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Rancho Murieta Country Club Confronts Tough Choices

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

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Rancho Murieta Country Club leaders say the club has regained some financial footing since 2022 but warned members Oct. 23 that it cannot remain solvent without higher dues or renewed assessments next year.

While the club has drawn interest from Preservation Golf, there is no buyer at this time. Carol Anderson Ward, the primary investor in Rancho Murieta Properties, said she and her partners continue to talk with potential buyers interested in the proposed Rancho North subdivision.

Board President Eric Dutton led the annual board meeting, which covered election results, the club's financial outlook and possible ownership changes. The evening also included a tense exchange between Dutton and Ward, whose investment group owns the golf courses and facilities leased to the club until October 2028.

Election Results

Dutton announced that the election drew 360 votes - 226 from full golf
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Rancho Murieta Country Club Board President Eric Dutton discusses the club's financial outlook during the annual meeting Oct. 23

Residents Raise Concerns at Association Meeting



Audience member Sherry Carrillo raises concerns about the treatment of her husband, Danny Carrillo, who recently resigned as a Rancho Murieta Association director. She spoke at the Oct. 21 board meeting.

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

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - With little business on the agenda, the Rancho Murieta Association Board meeting on Oct. 21 became a forum for residents to voice their frustrations and suggestions during public comments.

Four speakers addressed the controversy surrounding former director Danny Carrillo's resignation and broader concerns about board conduct. Another resident proposed adding a new amenity at Stonehouse Park, while two residents raised concerns about a motorcycle rule they said is difficult to follow. One speaker urged the board to take stronger action on three ongoing community issues.

Carrillo Resignation

Sherry Carrillo said that some time ago her husband, Danny Carrillo, objected to a biased letter that had been introduced improperly during a closed meeting. Later, they began hearing accusations that he had breached executive session confidentiality, even though it was another director who had disclosed the letter's existence. Instead of addressing the biased letter and improper process, "the board chose to silence and discredit those who spoke up," she said. Carrillo encouraged everyone to review her husband's proposal for a Leadership and Communication Improvement Committee.

Nellie Bloom backed the proposed committee and the creation of a director education program for the association. She criticized the board for repeatedly dismissing what she described as a community-driven effort to build trust.

Renata Pagliaro decried the harassment and negative commentary directed at the Carrillo family and urged the board to act with

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Corvette Club Helps Dillard Needy for 16th Year



A whiteboard with a welcoming message from students at Dillard Elementary greets members of the Rancho Murieta Corvette Club on Oct. 15.

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

WILTON, CA (MPG) - More than 70 needy youngsters at Dillard Elementary School in Wilton are staying warm this winter thanks to the Rancho Murieta Corvette Club.

This was the 16th year the club tapped its treasury

for its annual coat drive, with additional support from others including the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta, which donated \$500.

Although only two members drove their Corvettes because of threatening rain, the club rolled up to Dillard Elementary on Oct. 24 to make their annual delivery. They brought 74 brand-new coats, 22 pairs

of shoes, 16 pairs of socks, 29 pieces of underwear, 10 shirts, one sweater, one girl's outfit, nine backpacks, assorted adult items and a manila envelope stuffed with gift cards.

Club member Karen Pearson organizes the annual event.

"No child should ever be cold. That's why it's a club effort: It just makes us feel good," she said.

The youngsters write thank-you notes afterward, and some parents send photos.

"Seeing the children wearing their new coats and shoes is very heartwarming," Pearson added.

She brings the letters to club meetings so everyone can read them, and she shared them with the Kiwanis Club last year.

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Corvette Club Helps Dillard Needy for 16th Year

Continued from page 1

The club began its annual donation in 2010 by providing gift cards for disadvantaged families at Dillard and Cosumnes River Elementary schools. Further research revealed that the need was far greater at Dillard.

The following year, they added coats and have continued the tradition ever since. Each fall, members deliver coats and other donations just before the weather turns cold.

This was Principal Trina Keating's first encounter with the Corvette Club, as she became principal after last year's delivery.

"Oh my goodness; I was overwhelmed with my first experience with the club," Keating said. "Seeing their generosity as they unloaded three carts full of

coats, clothing, and over \$1,000 in gift cards to support our families over the year was incredible.

"I also learned we are going to get 25 turkey dinners with all the trimmings," she added.

Keating said the school is focusing on kindness this year.

"This was a perfect example of club members showing kindness to others. We appreciate the continuing generosity of these club members."

Keating said the coats are given to students in a very private way. After staff members submit names, the children are called to the office to choose their coats and other new items. The clothing is left in the office until students can pick it up after school, unless parents stop

by earlier.

Pearson said some of the clothing will be kept in the nurse's office for children who have accidents, and the office staff decides which families receive the gift cards distributed throughout the year.

"The principal and office staff are always amazing to work with, so they also make this enjoyable," she said.

Pearson begins shopping immediately after the October delivery.

"I start right away to find the best deal," she said.

Pearson does most of her shopping online.

"When I can't sleep, I get up and look for bargains." She did go shopping with her granddaughter once but found it wasn't as productive. Pearson has discovered



Karen Pearson, right, tells Dillard Elementary Principal Trina Keating that the box contains new shoes for needy children at the school.

that many brick and mortar stores immediately put their sale items online.

Thanksgiving Dinners

When Jack Parker became president in 2022, he wanted to make a few changes, including how the club handled its annual turkey donations to the Sacramento Food Bank.

"I thought, 'Why not cut out the middleman and find a deserving community ourselves, especially Dillard because of all the farmworkers,'" he said.

Parker said the club will donate 25 dinners this year. Members plan to buy the frozen turkeys early and store them in the St. Vincent de Paul Church freezer until volunteers assemble full meals with all the trimmings a few days before Thanksgiving. The club will deliver the dinners to the school, which will then distribute them to the families.

Parker said the dinners were funded by a successful Poker Run held on Oct. 12, which raised nearly \$1,400 through entry fees

and sponsorships.

He noted that the club hasn't had many sponsors in past years, but rising costs for turkeys and other items prompted them to seek support this time. The biggest sponsor for the Poker Run was Rancho Murieta Automotive Repair, with additional contributions from Fat Mike's Pizza, Frazinetti Winery & Restaurant and Griot's Garage of Seattle, where Parker purchases automotive supplies.

Coincidentally, Parker and his wife, Sally Parker, have ties to Dillard Elementary dating back to when the school was in its old building with temporary classrooms. He taught band, and she served as a curriculum coach who helped establish reading programs at the school.

This story is at therivervalleytimes.com and Facebook. ★




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

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Rancho Murieta Community Church Hosts 2025 Serve Day



Ethan Leonard, left, Isaac Leonard and Weston Ravencroft fill a trash bag with leaves at Murieta Village.

space to receive people from throughout the River Valley and help them experience God's love.

