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# RIVER VALLEY TIMES

41ST YEAR • ISSUE 12

*Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughouse, Wilton*

JUNE 27, 2025

**SEE  
INSIDE**

**JULY 4  
SCHEDULE  
OF EVENTS**



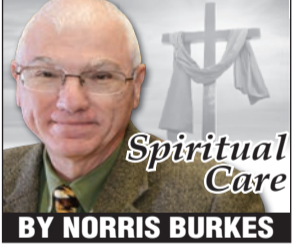
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**GOOD MARRIAGES  
REQUIRE SWEAT WORK**



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## Pollard Returns to Gold Rush Classic



Former Kings player Scot Pollard is returning to Rancho Murieta for the Gold Rush Classic golf tournament on Aug. 7 and 8. He was recently featured in an ESPN documentary. Courtesy photo

**By Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter**

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - Scot Pollard, the former Sacramento Kings center and recent subject of ESPN's "Heart of Pearl" documentary, is returning to Rancho Murieta for the Gold Rush Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 7 and 8.

This will be Pollard's third appearance at the Rancho Murieta Country Club tournament, and this year's return carries a deeper meaning. "Well, it's such a great event, and

it's a great cause: Jordan's Guardian Angels," Pollard said. "And this year, John (Jacobs) has pledged to include Dawn's, my wife's, charity, Pearls of Life."

Founded by Dawn Pollard after Pollard's lifesaving heart transplant in 2024, Pearls of Life is a non-profit dedicated to raising awareness about organ donation and supporting families navigating the emotional and financial strain of the transplant process.

"The purpose of our charity is education," Pollard said. "There are a

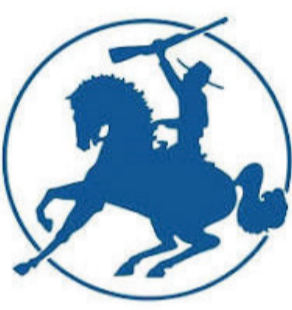
lot of myths out there about organ donation. We want to help people understand the truth so they can make informed decisions. I never say, 'Please be a donor.' I say, 'Please consider being a donor.'"

He added that most people change their minds quickly once they understand the facts.

"Almost everyone I talk to says, 'I didn't think about it like that,' and then they sign up. And it's not under pressure, it's just education."

The inspiration for the charity  
*Continued on page 3*

## Committee Looks into Country Club Owned by Members



**By John O'Brien**

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - Let's face it, we live in a pretty special place. My wife and I moved here 30 years ago and raised our three children, who have all married and moved back to raise their children. If that doesn't speak volumes as to the uniqueness and quality of the Rancho Murieta experience, I'm not sure what does.

But, there is a growing unease in my family, and probably in many of your families, with the continued deterioration of the Rancho Murieta Country Club. Whether or not you are a member of the country club, your fortunes inside the gates are tied to its vitality and continued existence. For many, the country club is the heart and soul of their social life and a critical component of their property's value. So, the answer to the question of what would make Rancho Murieta better is restoring the country club to its former glory.

My background here is that I am a previous club board member, having served for seven years in a 15-year span, and a golf member for nearly 30 years. As such, I am intimately familiar with the club's problems, what caused them and the potential solutions that have been tried but failed. In fact, I spearheaded the most recent effort to put the club into bankruptcy to facilitate a sale to a third party, one with the resources and know-how to significantly improve the member experience.

Unfortunately, all of the initially promising potential suitors eventually said "no" after conducting their due diligence. Watching this process fail again, as it has many times in the past, has led me to conclude that no third party seeking to make a profit will buy this asset because the potential return on investment is too speculative. No "white knight" is ever going to ride in and rescue us.

That is why the only  
*Continued on page 2*

## Anderson Ranch Changes Hands Within Family

**By Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter**

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The historic Anderson Ranch west of the Rancho Murieta airport has been sold, but it's staying in the family.

Carol Anderson Ward confirmed outside a recent Rancho Murieta Community Services District meeting that she had sold the majority of the Anderson Ranch to her niece, Bri Tsakopoulos.

"Bri just bought my ranch," Ward said, gesturing to her niece. "Except for the equestrian center. I'm keeping that part."

Bri Tsakopoulos, the daughter of Ward's younger brother John Anderson, spent a significant part of her childhood in Rancho Murieta.

"I grew up here," she said. "I rode horses at the equestrian center for years. It's a legacy, and now I get to be the third generation."

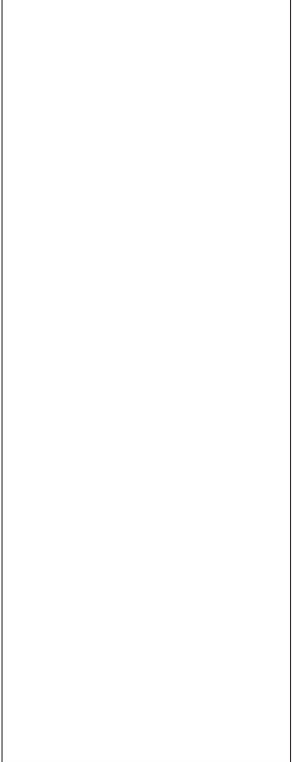
*Continued on page 3*



Carol Anderson Ward, left, confirms she has sold the Anderson Ranch to her niece, Bri Tsakopoulos, who grew up in Rancho Murieta. Photo by Gail Bullen

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# Rancho Murieta Association July 4, 2025 Schedule of Events

**Pancake Breakfast** – sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta: 7 to 9:30 a.m. at Stonehouse Park. Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, OJ and coffee.

Advance tickets \$6 (6 years and over), \$9 at event.

Purchase tickets at [rmkiwanis.org](http://rmkiwanis.org) or RMA Building.

**45th Annual Fun Run** – sponsored by Erin Howard Bailey of Murieta Health Club.

Adults: 5K Run 7:30 a.m. at North Gazebo.

Kids (10 and under): 8:15 a.m. at park across from North Gazebo. No prior signup required. Call John McNamee at 916-206-3246 with questions.

**Parade down Murieta Parkway** – sponsored

by Rancho Murieta Association.

Lineup time 9 a.m.-9:30 a.m. at Murieta Parkway and De La Cruz Drive.

Parade starts at 10 a.m.

Parade Route: Begin at Murieta Parkway and De La Cruz, proceed down parkway, turn left on Marr Drive, loop behind the RMA building and back onto the parkway.

Residents with vintage cars must register with RMA.

For a registration form, contact RMA at 916-354-3500.

**Parade Rules:**

No water guns, balloons, etc., or superballs. Candy is OK.

No commercial golf carts, walkers, vehicles, etc.

Non-resident vehicles

are not allowed. Only individuals and local nonprofit groups may participate.

Only vintage (1975 or older) vehicles and local nonprofit vehicles are allowed.

Chairs and other belongings can't be placed for the parade until 24 hours prior to the event. They must be placed behind the curb, not in the street or bike lane.

**Music at the Gazebo** – sponsored by Rancho Murieta Association.

Music and dancing from 7 to 9 p.m.

**Fireworks at Laguna Joaquin (Front Lake)** – sponsored by Rancho Murieta Association.

Fireworks begin at 9:30 p.m.

No blankets in common areas prior to 7 p.m. July 3.

No plastic or tarps are



The Rancho Murieta Association has slated spectacular pyrotechnics for this year's Fourth of July celebration. Photo by Gail Bullen

allowed.

Escuela Gate will be not be used to exit after fireworks.

