

Pickleball Club Hosts Car Show, Chili Cook-Off

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Super Diamond Shines at Lake Clementia Amphitheater

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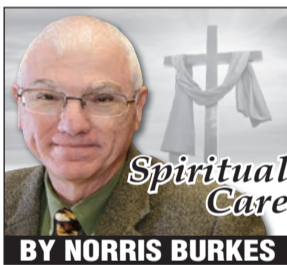
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KEY FACTORS TO MAKE PLAYOFFS



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THE PENDING DEPORTATION OF ROGER WILLIAMS



PAGE 4

Sports Stars Golf Gold Rush Classic



Former Sacramento Kings player Scot Pollard speaks with other participants before the Gold Rush Classic Pro-Am Golf Tournament at Rancho Murieta Country Club on Aug. 8. It was only the third time Pollard had played golf since his heart transplant a year ago.

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A revival of the famous golf tournament that first put Rancho Murieta on the map decades ago returned for its sixth edition at Rancho Murieta Country Club on Aug. 7 and 8.

The centerpiece of the Gold Rush Classic – “Where the Stars & Guitars Shine” – was the celebrity Pro-Am golf tournament, featuring 20 stars including Sacramento Kings player

Malik Monk, retired football great Tim Brown and retired baseball standout Greg Vaughn.

However, the star attraction was former Sacramento Kings player Scot Pollard. Although he has played in past Gold Rush Classic tournaments, this year’s event marked only his third time on the golf course since undergoing a heart transplant a year ago. His journey was recently featured in the ESPN documentary “Heart of Pearl,” which aired on Father’s Day.

The two-day event also featured

a range of major attractions, including a celebrity draft party, a \$1 million hole-in-one contest, an awards ceremony and a community concert headlined by the country band Moonshine Crazy. The concert took place at the Adkins Family Vineyards stage in Sheldon and was open to all residents.

Most of the funds raised went to two life-changing charities: Jordan’s Guardian Angels and Pearls of Life.

Jordan’s Guardian Angels, the primary beneficiary since the first Gold
Continued on page 3

Carrillo Resigns from RMA Board



Director Danny Carrillo announced his resignation from the Rancho Murieta Board of Directors on Aug. 8. File photo by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- Four months after a rift between Rancho Murieta Association Director Danny Carrillo and the other board members became public, Carrillo resigned on Aug. 8, stating that his departure would allow him to speak more freely about the issues facing the association.

In an email to General Manager Rod Hart, Board President Patrick O’Hern and the River Valley Times, Carrillo said his resignation was effective immediately.

“Over the past two years, I have become increasingly concerned that certain board practices do not align with the fiduciary standards set out in the Davis-Stirling Act and our own bylaws,” he wrote. “Despite repeated efforts to offer informed, constructive feedback and encourage widely used leadership-training programs, these ideas have not been considered or implemented.

Carrillo, a 40-year resident of the community, said his goal has always been to help build a strong, transparent and well-governed community.

He said that after he submitted a proposal earlier this year to form a Leadership & Communications Improvement Committee, it was never placed on the board agenda for open discussion, despite his repeated requests and “the support of many community members.”

“In my experience, the board’s messaging strategies have had a discouraging effect on members who raised concerns,” he wrote. “Stepping down allows me to speak more freely about these issues while remaining an engaged member of the association.

When asked for
Continued on page 4

Group Analyzing Water Master Plan Delivers Report



Four members of the working group that analyzed the Integrated Water Master Plan deliver their findings at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Improvement Committee meeting on Aug. 13. From left are Janis Echard, Jim Farrell, Eric Houston and John Merchant.

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A four-member working group appointed to examine questions about Rancho Murieta’s draft Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP) presented its report to the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Improvements Committee

on Aug. 13. Two primary issues emerged at the meeting. First, the report concluded that three major assumptions in the 2024 master plan update were not supported by facts, as well as other findings. Second, the community urgently needs a secondary water source, which, for now, could only come from groundwater. While the secondary supply issue generated considerable discussion,

the report did not dwell on it, as the district had already hired Water System Consultants (WSC) to conduct a groundwater analysis, including a well-siting study.

At the close of the discussion, the committee voted to forward the group’s 12-page report – “Work Group Report: IWMP Questions, Issues and Findings and Recommended Next Steps & Guiding

Principles to Advance Water Planning” – to the full board for consideration on Aug. 20. The report and meeting audio are available in the Aug. 13 Improvement Committee’s meeting packet on the district’s website.

Group Formation

The working group was created on April 16 when Board President John Merchant won
Continued on page 5



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Kids Return to School at Cosumnes Elementary



Spirits are high as Cosumnes River Elementary students return to school on Aug. 14. At right, 8-year-old Aleysa Macias poses under the balloon arch. Above, Kiwanis Club President Bill Kenny, wearing a safety vest and helmet, directs traffic in front of the school. New Principal Ashley Hannon welcomed students as parents ushered them through the gate. "It's going to be an amazing school year," she said. "I'm looking forward to getting to know the kids and the families." Photos by Gail Bullen




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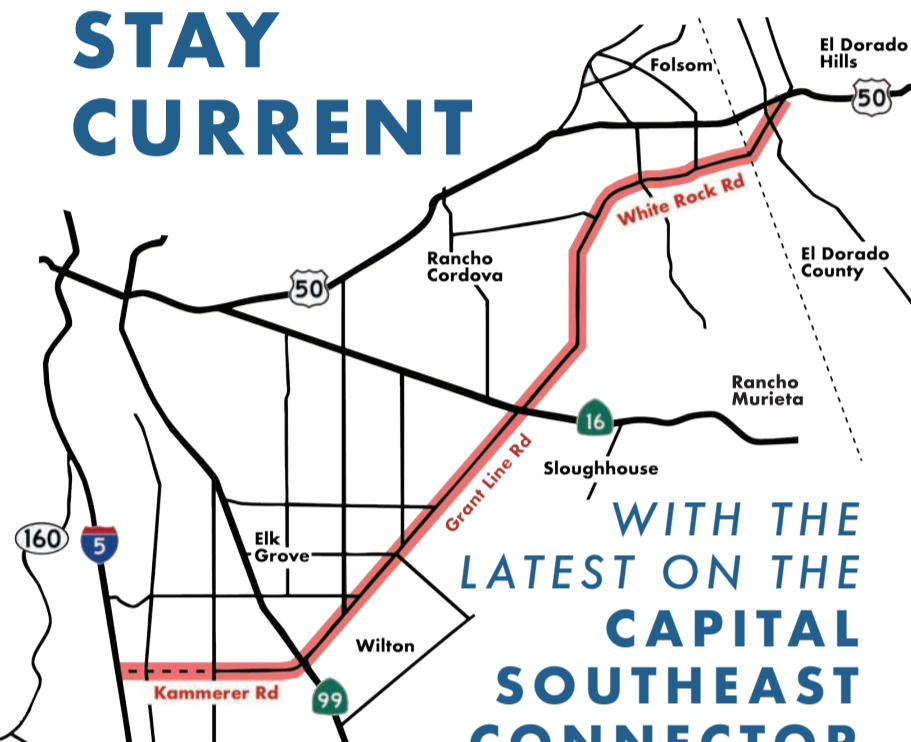
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Sports Stars Golf Gold Rush Classic



The 20 sports celebrities participating in the tournament pose for a group photo.

Continued from page 1

Rush Classic, is a Sacramento-based foundation leading a large-scale research effort to understand and treat Jordan's Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder in children. The condition has also been linked to Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and even cancer.

Dawn Pollard founded Pearls of Life in 2024 while her husband was awaiting a heart transplant. The nonprofit is dedicated to raising awareness about organ donation and supporting families facing the emotional and financial challenges of the transplant process.

The event also raised funds for Make-A-Wish, First Tee of Sacramento, and local youth sports and community programs in Rancho Murieta.

The organizer was longtime resident John Jacobs, who works to make the Gold Rush Classic better every year.

"It was the best one ever," he said. "We had our best field of celebrities, including Scot Pollard and Tim Brown, and other friends; some have been returning for five years."

Jacobs recruited 20 celebrities to play in the golf tournament. All of the athletes were retired from professional sports except Sacramento Kings player Malik Monk.