"We had simply outgrown our existing church building," Fuller said. "Build Up to Reach Out was launched to expand our existing facilities and make better use of what God has given us. We've got to remember that this effort has never been about a building project; it's about creating space to welcome our community and guide our friends and neighbors into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ."

Rancho Murieta Community Church services will reopen indoors at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. each Sunday, beginning in November, at 14670 Cantova Way and will also stream online at rmchurch.org. All are welcome. ★

Rancho Murieta Community Church members gather for the Serve Day kick-off on Oct. 26. Courtesy photos

By Shelly Kessen

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Guided by a mission to serve others, Rancho Murieta Community Church hosted a Serve Day on Oct. 26 for its church family to reach out to Rancho Murieta and other nearby communities. More than 230 people participated in the day of service, which offered a variety of hands-on ways to share encouragement and help those in need.

"Our Serve Day is a tangible expression of Christ's love shared with our friends and neighbors," said

Phil Fuller, lead pastor of Rancho Murieta Community Church. "We are called to put God first, others second and ourselves third. That is what this Serve Day – and every day – is about at RMCC: loving God, loving others and showing His love in meaningful ways."

RMCC Serve Day participants ranged from children and teens to young adults, families and seniors. Local projects included yard maintenance and leaf cleanup for residents of the Rancho Murieta Village senior community; trail maintenance and bench building in partnership with the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; writing 189 thank you and encouragement cards; and leading a community-wide prayer walk.

Beyond the immediate local area, Serve Day teams supported xHope Mission, an Elk Grove-based organization that provides relief and resources to foster and underprivileged youth. Another

team joined the American Arab Learning Center in Sacramento for maintenance and improvement projects before sharing in an intercultural worship experience.

"The Serve Day was designed to give everyone a chance to serve," Fuller said. "Our desire is to be a blessing, and we believe that from our kids to our seniors, everyone can play a part in sharing God's goodness and grace."

Participants also created personalized projects to meet specific needs, such as helping a widow with property work,

cleaning an elderly neighbor's home and providing a meal to thank local firefighters and first responders. An estimated 600 service hours were dedicated throughout the day via the various projects.

Serve Day comes as Rancho Murieta Community Church prepares to return to its remodeled church building. For the past several months, the congregation has met outdoors in a tent known as "The Tab" while construction was underway. The renovation – part of the church's "Build Up to Reach Out" initiative – adds more



The Leaf Clean-Up Crew clears 11 yards in Murieta Village.

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Village Craft Faire Becomes Christmas Shopping Mecca



Tamsen Fox waits for customers at the Christmas Craft Faire & Bake Sale in Murieta Village on Nov. 1.

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Early Christmas shoppers seeking unique gifts and dessert breads to freeze for the holidays found themselves in paradise at the annual Christmas Craft Faire & Bake Sale in Murieta Village on Nov. 1.

The clubhouse was arranged like a boutique, with merchandise artfully displayed and a warm, inviting atmosphere that set the tone for the season.

Village resident Tamsen Fox has organized the Social Committee fundraiser for five years.

"It was a huge success, she said. "I was really surprised because we had a constant flow of people coming in. I knew they weren't going to spend a lot of money this year, but it all added up."

Fox rented tables to 23 vendors who sold homemade crafts ranging from hand-carved birds to jewelry, beautiful artwork and food items including fresh walnuts, pies and fudge. Another table overflowed with plants.

The sales went well. "All but three of the vendors were thrilled to death," Fox said.

She hopes to expand the fair next year and plans to attend art shows to hand out cards, encouraging more artists to participate.

"Professional artists who do these shows have their own booths and tents that they would be able to set up outside," she explained.

Fox believes the fair could attract professional artists who typically pay between \$60 and \$120 to enter other area shows, especially with Rancho Murieta's higher-income audience. The cost to rent a table at the fair is \$25 for nonresidents and \$20 for residents.

A bake sale also took place in the library alongside the craft fair. Homemade cookies, cakes, pies and loaves of bread sold out by the end of the event.

"It's a huge gift from all the people living here who donate to that sale," Fox said.

Another fundraiser was the \$5 hot dog lunch, with one table set aside so shoppers could sit down and take a break.

One of the artists displaying her work was Dawnelle Sauve, who buys gourds in a variety of sizes and transforms them into fine art inside what used to be a bedroom in her Rancho Murieta South home.

Asked about her Christmas ornaments,



Gourd artist Dawnelle Sauve adjusts her display of Christmas ornaments.



Harper Sommerville, 9, and Shiloh Sommerville, 6, sell "Delicious Dog Treats" at their booth.

Sauve said each one takes a couple of days to complete because of the intricate details.

"That's why they cost \$45 each," she said.

Village resident Teri Newby offered large, decorated wreaths to brighten doorways and smaller versions designed for golf carts. A new addition this year was an outdoor wreath featuring solar-powered

lights.

Sandy Weber presided over a table piled high with knitted and crocheted soft goods made during weekly meetings of the Village Crafters. The group donates all proceeds to the Sacramento Food Bank: a gesture that felt especially timely this year.

Fox explained that the Village Christmas Craft Faire & Bake Sale is the main fundraiser for the Village's Social Committee.



Pamela Haines can't wait to sample the blueberry-lemon loaf she has just purchased at the bake sale.



Vendor Sandy Weber explains to customer Marcia that Village Crafters donates all proceeds from their knitted and crocheted soft goods to the Sacramento Food Bank.



Homemade fudge captures the attention of Kelly and David Bindel and vendor Lorraine Spradlin.



Espe Walker checks out Elinor Hunter's stocking stuffers.



A scrub jay hand-carved by Joe Munizich appears ready to get into mischief.

The committee uses the money to host memorial services in the clubhouse when residents pass away and to purchase new amenities for the facility.

See additional photos at therivervalleytimes.com and on Facebook. ★



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Residents Raise Concerns at Association Meeting

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more professionalism.

Tom Shewchuk said he didn't want to downplay the concerns raised by other speakers but noted that, based on his experience attending meetings of the association, the Community Services District and the Rancho Murieta Country Club for more than a year, "I will be honest, this board runs better than the other two."



Resident Carl Gaither urges the creation of a new amenity at Stonehouse Park.

in the north. He faces difficulties re-entering the community on his motorcycle when patrol escorts aren't available.

"I feel bad about the people at the gate because they get kind of upset when I just ride right through," he said.

Rosebrock said he wants to comply with regulations but emphasized that the current process is confusing and creates problems for residents and security staff alike.

Hart acknowledged the issue, saying something had to be done. He added that, while he couldn't change the rule himself, he would meet with the board to try to find a resolution.

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Robert Guerin reported that he, like Rosebrock, has faced challenges re-entering the community with his custom trike, which must be charged at home, and has sometimes been told by gate staff that he couldn't come in.

