



Mai Vang's Bid for Congress

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Hart Honored with Humor, Gratitude at Stonehouse Plaza Farewell



Patrick O'Hern presents Rod Hart with a staff-designed T-shirt during a retirement celebration at Stonehouse Park on May 1.

Story and photos by Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - About 80 Rancho Murieta Association members, board members, employees and family members gathered May 1 at Stonehouse Plaza to mark Rod Hart's final day on the job, a sendoff

that mixed heartfelt praise with inside jokes, gifts and reflections on a 45-year career shaping Rancho Murieta.

Attendees sheltered in the shade along the back and sides of the plaza as the sun beat down, listening to a lineup of past and current RMA board presidents recount Hart's legacy. Staff served hot dogs, chips, soft

drinks and cupcakes, while guests signed a portrait of Hart standing in front of the RMA office logo. Many wore red, white, and blue ribbon leis - his favorite colors - made by long-time resident Pamela Haines, who created about 80 for the occasion. Others wore novelty T-shirts bearing Hart's face and the word "quitter."

Continued on page 2

Lentz is Association's New General Manager

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Murieta Association has selected Vicky Lentz as its next general manager, board President Patrick O'Hern announced April 21, following a monthlong search to replace retiring General Manager Rod Hart.

"We reviewed the status of our general manager hiring ... and it is my pleasure to announce that the Rancho Murieta board of directors has selected Vicky Lentz to be the next general manager," O'Hern said in reporting out from closed session at the April board meeting.

O'Hern said Lentz brings both experience and familiarity with the community.

"She has some very deep roots in Rancho Murieta," he said. "I'm very impressed with everything that she's done... I think that everybody is going to be very pleased with Vicky when she comes on board."

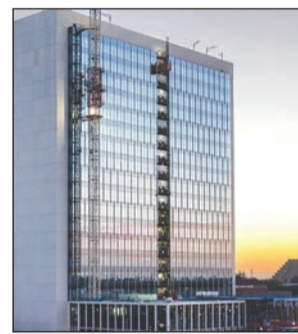
Lentz, 68, previously lived in Rancho Murieta and now lives in Rancho Cordova. Hart said Lentz is currently the general manager of a homeowners' association in the Roseville area. She has worked in professional community management since 2012, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Lentz is employed by FirstService
Continued on page 4



Vicky Lentz, a former Rancho Murieta resident and professional property manager, is the Rancho Murieta Association's new general manager. Courtesy photo

Charges Dismissed in Rancho Murieta Manhunt Case



The Tani G. Cantil-Sakaue Sacramento County Courthouse is where the case against Randall Eugene Stoker was dismissed at a preliminary hearing on April 22. Courtesy photo

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - A criminal case stemming from a high-profile 2025 manhunt in Rancho Murieta has been dismissed after a judge found insufficient evidence to proceed.

At a preliminary hearing on April 22, Sacramento County Superior Court dismissed the case against Randall Eugene Stoker after determining there was not enough evidence to hold him to answer on the charges, according to Shelly Orio, public information officer for the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office.

Stoker had been charged with felony corporal injury to a spouse or cohabitant and felony burglary following his Aug. 31, 2025, arrest, which drew significant attention on social media.

The case was dismissed at the preliminary hearing stage, where a judge evaluates whether sufficient evidence exists for a case to proceed to trial. In this instance, the court determined that standard was not met.

The original incident prompted a large law enforcement response and hours-long manhunt inside Rancho Murieta, with deputies searching for Stoker after responding to a reported burglary in progress. The event generated widespread concern among residents and extensive discussion on social media at the time.

Following the April 22 hearing, the court granted a motion to dismiss and exonerated bail, according to court records.

A request for additional details about the dismissal, including legal arguments presented in court, was not available from the parties involved.

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

Hart Honored with Humor, Gratitude at Stonehouse Plaza Farewell

Continued from page 1

Plaque

Board President Patrick O'Hern opened the program by directing attendees to a dedication plaque mounted on a large boulder in front of the plaza. The plaque, which dedicates Stonehouse Park to Hart, was originally awarded in 2022 but was not installed at his request; he preferred to wait until his retirement. It now formally marks the space in recognition of his contributions to the community.

Greg Vorster

Speaking early in the program, Hart credited the community, its volunteers and staff for his success. But he spent several minutes highlighting a pivotal moment early in his career under former General Manager Greg Vorster, who set him up for success.

Before Vorster arrived, Hart had been discouraged from "mingling" with board members. That changed after Vorster's first day.

Vorster asked Hart to get in the car and drive him through the community, pointing out what worked, and what didn't. Hart showed him problem areas, including the gazebo that was "in horrible shape." When Vorster asked why it had not been repaired, Hart said he told him the board had not approved funding.

When they returned, Vorster took an unusual next step: He scheduled individual meetings with each board member and instructed Hart to take them on the same tour and deliver the same candid assessment. Within a month, Hart said, funding was approved, and



Hart's family, including his wife, Danette, three children and nine grandchildren, attends the celebration.

the gazebo repairs began. Other improvements then began snowballing.

Success Begins with You

Hart told the crowd that it was people like them that made him stay 45 years.

"It really starts with the members volunteering to move the community forward and electing officials who create an avenue so I can get things done," he said.

He also praised staff, calling them essential to everything accomplished during his tenure.

"They are just a wonderful group, both at maintenance and in the administration building," he said.

Family Support

Hart took a moment to introduce his family members in attendance: his wife, children and grandchildren. "None of them ever complained, but there were a lot of things I missed along the way," he said.

Tim Maybee also emphasized that Hart's decades of service came with personal sacrifices and depended heavily on his family's support.

"If it truly wasn't for the family, we wouldn't have had his support," Maybee said, thanking them on behalf of the community.

