



**Rancho Murieta Team Wins First Tournament for Softball Players**

PAGE 3

**Water Alert Quickly Rescinded After Brief Emergency at Rio Oso Tank**

PAGE 3



# RIVER VALLEY TIMES

41ST YEAR • ISSUE 13

Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughouse, Wilton

JULY 11, 2025

**SEE INSIDE**

**SENATE BILL 54 THE SO-CALLED VALUES ACT**



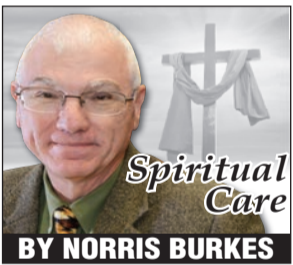
PAGE 5

**EVENTUALLY, A TITLE WILL COME**



PAGE 7

**CHAPLAIN OFFERS ... DATING ADVICE?**



PAGE 12



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

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

## High-End Homes Coming

River Canyon Properties Expects Construction to Begin in August



An aerial view taken at the Escuela Drive entrance to Residences of Murieta Hills East and West highlights the completed improvements in Unit 1, including finished lots, paved streets and sidewalks. The vacant area to the left of the road is a retention pond. RanchoMurieta.com photo

By Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The first phase of a 146-acre development next to Stonehouse Park – long stalled despite being entitled by Sacramento County in 2007– will soon have new luxury homes thanks to the efforts of two Rancho Murieta residents.

Bob and Michele Keil are eager for the community to explore Unit 1 of the Residences of Murieta Hills East

and West. The area includes 65 lots available to homebuilders and three custom home sites. The entrance is located off Escuela Drive, and all of the lots are 10,000 square feet or more.

Their partnership, River Canyon Properties, recently closed escrow with Terrata Homes of Texas, which has purchased 31 lots on the west side of Unit 1. The Keils expect construction to begin by Aug. 1. Terrata will offer four designs, three

one-story and one two-story, that it will build on already designated lots.

The Keils expect to sell the 34 lots on the east to Toll Brothers Homes, although they are still in the “due diligence” period before the close of escrow. The Keils said that prestigious home builder won’t start construction until next year.

Michelle Keil said they were “very picky” when selecting home builders.

“These are high-quality, respected  
*Continued on page 4*

## Branden Arino: New and Old at the Same Time



Branden Arino is the new administrative sergeant for the Rancho Murieta Community Services District.

Story and photo by Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** -

When people ask Administrative Sgt. Branden Arino if he’s new to the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Security Department, he smiles and tells them he is “new and old at the same time,” a perfect description of his unique journey back to the district.

Arino, 34, first worked for the district from 2015 to 2020. He then moved to Kinder, Louisiana, where he found work at the Allen Correctional Center. There, he quickly rose through the ranks, advancing from cadet to major.

After returning to Sacramento earlier this year, Arino planned to apply for a gate officer position with the CSD, but he was instead interviewed for – and offered – the role of administrative sergeant. In addition to working day-shift patrol, he now supervises all Security Department personnel.

Raised in Carmichael, Arino graduated from Mira Loma High School and spent six years in private security before joining the district in 2015. As part of the district’s requirements, he earned a PCA 32 certificate – “Power to Arrest plus the 32-hour guards training” – through the Los Rios Community College District system.

Arino said that working for the district the first time “was pretty cool because it’s considered a state job” with solid benefits and a retirement plan. “It was a good place to work,” he added. “The staff who I worked with at the time was amazing.”

In 2020, Arino and his partner – who have three children – decided to move out of state, something they had talked about for years. They settled in Kinder, Louisiana, where Arino began working at the Allen Correctional  
*Continued on page 6*

## Perfect Weather Sets Stage for July 4



The grand prize winner of Rancho Murieta’s July 4 parade is the Betsy Ross float, featuring a depiction of the original American flag with 13 red and white stripes and 13 stars arranged in a circle.

Story and photos by Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - Rancho Murieta sparkled from morning to night as residents celebrated a patriotic Independence Day on July 4, enjoying the best weather in recent memory.

The day began at 7 a.m. with beaming Kiwanis Club members serving breakfast at Stonehouse Park, and it ended just before 10 p.m. with spectacular fireworks over Laguna Joaquin.

In between, smiling and outgoing neighbors mingled at the fun run, watched or participated

in what may have been the largest parade down Murieta Parkway and dropped in for an evening dance party at the gazebo.

As folks lined up, whether for the race or breakfast, hundreds of others were using blankets and lawn chairs to reserve a view of Laguna Joaquin for that night. They would

not be disappointed by what was to come: a many-minute display of pyrotechnics that concluded with a grand finale.

Rancho Murieta General Manager Rod Hart said this year’s weather was a welcome change, especially compared to last year’s heat wave. “For the first  
*Continued on page 2*

# Perfect Weather Sets Stage for July 4

*Continued from page 1*

time, my family members were looking for hoodies to put on as they watched the fireworks show,” he said.

Hart noted that the celebration went smoothly, with no significant issues reported across the community, just the occasional use of illegal fireworks.

“We made sure we had plenty of law enforcement around to make sure the whole place stayed safe,” he said.

## Parade

Rancho Murieta Association Director Wyly Haviland, who chairs the Recreation Committee, said the group organized the parade, judged the entries and recruited volunteers to help direct traffic.

The committee members “did an outstanding job turning the fun-filled chaos in the staging area into an orderly procession down the parkway,” Haviland said.

There were four prize categories for the parade: vintage automobiles, walkers, floats and golf carts. Although the judges encountered some challenges, they ultimately selected the Betsy Ross float as the grand prize winner “as it represented the day beautifully as the giant flag glided down the parade route to the delight of the gathered spectators,” he said.

Haviland also noted that most of the volunteers in fluorescent vests directing traffic were RMA Board members.

“Longtime parade participants commented that the crowds lining the street were the largest they had ever seen, with enthusiastic cheers filling the air from start to finish,” he said. “The little ones were equally thrilled, proudly declaring they collected more candy this year than ever before.”

Haviland said one of the most moving moments in the parade came when a Veterans of Foreign Wars trailer passed by.

“In a truly genuine tribute, the majority of spectators rose to their feet: a quiet but powerful show of respect for the sacrifices made by those who served so we could all enjoy the freedoms we celebrate.”

The parade results weren’t available at press time but will be published in the next issue.

## Pancake Breakfast

Kiwanians Bonnie Shewchuk and Angie Friedrich oversaw the pancake breakfast, which opened at 7 a.m. and served hundreds of attendees. Although the ticket



In a first for the fun run, a category for 2 years and under is added to the children’s event. Race Director John McNamee tells toddlers Edan Erhardt and Zoe Erhardt what to expect.

count wasn’t available at press time, last year the Kiwanis team served 800 breakfasts.

The menu featured scrambled eggs, pancakes and sausage, served with orange juice, coffee and condiments. Kiwanians grilled the pancakes and sausage on site, while the scrambled eggs were prepared in the country club kitchen and transported to the park.

Blueberry pancakes were offered for the second year, thanks to Rancho Murieta resident Kasey Cronquist, president of the North American Blueberry Council.

Kiwanis President Bill Kenney said the only hiccup came around 8:15 a.m. when a surge of customers briefly caused a pancake shortage.

“But that was the only issue, and it was quickly resolved by the cooks,” he said.

Scout Troop 633 assisted with setup, and RMA Maintenance provided additional support.

“We provided breakfast for all the helpers,” Kenney noted.

Overall, the event went swimmingly.

“It was another successful year.”

## Fun Run

Although the fun run has been a tradition for around 45 years, Murieta Health Club owner Erin Bailey began sponsoring the free event 15 years ago.

“I love being part of this community, and as the local gym owner, it allows us to support and encourage an active lifestyle for all ages,” she said.

Beginning and ending at the gazebo, the fun run includes a 5 kilometer route and a shorter option, with both starting at 7:30 a.m. This year’s event



With encouragement from her mother, Hannah Brandt, Layla Brandt tries some scrambled eggs during the pancake breakfast at Stonehouse Park. The event was presented by the Rotary Club of Rancho Murieta.



A crowd of teenagers gathers at the gazebo to dance and watch the fireworks, including this group of four celebrants.

drew about 300 participants – the largest turnout to date – with many walkers, strollers, bikes and scooters. A dozen dogs also joined in the fun.

“The turnout was incredible and was the biggest I have ever seen,” Bailey said.

About 25 members of the Pleasant Grove High School cross-country team led the pack. Tyler Tumlinson finished first in the men’s division with a time of 15:54, while Samantha Brink took first in the women’s division with a time of 19:32.

The children’s fun run had a new category for youngsters 2 and under this year in addition to the usual categories from 5 to

10 years old.

One toddler ran a short distance with encouragement from her father, while another stood still before bursting into tears. Both received prizes, as did all the children who participated in the event.

Among the spectators at this year’s fun run was Jim Moore, who came to cheer on his wife.

“Let the Fourth be with you,” he joked.

## Gazebo Dance Party

The Rancho Murieta Association hosted a dance party at the gazebo beginning at 7 p.m., featuring a DJ. Friends, families and children took to the dance floor early in the evening.

Around 8:30 p.m., as



An old Chevy Blazer with its exuberant occupants participates in the vintage vehicle category.



A flower-powered golf cart cruises down Murieta Parkway.

many attendees left to watch the fireworks from other locations, a large group of teenagers arrived and took over the gazebo area.

The teens danced in tight circles, enthusiastically shouting the lyrics to popular songs. When the fireworks show began, they paused to watch, calling out patriotic cheers throughout the display. Once it ended, they returned to dancing until the music wrapped up at 10:15 p.m.

Two years ago, a group of about 100 teenagers – some of them intoxicated – gathered on the basketball court in front of the gazebo just before the fireworks show began. One youth set off an explosive firework that caused minor injuries to some bystanders. Authorities identified him the following day.

Hart, who had worked in Rancho Murieta for more than 40 years, said it was the first incident of its kind during a July 4 celebration.

“It’s a big bummer, and we are going to work diligently to make sure this doesn’t happen again,” he pledged afterward.

Hart said security planning for this year’s event began with a coordination meeting involving RMA compliance officers, CSD security, two sheriff’s deputies and patrol officers from a private security company.