Community Issues

Despite his previous praise of the board, Tom Shewchuk challenged them to address three issues that affect the community as a whole.

His first issue was resolving non-resident gate access, especially for country club members. He also suggested improving procedures for issuing citations to guests

and workers, recommending models from other communities in which citations are sent directly to the visitor rather than the host resident. Shewchuk also recommended that the board take the lead in unifying all of the homeowner associations under one umbrella.

Other Business

Hart reminded residents to submit their ballots for the uncontested election so there will be a quorum for the Nov. 20 annual meeting. Residents submitting ballots by Nov. 19 will be eligible for a raffle offering an iPad and \$50 gift cards.

Hart reported that the board approved the 2026



Resident Brian Rosebrock explains why he is breaking a Rancho Murieta Association motorcycle rule.



Tom Shewchuk challenges the board to address community-wide issues.



Nellie Bloom says she strongly supports Danny Carrillo's proposal to form a Leadership and Communication Improvement Committee.



Renata Pagliaro expresses her dismay about the treatment of the Carrillo family.

budget and the 2026 reserve study at a prior meeting. Member dues will increase by \$8 a month.

Resident Robert Guerin announced that a pharmacy-telemedicine kiosk will be set up in the community, although the location hasn't been finalized.

The Recreation Committee is planning a fall Bingo night on Nov. 7, the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Nov. 28 and a holiday light contest with judging scheduled to begin on Dec. 7.

Although a draft of

a new rule to regulate E-Bikes was in the packet, the board didn't discuss it because Director Scott Adams, who chairs the Governing Documents Committee, didn't attend the meeting. Directors Chris Childs and John Haviland were also absent.

The board's next monthly meeting will be on Nov. 18, with the annual meeting following on Nov. 20.

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

Rancho Murieta Country Club Confronts Tough Choices

Continued from page 1

members and 134 from social members – which met the quorum requirement. Dennis Wood and Walter Kim won seats on the board, and members approved all four ballot measures: reducing the board from nine to seven members, authorizing bankruptcy if needed, allowing the club to exercise its option to purchase the property by the Oct. 31 deadline, and authorizing the board to sell the club to Preservation Golf or another entity.

"You all voted overwhelmingly in the positive to give the board the option to do all the things they might need to do," Dutton said later in the meeting. "It's positive from our standpoint because we can see you're behind what we're doing, and that's trying to do what's right for everybody out here as a member."

Keeping Doors Open

Dutton said that 2022 was the club's worst financial year in recent memory. "In 2022, we were down over \$154,000," he said, explaining that the club's reserves "at least kept the doors open." He credited management and staff with pulling the club back into balance in the years that followed.

In 2023, federal payroll relief and insurance reimbursements produced a small turnaround.

"We ended up at a plus \$116,000, almost \$117,000, with a slightly lower bank balance of \$460,000 to \$660,000," he said.

The 2024 fiscal year also "finished pretty good."

The club continued to show modest strength in 2025, though it remains "a bare-bones operation," Dutton said.

"As of the end of September, we are positive at \$12,000 basically.

We've collected \$230,000 in assessment money, and we're sitting at almost \$242,000 in the good."

But Dutton cautioned that roughly \$100,000 of the apparent surplus represented budgeted money that hasn't yet been spent on the club's \$400,000 wage-and-hour lawsuit settlement.

"The judge just signed off on it last month, and we're going to start making payments next month of \$11,111 for the next 36 months," he said.

Assessment Gap

Looking ahead, Dutton said the club faces a serious shortfall in 2026 when the \$50 monthly assessment approved five years ago expires. Losing that revenue would remove \$318,000 from the budget, and rising labor and supply costs are expected to add another \$247,000, leaving a projected \$565,000 gap.

"The dues will need to increase, obviously, by the maximum of 5% that the bylaws allow," Dutton said. "But that's not going to be enough money."

A 5% increase would raise about \$223,000, leaving a \$342,000 deficit. To close the gap, Dutton said, the board has two main options: reinstate the current \$50 assessment (and \$15 for social members) or raise dues by about 13 percent: roughly equal to what the assessment generates.

"We'll need a 13% increase just to stay flat moving forward," he said.

He added that a 13% increase would generate about \$579,000 and barely balance the 2026 budget, leaving only a small surplus of roughly \$14,000.

Dutton also noted that a 2024 Troon Golf survey showed the country club had the lowest dues of any private club in the region.

Timing also matters. Dutton said that under the bylaws, dues can only be raised once in a 12-month

period, meaning members would have to vote to allow an earlier Jan. 1 implementation rather than waiting until April 1.

Dutton also explained that the original assessment language for the Capital Improvements Fee was very broad.

"It has not been a separate fund that has been set aside to take care of bunkers or cart paths or building infrastructure," he said. "It has just been used to run the club. Without it, this budget would crash every single year."

Six Options

Dutton said he was going to move on to what everyone wanted to know: the future of the club.

"Where are we headed? What's going to happen next?" he asked. "Wish I knew. I wish I had a crystal ball."

He then presented six possible paths:

1. New owner with lease: buyer assumes country club's lease.
2. New owner without lease: purchase ends lease through negotiation.
3. Tri-party purchase: country club buys, then resells to buyer.
4. Close and exit: pay liabilities and walk away.
5. Bankruptcy: Not an option without a buyer and unless liabilities exceed assets.
6. Status quo: attempt to operate through October 2028, the end of the lease.

"I don't know that anybody really wants to do that," Dutton said of the status quo option. "Financially, we probably could survive, but I don't think you want that to be the country club you're in right now."

Dutton added that members should look at the club's real financial foundation when deciding what to do. Currently, the club's total assets stand at \$1.6 million, and the liabilities are just over \$2 million.

Preservation Golf

One of the ballot measures authorized the board to sell the club to potential buyers, including Preservation Golf, a firm already familiar with Rancho Murieta Country Club.

Dutton explained that Preservation Golf "was involved back in 2016 when there was an attempt to sell the club." He said the company "is re-engaged" and "really interested in buying the club."

He said the current board had reached out to Preservation Golf, with the property owner's consent, to give members a sign of hope.

"Preservation Golf is still actively involved in the process and is wholeheartedly interested in buying this country club and doing what needs to be done," he added.

Other Buyers

Dutton said he understood that Rancho Murieta Properties was in contact with other potential buyers and invited Ward to comment.

Ward spoke with emotion about her long connection to the club.

"We want somebody in here that's going to make this the greatest place they've ever seen," she said. "We love this place. We want rooftops to support two golf courses."

"We can't do it without the community that lives here, which takes it for granted. We've worked our asses off to get this far and thank the board for doing what they've done up to now."

Dutton, referring to the club's \$24,000 monthly lease payment, responded lightly that he "almost thought I heard in there might be a little lease-payment relief someplace. Maybe I didn't hear that."