Maybee also described Hart as a problem-solver who rarely said no, instead steering projects toward workable solutions.

"Our job as board members was to get you resources, and you were very thrifty, very frugal, and the community benefits so much from that."

In a lighter moment, Maybee presented Rod Hart with printouts representing gifts from past board members – a dartboard and a Starlink system for his RV – and promised the real items would arrive later.

Hart's Impact

Rob Brown said Hart's influence stands apart, calling him the most impactful individual in Rancho Murieta's history.

"It goes to Rod's character. It goes to his leadership. It goes to who he is as a person," Brown said.

John Merchant, who said he has likely known Hart longer than anyone in the audience, dating back to his time as RMA board

president in the community's formative years, recalled decades of shared work and progress. He reflected on early projects and the rapid evolution of Rancho Murieta.

"On behalf of the old-time group, many of which are who are no longer with us, I want to thank you for your friendship and all the fun we had doing this stuff," Merchant said.

Randy Jenco and Jim Moore also spoke briefly, thanking Hart for his decades of service and echoing the sentiment that his contributions to the community will be difficult to replace.

Humor and Friendship

Former President Scott Adams offered a lighter story about negotiating Hart's general manager contract.

"We met for about three hours. The first time we talked about the contract for about five minutes, and we drank beer the rest of the time," Adams said. "So we said, let's meet again. And we met again, drank beer, and met again. We drank beer."

Adams joked that while little time was spent



Pamela Haines signs a portrait of Rod Hart posing next to the RMA logo.



Tim Maybee jokes with Hart and Danette Hart about a retirement gift, presenting a photo of a Starlink receiver for Hart's RV instead of the device itself.



A plaque dedicating Stonehouse Park to Rod Hart is mounted on a boulder in front of the plaza.

discussing terms, Hart's position kept improving. The story drew laughter and underscored the personal relationships Hart built during his tenure.

Looking Ahead

At the close of the program, O'Hern introduced incoming General Manager Vicky Lentz, who declined to speak publicly.

In a brief conversation afterward, Lentz said she pursued the position because of her longstanding connection to the community.

"I love Rancho Murieta. It's always had my heart ever since I had to move away," she said, adding that returning now, with years of experience behind her, felt like the right time.

As the formal program ended, attendees mingled with many stopping to speak with Hart one-on-one, offering thanks, sharing memories and celebrating a career that left a lasting imprint on the community.

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



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Mai Vang's Bid for Congress

Candidate Highlights Priorities for District 7 Campaign

By Idaly Valencia

ELK GROVE, CA (MPG) - As voters prepare to soon receive their ballots for the June state primary, the race for California's 7th Congressional District is taking shape, with Democratic Sacramento City Councilmember Mai Vang launching a bid to represent the region at the federal level in her 2026 campaign.

Messenger Publishing Group spoke with Vang to provide readers a closer look at her political priorities and how her experience, rooted in grassroots community organizing and local government, guides her campaign.

Among her key priorities are healthcare reform, economic affordability, increased funding for education and youth services, and strengthening climate resiliency across the region.

Vang currently serves on the Sacramento City Council representing District 8, which includes neighborhoods such as Meadowview, Parkway, Delta Shores and Vineyard. Since taking office in 2020, she said the issues central to her congressional campaign have remained consistent throughout her work in local government.

Prior to joining the council, she also served on the Sacramento City Unified School District Board of Education from 2016 to 2020.

The District 7 seat is currently held by long-time incumbent U.S. Rep.

Doris Matsui, who has represented the district since 2005 in Washington, D.C. The district was reshaped following the passage of Proposition 50 last year, expanding its boundaries to include a broader mix of urban, suburban and rural communities. It now spans parts of Sacramento County, sections of San Joaquin County (including Lodi) and portions of El Dorado County (such as Placerville).

Vang said her campaign is shaped by both her experience in public office and her personal ties to the area. She emphasized her upbringing in South Sacramento County, within the district she is seeking to represent, as a key influence on her policy priorities.

As the daughter of Hmong refugees and the eldest of 16 siblings, Vang said her background, along with her recent marriage to the son of Mexican immigrants, shapes her understanding of working families navigating economic and social challenges.

"I'm running for Congress because a big part of this has to do with not having the luxury of waiting on the sidelines because so many of our working families are struggling to get by," Vang said.

Although born and raised in Sacramento, Vang pointed to her roots within the District 7 boundaries, noting she has siblings who live in Elk Grove and teach in its school district.

She also shared that her grandparents rented land in

Elk Grove to grow crops that they sold at a local farmers market to support their family (her father, uncles and aunts), who had arrived in California to build a life after fleeing war in Laos.

She added that this connection deepened her understanding of agriculture's importance to the state's economy, as well as the challenges farmers face due to water shortages, extreme heat and wildfires that can affect rural communities across the district, such as Galt, Herald and Wilton.

"I share this only because agriculture is a significant sector in California's economy, and I also know that for so many of our farmers, it's getting harder with water constraints, heat events and wildfires," she said.

Addressing the district's diversity, Vang noted that although she currently lives in Sacramento's urban core, she remains focused on affordability challenges affecting not only similar communities but also residents across the district who are facing broader economic uncertainty. She also referenced her own experience as someone with college debt, saying that as a millennial, she believes leaders across the political spectrum have contributed to the conditions constituents are now navigating.

"That's another reason I'm running, because I think it's important that whoever is in the halls of Congress understands the day-to-day struggles of our



Sacramento City Councilmember Mai Vang, in an April 16 interview with Messenger Publishing Group, outlined her campaign priorities ahead of the June state primary as she seeks the District 7 congressional seat. Photo courtesy of Mai Vang

working families," Vang said. "We have to send bold and courageous fighters for Congress."