Football was well represented, with Tim Brown, Pete Shaw, Mervyn Fernandez, Dwight Hicks, Mike Meriweather, Anthony Miller, Ron Fellows, Mike Sherrard, and Mike Shumann in the lineup. Basketball players included Scot

Pollard, Monk, Bobby Jackson and Kenny Thomas.

Baseball stars were also in attendance, among them Kyle Draper, Jerry Royster, Ray Durham and Greg Vaughn, who divides his time between Sloughhouse and Las Vegas and is a member of the Rancho Murieta Country Club.

Jacobs said the 10 a.m. tournament moved at a good pace, with all participants back at the clubhouse by 4:30 p.m. He was especially pleased to see young fans on the course seeking autographs from the celebrities.

He added that it was great to see the community come out to enjoy the event, particularly the hole-in-one contest.

"I wish even more would come out and see it," he said.

The Gold Rush Classic relied on the generosity of its many sponsors.

"Without our sponsors, we wouldn't be here," Jacobs said.

He gave special thanks to title sponsor Karen Hoberg of Rancho Murieta Homes & Land, Envision Realty Services, as well as Planned Solutions, Adkins Family Vineyard, the Sheldon Inn and Elk Grove Honda.

Jacobs said the event would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers. Twenty-three served as ambassadors at various holes, providing players with food and drinks and offering tips on how to approach the next shot. An additional 28 volunteers assisted in various capacities.

He credited his top assistant, Sherri

Evpak, for her vital role in making the event a success.

"If I am the 1, then she is the 1A," he said.

A highlight of the event was the awards ceremony following the tournament. First place went to the team led by Malik Monk, which included Jake Adkins, Ryan Winther, Isaac Sanchez and Jesse Cesares.

Mike Shumann won the celebrity shootout, edging out Greg Vaughn in a playoff.

The event wrapped up on Friday with a community concert headlined by the country band Moonshine Crazy, which was returning for a second year. Held on the stage at Adkins Family Vineyards in Sheldon, the concert drew about 250 attendees, who traveled to and from the venue by bus.

Jacobs welcomed the return of Scot and Dawn Pollard.

"Scot was so instrumental in getting this off the ground. He was one of the first celebrities to tell me yes," he said. "He and Dawn have been so supportive ever since."

Before the shotgun start, Pollard spoke about their new charity. He was the first to address the crowd after radio broadcaster Frank Larosa gathered the 20 celebrities on the hill across from the pro shop for introductions and a briefing on the tournament rules.

"It's called Pearls of Life. It's named after my dad, Pearl. He died waiting for a transplant, which would never come, because he was a giant, and in 1991,



Sacramento Kings player Malik Monk, who says he doesn't consider himself a celebrity, led his team to first place in the tournament.



Ray Durham prepares to try a root beer float offered by volunteer Jan Valine, who spiked the beverage with homemade moonshine. Durham is a former baseball player.

transplanting a giant was impossible," Pollard said. "To this day, I'm still the tallest person who has ever had a transplant."

Pollard explained that Pearls of Life encourages people to consider becoming organ donors. "We are not trying to shove it down your throat," he said. "Please just educate yourself."

He thanked attendees for their support that day, saying it would enable Pearls of Life to make a donation to the Joe Baretta Heart Foundation in Nashville, Tennessee, where he had undergone his transplant.

"They are building a house for people who have to travel for a transplant, like we did," he said. "We were just going down to Nashville for three days of testing to see if they would put me on the transplant list, and it turned into three months."

Pollard noted that his wife, Dawn, serves as president of the charity, while he is the volunteer spokesman.

"We are going to try to keep helping other people with whatever time I've got left with this gift," he said.

See more photos from the event at the-rivervalleytimes.com. ★

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Carrillo Resigns from RMA Board

demanding considerable effort and dedication, and to be met with indifference is disheartening," Carrillo said. "This lack of support raises questions about the board's willingness to provide change."

O'Hern told him that agenda items are added at the discretion of the general manager, the board president or any two board members.

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

"It is beyond the scope and authority of a single board member to establish or rename a committee without the support and majority vote of the board, particularly one which may create the illusion that the committee is in some way in charge of directing Rancho Murieta Association leadership," O'Hern added.

Carrillo didn't attend the July board meeting and tendered his resignation on Aug. 8.

This story is also online at therivervalleytimes.com. ★

Continued from page 1

comment on Aug. 8, O'Hern provided the following statement.

"The Rancho Murieta Board of Directors acts in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Rancho Murieta Association as well as the laws of the State of California. The board endeavors to protect the lawful rights of its members, its employees, and the board itself.

"We are very careful adhering to our fiduciary duties, and if we have any concerns, we act after advice of counsel."

O'Hern concluded his statement by thanking Carrillo for his service and wishing him the best in the future.

Background

Carrillo was first elected to the board in November 2020 and re-elected in November 2023. His term was set to expire in November 2026. Based on past practice, the board will solicit candidates

for the vacant seat and appoint a director to serve the remainder of his term.

The rift involving Carrillo first became public during a contentious board meeting on April 15.

Speaking during public comments, Carrillo said his fellow board members had quietly formed a committee to discuss matters requiring a closed session and had excluded him from its meetings. He said he had been accused of disclosing confidential information, a charge he categorically denied.

He said his attempts to communicate with staff, the board and legal counsel had gone unanswered.

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

Director Scott Adams defended the board's actions, confirming that the executive session committee was formed with

the advice of legal counsel.

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

Carrillo also proposed forming a Leadership & Community Improvement Committee to help the association recommit to transparency and open dialogue, though he did not request that it be placed on a future agenda.

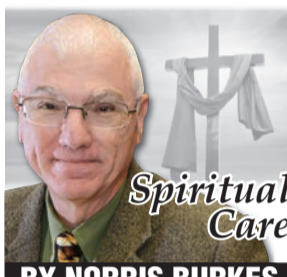
Carrillo didn't attend the May board meeting. However, speaking during public comments at the June 17 Board meeting, he stated that his efforts to get his committee proposal on the board agenda had been in vain.

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

"The preparation of my proposal

The Pending Deportation of Roger Williams

By Jeffery Jones and Norris Burkes



With all the recent swarm of INS arrests, I feel fortunate they aren't deporting any white male Baptists such as myself.

I can hear you saying, "Oh Norris, don't be ridiculous. You're 'America's Favorite Chaplain' - a National Treasure."

Trustfully, I felt safe until my new friend, Professor Jeffrey Jones shared a story he wrote called, "The Attempted Deportation of Roger Williams."

Jones is a Baptist like me, so Roger Williams is our main guy.

According to Jones, Williams arrived February 5, 1631 in the Boston harbor on the Lyon. He came with other migrants seeking to escape the religious and political oppression of English Puritans. He had feared his unorthodox religious views would get him arrested in England.

He hoped to find greater freedoms in Boston but was soon forced to migrate again, this time to Salem. Even there, however, he encountered religious restrictions imposed by both church and state.

That summer he migrated to Plymouth. He spent a year there before his growing family found bigger accommodations back in Salem, Massachusetts.

At first, the town welcomed his return. A local church asked him to be their teacher and the Williams family settled into a comfortable house.

While Roger served the church, he simultaneously sought to develop relationships with local Native Americans. However, political leaders back in Boston Massachusetts expressed concern over Williams' unorthodox beliefs and most especially on his view of Native American land ownership.

Town leaders met with him on several occasions demanding his silence on these controversial topics. At first, Williams agreed to accommodate their wishes, but it wasn't long before he found that silence in the face of oppression is not a viable option.

Most significantly, he opposed the government's attempt to enforce the first four of the Ten Commandments. Williams believed that government had no role to play in one's personal faith.

Williams objected with succinct clarity, "Forced worship stinks in God's nostrils."

His protest threatened the puritan arrangement of joining the church with the state, an essential part of the Puritan vision of the "City on the hill."

Williams would not go unchallenged.

Religious and civic leaders saw him as a threat to colony unity and demanded Williams' banishment. The magistrates agreed. And on a frigid November day, Williams received a removal

order telling him to self-deport within six weeks.