**General Information**

Guest Passes: get your 4th of July guest passes. Pick up passes Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the RMA Building. Mail or hand

deliver to your guests in advance. Five free passes per lot, then \$5 per pass. All guests must have a pass or be on a resident's guest list. (Please also provide guests on your guest list with passes.)

Events limited to Rancho Murieta Association residents and their guests.

Guests must be accompanied by the residents who invited them.

Laguna Joaquin: Golf carts must stay on the path around the lake. No parking on path.

For questions or additional information, contact RMA at (916) 354-3500.

★

# Committee Looks into Country Club Owned by Members

Continued from page 1

viable solution is a member-owned facility. A member-owned club would be a nonprofit entity whose only goal is to provide a first-class member experience, whether it be golf, dining, fitness, concerts, hosted activities or social events. Instead of cashing out profit, cash flow would be reinvested. As the quality of the property and standards of service improve, so would demand to be a part of it. Each member's return on their individual investment would be their vastly elevated experience.

How do we get there? A group of a dozen-plus of your neighbors has formed an exploratory committee that has been meeting regularly for the past several months to answer that very question. Although daunting, a clear path is forming.

The many talented individuals on this committee have been working tirelessly

to crunch the numbers and flesh out the parameters of a member-owned club and how to make it succeed. In turn, the individual committee members are presenting specifics to their friends, neighbors and other club members to explain how a member-owned club would raise enough capital to purchase the property from the developer, immediately improve the facility and standards, and continue doing so over the next 5, 10 and even 20 years. Our initial discussions with many of you have made us optimistic about the viability of our vision.

But, we need to talk to everyone in Rancho Murieta who is interested in hearing more. Here is a list of the people on the committee who can provide more detail if you want to reach out individually: Tom Shewchuk, John O'Brien, Chase Armer, Scott Bailey, Dan Delmore, Steve Fargo, Chuck Hays, Doug Kirk, Bob

Kjome, Bobby McCallister, Catherine Silvera and Mike Smith.

We are also planning to hold a handful of focus group meetings with Rancho Murieta Country Club golf members in the near future to discuss specific details, a projected timeline and to answer questions.

We need your help to make this vision a reality.

The alternative is to do nothing, and three years from now, when the country club's lease expires, the fate of the facility will be in the hands of the developer. We would then have no control over its future, including whether any improvements would be made, what the dues would be, or even whether both golf courses would continue to exist. Instead, the citizens of this community can seize their own destiny and shape the future of Rancho Murieta for generations.



As the future of Rancho Murieta Country Club hangs in the balance, a group of residents is working to secure funding and convert it into a member-owned facility. File photo by Gail Bullen

John O'Brien, an attorney, is a key member of the committee working to transform Rancho Murieta Country Club into a member-owned facility.

This story is online at [facebook.com/therivervalleytimes](https://facebook.com/therivervalleytimes) and [therivervalleytimes.com](http://therivervalleytimes.com).

★

Rancho Murieta, a 3,500-acre country-club community, is an oasis of emerald fairways and manicured greens, built along the scenic banks of the Cosumnes River. It encompasses five lakes, greenbelts, rolling hills and stately oaks.

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ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

# Pollard Returns to Gold Rush Classic

# Anderson Ranch Changes Hands Within Family

*Continued from page 1*  
 arose during one of the most challenging moments of their lives. As Dawn Pollard sat in a hospital waiting room, hoping a heart would become available for her husband, she realized something startling.  
 “She said, ‘I’m sitting here waiting for a heart for my husband, and I’m not even a donor,’” Pollard recalled. “She signed up on the spot at three o’clock in the morning. And that’s what started Pearls of Life.”

The charity also hopes to ease the burden for families who, like the Pollards, must leave home for weeks or months for a transplant. During Pollard’s time at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, the couple had to rent an apartment, coordinate childcare and live without an income.

“Even with all our resources, we were broke,” he said. “A friend of ours started a GoFundMe, and it saved us. But not everyone has that network.”

Traveling to tournaments like the Gold Rush Classic is not easy for Pollard. He is immunocompromised, requires careful rest and has to be cautious in crowds and airports. But he said this event is worth the effort.

“I golfed once about a month ago, and it wore me out,” he said. “But when I can rest up, I can do it. The key is not getting sick on the flight and not being around too many people. It’s a lot of luck with the things I can’t control.”

Despite the risks, he sees his presence as part of his new role.

“I’m not able to work anymore. My job now is



**Pollard and his wife Dawn celebrate his 50th birthday in February, a year after his lifesaving heart transplant.** Courtesy photo

being a spokesperson for this mission,” he said. “When we show up at an event, it’s because it truly matters.”

Pollard said the charity does not pay him a salary. Donations help cover travel expenses, allowing him to attend events and continue raising awareness. “I got an extension of life, and I didn’t do it to make money,” he said. “I did it to make memories with my family and to help others. If I can use my story to make a difference, then I’m going to keep doing it as long as I can.”

As for returning to the Sacramento area, Pollard said the pull is more personal than professional.

“It’s not about the Kings,” he said. “It’s about the people I met here and the friendships I still have. I won’t be able to see everyone this time, and that hurts. But I’m coming back because this is a good event, for a good cause, with good people.”

The Pollards will stay in Rancho Murieta during the tournament. They’ll fly in Wednesday night from Indianapolis and return early Saturday morning, just in time to see their youngest son off on his first day of fourth grade.

“We didn’t want to miss this,” Pollard said. “So we’re making it work. But like I said, we only go to events that are worth it. And this one is.”

For more information or to support the cause, visit [www.pearlsoflife.org](http://www.pearlsoflife.org).

Celebrating its sixth year, the Gold Rush Classic is a celebrity pro-am golf tournament that will feature a celebrity challenge, a \$1 million hole-in-one contest, a celebrity draft party, and a Stars and Guitars concert with live music. For more details, visit <https://birdease.com/Goldrushclassic>.

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



**A large pond next to Jackson Highway stores water for irrigating crops on the Anderson Ranch.** File photo

*Continued from page 1*  
 Another attraction was the Rancho Murieta Airport.

“My husband has an airplane. He would really like to be connected to Brad,” she said. Brad Beer owns the private airstrip.

Bri Tsakopoulos is married to Kyriakos Tsakopoulos, the CEO and president of AKT Development. He’s the son of real estate magnate Angelo Tsakopoulos.

The Sacramento Business Journal first reported the sale. The June 16 article said that AKT Development had purchased more than 200 acres in Rancho Murieta for \$9.7 million.

While Business Journal coverage raised the possibility of future development on the land, Bri Tsakopoulos downplayed that idea.

“That’s news to me. I haven’t read the article,” she said. “Actually, I was just informed about it. I have no comment.”

Tsakopoulos and Ward estimated the sale included about 600 acres of the ranch. Beer, who attended

the meeting and is familiar with the land, estimated that the entire ranch totals around 800 acres, including the equestrian center, which comprises 104 acres.

Tsakopoulos and her family have already moved into the house on Jackson Road with a vineyard out front and a greenhouse.

“We are just getting situated, getting back in the community, and learning the operations of the ranch,” she said.

As part of her early improvements, Tsakopoulos has begun remodeling the old barn, which Ward noted will turn 100 years old in 2027. She is also accommodating her larger horses.

“Her horses are bigger than mine—I have cutters—so she’s expanding the pens,” Ward explained. “She also is going to make an event center, with gardens and an educational center for kids. It’s going to be pretty cool.”

“I think Bri and Kyriakos will be a great addition to Rancho Murieta,” Ward added.