Member Group Attempted Purchase

An audience member asked Dutton what happened to members' effort to buy the club (led by Tom Shewchuk).

Dutton clarified that the member-purchase effort "was a wholly, solely independent group of members that were trying to get people to buy in \$15,000 and \$75,000 to be an equity club and buy the property," he said. "It was not us. ... They showed that they could get enough money to make some improvements and run the club, but they didn't have the capital to do all the things that we really want to see here."

"And so for that reason, it's my understanding that their offer was not accepted," Dutton said.

Rooftop Debate

After Dutton asked Ward if she wanted to elaborate, she said interest in the club was "really more from developers or people that are looking at us getting this development finished because we need the rooftops to support this."

"We need more rooftops that are using these facilities and paying to make them even better. And that's what it's going to depend on. If there's still going to be pushback about not getting rooftops, you're going downhill," she added.

Dutton replied that while members understood the link between rooftops and growth, "it's not appropriate to tell the members that we need to push for more rooftops."

Ward asked in return, "Do they want this to succeed or not?"

The discussion grew more tense as Ward said the club had not fully met the maintenance standards in its 2012 lease.

Dutton acknowledged the point and explained the club's responsibility under that lease.

"The lease says that when we ... entered into the first lease for the club, the club was bound to maintain the golf course and facilities in the condition in which they were accepted at the time of the lease," he said. "When it gets down to the lease here and the bunkers are in disrepair and the golf course and the facilities are in

disrepair, that falls back on us."

Ward responded: "Those deficiencies are not in any of your numbers for improvements."

"I agree," Dutton responded, "but you know where our numbers are at. Our numbers are keeping the door open."

Before closing the discussion, Dutton thanked Ward for her efforts to find a buyer and acknowledged Rancho Murieta Properties' role in shaping the club's future.

"You're looking for a buyer that's going to come in with the capital to do what needs to be done, and we appreciate that," he said. "We really do."

Audience Comments

Audience comments reflected a mix of frustration and support. Tom Shewchuk blamed the club's financial strain on dues not keeping pace with costs. Tami Fein suggested a communitywide fee to help support the club, but Board Member Bill Armstrong explained that it wasn't possible.

Randy Pishek blamed past boards for the club's struggles, Pamela O'Hern accused Ward of "holding the community hostage" by linking the sale to her property interests, and Lise Smith said members were frustrated and confused by misinformation.

Closing Remarks

Dutton said he would continue issuing his weekly Club Chat updates every Monday to keep members informed as the board weighs options for the club's future.

Dutton ended the meeting by thanking those who attended.

"Expect another vote to come before the end of the year," he said. "Everybody who's a member is going to get their opportunity to weigh in on what we do next. And whatever that decision is, the board is going to honor it."

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Christmas Dinner Dance Dec. 5

Please join us for a Christmas Dinner Dance on Friday Dec. 5 from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 14673 Cantova Way, Rancho Murieta.

Enjoy a buffet dinner of prime rib, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad and dessert. The no-host bar opens at 5:30 with dinner at 6:30. There will be raffles and prizes, and then music and dancing from 8 to 10.

Tickets are \$55 per adult and are on sale before

and after the Saturday and Sunday Masses at St. Vincent de Paul starting the weekend of Nov. 9 and 10 or by calling Sherry at 916-844-5171.

Veterans Day Celebration Slated Nov. 11

The community is invited to a Veterans Day celebration honoring all past and active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces on Monday, Nov. 11 at the Rancho Murieta Association Building.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m., and a brief program

will begin at 10 a.m. The event is presented by the Auxiliary of the Rancho Murieta Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which is planning festive decorations and will provide coffee and donuts for attendees.

Association Organizes Frozen Turkey Drive

The Rancho Murieta Association Board of Directors will host its first Frozen Turkey Drive on Nov. 21. Residents who would like to donate a frozen turkey can contact

Matt at the association office at 916-354-3500 or mattm@rma-hoa.org.

Volunteers will pick up the donated turkeys from porches throughout the community, and all contributions will go to the Elk Grove Food Bank.

Jamba Juice Bar Opens

The Murieta Travel Center, which houses the Circle K store, a Subway restaurant and a Shell station, has announced that it has opened the promised Jamba Juice Bar.

The business hours are

9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Jackson Highway Meetings Slated

The Sacramento County Department of Transportation invites you to join us in person to learn about the Rancho Murieta Resilience Plan for Jackson Highway at one of two meetings. The first is from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 17, and the second is from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 18.

Both will be held at

the Rancho Murieta Community Church, 14670 Cantova Way.

Kiwanis Seeks Sweats for Vets Donations

The Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta seeks monetary donations to its Sweats for Vets program, which runs through the end of December.

Make checks payable to Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta-Sweats for Vets, and mail to Kiwanis at P.O. Box 855, Rancho Murieta, or place in the drop box at the Rancho Murieta Association Building. ★

Annual Stand Down Event Serves Veterans

By Janna Haynes, Sacramento County Public Information Office

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - At Mather Community Campus, a line of expectant veterans wraps around the building. Men and women donning hats, vests and jackets filled with patches identifying their service history: which branch and which war they survived.

Some are walking with a noticeable limp; others have prosthetic limbs showing. Many are in wheelchairs, having lost a partial or full leg.

The air is heavy with pride and grief at the annual Sacramento Stand Down event. Pride for the service they gave and the brothers and sisters they served beside, grief for the ones they knew and loved who didn't make it home.

Booths line both sides of the streets, filled with agencies and organizations dedicated to helping veterans get back on their feet after returning from service. For some, that means filling out applications for VA benefits and healthcare. Others need more intervention, such as a job, housing and mental health treatment.

But every person there came searching for the same thing: a community of individuals and support that understands what they've been through and are willing to gently guide and love them through the struggle of returning to civilian life.

As folks amble booth to booth, the strains of a bagpipe ring out and a hush falls. The bagpiper makes his way around the corner, solemnly playing and walking his way through the crowd toward the American flag. At the conclusion of his piece, another veteran steps up to the microphone and sings the National Anthem. My heart squeezed at the reverence and honor in that moment. The weight of sacrifice in the crowd



Pictured are attendees of the Annual Stand Down Event serving local veterans. Photo courtesy of Janna Haynes



Speakers at the annual Stand Up event included members of Volunteers of America, an organization committed to serving veterans and helping support them through the transition back into society. Photo courtesy of Janna Haynes



Booths at the annual event offered resources to veterans getting back on their feet after returning from service. Photo courtesy of Janna Haynes

was so heavy that I could barely breathe.

Sacramento County District 5 Supervisor Pat Hume steps on stage to open the event. His district covers Mather Community Campus, which houses the Volunteers of America (VOA) veteran's service center and

shelter, in addition to several additional shelter programs serving singles, families and transitional aged youth.