Williams happened to be very ill at the time, so the magistrates permitted him to stay until spring, provided he did not speak publicly. With no official church position, he wisely agreed to silence.

However, Williams continued to meet with a small group of friends in his home. The magistrates saw those meetings as a clear violation of their agreement and immediately sent agents to deport Williams on the next ship.

Warned of his pending arrest and near certain death if he remained in Salem, Williams risked life and limb as a fugitive in the wilderness.

Nearly dead, he stumbled into sanctuary with the Native Americans he had befriended and whose language he knew. The food and shelter they provided enabled him to regain his strength.

He then established a colony in Providence Rode Island where his religious freedom became a reality with the creation of the first Baptist church in America.

Jones and I see how Williams' story offers challenging insights about oppression and freedom, brutality and compassion. Today, few can really say they aren't next, even a Baptist dude such as myself.

Disclaimer: Roger Williams was an "American Treasure." I'm not. But there is talk about sending me back to Texas.

Sign up to receive this column by email at <https://thechaplain.net/columns/> Contact Chaplain Norris at comment@thechaplain.net ★

MEMORIAL

CHARLENE (MAYFIELD) HESS • 6/10/1945-7/24/2025

Charlene Hess, 35+ year resident of Rancho Murieta, passed away peacefully at the hospital following a brief illness.



never missed a chance to dance. She loved to travel and had a deep affection for country music, jewelry, horses and rescuing wayward dogs.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Charlene spent her early years in South Carolina and Ohio before moving to Rancho Cordova in her teens. A graduate of Folsom High School's Class of 1963, she went on to build a life filled with connection and joy.

Charlene's career centered around office administration, with roles at the Department of Labor and Gibson Wine Company in Elk Grove. She later found her niche in RM real estate and served for 12 years as Membership Director at RMCC. Known for her polished style and people skills, Char brought warmth and order to every office she touched.

An active woman, Charlene taught her children to snow and water ski, played softball and volleyball, and

She was a devoted mother to Jennifer Hess Gunn and Michael (Taj) Hess, and cherished grandmother to Jake Hess, Cameron Hess and Ryan Gunn. She is survived by her children and grandsons; her brother Jim (Robin) Mayfield; niece Melissa Mayfield; nephew Jimmy Mayfield, whom she adored; and beloved longtime companion John Platt. Her dear friends, Bunko group, and RM Women's Club held a special place in her heart.

A Celebration of Life Picnic will be held Saturday, Aug. 23 from 5-8 p.m. at Lake Clementia in Rancho Murieta. In lieu of flowers, kindly consider donating to the Sacramento SPCA in her memory.



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Group Analyzing Water Master Plan Delivers Report

Continued from page 1

board approval to form the panel and appointed himself chair. He named Operations Director Eric Houston and community members Janis Eckard and Jim Farrell to serve with him.

Eric Houston

Houston, a 19-year water industry professional, was appointed as the new operations director last November. He explained the purpose of the new report at the meeting.

"This was to tie up a lot of questions that have been asked not only by board members, but by the community," Houston said. "The conclusion is we still need a consultant to step in and help wrap up the Integrated Water Master Plan, because there still are unanswered questions and some data that needs to be reworked... so that we have good numbers for what we would look like during a severe drought, when we could potentially run out of water."

Reworked data will be incorporated into an Urban Water Supply Plan, which the state will require once the district adds 35 more water connections and becomes classified as an urban water district subject to stricter regulations. The board is expected to contract with Water System Consultants for that work.

John Merchant

Merchant, a retired businessman who has lived in Rancho Murieta for many years, has served as vice president of Saving Our Lakes & Open Spaces (SOLOS) since its founding in 2015, advocating for responsible development. The group later shifted

"I can't control it completely, and I may get screwed eventually, but I want to do everything that I can to minimize the risk."

—John Merchant, Integrated Water Master Plan working group member

its focus to water issues. Merchant said he first became involved with water in 2010. He chairs the district's Improvements Committee.

Merchant said the current and past studies have been fairly consistent in estimating water demand. The problem, he added, has been the "so out of kilter" figures used to project water supply.

Merchant said consultant Lisa Maddaus noted in the current water master plan that Rancho Murieta's water system is at high risk, a concern not raised in earlier reports. He added, however, that the plan does not fully account for the worst-case scenario: the 1976-77 drought, when no water could be pumped from the river. He emphasized that planning should be based on the most challenging but realistic conditions to ensure the community's protection.

"I can't control it completely, and I may get screwed eventually, but I want to do everything that I can to minimize the risk," he said.

Another issue, he said, is that the study stops with 2022 data.

"That's a problem when 2024 was a monumental year, with extreme heat, high evaporation and 52 days over 100 degrees."

Merchant said he has never opposed development in the community, noting that reasonable

growth could help address many of the community's infrastructure and revenue challenges.

"But until we secure a secondary source of supply, there just isn't water to do that," he said.

He reinforced his point with a bank analogy: "I'm not doing anything unless that water is in the bank, and I can see it, feel it and touch it."

Janis Eckard

Eckard, a licensed real estate broker, has also been a developer. She co-owned a construction company with her husband, who built and designed approximately 150 homes in the community.

While she does not oppose development, Eckard has long questioned past district water studies that continued to raise the number of homes supposedly supported by the community's water supply, even though the actual supply never increased.

"I've been coming in front of this board since 2006; I feel like the little gnat that has irritated everybody for years," she said.

Eckard said the working group concluded that three water supply assumptions in the 2024 Integrated Water Master Plan were not grounded in fact.

On Lake Clementia as a water source, she explained, "We're not permitted to do it. We don't know if our water

treatment plant can clear it... so we took Clementia out because we don't have the right at this time to use it," indicating that securing permits from the State Water Board can take years.

Regarding the use of recycled water as an offset to potable water, she said the math in the water plan "doesn't work," and the infrastructure needed for residential use is lacking. At present, all recycled water is directed to the country club.

For flash board capacity, Eckard pointed out that the water plan counted storage gained by installing flash boards on the reservoir dams, something the state does not allow.

"Those three assumptions alone change the results of this study by over 2,000 acre-feet of water," she said. "I want to let that sink in for a second. We don't use that much in a year."

Jim Farrell

Farrell and his wife returned to Rancho Murieta a few years ago after retiring. He began attending board meetings and soon developed an interest in water issues.

"My work experience was dedicated to developing strategic plans for providing healthcare services to communities," he said. "The only thing that might be more important than healthcare is assuring that we have water."

Farrell argued against designing a water system based on emergency conservation levels: an assumption used in earlier studies, according to comments at the meeting.

"The state requires plans for droughts, such

as reducing use by 50%, but that doesn't mean you design your entire system around that," he said.

Farrell emphasized the need to calculate water demands for the 350 already entitled (county-approved) properties in the Riverview and Residences subdivisions: a step that has yet to be taken.

"We know we have a shortage. How much? How big is it?" he asked.

Farrell also referred to the Integrated Water Master Plan's title as a misnomer.

"It's not a plan until the board picks the priorities, lays out action steps, sets realistic timelines and measurements... then you figure out how you're going to finance it. That's when it becomes a plan."

Randy Jenco

Engineer Randy Jenco is a board member who serves on the Improvements Committee with Merchant. He was persistent in seeking an engineering-based answer to the water supply problem, focusing on the specific number and capacity of wells required.

"If I do a test well and I know how much water it's bringing up, how many wells do I need based on that information?" he asked.

Background on the Water Plan Process

Updating the Integrated Water Master Plan became a focus in 2022 when Rancho North updated its application for 697 lots with the county. Developer comments at the time heightened urgency. The district's request for proposals drew only one

bid – a joint submission from Maddaus Water Management and Adkins Engineering – which the board approved in December 2022.

Maddaus later concluded that the community could meet future water needs under certain assumptions and mitigations, but SOLOS and Eckard challenged several of those assumptions from the outset. Despite acknowledging concerns, the board took no major action until the 317-page draft was completed in October 2024.

The board then initiated a 45-day review period and sought an outside technical review. Little progress was made until January, when Houston advised against finalizing the water plan, citing its lack of a clear path forward. He suggested that the district develop an Urban Water Supply Plan instead, which the state will require once the district reaches 3,000 water connections and becomes subject to new regulatory requirements as an urban water supplier.