The Anderson Ranch has been in the family since the early 1980s, when Fred

Anderson, Carol’s father, purchased land from two ranching families. Initially, he planned to use it as a training site for his football team, housing players at the nearby facilities of Operating Engineers Local 3.

He eventually sold what became the Anderson Ranch to Ward.

Ward also became the sole owner of the equestrian center.

“My mom and I were partners on it for a long time,” she said. “When she passed, I got her half.”

The ranch has long supported the cultivation of alfalfa and seasonal crops. Leland Schneider, who has managed farming operations for years, will continue his role.

“Leland’s been in charge for years and years,” Ward said. “And he’s still maintaining the CIA ditch, too.”

“It would have been really hard to sell it to someone outside the family,” Anderson added. “There’s too much history here.”

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

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# Bike the Rails in Amador

Story and photos  
by J.G. Wirt

**IONE, CA (MPG)** - The feel as the railbike glides down-grade is like riding a giant go-kart, but this one has power assist and good brakes.

Outdoor adventurers can take a ride on the Rail Explorers excursion on the old Amador Central right-of-way for a mild bit of leg exercise and a big dose of foothill scenery.

When you arrive to board your two-seater or quad railbike, the staff will explain the bikes' workings and the route's rules. The bikes are heavy and roll on hefty wheels, so this will be a solid ride. You will learn about the brakes and the need to keep your distance from the bike in front of you.

The guidance also covers the need to roll up and stop at each grade crossing so the Rail Explorers team can operate the crossing arms and allow the parade of railbikes to cross the thoroughfares while traffic waits.

Your railbike has your party's name in a waterproof, magnetized tag so you board the right one, and seatbelts are mandatory, although helmets are not.

Once underway, by giving the bike a little boost with your pedaling feet, the quiet motor will take over.

The railbikes' speed tops out at 15 mph, and the right-front rider controls the handbrake.



A Rail Explorers railbike wheels through a small canyon on the Amador Central line.



Rail Explorers staffers turn the railbikes on an air-powered lift before the downhill return trip.

There's black metal mesh between your feet and the railbed, so you can see right through. You and fellow riders need to pedal a bit to keep the motor going, and you'll need to keep an eye out for slowing railbikes ahead. The bikes have brake lights and even headlights for twilight tours.

Other than that, enjoy the scenery and the

clickety-clack of the rails.

The ride from the depot along a steady uphill to the turnaround is four miles. Once there, you'll disembark for a breather and maybe a snack while the staff rolls each bike to an air-powered turntable lift to spin it for the return trip.

Staff then give a downhill-safety primer before you reboard and it's away you go.



Rail Explorers staff control the crossing arms and flag the crossing at three thoroughfares each way. Riders also must watch for rural traffic at private rail crossings and be mindful of cattle.



Signs on the downhill route warn of upcoming stops for grade crossings.



A railbike crosses the Highway 88 bridge.

On the downhill, you'll realize how much you appreciated the motor power coming uphill. The railbike doesn't freewheel, but it will keep gaining speed until it hits the limiter.

You can take pictures or video while you take in the scenery and keep an eye out for the next stop for traffic.

The scenery each way

ranges from meadows and trees to narrow rocky canyons and rural farmland. You're advised to watch for and slow for cattle.

Before you know it, the staff is coupling all the bikes together to roll back to the depot to complete your eight-mile trek.

Rail Explorer trips are available every day through Labor Day week and cost \$90 for a tandem

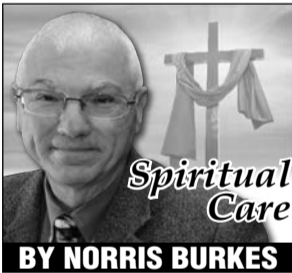
or \$175 for a quad. Groups of 10 or receive a 10% discount. A gift shop, restrooms and shade are on site.

Ione is about 18 miles-southeast of Rancho Murieta. The depot is at 702 Hunter Lane just south of Ione on Highway 124.

For information and reservations, visit [railexplorers.net/tours/Amador](http://railexplorers.net/tours/Amador).

★

## Good Marriages Require Sweat Work



Spiritual  
Care

BY NORRIS BURKES

Wedding season is in full bloom for Elk Grove Park and area churches, I've seen the lovely dresses spilling from stretch limos, flowers flowing, and jewelry sparkling.

Looking at this outside view, I see the signs that the couple spent countless hours sweating the details of their lavish affair.

But long before this summer spectacular, I hope someone has asked the couple this question:

"You've prepared for the special day, but what have you done to consider the lifetime you are committing to?"

It's a question I always asked the couple in my role as officiant and premarital counselor. But it was the questions the couple asked of me that sometimes threw me off guard.

For instance, just a few weeks before a wedding, I once had a groom-to-be toss me a "by-the-way bomb."

"My fiancée wants to omit the promise, 'Till death do us part.' Would that be a deal breaker for the ceremony?"

Deju vu. It was the same question from a bride-to-be who asked me to change the promise to read, "Till love do us part."

I told both couples, "I really have to stick with the unabridged format."

The first couple responded by finding another chaplain. The latter couple dissolved their marriage when the groom left on a Navy cruise and the bride parted to go with a land lover.

Unfortunately, marriage

counseling is far less comedic and much more frustrating.

The most frustrating thing is that I feel like I have been blessed with a marriage that I cannot clone in others.

A good marriage is a complicated dish, and I don't have the recipe, or I'd publish it. Often, I've come home from a difficult counseling case, and I'll hold my wife tight.

There is no greater priority than my marriage, because I believe God gave marriage to mankind as the closest equal to unconditional love. Despite God's intention for marriage, many are willing to take the risk of making marriage analogous to hell.

While working as a hospital chaplain, a respiratory therapist burst into my office, "Chaplain, Chaplain! She said 'yes!'"

"She" was another therapist who'd just accepted his wedding proposal after two years of dating.

I knew them well enough to assume their biggest challenge would be to quit smoking. Despite what respiratory therapists witness, some still smoke like chimneys.

He heralded the news from floor to floor until he arrived on the bottom floor — literally and figuratively. His last stop was the nurses' station where his old girlfriend was the shift manager.

She invited him into a supply closet where her congratulatory "hug" went much farther than it should have. In a hot Texas minute, a two-year relationship went up in smoke.

Hospital administration congratulated them both with unpaid vacations.

When I've seen people like these therapists risking something so precious, I'm often left shaken. It makes me try to define and categorize what I have in a vain attempt to keep it and control it. I wish it worked that way.

I am not entirely sure what my wife and I have. It's the kind of love that continues, whether I burn the toast or burn my temper. It's a love that tells me I'm forgiven before I ask. It's the kind of love described in our wedding vow that "halves a sorrow and doubles a joy."

Like many couples, we sometimes go to bed dead tired, sometimes too tired for the fun I seek and too tired for the prayers she wants. But we rarely are too tired to talk out our day and absolutely never too tired for our three good night kisses and "I love you."

Still, maybe there is a thing that I know about marriage that respiratory therapists also know about smokers.

Therapists, who watch smokers die, know they are no less likely to become smokers.

Ministers, who watch marriages die, aren't any less likely to divorce. It takes work to quit smoking, and it takes work to make marriages successful.

So, at the end of the day, I realize there is something Freudian about the way my fast fingers often seem to mistype "sweetheart" into "sweatheart."

The typo is a great reminder that a good marriage takes a lot of work and spiritual sweat. Good marriages require honest heart work, but most especially real sweat work.