Supervisor Hume shared his own family story of sacrifice, losing his father in war. Yet the pride in his voice is evident. He speaks directly to the hearts of

each person in the crowd, "You are not alone. You do not carry this burden by yourself. Do not walk away today without making the connections you need

and the help you need."

As the opening ceremony concludes, the crowd disperses to walk the booths they came to see: dental care, eye exams, haircuts, benefits, basic medical care, lunch tent and more.

The Sacramento County Veterans Services Office staff is onsite to help people get connected to VA benefits. Human Services Supervisor Nick Pulaski shares the challenges of connecting veterans to their earned benefits.

"We see so many people with incomplete paperwork; missing discharge papers or the worst is when private companies take advantage of them by charging them for help," Pulaski said. "We do it for free. We'll never take a percentage of your earned benefits. We work so hard to help and advocate for our clients."

Volunteers of America is committed to serving those who served our country and helping support them through the transition back into society. They serve nearly 1,400 veterans a year at the Mather Campus drop-in center. They provide help with resume building, job applications, mock interviews and job placement with cultivated veteran-friendly employers.

For veterans who need help exiting homelessness, Volunteers of America also has on-site shelter and a housing specialist to help with permanent placements, including paying rental deposits and first and last month's rent.

Don Harper, the Stand Down Event founder and vice president, emphasizes the moniker, "No wrong door" to getting help.

"Our goal is to get veterans off the streets and into the services they need to thrive, whatever that looks like for them," Harper said. "We're here to help." ★

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MEMORIAL

ORHAN ALP GURAYDIN • 1927 TO 2025

Born and raised in Turkey. Worked as an interpreter for the American Embassy in Turkey, speaking 3three languages.

Met an American ambassador's daughter, whom he married in 1954.

Moved to America in 1956; the couple had three children: two boys and a girl. Divorced in 1976.

He met Sylvia in August of 1977, married in 1979, had a son 1980.

Orhan had many accomplishments, PHD in physics. Numerous degrees in Engineering including patents in his name.

They moved to Rancho Murieta in 1983, where he continued his love of golf.

He was an expert golfer, winning many tournaments in San Diego and Spy Glass; he even won a green jacket with Bernard Langer as his partner by proxy. Both shooting 75! He also shot 75 on his 75th birthday.

Obtained three holes in one over the course of his game.

There will be a Celebration of Life

on November 15th 2 to 5 pm at the Rancho Murieta Country Club.

All who knew him are welcome to attend.

Thank A Veteran Today

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Well Kings fans, the hometown boys are in the midst of a tough road trip and in the early going have a 2-4 record. That's the bad news. The good news is that with the exception of one game, the Sactown ballers have been in every game, and if it weren't for horrendous free throw shooting that record could just as easily be 4-2.

There are other teams that could say the same thing you say, but the positive that comes from this is that when you know your weakness you can work on it and it can be fixed.

Going into last week's game against the Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee Bucks with only one win for the 2025/2026 campaign, the Sacramento Kings stepped into View Fiserv Forum and handed the mighty Bucks a humbling 135-133 defeat much to the chagrin of the hometown fans. The Kings broke a 10-year famine in Milwaukee capturing a win that few thought was possible.

After an up and down start this season for big man Domantas Sabonis, the Sactown stalwart played Giannis to a standstill putting up 24 points, 13 rebounds, and 6 assists. Although Antetokounmpo matched the effort by Sabonis with a 26-11-8 night, the Sacramento Kings did an admirable job of holding down the former MVP.

We have talked about the talent the Kings have in their starting lineup, but the conundrum has been putting it all together. In Milwaukee the big four of DeRozan, Sabonis, LaVine, and Schroder did just exactly that. LaVine led the group with 31 points, DeRozan with 29, While Sabonis and Schoder both chipped in 24 points apiece.

There will never be a moment in time when it's ok to play pedestrian defense, but there are nights when you will be called to simply outscore your opponent, and Saturday night was just such a night in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Our Sacramento Kings beat a playoff team on their home court, much like they did last season to the Celtics in the Boston garden.

What is most telling though about this win, is how the starting lineup played together all night, and the balance with

regards to scoring.

Not to be lost was the contribution off the bench by Russell Westbrook who added 12 points and 10 big boards to the win. Russell continues to win the hearts of Kings fans as he gives 100% effort every night and his energy is contagious.

One of the keys was the play of Dennis Schroder, who on this night lived up to his billing. Schroder played well defensively but also shot the ball in rhythm, scoring 24 points while adding 5 rebounds and 7 assists. The type of night Kings fans have been hoping for, and it shows the Sacramento faithful what is truly possible.

The tandem of Schroder at the point and Sabonis in the paint are secret sauce that when they play as they did on Saturday night will lead to victory after victory.

LaVine and DeRozan can be counted on to get their points as their pedigree speaks for itself, but when Schroder and Sabonis hold down the fort the Kings are a very tough opponent.

The good news is that this does not have to be an anomaly, and it should not be! Capable? Absolutely they are capable, and if the Kings can continue to get this type of ubiquitous scoring, it will not only take pressure off the bench, but it will also lead a pathway straight to the playoffs. Not the playin, but the playoffs!

Yes, the Kings still must play good defense, but balanced scoring as we witnessed against the Bucks makes up for defensive mistakes, and the Kings have proven in the past that they are more than capable of putting up points.

Schroder remains a key, but let's not forget that this season is not his first rodeo, and a veteran at the helm that is not distracted by all-star caliber competition is just the floor general the Kings need.

Young rookie Nique Clifford needs to find a way to contribute on the scoreboard, and right around the corner will be the return of Keegan Murray. Let's hope Keegan's return will mark a contributing factor and not a necessity.

Be of good heart Kings fans because the light is starting to shine.

All the best!

Your thoughts are always welcome at vgarris@riskingsfan@gmail.com. ★

Erie Canal Contrasts Glacial Pace of Public Works



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

This week, one of the nation's earliest and most important public works projects, the 363-mile Erie Canal linking the Hudson River with Lake Erie, marked its 200th anniversary.

There was only negligible media and political notice. That's regrettable, because the canal opening in 1825 utterly transformed the nation's economy and ignited its expansion from a few sparsely populated former colonies on the Atlantic Coast some 3,000 miles westward to the Pacific Ocean.

Rugged mountains had stymied westward expansion from the coastal plain into the Ohio River valley and the Great Lakes region. But New York Gov. DeWitt Clinton saw an opportunity for New York City to become the nation's commercial capital, outfoxing rival Philadelphia.

The New York Legislature authorized construction with bonds in 1817 and just eight years later, having been dug mostly by hand, the Erie Canal opened. Tolls repaid all of its construction debt in the first year.

Eventually, of course, the canal's commercial importance was superseded by railroads and later highways. But it continues to operate for recreational and excursion boats and remains a symbol of how timely public works can have major

economic impacts.