“We never had less than four uniformed security personnel at the gazebo for the entire event, and most of the time, there were probably six,” he said. Security teams also patrolled recreation areas around the lakes and the river.

“We were hoping that we wouldn’t have to interrupt anyone’s good time,” Hart said. “But just having that

presence changes people’s behavior.”

## Fireworks Show

Hart said he was pleased with this year’s fireworks show, which he believes continues to improve each year. The grand finale appeared to last longer than in previous years, and to enhance the experience, the pyrotechnics technicians introduced new angles to the display for improved viewing.

While RMA has had a strong working relationship with Pyro Spectaculars over the years, last year’s show faced challenges due to the extreme heat. A company supervisor had contacted a labor pool to hire six to eight technicians to assist with preparations for the Rancho Murieta display, but was unable to find anyone willing to work in the high temperatures.

Four RMA Maintenance workers stepped into the breach, working through miserable conditions to ensure the fireworks show could go on as scheduled. The staffing shortage also led to the cancellation of last year’s dance party at the gazebo, as fire marshals cordoned off the area for safety until RMA staff could complete the necessary setup.

## Final Word

Reflecting on this year’s ideal conditions, Haviland offered this summary: “Once again, Rancho Murieta came together in a spirited celebration of the Fourth of July: a day when our community sets aside its differences to honor the freedom that makes America the land of the free and the home of the brave,” he said.

See more photos at [therivervalleytimes.com](http://therivervalleytimes.com) and [facebook.com/therivervalleytimes](https://www.facebook.com/therivervalleytimes). ★

**Rancho Murieta**  
HOMES & LAND

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

[rmhl.acceleragent.net](http://rmhl.acceleragent.net) • 7281 Lone Pine Drive, Suite D102, Rancho Murieta, CA, 95683

Karen is a Presidential Award Holder with the Masters Club of the Sacramento Association of Realtors for over 39 years. This is the most prestigious award given.

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

BRE #00670687

**Rancho Murieta’s Top Realtor for 45 Years and counting.**

\*Source: MLS for residential, Not including “Residential Income”

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

# Rancho Murieta Team Wins First Tournament for Softball Players



The Georgia Bulldogs softball players pose with coaches after dominating their age division during this year's Cosumnes River Little League season. The Bulldogs went on to capture the title in the inaugural Tournament of Champions. Courtesy photo

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

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - While boys on Cosumnes River Little League baseball teams have long participated in postseason tournaments, the same opportunity hasn't existed for girls playing softball ... until now. For the first time, California Little League introduced official softball tournaments this year, and a Rancho Murieta team won the Tournament of Champions in its district.

Jason Strongman is one of the coaches for the Georgia Bulldogs, a Minor League softball team comprising girls ages 8 to 10. The team is managed by Elaine Theodorides, with additional coaching support from Harry and Simeon Fields. Strongman said the Bulldogs faced three other Cosumnes River Little League teams in their age group during the regular season, along with two away games in South Sacramento and Placerville. The team finished the season with a

dominant combined score of 16-1. The Georgia Bulldogs' success earned them a spot in the District 54 Tournament of Champions. They played two games against Hangtown, a team from Placerville, defeating them 28-5 in the first matchup and 11-7 in the second to win the championship. The tournament took place June 6 and 7 at Stonehouse Park in Rancho Murieta. "I'm extremely proud of our coaches and our girls," Strongman said. ★

# Water Alert Quickly Rescinded After Brief Emergency at Rio Oso Tank



An alert sent July 2 to customers about a water pressure issue at the Rio Oso Water Tank was quickly rescinded by the Rancho Murieta Community Services District. File photo by Gail Bullen

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

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) quickly rescinded a water-use alert issued to customers around 7:50 p.m. on July 2 due to the Rio Oso Water Tank pumps losing power. According to social media reports, the district initially asked residents to stop using water via a CodeRED emergency alert, citing problems maintaining water pressure. However, by 8:30 p.m., the district issued a second alert stating the issue had been resolved and normal water use could resume. In an email response to the *River Valley Times*, Director of Operations Eric Houston explained the cause:

"We had an emergency water pressure issue caused by SMUD performing an electrical repair in the area, which rendered our pumps at Rio Oso unusable," Houston wrote. "We sent out the emergency request to conserve water in order to maintain pressure and protect both residents and the system. We were able to restart the pumps and coordinate with SMUD to prevent this from happening again." Houston noted that the issue was resolved so quickly that only about 35% of CSD customers received the initial CodeRED alert before the "all clear" notice was sent. The CSD uses the CodeRED alert system to issue targeted voice notifications to residents in Rancho Murieta. Residents can sign up at the district's website.

For regional emergencies, including wildfires and evacuations, residents of Rancho Murieta and Sloughhouse are encouraged to register at sacramento-alert.org for Reverse 911 alerts. The Rio Oso Tank holds 1.2 million gallons and serves approximately 800 homes north of Guadalupe Drive. It relies on electric pumps to maintain pressure and refill the tank. When pumps are offline, pressure depends on stored water and an air cushion, which can quickly diminish during use. In contrast, the 3-million-gallon Van Vleck Tank is elevated and provides constant water pressure through gravity, independent of pumps. *This story is also online at therivervalleytimes.com and Facebook.com/therivervalleytimes.* ★

## RANCHO MURIETA AIRPORT

(916) 354-9889

**20 minute drive from Folsom and El Dorado Hills**

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

**FEATURING**

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

Share with a friend or relative
Great for indoor RV/Boat Storage or Extra Garage Storage
Conveniently located at Rancho Murieta Airport

• Internet Ready

Rancho Murieta

RV & BOAT STORAGE • SELF STORAGE

| STORAGE PRICING |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| SIZE (WxL) .... | PRICE (\$/mo)   |
| 8 x 8:.....     | <b>\$127.00</b> |
| 8 x 10:.....    | <b>\$143.00</b> |
| 8 x 20:.....    | <b>\$212.00</b> |
| 8 x 40:.....    | <b>\$287.00</b> |

| RV & BOAT PRICING |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| SIZE (WxL) ...    | PRICE (\$/mo)   |
| 11 x 20:.....     | <b>\$150.00</b> |
| 11 x 25:.....     | <b>\$155.00</b> |
| 11 x 30:.....     | <b>\$165.00</b> |
| 12 x 40:.....     | <b>\$185.00</b> |
| 12 x 50:.....     | <b>\$200.00</b> |

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

7443 Murieta Drive, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683 • Visit us at [www.rmairport.com](http://www.rmairport.com)  
SALES • SERVICE • RENTALS • BATTERIES

GIPSON GOLF CARTS

AUTHORIZED DEALER  
**EZGO**  
A Textron Company

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

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

Propane Available at Rancho Murieta Airport

only \$3.65 per gallon

# High-End Homes Coming

*Continued from page 1*

builders, her husband added. “This is important since they will be in our backyard.”

Both companies have expressed interest in building in Unit 2, with 130 lots, although the Keils are also considering other home builders. However, the Keils will reserve up to 19 Unit 2 lots to sell as custom lots.

Veerkamp Construction of Cameron Park is expected to complete grading within about four weeks. After that, the developers plan to pause work on Unit 2 over the winter, with infrastructure construction scheduled to begin next spring. Unit 2 should be completed by fall 2026.

Michele Keil, marketing manager for the partnership, is the primary contact for both units and can be reached at 916-955-9605. She is currently compiling a list of interested buyers for the 19 available lots in Unit 2. The three custom lots in Unit 1 have been sold.

“This is our baby. We eat, live, breathe and watch it from our backyard,” Michelle Keil said. “We’re proud of where it’s come, and we love sharing with others and giving them the correct information,” she said.

## Ownership

Bob Keil’s roots in Rancho Murieta stretch back more than a century. He is a descendant of Sloughhouse pioneer Jared Sheldon, and his grandmother, Grace Warren – Sheldon’s great-granddaughter – lived in Bridgehouse. The small community once stood on the far side of the Yellow Bridge.

Bob Keil lived in Rancho Murieta from 1989 to 1998, and his parents, Chet and Barbara Keil, moved to the community in 1995. After he and Michele married 26 years ago, the couple settled in Granite Bay.

Bob Keil has worked in land development for 30 years, although the Residences is his largest project to date. His earlier work focused on smaller parcel maps, minor subdivisions and rehabbing “hundreds of fixer-uppers.”

Michele Keil has held a variety of roles, including 12 years managing corporate sales for a national gift company. She also successfully revitalized

a struggling Beach Hut delicatessen by launching a catering program that continues to thrive in Roseville.

In 2018, a broker friend told Bob Keil that the Residences East – with its 99 lots – was available. Seeing it as an opportunity to return to a community he had always loved, they purchased the property. The Keils bought a home on Guadalupe Drive, from which they can view Residences East in their backyard.

Several years later, the late John Sullivan – best known for managing the properties of Carol Anderson Ward – purchased the Residences West, which also had 99 lots. In 2022, Sullivan purchased the Residences East from the Keils, but later brought them back in as partners in River Canyon Properties.

After Sullivan died in 2023, the Keils approached the owners of Veerkamp General Engineering of Cameron Park – who were already constructing infrastructure in Unit 1 – about joining them as partners. The family-owned business agreed.

Together, the Keils and Doug and Lori Veerkamp purchased Sullivan’s interest from his estate and chose to retain the name of the partnership: River Canyon Properties.

Bob Keil described the Veerkamps as “super solid people with a great reputation, who are very much into investing in the communities that they work in.” Michele Keil added that their company is also known for its ethical and transparent business practices.

## Water Supply

The Rio Oso Water Tank was designated decades ago to supply water to the two Residences developments as part of the county’s original approval process. Prior subdivision owners also entered into a Facility Services Agreement (FSA) with the Rancho Murieta Community Services District to help fund upgrades to the water treatment plant. This agreement was entirely separate from the FSA that Sullivan later negotiated with the CSD to secure water for the hotel project and, eventually, the Rancho North subdivision.

As part of a written agreement to obtain “will-serve” letters for water

and sewer service from the district, the Keils have prohibited lawns in the new subdivision to help reduce overall water demand. More recently, they agreed to implement a three-days-a-week watering schedule, with homes in the East and West sections assigned different watering days. This provision, which will be included in the CC&Rs, is intended to further minimize the impact on the Rio Oso water tank.

