

For clarity, if your wife were to choose to claim before her full retirement age (FRA), her monthly amount would be less and she would be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test (AET), which limits how much she can earn before her FRA. If the AET is exceeded, SS will take away \$1 for every \$2 her earnings are over the limit (they take away by

withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied). The AET (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly) is in effect until your wife reaches her full retirement age of 66 years and 10 months, after which she can earn as much as she likes without penalty. Since she plans to work full time until age 70, your wife should likely not claim Social Security before her FRA. As mentioned, claiming at age 70 is probably a more prudent financial option.

Since your wife expects to continue working, she should also know that her estimated benefit will likely increase assuming her more recent earnings are among the highest over her lifetime. Social Security will review current year earnings annually to see if her current earnings warrant a benefit increase (SS benefits are always based on the highest 35 years of work earnings, and that includes earnings even after SS benefit are started). Also, the estimates provided by SS do not include Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) which typically occur annually. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the past two decades has been about 2.5%.

Based on her estimated FRA benefit, it is also evident that your wife will not get additional benefits as your spouse. For that to occur, your benefit at your FRA would need to be more than twice your wife's FRA amount, which it likely is not. Thus, your wife should make her claiming decision based

only on her own benefit opportunity, considering her personal financial needs and her life expectancy.

FYI, your wife's "breakeven age" – the age at which she will have collected the same amount of SS money by claiming at age 70 vs. claiming at her full retirement age (FRA), is about 82 years of age. Thus, assuming her life expectancy is more than 82, it would be prudent to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security.

In the end, the "best" time to claim Social Security depends on a few factors – most notably, life expectancy, and financial need. If the SS money isn't urgently needed now, and your wife's life expectancy is at least "average," then it appears from what you've shared that her best choice would be to wait until age 70 to claim Social Security. If life circumstances change over the years, your wife can take comfort knowing that she can also claim her Social Security at any time before age 70 and she will get benefits right up to the month she claims. Note that by waiting until after her FRA to claim, she will earn Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) of .667% more benefit for each month of delay (about 8% more for each year of delay).

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). ★

Salmon Fishing Shutdown Marks a Grim Milestone

By Charlton H. Bonham

This week, a public federal process determined there will be no commercial salmon fishing off California's coast for the third year in a row. It's a grim milestone for our state.

While we will see some recreational ocean fishing, we're at the low-water mark. With so few fish available, we know this won't be enough to meet the demand of our state. That's hard news in hard times.

Thirty years ago, the idea we would be implementing, yet alone discussing, these restrictions would have been unthinkable. Back then, millions of salmon swam through the rivers of California every year. It was a bountiful, thriving species.

But last year, the number of adult salmon in the Sacramento Index, a critical measure of the Sacramento River salmon population and an indicator of the overall health of California's salmon, shrank to roughly 100,000 fish. It's a tiny fraction of salmon's former might.

The reasons for the decline are numerous and complicated. Decades of severe drought, climate disruption, water management challenges and habitat loss threaten the future of salmon in California. The loss of salmon would wound California deeply.

Salmon are the basis of a multibillion-dollar fishing economy that creates jobs across the state. They support thriving forests, rivers and floodplains and serve as one of the most popular seafood choices across the country. Salmon provide vital subsistence to numerous California tribes. Recreational salmon fishing trips form the basis of family legend and lore.

For the salmon lovers among us, these are dark times. But I see glimmers of hope.

Two weeks ago, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife revealed the progress on California's "Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future." It was an update on the strategy Gov. Gavin Newsom released last year, which outlined dozens of key action items the state must take to better support healthy salmon populations.

In the last year alone, state fish and wildlife and its partner agencies have made critical headway on nearly 70% of the action items set by Governor Gavin Newsom. Another 26% are already done.

California finished removing the

outdated and obsolete Klamath River dams, allowing for a free-flowing river and access to cold-water habitats blocked for more than a century.

California's initiative to fast-track approvals for salmon restoration projects led to the streamlining of more than 60 important projects to support salmon populations over the past year.

Fish and wildlife has also worked with the State Water Resources Control Board to develop flow recommendations in drought-prone watersheds like the Scott and Shasta rivers and Mill and Deer creeks. This ensures salmon populations have enough cold water to survive during dry periods.

Investments to expand and modernize the state's fish hatcheries, ensuring California is supporting the production of a resilient salmon population, have increased fall run production from state-operated hatcheries in the Central Valley by over 9.7 million fish.

The state's salmon strategy was designed for long-term salmon support. But we're already seeing early benefits, some that even surprised fish and wildlife officials. Ten days after the final Klamath dam came down, state scientists spotted salmon swimming north of the dam sites into Oregon.

Experts originally estimated that would take 10 years.

Data shows that, while salmon numbers from 2024 are down, California saw the highest number of jacks (2-year-old fish) returning to the Central Valley since 2019. Jacks are an important predictor of the number of adult salmon that will return to spawn the following year.

In Lagunitas Creek, there's been a 60% increase in spawning of endangered Coho salmon. In Mendocino County, adult salmon returns have almost quadrupled their 15-year average.

