



**Pickleball Players,
Firefighters Raise Money
for Burn Institute**

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**Celebrate
Father's Day!**



RIVER VALLEY TIMES

41ST YEAR • ISSUE 11

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CSD President Booth Resigns, Cites Lack of Accountability

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

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

Stephen Booth, president of the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD), unexpectedly announced his resignation at the conclusion of the board's regular meeting on May 21, delivering a strongly-worded statement that underscored ongoing tensions within the district's leadership.

After Booth began to speak, Director Tim Maybee abruptly exited the meeting. Booth later referenced Maybee during his remarks, saying, "Too bad he wasn't here to hear it."

Booth's resignation followed the public disclosure of a \$375,000 settlement agreement between CSD and its General Manager Mimi Morris, funded partly by the district's insurance provider and the remainder from CSD funds. The board voted 3:0 to approve the settlement at a special meeting on May 12. Booth and Director Randy Jenco didn't attend the meeting.

The agreement, Booth said, allowed the general manager to depart without having to prove the "false



Board President Stephen Booth announces his resignation at the end of the May 21 Rancho Murieta Community Services District.

allegations she has made" or provide an opportunity to disprove them.

Booth said that settlement discussions began well before the independent investigation into the general manager's complaint was initiated and were finalized before the investigation was completed.

He also cited a separate legal matter involving a

former CSD employee terminated in 2019 who has filed a lawsuit against the district, alleging wrongful termination and the withholding of public records. The lawsuit includes demands for large financial compensation from both CSD and individual board members.

"It is my belief that this action is the direct result of the tendency to settle

questionable claims over the past few years," Booth said. "It is as if the word is out on the street, file a claim against CSD, no matter whether it has merit, and receive a bundle of cash."

Reflecting on his tenure, Booth said he joined the board in December 2022 with a commitment to transparency, accountability, and service to the community. "I tend to be direct in my communication," he said.

"I expect employees to show up for work during business hours and to provide timely, complete, and accurate staff work, especially from the highest paid employees in the district.

"If those expectations result in meritless complaints which are settled for large sums of money, without an opportunity to address the false narratives, then neither the interests of the community nor my own are being served."

Concluding his remarks, Booth said, "I have formed the opinion that accountability remains an elusive value throughout CSD, and is of no apparent concern to at least some board members. Accordingly, I have decided to resign

Continued on page 6

Resident Recognized by County Aging Commission



Rancho Murieta resident Bonnie Shewchuk holds a plaque and proclamation recognizing her as a recipient of the Five Over 50 Volunteer Award. Courtesy photo

*By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter*

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)

Each May, in celebration of Older Americans Month, Sacramento County recognizes older adults who make a meaningful impact in their communities. This year, five individuals—including Rancho Murieta's Bonnie Shewchuk—were honored with the Five Over 50 Volunteer Award by the Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission.

According to a Sacramento County news release, the honorees exemplify the power of volunteerism and the vital role older adults play in strengthening communities. The 2025 award recipients, representing each of the county's five districts, were formally recognized during the May 20 meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

Supervisor Rosario Rodrigues selected Shewchuk to represent District 4.

"Bonnie Shewchuk is an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta, where she embodies the club's mission to 'Change the World, One Community and One Child at a Time,'" Rodrigues wrote in her newsletter.

"Whether organizing local events or supporting youth programs, Bonnie's contributions uplift the Rancho Murieta community and reflect a commitment to service," Rodrigues added.

Also honored were Gene Inderkum, District 1; Barbara Heinrich, District 2; Barbara Farley, District 3, and Tony Rutchena, District 5.

As Sacramento County celebrates Older Americans Month, the Five Over 50 Volunteer Award winners serve as a reminder that age isn't a barrier to meaningful contribution, according to the news release.

"These five volunteers are not only role models in Sacramento County – they are also a reminder that when you combine your passion with helping others, you can make a lasting impact," it said. ★

Memorial Day Weekend Marked by Ceremonies



Saluting the flag at the Memorial Day ceremonies held at the Gazebo on May 26 are from left, Steve Bianchi, Bill McCarver, Greg Verdon and Jennifer Lawson. The Rancho Murieta Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars presented the event.

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

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Three Memorial Day weekend events in Rancho Murieta honored fallen soldiers, helped veterans in need and honored the American Flag.

The Rancho Murieta Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars sponsored two events: a Buddy Poppy distribution at the Bel Air shopping center on May 24 and a Memorial Day ceremony at the Gazebo on the afternoon of May 26.

Scout Troop 633 also held a flag retirement ceremony at Lake Calero on Memorial Day.



Scouts Cameron McFarland and Griffen McFarland participate in a flag retirement ceremony held on Memorial Day at Lake Calero. Troop 633 presented the event.

Poppy Distribution

Intended to support disabled and needy veterans, the National Veterans

of Foreign Wars has operated its Buddy Poppy program since 1922.

Continued on page 12



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Village Trash and Treasures Sale Lives Up to Its Name



The adage that “one man’s trash is another man’s treasure” rings true once again when the Murieta Village Association hosts its annual Trash and Treasure Sale on May 24. The sale had two parts. The Social Committee rented tables to vendors who showcased their goods outside the clubhouse. Simultaneously, across the village, a dozen residents displayed their goods in their driveways and carports. In the photo on the left, Mary Trujillo asks vendor Eric Dubie if he has a specific tool. In photo above, Debbie Kenney chats with customer Bob King as he picks out books he wants to buy. Photos by Gail Bullen

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ETC Kicks Off Summer with Launch Event and First Concert



By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Flush with success from selling tickets and memberships at the May 18 Kick-Off Event—and for the first time, online through its website—Entertainment, Theater & Culture for Rancho Murieta (ETC) will present its first concert of the season on Saturday, June 14 at the Lake Clementia Amphitheater.

Def Leppard and Journey Revisited, a group that has honed its craft to perfection, will deliver a stellar tribute to two of the best-selling rock bands in the world. The Journey set list will feature hits like “Don’t Stop Believin’,” “Anyway You Want It” and “Ask the Lonely.” Def Leppard favorites will include rock anthems such as “Photograph” and “Pour Some Sugar on Me,” along with fan favorites like “Love Bites” and “Rock of Ages.”

Gates open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are priced at \$30 for members and \$40 for nonmembers, with a \$5 surcharge for purchases made at the gate.

For the first time this year, residents can purchase tickets and memberships online at etc-rm.org. Nonmembers may also buy tickets at Ace Hardware. Children 6 and under attend for free.



The Def Leppard & Journey Revisited tribute band is scheduled to perform when Entertainment Theater & Culture for Rancho Murieta presents its first concert of the summer season on Saturday, June 14. Courtesy photo



Stephanie Burton, Nikki Wise, Nick Burton and Brooke Wise show off their ETC concert tickets. Photo by Gail Bullen



Board President JT Turner announces an upcoming raffle at the ETC Kick-Off Event on May 18 at the Rancho Murieta Country Club. Photo by Gail Bullen



JP Petersen explains that ETC tickets and memberships can now be purchased online at etc-rm.org, a feature made possible by his recent website updates. Photo by Gail Bullen

Promoted as a Kick-Off Event, the May 18 gathering at the Rancho Murieta Country Club turned out to be a lively party.

Attendees not only purchased tickets and memberships for the upcoming season but also enjoyed wine tastings, hors d’oeuvres and music provided by DJ Drew Gray Media.

ETC Board President JT Turner estimated as many as 350 people attended the free event. Although ticket sales were brisk, he hadn’t

provided an estimate of how many tickets were sold as of press time.

Speaking at the kick-off event, Board member JR Petersen estimated that ETC had already sold about 100 memberships and “a ton of tickets” on its website. This was the first year that ETC has sold tickets and memberships online.

Turner praised Petersen for his work on the ETC website.

“JP was solely responsible for interpreting ideas

and creating our amazing website. His knowledge in web design and IT is second to none,” he said.