The question of whether the district has sufficient water tank capacity to serve the Residences has been a recurring topic at several district meetings. At the recommendation of the district’s engineer, Joe Domenichelli, the CSD Board approved improvements to the water treatment transportation system. Domenichelli told the board that the upgrades were necessary to serve existing customers – particularly those connected to the Rio Oso Tank – even without the Residences and Riverview subdivisions coming online. He also recommended constructing a new water tank as soon as possible.

Domenichelli initially estimated that the improvements would allow the Rio Oso Tank to serve 50 more units and the Van Vleck Tank another 146 units. Bob Keil said the district will determine the actual capacity once the planned improvements are completed. He noted that the Residences’ engineer, Baker Williams, is also working on additional system fixes.

Keil added that the district is not currently requiring the installation of a new water tank for Unit 2. He also pointed out that the Rancho North development will likely include a new tank, which would help reduce demand on the Rio Oso Tank.

Bob Keil said he plans to work within the existing infrastructure and wait for the community services district’s planned improvements.

“We are not going to be putting in a tank [for the broader area] as part of our project,” he said.

Michele Keil offered a pointed observation about the emotions that often accompany water disputes: “Jared Sheldon literally got shot over water, while Bob Keil is figuratively getting shot over water,” she said.

Jared Sheldon was shot on July 11, 1851, during



Veerkamp Engineering is currently grading Unit 2. Photo by Gail Bullen



Terrata Homes is planning to build a model home and sales center beside the large oak tree near the entrance to the subdivision. Photo by Gail Bullen

a violent clash over water rights along the Cosumnes River, near the future site of the Yellow Bridge. Miners, angered by a dam Sheldon had built to irrigate his crops, opened fire. He died from his wounds shortly after.

## Trails and Trees

Of the 146 acres in the subdivision, the developers have designated 66 acres as open space. The project’s design also preserved as many existing trees and as much of the natural terrain as possible within the developed areas.

The developers have constructed a 10-foot-wide walking path in Unit 1 that also serves as a community services district access road along approximately 70% of its length. Designed for pedestrians, bicycles and strollers, the path is not intended for golf cart use due to public safety concerns. It is unlighted, with some sections running alongside steep embankments and others passing directly behind homes. Bob Keil said they plan to install bollards at all four access points to prevent golf cart access.

As part of the Unit 2 development, the developers will also install an 8-foot-wide dirt walking path through a wooded area. Following several contentious meetings

with the Rancho Murieta Association Board, Bob Keil agreed to place \$50,000 into an escrow fund in case the association decides to pave the path in the future. He said the trail will begin at Tierras Lane and connect with the Unit 1 path. The distance between Tierras Lane and Escuela Drive will be approximately one mile.

Fortunately, there were few oak trees in the area of Unit 1 where lots were constructed, due to the area’s poor soil. However, the developers did have to remove two large oak trees, one of them already dead. Because tree mitigation is based on the diameter of the trunk in inches, they were required to plant approximately 25 saplings for each of the big trees.

To meet the tree mitigation requirement for the entire subdivision, they planted 100 Blue Oak saplings in a section of Unit 1 where the soil is more suitable for growth. They are also required to maintain the saplings for seven years to ensure successful establishment.

## Homeowners Association

Bob Keil said he initially approached the Rancho Murieta Association Board about annexing the Residences into the association, but he was told

the directors would wait to decide until completed homes were in place.

In response, the Keils formed the Murieta Hills Community Association.

“RMA is the master association. Our association is allowed to use all the roads and parks, all the amenities of Rancho Murieta. But the RMA won’t take care of our streets, sidewalks, streetlights or landscaping. That’s all handled by the Rancho Murieta Hills Association,” he said.

Bob Keil said they have modeled their CC&Rs and design requirements after RMA’s. He noted that Mark Parsons, the RMA architectural review manager, has reviewed their housing plans, and Sacramento County has also conducted a design review.

“Once we’ve proved that we’ve done a really good job, it would be my goal to annex into RMA,” Bob Keil said.

He added that he would like to see all subdivisions behind the gate eventually annexed into the RMA.

“I think Rancho Murieta should have one single association to unite the whole community,” he said.

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



REFRESH YOUR SPACE WITH INTUITIVE DESIGN... INTERIORS THAT FEEL AS GOOD AS THEY LOOK.

We specialize in home styling, editing and energy focused design that brings harmony, beauty and intention to every room.

SHANNON MCKENZIE

916-204-0226  
SHANNON@HOMEINSPIRED.DESIGN

Mention this ad for 10% discount



# AMMA ELECTRIC

EXPERTS ON SMUD DISCONNECT REPAIRS

- REMODELING
- NEW CONSTRUCTION
- COMPLETE REPAIR SERVICE
- PANEL CHANGES
- VIOLATIONS CORRECTED
- TROUBLESHOOTING
- NEW CIRCUITS
- ELECTRICAL INSPECTIONS
- BREAKERS/FUSES

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED SINCE 1992

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

NO JOB TOO SMALL... OR TOO BIG!

Property Managers: We specialize in serving you promptly & completely

**24 Hour** Emergency Service

Live People to Answer the Phone

Our Workmanship is Guaranteed for Life

FAST RESPONSE!

916-354-8870 OR 916-988-3464

SLOUGHHOUSE, CA • Serving the Entire Sacramento Area Since 1992  
FREE ESTIMATES • SENIOR DISCOUNTS • LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED • WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

# Senate Bill 54 the So-Called Values Act



By John McGinness

voters spoke clearly through the democratic process and chose the candidate who committed to strict immigration enforcement. That development put the state of California, and other blue states at odds with the new administration and the will of most Americans, as evidenced by the 2024 election outcome.

To develop a better understanding of how California got where it is today, we revisit history. In 2017 the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 54, the so-called Values Act which prohibited the practice of state and local law enforcement officers from interacting with personnel from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This action by the legislature was taken without voter approval and against vocal opposition from law enforcement executives and rank and file law enforcement practitioners. It was signed into law by Governor Edmond G Brown, Jr and became law on January 1, 2018. Prior to that time, ICE personnel regularly visited, and in many cases were stationed in, major jails throughout the state of California for the purpose of monitoring the immigration status of criminal suspects booked into the facilities. That practice allowed for the peaceful transfer of jurisdiction from California peace officers - to immigration enforcement personnel. Additionally, when ICE had identified a person that was wanted and subject to arrest under their jurisdiction, they would routinely contact local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of ensuring local police were aware of the presence of armed plain clothes personnel engaged in dynamic law enforcement operations. That course of action ensured effective communication

in the spirit of maximum public and officer safety.

Senate Bill 54 outlawed each of those practices, foreseeably increasing the risk to the public, law enforcement personnel and even the suspects themselves. It is impossible to imagine a safer environment in which to effectuate the arrest of a criminal suspect than simply transferring that person from the jurisdiction of one law enforcement agency to another within the confines of a secure jail, a setting in which no one is armed, and escape is virtually impossible. Similarly, the capture of a fugitive with the presence of uniformed law enforcement personnel present in marked patrol cars, with ready communication capabilities with their federal colleagues, facilitated optimum elements for a safe outcome.

Nonetheless, the California legislature and governors, past and present, embraced this extraordinarily ill-conceived law and in so doing, hampered the safety of legitimate, statutorily, and constitutionally sanctioned law enforcement operations.

Effective January 1, 2018, ICE personnel were removed from the jails forthwith. No communication between and among state and local law enforcement personnel could take place. This eliminated the potential of an illegal immigrant with an egregiously violent criminal history, freshly arrested for a violation of state law to be properly referred to ICE.

For those of us who closely watch the actions of the California legislature, there was specific frustration with this course of conduct. Because the US Constitution (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 4) clearly delegates immigration enforcement power to the

Federal Government, preventing individual states from having their own processes for naturalization. Additionally, the US Supreme Court decided in Arizona v United States (2012), that immigration enforcement and naturalization is the sole province of the federal government.

In addition to the Constitutionally enumerated duty of the federal government to enforce immigration law, the U.S. Congress has codified specific laws in statute, i.e.: 8 U.S.C.1325 which makes it a crime for an alien to enter or even attempt to enter the U.S. at a time or place not designated by immigration officials, or to elude inspection. It is a misdemeanor for the first offense, but it can become a felony if the person has been previously deported and re-enters without authorization, or if that person commits other violations of law. Congress has also funded ICE, and the Executive Branch has given clear direction to personnel in ICE to enforce the law. The foregoing represents the law of the land in the United States of America in 2025. A person with a modicum of sixth-grade civics knowledge should understand that if there is dissatisfaction with the law, there are means by which laws can be changed. However, the notion of duly elected members of the legislative and executive branch of any state government simply and overtly defying the law is unconscionable.

The common refrain from Governor Newsom includes an assertion that the actions of the federal government in immigration law enforcement is a denial of democracy. Every Californian should know that federal immigration personnel enforcing the laws created and funded by a duly

elected Congress, and directed by the Executive Branch of the government, in a manner consistent with the language expressed in the U.S. Constitution, is the essence of democracy. Citizens who oppose the law have a right and arguably a duty to endeavor to change the law. Defiance of the law is not the answer.

Apropos of nothing above, but consistent with Governor Newsom's lack of understanding or willful defiance of the fundamentals of democracy is evidenced by another development of last November's election, Proposition 36. Nearly seventy percent of the California electorate passed Proposition 36; it passed in each of the very diverse fifty-eight counties in California. A significant portion of that proposition was the demand for treatment of chronic drug offenders. The people spoke clearly through that democratic act. Yet, Governor Newsom refuses to ensure funding for that critical treatment. It appears Governor Newsom is resistant democracy when he does not like the decisions of the voters.

To be clear, there is room for improvement on both sides of the divide. Constitutional officers should never waiver from their oath to the Constitution, and dignified communication facilitates the optimal outcomes.

Perhaps we heed President Abraham Lincoln and invoke our *Better Angels*.

California and the nation deserve better.