A quarter-century after the Erie Canal opened, California was admitted as a state. During its first decades it was somewhat isolated, with an economy based on resources — gold, timber, farm produce, cattle, fish and, eventually, oil.

However, as California entered the 20th century, massive public works projects surfaced to encourage economic expansion and transformation, notably in Southern California. Los Angeles and Long Beach created deep-water ports from what had been coastal mudflats. Los Angeles secretly tapped the Owens River 250 miles away on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, and built an aqueduct to carry its water to the city, making its meteoric population growth possible.

The Great Depression spawned other historic public works projects that were not only beneficial unto themselves but created much-needed jobs.

The federal government built the Central Valley Project, a network of dams, including Shasta Dam, and canals to provide water to farms in the 450-mile-long valley.

The state built a long-planned bridge over San Francisco Bay while simultaneously, a consortium of counties constructed the iconic Golden Gate Bridge. Both were finished in just a few years.

World War II was a massive public works project in California, as billions of dollars were poured into military bases, aircraft factories, shipyards and other tools of warfare, transforming the state into an industrial powerhouse. The postwar era

brought the construction of freeways to handle traffic from the state's population explosion.

Mid-century also saw arguably the state's last truly transformative public works project, the California Water Plan. It dams the Feather River near Oroville with an aqueduct to carry its water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to Southern California.

The last decades of the 20th Century and the first decades of the 21st have been a period of stasis in public works.

Projects such as the tunnel to carry water under the Delta and the Sites Reservoir to divert and store high flows on the Sacramento River have kicked around for decades. Sites appears to finally be on track, but the tunnel struggles to overcome opposition from local landowners and environmentalists.

And then there's the bullet train to link the northern and southern halves of the state, first proposed a half-century ago and approved by voters in 2008 — but limping along, neither fully alive nor dead, with some construction underway but no firm financial footing.

Looking back, it's amazing that the 363-mile Erie Canal could have been dug by hand in just eight years, or that the two San Francisco bridges were erected in just a few years. The contrast with 21st Century foot-dragging is palpable.

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. ★

Social Security Matters

Should I Ask for Retroactive Benefits?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

Dear Rusty: I turn 70 next month, October 3, and am making an application for Social Security benefits to begin in January 2026. I want the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits (DRCs) and the highest permanent monthly benefit. I do not want to leave money on the table, so should I request six months of retroactive benefits or at least retroactive to October when I turn 70? If I do this, will I lose DRCs and adversely impact my ongoing monthly benefit after February 2026? **Signed: Turning 70**

Dear Turning 70: I must ask - why claim

your Social Security to start in January? You are entitled to your maximum SS monthly benefit in the month you reach 70 years of age, so waiting until January doesn't gain you anything. You could apply in August, specifying you wish your benefits to start in October, and you would get the maximum age 70 benefit you are entitled to (e.g., the maximum Delayed Retirement Credits available to you, and the highest possible monthly benefit).

Since you are looking for your maximum DRC's, to prevent SSA from giving you any retroactive benefits (which would permanently lower your monthly amount) you should enter in the "Remarks" section of your application that "I do not wish to receive retroactive benefits. I want my maximum monthly benefit effective with the month I turn 70 years of age."

If, however, for some reason you still wish to claim effective with January 2026, you should indicate in the "Remarks"

section of your SS application that you only wish three months of retroactive benefits, for the months of October, November and December 2025. This is to prevent you from losing the money you would miss by waiting beyond October to claim. If you ask for benefits retroactive to any month earlier than the month you turn 70, your monthly benefit will be permanently reduced.

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THE RICH LOWRY COLUMN

Zohran Mamdani has a hard time keeping it together when he thinks about Sept. 11 and its aftermath. Not -- judging by his performance the other day -- when he contemplates the impact of two screaming jetliners on the Twin Towers; nor when he remembers the sacrifice of hundreds of courageous firefighters that day; nor when he thinks about the toxic, smoldering ruins where there had once been a thriving commercial center.

No, the front-running candidate for New York City mayor loses it when he recalls how someone may have looked askance at his hijab-wearing aunt.

Or so he would have us believe. In giving remarks about supposedly rampant Islamophobia in the closing days of the race, Mamdani paused -- seemingly overcome with emotion -- when he recalled that his aunt gave up riding the train after Sept. 11 for fear of her safety. Mamdani has clarified that the woman was really his dad's cousin, not his aunt, but the narrative is more important than the facts.

The candidate is attempting to end his campaign as a victim, both as a shield against charges that he's an antisemite and as a way to discredit his opponents and press his case that America is a racist society.

It's extraordinary that more than 20 years later, New York City is about to

Mamdani's Islamophobia Canard

go from a mayor, in Rudy Giuliani, who warned of the dire threat of Islamic terrorism, to a mayor, in Zohran Mamdani, who warns of the dire threat of Islamophobia. The city is about to go from a mayor who understood the stakes of a civilizational battle to a mayor who thinks the civilizational battle is all about addressing our own perfidy and hatred. One mayor saw his career revived by a crisis, while the other will -- if he delivers on his agenda -- create a crisis.

There was, of course, ignorance and malice directed at Muslims after Sept. 11, but FBI statistics showed that in the decade after the attacks, Muslims suffered hate crimes at a lower rate than black people, gays or Jews.

The idea that, as Mamdani said in his remarks, Muslims have to live in the shadows in New York City, or that Islamophobia is just part of the background noise of our political life, or that he himself has been abashed about his status as a Muslim man is absurd.

You have to look pretty hard to find any residual effects of Islamophobia on the son of a Columbia University professor and Oscar-nominated filmmaker, who graduated from the prestigious Bronx High School of Science and the elite Bowdoin College, before becoming a state assemblyman at age 29 and the Democratic nominee for New York City mayor at age 33.

If this is what Islamophobia looks like, every-

one should welcome having some sectarian hatred directed their way.

Mamdani complains of the harsh attacks by his opponents. What else, though, should be expected at the end of a high-stakes campaign? The rhetorical sallies against Mamdani are fundamentally driven by his extremist statements and radical associations, rather than his faith.

Does Mamdani really believe that a Christian candidate who didn't accept the existence of Israel as a Jewish state, who smeared Israel's conduct of the Gaza war and who refused to condemn the phrase "globalize the intifada" would skate? Certainly, Marjorie Taylor Greene comes in for heavy criticism for her anti-Israel views, and no one can claim that it's anti-Muslim sentiment at work.

At the end of the day, one of the most glaring problems with Zohran Mamdani is that, ideology aside, he is light as a feather. His callow and self-dramatizing Islamophobia speech, full of faux eloquence and stirring resolve over nothing, is a case in point.

Ed Koch, a different kind of mayor in a different time, said after he lost a re-election bid, "The people have spoken ... and they must be punished." In turning to Zohran Mamdani, New Yorkers are preparing to reacquire themselves with Koch's wisdom.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2025 by King Features Synd., Inc. ★

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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 rmcsd.com.