Houston told the board he had asked Water System Consultants – which recently developed an Urban Water Supply Plan and Water Vision report for the City of Folsom – to provide a scope of work for a similar plan for the district.

While the board was taken aback at WSC's initial cost estimate for both documents, the district has since contracted with the consulting firm for the groundwater study and is expected to hire it to prepare the Urban Water Supply Plan when it becomes a state requirement. ★



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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.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SOLOS Plans Ice Cream Social at Riverview Park

Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces (SOLOS) invites the community to an ice cream social from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 at Riverview Park.

The event will feature complimentary ice cream from an ice cream truck and live music by the New Age Quintet. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, along with a light dinner, snacks and their favorite beverage.

SOLOS will share updates on local development and have merchandise available for purchase. Donations are welcome to support the group's ongoing efforts.

Coffee With a Cop Set for Sept. 10

The East Division of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office will host a Coffee With a Cop gathering from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Starbucks.

A flyer for the event reads, "We invite you to stop by and join us for conversation."

Music Mike Slated for Sept. 21

The Kiwanis Club will sponsor the annual Music Mike Concert at 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21 at Lake Clementia Amphitheater. Families can enjoy childhood favorites as Music Mike entertains with songs and movement activities.

The free event is open to Rancho Murieta families and their guests.

Kiwanis Club Slates Sale of Farm to Fork Tickets

Tickets for the Kiwanis Farm to Fork Dinner, Saturday, Sept. 27 at Rancho Murieta Country Club, can be purchased online at rnmkiwanis.org. Tickets are \$80 each plus a \$2.75 processing fee. Tables will accommodate 10 people and "tickets bought together, sit together."

We are also looking for all the talented table hostesses out there who provided a centerpiece for their table and are willing to help out again.

For more information, or to volunteer to be a table hostess, and/or to pay by cash or check, please contact Carol Prinzo at

916-354-9688 or Jeannette Edwards at 408-515-2636.

Summerfest 2025 Tickets Available Online

The annual Summerfest carnival will take place at Stonehouse Park on Friday, Oct. 3, and Saturday, Oct. 4. Advance tickets are available online for \$35 per day, with a \$20 discount when purchasing four tickets. At the gate, tickets will be \$40. Children 4 and under are admitted free.

The event is only open to community residents and their guests. Purchase tickets at summerfest-ranchomurieta.org/tickets.

RM Corvette Club Slates Poker Run

The Rancho Murieta Corvette Club will host a Poker Run on Saturday, Oct. 12, to raise funds for its annual Thanksgiving Dinner project, benefiting families in the River Valley area of South Sacramento County. Over the years, the club's effort has grown from donating turkeys to the Sacramento Food Bank

to providing complete holiday dinners to families in need within the local community. This Poker Run is dedicated to Jerry McDonald, a past president and longtime member of the club, who passed away in 2024.

A Poker Run is a driving event in which participants follow a predetermined scenic route, stopping at five designated locations to collect playing cards. The goal is to assemble the best poker hand and win prizes. This year's route winds through foothill and lower Sierra roads and concludes at Moonraker Millhouse Brewery in Cameron Park for lunch and prize distribution. Written directions will be provided to help participants stay on course. The drive takes approximately 90 minutes.

The event is open to all vehicles, not just Corvettes: sports cars, sport sedans, SUVs, and trucks are welcome. The \$30 entry fee includes two poker hands: one for the driver and one for the navigator. Entries are due by Oct. 3. To participate, download the entry form at ranchomurieta.corvettes.com. ★

Transportation Agency Seeks Input

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Sacramento County Department of Transportation is inviting Rancho Murieta residents to complete an online survey as part of a planning effort to improve evacuation routes and emergency access along Jackson Highway during wildfires and floods.

Travis Shappell, a consulting team member, is conducting the survey for the transportation department, which is developing a Rancho Murieta Resilience Plan. Shappell said the goal of the survey is to gauge how well the community is prepared for the risks and hazards associated with extreme weather events.

In addition to the initial survey, the project will include a series of in-person community work sessions. Residents who want to stay informed can provide their email address through the survey and should also watch for future announcements, Shappell said.

Access the survey at <https://shorturl.at/URuCD> or by scanning the QR code.

The transportation study was launched following behind-the-scenes advocacy by three representatives of the Rancho Murieta Regional Fire Safe Council. They received

strong support from former Sacramento County Supervisor Sue Frost after the 2023 flooding.

As a result, the transportation department secured a \$400,000 Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant last summer to study ways to improve evacuation and emergency access along Jackson Highway.

Since then, the agency has hired a team of consultants to conduct the study. It includes Sherwood Design Engineers, DKS Associates, Wildland Resource Management and Shappell's firm, Resilient Communities.

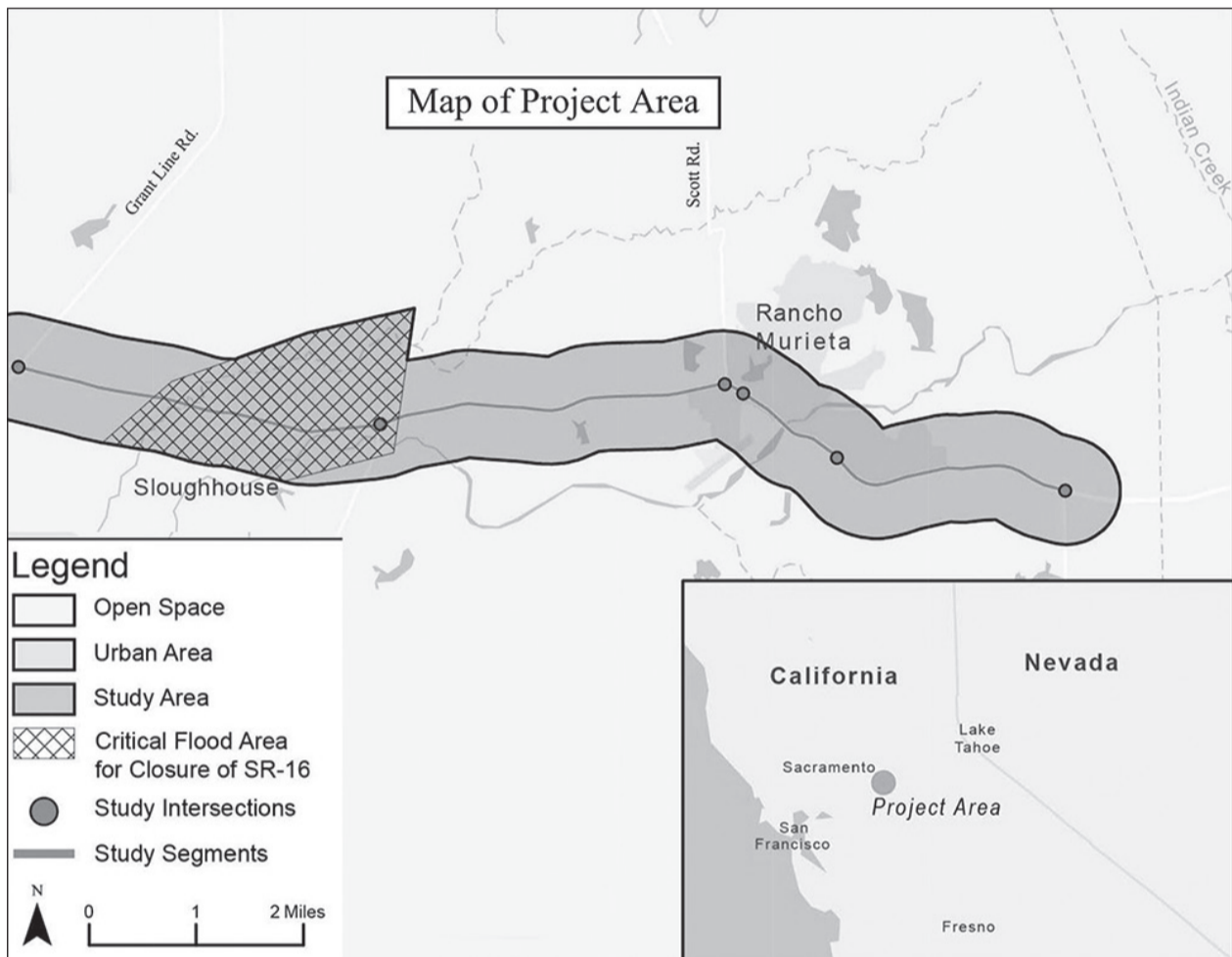
"Our scope is community engagement, which includes this survey, key partner interviews and public community work sessions," Shappell said.