On housing and economic affordability, Vang helped to secure city funding for the \$12 million purchase of a 102-acre property at 3100 Meadowview Road in South Sacramento in 2022. The site is slated for future civic amenities, affordable housing and recreational space. As of March 2025, the project remains in the planning and community engagement phase.

"I have over two decades of community organizing, policy and governing experience," she added. "And I have a track record of fighting and delivering for our families."

Vang also highlighted her role in passing three citywide ballot measures, including Measure L, which funds the Sacramento Children's Fund to support youth impacted by poverty, violence and trauma, and Measure N, which relates to the use of hotel tax

revenue for local economic development. She said these efforts have helped to secure funding for public libraries and investments in underserved communities. On healthcare, Vang drew from her experience leading the Sacramento Alliance for Vaccine Equity, where she said she helped run one of the region's most linguistically diverse vaccination clinics during the pandemic era to reach underserved populations.

She added that healthcare reform remains a central focus of her campaign.

"That is incredibly important because right now corporations, health insurance companies, are making a profit off of the pain and suffering of our families," she said. "I will champion Medicare for all, prioritizing patient care over profits."

Vang also emphasized that she does not accept contributions from corporate political action committees, a stance she said distinguishes her

campaign.

As elections approach, Vang pointed to her decision to decline a pay raise during a May 2025 Sacramento City Council meeting as an example of her commitment to prioritizing residents during challenging economic times. Positioning herself as a progressive who can work across the aisle, she said she aims to bring that approach to Congress.

Reflecting on her upbringing, including having relied on programs such as food stamps and Medicaid and attending local public schools, Vang said her lived experience will guide her decisions if elected.

"I think that I've shown during my time on the school board and on the city council that I will make myself accessible, that I will show up to town halls and answer hard questions," Vang said.

"I'm running to represent the people of this region because I know that their voices are so important in this moment." ★

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Pickleball Club Hosts Demo Day, Fashion Show



The Rancho Murieta Pickleball Club hosts a Demo Day, gift basket raffle and fashion show fundraiser May 2 at the Stonehouse pickleball courts, where players try out paddles supplied by Courtside Tennis and Pickleball and enjoy a day of community activities. Becky Beer assembled more than a dozen donated items into raffle baskets, helping to generate more than \$1,000 for pickleball court improvements and future courts, while a portion of apparel sales also supports the court fund, according to event organizer Sue McNamee. During the fashion show, more than a dozen club members and three dogs walk a green runway modeling pickleball apparel as Club President Alan Chase emcees and describes each outfit. In photo left, Ellison Cowel models a patriotic look. In photo right, the models gather for a group photo outside the courts. See more photos at therivervalleytimes.com or on Facebook. Photos by Gail Bullen

Lentz is Association's New General Manager



Retiring General Manager Rod Hart hands his office key to incoming General Manager Vicky Lentz during a May 1 celebration in his honor at Stonehouse Park. Photo by Gail Bullen

Continued from page 1
Residential, one of the largest HOA management companies in North America, which provides management services to thousands of residential communities, including budgeting, maintenance oversight and board support.

The selection followed a recruitment process that drew a dozen applicants, who were narrowed to three finalists and interviewed by the board in March and April. Directors described the candidate pool as strong and the decision difficult as they sought a successor to Hart, who retired May 1 after 45 years with the association.

Hart, who did not participate in the hiring decision, said in a subsequent interview that he is "extremely happy" with the board's choice.

"I can't be happier with the selection," Hart said. "She already knows the community... She's already asking if I would come out and work a few days so she can catch up, which is a sign of a leader... and she's just got a really pleasant attitude, which is going to lend itself well to the community and the staff."

Hart said Lentz's prior service on the RMA board and her professional background position her well for the role.

"Looking through historical documents,

she did some amazing work on the board," he said.

He also said Lentz has no plans for a short tenure and is expected to remain in the role well beyond industry averages.

"GMs are typically at an HOA for about three years," Hart said. "And she's certainly going to surpass that... She plans to go beyond that contract should the community want that."

Her hiring comes as the association prepares for a leadership transition from Hart, who has been widely credited with overseeing decades of development and maintenance of Rancho Murieta's parks, facilities and infrastructure. The RMA board held a May 1 community celebration at Stonehouse Park to mark Hart's 45 years of service.

Lentz, who attended that celebration, said her interest in the position is rooted in a longstanding connection to the community.

"Because I love Rancho Murieta; it's always had my heart ever since I had to move away," she said. "It has always been a desire to come back. Now that I have the years (of HOA experience) behind me, it all came together."

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



JEROME HATHAWAY • 12/13/1927 – 4/20/2026

It is with heavy hearts we announce that Jerome "Jerry" Christopher Hathaway peacefully passed away at age 98, on April 20, 2026 in Rancho Murieta, CA.

Jerry was born in Kingsley, Iowa on 12/13/27 and was the last surviving of 7 children born to Ernest and Pearl Stortz Hathaway. At age 6 the family moved nearby to LeMars, where Jerry attended Catholic schools through the 10th grade. He graduated from Colville Washington High School in 1945. After serving two years in the US Navy, he attended the University of Denver, earning degrees in Accounting and an MBA in Finance.

Jerry was married to Helen Folz in 1951 and enjoyed a wonderful marriage for 68 years, until Helen's passing in 2019. Jerry worked for the Texas Oil Company for two years in Glendive, Montana before relocating to California to start his teaching career. He was a business teacher at South San Francisco HS and then worked for the Palo Alto School System for 23 years. There he was a business teacher and assistant coach in several sports and then an administrator for 17 years. In 1978 he took an early retirement at age 50.

He and Helen moved to Lake Almanor where he pursued a 2nd career in real estate as a broker-salesman. During that time they would winter each year at their second home in Sun Lakes, Arizona. In 1990 Jerry and Helen moved to Rancho Murieta where he concentrated on golf and was the treasurer



of the Senior Men's Golf group for many years. He volunteered actively and regularly at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. Jerry was devoted to his family, home and faith and lived a long and active life.