ETC has scheduled four more concerts for the season. Cripple Creek will bring a mix of country, Americana, bluegrass and Southern rock on July 5. Mustache Harbor takes the stage on July 26 with its “Yacht Rock Forever” performance. Super Diamond, a Neil Diamond tribute band, will perform on Aug. 16. The season wraps up on Aug. 30 with The



Wine pourer Laura Koontz shares a laugh with John DeMesa, left, and Danny DeJesus. Photo by Gail Bullen

Spazmatics, billed as “The Ultimate ’80s New Wave Show.”

For more information, navigate to etc-rm.org or email asketcinfo@

gmail.com. ETC is also on Facebook.

This story is available online at Facebook.com/therivervalleytimes and therivervalleytimes.com. ★

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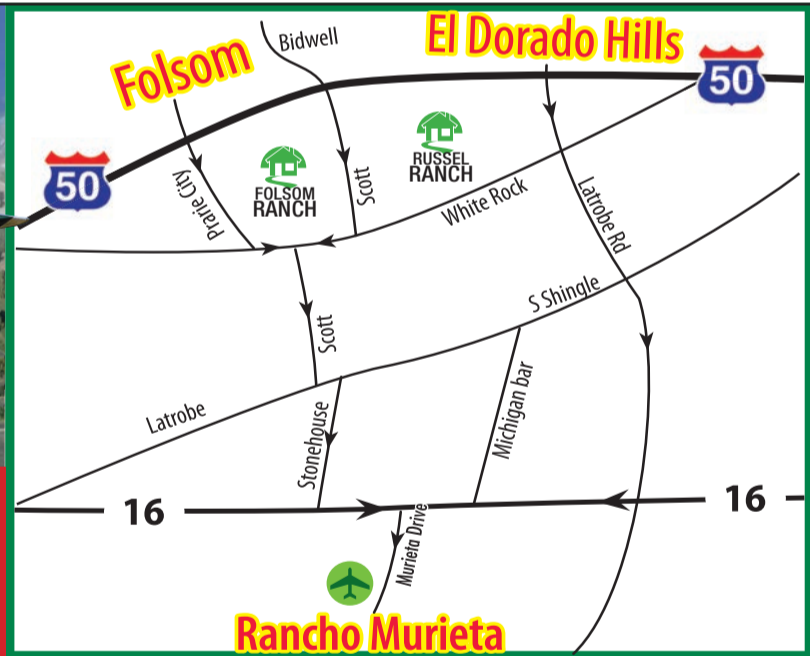
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Overdue Audits, Water Shutoffs are CSD Board Topics

Story and photo by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The interim finance administrator for the Rancho Murieta Community Services District delivered some discouraging news about the overdue audits and the accounting for the current fiscal year at the May 21 board meeting.

Another notable topic was the tabling of an ordinance implementing barcode sticker fees. (See the separate story in this issue.)

The board also discussed myriad other issues, including water shutoffs for non-payment of utility bills, and several audience members contributed their observations.

However, the most dramatic moment came at the end of the meeting when Board President Steve Booth unexpectedly announced his resignation. (See story on Page 1.)

Audits/Accounting

The district hired accountant Cecilia Min, a temporary employee from Robert Half International, to take over financial operations after Director of Finance and Administration Mark Matulich resigned in late April.

Although the 2021-22 fiscal-year records are in the hands of the auditors, Min reported that after the audit began in December, it stalled in February when the district didn't respond to the auditor requests. As a result, the auditors moved their assigned staff to other projects.

Min said district staff have been working intensively to respond to the auditor requests, and she expects to provide everything needed by June 25.

She next reported on preparations for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 audits. In January, the board approved hiring two temporary accountants from Robert Half to help complete the needed accounting. Because the existing records were so problematic, they began with reentering the financial transactions from scratch as had happened with the 2021-22 records. Although Matulich indicated in his last report that the two accountants were making good progress, Min estimated that the total amount of work needed before it could be sent to the auditors was only 40% complete. She did confirm they had completed all of the reentries.

Min said she must review their reconstructed accounting and migrate it into the Great Plains accounting system, which will be very complex. The two temporary accountants will then complete balance-sheet reconciliations and preparations for the audits, which Min must also review before the interim audit can begin.

Min stressed the importance of engaging the auditor to reserve time to conduct the audits for both years simultaneously to avoid further delays.

Min also asked the board to hire a third temporary accountant to work on the current 2024-25 fiscal year to reconstruct the accounting.

That surprised Board President Steve Booth.

"We've had repeated reports in this chamber indicating our current year was all set up based on what we learned from the problems were in the prior years," he said. "Was that information not accurate or is there something more to the audit process that I am simple not aware?"

Min explained that the current accounting hadn't been properly prepared. While data has been entered into the system, it has not been reconciled to bank statements, which is a critical accounting requirement and has not been done for three years. She noted that other basic monthly reconciliation processes haven't been done.

"So the data is inside the system but no one has looked at it to see if it is right," she said. "And there is audit preparation work that we should be doing every month."

Min said a third temporary accountant was needed to reconstruct the 2024-25 accounting to prevent further delays. If that work doesn't begin soon, the audit could be pushed into the auditors' busy fall and tax season, potentially delaying the 24/25 audit until next year, she warned.

"As I am looking at the current accounting, I'm also cleaning up all the processes to make us more efficient and faster," Min added.

The board voted 4:0 to hire a third accountant. Director Randy Jenco didn't attend the meeting.

Minn also created "a high-level chart" about the status of the audit components with start and end dates in the form of a colorful graph that is available in the board packet. She is projecting completion

of staff work for the 2021-22 year by June 25, for 2022-23 and 2023-24 by June 30, and for 2024-25 by Aug. 5.

At the June 2 Finance Committee meeting, Min provided another update. She reported that she had reassigned all staff to focus on completing the 2021-2022 audit. She expected to finish responding to the auditors by the end of the week, although additional issues had been discovered, including a 2021 accounting error by the Punn Group. She anticipated needing another week to enter data into the Great Plains accounting system due to complications with the two existing databases.

Water Shutoffs

District Secretary Amelia Wilder reported that after suspending service shutoffs during the pandemic, the district is now implementing a policy to collect delinquent water bills. Staff is sending letters to accounts that are 60 days past due, giving customers 10 days to respond. If no payment is made, they will place a three-day door tag warning of water shutoff.

Wilder said staff had sent out 52 letters totaling \$127,000 in unpaid bills, and have already received \$22,000 in payments. Seven customers have been put on payment plans, and five accounts are now paid in full.

Wilder said any remaining delinquent accounts will be added to the Sacramento County tax roll by Aug. 1, which would create a lien against the properties.

Other Business

The board unanimously approved the introduction of the ordinance to implement water, sewer and solid waste service rate increases as part of the proposed 2025-26 fiscal year budget. Wilder reported that only district patrol lodged a protest. The board was slated to review the draft budget at a special meeting on June 9 and approve it on June 21.

The board voted unanimously to approve a resolution proposed by Merchant that states that maintaining a one-year emergency water supply is a priority for the district. Greg Dyer, who is CEO of Rancho Murieta Properties, criticized the resolution as being vague and not accurately reflecting state water code requirements.

Audience member Tom Shewchuk reported he is part of a group working to potentially buy the Rancho Murieta



Cecilia Min, the interim director of finance and administration, reports some discouraging news about the overdue audits and the accounting for the current fiscal year at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District board meeting on May 21.

Country Club from Carol Anderson Ward. He said he is willing to explain their vision to anyone interested.

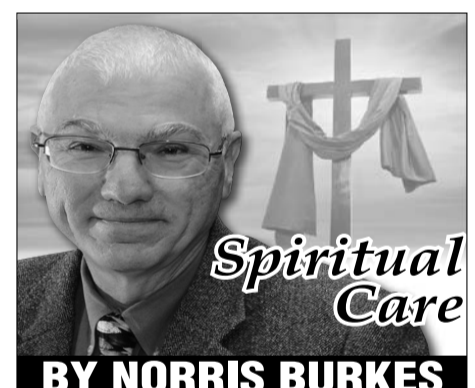
Audience member David Zian, who said he has three decades of experience in public services, offered to help the district develop a code of conduct to help prevent ongoing legal issues and expensive settlements. Booth said the district already has a code of conduct.