To be clear, these wins are just the beginning. The road to reviving California salmon will be long. But these successes give me hope and the drive to keep fighting for salmon.

This commentary appeared on CalMatters.org on April 18, written by Charlton H. Bonham, director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. ★

Sacramento CHORAL SOCIETY & Orchestra

Donald Kendrick, Music Director

Season 29
2025 Finale

A LERNER & LOEWE CELEBRATION

SATURDAY | MAY 3 | 3PM

Fall in love again

with this Broadway tribute to the music of Lerner & Loewe saluting the immortal shows of *Camelot*, *Paint Your Wagon*, *Gigi*, *Brigadoon* and *My Fair Lady*, complete with dancers, lighting and choreography.

Alfred Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe

Leslie Katter, Soprano Noel Anthony Escobar, Tenor Simon Barrad, Baritone



Katter



Escobar



Barrad

SAFE Credit Union Performing Arts Center
1301 L STREET, SACRAMENTO

SAFE CU PAC Box Office | 916.808.5181 or Ticketmaster.com

RMA Board Rift Emerges at Contentious Meeting

Continued from page 1
in representation.

Carrillo also read a prepared statement about his exclusion from executive sessions and allegations of board misconduct.

Carrillo asked the board for a brief recess at the close of public comments to allow his supporters to leave. Director Scott Adams interjected, saying, "Hold on. Hold on," and noted that the board had a response to Carrillo's remarks.

Adams confirmed that the board had formed an executive session committee that excludes Carrillo, a decision made after more than a year and a half of consideration and with the advice of legal counsel.

"We did so for legal reasons that were explained to Director Carrillo," Adams said, calling it the second-most serious action a board can take against a director in California.

Director Chris Childs said the allegations made by Carrillo and audience members that night were both inaccurate and hurtful.

"There's no way for the board to correct these issues without disclosing confidential information, which really puts us in a predicament," Childs said.

Audience Comments

Although Carrillo did not provide The River Valley Times with a copy of his email to supporters, audience member Dave Thomas read it aloud during the meeting. Thomas said the message left him deeply concerned and questioning what was happening.

"Dear constituents, I'm reaching out to seek your support in my quest to ensure complete transparency regarding a significant financial matter that the board has selected to keep concealed," Carrillo wrote in the email.

The email stated that Carrillo ordered the board to reconsider its decision "to exclude me from participation in executive sessions as a consequence of my own unwavering dedication to unveiling the truth of this issue."

His email also thanked recipients for standing by him.

After reading the message, Thomas added, "I hope these issues, whatever they may be, will be discussed and resolved as soon as we can."

Audience member Nellie Bloom spoke in support of Carrillo, noting that she has worked with him

on the Communications Committee, which he chairs.

"He listens, he welcomes differing opinions, he encourages thoughtful dialogue and he offers workable solutions," Bloom said.

While acknowledging that some breach had occurred two years earlier, Bloom said Carrillo wasn't the source.

"It appears to me that instead of resolving it, the problem has been exacerbated, that it remains unresolved and is now manifesting in secret board committees excluding Danny, personal attacks and a lack of accountability," Bloom said.

Audience member Don Ogden said he had two requests in response to Carrillo's email. First, he submitted a formal records request seeking details about the confidential information that Carrillo was allegedly accused of disclosing.

Ogden, a member of the Governing Documents Committee chaired by Director Adams, also requested that the committee review the bylaws or governing documents at its next meeting to determine "what allows board members to censure or exclude other board members from closed session."

Carrillo's Statement

After Carrillo left his board seat to speak at the podium, Board President Patrick O'Hern asked whether he intended to speak as a member of the public. Carrillo replied, "I'm taking the podium so I can see everybody's face who I'm addressing."

O'Hern reminded him that he was still a board member and, therefore, bound by all rules regarding confidentiality. The two briefly sparred over whether Carrillo would be allowed more than three minutes to speak, with O'Hern ultimately telling him he could finish his remarks from his seat on the board.

In his written statement, Carrillo said that he wanted to address concerns he believed had a significant impact on the "health, transparency, and trust within the association as a whole." He began by discussing his exclusion from executive session meetings, stating that his attempts to communicate with staff, the board and legal counsel had gone unanswered.

Carrillo said that about



Rancho Murieta Association Director Scott Adams explains that Director Danny Carrillo is being excluded for legal reasons.

two years earlier, he had raised a concern about a board vote in an executive session, hoping the issue could be discussed openly. But, Carrillo said, his concerns were dismissed.

"Shortly afterward, I was accused of disclosing confidential information related to this issue, an allegation I categorically deny," Carrillo said.

"What followed was a troubling pattern of marginalization and intimidation, including harassment directed at both myself and my wife," Carrillo said.

More recently, Carrillo raised another concern about an issue he wanted discussed in an open session. Carrillo said that his concerns were dismissed, followed by a second accusation that he had threatened to disclose confidential information.

"I have never done so," Carrillo said.

The board quietly formed a committee to handle executive sessions and excluded him, according to Carrillo.