*John McGinness, MS is the retired sheriff of Sacramento County, an adjunct professor of criminal justice and host of the John McGinness Show on KFBK. He can be reached at 916-924-3901 or at john.jpm.solutions@gmailcom.* ★



## mustache harbor

### *Yacht Rock Forever!*



**THANK YOU**  
to our Title Sponsor



**Entertainment, Theatre & Culture  
for Rancho Murieta**

**Saturday**  
**July 26, 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!** 

*Thank* **A Veteran Today**

# Public Safety Comes First in County Budget

By Sacramento County Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez

On June 4, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors approved a balanced \$8.9 billion budget for the upcoming fiscal year. As your county supervisor, I made it my top priority to ensure this budget protects what matters most: your safety.

In early drafts of the budget, I saw proposals that deeply concerned me. They included cuts to the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) and Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) units, as well as reductions that would have limited the district attorney's ability to prosecute



**Sacramento County Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez represents the 4th District, which includes all or part of the communities of Citrus Heights, Folsom, Orangevale, Antelope, Rio Linda, Elverta, Gold River, Rancho Murieta, North Highlands, Carmichael, Foothill Farms and Fair Oaks.** Photo courtesy of Rosario Rodriguez.

misdemeanor crimes. These are not abstract programs. They are essential

boots-on-the-ground efforts that directly impact our neighborhoods. Cutting them would have sent the wrong message to our community and to those who threaten its safety.

I was the first member of the board to speak out against these proposed cuts. From the beginning, I made it clear that I could not and would not support a budget that undermined public safety. I worked closely with my colleagues and county staff to reverse those proposals and I'm proud to say we succeeded. The final budget fully restores funding for the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team and Problem-Oriented Policing teams and preserves the

district attorney's ability to prosecute misdemeanors.

These may seem like small line items in a large budget, but they reflect a broader principle. We cannot have safe parks, safe businesses or safe communities if we are constantly chipping away at the resources that keep them that way. That's why I've said from day one that I will not support any budget that defunds our sheriff or our district attorney. This year's budget reflects that commitment.

At the same time, we've made responsible investments in the core services people rely on every day without raising taxes. We are fixing roads that have gone neglected for far too

long, expanding access to mental health and substance use treatment and continuing to make overdue improvements to our correctional facilities. These amendments allow us to meet court-ordered mandates and ensure safety inside and outside our jails. These are not flashy projects. They are the nuts and bolts of good government, and they make a real difference in people's lives.

To me, budgeting is about priorities and my priorities haven't changed. When I ran for office, I promised to bring common sense and accountability to county government. That means making sure public safety is never an afterthought. It means asking

tough questions, listening to residents and standing up when something doesn't look right.

I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish in this budget, but I'm not done fighting for our community. There will always be competing pressures and difficult decisions in county government, but one thing you can count on is that I will always stand on the side of public safety. Because your family's safety is not negotiable, and your local government should treat it that way.

If you'd like to share your thoughts or concerns, you can reach my office at 916-874-5491 or email me at SupervisorRodriguez@saccounty.gov. ★

## 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 23

3:15 p.m., Report of gate arm incident at North Gate far resident lane. Driver advised North Gate officer of the incident, provided with her address and left home address in Retreats. Contacted driver, did not report any injuries or damages to the golf cart. Inspection of the golf cart did not reveal any visible damages. Gate arm was placed back in the bracket; gate arm undamaged and in good working condition. Unable to obtain traffic camera footage due to camera system malfunction.

8:06 p.m., RMA Rule Violation: Guest without resident boat fishing at Lake Chesbro. Boat equipped with outboard engine. Citation issued.

### June 24

6:39 p.m., Lago Drive, outbound gate arm incident: Arm is almost completely sheared off. Will try to collect video of incident when occurred.

Incident called into North Gate as well as Southgate.

11:54 p.m., Patrol observed vehicle near boat ramp from north shore of the lake. Once subject noticed patrol vehicle, subject quickly left area. Unable to make contact with the vehicle. Area clear at this time.

### June 25

10:40 p.m., Report of a speeding complaint, reckless driving, vehicle doing burnouts at Murieta Parkway and Camino Del Lago. Upon arrival, did not observe any vehicle driving reckless in the area. Witnesses stated that a blue Subaru with modified loud exhaust came from Clementia Circle area, at the intersection of Camino Del Lago and Murieta Parkway did burnouts, spun donuts, and proceeded outbound on Murieta Parkway.

11:10 p.m., Patrol observed a vehicle at the Residence Project. Contacted Nissan Sentra with two occupants, female adult driver and male adult passenger. Advised of the construction area trespass, requested to leave area, driver complied without incident. Vehicle was escorted off property.

### June 26

11:24 p.m., Multiple

calls came in reporting a vehicle speeding and breaking traction throughout the community. Vehicle spotted by patrol at Reynosa and South Murieta Parkway when it ran stop sign onto the Parkway and was seen driving away at a high, excessive rate of speed.

### June 27

10:45 p.m., Multiple calls within short time involving a vehicle driving recklessly, speeding and breaking traction within entire community. Vehicle observed doing circular skids (donuts) in the intersection of Murieta Parkway and Jackson Road. Vehicle observed to fail to stop at Reynosa stop sign entering outbound South Murieta Parkway at a high rate of speed.

### June 29

7:26 p.m., Patrol found open Fire Control Room door at 14650 Cantova Way Building 300.

No activity around the building. No signs of forced entry or vandalism. Attempted to locate contact person; negative results. Door was locked/secure by patrol.

### June 30

12:30 a.m., On patrol of Lake Calero, patrol came across vehicle parked

at Lake Calero. Vehicle departed upon arrival.

2 p.m., Report of a family panhandling at Murieta Plaza near USPS office. Upon arrival observed family of five, parents and three kids at the entrance to the plaza with a hand-written sign asking for money. Made contact with parents, advised of no panhandling and requested to leave area. Parents complied without any further incidents. Family left area in newer Toyota minivan.

3p.m., South Gate reported a gate runner; guest not on list; gate officer requested to leave

community, guest did not comply and proceeded into Murieta South. Located vehicle in front of Colbert Drive; vehicle unoccupied. Contacted resident, per resident guest is authorized to enter. Guest was logged into residents' page.

6:01 p.m., Patrol found two guests without resident fishing at Lake Calero. Contacted guests, advised of violation; requested to leave area. Guests complied without any incidents.

### July 4

4:24 a.m., Uber called in to different address from where guests were staying. Uber was not called into the gate at all. Made

contact with the customer and informed them the Uber needed to be called in, and also be called into where they are staying.

7:36 p.m., Report of juveniles jumping from yellow bridge. Upon arrival, a large group of juveniles were at bridge including two golf carts. Informed group that no one should be jumping from bridge and that they needed to relocate. Group moved across bridge toward the south.

8:30 p.m., Trespassing: Gate runner, driving a silver Jetta, was refused by South Gate and continued into community. The destination was Brillar Court. Arriving at scene, patrol saw the reported female subject in front. Another male subject was also seen next to her near an open window. When confronted, subject agreed to leave community. The male subject also left with her.

9:28 p.m., Report of vehicle accident at Murieta Parkway and Alameda Drive involving a golf cart driven by two males who rear-ended a black SUV. The SUV left the scene. Bottles of alcohol fell out of cart, scattering in the roadway. Sheriff's deputies were on scene; injured subject accepted minor would treatment with first aid kit by deputies.

10:45 p.m., Trespassing: Group of juveniles at Stonehouse Park after hours. One subject was holding a handicapped space designation pole/sign that had been removed from the ground. Possible destruction of public property. Golf cart and white sedan departed at high rate of speed; unable to obtain info.

### July 5

12:42 a.m., Occupied white pickup discovered at South Beach area. Contact made with driver who said he wasn't aware he wasn't supposed to be there and left promptly.

### July 6

1:21 a.m., Camino Del Lago: Vehicle parked overnight and multiple days at Lake Calero with trailer.

2:53 a.m., Escort, Via Robbia Drive (Retreats): Uber driver found in the middle of Lago and Murieta Parkway intersection. Made contact with the driver, who stated he had a suspicious call at Via Robbia. Uber driver stated he heard someone in the background of the call tell the customer they "aren't going anywhere." Uber driver was denied entry due to not being called in. Escorted driver to residence where the ride was cancelled. ★

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### 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 the 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.

### Mountain Bike Mondays Resume at Deer Creek Hills

Mountain Bike Mondays resumed on July 7 at the Deer Creek Hills Preserve.

Experience thrilling singletrack through oak woodlands and rolling grasslands with docents on hand to offer tips and

assistance.

These weekly Monday evening rides take place July through October. Take advantage of the cooler weather and explore one of Sacramento's hidden outdoor gems on two wheels. Sign up for tickets at [sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/events](http://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/events). ★

# Branden Arino: New and Old at the Same Time

Continued from page 1

Center, located six miles outside of town. The state prison houses between 1,500 and 1,600 inmates, who are held in four general population dormitories and a maximum-security unit.

Arino began as a cadet and completed the academy before quickly rising through the ranks. By the time he left, he held the position of corrections major: third in command below the warden.

He managed a staff of 30 employees on his shift, overseeing everything from payroll to annual evaluations. He also served as a squad leader for the tactical team, which responded to incidents throughout the facility involving combative inmates.

In addition, Arino was a PPCT

instructor for the tactical team, which trained weekly. Pressure Point Control Tactics are a widely used use-of-force system focused on pain compliance, control holds and defensive techniques designed to help officers gain control with minimal force.

However, the family's move to Louisiana didn't work out.

"I don't have a lick of family in Louisiana and neither did she, so she came back here with the kids," Arino said.

Although they had agreed he would have the children during the summer, Arino came to California in February "just for a little vacation and a birthday," he said.

"When I got out of my truck, my

youngest daughter ran up to me, held me and cried," he recalled. "That same day I quit my job in Louisiana, and I told the kids I was coming home."

Arino had stayed in touch with some of the district staff and asked if any positions were available.

He planned to apply for a gate officer position so he'd have a job lined up when he returned to California.

"Instead, they interviewed me for the administrative sergeant," he said. "I'm guessing they chose me due to my experience in security and corrections."

When he joined the department in April, it had only three full-time patrol officers, so Arino stepped into the day shift position.

"It is a little bit of a slower pace than what I have been used to," he said.

Not long afterward, one of the three officers resigned, increasing Arino's responsibilities. In addition to helping to fill that gap, he has been dedicating time to updating the Security Department handbook.