Operations Director Eric Houston presented a revised list of capital improvement projects for the 2025-26 fiscal year with projects totaling \$1.35 million for water and \$1.75 million for sewer. His original list of proposed projects was about \$5 million, but he dropped some to match the funding that will go into reserves for the next fiscal year.

The board unanimously approved a motion that asked District Counsel Patrick Enright to assess whether the district's Human Resources program complies with state and federal laws, identify any gaps in current policies and practices and to provide guidance on what is needed. Director John Merchant had asked that the issue be placed on the agenda, emphasizing the need for professional HR guidance for the district, which is a "\$10 million company with 60 employees."

This story is at rivervalleytimes.com and [Facebook.com/therivervalleytimes](https://www.facebook.com/therivervalleytimes). ★

Taking Faith for a Pivotal Spin



Spiritual Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

Imagine taking a virtual plane ride today and meeting me in San Francisco. I pick you up outside the terminal and drive you 30 minutes south to Moffett Federal Airfield, formally known as Moffett Navy Air Station.

I flash my military ID and we slide easily past the Smokey-Bear-hatted federal guards. Just a quarter mile ahead, we pull curbside and walk across the lawn to the Moffett Chapel. In 2014, the chapel was restored to its original Spanish Colonial Mission church design found throughout California

I'm comfortable here. This is where, in 1994, I assumed my first Air Force active duty chaplain assignment. Three USAF chaplains replaced the Navy chaplains when their branch vacated the base, or in naval terms, "Secured the watch."

Inside, we take a breathless pause before walls of stained-glass windows.

But I nudge you forward into an alcove or recessed altar space. Oddly, I ask you to push on the cubby walls.

You're astonished that it moves.

With my assistance, we rotate what seems like a jumbo version of the lazy Susan contained in your kitchen cabinet.

Suddenly, we're standing in a Catholic church adorned by crucifixes and saint statues.

I push again, and we share a Jewish altar with the Torah.

You say, "This is nice chaplain, but I'm undecided about faith. I suppose I'm spiritual, but not religious."

"No problem," I say. "Give that wall another push."

You do and are relieved to find yourself in neutral space. Nothing on the walls. No religion here.

Why have I brought you for a ride on the "Lazy" Altar?

To illustrate of how one might make a choice for faith.

No, it's not as simple as gyrating the

Wheel of Fortune or spinning the theological bottle to determine where your doctrinal affections will lie.

You might begin the journey on one of the traditional altars of our fathers. Or your spin might take you onto an altar aside your spouse. And it's also legitimately OK to spin faith into something that represents our own journey. Or maybe you don't see faith has having finite definitions, so we choose to blend the moving altars.

But whatever you choose, deciding on faith is a serious business that requires us to become comfortable with the tensions that faith presents.

For instance, how does one explain the love of God in the midst of so much tragedy? Can you deal with the discrepancies of faith and the hypocrites that inhabit all faiths and philosophies? Can we repent of the sins of organized religions while at the same time reinforcing the humanitarian good they do?

I believe it's possible to keep the faith of our parents, but we can change out the theological accessories. For me, I follow the protestant faith of my father, but my worship isn't confined to a hymnal or a pew. Moreover, it means, that I accept his faith, but reject the bigotry I've seen sometimes.

For you, it might mean keeping your faith in the Crucified Christ displayed on the crucifix, but soundly rejecting the sins of the Fathers. It might involve rebuilding a place of worship that holds all women in high regard and safely shelters the children.

And if you are rotating the altar in search of generic worship, it doesn't mean that your new faith has to be cold, politically correct, and without feeling and humanity. It might involve a move toward inclusion of the conservative right side of the church aisle.

Finally, if your faith journey ever takes flight toward the San Francisco Bay Area, stop by Moffett Field Chapel and ask the "Smoky Hats" if they will let you take your faith for a spin.

This column excerpted from my book "Tell it to the Chaplain."

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. ★

MEMORIAL

HERMAN KRAMER • 8/16/1931 – 6/1/2025

Herman Kramer, a devoted husband, father, trailblazing financial planner, veteran of the United States Air Force, and passionate global traveler, passed away peacefully on June 1, 2025, in Sacramento, California. He was 93.

Born on August 16, 1931, in Baltimore, Maryland, Herman's early life reflected the foundation of discipline and ambition that would define his path. He attended the historic and prestigious Baltimore City College for high school, followed by pre-law studies at the University of Baltimore. In 1951, he answered the call to serve his country, enlisting in the U.S. Air Force and spending several formative years stationed across Europe, including Wiesbaden, Germany, and Travis Air Force Base in California. Remarkably, he was in Rome, Italy, on March 5, 1953, the day Joseph Stalin died-an event that deeply impacted the global landscape he would later explore.

After his military service, Herman earned a business management degree with a minor in industrial management from Boston University in 1958. He entered the financial industry during its formative years, where he became a pioneering force. In 1973, he was part of the inaugural class to earn the Certified Financial Planner™ designation. As a respected voice in the field, he delivered the commitment speech for that first graduating class, a moment he always held with great pride. His influence extended to academia, teaching financial planning at Villanova University and later delivering a memorable commencement address at Santa Clara College, anchored by the phrase: "If it is to be, it is up to me"-a ten-letter mantra that captured his enduring belief in personal responsibility and empowerment.

In 1996, Herman married Carole Sacre. Together, they made their home in Rancho Murieta, California, and enjoyed an extraordinary life enriched by travel, family, and shared purpose. They split their time between their



beach condo in Rosarito Beach, their mountain home in Lake Tahoe, and their Rancho Murieta residence. Their travels took them around the world-from the alpine beauty of Austria and Germany to the rugged wonders of Alaska, the mysterious Galapagos, and the cultural richness of Argentina and Peru.

Herman lived with intention, always looking ahead and always committed to excellence in everything he did. Whether in service to his country, shaping the future of financial planning, mentoring students, or simply enjoying the sunrise from a beach or mountaintop, he brought intelligence, warmth, and unwavering curiosity to every chapter of his life.

He leaves behind his beautiful wife Carole, daughter and son in law Jenny and Matthew Niello and grandchildren Ryan Niello and Caroline Niello.

Additionally, he leaves a legacy of vision, service, and deep personal integrity. He will be profoundly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Please join the family for a memorial gathering to be held to honor his remarkable life on Saturday June 14, 2025 at the Rancho Murieta Country Club 3 o'clock p.m.

RMA Board Discusses Internal Conflicts, Recreation and Motorcycles

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - An internal conflict that first surfaced at the April board meeting, proposals for new recreational facilities, a request to allow motorcycles on the North, and ongoing issues with barcode stickers were among the topics discussed when the Rancho Murieta Association Board met on May 20. For details on the barcode discussion, see the separate story in this issue.

The board also addressed several additional topics and approved three contracts, including one for \$481,000 to asphalt community streets.

Internal Rift, Tank Safety

A rift between Rancho Murieta Association Director Danny Carrillo and the rest of the board emerged during a contentious meeting on April 15. Carrillo claimed other board members had excluded him from executive sessions after accusing him of disclosing confidential information: an allegation he strongly disputed.

Later in the same meeting, Carrillo questioned whether a catastrophic failure of the tank at the Laguna Joaquin pump station could pose a risk to employees. General Manager Rod Hart, visibly taken aback, responded by explaining why the tank was safe.

Carrillo did not attend the May 20 Board meeting. However, during public comments, former Board President Alex Bauer addressed the rift between Carrillo and the other board members. General Manager Rod Hart also spoke at length about the safety of the Laguna Joaquin pump station tank during his report.

Bauer expressed concern about internal conflicts within the board, which he observed while watching the recording of the previous month's meeting.

"What I want to ask you guys is what is going on?" he said.