"To this day, no notice has been provided to the membership regarding this shift in representation," Carrillo said. "That is a serious omission."

Carrillo said it was time for the association "to adopt updated policies, enhance training, and recommit to transparency and open dialogue." To support that effort, he proposed the formation of a Leadership and Communication Improvement Committee.

The audience clapped after he finished.

Following the meeting, Carrillo sent The River Valley Times a seven-page document outlining 10 suggestions for the committee's focus and objectives.

Board Comments

Adams defended the board's actions, confirming

"There's no way for the board to correct these issues without disclosing confidential information, which really puts us in a predicament."

— Rancho Murieta Association Director Chris Childs

that the executive session committee was formed with the advice of legal counsel.

"We did so for legal reasons that were explained to Director Carrillo," Adams said.

Adams described the board's move as "the second-most serious action" a board can take against a director but said it was "100% appropriate" in light of Carrillo's actions.

The decision, Adams said, was "probably the most tempered, thoughtful, deliberated action by the board" during his seven years as a director.

Adams emphasized that the board is prohibited from discussing certain matters in public, including legal, contractual, personnel and privacy issues.

"I've never seen a single item that we've talked about in executive session that shouldn't have been talked about in executive session," Adams said.

Adams added that the issue Carrillo raised had previously been addressed in the executive session.

"It shouldn't have been brought up but it is now and that is why I wanted to comment," Adams said.

Director Childs expressed frustration with the allegations against the board, emphasizing that board members are volunteers who work hard to serve the community.

He described the



Rancho Murieta Association Director Chris Childs defends the board's actions and emphasizes the importance of maintaining confidentiality.

accusations as "explosive and incorrect" and explained that the board cannot defend itself without disclosing confidential information.

"To have the things said that were said tonight are wildly inappropriate and completely inaccurate, and they actually break my heart because each of us has a duty, and we filled our duty with honesty and integrity," Childs said.

Childs said that hearing Carrillo question the board's integrity again that night felt like he was "reliving a prior (open) meeting where he got up and accused us of collusion, which is actually a crime, and of having a conflict of interest with developers, only to later come back and apologize to each of us."

Childs concluded by asking those in the audience and watching the video to "consider the character of the people who sit in front of you, willing to give of their own time, talents, energies and money for the community we value so very much."

"To have that besmirched is frankly tragic," Childs added. "And the fact that we can't tell you everything really only speaks to our integrity. It would be defamatory to Director Carrillo."

When O'Hern asked for additional comments, Carrillo said he planned to bring his concerns to the board's attorney.

"I'm sure that once we get all that situated, there will be a whole new light shed on this issue," Carrillo said.

Following the meeting, The River Valley Times asked Adams what he considered the most serious action a board could take against a director.

"To me, the most serious action in California is removing the director through a court proceeding under circumstances spelled out in our governing documents and/

or California law," he emailed.

More Contention

Another dispute erupted later when Carrillo questioned a \$49,350 expenditure in the financial statements for refurbishing the Laguna Joaquin pump station. He suggested the cost seemed too low and noted that it still included a 50-year-old tank.

General Manager Rod Hart responded that the tank is inspected annually.

"We are not running a high-pressure system where you have some catastrophic failure," Hart said.

Carrillo said it was fortunate that the tank had lasted as long as it had. Hart disagreed, saying it wasn't luck but the result of regular maintenance and two previous refurbishments.

When Carrillo asked whether a catastrophic failure could put employees at risk, Hart responded that he was insulted by the question.

"There is nothing more important than the safety of not only our employees but our members," Hart said.

Adams suggested that Carrillo's line of questioning might be influenced by a potential conflict of interest, noting that the Rancho Murieta Association Maintenance Department employs Carrillo's brother.

Carrillo acknowledged that his concern stemmed from his brother working in the department.

"If there is any legal danger, something catastrophic happening, I want to make sure the community is aware of it," Carrillo said.

Ultimately, the board voted 6-1 to approve the financial statements. Carrillo cast the lone dissenting vote, saying he didn't believe the project costs were "in line with reality."

This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com. ★



PAYROLL and HR Support

\$299 a month

Only available for businesses with up to 10 employees

We specialize in small and mid-sized businesses. Offering comprehensive and intuitive payroll and HR solutions.

PINNACLE
EMPLOYEE SERVICES
HR | Payroll | Benefits

DIRECT DEPOSIT
QUARTERLY TAXES FILING
PAYROLL TAXES PAY
ACCRUAL TRACKING
FILING AND REPORTING
PAYROLL APP
HR COMPLIANCE

916-760-7227

Do You Need Your Legal Ads Published?

We can help.

Call us now to place your legal advertising!

916-773-1111

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kids Fishing Day Slated May 3

The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta will host the 19th annual Joe Mazzoni, Sr. Memorial Kids Fishing Day—rain or shine—on Saturday, May 3, from 8 a.m. to noon at Lake Clementia. The event is open to children in kindergarten through 8th grade, with space for up to 100 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. A free hot dog lunch will be provided for participating children and their parents or guardians. Prizes will be awarded to the boy and girl who catch the biggest fish by weight.