"I'm trying to get that straightened out right away," he said. "That way, when we do have new hires, there will be adequate training."

Arino also attends board and Security Committee meetings, where he reports on the department's activities.

Arino believes his five years working in corrections have been valuable in shaping how he approaches his new role.

"It taught me a lot about communication, and successful communication is pretty much the key to get through life," he said. ★

# Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



The Milwaukee Bucks won their first NBA title in 1971, and it took 50 years for the Bucks to win a title again. A fellow by the name of Giannis Antetokounmpo helped them accomplish this task, but players of his caliber are in short supply.

The Sacramento Kings have been in Sacramento for 40 years without reaching the finals or winning a championship. But make no mistake, fans in Kingstown still believe an NBA title will eventually come to Sacramento.

Sadly, during the offseason, fans are hearing far too much about mid-level exceptions, aprons first and second, collective bargaining and salary caps. Frankly, the NBA has one of the most complicated systems regarding player compensation, and it takes someone with an advanced degree in economics to comprehend it.

What we know, is that in the aftermath of seeing mega popular DeAaron Fox trot his talents to the San Antonio Spurs midway through the 2025/2026 season, the Kings have navigated the point guard position much like a rudderless ship.

Freshman GM Scott Perry, tasked with replacing De' Aaron Fox, last week signed journeyman Dennis Schröder, a former #1 draft choice by the Atlanta Hawks in 2013. Schroder was chosen #17 overall and for the past 12 seasons has seen playing time with Oklahoma City Thunder, Los Angeles Lakers, Boston Celtics, Houston Rockets, Toronto Raptors, Brooklyn Nets, Golden State Warriors and finally the Detroit Pistons.

Originally from Germany, where he played professionally and for the German national team in the Olympics, one could say Schroder has seen America from coast to coast.

Dennis Schroder's career stats are not gaudy, but 13.9 points per game being as traveled as he's been, shows he can contribute when needed. Five assists per game and 3 rebounds aren't eye popping, but it's important to remember why the Kings went out to get him.

Sacramento has a plethora of scoring power in the starting lineup and coming off the bench. What has been lacking since the departure of Fox, is a capable distributor of the basketball.

At 2.2 turnovers per game Schroder has a better control average than DeAaron Fox, so at least in one regard the Kings have made

an upgrade.

Not many players would clammer to be the replacement for a point guard as popular as Fox, but Sacramento fans are a generous crowd, and I expect to see fans give Dennis Schroder an ample opportunity to display his talents.

Do I think Schroder can be a capable replacement? Absolutely! He won't score 24 points per game or go coast to coast with the type of speed that DeAaron does, but neither does anyone else.

Scott Perry was given a thankless job, and if Schroder can come in and give the Kings 14 points per game, and take care of the basketball, there's a good chance that the playoffs of two seasons ago won't be the exception to the rule.

Coming off the bench is last year's first round draft choice Devin Carter, and Sacramento has a rookie guard in Nique Clifford that is going to need playing time, so don't expect to see Schroder get much more than 20-25 minutes per game.

Perry is likely to have more moves coming, so keep your eyes on summer league Kings fans, and don't forget that Sacramento also drafted a 7-footer in Maxime Raynaud. It will be interesting to see how coach Christie uses his new big man.

Sadly, popular Jonas Valanciunas won't be suiting up for the Kings this season, as he was traded last week to the Denver Nuggets for Dario Saric. Saric will be a role player, and spell Sabonis off the bench. At 6' 10" and 225 lbs. this 31-year-old will undoubtedly see playing time.

Players like Isaac Jones and Devin Carter are still trying to open eyes, so this year's summer league will be an opportunity to showcase their talents and allow Doug Christie to see their growth over the season.

NBA pundits have praised the Kings' draft this year, and I concur with their accolades. There's real optimism as this team is deep in talent. It remains to be seen how that talent will come together, and whether the Kings can take the young talent they have to the next level.

Stay tuned Kings fans, because this roster isn't cast in stone just yet!

All the best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at [vghar-riskingsfan@gmail.com](mailto:vghar-riskingsfan@gmail.com). ★

## Social Security Matters

### Can I Switch to a Taxi Driver Job Without Hurting my Social Security?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

**Dear Rusty:** I opted to draw my Social Security retirement benefit early and work part time. The company I work for has decided to pull me from field work due to my age and health. Although they are great keeping me at 20 hours per week running for parts and doing office work, I'm not sure how much longer it will last. I'm thinking of taking a taxi driving job to keep my income enough to live on. The way it would work, I would lease the cab for some amount of dollars per day, set my own hours to work and collect anywhere from \$1.40 to \$4.00 per mile, depending on what type of fare. My question is: how does Social Security look at that type of employment? Would I be held to the 15 - 45 hours a month standard? I could never come close to making the \$1,200 to \$1,300 a month I need by working so little. Any advice is greatly appreciated. **Signed: Seeking Advice**

**Dear Seeking:** If you go ahead with your plan to lease a taxicab instead of continuing your current employment, you would, in effect, be considered "self-employed" and would submit your income tax return to the IRS accordingly. Social Security would get your earnings information as reported to

the IRS, and it would be your net earnings from self-employment (after deducting all your business expenses) that is reported to SSA by IRS. There is, however, a special rule which would apply to you in your first calendar year of self-employment while collecting early Social Security benefits.

Since, in your first year, some of your earnings would be as a part-time employee paying SS FICA payroll taxes, Social Security would first look at your earnings as an employee to see if you exceeded the annual earnings limit (\$23,400 for 2025). Then, upon starting your self-employment, Social Security would look at the hours you spent performing "substantial gainful activity" (e.g., driving your taxi) each month and, if you spent more than 45 hours per month in that capacity, you would not be considered "retired," and thus, not eligible for Social Security in any month you exceeded that amount of hours. If you earned less than the annual limit in total (both as an employee and while self-employed), you would get benefits for all months of the year. But if you earn more than the annual limit, you will get no benefits for any month you exceeded 45 hours as a self-employed person. Again, this only applies during the first calendar year of self-employment - in the following year only your net earnings from self-employment would count toward the annual earnings limit.

In effect, SSA would use the hours-worked standard to see if you are truly retired or actually working. If the latter, they would withhold

SS monthly benefits for any month you exceed 45 hours working while self-employed (up to and including December of your first calendar year of self-employment), and only if your total income (as an employee and while self-employed) exceeds the annual limit.

So, if your goal is to net \$1,200 - \$1,300 per month as a self-employed taxi driver, that would be well within the limits of the annual earnings test (\$23,400 for 2025 but changes yearly). But there may, or may not, be a reduction in your Social Security benefits during your first year of self-employment, depending on when you start as self-employed. Note that SSA will ask about your work plans when you apply, and if you expect to stay under the annual limit (working part time in both capacities), you should get full SS benefits. Just be careful to stay under the annual earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits. FYI, earnings from before your SS benefits started don't count toward the earning limit.

Note, too, that your monthly Social Security benefit will be actuarially reduced according to how far in advance of your full retirement age you claim SS. Whenever SS benefits are claimed prior to one's full retirement age, those benefits are permanently reduced.

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



Blow up Washington, D.C.'s Brutalist Buildings, and the Sooner, the Better

There's a reason God created dynamite. The brutalist federal buildings that have blighted Washington, D.C., for decades deserve the same fate as Carthage after the Third Punic War, and the nation's capital is finally beginning to move on from these concrete monstrosities.

The Department of Housing and Urban and Development just announced that it is leaving its god-awful headquarters in Washington for a less hideous space in Northern Virginia. HUD Secretary Scott Turner has described the structure as "the ugliest building in D.C.," which is a dubious claim only because there are so many other buildings in Washington that compete for that distinction. He's not the first HUD secretary to hate the building. Jack Kemp called it "10 floors of basement."

Meanwhile, the FBI is also departing its HQ, designated by the U.K. building materials retailer Buildworld as the ugliest building in the United States and the second ugliest in the world.

The moves are in keeping with the spirit of President Trump's executive order stipulating that federal buildings should "respect regional, traditional and classical architectural heritage in order to uplift and beautify public spaces and ennoble the United States and our system of self-government."

That EO should be considered common sense, but has several trigger words for defenders of the architectural status quo, including "traditional," "classical" and, perhaps foremost of all, "beautify." In response, the American Institute of Architects expressed its "strong concerns that mandating architecture styles stifles innovation and harms local communities."

According to The Nation magazine, Trump's initiative is part of an agenda to "make historical architecture on the whole inextricable from Eurocentric white supremacy." In short, it's an unforgivable offense to want a government building to look nice.

Brutalism, with its blocky, minimalist structures made of poured concrete, was a creation of a post-war Europe that wanted to embrace the fresh and new and to economize on rebuilding. Although the name "brutalism" perfectly captures the aesthetic effect, it actually comes from the French for "raw concrete," "beton brut."

To be sure, concrete is extremely important to modern life, but no one has ever said, "Oh, it's so elegant and uplifting." The brutalist buildings in Washington were largely built between the late 1960s and mid-1970s, an era of grievous architectural mistakes, including cookie-cutter multiple-purpose baseball stadiums and modernist Catholic churches. The buildings never had a heyday, but were hated when they were erected and are still hated now.

The seedbed of the trend was a Kennedy administration commission that advocated contemporary

designs and said -- laughably, in retrospect -- that federal architecture should "reflect the dignity, enterprise, vigor and stability of the American national government."

Instead, the brutalist buildings speak of a lumbering bureaucracy with no regard for the sensibilities or priorities of ordinary people. They are about what you'd expect if a DMV were headquartered in a maximum-security prison or in a massive pillbox.

The buildings could easily be used as stage sets for docudramas about East Germany. They are a tribute to soulless monumentality and a gut punch to the human spirit. If they don't eventually get a well-deserved appointment with a wrecking ball, they should be donated to North Korea.

The original justifications of brutalism no longer apply. The buildings aren't new anymore, and aren't cheap. They haven't aged well in any sense, not aesthetically or functionally. The FBI building is literally falling apart, and the expense of maintaining the HUD building has become ruinous.