Bauer suggested that "the conflict that seems to be bubbling underneath the surface" could potentially disrupt the board's smooth and efficient functioning. He emphasized the importance of using democratic processes to resolve internal



Past Rancho Murieta Association Board President Alex Bauer expresses concern about internal conflicts that surfaced at the April Board meeting. He spoke at the May 20 RMA Board meeting.

differences and urged the board to remain constructive, noting that disagreements are natural on a seven-member board.

Bauer also expressed concern about the potential financial impact of the board's internal conflicts, suggesting they could lead to unnecessary legal expenses. He indicated that he planned to file a public records request to determine how much had been spent on legal fees related to the dispute.

As is standard practice, the board did not respond to Bauer's public comment. However, Board President Patrick O'Hern noted that the general budget includes a line item for legal expenses.

Hart provided a detailed explanation of the Laguna Joaquin pump station's history and safety. He noted that the tank has been professionally refurbished multiple times and that Cal/OSHA confirmed it does not require special permits or inspections based on its current use and structural integrity.

Nonetheless, following Carrillo's concerns raised at the April meeting, Maintenance Manager Troy Schaffner brought in an electrician to conduct another inspection. Hart reported that no hazards were found, though the electrician did adjust a few throw switches that were difficult to operate.

Recreation Proposals

The board also considered proposals for new recreational facilities, including three additional pickleball courts and a swimming pool at Stonehouse Park, as well as a sand volleyball court.

Bob Kauffman, president of the Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club, presented the case for adding three more courts, which



Bob Kauffman, the president of the Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club, seeks board support for the construction of three new courts at Stonehouse Park.



Brian Rosebrock asks that motorcyclists be allowed to travel to and from their homes on the North side once per day.

would extend into the large dog park area. He noted that the club currently has 150 members, with daily participation ranging from 50 to 80 players, and an estimated 18,000 court uses annually.

Kauffman said he hoped to gain the board's support, which would help him seek funding from Summerfest, ETC and the Kiwanis Club. He noted that the club has already set aside \$15,000 for the project and that fundraising efforts are ongoing.

O'Hern added that he and Hart have already explored potential locations to relocate the large dog park.

Bob Keil, developer of the Residences subdivision near Stonehouse Park, proposed building a swimming pool—and eventually a community center—on the undeveloped portion of Escuela Park, across from Stonehouse Park. He noted that more than \$1 million from his development will be contributed to the Parks Fund.

Keil also pointed out that new homeowners in the subdivision will pay RMA dues in addition to their association dues. He proposed a phased approach, beginning with a 25-yard competitive pool and only essential supporting structures. Additional amenities could be added over time using dues revenue as funds become available.

"I'd like to look at creative ways to put this together without an assessment and without a vote," he said.

O'Hern, who chairs the Maintenance Committee, said a resident had requested the installation of a sand volleyball court. He and Hart have explored locations, but no final decisions have been made.

Motorcycles on the North

Brian Rosebrock, a longtime advocate for allowing motorcycles in the North, presented a modest proposal at the May meeting. He requested that motorcycle owners be permitted one escort-free trip per day to and from the gate, provided they notify the gate in advance. He argued that this would reduce the burden on security staff, who currently must provide escorts. Rosebrock also noted that requiring motorcycles to be parked in the Gazebo parking lot leaves them increasingly vulnerable to theft or damage.

"This proposal is not designed to allow motorcycles to operate freely inside the gate," he said. "It is a self-policing plan for residents who understand and respect our quiet community."

Director Scott Adams, chair of the Governing Documents Committee, quickly tempered expectations, explaining that Rosebrock's request would require an amendment to the CC&Rs. Such a change, he noted, would need approval from 60% of the community's rooftops, with non-voting residents automatically counted as "no" votes.

Motorcycles currently are permitted on the South side of the community.

Other Business

The board approved three contracts at the meeting: \$481,170 for asphalt repairs, \$22,000 for a consultant to oversee the asphalt project and \$16,166 to replace a variable frequency drive at the Laguna Joaquin pump station.

Schaffner told the board he is working on a new policy to govern the placement of banners on light poles. His goal is to streamline communication between the maintenance department and organizations requesting to display banners.

Audience member Robert Guerin, a relatively new resident, informs the board that he has started an audio music club. What sets the club apart, he said, is its dual purpose: hosting listening events using high-end audio systems and bringing music to residents of local care facilities.

The board's next meeting will be on June 17.

This story is at rivervalleytimes.com and [Facebook.com/therivervalleytimes](https://www.facebook.com/therivervalleytimes). ★



2 BANDS!



An Authentic Concert Experience!



Entertainment, Theatre & Culture
for Rancho Murieta

Saturday
June 14, 2025
8:00pm
Gates Open 7:00pm
Lake Clementia
Members \$30.00
Non-Members \$40.00

CHILDREN 6 & UNDER FREE
\$5.00 surcharge at the gate, so buy your tickets early!

ETC Members/Sponsors enjoy priority blanket setting from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM. General admission blanket setting from 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon.

Closed 12:00 Noon – 7:00 PM. Gates open at 7:00 PM. Come early to avoid long lines. Concert starts promptly at 8:00. No Refunds – No Exchanges.

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

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

Membership Info: Joelle Maggio 951-544-0858

For the safety of the children and ALL concert attendees:

CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED & SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT AT ALL TIMES.
No running or racing around the grounds, blankets, or dance floor.

Keeping the Arts Alive in Our Community!

THANK YOU to our Title Sponsor



FOR MORE INFORMATION: Visit us at ETC-RM.org • Like US!

SECURITY LOGS

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

May 15

12:28 p.m., Patrol responded to the Country Store for a report of a male transient entering the store and stealing a bottle of alcohol. Upon arrival, camera footage was reviewed and description was provided by Country Store staff.

Patrol then exited the store and located the subject behind the store, laying down by the propane tank. Subject was contacted and advised to leave Rancho Murieta. Subject stood up and verbally refused to leave, yelling obscenities. Dispatch was then advised to contact Sacramento Sheriff to assist. Subject left the immediate area where eyesight of subject was lost.

Patrol later was contacted by Bel Air staff, who stated the same subject then entered their store, stealing multiple bottles of alcohol. Patrol located the subject in front of Starbucks, advising him to leave and head toward Sacramento. Subject seemed to comply as he left, crossing the highway toward Sacramento.

The next morning, Security Patrol Officer located the same subject passed out intoxicated behind the Country Store. Sacramento Sheriff contacted and transported the subject to Sacramento.

11:25 p.m., Report of male adult, wearing blue hooded sweatshirt with gray pants, digging through ashtray and trash at Chevron station. Patrol located male adult behind the Chevron station near Bel Air parking, sitting on the ground. He was verbally identified.

He was not experiencing any medical emergency, not under influence and in a good state of mind. He stated that he was dropped off at Rancho Murieta by CHP, who contacted him while he was walking on Jackson Road. He is a transient.

He will remain near Murieta Drive bus stop overnight and will attempt to leave Rancho Murieta in the morning by Amador Transit.

May 17

10:16 p.m., Toilet in Lake Clementia women's restroom filled with vape apparatus. RMA notified via voicemail.

10:52 p.m., Men's room at Lake Clementia vandalized. Mirror removed from wall.

10:55 p.m., Club cart parked in North Beach parking lot. Group of five juveniles located at North Beach where there was a campfire. Two female, three male. Group extinguished fire and cleaned mess.

11:36 p.m., Group of juveniles playing baseball at Stonehouse after hours. Notified group the park was closed and they departed.

May 19

9:08 p.m., Report of a male adults refusing to leave Bel Air café; male using store outlet to charge up the ankle monitor. Subject gone upon arrival; subject female seen walking toward the Chevron station. Located subject at the Chevron station, made contact.

Subject was verbally identified. He stated he was dropped off by the friend about 3 p.m. He awaits a ride with his son within next hour. He will remain at the Chevron station until his ride arrival.

May 22

11:15 p.m., patrol of the south back area near the Granlees Dam noticed a crowd at the north beach across the river. Patrol proceeded to the north beach and noticed numerous vehicles leave the area.