Although problems with Jackson Highway's infrastructure had long been on the Fire Safe Council's radar, members gained little traction until flooding from the 2023 storm isolated Rancho Murieta, drawing national attention to the region.

The study "will



This QR code links directly to the survey.



A graphic highlights the study area for a \$400,000 Caltrans grant awarded to the Sacramento County Department of Transportation (SacDOT) to explore ways to improve wildfire evacuation routes for Rancho Murieta residents and maintain access during floods. Courtesy photo

undertake a comprehensive study of wind-driven fire and flooding risks on the highway with a specific focus on six critical intersections between Grant Line Road and Ione Road in Sacramento County and flooding in the Sloughhouse area," according to the grant application.

The application also noted that the consultant hired by the transportation department would identify

infrastructure improvements and develop a funding and implementation plan to meet Caltrans requirements for highway improvement funding.

The Fire Safe Council representatives who worked with Frost to pursue outside funding for highway improvements were Greg Pryor, John Merchant and John Long. Within the community, they are often referred to as

the "Three Amigos."

Pryor, a retired firefighter, serves as president of the Fire Safe Council. Merchant, a retired businessman, is currently president of the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board.

Long, a retired traffic engineer with 46 years of experience, previously served on the Rancho Murieta Association's Emergency Preparedness

Committee, which led to the creation of the Fire Safe Council. He has continued to serve as an advisor to the council since then.

The county has asked Long to serve as an unpaid advisor for the study, which he expects will take at least two years, though he is hopeful for a shorter timeline.

This story is online at therivervalleytimes.com. ★

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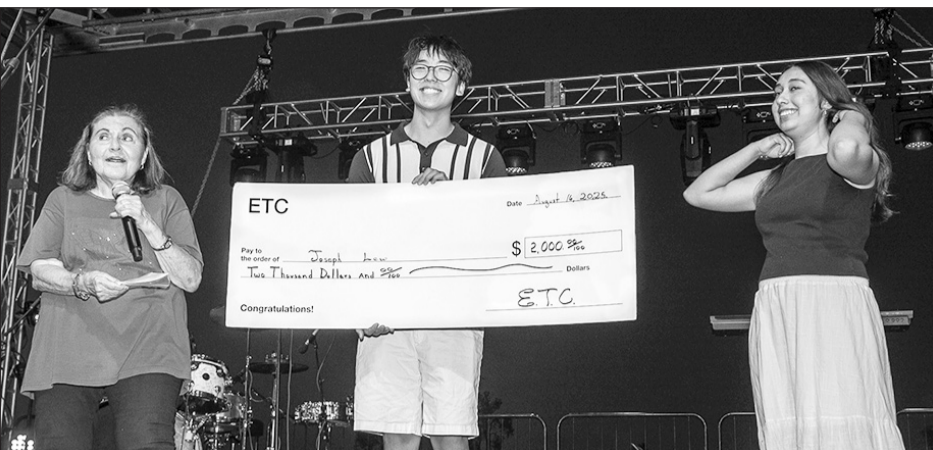
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Essay Earns Lew a \$2,000 Scholarship



Last year's scholarship winner, Seline Tijero, right, presents a \$2,000 check to Joseph Lew at the Aug. 16 ETC concert, as Philanthropy Chair Stephanie Stanislaus highlights the group's mission to keep the arts alive in the community.

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- Entertainment, Theater & Culture for Rancho Murieta (ETC) awarded its annual \$2,000 scholarship to graduating senior Joseph Lew during the Aug. 16 concert at Lake Clementia Amphitheater. Last year's recipient, Seline Tijero, presented the check to Lew as part of the ceremony.

Lew, who just graduated from John Adams Academy in El Dorado Hills, will attend Folsom Lake College this fall and plans to transfer to UC Davis to study medicine.

Lew said his high school theater experience helped shape his goal to become a pediatrician.

"Well, I've always been interested in helping other people, and being an older kid in high school really helped me to find my passion in helping little kids," he explained. "That led me to want pediatric medicine."

He added that performing taught him to be a mentor and bring joy to others, something he hopes to carry into medicine: "Going to the hospital is

kind of a scary thing, so I want to bring my sense of joy to doing that."

Many in the audience probably recognized Lew from his role as a barista at The Local Bean, where he has worked two days a week for more than a year. He called the experience valuable: "Being a barista is a good first job that helps with people skills and teaches you how to work without a lot of stress," he said. "I've gotten to know a lot of people and gotten close to the regulars who pop in every day."

Lew's winning essay focused on the role of the arts in helping him avoid isolation and find personal growth.

After seeing a friend withdraw during the pandemic, he reflected that he, too was "stuck in a cycle of constant, dopamine-receiving activities." His turning point came when he joined a school musical: "Although I was initially apprehensive, I quickly grew to enjoy the experience." The essay concluded: "If I hadn't participated in my first production, I would still be stuck in my house, rotting away, a slave to my screen."

At the concert, ETC's

philanthropy chair, Stephanie Stanislaus, spoke about the organization's mission.

"I want to welcome all of you and thank each and every one of you for your participation and support of ETC, because without you, we could not do what we do, and that is keeping the arts alive in the community," she said.

She noted that ETC's philanthropy includes both awarding scholarships and providing arts grants to local schools.

ETC Board President JT Turner emphasized the program's importance: "Our annual scholarship program is one of the most meaningful things we do at ETC. It gives us a chance to recognize and support young people who are passionate about the arts, whether it's entertainment, theatre or culture. Presenting the award on stage each year is always a special moment."

"It's a reminder that while the concerts bring us together in the moment, we're also investing in the future of creativity and community."

This story is also online at therivervalleytimes.com.



Scholarship winner Joseph Lew is joined by his family before the ceremony. From left are brother Westly, father Peter, Joseph, sister-in-law Michaela and brother Nicholas.

How Experiencing the Arts Has Made Me a Better Person

By Joseph Lew
ETC Scholarship Winner

Engaging in the arts is something I've come to value deeply throughout my years of high school, and I believe it is essential for everyone to consider. Participation in these activities helps prevent a life of idleness and isolation, especially in a world where passive entertainment is increasingly accessible. But before diving more into that, let's start with a story that made me realize just how important this is.

When I was younger, I would frequently visit Los Angeles, where I often spent time with a family whose son was close to my age. He was imaginative, sociable and full of energy. We spent countless hours playing and creating fun games. However, when the pandemic struck, everything changed. Weeks quickly turned into months, and months into years. Everyone retreated to the safety of their homes, and comfort became our constant companion.

When the world finally started opening back up, most people tried to reclaim their sense of normalcy by reconnecting with friends, visiting parks and embracing the fresh air.

Unfortunately, it was a completely different story with my friend. When my family and I went to see him and his family, he didn't come out of his room at all, even though he knew we were there. His father admitted that he rarely left his room, only emerging for meals and spending most of his time playing video games with online friends. He had become disconnected not only from his peers but also his own family.

I eventually met with him, but he was almost completely unresponsive to me, barely saying a word, with his eyes constantly glued to his phone, any attempts at conversation falling flat. I couldn't help but think how different things had become and how easy it would have been for me to fall into the same trap.

Seeing someone act this way led me to reflect on my own habits and recognize that I had begun moving in a similar direction. I realized that I found myself stuck in a cycle of constant, dopamine-receiving activities, making me disengaged, unmotivated and opposed to social interactions. Activities like video games, watching YouTube and endless scrolling on social media had taken over my free time, to the point that doing anything else felt boring or even irritating.

Fortunately for me, all of those feelings began to change when I signed up for my first high school musical production of "The Sound of Music." Although I was initially apprehensive, I quickly grew to enjoy the experience. I realized I was looking forward to seeing the outcome of this show that I had been working on. I began to form meaningful connections, develop new skills and rediscover the value of being part of a community.