"I love you Sweat-heart!"  
*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](mailto:comment@thechaplain.net).*

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



MEMORIAL

JOHN A. DAVIS • 9/22/1957 – 5/21/2025

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of John A. Davis on May 21, 2025, at the age of 67.

Born on September 22, 1957, in San Jose, California, to Violet Hawkins and Arvil Davis, John's life was marked by a steadfast commitment to faith, family, and community.

A gifted athlete in his youth, John spent his childhood playing baseball and was even recruited to play in the minor leagues. John met the love of his life, Julie Starr, in high school. They married shortly after graduation and shared 48 wonderful years together.

In 1974, John began his career in the Telecom industry as a part-time Telephone Operator for GTE in Los Gatos, CA. Within a short period of time he transferred to the Sacramento area. He steadily advanced through the years, holding positions of splicer, lineman, and engineer, ultimately retiring as a Sr. Engineering Manager after 49 years of service.

In addition to the strong dedication John had to his career and supporting his family, he served his community through his church and coaching youth sports. He was an incredibly supportive father to his son and daughter, lifting them up and cheering them on through all of their academic, extracurricular, and adult pursuits.

In 2003, John and Julie moved to the Rancho Murieta community, where they became proud owners of the local Ace Hardware. Still pursuing his career, John was behind the scenes managing the business, while Julie was and continues to manage the day-to-day operations.

John was an amazing gardener, building beautiful outdoor spaces in every home in which he and Julie lived. Never one to shy away from a challenge, John most recently completed a custom home build with breathtaking views in Ione, California. This 40-acre project turned haven



has become a cherished gathering place for family and friends.

John had a gift for bringing people together. Whether sharing a meal or a glass of wine, telling one of his signature "Papa jokes," playing ping pong with his grandchildren, or competing in a spirited card game, he filled every room with warmth and laughter. His generosity, curiosity, and kindhearted nature left a lasting impression on all who knew him.

John is survived by his beloved wife, Julie; son, Bryan, daughter, Carrie Ann and daughter-in-law, Carrie Jean; grandchildren, Charlie, Avery, and William; and siblings, Joyce, Gloria, and Mike; mother-in-law, Grace; siblings-in-law, Michael, Kevin, Phil, Christine, Mary, David, Dave, Sharon, Janet, Chris, Kevin, and Katie; as well as many nieces and nephews. John is predeceased by his son-in-law, Brian Dodson.

John will be deeply missed and forever remembered for the love and joy he brought into the lives of others.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, June 28, at 11:00 a.m. at the Rancho Murieta Community Church.

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to the Rancho Murieta Community Church building fund ([rmchurch.churchcenter.com/giving](http://rmchurch.churchcenter.com/giving)) in memory of John. Find the complete obituary and leave a tribute online at: [bit.ly/418mRGO](http://bit.ly/418mRGO).

# RMA Board Member Rift Continues

Story and photo by Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The June 17 meeting of the Rancho Murieta Association Board of Directors was expected to be short and routine, based on the agenda.

However, tensions rose when Director Danny Carrillo claimed the board had ignored his request to include a proposal to form a new committee. Four other audience members also voiced complaints.

Carrillo's complaint was the second time a rift between Carrillo and other board members surfaced publicly. At the April meeting, Carrillo said he had been excluded from executive sessions by fellow directors who accused him of disclosing confidential information from closed meetings: a charge he strongly denied.

In other business at the June meeting, General Manager Rod Hart updated the board on preparations for the July 4 celebration. During audience comments, two residents advocated motorcycle use in the north, with one requesting permission to participate in the July 4 parade. A third audience member questioned the legality of speeding citations issued based on Lidar camera data. A fourth resident expressed frustration over the Compliance Department's lack of response to his repeated complaints about open garage doors.

The board also approved bids to inspect the wooden bridge and to replace a jockey pump at the Laguna



Director Danny Carrillo complains about other board members when he speaks during public comment at the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on June 17.

Joaquin pump station. Carrillo voted no on both motions, citing an insufficient number of bids.

### Carrillo Comments

As at the April meeting, Carrillo took to the podium during the June meeting to speak during the portion of the agenda reserved for public comments on non-agendized topics. He said that after proposing the formation of a Leadership and Communication Improvement Committee in April, he had requested the item be placed on the June agenda. He described the committee as an effort "to foster civility, sensitivity and improved understanding among directors."

Carrillo said he reached out to Board President Patrick O'Hern but received no response or acknowledgment of his request. He also shared his proposal with the other directors, needing support from just one to place the item on the agenda, but none responded.

"The preparation of my proposal demanded considerable effort and dedication, and to be met with indifference is disheartening," Carrillo said. "This lack of support raises

questions about the board's willingness to provide change."

Six audience members applauded after Carrillo finished reading his prepared statement.

O'Hern said he would respond. He said he received a copy of an email that was branded "RMA Leadership Communication Committee" in the heading. It reminded General Manager Rod Hart to put the committee proposal on the agenda.

"First of all, no such committee exists in Rancho Murieta," he said. "Any committee in the RMA will be created by a majority vote of the directors of the Rancho Murieta Association."

O'Hern went on to say that agenda items are added at the discretion of the general manager, the board president or any two board members.

"If a director cannot get someone else to support him, it will not appear on the agenda, nor should it be addressed at the meeting," he said.

"It is beyond the scope and authority of a single board member to establish or rename a committee without the support and majority vote of the board,

particularly one which may create the illusion that the committee is in some way in charge of direction of Rancho Murieta Association leadership," he added.

Later in the meeting, Carrillo was the only director to vote "no" on motions to approve a \$12,800 contract to inspect the wooden bridge and to authorize the \$7,289 purchase of a jockey pump for Laguna Joaquin. He cited a "disturbing trend" of not getting multiple bids for projects.

Director Scott Adams supported accepting the sole bid for the bridge inspection, stating that the wooden bridge is unique—likely the only one of its kind in the United States—and that the original builder is most familiar with the structure.

Hart reported that staff had reached out to at least three companies for bids on the pump. While one bid came in about \$100 lower, the decision was made to pay slightly more to a trusted service provider rather than go with the lowest bid from an unfamiliar company.

### July 4

Hart provided an update on plans for the July 4

celebration. He said he had requested six sheriff's deputies, although their participation had not yet been confirmed. Additionally, RMA has hired six private security officers equipped with patrol vehicles.

New this year will be a designated drop-off zone for parade participants on De La Cruz. Unlike previous years, the Escuela Gate will not be opened as an exit following the fireworks show.

After Hart informed the board that staff still needed 14 volunteers for traffic control and parade management, several directors immediately stepped forward to help.

### Other Business

Audience member Richard Guerin said he wanted to start a fact-based and respectful conversation about the motorcycle restriction on the north side. Adams explained that the restriction is part of the CC&Rs, and changing it would require approval from 60% of all rooftops. He noted that achieving that would be difficult, as regular elections often struggle to reach even 40% participation. Adams has previously pointed out that a non-vote is counted as a "no" vote.

Brian Rosebrock, who has long advocated for removing the motorcycle restriction, asked if he could have the issue placed on the board agenda. O'Hern responded that the board could discuss it with the general manager. Rosebrock also asked whether a group of about a dozen motorcyclists could ride in the July 4 parade as a "litmus test"

to gauge public reaction. O'Hern and Adams essentially declined the request. Rosebrock said he plans to continue pursuing the issue.

"I've been designated to carry that torch so that I will be the 'Motorcycle Guy,'" he said.