Once at the north beach, patrol observed 10 to 20 vehicles parked near the beach. Using patrol vehicle-equipped public address system, patrol advised the crowd of the trespass warning and requested to leave area.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., small groups of juveniles walked out from the beach area, got inside the vehicles parked near the beach and left the area.

At approximately 12:15 a.m., north beach area was clear.

May 23

1:46 a.m., While partner was clearing out numerous vehicles from Lake Clementia after hours, patrol was tasked with waiting at the exit and recording the information needed from exiting vehicles.

During this time, listed resident pulled up and asked if he could enter the lake to pick up some kids. Patrol informed him he couldn't; the lake was closed and there is a long line of cars on its way out.

Patrol then asked the resident to park because his vehicle was in the way of the exit and the information patrol was asked to gather. The resident became hostile, used foul language and stated, "I am a resident so I can do whatever I want." All of the vehicles exiting then had to drive around them and the rear license plates were all blocked from view.

6:14 p.m., Followed guest out from North Beach. Guest without resident. Son of resident. Patrol explained to guest that he was trespassing after he refused to leave. Then after constant verbal abuse from him, he and his passenger then tried to say, while the passenger was recording video, that patrol was trying to keep them from leaving the north beach area.

Patrol, having escorted them out of the area, called resident and explained what had happened. Resident thankful and said he would talk to his son regarding his behavior. Patrol initiated report as well as let RMA compliance know about said incident. A violation will be written for guest without resident as well as violation for the verbal defiance toward a gate/patrol officer.

May 24

10:20 p.m., RP reported group of three juveniles at Inn creating a nuisance. Spoke with the house leader who said the group had been there before and would harass the guests. He also stated the three boys lived in the Gardens.

Made contact with two other juveniles on site claiming they were looking for the original group. Advised them that they couldn't be here if unwanted by the Inn and they departed.

May 25

1:56 a.m., Chesbro Circle: Reporting party stated garage to this residence was open and loud music was playing. When patrol approached home, no music was playing and there were a few people sitting in the garage. Subjects said they had stopped playing the music about an hour before. Remaining in area to ensure noise is kept low.

9:06 p.m., Report of street vendor on the corner of Jackson Road and Murieta Drive, in violation of minimum distance

(200 feet) to the government building (fire station).

With assistance of the English-Spanish translator, advised vendor of the violation, requested to leave area. Vendor complied with requests, packed away all of the equipment and left area without any further incidents

May 26

6:45 p.m., Dispatch advised of gate arm incident: Vehicle collided with an inner South Gate resident lane gate arm. Gate arm was knocked off the bracket; no damage to the gate arm, gate arm placed back in the bracket.

Vehicle did not stop or attempt to contact the South Gate officer regarding the incident.

Attempted to obtain vehicle information via South Gate traffic surveillance cameras; negative results, camera system malfunction, unable to playback the footage.

May 28

5:40 a.m., South Gate visitor gate arm incident. Amazon delivery driver, while attempting to provide the gate officer with an address, exited her vehicle, but forgot to put vehicle in Park. Vehicle then started to roll and collided with a gate arm, knocking gate arm out of the bracket.

The vehicle did not suffer any damage due to the accident.

Gate arm did not suffer any damage; gate arm was placed back in the bracket; gate arm in good working condition. Driver provided all required information without any incidents. Driver then proceeded into South Murieta to finish her deliveries.

6:13 p.m., Puerto Drive: Advised resident of potential hit-and-run sideswipe of another's vehicle to parents of driver. Dispatch has advised reporting party to contact CHP to make report.

May 29

12:37 a.m., Chesbro Circle: Report of a loud party in front of address. Upon arrival, patrol located a gathering of about 10 juveniles in front of the garage. Advised group of complaint and requested to proceed inside of the house. Group complied without incident.

12:30 a.m., North beach: Patrol located two parked unattended vehicles. While attempting to locate drivers of the vehicles, patrol noticed a large group of vehicles leaving North Beach. Unable to obtain any of the leaving vehicles' information.

Patrol then proceeded to North beach. Upon arrival, did not observe any activity. Vehicles parked at Clementia Park were cited: Rule IX Sec 3-Park hours.

12:15 a.m., Riverview Project: Report of a loud group of juveniles at the Riverview Project construction with loud music. Upon arrival, patrol located two golf carts at the end of Shaq Street with about six juveniles. Golf carts quickly left area once they noticed RMCS D patrol arrival. Was not able to make contact with a group.

May 30

12:15 a.m., Vandalism, Murieta South Parkway: Party reported two unknown juveniles egging his house. Juveniles last seen riding scooters, wearing all black, outbound on Murieta South Parkway toward Reynosa Drive. Patrol searched nearby area, Callaway Drive, Colbert

Drive, Riverview Construction; area clear.

Resident advised that approximately a week ago, he had an incident with two juveniles on bicycles, riding wheelies in the middle of the Parkway. Juveniles followed resident to his house that day.

A few days later, after the incident, resident's doorbell camera captured two juveniles, covering their faces, approaching the door camera; juveniles looked same as juveniles from the incident.

Today, resident heard loud noise outside and saw two juveniles that looked the same as juveniles from incident a week ago, egging his house and a parked vehicle in his driveway.

Resident cleaned all signs of vandalism prior to patrol arrival; unable to provide photos of vandalism.

11:35 p.m., RMCC driving range: Patrol encountered individual using the driving range after hours. When informed of policy, subject claimed he "did this all the time and wasn't aware of the rule. Is this a problem?" He then departed, leaving his bucket of balls.

May 31

2:47 a.m., Shaq Street: While on extra patrol for a residence, patrol viewed two male juveniles in the construction zone near the heavy equipment. As patrol pulled up, subjects saw him and ran. Driving around to the site from Murieta South Parkway, patrol observed subjects in a black pickup. As they pulled out, they denied being in the construction area. Patrol advised that area was off limits and to not return.

June 2

7:15 p.m., Gate arm accident: Golf cart knocked off Murieta Parkway left turn gate arm, and without stopping proceeded into Murieta North.

Traffic cameras review revealed two golf carts arrive to the gate. First golf cart opened gate with a barcode, while second golf cart followed too close and collided with a gate arm, knocking gate arm out of the bracket. Golf cart proceeded into Murieta North without stopping.

At this time unable to identify golf cart driver/owner. Gate arm undamaged and in good working condition. Gate arm was placed back into the bracket.

5:40 p.m., Patrol of Jackson Road observed male with fishing rod and backpack, on foot walking toward the Gazebo Park from Chevron station.

Contacted at the Gazebo Park, he stated he is not guest/resident and came here to fish. Advised WMA of trespassing and requested to leave area, WMA complied without any incidents.

4 p.m., Resident of De La Cruz stated that, on May 29, she had a gathering at her house. Numerous guests parked their golf carts in her driveway, and golf cart keys were left in the golf cart.

At the end of the evening, three guests realized that their cart keys were missing. She did not have description of the subjects. Unknown value of the property. RMCS D did not receive any other complaints regarding this incident

June 4

10 p.m., Report of disturbance at Shell Station: two juveniles, on bicycles riding wheelies on property. Station attendant asked juveniles to leave; juveniles refused and continued to wheelie their bicycles. Juveniles left area prior to patrol arrival. ★

CSD President Booth Resigns, Cites Lack of Accountability

Continued from page 1

from my position on the board of directors, effective at the close of this meeting."

Earlier in the meeting, audience member Richard Gehrs asked District Counsel Patrick Enright about the source of funds for the settlement with Morris. Enright said the district's insurance provider paid \$175,000, while the district covered the remaining \$200,000.

After a report about Booth's resignation was posted on social media the following day, more than

a dozen residents took to Nextdoor to express their dismay and support. In the days that followed, others urged him to reconsider. One typical comment read: "This makes me so sad, both for the community and for him. He was just the person we needed to right the ship."

The conflict between Morris and Booth became public on Jan. 6 during a special board meeting to evaluate her performance. Before the board entered closed session—without Booth—Morris accused him of retaliation,

discrimination, and harassment. She also revealed filing an internal complaint against him after the Nov. 20 board meeting.