This led me to explore other electives, such as participating in my school's advanced choir. Each of these pursuits contributed to my personal growth by fostering discipline, teamwork and perseverance. They helped my self-confidence grow and made me more encouraging toward others.

These experiences taught me that getting out of your comfort zone is necessary for growth. While not everyone may be drawn to theater or choir at first, there is nothing wrong with trying something new. If I hadn't participated in my first production, I would still be stuck in my house, rotting away, a slave to my screen and a recluse to everyone around me.

I encourage everyone to try to stay away from isolation and seek opportunities that promote personal connections and self-improvement.

Taking small steps to pursue new interests can lead to significant personal transformation and a more fulfilling life.



Pickleball Club Hosts Car Show, Chili Cook-Off



Alan Chase wins the Best Domestic award for his yellow 2015 50th Anniversary Ford Mustang. He also organized the show.

Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club News Release

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- The weather lived up to the occasion when the Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club hosted the Hot August Ninth Car Show and Chili Cook-Off on Aug. 9 at Stonehouse Park.

Temperatures reached 104 degrees, but the heat didn't cool enthusiasm for the event. More than 30 vehicles and eight chili entries competed for prizes, according to organizer Alan Chase.



The Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club's first Hot August Ninth Car Show and Chili Cook-Off draws attendees to Stonehouse Park on Aug. 9. Courtesy photos



The chili cook-off proves to be a popular draw at the event.

"Everyone had a great time at the event," Chase said. "The wide variety and quality of vehicles entered into the show were outstanding, and many attendees commented on how good the show was, despite the heat."

Chase said the car show will become an annual event, with proceeds going toward the construction of additional pickleball courts

in Rancho Murieta.

The Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club is a local sports group exclusively for residents inside the gated community. Pickleball is widely regarded as the fastest-growing sport in the United States, which explains its popularity in Rancho Murieta.

For more photos, visit therivervalleytimes.com.



Jon Yager receives the Best Truck award for his red 1951 Ford F1.



The Best Exotic/European award goes to Becky Beer for her 2021 blue Porsche Targa.



Chili Cook-Off winners, from left, are Jan Detrick, first place; Teresa Wagoner, third place; and Emma Ercila, second place.

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Kings fans have been waiting for the next domino to fall, but Scott Perry has been playing his cards ever so close to the vest. Rumors abound regarding frontrunners Jonathan Kuminga, Austin Reeves, Russell Westbrook and more, but thus far teams are asking too much, and Scott Perry is unwilling to part with core pieces of the Kings roster.

Will there be a move that will bring excitement to Sacramento? My guess would be yes, but let's assume for just a moment that what you see is what you get to start the 2025/2026 season.

Here are the 4 key factors that need to take place for the team assembled as we know it now to make the playoffs.

Keegan Murray needs to shoot 40% or above from 3-point range and average 15 points per game.

Zach Lavine needs to settle in as the all-star he has been and be a team leader alongside Domantas Sabonis.

Significant playing time needs to come to Issac Jones, Devin Carter, and newcomer Nique Clifford. That means night in and night out consistent playing time for these youngsters.

Dennis Schroder must play like the veteran point guard he is, and value the basketball, while distributing the ball to shooters on the team. Schroder needs to play smart and drive when it's there and take the open shot when it comes to him.

Be the guy that Scott Perry traded for and don't try to do too much. There is talent all around him, so Schroder just needs to let the game come to him and take advantage of the experience he already has.

Are these 4 things doable? I absolutely believe they are, and I don't expect to see miracles overnight if Doug Christie follows this recipe.

There are multiple unknowns that would change these factors, among them being the potential loss of spark plug Malik Monk. Malik has been #1 in trade rumors, and other teams have not been jumping at the chance of having him on their team. This is largely because coach Christie insisted on pounding a square peg into a round hole last year when he put the ball in Monk's hand and said, "be a point guard."

Sadly, what Kings fans grew to realize is

Malik is not a point guard, it doesn't come naturally, and the experiment was a dismal failure.

As a result, Monk's value as a multi-faceted player took a hit, and the Kings are forced to offer him up as a #2 guard, but not much else.

For those of us that love Malik and his up-tempo game, it's hard to see him being disrespected by the league, and it's possible that this fan favorite will be wearing a Kings uniform on opening night. Worse things could happen, and I wish Malik all the best.

2026 could be a huge year for Malik if he returns to form, and I think the Sacramento Kings fans would like nothing more.

DeMar DeRozan is a great player that is not getting the praise he deserves. Able to play multiple positions if called upon, DeMar is capable of scoring from every corner of the court, and his pedigree is hard to find.

I believe the Kings need to value what they have already and not be too quick to move off DeRozan. Much like Dennis Schroder, DeMar needs to stay within his game, and his game can be something special.

Yes, Kings fans, there is a plethora of talent on this team just the way it's assembled, so let's get to know the newcomers and get ready to root them on.

As with all teams, chemistry will tell the tale, and if this team can identify who they are and play real team basketball, they can and will surprise a lot of NBA teams this season.

Power forwards are hard to come by, and the Kings already have one that is about to get away. Break out the wallet Mr. Ranadive and sign big man Trey Lyles before this free agent gets away. I'm a huge Trey Lyles fan and for good reason. He is the consummate team player and never complains. Excellent 3-point shooter that has a nice inside game and can rebound. Do not let this guy get away!

Stay tuned Kings fans. I have a feeling a move is coming soon!

All the best!

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

Social Security Matters

I'm Still Confused about Medicare

Part A and Part B Enrollment



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I'm 64 and still working full time, and plan to continue working at least until I'm 70 ~ it's a good job, and I enjoy it. My job comes with health insurance, so I don't really need additional coverage, but I understand I will be required to sign up for Medicare Part A anyway when I turn 65 next year. What I don't understand is Part B: A colleague of mine, who is a little older than I am, said she signed up for Part B because a penalty will be incurred if we wait until we retire from our jobs and actually need the additional insurance. I'm not sure she's right. Can you explain what I should do?

Signed: Confused About Medicare

Dear Confused: We're happy to assist you with understanding this. First, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization service) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65. If you do not plan to take your Social Security benefits yet, you can defer enrolling in Part A until you claim Social Security. But Medicare Part A is also free to those eligible for Social Security, so there is little reason not to enroll

in Part A at age 65 and, when you claim Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled.

Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is different. Part B is always optional because there is a premium associated with it (standard premium is \$185/month in 2025), but nearly everyone over age 65 requires healthcare coverage. If, however, you are employed and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants), then you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your creditable employer coverage ends. And you can do so without incurring a "late enrollment penalty" for enrolling in Part B outside of your Initial Enrollment Period (IEP). When your creditable coverage from your employer ends, you will enter an 8-month Medicare "special enrollment period" (SEP) which permits you to enroll in Part B without penalty.

Thus, as long as your employer coverage is "creditable," you can defer enrolling in Part B without penalty. FYI, you can also enroll in Part B a couple of months prior to your employer coverage ending, asking that your Part B coverage starts when your employer coverage ends, to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage. Note you will likely need your employer to provide you with proof of creditable coverage when you later enroll in Part B.

A couple of extra thoughts: If you require prescription

drug coverage when your employer coverage ends after age 65, you only have 63 days to acquire that drug coverage without incurring a "Part D" (drug plan) late enrollment penalty. So, if needed, you should not wait to get insurance coverage for prescription drugs after you employer coverage ends.

If you now have a Health Savings Account (HSA) through your employer, you should discontinue any HSA contributions well before (perhaps as much as six months before) your enrollment in Medicare Part A. That's because Part A is not considered a "high deductible" insurance plan (a "high deductible" plan is a requirement for having a Health Savings Account). If you do not have an HSA, you need not be concerned about this. If you do, we can also provide you with more info on this.

I hope this answers your questions, but we are always here to assist if you need anything further. Contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org, or at (800) 750-2622.

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Newsom's Congressional Redistricting Faces Hurdles



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

Gov. Gavin Newsom justifies — or rationalizes — his drive for a mid-decade reconfiguration of California's congressional districts as a heroic mission to thwart President Donald Trump's power grab.