Pre-registration is required, and parents or guardians must sign a liability waiver for their children to participate. To register, call (916) 689-9669 and leave your contact number and the number of children attending; a representative will follow up to complete the registration. Please bring your own fishing gear; only a limited number of loaner sets will be available.

At 1 p.m., a memorial bench will be dedicated on the shore of Lake Clementia in honor of Joe Mazzoni, Sr., who founded and led Kids Fishing Day for 18 years before stepping down due to health reasons. The event stands as a tribute to Mazzoni's dedication and lasting impact on the community.

Garden Club Slates Garden Stroll, Plant Sale May 10

The River Valley Garden Club's popular Garden Stroll and Plant Sale returns to Rancho Murieta on Saturday, May 10, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., just in time for Mother's Day. In addition to touring seven private gardens, visitors can enjoy a wide range of activities at the large plant sale in the RMA Building parking lot.

Shoppers can purchase plants and floral arrangements perfect for Mother's

Day gifts, enter a raffle featuring garden-themed prizes, get advice from master gardeners, and bring children to take part in a fun educational activity.

The Garden Stroll highlights homes, which range from a park-like setting with established trees, ornamental bushes, and flowers to a backyard filled with 25-year-old plants and flowers and heirlooms rich with nostalgia. Other gardens showcase raised beds for accessible vegetable gardens, while some demonstrate the use of perennials and annuals for container gardening, hanging baskets and landscaping.

Each garden will feature a local artist displaying pottery, jewelry making, wood turning, acrylic painting or pencil drawings.

Garden Stroll tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Rancho Murieta Ace Hardware in advance or from the cashier at the plant sale on the day of the tour. For more information, call 916-730-7403.

All proceeds raised from the event will support local community projects and college scholarships.

SOLOS Slates 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.

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.

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.

Emergency Preparedness Event Slated May 3

Tractor Supply will host the National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day event in its parking lot on Saturday, May 3 from noon to 3 p.m. The Rancho Murieta Fire Safe Council, first responders and other stakeholders will participate in the event.

Women's Club Slates Fashion Show May 7

The Rancho Murieta Women's Club has slated "A Royal Tea Affair" fashion show

on May 7. Indulge in a delicious lunch and breathtaking runway show featuring beautiful fashion from Chico's, White House, Black Market, The Clothes Mine, Cupola Rancho Murieta, the Rancho Murieta Country Club Pro Shop, Tomorrow's Heirloom, Soma and UBU.

Attendees are asked to dress in hats, crowns, diamonds and high tea glamour. The cost is \$45 for women's club members and \$55 for guests. The reservation deadline is April 25. If you have questions, call Barbara Armstrong at 916-541-1884 or Vickie Joyner at 916-531-3544.

Dillard Fair Slated May 10

Join us for our 4th Annual Dillard Fair on Saturday, May 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wilton Community Center and Dillard Elementary School.

This year's Dillard Fair is bigger and better with a new location and exciting additions for all ages including a Car Show: all makes and models welcome; local vendors; and our Kids Entrepreneurial Fair to shop and support our local talent; a Touch-a-Truck Experience; a Kid Zone with bounce house, face painting and free Mother's Day crafts; a Pinewood Derby for some fun competition; and a high-energy Zumba class on stage.

Enjoy music courtesy of Drew Gray Media and a Photo Booth, thanks to Tracy Portrait Studio. Come get your free hot dog lunch provided by Dillard Store or grab a bite from the Taqueria El Ajihado and Hen House Coffee trucks. All proceeds benefit the Wilton Community Center Non-Profit and future community events.

Interested in being a vendor or volunteer? Contact Codi Craig at 630.441.2082 or sales@eternaliron.com. Want to

show off your ride in the car show? Contact Mike Martin at 916.730.1506 or WiltonCarShow@yahoo.com.

Wilton Farmers Market to Open May 17

A new Wilton Farmers Market is slated to open on May 17 at the Dillard Elementary School parking lot. The Sacramento County Service Area 4B Committee (CSA4B) and the Wilton Community Center Nonprofit are sponsoring the new event.

The market will run every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon through the end of September. Local farmers, bakers and artisans will offer a wide variety of goods, from seasonal fruits and vegetables to farm-fresh eggs, flowers, sourdough bread and hot fresh coffee.

"We're excited to provide a space where people can connect with their local growers and support small, local businesses," said Market Manager Kelly Hines. "It's about building a stronger, healthier community." For more information and vendor applications, email DillardFarmersMarket@gmail.com.

Pickleball Tournament Slated May 17

Join the Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club and local firefighters for a charity tournament benefiting the Firefighters Burn Institute on May 17 at Stonehouse Park. Registration closes May 14. Sign up at the courts or by emailing pbanducc33@gmail.com.

The entry fee is \$50 per person or \$75 with a commemorative t-shirt. The tournament will feature 8 to 10 teams, each made up of four players, including one firefighter serving as team captain. All proceeds will go to the Firefighters Burn Institute.

Not playing? You can

still support the cause by donating through the club's Venmo.