In closed session, the board voted 4-0 to place Morris on administrative leave pending an investigation. The next day, Booth told The River Valley Times, "I categorically deny that there has been any discrimination against her for any reason."

Morris alleged Booth pressured her to return to in-office work despite having a medical condition and damaged her reputation

by criticizing her performance publicly. On Jan. 8, her attorney filed a government claim expanding her allegations and including Directors John Merchant and Director Linda Butler, and District Counsel Patrick Enright.

Under California law, a government claim is required before suing a public agency. On Feb. 19, the board voted 4-0 to deny Morris's claim, clearing the path for legal action.

On March 14, the board met in closed session and later announced Morris would return from leave.

She resumed her duties on March 24. That same day, Booth informed the district he would no longer attend meetings.

Though Morris returned to work, she missed board committee meetings on May 6 and 8. Merchant declined to comment, calling it a personnel matter.

The board held a special meeting on May 12 to discuss a settlement with Morris. Following a 46-minute closed session with Legal Counsel Enright, the board returned to open session and Merchant, who is the board

vice-president, announced the outcome.

"The board voted 3 to 0 to reach a settlement agreement with Ms. Morris, and that concludes the report," Merchant said.

Merchant and Directors Tim Maybee and Linda Butler voted in favor of the settlement. Booth and Director Jenco were absent.

This story, along with earlier coverage of the conflict between Morris and Booth, is available online at [Facebook.com/therivervalleytimes](https://www.facebook.com/therivervalleytimes) and at therivervalleytimes.com. ★



Pickleball Players, Firefighters Raise Money for Burn Institute

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club and local firefighters teamed up on May 17 for a tournament benefiting the Firefighters Burn Institute. The event raised \$3,055, which included a \$500 contribution from the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta.

The Sacramento Area Firefighters Local 522 established the burn institute at U.C. Davis Medical Center a year after a jet crashed into the crowded Farrell's Ice Cream Parlor in Sacramento in 1972, killing 23 people and burning many others. Since then, the burn institute has expanded its mission to include burn recovery for survivors and their families, burn research, public education, and fire and burn prevention.

In a brief ceremony following the tournament, Club President Bob Kauffman recognized Serda Folk, who proposed the idea for the event last year. "She had a plan and



Joe Pick, executive director of the Firefighters Burn Institute, applauds as Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club President Bob Kauffman announces that the club's tournament raised \$3,055 for the nonprofit. The fundraiser was held at Stonehouse Park on May 17.

an idea, and she asked us about it," he said. "It was successful last year, and it was even more successful this year. She's got a band going and even brought in Chick-fil-A."

Kauffman invited Joe Pick, executive director of the Firefighters Burn Institute, to step forward.

"Between the \$500 from Kiwanis and the rest from the Pickleball Club, we've raised \$3,055," Pick said as the pickleball players clapped and cheered.

"I want to thank the



Bob Kauffman introduces members of The Witch Doctors. The Rancho Murieta-based band members volunteered their time to keep the tournament rocking.

Rancho Murieta community and the pickleball club for participating," Pick responded. "We appreciate



Joe Pick poses with the participating firefighters, from left, Just Levesque, Bronze Withear, Demetri Bloshenko, Skye Conway and Jim Pritchard.



The first-place winners in the tournament are, from left, Angel Ercila, Stuart Allen and Wylie Haviland. The second- and third-place teams also received medals.

you." Kauffman also recognized the club's maintenance committee for preparing the courts, the social committee "who got all this beautiful food for us to eat," and the tournament committee, which organized the teams and arranged last-minute substitutions when players had to cancel.

Kauffman also introduced members of the Witch Doctors, a Rancho Murieta band that kept the tournament rocking throughout the day. He acknowledged Brad Silverbush, owner of Chick-fil-A Rivergate Cordova, who donated 50 sandwiches for the event. The club wrapped up the celebration by awarding medals to the teams that placed first, second and

third. Pick, who has served as executive director of the Firefighters Burn Institute since 2021, is no stranger to Rancho Murieta. During his three years as a fire captain at Station 59, he began participating in the annual Murieta Village Christmas Golf Parade, donning a Santa suit and an old-fashioned fire helmet. He continued returning for nine more years—even after transferring to another station and eventually retiring—always recruiting on-duty firefighters to join in. In 2021, he brought the Firefighters Burn Institute's truck and float to take part in the final year of the parade.

This story is at rivervalleytimes.com and [Facebook.com/therivervalleytimes](https://www.facebook.com/therivervalleytimes). ★



Joe Pick and the pickleball players gather for a group photo after the tournament.

Summerfest Spray Park Opens for Season on May 24

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The weather was perfect and spirits were high as Opening Day unfolded at Summerfest Spray Park in Riverview Park on May 24.

Summerfest and the Rancho Murieta Association Recreation Committee sponsored the hometown event that drew at least 300 kids, parents and grandparents.

Wyly Haviland chairs the committee.

"Good cheer and smiles were in abundance for this fun in the sun event," he said.

RMA executive assistant April Mattice, who is the staff liaison with the committee, said the volunteers from both organizations kept the youngsters and their families well-fed and energized for the spray park fun.

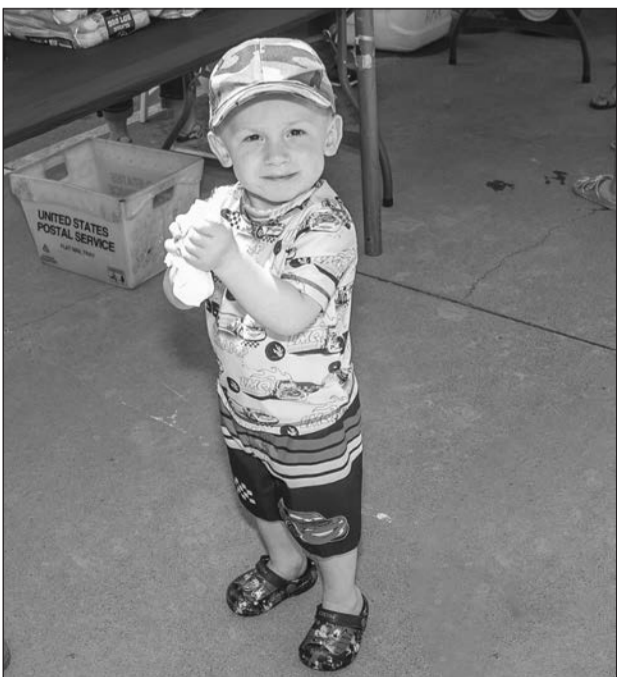
Summerfest provided the hot dogs and buns, and board members even stepped in to grill them, Mattice said.

"We served about 120 hot dogs, lots of popcorn and a whole lot of Sno-Cones," she added.

"We could tell by the colored tongues of the happy children and adults that they thoroughly enjoyed their Sno-Cones," Haviland said. "The master chefs (Mike Martel and Sid Williams) provided everyone with the now-famous, mouth-watering all-beef hot dogs, and the freshly



Max Clelland gets caught in the spray of a water geyser.



William Dunham wipes his hands with a napkin after enjoying a hot dog.

made popcorn was warm and buttery."

Haviland also thanked everyone who attended, along with all the volunteers—"especially the RMA maintenance crew,

who ensured the water features were working perfectly," he said.

This story is at rivervalleytimes.com and [Facebook.com/therivervalleytimes](https://www.facebook.com/therivervalleytimes). ★



Youngsters frolic at the Summerfest Spray Park in Riverview Park when the Rancho Murieta Association Recreation Committee and Summerfest present the opening day on May 24.



Hayes Brunnell, left, and Harper Summerville react after being drenched by an overhead bucket.

'We are Losing an Entire Generation'

By Seth Henderson

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - According to the Sacramento District Attorney's Office, more than 200 law enforcement members between Yolo, Sacramento, El Dorado, Placer and Yuba counties have participated in multiple operations to seize hundreds of pounds of fentanyl off the streets since 2021.