Helen and Jerry raised three children: Mary, who passed in 1985, Chris Hathaway of Rancho Murieta, CA, and Katherine Anderson (Bruce) of Lincoln, CA. They were blessed with two grandchildren, Katrina Isola (Patrick) of Rocklin, CA, and Gregory Anderson of San Diego, CA. In 2025, Jerry was thrilled to become a Great Grandfather to Theodore Isola.

A Rosary and Memorial Mass will be held on Thursday, May 7th at 11:00 a.m. at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 14673 Cantova Way, Rancho Murieta. A reception will follow the service. Donations in Jerry's memory can be made to Loaves & Fishes of Sacramento, or your favorite charity.



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Office Tours and Election Observation Available



Observation is an important part of elections. The VRE invites Sacramento County residents to observe these processes anytime they are running. Photo Designed by Magnific

Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - The Department of Voter Registration and Elections is preparing for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election. For more information, visit: elections.saccounty.gov/#gsc.tab=0.

For those interested in learning more about how the complex processes of elections work, tours and opportunities to observe are offered by the Voter Registration and Elections office.

Tours are available Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Q&A Session are offered those same days at 4 p.m. No appointment is required for the Q&A.

Schedule your tour at: <https://app.acuity-scheduling.com/schedule/3ed1683e/>

Observation is an important part of

elections. The VRE invites Sacramento County residents to observe these processes anytime they are running. You do not need to schedule an appointment for observation.

Those interested are encouraged to review the Election Observer Guidelines Handbook to learn what processes might be of interest to you and to learn of your rights and responsibilities as an election observer.

The handbook is available at: elections.saccounty.gov/content/dam/vre/documents/ELECTION%20OBSERVER%20GUIDELINES%20HANDBOOK.pdf

For more information, contact the Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) office at 916-875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.gov or use the toll-free voter assistance hotline at 800-762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone). ★

Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center Locations Posted

Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG)

- Voter Registration and Elections (VRE) has posted the list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations for the June 2, 2026, Primary Election on the VRE website at elections.saccounty.gov.

Vote by Mail ballots will be mailed to voters beginning May 4. Ballot Drop Boxes will begin opening Monday, May 4, and Vote Centers will begin opening Saturday, May 23. A complete list of Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations and days and hours of operation can be found at: <https://elections.saccounty.gov/votecenters/pages/locations.aspx>

Voter registration for the June 2, 2026

Primary Election will close on Monday, May 18. Voter registration forms must be postmarked by this date or delivered to the VRE Office at 7000 65th St., Suite A, Sacramento 95823 by 5:00 p.m.

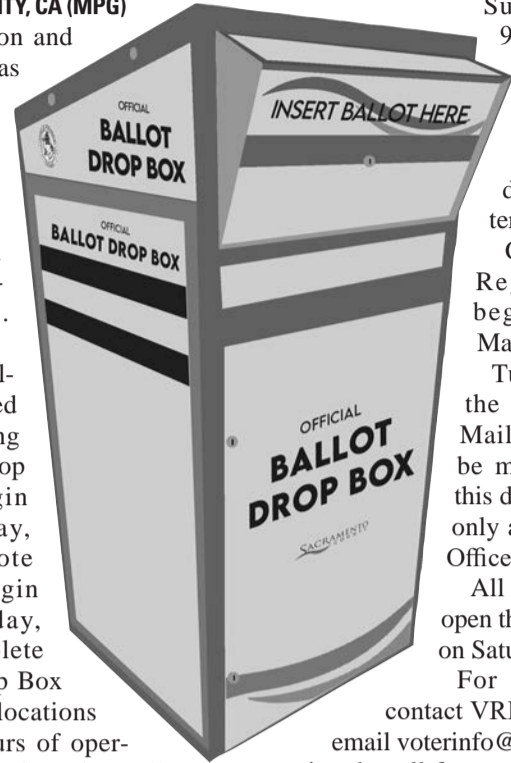
Online voter registration must be completed before midnight on this date at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>.

Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) begins on Tuesday, May 19.