Audience member Donna McCloud said she attended the meeting because she had received two speeding citations based on Lidar camera readings. She requested documentation verifying the calibration of the cameras. McCloud also stated that both an attorney and a law enforcement professional had told her such tickets were not authorized.

Audience member Chris Judd told the board he has been dealing with Compliance for years, but his complaints have gone unresolved. He said he has repeatedly reported open garage doors without any result.

Judd also raised concerns about other violations, including Christmas lights left up year-round, a neighbor keeping chickens, and an illegal fence.

Hart told Judd that Compliance wouldn't notify him when a violation is issued for an open garage door. He also referenced a separate case in which a complainant believed no action had been taken when, in fact, the association had issued 75 citations related to the matter.

The next RMA Board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 15.

*This story is online at Facebook.com/the-rivervalleytimes and therivervalleytimes.com. ★*

## THE CRIPPLE CREEK BAND



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Entertainment, Theatre & Culture for Rancho Murieta

**Saturday  
July 5, 2025  
8:30pm  
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 8:30. 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!*

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

# Kiwanis to Host Fourth Annual Turn Around Scholarship Fundraiser

By Carol Prinzo  
Kiwanis Club of  
Rancho Murieta

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta will host its fourth annual fundraiser for the Turn Around Scholarship (TAS) Program on Sept. 27 at the Rancho Murieta Country Club. This farm to fork dinner celebrates the power of community generosity and the remarkable resilience of local students.

Last year, the country club and Chef KC Brown delivered an exceptional evening, and the Kiwanis Club is excited to partner with them once again for what promises to be another memorable night.

The TAS Program provides scholarships to graduating seniors from the Elk Grove Unified School District who have overcome personal or academic challenges and graduated with a GPA of at least 3.0. These students aren't eligible for traditional scholarships, but their perseverance and transformation make them stand out.

Thanks to the



Four of the six students who received \$1,000 scholarships funded by the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta through last year's farm to fork dinner are pictured with Kiwanian Jeanette Edwards. From left are Valeria Romo Porras, Jacob Borlak, Anaya Smith and Samar Yaida. The scholarships were awarded during the "Spotlight on Scholarships" event hosted May 1 by the Elk Grove Regional Scholarship Foundation at Creekside Christian Church. Courtesy photo

community's support at last year's dinner, the Kiwanis Club was able to provide six \$1,000 scholarships. They were awarded during the "Spotlight on Scholarships" event hosted by the Elk Grove Regional Scholarship Foundation on Creekside Christian Church on May 1.

The impact was deeply felt, as shown in the words of the recipients:

**Jaskiran Kaur**

– "Thank you for selecting me to receive your scholarship. I'm genuinely grateful to be recognized and for your generous support. More than financial support, being chosen for this scholarship has shown me once again how valuable the community is, and it has motivated me even more to continue working hard. Your helping hand in my future inspires me to make the most of every

chance and opportunity that comes my way."

**Samar Yaida** – "Your generosity has inspired me to keep pushing forward, and I hope one day to be in a position to help other students the way you helped me."

**Maria Ruia** – "Your generosity not only helps me but inspires me to keep working hard to one day work in a medical field and help others just like your

support has helped me." **Jacob Borlak** – "Your generosity and commitment to supporting students like me inspires me to strive for excellence and give back to my community whenever possible. Your support means more than words can express."

Valeria Romo Porras – "Thank you so much for choosing me to be a recipient of the Turn Around Scholarship. I am beyond grateful to have received the support from a great organization like the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta."

**Anaya Smith** – "Thank you is not enough to express my gratitude towards choosing me as your scholarship recipient. This money will aid me in living out my dream of attending a 4-year university, and for that, I will be forever grateful."

This year's event will feature a four-course dinner, highlighted by a Mocha Rubbed Bistro Filet and a full, no-host bar. Guests may also bring their favorite wine for a \$20 corkage fee.

Tickets are \$80 and will be available for purchase

from Aug. 11 through Sept. 19 at [rmkiwanis.org](http://rmkiwanis.org). Seating is limited to 200 guests, and each table accommodates up to 10 people.

Those who purchase tickets together will be seated together.

As in years past, Key Club students will serve as waitstaff, earning community service hours in the process.

A tip jar at each table helps to raise funds for their service projects, and participating Boy Scouts will help with tear-down after the event. Tips will be divided among the youth groups.

We are again seeking creative volunteer table hostesses whose centerpiece designs bring charm and personality to each table: a treasured tradition of the evening.

Mark your calendar for Sept. 27 and join us in supporting this very worthy cause.

Carol Prinzo is a Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta director.

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

## SECURITY LOGS

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

### June 9

4 p.m., Report of disturbance, Shell station; group of male juveniles arguing with station attendant. Some juveniles from a group were noticed shoplifting from the store in the past. Station attendant did not allow them to enter the store; group became angry and loud. Subjects gone on patrol arrival; group last seen on bicycles near Bel Air.

2:30 p.m., Report of minors at the north beach consuming alcohol. Upon arrival, patrol did not observe any alcohol consumption by minors. Area clear at this time.

### June 16

4:25 p.m., North gate reported far resident lane gate arm down. Traffic camera footage review

revealed a golf cart arrived to the lane at about 2:34 p.m. Golf cart barcode did not scan; gate did not open. Golf cart continued to travel through the gate, collided with gate arm, knocking the gate arm off. Golf cart proceeded into Murieta north without advising north gate officer of the incident. No damages to gate arm; gate appears to function without issues. Unable to identify the driver.

11:12 p.m., Observed vehicle run stop sign without reducing speed at South Murieta Parkway and Reynosa while turning right onto Reynosa from inbound lane. Attempted to get license plate. While attempting to obtain info, subject broke the speed limit to evade.

### June 17

10:05 p.m., Report of vehicles blocking multiple driveways in front of Riverview Park. Patrol did not locate any driveways blocked or obstructed by vehicles.

10:15 p.m., Disturbance reported, corner of South Murieta Parkway and

Karsten Street: Group of juveniles being loud, allegedly breaking bottles. Upon arrival, patrol did not observe any activity in the area. Checked nearby streets; area clear.

### June 18

5:15 a.m., Request for welfare check: red Honda with driver laying inside the driver seat. Upon arrival, patrol located red Honda Civic late '90s model with side windows blocked off with towel. Driver in the driver seat laying inside the vehicle. Was able to awake the driver. Driver did not need any medical services. Driver stated that her flight was delayed from Sacramento Airport, was driving back home to Jackson. Driver decided to sleep at Rancho Murieta until the morning. Driver awake now and will be leaving area soon.

1:18 p.m., Received a call from Sac Co Sheriff's department in regards to four juveniles on E-bikes going between the North Golf Course and Bel Air.

Patrol observed the same described subjects go into

a garage at Guadalupe after entering the community on E-bikes through the North Gate at approximately 12:30 p.m. Citation for unauthorized vehicles to follow.

5:46 p.m., Gate arm collision, North Gate, far lane: white Subaru SUV collided with gate arm, knocking off track. North Gate officer was able to retain license plate, resident from Via Del Cerrito. No damage to gate and was reset in working condition.

### June 19

12:25 a.m., Report of a group of juveniles being loud on the street near Callaway Drive. Upon arrival, patrol located group of four juveniles, ages from 15 to 17. Did not notice loud noises at the time of the contact. One juvenile from the group resident of Callaway Drive. Requested group to move to the residence and advised group of juvenile curfew violation. Group complied without any incidents.