Defenders of the brutalist buildings say that they are now part of our heritage and should be preserved as such. That's not fair, though, to the people who have to work in them, or who walk or drive by them every day. They are a net subtraction to the D.C. landscape and to human happiness. If one of them has to be kept for historical reasons, it should be made into a Smithsonian museum devoted to idiotic fads that were indulged for much too long.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

(c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

## California Lawmakers Finally Achieve 'Holy Grail' Reform



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Jerry Brown once described reform of the California Environmental Quality Act as "the lord's work" but he, like other recent governors, was not willing to invest enough political capital to change it.

Simply put, significantly altering CEQA, which then-Gov. Ronald Reagan signed more than a half-century ago, would require confronting two powerful interest groups: environmental organizations and labor unions, which have weaponized the law to achieve their goals.

Brown made one stab at compelling the Legislature to alter CEQA in 2016, but otherwise left it to his successor, Gavin Newsom.

For six years, Newsom echoed the attitudes of his predecessors, critical of CEQA's misuse to block housing and other much-needed projects, or compel developers to hire unionized labor or jump through other hoops, but unwilling to confront it head-on.

Instead, he and the Legislature nibbled at the edges of the law and gave specific projects, such as sports arenas, exemptions.

Finally, however, the social and economic costs of leaving CEQA intact became too high. The state's critical shortage of housing continued despite innumerable policy

declarations aimed at spurring investment. It became downright embarrassing that a politically dominant Democratic Party pledged to socioeconomic equity was unable to deliver on promises to make housing more abundant and affordable.

California starred in a New York Times video that chastised blue states for failing to live up to their stated principles and in a recent book, "Abundance," about the nation's chronic inability to deliver much-needed projects due to regulatory overkill, such as CEQA.

This year, with Newsom nearing the end of his governorship and appearing to cast his eyes toward a presidential campaign, the governor decided to confront the CEQA issue squarely. He endorsed two bills that would impose limits on the law's reach and, in the end, threatening to block the entire state budget if they weren't placed on his desk.

On Monday (June 30), the last day of the fiscal year, the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 130 and Senate Bill 131 with last-minute changes to dampen opposition from construction unions. Newsom quickly signed them.

"We needed to go bold and big on this holy grail reform," Newsom said at a hastily staged signing ceremony.

Essentially, the legislation exempts virtually all infill housing projects from CEQA's provisions, making it more difficult for opponents of high-density housing projects, known as NIMBYs, to block approval.

Such projects, particularly those aimed at low- and moderate-income families, have been the most difficult to gain approval, due largely to opposition in upscale communities

dominated by single-family homeowners.

"When you are building housing in an existing community, that is environmentally beneficial, it is climate friendly, that is not something that should be subjected to potentially endless CEQA challenges and lawsuits," Sen. Scott Wiener, a San Francisco Democrat who authored SB 131, told senators before they passed the measure.

Wiener and Assemblywoman Buffy Wicks, an Oakland Democrat who carried AB 130, have been the Capitol's two most aggressive advocates of pro-housing legislation.

The remaining question, of course, is whether the two new laws, which go into effect immediately, will have a discernible impact on the state's housing shortage. CEQA is just one factor of many determining whether proposed projects proceed or die. Those who oppose high-density housing in their neighborhoods will not just roll over.

Ironically, as the Legislature was passing the two new laws on Monday, The Atlantic was publishing a lengthy article entitled "The Whole Country Is Starting to Look Like California," that describes how red tape and local opposition are adversely affecting housing development in red states such as Texas and Florida, which had been viewed as developer paradises.

Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends. ★

# Sac State's Slater Named Student-Athlete of the Year

## Sacramento State Athletics News Release

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Football's Jackson Slater has been named California State University, Sacramento's Male Student-Athlete of the Year.

Slater is a Football Championship Subdivision Consensus All-American following the 2024 season after being recognized by the Associated Press, Stats Perform and the American Football Coaches Association.

Selected by the Tennessee Titans in the fifth round (167th overall) of the 2025 NFL Draft, Slater did not allow a sack during the season, started 44 games during his career and helped the Hornets to a pair of Big Sky titles and three National Collegiate Athletic Association Football Championship Subdivision Playoff appearances.

Slater competed at the Senior Bowl where he garnered national attention for his play against the country's top players. He later attended the NFL Combine and produced some of the top athletic rankings among offensive linemen.

Other nominees included Luke Dugger (golf), named all-Big West Conference, competed in all 11 tournaments and led the team with an average of 71.64 strokes per round, which ranks



Sacramento State's Jackson Slater did not allow a sack during the 2024 season, started 44 games during his career and helped the Hornets to a pair of Big Sky titles and three National Collegiate Athletic Association Football Championship Subdivision Playoff appearances. Photo courtesy of Sacramento State Athletics

third in school single-season history. Dugger had a relative scoring average of +0.21 strokes per round

and had 19 rounds of par or better, which ranks second in school single-season history. He set the school single-season record with 10 rounds in the 60s, shot 66 in the opening round of the Palouse Collegiate and Ram Masters for his season low. Dugger's 54-hole total of 66-71-67-204 at the Ram Masters is the third lowest in school history.

Evan Gibbons (baseball) was named the Western Athletic

Conference Pitcher of the Year, was the first Hornet to win the honor, a first team all-Western Athletic Conference selection for the first time in his career. He led the Western Athletic Conference in victories at the end of the regular season with a 10-2 overall record, ranking ninth in the nation. Gibbons had the most wins by a Hornet pitcher since Austin Root finished 11-3 in 2018. Gibbons struck out 63 batters in 88.0 innings and ranks tied for seventh on the Hornet career wins list with 21.

Miles Grant (track and field) became the school's first Division I All-American in the men's high jump. He tied for first place at the National Collegiate Athletic Association West First Round after clearing a career-best 7-01.50. That height is tied for third in school history, trailing only marks from 1979 and 1980, repeated as the Big Sky Outdoor Champion, cleared at least 6-11 in five outdoor meets. Grant won the Big Sky indoor title for the second consecutive season and opened the year by setting his indoor personal

record with 7-02.50 to rank second in school history.

Henry Lamchinniah (tennis) was unanimously selected first team all-Big Sky Conference (singles) in his first season with the Hornets after transferring from Southern Mississippi. He played at No. 1 in the Hornets' singles lineup all year, owned a 14-5 dual singles record (6-2 in the Big Sky) and won eight of his final 10 matches. Lamchinniah had a six-match singles winning streak from March 5-20 and nine of his 14 singles wins came in straight sets. Fourteen victories were second most among all No. 1 players in the Big Sky.

Donovan Sessoms (soccer), a first team all-Big West Conference selection, was only the sixth Hornet to earn first team honors in the Big West in program history and the first since 2022. As two-time Big West Offensive Player of the Week, Sessoms finished the year with 10 goals (seven in conference play) and 20 points overall, tying him for ninth on the school's single-season goals list and 10th on the single-season points chart. Sessoms had the most goals by a Hornet since 2010 and the most points by a Hornet since 2009. Five of Sessoms' 10 goals were game winners and he was drafted by the expansion San Diego FC in the third round of the 2024 MLS SuperDraft. ★

## TY Johnson Signs with Lakers



University of California, Davis men's basketball alumnus TY Johnson is in the Los Angeles Lakers' summer league. Johnson was previously named to the Lou Henson Award Mid-Season Watch List recognizing the nation's top mid-major players. Photo courtesy of University of California, Davis Athletics

## University of California, Davis Athletics News Release

**DAVIS, CA (MPG)** - University of California, Davis men's basketball alumnus TY Johnson has signed a summer league contract with the Los Angeles Lakers, following the 2025 NBA Draft.

Johnson, the Big West Conference's most dynamic two-way player this season, earned All-Big West First Team honors after finishing as the nation's sixth-leading scorer at 21.1 points per game. He topped the conference scoring charts while averaging 3.0 assists and 4.1 rebounds per contest.

Defensively, Johnson ranked second in the Big West and 18th nationally with 2.3 steals per game. He set the University of California, Davis Division I single-season record with 72 steals and recorded three or more steals in 12 games, including a six-steal performance against Cal Poly. Johnson finished his career ranked second in the program's history for steals.

Johnson became University of California, Davis' all-time leader in career free throws made (470). Johnson's 178 free throws made this season rank 15th in the National Collegiate Athletic Association and he set a program single-game record with 18 made free throws.

He scored double figures in 30 of 32 games, exploding for 20 or more points 21

times, including five 30-point performances. Johnson's 35-point games against Washington and University of California, Santa Barbara were tied for the fourth most by an Aggie since 2005.

Johnson finished his senior season tied for third on University of California, Davis' all-time scoring list with 1,694 points, one of just 26 Aggies to reach 1,000 career points. Johnson led the Aggies in scoring 26 times and in assists 15 times. He was the only Big West player to rank in the Top Five in both scoring and steals.

Johnson earned Oscar Robertson National Player of the Week honors on Nov. 12 after opening the season with consecutive 30-point games and was a two-time Big West Player of the Week.

He was named to the Lou Henson Award Mid-Season Watch List recognizing the nation's top mid-major players.

Johnson's senior season efficiency placed him in rare company nationally; he was the first qualified player since Vanderbilt's Scotty Pippen Jr. in 2021-22 to rank in the 99th percentile in points per 40 minutes while also ranking in the 95th percentile or higher in steals per 40 minutes.

Johnson and the Lakers were set to begin summer league play on July 5, after press time, at the California Classic, hosted by the Golden State Warriors at the Chase Center in San Francisco. ★

## High Quality Development at Republic FC Academy



In Las Vegas on June 16, the Sacramento Republic FC Academy's U13 team wins the international Copa Rayados tournament without conceding a goal. Photo courtesy of the Sacramento Republic FC Academy

By Seth Henderson

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The Sacramento Republic FC Academy's U13 team won the international Copa Rayados tournament in Las Vegas on June 16 without conceding a goal, ranking first in the Northwest Division for quality of play, rated at 86.2.

Quality of play is a recently-developed ranking metric for Major League Soccer NEXT age groups U13 and U14 as of April 2, according to a Major League Soccer news release. The program was piloted for the first time in contrast to a traditional win-draw-loss standing. The quality of play metrics is calculated using artificial intelligence, run by the platform Taka, providing coaches and players with hyper-focused data.

Sacramento Republic FC Academy Director Eder

Quintanilla said that the U13 team is a special group, taking home the championship silverware in 2024 and now this year. The U13 team recruited more defensive players, Quintanilla said, which helps reduce the chances of getting scored on and the new quality of play metrics are a great new tool for development.