Newsom, who seems to be edging ever closer to a 2028 presidential campaign, proposes to alter the state's 53 districts to shift five or six seats now held by Republicans into Democratic hands during the 2026 elections.

If successful, it would neutralize efforts by Texas Republicans to gerrymander its districts to gain a similar number of seats. Republicans hold a paper-thin majority in the House of Representatives and Trump has sought mid-decade redistricting in Texas and other red states to block Democrats from gaining control in 2026.

The Texas situation is in limbo because Democratic legislators have fled the state, but how long they can hold out is unclear. Newsom played host to some Texas Democrats last week as he talked up action in California, which would require voter approval in a November special election.

"I think the voters will approve it. I think the voters understand what's at stake," Newsom said on Friday. "We live in the most un-Trump

state in America."

Well maybe, but Democratic gerrymandering of California's districts will not be as easy as Republican gerrymandering in Texas.

In Texas, as in most states, the legislature controls redistricting. Under its current maps, enacted after the 2020 census, Republicans hold 25 of its 38 seats, Democrats have 12 and there's one vacancy.

Ironically, Democrats fare much better in Texas than Republicans do in California, where the GOP holds just nine of the state's 53 seats under maps drawn by an independent commission. Newsom, backed by Democratic legislative leaders, wants voters to set aside the commission's maps for as many as three election cycles and approve a new plan with more Democratic districts.

If Texas moves forward, the proposal, which has not been shared publicly, would require the California Legislature to place it on the ballot after lawmakers return next week from summer recess — and just four days to act under current law. However, the Legislature has often exempted itself from ballot measure deadlines, so one must assume that the proposal will make the ballot.

That's the easy part for Newsom. He would still have to persuade voters who are no more than lukewarm despite the unpopularity of Trump in California, according to private polling.

Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who championed the creation of an independent redistricting commission, says he'll oppose Newsom's plan and Charles Munger Jr., a wealthy scientist who bankrolled two ballot measures to create the commission, says he'll support an opposition campaign.

Given the stakes, Trump and Republicans would probably flood the state with opposition campaign money while Democrats would do the same, with even more money coming from labor unions and other Democratic allies.

Newsom also faces the possibility of legal battles, such as issues over what data he uses to draw the new districts.

The state commission used numbers from the 2020 census, which pegged California's population at 39,538,223. The latest estimate from the Department of Finance's demographic unit is 39,529,000, a tiny difference. However, there are also differences within the state, according to the state's estimates, with coastal counties tending to lose population while inland counties gaining.

Districts must be equal in population — within tight tolerances — but also must not disenfranchise protected ethnic groups, according to federal law.

These factors all could be bases for litigation, perhaps including intervention by Trump's Department of Justice.

After the 2000 census, the threat of federal intervention played a big role in the California Legislature's previous redistricting effort, blocking Democrats from drawing partisan maps.

Prolonged litigation could block Newsom's plan from taking effect in 2026 even if he gains voter approval this year. This game is just beginning.

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. ★

included in the census and declares that, going forward, they "WILL NOT BE COUNTED." Here he's going to run smack into the relevant legal texts.

Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution refers to "the Whole Number of free Persons," while the 14th Amendment says "the whole number of persons in each State." In a similar fashion, the U.S. code calls for a "tabulation of total population by States."

So it's hard to see how illegal immigrants can be excluded from the count. As it happens, they don't seem to have much of an effect on the partisan breakdown of congressional seats one way or the other. Although the highest number of illegal immigrants live in California, they are spread around the country, and there are also large numbers in Texas and Florida.

A change that Trump wanted in the 2020 census was the inclusion, once again, of a citizenship question. This is highly relevant information that it's entirely appropriate to ask.

There was a long period from the 19th century through 1950 when the survey had a citizenship question. Then, it was relegated to the so-called "long form." Finally, the long form itself was axed after 2000.

Now, it's considered a scandal to even think about reviving the question. Trump's proposal to ask the question on the 2020 census encountered stiff resistance and the Supreme Court squashed it.

By the way, non-citizens do have a notable impact on congressional apportionment. Recent research

by the Center for Immigration Studies found that all immigrants (naturalized citizens as well as all other categories of immigrants) shifted 14 congressional seats to Democratic states on net in 2020.

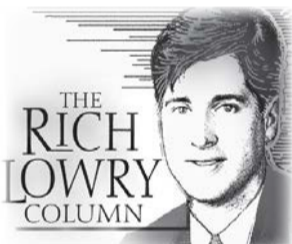
Non-citizens also distort the composition of congressional districts. According to the study, there are the same number of citizens in the 13 congressional districts with the highest share of non-citizens as in the 9 districts with the lowest share of non-citizens. In other words, the citizens in those 9 low-immigration districts get 4 fewer representatives than the citizens in the 13 high-immigration districts. It's one man, one vote -- with an asterisk.

To take an example from Texas, the Democratic-held 33rd district, where non-citizens are nearly 30% of the population, has 208,000 fewer voting-age citizens than the Texas 21st district. So the citizens in the 33rd district have marginally more clout and representation, thanks to a population tilted toward those who can't vote.

Ultimately, the way to diminish these effects is to reduce the level of immigration. Early indications are that there has been a large exodus of illegal immigrants since Trump's election, and the U.S. will have net negative migration for the first time in half a century. If Trump wants to fully capture the changes he's effecting in immigration policy, he should indeed want a new census -- in 2030.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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Trump Should Get His New Census -- in 2030

Trump wants a new census. If, by this, he means a snap-census before the scheduled 2030 survey, he's demanding that the federal government undertake a gargantuan task with minimal planning and no discernible source of funding. In statistical terms, it'd be like launching D-Day after a month's preparation.

If the White Queen believes six impossible things before breakfast, that the Census Bureau could pull this off would qualify as one of them. The agency couldn't even competently conduct the last regularly scheduled census in 2020.

Given that conducting the census is a core function of the federal government -- indeed, mandated by the Constitution -- it is outrageous that the last survey missed so badly. It undercounted Florida and a handful of other Red states (as well as Illinois) and overcounted New York and a number of Blue states (plus Ohio and Utah).

Because the apportionment of congressional seats depends on population as determined by the census, these were highly consequential errors that can't be allowed to happen again. There's no legal mechanism for fixing it, though. We just have to do better in 2030. Trump is also, understandably, chagrined that illegal immigrants are

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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 rmcscd.com.

Aug. 4

10:15p.m., Call came in from Bel Air about an altercation in the parking lot. Subjects gone on arrival. After further search, truck was located parked in the Murieta Parkway inbound lane. Patrol saw a subject exit the truck and depart the community on foot. Patrol recognized subject as a prior resident. Subject told patrol he had a verbal confrontation with a customer in front of Bel Air because "he was driving too fast." Subject was picked up by a separate vehicle shortly after.

Aug. 5

4 a.m., 3-4 male juveniles at Gazebo Park after hours. Subjects departed on arrival. Remaining in area to ensure area stays clear.

Aug. 6

7:50 p.m., Parking complaint: vehicle parked too close to the intersection. Located driver, advised of the parking violation, requested to move vehicle approximately 15-20 feet away from intersection; driver complied without incident.

Aug. 7

6:10 p.m., Complaint of a pest control representative door to door soliciting; subject wearing black T-shirt and gray shorts. Located subject at Pescado Drive near 6

Park. Contacted contractor and advised of no soliciting, requested to return to the original location of the client. Subject complied without any incidents and left area shortly after.

11:20 p.m., Cantova Way: Vehicle found in mini storage area with lights on. Storage closes at 7 p.m. Area cleared and no one seen.

Aug. 8

10:20 p.m., Riverview Park: Report of group of young people making loud noise, screaming obscenities and smoking marijuana at the park after hours. Subjects gone on arrival.

11:20 p.m., En route to Lake Clementia, noticed vehicle parked at Lake Calero after hours. Vehicle is guest of Via Del Cerrito. Entered parking lot and took information. Resident was with guest.

Aug. 9

11:45 p.m., Multiple false reports from juveniles regarding doorbell ditching.