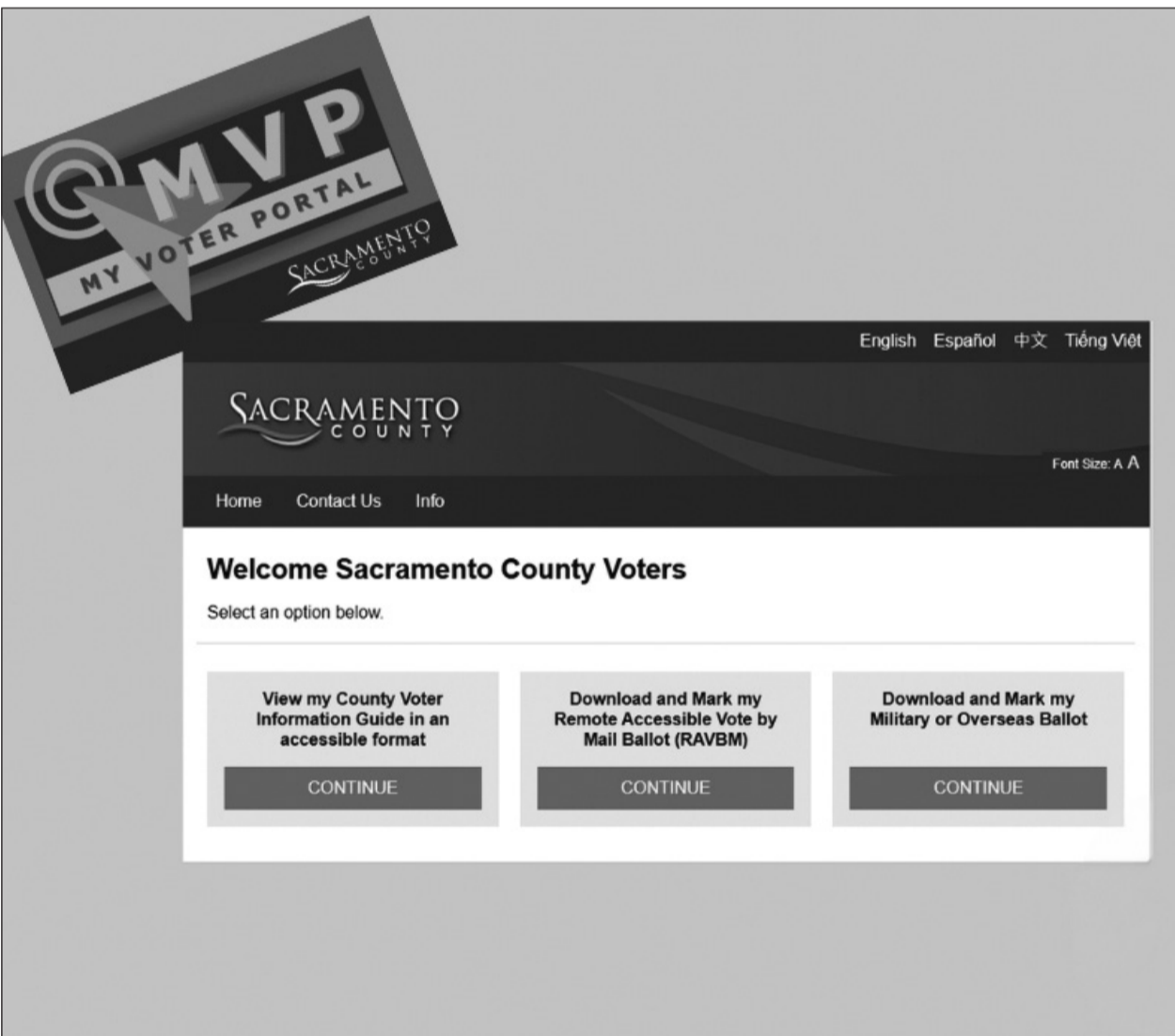
Tuesday, May 26 is the last day a Vote by Mail (VBM) ballot can be mailed to you. After this date, VBM ballots are only available at the VRE Office or a Vote Center.

All Vote Centers will be open throughout the County on Saturday, May 30.

For more information, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.gov, or by using the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone). ★



Accessing My Voter Portal (MVP)



Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office News Release

SACRAMENTO COUNTY, CA (MPG) - My Voter Portal (MVP) is a dynamic online tool that allows voters to access their voter registration history, view ballot status and voting participation history. MVP also allows voters to view their County Voter Information Guide, access accessible election materials, find Vote Center and Official Ballot Drop Box locations nearby, and much more during an election! Voters can access the MVP site on any device that is able to connect to the internet.

Check it out at: <https://myvoterportal.saccounty.gov/LookupVoter>.

If you have questions or need help, contact VRE at (916) 875-6451, email voterinfo@saccounty.gov, or use the toll-free voter assistance hotline at (800) 762-8019. The hotline has the ability to connect voters with disabilities with TTY (Text Telephone). ★



VOTE EARLY! AVOID LINES



June 2, 2026, Statewide Direct Primary Election

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- Ballots will begin to arrive the week of May 4

You can return your ballot

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- At an Official Ballot Drop Box
- At a Vote Center (starting May 23)

You can find a full list of Official Ballot Drop Box and Vote Center locations in your County Voter Information Guide or online at www.elections.saccounty.gov



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- Update your language preference if other than English
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- Access your Remote Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot
- Locate Official Ballot Drop Boxes or Vote Centers near you
- View your voting history



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Visit www.elections.saccounty.gov or call toll-free (800) 762-8019

Scouts Shred Unwanted Paperwork

Six Scouts and five adults with Rancho Murieta Troop 633 process more than 1,500 boxes of paper during a community shredding event in the Rancho Murieta Association parking lot on May 2. Scoutmaster Jason Dodson says the fundraiser – the troop’s largest of the year – helps to cover camping trips, registration and equipment, including new flags. Photo by Gail Bullen



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

VFW Slates Poppy Sales, Memorial Day Celebration

The Rancho Murieta Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars is planning a Poppy Sales event on May 23 and a Memorial Day Celebration on May 25.

The poppies will be sold outside Bel Air Market and Tractor Supply between noon and 3 p.m. The donations will help veterans in our community with emergency monetary needs.

The Memorial Day Celebration on May 25 will be held at 1 p.m. at the Gazebo. It will be preceded by a social hour at noon. All are welcome.

Memorial Day Ceremony Slated in Wilton

The Wilton Veterans Group and the Wilton History group are presenting a Memorial Day Ceremony at 10 a.m. Monday, May 25 at the Wilton Post Office parking lot. The ceremony will feature a special military vehicle, a “Fallen Hero” table, and a ringing of the bell for local veterans.

Following the event, the Wilton Fire Protection District will host a hot dog fundraiser. All are welcome.

Plant Sale Extravaganza Set for May 9

The River Valley Garden Club will host its annual Plant Sale Extravaganza from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 9 in the Rancho Murieta Association parking lot at

7191 Murieta Parkway.

The sale will feature flowers, vegetables, herbs, succulents, houseplants and garden art. A Master Gardener will be available throughout the day to answer questions. Returning this year is a children’s activity table. New additions include floral design demonstrations at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. The event offers an opportunity to shop for Mother’s Day gifts.