Village Trash & Treasures Sale Slated May 24

The Rancho Murieta Village Trash & Treasures sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 24. The sale will take place at the clubhouse patio and in the driveways of Village residents.

The cost to rent a table at the clubhouse is \$20 for residents and \$25 for non-residents. Contact Nancy at 541-539-7078.

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 post-marked 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.etc@gmail.com. ★

LOCAL ARREST RECORDS

Find out what's happening in your local area

Arrest Logs updated daily

THE RIVER VALLEY TIMES.COM



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.

Paper Shredding Event - Community Service & Fundraiser



Support Rancho Scouts Troop 633 & Protect Your Privacy!

Bring your personal documents and have them securely shredded on-site! Professional trucks - by Shred-IT

Date: Saturday, May 3, 2025


Time: 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Location: Rancho Murieta Association Parking Lot

Address: 7191 Rancho Murieta Parkway

Cost: \$10 per box (book size box or banker's box) - remove batteries from boxes

For more info, contact Paul Miller (916) 212-9600



TROOP 633

PURCHASE • REFINANCE

FIXED RATE LOANS

15 Year Term Fixed Rate Loan		30 Year Term Fixed Rate Loan	
RATE	APR	RATE	APR
5.000%	5.30%	5.750%	5.93%
180 Monthly Payments of \$7.91 per \$1,000 Borrowed		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



EL DORADO SAVINGS BANK

Serving our local communities for over 65 Years

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

Se Habla Español

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

LOAN TERMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Member FDIC

www.eldoradosavingsbank.com 800-874-9779

CSD Financial Overhaul Recovers \$623,000 in 15 Months

Continued from page 1
what's going on here.”

“This is in the context of the audits — they are important, and I understand that. But it's also important to get \$623,000 in the door,” he added.

Matulich also explained that staff efforts to resolve the accounting issues are ongoing.

“General Manager Morris, the staff here, myself — we are here day in and day out, working diligently to fix these problems,” he said.

Matulich also provided an update on the overdue audits. The 2020–21 fiscal year audit was completed in December 2023, and the 2021–22 audit is currently in progress. Two temporary accountants are working on the 2022–23 and 2023–24 fiscal years. Matulich said they are close to finishing the accounting work and have already begun organizing supporting documentation in preparation for the audits. He added that the auditors indicated they could perform both audits under a single set of audit procedures, “which will create some efficiencies in getting that done.”

The Finance Committee consists of two board members—President Steve Booth and Director John Merchant—Matulich, General Manager Mimi Morris, and other district staff. It conducts in-depth reviews of financial issues and provides recommendations to the full board. Booth did not attend the meeting.

Public Communication

Impressed by Matulich's report, Director John Merchant said he wanted to

find a way to share it with the public “to highlight the progress that Mark and his staff have made.”

As a CSD director out in the community, Merchant said residents consistently ask him two questions: “Do we have enough water, and where are the audits?” He explained that the second question prompted him to propose hiring two temporary accountants to help speed up the audit process.

While completing the audits is important, Merchant emphasized that having confidence in the numbers is even more critical.

“Having numbers that I can look at and draw meaningful conclusions is much more of an important element than closing the audits themselves,” he said.

Merchant added that he would speak with Booth about ways to share the progress publicly. His suggestions included using the district's monthly newsletter, sending a direct letter, and—most importantly—creating a link to an excerpt of Matulich's 15-minute report from the meeting audio that the public can easily access.

Accounting Fixes

In delivering his accounting report, Matulich said it was important to highlight some of the changes made in response to the complaints about late audits that had come into the office over the past month.

“I think it is very important to understand that the current staff didn't create the problems,” he said. “These problems had been building for five years.”

The district experienced

significant staff turnover before Matulich joined the district 15 months ago. “That led to a really massive, massive loss of institutional knowledge, lack of training, and a clean handoff to new people coming into the organization,” he said. “There was no regular financial reporting to the Finance Committee or the board.”

Matulich said the work required for the 2020–21 fiscal year audit had been underway for 18 months. Despite involving up to seven accountants, an outside consulting firm was unable to complete the task and billed the district \$250,000, he said.

The only consistently accurate accounting at the time was the checkbook. However, accounts payable, payroll, and utility billings were not being posted to the general ledger—the district's central record-keeping system. Developer deposits and connection fees were also not being recorded, and the developer security fee had been overlooked entirely.

Matulich said front desk staff spent most of their time responding to customer complaints about billing, with no system in place to monitor or collect unpaid utility bills. The audit clearing account, a placeholder used for unresolved transaction discrepancies, had a \$500,000 balance, which delayed the completion of the first audit.

The district has five accounting funds—water, sewer, drainage, security, and solid waste—all of which were out of balance during that year and subsequent years.

Matulich said that as he, General Manager Mimi Morris and accountant Chris Funakoshi worked to finalize the financials for the 2020–21 audit—completed in December 2023—they developed a deeper understanding of the district's operations. “You can't complete an audit without the accounting,” he said. “But you can't do the accounting without understanding the type of financial accounting the district uses and having confidence that the finance and accounting records are complete and accurate.”