"Everybody is still learning what they consider quality of play and which metrics you can measure but I think it's a pretty good initiative, looking at how we can pay attention more to how we're playing, how we're developing our players," Quintanilla said. "More than just winning."

Coaches are still asking the league questions to clarify what constitutes as a good or high-quality play and comparing metrics but he said its difficulty in the style of play will be better for player development in the long run,

Quintanilla said.

According to Taka's website at taka.io, its platform uses raw game footage and analyzes the game play by identifying jersey numbers and corresponding value to their actions depicted in the footage. Highlight reels and statistics are automatically populated for coaches and players to analyze their performance, applying the results to their next practice or match.

"The 'win or lose' is like a tool for development," Quintanilla said. "We obviously use the competition to get better because you need to evaluate yourself, you need to evaluate your opponents, you need to come up with the strategies to win the game, to score goals, to create census but that's only a tool."

Quintanilla said the wins might help attract some recruits but their process is to scout the best players in all

age groups every year.

"We're trying to bring the most talented players in the area and that's not going to change, winning or losing," Quintanilla said.

Competition is sparked not only within the league but also within the academy teams, Quintanilla said, determining team leaders, minutes and starters.

Major League Soccer NEXT Technical Director Luis Robles said in a news release that individual development is prioritized over competition for the younger age groups.

After the winning season, Quintanilla said, many get-togethers take place in the off-season, discussing new ideas and improvements to make the team better.

"We celebrate but we quickly put our head down again and work for next season," Quintanilla said. ★

## A's Jacob Wilson Elected Starter

Athletics News Release

**WEST SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Jacob Wilson from the Athletics has been elected by the fans as starting shortstop for the American League in the 2025 All-Star Game at Atlanta on July 15.

Wilson ranks second in the Major Leagues with 108 hits and a .339 batting average, and his 26 strikeouts are the fewest in the American League and third fewest in the majors among qualifiers.

He received 52% of the vote in

Phase two of fan voting, beating out Royals shortstop Bobby Witt, Jr.

Wilson is the first rookie shortstop to be elected by the fans and will become the second rookie shortstop to start an All-Star Game, along with the Orioles Ron Hansen, who started both All-Star Games in 1960. He will be the first Athletic to start an All-Star Game since Josh Donaldson at third base in 2014 and the first shortstop since Bert Campaneris made three straight starts from 1973 to 1975.

Wilson is the early favorite for American League Rookie of the Year

as he leads all Major League rookies in batting, on-base percentage (.380), slugging percentage (.473), OPS (.853), runs (42), hits and RBI (40). He is on pace to break Socks Seybold's Athletics record for batting average by a rookie (.334 in 1901) and Hall of Famer Al Simmons' record for most hits by a rookie (183 in 1924).

The 23-year-old Wilson will be the first A's rookie to start an All-Star Game and will be the youngest A's starter in the All-Star Game since Vida Blue in 1971. ★



WHERE THE STARS AND GUITARS SHINE!

**2025 CELEBRITY PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT & CONCERT**

**AUGUST 7-8, 2025**  
RANCHO MURIETA, CA



Rancho Murieta Country Club

**Thursday August 7th**

**CELEBRITY CHALLENGE**  
with former NBA, NFL, and MLB celebrities

**A MILLION DOLLAR HOLE IN ONE CONTEST**

**CELEBRITY DRAFT PARTY**

**Friday August 8th**

**CELEBRITY PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT AWARDS PARTY**

**"STARS AND GUITARS" OUTDOOR CONCERT FEATURING MOONSHINE CRAZY**

**FOR VOLUNTEER AND SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION VISIT GoldRushClassic.org**

SPONSORED BY



**Glenn Guenard & Ross Bozarth**

are dedicated to the victims of accidents.

We help with serious injuries that require serious representation. We are the Law Offices Of Guenard & Bozarth.

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

**WE CAN HELP!**

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

**DO YOU KNOW THESE GUYS?**

Insurance Companies Know Them Because They Have Paid Them Over **\$130 Million Dollars**

**Brighten a Senior's Day**

Volunteer with Meals on Wheels Sacramento County

We need compassionate volunteers to deliver meals, support our community cafes, or help with clerical tasks. Your kindness helps our elderly neighbors maintain independence and dignity through improved nutrition.

For more information and to sign up, visit [mowsac.org](http://mowsac.org) or call (916) 444-9533.

Be the reason someone smiles today.

Volunteer with us and make a heartfelt difference.



**MEALS ON WHEELS**  
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

**6.75% Initial APR**

**5 Year FIXED RATE**

CHECK THE EL DORADO ADVANTAGE:

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



**HOME EQUITY**  
Line of Credit Loan



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

[www.eldoradosavingsbank.com](http://www.eldoradosavingsbank.com)

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

Member **FDIC**  
NMLS ID 479256

Se Habla **Español**  
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

The initial Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is currently 6.75% for a new Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC), and is fixed for the first 5 years of the loan which is called the draw period. After the initial 5 year period, the APR can change once based on the value of an Index and Margin. The Index is the weekly average yield on U.S. Treasury Securities adjusted to a constant maturity of 10 years and the margin is 3.50%. The current APR for repayment period is 7.75%. The maximum APR that can apply any time during your HELOC is 15%. A qualifying transaction consists of the following conditions: (1) the initial APR assumes a maximum HELOC of \$200,000, and a total maximum Loan-to-Value (LTV) of 70% including the new HELOC and any existing 1st Deed of Trust loan on your residence; (2) your residence securing the HELOC must be a single-family home that you occupy as your primary residence; (3) if the 1st Deed of Trust loan is with a lender other than El Dorado Savings Bank, that loan may not exceed \$300,000, have a total maximum Loan to Value (LTV) of 65% and may not be a revolving line of credit. Additional property restrictions and requirements apply. All loans are subject to a current appraisal or property evaluation. This cost will be disclosed in your commitment letter and paid at loan closing. Property insurance is required and flood insurance may be required. Rates, APR, terms and conditions are subject to change without notice. Other conditions apply. A \$25 early closure fee will be assessed if the line of credit is closed within three years from the date of opening. An annual fee of \$85 will be assessed on the first anniversary of the HELOC and annually thereafter during the draw period. Ask for a copy of our "Fixed Rate Home Equity Line of Credit Disclosure Notice" for additional important information. Other HELOC loans are available under different terms.

**Local Classifieds**

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

**Concrete**

**SONDROL CONCRETE**  
25+ years experience. All types of finishes. Patios, driveways, slabs, Walkways, Spa pads. Tear out/ Replace Tractor work. Written estimates. Lic. # 778034  
**916-955-1083**

**Perez Landscaping & Concrete**  
•Concrete Finishing/ Stamping  
•Landscape installation and Design  
•Sodding, •Planting  
•Irrigation •Retaining Walls  
•Yard maintenance. Free estimates. For more info. call **916-834-2352** email: [Elverperez@att.net](mailto:Elverperez@att.net) Lic #14-00016214

**3DR CONCRETE**  
All your concrete needs. Bobcat services, driveway repair. Comm & Res. Lic # 968987 insured (209)570-7304

**We Support Our Military**

**Home Improvement**

**ALL PHASE HOME REPAIR**  
Elk Grove, CA  
•Electrical •Plumbing  
•Fencing •Fans •Decks  
•Doors •Windows •Tile Flooring •Trim base-board •Sheetrock •Dry Rot Texture •Painting  
•Lighting •Concrete •Sprinkler Repair  
•Framing and more!  
All phases of home repair & any construction needed- Big or small. Quality work guaranteed! Low prices- free est. Serving Elk Grove, Rancho Murieta, Galt, Wilton, Herald, Sac. & Surrounding Areas  
CSLB#1134987 Bonded & Insured  
**(916)287-6164**

**Yard Sale?**  
Advertise it in your local community newspaper  
Call (916) 773-1111

**Junk Removal**

**MS Hauling**  
•Junk Removal  
•Garage Cleanouts  
•Yard Debris  
•E-Waste  
Mention this ad and receive 15% off!  
Call (916)207-5702 License # 778034

**Landscaping**

**BRILLIANT LANDSCAPE**  
Artificial Turf | Fencing Retaining Wall | Concrete Drainage | Irrigation Planting | Tree Trimming  
**209-251-9387**  
LIC# 1108441

**Landscaping**

**CREATE YOUR PARADISE**  
  
Winter Yard Cleanups, Complete Landscape Design/ Installation, Sprinkler System Installs/Repairs, All Types Concrete Work, Fence Installation, Retaining Walls- All Types, Drainage Systems-all types, Landscape Lighting, Residential/ commercial American Landscape Design & Installation. Est 1987 American Construction & Property Maintenance Company  
WE ACCEPT VISA & MASTER CARD  
**(916)612-0776**  
Lic#690968



**YARD CLEANUP & DECORATIVE ROCK**  
One time cleanup pruning. Also bark, weed control, sod, seed, pruning, sprinkler systems, hauling, etc. Mobile homes, commercial or residential. Local gardener.  
**916-205-9310 or 916-627-9000**

**YARD CLEAN UP**  
Sod installation Landscape installation Lawnmowing services Fence repair  
Call for free estimate  
**916-271-7265**

**Automotive**

**Elk Grove Shell**  
  
**Your Local Full Service Auto Repair Shop Committed to Customer Satisfaction**  
**Specializing In:**  
• Oil Changes  
• Smog Repair  
• Safety Inspection  
• Transmission Service  
• Brakes  
• Wheel Alignment  
• Check Engine Light Diagnosis  
• Tires  
• Tune-Up  
• Batteries  
• 30, 60, 90K Service  
• Brake & Lamp Station  
**Mon-Fri, 8-5 • 916-685-7796**  
8901 Elk Grove Blvd.