2:15 a.m., During routine patrol of Stonehouse Road found RMA Maintenance

Yard gates open. No activity observed in the area upon arrival. No signs of vandalism or forced entry found. Gates were locked/secure upon departure.

4:55 a.m., Report of a vehicle parked diagonally taking two stalls in front of Starbucks at Bel Air Plaza. Upon arrival, patrol located Toyota SUV with driver asleep parked as described. Was able to wake driver up. Driver did not need any medical attention. Driver was traveling through town, pulled over to rest. Driver will be leaving soon.

### June 21

12:22 a.m., Trespassing: Truck seen circling Lake Calero after hours. Driver stated he was here to pick up his fishing rod. Departed area.

2:55 a.m., Four juveniles found at Lake Clementia after hours. After being advised they were trespassing, subjects departed area. Citations issued.

### June 22

1 a.m., Noise complaint response at Bermuda Court: Golf cart playing

music found on South Murieta Parkway and Callaway. Four young adults on golf cart. Made contact with them and notified driver they were causing a disturbance. Driver apologized and informed they were headed home.

4:45 p.m., Patrol observed paddle board with two individuals in Lake Chesbro. Using vehicle-equipped PA system, requested paddle board to exit the water; lake does not allow any body contact. Individuals were advised of the lake rules and redirected to Lake Clementia for any water activity.

8 p.m., Patrol observed a fishing boat on Lake Chesbro with mounted outboard engine with three individuals. Advised owner of lake rules and regulations on boating at Lake Chesbro. Requested to leave the lake; complied without any incidents, loaded the boat and left lake area.

Resident not present with guest. Boat not registered with RMA. ★

## Women's Empowerment Receives \$20,000 from Safe Credit Union

Women's  
Empowerment  
News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Women's Empowerment received a grant of \$20,000 from SAFE Credit Union to provide housing readiness training, transitional workforce housing and financial empowerment training to Sacramento women who have experienced homelessness.

Women's Empowerment's comprehensive program helps women access safe homes they can afford now for their families while they secure jobs with upward mobility so they can eventually afford permanent housing.

"We are so grateful to SAFE Credit Union for recognizing the powerful role affordable housing plays in our community and the many facets that go into making it work, from financial empowerment to housing readiness training

and transitional programs," said Lisa Culp, the executive director of Women's Empowerment. "Thanks to grantors like SAFE, we can continue to offer our long-term solution to homelessness that also meets immediate needs as we navigate Sacramento's ongoing housing crisis."

Each woman begins with Women's Empowerment's two-month employment-readiness and empowerment program that helps women who are unhoused pick up the tools to secure a safe home and steady job. She receives free transportation assistance and childcare for children up to age five in the group's onsite child development center. She works one on one with a social worker, housing specialist, employment specialist and volunteer career mentor, and attends a range of classes on job-readiness, financial empowerment,

housing readiness and more. She receives health services and can join support groups.

Graduates of the initial program can return for services at any point in their lives when they need additional tools, including counseling, job search and retention support, access to a professional clothing closet, financial coaching, support from a housing specialist, health services, financial assistance for housing support, paid job training and transitional workforce housing.

Women's Empowerment offers the most comprehensive job-readiness program in the Sacramento area designed specifically to help women break the generational cycle of homelessness for themselves and their children. In 2024, 155 graduates secured employment or enrolled in advanced training or school and 89% of graduates maintained or

improved their housing.

Since 2001, 1,955 women have graduated from the program with more than 4,000 children. Women's Empowerment is funded through private donations from the community and grants. To make a donation visit [Womens-Empowerment.org](http://Womens-Empowerment.org).

"SAFE is thrilled to be able to help women get a strong start on a healthier and higher quality of life," said Lauren LeBov, a community impact manager at SAFE Credit Union. "We are especially committed to community programs like these that demonstrate our philanthropic goals to support affordable housing and life-skill development initiatives."

SAFE Credit Union supports organizations and individuals working to improve the community and themselves, with a focus on organizations that align with its pillars



A Women's Empowerment graduate celebrates her new home at the nonprofit's Trellis Gardens transitional workforce housing program. Women's Empowerment receives a grant from SAFE Credit Union for the program. Photo courtesy of Women's Empowerment

of philanthropy, including financial literacy and stability, workforce development, affordable housing and youth/young adult education. SAFE provides support through grants, sponsorships,

direct donations, and volunteerism and invests in the future of community members with scholarship programs.

For more, visit [safecu.org/community/community-impact](http://safecu.org/community/community-impact). ★

# Initial Funding for Implementing Proposition 36 Recognized

Office of Senator Roger Niello  
News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - A bipartisan group of state legislators, public safety officials and victim advocates gathered at the State Capitol on June 18 to recognize the initial investment in implementing the will of the voters while emphasizing the need for funding a comprehensive approach to probation and supervision reversing ongoing cuts to probation which will ensure the measure's long-term success.

Specifically, attending the June 18 press conference included State Senator Catherine Blakespear, (D-Encinitas); State Senator Roger Niello (R-Fair Oaks); Sutter County Sheriff Brandon Barnes, California State Sheriffs' Association President; Sacramento County Sheriff Jim Cooper; Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni, California District Attorneys Association First Vice President; San Diego County Sheriff Kelly Martinez; San Joaquin County Probation Chief Steve Jackson, Chief Probation Officers of California President; Tulare County Probation Chief Kelly Vernon; El Dorado County Probation Chief Brian Richart; Solano County Probation Chief Dean Farrah; Lake County Probation Chief Wendy Mondfrans; Yuba County Probation Chief Matt Ricardy; Napa County Probation Chief Amanda Gibbs and Anna Berry with Crime Victims United-California.

"Proposition 36 passed with overwhelming voter support and now it's time to provide the resources needed to implement it," Blakespear said. "This initial investment is a strong first step



Senator Roger Niello speaks at the California State Capitol Building in Sacramento to recognize funding for Proposition 36 on June 18. Photo courtesy of the Office of Senator Roger Niello

in a tough budget year, but we need to make sure there is ongoing funding for supervision, treatment and accountability."

Said Niello, "A budget is an expression of priorities and the current state budget does not acknowledge the will of the voters who overwhelmingly supported Proposition 36. The \$110 million designated to fund Proposition 36 is wholly inadequate to achieve the goals of a treatment-focused approach that will lead to improving lives and self-sufficiency."

The proposed budget includes an initial, one-time funding of \$110 million toward Proposition 36. While this investment marks progress, public safety officials and law enforcement say

it falls short. The initial plan misses the mark relative to the measure's core component, ensuring accountability to complete court-mandated treatment. By failing to fully and properly fund law enforcement accountability efforts, the Legislature and governor are unable to meet the will of California voters and threatening the success of Proposition 36.

"We cannot implement Prop 36 effectively if we ignore the reality of what's happening on the ground," Barnes said. "County sheriffs and probation departments are essential partners in making sure treatment is delivered and enforced. But right now, we've been left out of the equation. We need real

resources to deliver real results."

Public safety officials emphasized that the budget must not only restore cuts to county probation departments but increase those funds as they are responsible for supervising court-ordered treatment and ensuring compliance. Without those frontline supports, there is no accountability. In the Legislature's budget, there are \$25 million in ongoing supervision cuts and \$20 million in ongoing pre-trial cuts in the governor's proposed budget.

"Probation ensures people stay on track with their treatment plans and court orders and holds them accountable when they don't," Jackson said. "This budget significantly cuts

probation funding at the exact moment we're being asked to do more. That means less people will follow through with rehabilitation and that threatens public safety."