As they turned to the upcoming audits for fiscal years 2021–22, 2022–23, and 2023–24, they “determined there was just too much uncertainty with the accuracy and completeness of the financial accounting to continue with the current general ledger, so we decided ... to just start over with the accounting as of July 1, 2021.”

Matulich said they rolled over audited balances from 2020–21 into a new general ledger, and the team began reviewing and posting more than 30,000 transactions.

“It was a lot of work. But that speaks to how bad it was—that it was actually faster to do it completely from scratch than to try to work with what was in there,” he said. “Another benefit was that it maximized our understanding of all the financial transactions over the past two years.”

During the process, they also established new, sound accounting procedures and internal controls, which they used to train the staff and are currently

in use. In addition, they created a template for posting prior-year transactions that the temporary accountants are now using.

Matulich said more work remains, such as reconciling the full monthly balance sheet.

“But there are no opening balances right now because we're three years behind in the general ledger,” he said. “But we've laid the groundwork for all of that, and we're ready to hit the ground running as soon as we get caught up.”

Other Accomplishments

Matulich also highlighted other accomplishments resulting from the financial clean-up over the past 15 months.

As of December 2023, they began presenting financial reports to the Finance Committee and the board. They drafted and passed a balanced operating budget for the current fiscal year of 2024–25, even though the prior year had more than a \$300,000 operating loss. They also prepared and presented a balanced operating budget for 2025–26.

They also identified about 200 water meters that weren't communicating with the billing system and implemented a solution to improve reading accuracy.

In addition, the team discovered 40 homes that had never been set up with a CSD billing account—one of them for as long as 14 months. “We set up a payment plan to bring those accounts current, and it has been highly successful,” he said.

The district has taken the first steps to transition

to Cassell's full-service accounting software, which does fund accounting. This software will eliminate all of the “legacy work-arounds” that previously caused so many issues.

Other Business

In other committee business, Matulich reported that the district had an operating loss of \$132,000 during the current fiscal year, primarily due to two unexpected repairs and unanticipated legal fees. He also reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2025–26 budget, which has increased since last month due to a rise in the Water and Wastewater Reserve fees—from \$14 to \$16 per month.

Matulich also presented the proposed \$4.97 million Capital Improvement Project budget, which outlines projects to be funded from reserves in the coming year.

It includes \$300,000 for a contract with Water Systems Consulting to perform additional work related to the draft Integrated Water Master Plan. Operations Director Eric Houston said the list doesn't include funding for replacing pipes in Murieta Village because the project is still in the survey process and won't be ready for implementation next year.

Matulich and Houston also discussed strategies to reduce the district's insurance costs.

Morris added that staff would explore securing goats to graze the dry grass around the Water Treatment Plant to help create a defensible space against wildland fire.

This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com ★



Entertainment, Theatre & Culture
for Rancho Murieta Announces a

\$2000
College
Scholarship
to be Awarded to a Rancho Murieta
Graduating High School Senior

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

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?

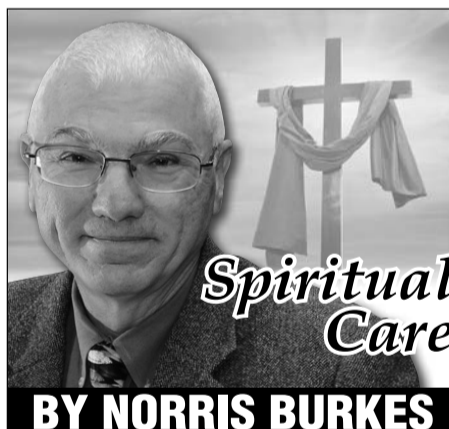
Entry Forms Available at RMA Building or
By Request at philan.etcrcm@gmail.com

Information:
Stephanie Stanislaus
916-354-0901

Submission
Deadline:
May 30, 2025

Keeping the Arts Alive in Our Community!

Learn To Share the Road on Life's Highway



BY NORRIS BURKES

Some years back, I was driving Interstate 99 south of Sacramento, Calif when a man began aggressively tailgating me.

Known as the most dangerous freeway in California, there is little room for traffic weavers like him. He was close enough that I could see his face redden in my rearview mirror. And of course, he could read the smirk on my face as I gloated over my strategic position ahead of him.

When traffic finally allowed me to move into the right lane, I displayed an upturned palm that invited His Excellency to proceed. But appeasement was too little, too late.

He initiated aggressive movements, dropping back and speeding past and changing lanes. I answered his vulgar hand signals with moronic smiles and have-a-nice-day waves until he flashed a doubled fist, suggesting a roadside fight.

With evasive maneuvers exhausted, I finally led our rage parade onto the highway's shoulder hoping to sucker him into exiting his pickup. With him afoot, my plan was to floor my Hyundai to escape velocity.

I knew this was a bad plan when I noticed he was searching for something behind his seat.

Being a smart aleck to a dangerous stranger is wrong, but my problem really began with the assumption that most of us make when we become randomly targeted by rage.

I assumed this man's anger really was about me.