For more information, contact Nancy Compton at ncompton43@att.net or pde-mello22@gmail.com.

Spray Park Opening Day is May 16

The Rancho Murieta Association Recreation Committee will sponsor opening day between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, May 16 at the Summerfest Spray Park in Riverview Park.

Free hot dogs and other refreshments will be served.

ETC Slates May 17 Kick-Off

Entertainment, Theater & Culture for Rancho Murieta will celebrate its 25th summer concert season with a community kick-off event from 3 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 17 at Rancho Murieta Country Club.

The free event, open to residents and their guests, offers a preview of the ETC 2026 concert lineup along with live music, wine and champagne, and gourmet food tastings.

Organizers describe the gathering as

both a season preview and a celebration of the community tradition that has brought neighbors together for outdoor concerts by Clementia Lake for a quarter century.

Attendees can purchase memberships and tickets during the event. ETC is offering a 10% early-bird discount on tickets purchased by May 10, and prepaid members will receive raffle tickets for prizes to be awarded at the kick-off.

The volunteer-run organization supports local programs through its events, including scholarships and school art initiatives, while continuing its focus on live music in Rancho Murieta. For more information or to become a member or sponsor, visit etc-rm.org.

Voting Options Slated in Rancho Murieta

Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections placed a drop box at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District office on May 4. It will remain through Election Day on June 2, and it is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The Vote Center will open on May 30 and will be open through Election Day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Trash N Treasures Set for May 23

The annual Trash N Treasures Sale will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 23 in Murieta Village. Sales will be

held on the Clubhouse patio and in drive-ways throughout the community.

The cost to rent a table at the clubhouse is \$20 for Village residents and \$25 for non-residents. To reserve a table, contact Nancy at 541-539-7078.

Women’s Club Slates Big Band Music May 27

The Rancho Murieta Women’s Club next luncheon on May 27 will feature live music and dancing with The Blowbacks Band. They will play music from the 1940s through the 2000s: big band, classic rock, Motown, jazz, lounge, funk and Swing.

The menu is a spinach salad with a choice of chicken, salmon or Portobello mushrooms; rolls and butter; and cheesecake for dessert. The cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for members. Registration is required, and the deadline is May 15.

For information, contact Barbara Armstrong at 916-541-1884 or Laura McAllister at 805-404-7974.

CSD Board Meeting, Budget Hearing Set May 27

The Rancho Murieta Community Services District has rescheduled its regular May board meeting from May 20 to May 27.

The meeting will include the first public hearing on the proposed 2026-27 budget. ★

etc!

Entertainment, Theatre & Culture for Rancho Murieta

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2. How would the reduction or elimination of School Arts Programs affect our Society?
3. What is it about the Arts (dance, music, visual art, theater) that sets your heart and soul on fire?

Entry Forms Available at RMA Building or By Request at philan.etcrcm@gmail.com

Information:
Stephanie Stanislaus
916-354-0901

Submission Deadline:
May 30, 2026

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Learning at Wildfire Preparedness Day



Families – especially young children – turn out for big fire trucks and tractors and promotional handouts during the annual Wildfire Community Preparedness Day hosted May 2 by Sacramento County and the Rancho Murieta Regional Fire Safe Council in the Tractor Supply parking lot. CAL FIRE, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District and the Rancho Murieta Association Maintenance Department also participated. In photo left, Nancy and Daniel Smith pick up handouts from Don and Genevieve Kurtz, with an RMA tractor staged behind them. In photo right, Station 59 firefighter Robert Sinetos demonstrates an extrication tool to Lee Goodson and his grandmother, Marcia Robbins. Photos by Gail Bullen

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.

April 20

8:55 p.m., RMCS D conducted a follow-up regarding an April 18 incident involving juveniles throwing fruit at residences and Via Bernini from the golf course. Additional information was provided by the reporting party at approximately 4:30 p.m. Reporting party advised that his daughter identified two possible subjects via social media. Reporting party stated both subjects viewed his daughter's social media account on the date of the incident, and their accounts indicated they were in Rancho Murieta at that time.

Records indicate a guest was granted access through the North Gate on April 17 at approximately 6:07 p.m. associated with a Puerto Drive residence approximately eight hours prior to the incident. The resident at Via Bernini will review security camera footage for possible evidence.

April 22

10:19 p.m., RMCS D received a report

of gunshots in the area of Fuente De Paz. Reporting party stated two initial gunshots were heard, followed by four rapid successive shots behind Puerto Drive. Patrol arrived within approximately 3-5 minutes and conducted a search of the area, including the new Stonehouse development, Fuente De Paz, Rio Blanco, Venado, and Puerto Drive (Venado to Fuente De Paz). No gunshots were heard and no suspicious activity, foot traffic or vehicle traffic were observed. Dispatch notified the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, which responded to the area.

April 23

9:51 a.m., Security Supervisor Arino responded to a report of a male subject sitting on the Highway 16 bridge. Upon arrival, a male matching the description was observed walking westbound along the shoulder carrying personal belongings. Subject appeared transient and en route toward Sacramento.

9:25 p.m., Resident of Guadalupe Drive reported a prior road rage/reckless driving incident that occurred at approximately 4:15 p.m. Reporting party stated she was traveling inbound on Guadalupe Drive when a black Mercedes-Benz failed to stop at the stop sign at Terreno Drive

and turned onto Guadalupe Drive, failing to yield. She was forced to brake abruptly to avoid a collision. The driver, described as a young male with straight blonde hair (shaved in the back), used foul language and continued outbound on Murieta Parkway. No license plate was obtained. RMCS D

April 24

12:43 p.m., Officer Passer was advised at shift start of a welfare check request from (S1) regarding his mother, (S2), who was not responding to calls. S1 alleged family interference by (S3), identified as S2's Power of Attorney. S1 stated Sacramento County Sheriff had already been contacted.