**Roofing**

**JIM MOYLEN ROOFING**  
1981 License # 407605  
A+ Rating with BBB.  
Specialize in Re-Roof, Prompt Repairs, Low Slope Roof, Seamless Gutter Installation.  
Free Estimates! Open Monday-Saturday  
**916-531-2793 Cell**  
**Tile Repairs**

**Painting**

**Shelton Painting, Inc.**  
• Repaints: Exterior & Interior  
• Dry Wall Repair  
Free Estimates  
**(209) 745-7897**  
3 Generations of Quality Painters #908019  
We accept Visa & Mastercard

**Roofing**

**ROUTT ROOFING**  
Specializing in Res Roofing & Repairs We Hand Nail for Quality!  
Free Estimates  
**916-423-1288 or 209-748-5588**  
 Since 1975 Lic.#302302

Visit: [mpg8.com](http://mpg8.com)

**Roofing**

**PREMIER ROOFING INC.**  
LIC# 1097848  
Se Habla Espanol  
• ROOF REPAIR  
• ROOF MAINTENANCE  
• COMPLETE RE-ROOF  
• NEW ROOFS  
• GUTTER CLEANING  
CELL 209.810.6233  
**209.745.7565**  
[1premierroofing@gmail.com](mailto:1premierroofing@gmail.com)

**SACRAMENTO VALLEY ROOFING & GUTTERS**  
**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**  
• NEW ROOF INSTALL  
• TEAR OFF & REROOF  
• ROOF REPAIR  
• OVERLAY ROOF INSTALL  
• DRY ROT REPAIR  
• SEAMLESS GUTTER INSTALL  
• GUTTER REMOVAL & INSTALL  
• GUTTER REPAIR  
• GUTTER GUARD & INSTALL  
• DOWNSPOUTS INSTALL  
• CUSTOM COLORS  
**FREE ESTIMATES!**  
**916-719-8288**  
RAMON M., FOREMAN/OPERATOR  
LIC# 1072137

**Tractor Work**

**MAC Industries DIRT WORK**  
  
•Excavations •Utility Trenching •Foundations •All types  
•Laser Grading • Dozer work •Driveways •Building Pads •Drainage •All Types  
•Field Mowing / Firebreaks •Flail •Bushhog  
•Septic System Installation •Drilling •Foundations  
•Post •Tree holes •Trenching •Irrigation  
•Drainage •Rototilling •Disking  
License #919198 & Insured  
Michael- 916-747-9667 Bill- 916-869-1019

**Be a part of something important**

**Local Writers Wanted**  
We are looking for local Freelance Writers to provide great coverage.  
 Call us today at 916-773-1111

# CALL A PROFESSIONAL

**PURCHASE • REFINANCE**

## FIXED RATE LOANS

**15 Year Term Fixed Rate Loan**

RATE **5.000%** APR **5.30%**  
 180 Monthly Payments of \$7.91 per \$1,000 Borrowed

**30 Year Term Fixed Rate Loan**

RATE **5.750%** APR **5.93%**  
 360 Monthly Payments of \$5.84 per \$1,000 Borrowed

**Check the El Dorado Advantage:**

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



### EL DORADO SAVINGS BANK

Serving our local communities for over 65 Years

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

RANCHO MURIETA • 7185 Murieta Drive • 916-354-2661

SHELDON • 8973 Grant Line Road • 916-686-0200

Se Habla Español

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

LOAN TERMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

www.eldoradosavingsbank.com 800-874-9779



## John Taylor

Farmers Insurance Agent/Broker

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



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



License #: 0678249

Call today for a policy review and quote!

**(916) 485-3236**

916-402-6021 (Cell)

## Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

### Compare our CD Rates

Bank-issued, FDIC-insured

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

Call or visit your local financial advisor today.



**Linda Sobon**  
 Financial Advisor

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

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

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



## Need to Advertise?

Let Lezet help you get the word out

Office: (209) 745.1551

lezet.vidauri@MPG8.com

Elk Grove Citizen The Galt Herald RIVER VALLEY TIMES

Please call 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays



## KAREN HOBBERG

**(916) 947-6910**

karen@rmhl.net Lic. #00670687

EXPERIENCE • KNOWLEDGE • RESULTS



**DEB BRITTAN TEAM**  
*unlocking your dreams*  
 IN RANCHO MURIETA

## COMPLIMENTARY HOME STAGING

*just mention this ad*

**(916)**

**932.6693**

RanchoMurietaHomes.com



*Deb Brittan*

REALTOR® & RANCHO MURIETA RESIDENT

DRE# 02056360

## RIVER VALLEY TIMES

Serving Rancho Murieta, Sloughouse and Sacramento County.

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

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

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

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

We are proud members of these newspaper associations.



**Publisher,  
 Paul V. Scholl**

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

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

Publisher@mpg8.com.

Be sure to place in the subject field "Attention to Publisher". If you do not have email access, please call us at (916) 773-1111.

## Do You Need **MPG**

## Your Legal Ads Published?

**We can help.**

Call us now to place your legal advertising!



**916-773-1111**

All legal ads published by Messenger Publishing Group.

# CALL A PROFESSIONAL



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



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



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

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




**Quality Service At Competitive Prices!!!**  
 We currently provide pest protection for over 500 homes in your community!!  
**Call Today and Compare!**  
 Be sure and ask about our Murieta Special!!!  
**354-0209**  
 Rancho Murieta Residents Owned & Operated  
 "Particular Homeowners Deserve Apex"



**Honor Thy Elders...**  
 Senior Living Transitions, LLC  
 • All Care Facilities  
 • Independent Living • Respite  
 • In Home Care Providers  
 • Companion • VA Aid  
 • Medical Alert • Estate Planning  
 Gerontology Degree  
**Caryl Abshire, LNHA**  
 www.HonorThyElders.com  
 916 320-3631  
 Over 25 years experience



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

**We Express Excellence in Auto Repair**  
 All Insurance Claims Welcome  
**Auto Body EXPRESSIONS Inc.**  
 Written Lifetime Warranty  
  
 685-5078  
 9734 Dino Dr., Elk Grove  
 www.autobodyexpressions.com



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

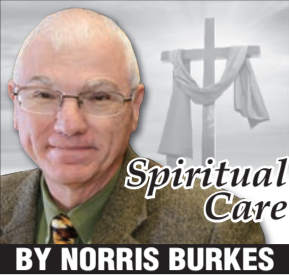


**AMMA ELECTRIC**  
 LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED • RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL  
**NO JOB TOO SMALL... OR TOO BIG!**  
 Property Managers: We specialize in serving you promptly & completely  
**916-354-8870 OR 916-988-3464**  
 SLOUGHHOUSE, CA  
 Serving the Entire Sacramento Area Since 1992  
 FREE ESTIMATES • SENIOR DISCOUNTS  
 LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED • WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS

Grow your business here!  
 Call (209) 745-1551 to advertise with us today!  
**River Valley Times**  
 Messenger Publishing Group  


**LOCAL ARREST RECORDS**  
 Find out what's happening in your local area at...  
 THE RIVER VALLEY TIMES.COM  
 ARREST LOGS UPDATED DAILY

## Chaplain Offers ... Dating Advice?



opening line to avoid confusion: "Hello, this is Sara at Chispa Project, the non-profit in Honduras!"

"Hi, I'm trying to access my account and..."

"Ooh, so sorry!" Sara says in perfect Spanish, "You've reached Chispa Project, the non-profit in Honduras."

"I really need to get on your site ASAP..." insists the caller.

"Sorry, we're not related to the Chispa dating app. Wrong number."

They beg her, "Can't you connect me to the right person?"

Listening to Sara patiently explain – again and again – that she's not tech support for a dating app reminds me of how often Jesus had to clarify his mission for those who misunderstood him. People sought a political savior or miracle worker, but Jesus kept emphasizing a different purpose.

Despite all the parables, analogies, metaphors, and symbols Jesus used, he was clear and repetitive about one thing in particular—love—the chispa that lights everything else.

When he said to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind," and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39), he pointed to the fire that kindles true connection, purpose, and transformation.

Like a single chispa that can ignite a flame, love sets everything in motion—whether it's changing a life through a children's book, finding a life partner, or growing closer to God by following Jesus' example.

To be clear, this columnist does not endorse the dating app in question. I'm already locked into a lifetime subscription with my wife, Becky.

It's not the fleeting spark

of romance I'm looking for, but a different kind of spark: one that ignites compassion, healing, and humility. These days, I find myself affirming the love that kindles true connection, purpose, and transformation – like Jesus taught.

How can we all become more fluent in the amor that demonstrates empathy? An amor that humbles us across differences?

In Greek, this type of amor is described as agape—a love that is unconditional, selfless, sacrificial. It's the choice to love regardless of circumstances or feelings.

In English, it might seem that Chispa, the app, and Chispa Project, the non-profit, offer the same thing—a spark of love. Make no mistake, both are important and necessary, but they are different.

Chispa, the app, offers a chance at romantic love. Chispa Project, the non-profit, encourages the agape love for our neighbors.

I keep telling Sara that she should charge a minimum donation for each of the crisscrossed Chispa calls she gets, but she always mutters something about honesty and goofy dad ideas.

But now the choice is yours—what will you do to spark agape in whatever Chispa you end up calling? What chispa will you ignite in your community?

*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. ★*

## Kiwanis Plans Fine Arts Fundraiser



Image shows examples of artwork created by Debbie Vinograd that has been donated for a fundraiser for the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta and the Sacramento Symphonic Winds. Photo courtesy of Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta

### Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta News Release

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta is hosting a unique fine arts fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, July 20 at The Villas Clubhouse. Proceeds will benefit both the Kiwanis Club and the Sacramento Symphonic Winds.

The event will feature original works by celebrated Berkeley artist Debbie Vinograd, who spent more than 40 years exploring a variety of painting styles inspired by artists such as Van Gogh, Mark Rothko and Leonora Carrington.

Now transitioning into assisted living and no longer painting, Vinograd hopes to see her artwork find new homes in appreciative households.

She also takes great joy in knowing that her art will support the meaningful efforts of Kiwanis and the Sacramento Symphonic Winds, which provides quality musical experiences and supports local musicians.

Rancho Murieta residents who attend the fundraiser will receive a piece of Vinograd's artwork in exchange for a donation, typically between \$10 and \$20.

Complimentary treats will be provided by The Local Bean Café. ★

**WE SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDERS**

**MPG**  
Messenger Publishing Group

**Harrah's**  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
IONE, CA

**WHERE MILLIONAIRES ARE MADE!**

Must be 21 years of age or older to gamble. **Know When To Stop Before You Start®.**  
1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537). See official rules at Caesars Rewards Center.