Aug. 10

1:32 a.m., Shell Station owner called dispatch about suspicious activity at a gas pump. Stated that subjects involved have used gift cards to hack the pump and fill up gas cans. On arrival, observed a white Chevy Suburban and a heavy-set male with tattoos, black beanie cap, white shirt, blue jeans at the pump with his wallet in his hand. His trunk was open and the owner mentioned that is because he was filling gas cans. There was a white female occupant in the passenger seat. The subjects left shortly after patrol arrival and the

owner arrived on their departure.

Aug. 11

4:57 a.m., Report of two suspicious individuals who walked into community. Patrolled area last seen but unable to locate.

11:15 p.m., Buildings in plaza found to be unlocked with doors open. Perimeter search found no sign of forced entry or anyone in either building. Follow-up left for day shift to notify business owners that buildings are being left open.

Aug. 12

8:43 a.m., Reporting party stated guest without resident using the Stonehouse dog park. Checked the area; subject gone on arrival.

Aug. 13

8:04 a.m., Hit and run on the South Gate building. Upon arrival, damages were documented to the exterior front gutter corner of the building where the visitor lane is. South Gate officer stated the vehicle was a black construction truck for Riverview development. Sgt. Arino checked the area of Riverview, observing no signs of the vehicle description.

On the way to Riverview a black truck with a utility box was observed leaving the community. Camera footage was reviewed; subject vehicle is a black Chevy flatbed truck with a large utility box for site cleanups.

10:20 a.m., Responded to Stonehouse Park; reporting party stated dogs off leash. Upon check of the area, it was observed that all dogs were under immediate control

of their owners and not running loosely.

3:40 p.m., Report of loud music in the area of Venado Drive and Lobo. Upon arrival, located an open garage with a band practicing. Contacted the group, advised of complaint and requested to lower the volume. Group complied without incident.

2:12 p.m., Rio Oso, report of a trespass; tenant/guest refusing to leave the house upon owner's request. Reporting party/owner advised authorities enroute. Officers staged near the house on Rio Oso 1 and observed from Guadalupe Drive. At approximately 3 p.m., Sheriff's Department advised that reporting party canceled a call for service, advised to start eviction process, due to subject is a tenant at the residence.

8:45 p.m., Report of a dirt bike riding south back area near tenth fairway. Upon arrival, located Chevrolet pickup with motorcycle inside the bed. Using patrol vehicle PA system, advised driver of the back area regulation and requested to leave area; driver complied without incidents.

During area inspection, located a VW SUV on the golf cart pathway. Driver stated she came to the golf course to fish. Advised driver of the golf course rules and requested to leave area; driver complied without incidents.

Aug. 17

2:40 a.m., Vehicle found with juveniles at Lake Calero after hours. Vehicle departed on arrival, leaving a bottle of alcohol, which two subjects attempted to return on foot to retrieve. ★

West Nile Virus Activity Increases

Sacramento Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District News Release

SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG) - Further West Nile virus activity (WNV) evidence was detected throughout Sacramento and Yolo counties, as 13 mosquito samples and three dead birds tested positive Aug. 13, the highest number of positive results reported in a single day this year, according to the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito &

Vector Control District.

The mosquito samples and dead birds were collected from different locations; however, most of the West Nile virus activity for Aug. 13 was in Davis and other rural areas in Yolo County.

In Sacramento County, 17 dead birds and 29 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus, as of press time. In Yolo County, 16 mosquito samples have tested positive for West Nile virus

Last week, the district's laboratory

surveillance program detected an increase in virus activity and overall mosquito populations due to the very warm temperatures of recent days. Hot weather accelerates the mosquito lifecycle and can quickly amplify the virus putting residents at a higher risk.

"While it has been a relatively mild season for WNV so far, we are in the middle of summer and conditions can change quickly," Goodman said. "We expect to see continued activity over the next few

weeks. Protecting yourself is key: Always apply an effective mosquito repellent when spending time outdoors."

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends using an insect repellent that contains the active ingredients DEET, Picaridin, IR3535 or the plant-based Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus.

In response to the recent findings, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito & Vector Control District has increased its surveillance and will continue with ground fogging around areas where positive mosquitoes and birds have been found.

For more information, visit FIGHTtheBITE.net. ★

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Super Diamond Shines at Lake Clementia Amphitheater

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Super Diamond – the acclaimed Neil Diamond tribute band – drew many fans to the Lake Clementia Amphitheater on Aug. 18 when Entertainment, Theatre & Culture for Rancho Murieta (ETC) presented its third concert of the summer season.

“I believe we sold about 750 tickets,” said ETC Board President and emcee JT Turner. “While there was still room for more, overall attendance was good, and the crowd that showed up seemed to really enjoy the night.”

Before the show began, ETC presented its annual scholarship award (see separate story). Turner also thanked the evening’s sponsors, encouraged concertgoers to support Drewski’s Food Truck and fired T-shirts into the cheering crowd.

Once the band took the stage, the audience was swept into a glittering night of Neil Diamond’s greatest hits. The band’s 20-song set included “Cracklin’ Rosie,” “Song Sung Blue,” “Forever in Blue Jeans” and “Cherry Cherry.” The crowd responded with unbridled enthusiasm to “Sweet Caroline,” shouting back the familiar refrain and raising their arms high on cue: “Hands, touching hands, reaching out, touching me, touching you ...”

“Super Diamond put on a fantastic show,” Turner said afterward. “They captured the spirit of Neil Diamond’s music with great energy. The band had great stage presence,



Formed in 1993, the Bay Area band continues to draw enthusiastic audiences.

and hearing so many people singing along to ‘Sweet Caroline’ under the stars was definitely a highlight of the evening.”

The band closed its regular set with a surprise: Johnny Cash’s “Folsom Prison Blues.” When the crowd roared for more, they returned for an encore with Diamond’s patriotic anthem, “America.”

Formed in San Francisco in 1993, Super Diamond has evolved into one of the country’s most well-known tribute acts. Led by Randy Cordeiro, who performs as “The Surreal Neil,” the current lineup includes guitarist Chris Collins, keyboardist James Terris, bassist Rama Kolesnikow and drummer Vince Littleton.

Their reputation has earned them national coverage in Rolling Stone and The New York Times and appearances on CNN, VH1 and “The Late Show with David Letterman.” Even Neil Diamond himself performed alongside the band in 2000 and 2001.

Keyboardist and road manager James Terris appreciated the audience response.

“The crowd was great. We don’t always know what to expect, but it seems like these outdoor



Bryan and Dawn Holmes light up the dance floor.

events with families and all ages eventually press up against the stage, and we realize that we’ve won them over. Everyone’s smiling and having fun; it’s a really good feeling.”

Cordeiro was also impressed with the attendees.

“Awesome, beautiful-looking crowd,” he said after the show. “Everyone’s so good-looking and into it, and dancing is awesome. We were so lucky that everybody came up close.

“I’d like to live in this community,” he added.

For longtime Neil Diamond devotee Marilyn Laver, the concert was a chance to relive music she never tires of hearing.

“Oh, I loved it,” she said. “I never get tired of that music.” Laver has seen Neil Diamond perform live at least four times in the Bay Area and also attended his final concert in Sacramento before his retirement in 2018 due to Parkinson’s disease.

Laver has also attended Super Diamond concerts at least three times. She follows the tribute band



Randy Cordeiro channels Neil Diamond as the Super Diamond tribute band performs at the Aug. 16 ETC concert at Lake Clementia Amphitheater.



Guitarist Chris Collins delights young fans with his playing.

because the lead singer sounds so much like Neil Diamond.

“Even Neil Diamond has said he sounds like him,” she said.

Laver brought both of her sons and one of their wives to the ETC concert.

“We had a good time,” she said. “And, I do so love the venue.”

As ETC’s summer concert season winds down, Turner reflected on the success.

“It’s hard to believe the season is almost over,” he

said. “Each concert has its own unique energy, and it’s been incredible to see the community come together concert after concert to enjoy the music and each other’s company.”

“We’ve had some amazing talent this year, and we’re already looking ahead to making next season even better. But for now, we’re just enjoying the moment and feeling grateful for all the community support.”

For more photos, visit therivervalleytimes.com. ★

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