S1 was denied entry due to an active trespass order. Officer responded to the residence and made contact with (S4), who provided additional information regarding the ongoing family matter. Officer returned to South Gate and advised S1 that the family did not wish contact and to await Sheriff. S1 complied.

April 25

4:40 a.m., Patrol responded to RMCS D building at Jackson Road. Upon arrival, a bicycle was observed parked near the

side entrance to the boardroom. The side door was found unsecured. A perimeter check and search of accessible interior areas were conducted. Main office was not accessible. No signs of forced entry, damage or theft were observed. Patrol remained in the area. The bicycle was later found to be gone.

2:38 p.m., RMCS D Patrol Officer Davis responded to a report of minors fishing near the 11th hole of the South Course. Upon arrival, Officer Davis made contact with a group of minors fishing in the pond. One subject identified himself as a resident of Bent Grass Court. Subjects were advised they were in violation of multiple RMA rules and were instructed to leave the area. All complied without incident.

April 29

5:43 p.m., RMCS D Patrol responded to a reported water leak at Rio Blanco Drive after the reporting party advised their backyard was flooding. RMCS D was unable to determine the source of the leak. Contact attempts with the resident were unsuccessful. Patrol also attempted contact at Ventana Drive with negative results. A note was left on a Nissan Altima in the driveway. RMCS D Water Utilities was advised. ★

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

Community Donors Step Up at Blood Drive



Donors turn out to supply much-needed blood at the Rancho Murieta Women's Club quarterly drive at St. Vincent de Paul Church on April 27. The drive collected 45 whole blood donations and nine Power Red donations, totaling 63 pints.

In photo at left are longtime donors Barb Armstrong, left, Sue Kjome and Sharon Barton. In photo at right, donors make Power Red donations, which take longer and count as two pints. Courtesy photos

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris



Kings Look to Draft Lottery

If you're watching the NBA playoffs count yourself a true basketball fan, because the Sacramento Kings don't have a dog in the fight. That's true today, but it doesn't have to be that way.

Just 4 short years ago this city got a taste of what playoff basketball is all about, and I was amazed at the energy it brought to the capital city. I was at both games hosted by the Kings, and I've never experienced the energy that was present in Golden One Arena when the Golden State Warriors came to town.

The Kings came up a little short ultimately, but it marked a moment in time that said, we've arrived!

Sadly, leadership let us down, and what was the most potent offense in the NBA that season, morphed into something else with coaches preaching that the Kings needed to play better defense.

Today's team has a bevy of talent already present, but opportunity was stolen from them when injuries not only occurred but became an epidemic this past season.

So do we give ownership and coaching staff a pass since our best players sat out most of the season? Maybe not a pass, but as knowledgeable fans at least an understanding of what happened.

Time to turn our attention to present day, and what the upcoming season may have in store.

First order of business. Take stock in what you have and don't give it away.

First and foremost, wait on any trades to find out where in the June 23 draft the Sacramento Kings will be drafting.

Don't get the cart before the horse, and by all means don't listen to any offers that would raid this team of valuable talent. That would happen once with the departure of DeAaron Fox, and all Kings fans hope it will never happen again.

So, all eyes turn to May 10 when the ping pong balls will determine the order of the draft, and on that fateful night anything can happen.

Last season it was the Dallas Mavericks that defied the odds and secured the #1 draft choice. All they did was pick Cooper Flagg, who went on to start his NBA career by

being last season's rookie of the year.

Such are the possibilities that the draft can bring, and will it bring fortune for the Sacramento Kings on May 10th?

Well, we are about to see.

I recently watched a documentary called The Logo, which told the life story of the unconquerable Jerry West. Everyone already knew of his prowess as a basketball player, but perhaps not everyone knew that he was equally as talented evaluating talent.

The documentary told how West built the Los Angeles Lakers into a dynasty and then took his talents to Memphis where he helped build the Grizzlies into a perennial playoff team. Just when one would have thought Jerry West's career was winding down, he brought his audacious talent to San Francisco where he helped the franchise build a dynasty around the likes of Steph Curry, Klay Thompson, and Draymond Green.

The ability to judge talent. Often working behind the scenes but men like Jerry West are the real stars of the show, and the Sacramento Kings are in need of such a man right now.

Is that the man sitting in the general managers seat by the name of Scott Perry? We are about to see, and what an opportunity to put your mark on a franchise thirsty for a new direction.

The Memphis Grizzlies haven't yet won a franchise, but they're a perennial playoff team, and what would the Sacramento fan base give to say that.

Yes, I'm preaching hope, but it has more than a realistic possibility of occurring, and it's time to rally around this franchise with renewed vigor.

I was present at a lot of basketball games last season that I didn't enjoy, but I'm happy to say it wasn't because of lack of effort. Our Sactown boys played hard, to the point they were actually receiving criticism for playing too hard down the stretch.

Never let it be said we play too hard.

Put on your lucky sock's Kings fans or buy a rabbit's foot, because May 10 is right around the corner!

All the best!

★

How the Supreme Court's Voting Rights Act Ruling Could Affect California's Gerrymandered Districts



By Dan Walters,
CALMatters.org

When California's independent redistricting commissions drew new maps of the state's congressional and legislative districts after the 2010 and 2020 censuses, their members were emphatically told by legal advisors that the federal Voting Rights Act required them to maximize opportunities for ethnic communities to elect officeholders.

The commissions went to great lengths to fold that mandate into the geographic boundaries of the districts, even if it required them to ignore city and county lines.

The effect was to enhance the ranks of Black, Latino and Asian representatives in Congress and the state Capitol. It also helped Democrats achieve overwhelming majorities in the Legislature and the state's congressional delegation, thus leaving Republicans with only token representation.