Oct. 22

11:33 p.m., Welfare Check, North Gate, Officer Davis found resident asleep behind wheel; knocked on window to grab attention; drive woke up immediately. There was no sign of medical assistance needed or alcohol/drugs apparent. He explained he is a nurse who worked 24-hour shift and was extremely tired. Officer Davis offered to escort to Colina Lane, to which driver agreed. Officer made sure he made it home safely.

Oct. 24

11:04 a.m., Resident Complaint, Murieta South: Sgt. Arino was dispatched to Bermuda Court along with Compliance C. Smith for a gate runner to the residence. Subject stated to gate officer he was Uber but also had a strong speech barrier. South Gate received a phone call from the homeowner stating the subject that was let in was unwanted and needed to be escorted out.

Upon arrival to Bermuda Court, Sgt. Arino noticed the area was clear and made contact with the residence. Sgt. Arino spoke with a male occupant stating a family member who was involved in a domestic issue has come to live with them and the subject who was admitted through the gate was the other party to this situation.

He stated the subject has since left and provided Sgt. Arino with the subject's name.

Compliance C. Smith observed a white Toyota Prius parked at the corner of Murieta South Parkway and Callaway Drive appearing to watch the house from a distance. Both Sgt. Arino and Compliance C. Smith made contact with a male subject who provided identification and stated his wife and kids were at the residence and he was waiting for them.

After Sgt. Arino confirmed he was unwanted at the residence, subject was asked to leave in which he complied with the orders given.

Camera footage was reviewed; subject entered at 9:54 a.m. Sacramento County Sheriff's Department notified by resident.

Oct. 26

10 p.m., Speeding Complaint: Reporting party called on behalf of her daughter who was driving a red Honda Civic. She reported that her daughter was "brake-checked" by an unknown gray pickup leaving the North community. The Civic passed the truck, which tailgated the Civic on Jackson Highway before speeding in front of her and brake-checking her again. No collision reported.

Oct. 27

6:50 p.m., Disabled guest vehicle in North Gate middle resident lane. Driver was able to repair, start and move vehicle after approximately 10 minutes. Lane open for all traffic; area clear at this time.

Oct. 28

2:40 p.m., Vehicle Accident: Report of a solo vehicle traffic collision. Vehicle passed through the inbound resident North Gate lane, then drifted to the left, drove up the curb and came to a stop in the middle of the median on Murieta Parkway, about 30 to 40 yards from North Gate. Driver did not complain to the RMCSO officer of any medical conditions; driver did not request medical attention.

RMCSO officer didn't notice any signs of intoxication of the driver. Vehicle suffered major undercarriage damage, was towed by an owner's insurance company. Driver was taken home by the husband.

The median is RMA HOA property and suffered some vegetation damage at the time of the collision as well as during towing. RMA HOA advised of the damages.

5:40 p.m., Resident Complaint: Report of black motorized bicycle/moped inbound Murieta Parkway. Area search; negative results. Canvassed the area; few witnesses stated that moped proceeded inbound Murieta Parkway from North Gate. Unable to locate.

Oct. 29

6:45 p.m., Welfare Check, Cazador: Reporting party could not establish contact with resident. Upon arrival, patrol conducted inspection of the house; negative results. Sacramento Sheriff's Department requested to location.

Upon arrival, SSD gained access inside the property with neighbor assistance with daughter permission. Once inside the property, SSD located resident inside the bedroom, deceased. SSD requested coroner's office to location. ★



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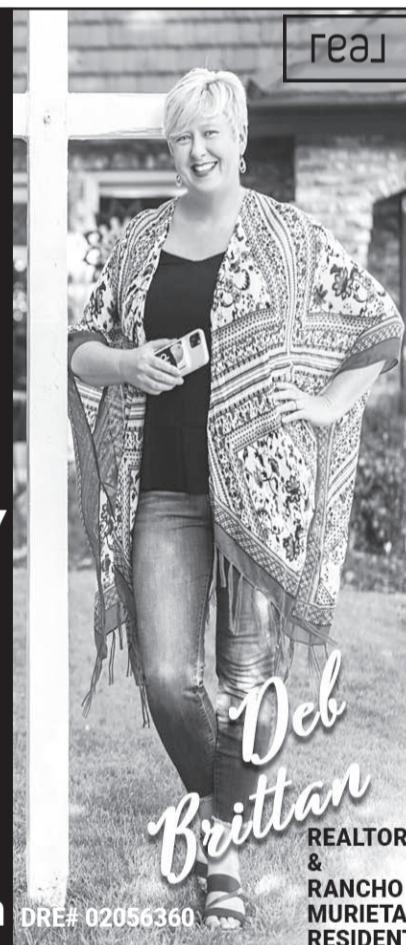
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Snoopy Has Landed in Sacramento

Aerospace Museum of California Unveils Freeway Sign, Traveling Snoopy Exhibit

Story and photos by Seth Henderson

NORTH HIGHLANDS, CA (MPG) - Snoopy Flying Ace traveled to the Aerospace Museum of California as the organization opened its "Snoopy and the Red Baron" exhibit to the public on Oct. 18 and announced the pending placement of a sign for Interstate 80 to promote the museum.

The traveling exhibit is on display in the museum until Dec. 31, complimenting the array of artifacts from World War I and memorabilia on display in partnership with the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center in Santa Rosa. Schulz was the creator of the character, Snoopy, in addition to the Peanuts characters and some of the comic strips or artifacts at the exhibit were signed by him.

Tom Jones, the president and CEO of the aerospace museum, said during the VIP opening ceremony on Oct. 17 that Snoopy and the Red Baron was one of Schulz's most popular personas of Snoopy and that Sacramento is quite fortunate to have this exhibit during Snoopy's 75th anniversary.

"Who doesn't love Snoopy? And then the kids see Snoopy and all of his different adventures that he goes on and his different personas that he assumes," Jones said. "I just think it's a fabulous way for kids to connect not only to Snoopy, but with aviation and aerospace."

Out of Schulz's nearly 7,000 comic strips, Jones said that he grew up reading those comics and some of the funniest ones were enlarged to be viewed at a distance. He said that the collaboration between the two museums was meaningful and allowed the aerospace museum to tie in other artifacts from World War II, showing how far Snoopy's influence had spread.

"We've got great photo stations and all kinds of fun ways to engage with this exhibit," Jones said. "Bring your kids, bring your grandkids, you know, just come see the museum. It's a beautiful space and it's super engaging for kids from 2 to 102."

Jones said that the museum was able to incorporate artifacts from famed aviator Clay Lacy, who is actively encouraging aviators and a donor to the aerospace museum. The museum's collection also featured artifacts from other aviators, such as Bud Anderson, Vicky Benzin and others.