Cross-departmental partnerships are necessary in the fight against fentanyl and even one death is too many, Attorney General Rob Bonta said during a press conference on May 29. He said the collaboration will not stop until the deaths stop.

"The fentanyl crisis represents a public safety emergency and the poisoning epidemic," Sacramento DA Thien Ho said at the press conference. "We are losing an entire generation."

The death toll in the Sacramento region since 2021 has reached more than 600 individuals, Ho said, which is more than all gun-related homicides within a decade. Ho said

that fentanyl does not discriminate and it does not care about the user's background or experience.

Fifty-one felony arrests have been made since 2021, Ho said, citing operations such as "Operation: Folsom Blues 2.0," which saw the seizure of more than 1,000 fentanyl pills and tens of other drugs.

Deaths from fentanyl poisoning have been steadily declining since 2023, Ho said, with 2023 having 404 deaths, 2022 having 267 deaths and as of May, 33 deaths this year.

The Sacramento district attorney said he is in favor of innovative ways to stay ahead of the epidemic with solutions such as a fentanyl murder registry to keep track of individuals convicted of fentanyl poisoning; an impact panel featuring dealers, addicts and victims' families to spread awareness; an overdose alert system powered by artificial intelligence; and the dismantling of online distributors.

"We cannot arrest our way out of this and we cannot educate our way out of it alone," Ho said.

Sacramento County

According to the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office, hundreds of pounds of fentanyl has been seized since 2021 in multi-jurisdictional operations involving more than 200 law enforcement personnel.



Sheriff Jim Cooper said that solutions such as naloxone, the active ingredient in Narcan, have become second nature when dealing with individuals who are hardly conscious or unresponsive. He said it is because "we're so used to it" in schools and workplaces.

Every demographic in the county is affected, Cooper said, and California does not pass the laws necessary to hold fentanyl dealers accountable. He referenced his qualms with Proposition 36. Citing the lack of effort to fund these initiatives, Cooper said, the continued multi-community effort is necessary to combat substance abuse and homelessness.

"Drug court worked and we have to fix that,"

Cooper said.

Cooper said that Proposition 47 removed incentives to place individuals into drug court and that being an addict should not be a crime, unless they are committing crimes. Drug dealers prey on young people, Cooper said, and holding the dealers accountable is what works.

Task forces from multiple agencies were recognized by elected officials at the press conference for their brave and significantly impactful seizures of hard drugs and criminals. Some task forces included the Tri-County Drug Enforcement Narcotics Team (TRIDENT), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), the California Multi-Jurisdictional



Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho, middle, holds a press conference May 29 updating the public on recent fentanyl-related seizures and convictions with Attorney General Rob Bonta, Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire and Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper. Photos courtesy of Sacramento County DA's Office

Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (CALMMET), and the Fentanyl Abatement Suppression Team (FAST).

Placer County District Attorney Morgan Gire manages the Tri-County Drug Enforcement Narcotics Team and said he is reminded of each victim's life when prosecuting the criminals charged with taking that life.

Gire said the outreach team talks to thousands of students, teachers and coaches to gain information and spread awareness.

Collaboration happens at all levels of government, Gire said, and operations are happening "day in and day out" to send a message through the region.

"Even if you don't want

treatment, we will get you there," Gire said.

Since 2022, more than 15 million pills and more than 6,700 pounds of fentanyl powder have been seized, Bonta said, and more than 500 suspects have been arrested.

"Numbers don't tell the full story," Bonta said. "They are lives saved, they are overdoses prevented, they are families spared from unimaginable grief.

"We're actively working to strengthen border enforcement," Bonta said. "We're collaborating with local and federal law enforcement partners in Southern California and Northern California to stop fentanyl before it ever has a chance to make it up to Sacramento." ★

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RMA, CSD Boards Discuss Barcode Stickers

Story and photos by Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - What to do about barcode stickers, which allow access through automated lanes at the front gates, was a conundrum at both the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on May 20 and the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board meeting on May 21.

At the RMA meeting, the issue was the difficulty of identifying nonmembers with barcode stickers who were speeding or trespassing. Most are current or former members of the Rancho Murieta Country Club. A likely solution is to issue colored barcode stickers to nonmembers, who may also be required to pay a deposit. One director suggested the possibility of RMA taking over the issuance of barcodes.

The RMA board also approved a rule change requiring residents to notify a gate officer when they change license plates.

At the CSD meeting, the barcode issue centered on the board's second attempt to adopt an ordinance implementing new sticker fees intended to offset the increased cost of 24/7 patrol services.

After learning it would be nearly impossible to add the fees to the July utility bills, the board tabled the ordinance for at least six months.

Directors also discussed the resulting security budget shortfall, which had already occurred after the board delayed the adoption



Barcode stickers allow vehicle access through the automated lanes at both gates. The Rancho Murieta Association Board and the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board discussed barcode issues at their monthly meetings in May.

of the ordinance the first time.

RMA Meeting

Rod Hart brought up the nonmember barcodes as part of his general manager's report, noting that the Compliance Committee had been discussing the issue for some time. Country club members who don't live in the community can purchase a \$10 barcode sticker as part of their club membership. Murieta Village and Murieta Gardens residents can also pay an annual \$300 fee for a barcode sticker.

Hart said that last year's implementation of the Lidar camera system, which clocks the speeds of passing vehicles, had "opened our eyes to a lot of things, one of those being the speeding of those nonmember barcoded vehicles. So many of those are country club members."

The solution so far has been to deactivate the barcodes of offenders,

especially when the speeds have been excessive. That means that they must use the guest lane to reach the club.

However, it isn't a complete fix because having barcodes identical to those of members allows nonmembers to trespass beyond Alameda Drive "in areas where they shouldn't be, for instance, the back lakes or Stonehouse Park," Hart said.

To address this issue, the committee has discussed issuing colored barcodes and requiring a deposit to cover fines for nonmembers who speed or trespass.

Referring to a violator who was clocked at 85 mph on Murieta Parkway, Director Tom Reimers, who chairs the Compliance Committee, asked if the driver was an active country club member. Hart said he was a current member and "no longer has a barcode."

"And no brains, either," Reimers responded.

Reimers also asked how many barcodes belonging to former country club members who have since resigned had been deactivated. Compliance Supervisor Chris Smith told him that the most recent count was 85. Hart said they also have found instances in Murieta Gardens in which a household with one country club membership has five barcodes.

Hart told the board he would discuss the barcode issue with CSD management. Reimers also mentioned that the Compliance Committee has talked about RMA staff taking over the issuing of barcodes from CSD. Hart said that made sense.

"So there is a big problem there, and we certainly aim to fix it," Hart told the directors.

In a related matter later in the meeting, Director Scott Adams, chair of the Governing Documents Committee, said the Compliance Committee had requested a rule change to improve vehicle identification. It requires residents to report any license plate change to a gate officer within 14 days to enhance vehicle identification. The board voted unanimously to send the proposed change out for a 30-day public review.

CSD Meeting

The barcode sticker issue at the CSD Board meeting related to the second reading of an ordinance to implement new fees to fund the increased cost to security to provide 24/7 patrol coverage. The one-time fee for a new vehicle would increase from \$10 to \$25, and an annual fee

of \$10 would be added for each car. The board initially delayed implementing the barcode fee in January due to community pushback.

However, this time, the pushback came from Board Secretary Amelia Wilder, who explained it would be almost impossible for staff to add the barcode fee to the June utility billing.

"The update now is that there are approximately 8,900 barcode stickers in the community," she said.

The district lacks accurate data on how many of the barcodes are active since residents don't consistently update their vehicle information when they sell their cars. Wilder said it could take staff several months to accurately implement the proposed fee.

"It is recommended that this ordinance be tabled until staff has had the opportunity to communicate with residents, update the number of active stickers, reconcile the billing system and prepare for the billing adjustments that may be necessary once people receive their first bill," Wilder said.

Merchant agreed with her suggestion to table the ordinance.