You've probably made the same assumption. It happens when the guy flips you off on the road or the woman screams at you for taking her parking space.

While it's natural for you to go into a

defensive mode claiming your righteous innocence, it's best to remember that their rage isn't really about you. In fact, it's even a little self-centered to think it is about you.

The reality of these rages is that we are collateral damage for folks like these.

For instance, I occasionally receive a caustic e-mail, something Anne Lamott aptly calls, “Orwellian memos detailing my thought crimes.”

Most of the time I know that, like the freeway driver, their anger isn't about me; they are fighting battles I'm not privileged to see.

Recently, I got an e-mail from such an angry reader. When I replied from a defensive mode, he escalated our discussion by calling me every synonym of idiot. Recalling the road-rage incident, my second reply took a reconciling approach.

The reader sent a confessional apology adding details of his wife's terminal illness and children who weren't talking to him. Just like the interstate guy, this reader's rage wasn't about me.

It never ceases to amaze me that when I remember to squelch my defensiveness and respond in a caring manner, I will often get a sincere response. My smug attitude toward the driver only stirred his rage, but my soft answer to the reader turned away his wrath and made a friend.

Short of a soft answer on the freeway, I sped back into traffic, spitting gravel on the man's truck. After another 10 minutes of cat-and-mouse, I took the freeway exit labeled, “Galt Police Station.” Amazingly, the man followed me into town but finally broke off his chase when I entered the station's driveway.

At the end of the day, the best answer to road rage on life's highway may be contained in the sacred proverb that suggests, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh answer stirs up anger.”

After all, we are all on a journey, so maybe it's time to share the road.

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. ★

CALL-A-PROFESSIONAL



6.75%
Initial APR

5 Year FIXED RATE

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 (Please consult your tax advisor)**

Serving our local communities for over 65 years

HOME EQUITY

Line of Credit Loan



EL DORADO SAVINGS BANK
Serving our local communities for over 65 Years

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

Member **FDIC**
NMLS ID 479256


Se Habla Español 

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 existing 1st Deed of Trust loan on your residence; (2) 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.


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)






> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

6-month	1-year	2-year
4.25 % <small>APY*</small>	4.05 % <small>APY*</small>	3.90 % <small>APY*</small>
<small>Minimum deposit \$10,000</small>	<small>Minimum deposit \$10,000</small>	<small>Minimum deposit \$10,000</small>

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 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.





KAREN HOBERG
(916) 947-6910
karen@rmhl.net Lic. #00670687

EXPERIENCE • KNOWLEDGE • RESULTS



murieta health club

"Fun, friendly and professional"

Erin Howard • 354-8677

7281 Lone Pine Dr. Ste 105 • Murieta Plaza


Grow your business here!

Call (209) 745-1551
to advertise with us today!

River Valley Times

Messenger Publishing Group





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.

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 email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

Do You Need Your Legal Ads Published?

We can help.

Call us now to place your legal advertising!



916-773-1111

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.

CALL-A-PROFESSIONAL



AZTEC SOLAR INC.
JACK STANGER
 SOLAR ENERGY EXPERT
Electric • Hot Water • Pool Heating
(916) 853-2700 • (916) 802-1830
FREE ESTIMATES
 LC# 550110
jack@aztecsolar.com • www.aztecsolar.com



ANDRADE
 HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Residential & Commercial
 Repair • Maintenance • Replacement
Tune Up
Andrade Heating & Air Conditioning
(916) 747-9882
 License #955437



CALL Jessie –
FREE ESTIMATES
BEST PRICE Stump Grinding & Tree Service
209-210-0625

25 Years Experience!
CRAMER CONCRETE, Inc.
Driveway • Patio • Walkway • Pool Decks • Concrete Removal
 Stamped • Salt Finish • Exposed Aggregate • Colored • Broom Finish
Call a trusted Murieta/Wilton Contractor
 References available in your neighborhood
FREE WRITTEN ESTIMATES
Glen Cramer (916) 871-2561
www.cramerconcrete.com
 BBB Lic# 686244



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
 Rancho Murieta Residents Owned & Operated
"Particular Homeowners Deserve Apex"



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
Over 25 years experience
www.HonorThyElders.com
916 320-3631




"The Low-rate Leader for Purchase & Refinance Loans"
Bruce Boal 916
 California Home Loans 417-2001
RM resident over 20 years! NMLS# 1070092



New Home BUILDING SUPPLY (916) 455-3057
"Since 1949"
 5310 Franklin Blvd. • Sacramento
 • We have all the hard-to-find sidings
 • Quality lumber for any size project
 • Competitive pricing
 • Variety of deck materials
 • Local Steving family owned & operated



Mr. Handyman
 Home Improvement Professionals
 Professional • Safe • Reliable • Fully Insured
 (916) 487-8655
 www.mrhandyman.com/arden-arcade
 SENIOR DISCOUNTS!