Lacy flew his P-51 Mustang with a giant Snoopy in the cockpit, Jones said, winning the Reno Air Races in 1970, encouraging youth to become involved with aviation. He said Anderson, as a Boy Scout in 1934, became a World War II Triple Ace nine years later because of what he had learned. Artifacts depicting Snoopy's tenure as a Beagle Scout pay tribute to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and military members.

The Aerospace Museum of California also celebrated the approval of a new sign to be placed on Interstate 80 by way of legislation that Jones wrote to define how museums are categorized with



Awaiting the real sign, weather permitting, the Aerospace Museum of California celebrates the approval of a highway sign for the museum on Interstate 80.



City Councilman Roger Dickinson poses with Snoopy at the opening ceremony of "Snoopy and the Red Baron," a traveling exhibit making a pit stop at the Aerospace Museum of California on Oct. 16.



President and CEO of the Aerospace Museum of California, Tom Jones (left), stands with Mika Klinsmann from Senator Roger Niello's office, holding a certificate commemorating the museums approval of a highway sign on Interstate 80 on Oct. 16.

Caltrans. Jones said that museums were previously categorized with locations such as the Golden One Center or Levi's Stadium, making the museum slightly beyond the scope of allowing signage on the interstate.

Jones said Assemblymember Josh Hoover asked him to write a piece of legislation, which became Assembly Bill 1320 and was unanimously approved by the state assembly. Jones said that not a word was changed from what he originally wrote.

"Governor Newsom signed it into law about two and a half years ago and then we thought, 'OK, great. We're going to get signs now,'"

Jones said. "But Caltrans had to change its manual."

Before the aerospace museum's inception, City Councilmember Roger Dickinson said that he has been involved with the organization, as he was the county supervisor for the area at the time. Dickinson helped get signs placed on Watt Avenue.

"This has been an outstanding facility with tremendous offerings and great programs for kids, particularly in STEM subjects," Dickinson said. "But as you can see by the location, it's a little hidden, so I think the significance of the freeway sign in particular is to let people know that it's here and what

direction to go to get here."

Dickinson said that the aerospace museum is a great opportunity to honor Sacramento's aviation and military history, as well as everything that goes along with it. He said it is one of those wonderful assets that the city has to help inspire young people to think about science, technology, engineering,

museum years ago because of its wheelchair accessibility.

Bernau said he is glad to see how much it has grown, including partnerships with schools or other organizations to keep children motivated. He said that a museum as high quality as the Aerospace Museum of California deserves a sign on the freeway.

"There's so many things competing with people's time today," Bernau said. "And so to have that sign for going up and down the freeway, and it's like, 'Oh, what's that? I've never been there before. I didn't even know that existed.' So that's a big deal to have that."

The Aerospace Museum of California is located at 3200 Freedom Park Drive in McClellan Park and was founded in 1986. The organization is a nonprofit organization and features a 40,000 square-foot exhibit hall with 40 aircraft and rockets, as well as a four-acre outdoor air park. The museum is also a Smithsonian Affiliate and a member of the North American Reciprocal Museum Association.

The "Snoopy and the Red Baron" exhibit at the museum will feature special weekly pop-up activities for visitors of all ages that bring Snoopy and the other Peanuts characters to life, according to the museum.



A young guest at the "Snoopy and the Red Baron" exhibit poses for a photo with Snoopy at his doghouse during the exhibit's opening day at the Aerospace Museum of California on Oct. 16.

arts and math (STEAM), such as the California Railroad Museum or the Crocker Art Museum.

Being exposed to the different facets of life through opportunities such as the aerospace museum, philharmonic or the symphony are experiences that help shape a person's development, Dickinson said.

Sherrie Everhart, the owner of Hart 2 Hart wineries, made a sizable donation to the Aerospace Museum of California, providing funding for high quality display cases. Jones said that he was friends and members with Sherrie's husband Jim Everhart, a member of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Air Squadron. Jones said that Jim Everhart unfortunately died suddenly a few years ago.

El Dorado Hills resident Jerry Bernau said that he was friends with Jim Everhart and attended the VIP opening ceremony in honor of his friend. Bernau said he has a handicapped son who enjoyed visiting places such as the aerospace

The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays to Sundays and admission to the Snoopy exhibit is included in the museum's general admission. General admission is \$15 and to purchase tickets online, visit <https://www.aerospaceca.org/purchase/p-adult-general-admission>.

To learn more about the museum, visit its website at <https://www.aerospaceca.org> or call 916-643-3192 for more information.

The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center is at 2301 Hardies Lane in Santa Rosa. The museum's website is <https://schulzmuseum.org/> and its phone number is 707-579-4452. Follow the museum online at @schulzmuseum.

"I don't think there has been an animal character in a long time that has done the different things that Snoopy has done," Schulz once reflected. "He's an attorney. He's a surgeon. He's the World War I Flying Ace." ★

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OCTOBER 18 - DECEMBER 31

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Association Presents Halloween, Apple Hill Events



Youngsters line up for treat bags when the Rancho Murieta Association Recreation Committee hosts a Halloween party outside the office on Oct. 31. Photos by Tom Reimers



Rancho Murieta Association Director Wyly Haviland, left, Board President Patrick O'Hern and General Manager Rod Hart grill hot dogs.



Cody and Colt Hart show off their costumes.

By Wyly Haviland

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - It was all about member enjoyment when the Rancho Murieta Association Recreation Committee presented two events in October.

Halloween

After being rained out for the Trunk or Treat event at Stonehouse Park on Oct. 25, the Recreation Committee regrouped and hosted a festive Halloween party outside the association office on Oct. 31.

General Manager Rod Hart and Board President Patrick O'Hern manned the grill, serving up mouth-watering hot dogs to the ghouls and goblins who haunted the event.

In addition to bags of traditional candy, guests enjoyed chips and drinks alongside their hot dogs. The little ones were delighted with snap bracelets and light-up rings that lasted longer than their sweets.

Afterward, most of the revelers headed out in search of more spooks around Rancho Murieta.

Apple Hill

It was a sparkling autumn day as a busload of residents enjoyed a comfortable, fun-filled afternoon at Apple Hill on Oct. 23.

The Recreation Committee's trip began with a sweet sendoff: fresh donuts generously provided by the Local Bean

Café. The bus driver followed his GPS, which led to a thrilling and memorable ride down Scott Road.

The first stop of the day was High Hill Ranch, where the group browsed the rows of craft booths and sampled a variety of apple treats.

After stocking up on pies, breads and other freshly made goodies, the group continued to Boa Vista Orchards. There, most took time to enjoy lunch outdoors and enjoy the sunshine before the return trip to Rancho Murieta.

Based on positive feedback from the participants, the Recreation Committee is considering making the Apple Hill excursion an annual tradition. ★



A youngster drives to the Halloween event under his mother's watchful eye.



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