"What really would concern me going forward is that if, if this shows up on a CSD bill, we don't have the resources inside this building to handle the number of calls, to handle the debits, to handle the credits, to handle the hour-long arguments, everything connected with it," he said. "There are probably more barcodes at the junkyard than we've got (in the community)."

Director Tim Maybee said the shortfall in the security budget remained at approximately \$90,000 due to the lack of funding from the barcode fees. He said the board might need to look at a different process.

"Because at the end of the day, we don't own the barcodes," he said. "RMA decides who gets a barcode or not."

Operations Director Eric Houston said some security costs should be assessed against the water, sewage and drainage budgets. He said that officers patrol the plants, reservoirs and other district facilities, and the gate officers monitor the security cameras.

"None of that is going back to water, sewer and drainage," he said.

District Counsel Patrick Enright agreed that it is common for a city or special district to recapture costs that way.

Board President Steve Booth said he had proposed several times that RMA should start paying for patrol officer enforcement of association rules, which has never been accomplished.

"It sounds like this is an opportunity to evaluate on a broader sense whether or not we can bill against our utilities and our partners to help fund security," he said.

Maybee made the motion to table the ordinance, recommending at least a six-month delay. The board approved his motion 4:0. Director Randy Jenco was absent.

This story is at rivervalleytimes.com and Facebook.com/rivervalleytimes. ★

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Father's Day Jazz at Slough House Kitchen

The Rancho Murieta-based jazz combo Baggs Groove will perform from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 15 for Father's Day Brunch on the patio at Slough House Kitchen, 12700 Meiss Road, Sloughhouse.

Reservations required; visit sloughhousekitchen.com.

Fun Run Slated for July 4 Celebration

The 45th Annual Fourth of July Fun Run is open to all: Runners, joggers, dog walkers and stroller pushers are welcome.

The main course is just under three miles, with a shorter option available

for walkers. Erin Bailey of the Murieta Health Club is once again sponsoring the event.

The adult race begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Gazebo on the North. A children's run for ages 10 and under starts at 8:15 a.m. at the park across from the Gazebo.

For more information, contact John McNamee at 916-206-3246.



Kiwanis Slates July 4 Pancake Breakfast
Start your Independence

Day with the Kiwanis Fourth of July Pancake Breakfast, held Friday, July 4 from 7 to 9:30 a.m. at Stonehouse Park.

The delicious breakfast includes pancakes (with optional blueberries for early servings), sausages, eggs, juice, water and coffee. Advance ticket prices are \$6 for adults and children ages 6 and up. Children 5 and under eat free.

On July 4, ticket prices increase to \$9 for adults and children 6 and up; children 5 and under remain free.

Advance ticket sales begin Friday, June 13 at the RMA office (cash or check only).

Tickets will also be available at The Local Bean on Saturday and

Sunday, June 28 and 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (cash, check or credit card).

Tickets can also be purchased online starting June 13 at rmkiwanis.org, accessible via the event QR code. Please note: no online sales will be available on July 4.

Pickleball Club Slates Car Show, Chili Cookoff

The Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club will host its Hot August Nights Car Show and Chili Cook Off on Saturday, Aug. 9 from noon to 4 p.m. at Stonehouse Park.

Awards will be given for the best cars and chili. The event is open only to Rancho Murieta residents and their guests.

The entry fee is \$20 for Pickleball Club members

and \$25 for nonmembers. To sign up, email mach-five911@yahoo.com.

CSD Seeks Candidates for Board Seat Vacancy

The Rancho Murieta Community Services District is accepting applications to fill a board vacancy following the resignation of Board President Steve Booth.

Details on how to apply are available on the district's homepage at rmcscd.com. Letters of interest are due by July 9.

Support Sought for Wilton Memorial Rose Garden

The Wilton Memorial Rose Garden is next to the Wilton Office at 11090 Jeff Brian Lane, Wilton. It has over 500 roses honoring

family and friends.

If you would like to volunteer to help prune or deadhead roses throughout the year, please send an email or text with your name and phone number.

The garden also has a commemorative brick path to commemorate birthdays, anniversaries and more.

We are compiling a list of those interested in purchasing custom-engraved bricks for \$75.

If you would like to donate money, our Venmo is @wiltonccnp. If you would like to send a check, please write "Rose Garden" in the note and write the check to "Wilton Community Center."

The address is Wilton Community Center, P.O. Box 645, Wilton, CA 95693. ★



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Memorial Day Weekend Marked by Ceremonies

Continued from page 1

VFW member Jennifer Lawson, who organized the local distribution outside Tractor Supply and Bel Air Market on May 24, said the response was amazing.

“The community graciously accepted over 500 poppies to increase awareness and remember those veterans who gave their lives for freedom,” Lawson said.

In return, recipients of the paper flowers donated more than \$1,400 to support veterans in crisis.

“We are humbled and so

grateful for the support of our amazing community,” Lawson said.

Memorial Day Service

Lawson also organized the formal Memorial Day service at the Gazebo two days later, which drew strong community support. To her surprise, approximately 80 people attended the afternoon event, held under perfect weather conditions.

Post Commander Ted Ryon emceed the brief but poignant ceremony.



VFW Commander Ted Ryan, seated, and member Bill DuVall offer free poppies outside the Bel Air Market two days before Memorial Day. Austin Jonson donates after accepting a paper flower.

Lawson began by reading a prayer. Assistant Post Leader Bill McCarver

led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a beautiful rendition of the “National Anthem” sung by post member Jennifer Roland Dutton.

Ryon then asked members of the audience who had served in combat to raise their hands—and they did. “You guys are my heroes,” he told them.

Ryon also recognized five members of the post who are Purple Heart recipients: Don Craig, Bill Payne, Bill Cannon, Rick Davis and Jose Meris.

Ryon also reported that four members of the post had died in the past year: Walter Dunajski, Brigadier Gen. Jerome Hoberg, Lt. Col. Dan Klaff and Ronald Squires.

Ryon invited audience members to share remembrances of soldiers who had died in service to their country. Trey Wilkins, who identified himself as a U.S. Ranger from California, recalled five comrades who lost their lives in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq between 2008 and 2011.

Another audience member, Karen Hoberg, thanked the VFW Post members for their support following the death of her father, Jerome Hoberg.

“He loved being part of



Musician Tai Wieler plays “Taps” at the Gazebo ceremony.

your wonderful organization,” she said.

Ryon announced the playing of “Taps” by a musician positioned among the distant trees. The trumpet player was Tai Wieler, a UC Davis music student.

Before offering the closing prayer, Ryon addressed all the veterans who have died in foreign wars.

“There aren’t enough stars in the sky to express my eternal gratitude for the sacrifice you made for our country,” he said. “To all of you, I say thank you and bless you.”

Lawson delivered the closing prayer.

“May our leaders be guided by your wisdom and love as we strive to build a society that honors the memory of our fallen heroes and promotes justice and peace for all,” she said.

Ryon then invited the crowd to enjoy a generous spread of snacks and beverages provided by the VFW Post Auxiliary.

Among the attendees were three Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District firefighters who were recently transferred from Station 59 in Rancho Murieta to Station 58 in Sloughhouse. They said they had requested permission to attend the ceremony because they

still consider themselves part of the Rancho Murieta community.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

This year marked the 19th time that Scout Troop 633 conducted its flag retirement ceremony, in which Scouts and leaders respectfully burn worn and tattered American flags, one by one.

About 20 parents and community members attended the ceremony, which began at 6 p.m. in Memorial Grove at Lake Calero. The program featured readings about the American flag’s significance and history, accompanied by patriotic bagpipe music performed by retired Navy Captain Chuck Jamison.

After most of the audience left, the nine Scouts, Scoutmaster Jason Dobson and Assistant Scoutmaster Marji Salo continued burning approximately 200 worn and tattered flags. Salo said they finished around 9 p.m., pausing for about 20 minutes to rehydrate and enjoy watermelon and hot dogs.

This story is at rivervalleytimes.com and [Facebook.com/therivervalleytimes](https://www.facebook.com/therivervalleytimes).



Bagpiper Chuck Jamison performs patriotic tunes at the Lake Calero ceremony.

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