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

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



db
DEB BRITTAN TEAM
unlocking your dreams
 IN RANCHO MURIETA
COMPLIMENTARY HOME STAGING
just mention this ad
(916) 932.6693
RanchoMurietaHomes.com
 DRE# 02056360
 REALTOR & RANCHO MURIETA RESIDENT

DICK'S RANCHO Glass
 Fogged or Leaky Windows?
 Patio Door Rollers, Custom Mirrors, Shower Doors & Window Screens
Since 1956
New & Repaired 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.
MEALS ON WHEELS SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Women's Club Welcomes Spring with Bingo, Bling and Beans

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Murieta Women's Club welcomed spring with a "Spring Bling Bingo and Beans" luncheon on March 26 at the Rancho Murieta Country Club. The event blended community service with lively entertainment and a healthy dose of glamor.

The "bling" came as glittering costume jewelry prizes for lucky Bingo winners. At the same time, the "beans" represented generous member donations of non-perishable food and sundries for Sacramento's Wellspring Women's Center.

Before the first Bingo number was called, the event featured several highlights. The Fashion Show Committee previewed the upcoming A Royal Tea Affair Fashion Show, set for May 7 at the "Royal Rancho Murieta Palace." The tongue-in-cheek performance teased a high-society afternoon laced with elegance and a touch of scandal. Attendees were encouraged to bring a guest and dress to impress with hats, crowns, diamonds, and high tea attire. Organizers also were seeking volunteer models, dressers, and event helpers.

A practical note followed, announcing that the remainder of 2025 blood drives will move to the Catholic Church due to planned renovations at the Rancho Murieta Community Church. Patti Keating, co-chair of the Blood Drive Committee, reported that Knights of Columbus stepped in to



Rancho Murieta Women's Club President Bonnie Kirschmann is the Bingo caller at the group's March 26 luncheon: Spring Bling Bingo and Beans. Photo by Gail Bullen



After winning the first Bingo game, Marge French selects a new bracelet as her luncheon bling. Photo by Gail Bullen

help sponsor the new location, with special thanks to Ali Arnerich for securing the support. Fliers and reminder cards were available at the luncheon for those wishing to participate or volunteer. The next blood drive will be on April 28 from noon to 6 p.m.

The spirit of giving continued as Rancho Murieta Women's Club Vice-President Toni Anania shared heartfelt remarks about the member donations to the Wellspring Women's Center. It offers meals and resources and is a safe haven for vulnerable women and children. She spoke of "keeping your little square warm," a reminder that small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Then came the main event: Bingo but not the ordinary kind. Board President Bonnie Kirschmann was the lively caller, with each number projected on a screen beside her. The games featured six unique patterns:



From left, Theresa Ilaga, Janell Rogers and Erin Bailey are dishing about the upcoming A Royal Tea Affair Fashion Show on May 7. Photo by Gail Bullen

Lucky Seven, Layer Cake, Diamond, Hat, Martini Glass and a final Blackout round. Winners gleefully selected from a table of sparkling jewelry after each round, adding an extra flair to the friendly competition.

By afternoon's end, the Women's Club had once again shown how to blend fun, fashion and philanthropy, all while ushering in the season with heart and humor.

Following the luncheon, Kirschmann, Anania and Sharon McGowan gathered in the country club's lobby

to sort the generous donations that members brought for Wellspring Women's Center.

"I was overwhelmed with the amount of things the ladies brought," Kirschmann said.

According to Anania, the donations support two key programs at the center that serve 300 meals a day. The nutritious meals program items included canned beans, peanut butter, jams, canned soups, low-sugar cereals, paper towels, paper napkins, sugar or sweeteners, coffee and tea. Contributions to the



Bonnie Kirchmann, left, Jessica Mougharbel and Toni Anania look over the luncheon's beans, which were donations and sundries to the Wellspring Women's Center. Courtesy photo

wellness and safety net services included travel-sized toiletries, toothbrushes and toothpaste, tissues, diapers and new baby bottles.

Kirschman and Anania later delivered the donations to the center and Jessica Mougharbel, the

center's communications and development associate, warmly received them.

"Jessica thanked us for the incredible support from the Women's Club," Anania said.

See additional photos at therivervalleytimes.com. ★

Harrahs
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



THE
MURIETA
INN AND SPA

SHUTTLE SERVICE



SERVICE DETAILS

THE HOTEL SHALL PROVIDE A BIWEEKLY SHUTTLE SERVICE EVERY OTHER SATURDAY BETWEEN RANCHO MURIETA INN & SPA AND HARRAH'S CASINO. THE SHUTTLE WILL RUN FROM THE RANCHO MURIETA INN AND SPA TO HARRAH'S NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CASINO IN IONE ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE:

**SATURDAY APRIL 12TH
& SATURDAY APRIL 26TH:**

SHUTTLE WILL DEPART RANCHO MURIETA INN AND SPA AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

11 AM • 1 PM • 3 PM • 5 PM • 7 PM

SHUTTLE WILL DEPART HARRAHS NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

12 PM • 2 PM • 4 PM • 6 PM • 8 PM

DEPARTURE POLICY:

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GUESTS TO BE AT THE DESIGNATED PICKUP LOCATION ON TIME. SPACE IS LIMITED TO 14 GUESTS PER TRIP.