Even the funding that has been allocated is narrowly directed to county behavioral health departments, leaving out key justice system partners who are critical to successful outcomes.

"Treatment without accountability isn't what Prop 36 says. We need to ensure law enforcement has resources it needs to best hold people accountable, which will improve public safety," Pacioni said. "Voters said yes to Prop 36 because they wanted a better path forward. That means the budget needs to support the full system: courts, probation, law enforcement and treatment. Not just one piece of it. Otherwise, it is set up to fail."

The Legislature's proposed state budget specifically ignores critical elements, including no support and a budget cut for county probation departments to handle the increased workload of supervising individuals and connecting them to treatment in the community while holding them accountable; no resources for frontline law enforcement to support interventions in the community; no funding to house arrestees in county jails and provide in-custody treatment; and no funding for key partners of treatment delivery such as county sheriff and probation departments who are critical for court-ordered supervision and successful outcomes while only offering modest funds to county behavioral health agencies.

For more information, call Lea Park-Kim, Office of Senator Roger Niello's communications director, at 916-651-4006. ★

## SMUD and DESRI Announce 640 MWh Clean Energy Storage Project



Rancho Seco's energy infrastructure includes a 160-megawatt solar facility, showcasing the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's commitment to clean energy generation. The innovative site combines solar power with sustainable land management through sheep grazing. Photo courtesy of Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Sacramento Municipal Utility  
District News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - DESRI and the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) announced June 19 that they executed a long-term power purchase agreement for the Dry Creek Energy Storage project.

Dry Creek is a 160 megawatt/640 megawatt-hour battery energy storage system (BESS) located in Sacramento County.

"Our DESRI team is proud to bring this reliable, cost-effective clean energy storage project to the California energy system, an exciting new addition to our partnership with SMUD over many years," said DESRI Chief Development Officer Hy Martin. "This project will play a critical role in helping SMUD to maintain and enhance grid reliability, optimize performance of their renewable energy assets and contribute to their decarbonization goals."

SMUD and DESRI have worked on the project jointly over several years. Given the significant transmission infrastructure at the decommissioned Rancho Seco generating station, the battery-energy storage system is optimally located to leverage the existing infrastructure and limit costly upgrades on the system.

The energy storage system will be charged using renewable energy

and other clean sources available on SMUD's grid, supporting the integration of sustainable power and enhancing grid reliability.

"This battery storage project represents another significant milestone in SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan as we work toward carbon-free electricity by 2030," said SMUD Chief Zero Carbon Officer Lora Anguay. "By enhancing our existing renewable infrastructure at Rancho Seco with battery technology, we're building a more flexible and reliable grid while enabling a more efficient integration of renewable energy."

DESRI and its affiliates develop, acquire, own and operate long-term contracted renewable energy assets in the U.S. DESRI's portfolio of contracted, operating and in-construction renewable energy projects currently includes 70 solar and wind projects representing more than nine gigawatts of aggregate capacity.

As the nation's sixth-largest, community-owned, not-for-profit electric service provider, SMUD has provided low-cost, reliable electricity to Sacramento County for more than 75 years. In 2023, SMUD's power supply was, on average, 78 percent carbon free and SMUD has a goal to reach zero carbon in its electricity production by 2030.

For more information on SMUD's Zero Carbon Plan and its customer programs, visit smud.org. ★

## Civil Case for Pesticide Violations Resolved

MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento County District Attorney Thien Ho, and several other District Attorney's Offices in California, resolved a civil case against Pure Maintenance Holdings LLC, Pure Products LLC, Michael Adams and Brandon Michael Adams for pesticide violations and unfair business practices.

Michael Adams is the founder and chief operating officer of Pure Maintenance and was a manager of Pure Products. His son, Brandon Michael Adams, is the chief executive officer of Pure Maintenance. Pure Maintenance licenses the use of its "Dry Fog" machines and sold pesticides, including InstaPure and EverPure, to its licensees for use in the machines.

Both Adams appeared in advertising for Pure Maintenance and Pure Products. The defendants made statements about their products that were false and illegal. They claimed that their products were approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, when in fact they were not.

The statements included that InstaPure was EPA-approved to kill all bacteria and fogging with InstaPure during COVID-19 was promoted. They also falsely claimed EverPure was verified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for

effectiveness in sterilization.

Both the father and the son advertised Dry Fog as safe, green, natural and non-toxic when the pesticides sold and used in Dry Fog required "WARNING" or "DANGER" on the label because they are toxic. Both Adams also sold unregistered and registered pesticides without having the required pesticide broker license or paying the required tax.

The stipulated judgment requires the defendants pay \$425,000 in penalties and costs, of which \$100,000 will go to Sacramento County. It also requires them to hire a compliance manager and put into place practices and protocols to ensure all advertising claims and instructions are consistent with the labelling required for the pesticides used, recommended or sold for its services.

"Law-abiding businesses that follow health and safety regulations should not be undercut by those that violate the law. Consumers deserve accurate information to make informed and responsible choices that protect their families and communities," Ho said.

The other District Attorney's Offices participating in the civil case are Fresno County, Los Angeles County, Orange County, Riverside County, San Bernardino County, San Diego County, San Joaquin County, Santa Barbara County and Ventura County. ★

## Libraries Provide Free Summer Lunches

By MPG Staff

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Public Library will provide free lunch to children 18 and under while school is out through the Lunch at the Library project, beginning on June 17.

Meals will be distributed at 13 library locations from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays until Aug. 8. Food is provided without question for free to children from 0 to 18 years old. No paperwork or identification is required.

Meal sites are available at 13 library locations: Arcade, Carmichael, Del Paso Heights, Elk Grove, Fair Oaks, North Highlands (Antelope), North Sacramento (Hagginwood), Rancho Cordova, Rio Linda, South Natomas, Southgate, Sylvan

Oaks and Valley Hi (North Laguna).

According to the Sacramento Public Library website, libraries provide free meals over the summer because families don't always have consistent access to free meals since school is not in session. The Lunch at the Library project aims to assist with that need and help fuel children's learning. Libraries also offer convenient neighborhood locations to eat a meal as well as pick up reading materials, games, DVDs and more.

Lunch at the Library is a project of the California State Library in partnership with the California Library Association and supported with funds from the state of California.

For more information, visit saclibrary.org/lunch. ★

# CSD Board Adopts 2025-26 Budget at a Quiet Meeting

By Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times  
Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - In its shortest meeting in recent history, the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board moved through the agenda within 90 minutes on June 18.

The board's most significant action was approving the 2025-26 budget. As a result, the average customer will see their monthly utility bill increase from \$271.97 a month to \$282.78, a 3.97% increase.

The board also approved a staff recommendation to close the CSD office to the public beginning July 4.

In other business, Director Linda Butler reported on activities by the Security and Communication committees, both of which she chairs.

Butler said a significant Security Department

concern that must be addressed is too many gate officers for the amount of work.

Much of Butler's Communications report focused on improvements to The Pipeline, the district's monthly newsletter. She said all residents are now receiving the publication and noted the addition of a new "good news" column. She also announced a collaboration with the River Valley Garden Club to provide a monthly feature on landscaping tips for high temperatures and drought conditions.

Department heads also presented staff reports. Acting Administrative and Finance Director Cecelia Min discussed ongoing audit work, highlighting significant challenges related to accounting issues.

Operations Director Eric Houston reported that while the wastewater treatment plant remains offline for the chlorine conversion

project, the Country Club is receiving water through two alternate sources. The club is diverting water from the river, and the district is supplementing that supply by pumping water from Lake Clementia. Houston said he expects the treatment plant to be back online and producing recycled water for the club by the first week of July.

During audience comments, Tom Shewchuk suggested the board consider appointing residents as additional members of its committees, similar to the practice used by the Rancho Murieta Association.

He said this approach would boost community engagement and help identify potential future board members.

The board's next meeting will be at 5 p.m. Wednesday, July 16.

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

# Cripple Creek Returning to Lake Clementia



Drawing a sellout crowd last year, the Cripple Creek Band is slated to perform again at the Lake Clementia Amphitheater on July 5. Tickets are \$30 for ETC members, \$40 for non-members. They are available online at [etc-mr.org](http://etc-mr.org) for members or at Ace Hardware for non-members. File photo by Gail Bullen

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# Three Grass Fires in Three Days

A firefighter mops up after a grass fire broke out just before noon on Sunday, June 22 behind Murieta Gardens. The fire came within 20 feet of a fence enclosing the propane tank in the subdivision. But the wind blew the flames away from the houses toward the river levee. CALFIRE Battalion Chief John Reis estimated that two to three acres of grass had burned under the Red Flag conditions. He didn't know the cause. It was the third fire in as many days. On June 21, firefighters quickly extinguished a small spot fire off Jackson Highway near Murieta Drive. A day earlier, on June 20, a brush fire on the Hutchinson Ranch—across the Cosumnes River from the airport—was also quickly put out. Photo by Gail Bullen

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### CSD to Close Office on Fridays

The Rancho Murieta Community Services District has changed its office hours.

It will be closed to the public every Friday beginning July 4.

The office is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### Caregiver Support Group Meets July 2

If you find yourself in a situation of caregiving for a loved one, it can be rather perplexing. Those attending the Rancho Murieta Caregiver Support Group are helpful to each other.

Receive helpful information and take some respite time for yourself. Privacy is strictly observed.

The group meets the first Wednesday of the month from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the RMA Building. If you have any questions, contact Nan at 916-354-2281.

### 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 tickets are available 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 at [rmkiwanis.org](http://rmkiwanis.org), accessible via the event QR code. Please note: no online sales will be available on July 4.

### Ice Cream Truck Coming July 6

The Cosumnes River Activities League is bringing an ice cream truck to Rancho Murieta on Sunday, July 6. The truck will begin in the South, stop outside the gates and end in the North. Residents can track its route and location at [CRALeague.com](http://CRALeague.com) on the day of the event.

Sponsored by local residents, businesses

and community groups.

To donate to upgrade the ice cream, contact Alicia Correia at (916) 230-0262; email [aliciacorreia@att.net](mailto:aliciacorreia@att.net); Venmo Alicia-Correia-4.

### 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 [rmcsd.com](http://rmcsd.com). Letters of interest are due by July 9.

### RM Blood Drive at New Location on July 14

Vitalant will host its next Rancho Murieta Community blood drive at a new location on Monday, July 14 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](http://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 a car.

Donors will receive an in-hand A's baseball donor T-shirt, one free appetizer from Backyard BBQ Grill and will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Gift card for the

Backyard BBQ Grill donated by Carole Thames with Town and Country Real Estate.

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](http://Vitalant.org).

### Pickleball Club Slates Car Show, Chili Cookoff

The Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club will host its Hot August Nights Car Show and Chili Cookoff 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 [machfive911@yahoo.com](mailto:machfive911@yahoo.com).

### CSD Establishes Security Hotline Email

Rancho Murieta residents with security issues have a new option for contacting the Rancho Murieta Community Services District to receive a timely response: [securityhotline@RMCSd.com](mailto:securityhotline@RMCSd.com).

Residents also can reach security 24 hours a day by calling 916-354-CARE (2263).

However, residents experiencing a life-threatening emergency requiring immediate police, fire or ambulance assistance should call 911. ★

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**MEALS ON WHEELS SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

# Tribute Bands Rock Lake Clementia with Def Leppard and Journey Hits

Story and photos by Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The anthemic metal of Def Leppard and the melodic rock ballads of Journey echoed up the grassy hillside and across the shimmering waters of Lake Clementia as Entertainment, Theatre & Culture for Rancho Murieta kicked off its summer concert series on June 14.

Although the tribute band consists of seven musicians, they swapped out the lead singers and made other adjustments when they transitioned from Def Leppard Revisited to Journey Revisited following intermission.

Although the Def Leppard tribute band opened with high-energy hits like “Rocket,” “Animal” and “Armageddon It,” the dance floor remained quiet at first, aside from a few enthusiastic youngsters and a half-dozen adults sporting outfits that looked like a throwback to the 1987-era when the “Hysteria” album was released.

But by the time the band launched into “Rock of Ages” and “Photograph” to close its set, the dance floor was packed and fully alive.

The Journey Revisited set opened with band leader Val Popovik delivering a soaring rendition of the national anthem on electric guitar, backed by Kevin Jachetta on



Def Leppard Revisited opens the season as Entertainment, Theatre & Culture of Rancho Murieta presents its first concert at the Lake Clementia Amphitheater on June 14.



ETC Board President JT Turner introduces fellow board members to the crowd. From left: Jane Rosetta, Kim Brown, Brenda Allen Booth, Vickie Joyner, Stephanie Stanislaus, Joelle Maggio, Sherrie Evpak and Christine Boesch. Not pictured: Ruth Lecheler-Moore, Paul Fite, John Friedrich, JP Petersen and Terry Wolf.

keyboards. The set featured fan favorites like “Wheel in the Sky” and “Open Arms.” Lead vocalist Frank Howard invited the crowd to sing “Don’t Stop Believin’” a cappella: an invitation the audience embraced with enthusiasm.

Responding to calls for an encore, the band closed out the night with energetic performances of “Lovin’, Touchin’, Squeezin’” and “Any Way You Want It.”

Interviewed after the concert, the band leader

praised the audience’s energy.

“They were really loud and really into it,” Popovik said. “What makes it fun is when the audience gives back to us, and then we give it back to them. It’s a symbiotic relationship.”

ETC President JT Turner said the board was very pleased with the turnout for the first concert, which came close to a full house.

“Both bands delivered incredible performances, and the packed dance

floors perfectly captured the crowd’s energy and the sense of nostalgia for these two iconic groups,” he said.

Turner also highlighted the dual role of Rancho Murieta resident Paul Fite, who plays guitar for Def Leppard Revisited and serves on the ETC Facilities Board.

“We’re proud to have his talents both on and off the stage,” he said.

Turner emceed a brief program before the concert



Journey Revisited takes the stage after intermission, with four musicians also having performed in the earlier Def Leppard tribute set.



Rancho Murieta resident Paul Fite, guitarist and vocalist for Def Leppard Revisited, also serves on the ETC Board.

got underway, beginning by inviting ETC Board members to the stage and introducing them to the crowd.

He also expressed appreciation for the event’s sponsors, starting with Realtor Karen Hoberg of Rancho Murieta Homes & Land, the concert’s title sponsor.

Turner then introduced two performers from the Murieta Dance Company—siblings David and Gemma

Schneider—who reprised an award-winning routine set to the song “Pick Me.”

Adding a burst of fun, Turner used a T-shirt cannon to launch giveaways into the audience.

As the concert wrapped up under clear skies, the evening cooled enough that some attendees bundled up in sweaters or blankets.

More photos online at [facebook.com/the-rivervalleytimes](https://facebook.com/the-rivervalleytimes) and [therivervalleytimes.com](https://therivervalleytimes.com). ★

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