The commission's redistricting plans were, in effect, gerrymanders, if one defines that term as meaning to seek predetermined outcomes — even though the commission was created, via two ballot measures in 2008 and 2010, in response to gerrymanders the Legislature had decreed in prior decades.

Last year, Gov. Gavin Newsom and the Legislature asked voters to set aside the commission's

overwhelmingly pro-Democrat congressional districts and adopt even more lopsided maps, to give Democrats five more seats. It was a response to efforts, backed by President Donald Trump, to gerrymander more Republican districts in Texas and other red states.

Voters agreed by passing Proposition 50. This year's election will test whether the gerrymander has been successful and whether it has enough impact to restore Democratic control of the House of Representatives.

While setting aside the redistricting commission's maps, Prop. 50 promised that the maps would be effective not only this year, but for the 2028 and 2030 election cycles, after which the commission process would be restored using data from the 2030 census.

It's difficult to believe that when the time comes Democrats would truly allow the commission to once again draw the maps. The party's leaders never liked the commission process in the first place, and returning to it could force them to give up some of the seats they are capturing this year.

Additionally, California's congressional delegation, now 52 members, is likely to shrink by four or five seats due to the state's lack of population growth, meaning even fewer positions to distribute.

On Wednesday, the U.S. Supreme Court gave California's Democratic Party leadership a reason to eliminate the redistricting commission by weakening the Voting Rights Act's effect on drawing districts to maximize representation by non-white ethnic groups.

By a 6-3 vote, the court overturned congressional

maps in Louisiana that had, by lower court order, been redrawn to create one more district for the state's Black residents. The split decision declared that a "racial gerrymander" violates the U.S. Constitution's equal rights language.

The revised congressional districts that California created via ballot measure last year will not be immediately affected by Wednesday's ruling, but it could impact states that had been weighing making changes but had not yet done so.

Furthermore, it could affect California's new maps going forward. When they were placed on the ballot, Democratic leaders boasted that they were fully in compliance with the Voting Rights Act's provisions that now have been reinterpreted. Republicans could contend via lawsuit that the maps are unconstitutional under the court's new standard.

The Supreme Court's ruling would also affect how California's redistricting commission approaches its task after the 2030 census by eliminating, or at least weakening, the mandate that guided its actions in the past.

Democratic leaders could minimize the court's decree by persuading voters to eliminate the commission, thus returning redistricting to a Legislature they overwhelmingly control — something they probably would prefer anyway.

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. ★

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RMA Board Names New GM, Honors Hart, Advances Scooter Rule, Infrastructure Work

Story and photos by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Murieta Association Board of Directors on April 21 announced its next general manager, honored outgoing General Manager Rod Hart for his decades of service and moved forward with a new motorized scooter rule while approving significant maintenance projects.

New General Manager Announced

Board President Patrick O'Hern announced that the board has selected Vicky Lentz as the next general manager of the Rancho Murieta Association.

O'Hern cited Lentz's deep connections to Rancho Murieta and said he expects the community will be pleased with her appointment. See the separate story in this issue.

The meeting then turned into an emotional farewell to Hart, who is retiring after 45 years with the association.

Reflections by Hart

Hart reflected on his career and connection to the community.

"My whole life has been built around my time here at Rancho Murieta," he said. "If I have given a fraction to the community, what the community has given to me, then I guess I'll call that success."

He credited that success not to himself, but to the people around him, especially the volunteers who step forward to serve on the board and committees, often taking both praise and criticism while working to guide decisions in the community's best interest. Those volunteers, he said, create the structure that allows the general manager and staff to succeed.

Hart thanked the board for its steady support, saying members "help me at every turn" and "are honest when I need to turn a different direction."

Hart also emphasized the strength of the RMA staff, describing the workplace culture as one envied by other associations. After decades in maintenance and three years as general manager, he said,



Rancho Murieta Association General Manager Rod Hart shakes hands with board members at his final meeting on April 21. From left are Ernie Cowles, John Van Doran, Chris Childs, Patrick O'Hern, Tom Reimers, Scott Adams and John Haviland.

"I'm absolutely the least important person inside this building," praising the employees "who keep this place afloat."

Calling his retirement bittersweet, Hart said he "owed it to my wife and to myself" to step away and pursue some of the things they had long planned to do.

Nevertheless, his connection to Rancho Murieta will truly never end.

"It certainly isn't something that I will ever walk away and say, 'Man, well, that's over,' because that just simply will never be the case."

Board Tributes

O'Hern described Hart as a steady and principled leader, telling him, "You are the general manager that always has a smile on your face, even in adversity," and adding that his approach reflects "tenacity, grit, integrity and focus."

Director Scott Adams called Hart's hiring "probably the most important day for Rancho Murieta," saying, "This community has been blessed to have Rod as our guiding star for 45 years."

He added that Hart "has been a fantastic general manager" who strengthened the association's culture.

Director John Haviland said Hart "has left this community better than you found it" and thanked him for his service.

Director Chris Childs offered a lighter note, saying it was "odd to me that you were hired when I was nine years old."

Director John Van Doren said the community "couldn't design" a better general manager, emphasizing Hart's unique role

in shaping Rancho Murieta.

Director Tom Reimers, in a brief but telling moment, came forward and hugged Hart.

Director Ernie Cowles said when he and his wife approached retirement, they settled on Rancho Murieta because of how it looked and the sense of community. It wasn't until years later that "I really realized how much of that was due to one person and that person is yourself," he said.

Members of the audience also spoke, including former RMA Board President Jim Moore, who said Hart "established a gold standard" first as maintenance manager and later as general manager, adding that he "can't imagine anyone doing a better job."

Scooter Rule

In other business, the board unanimously approved sending a proposed stand-up motorized scooter rule out for community comment.

The draft rule requires scooter operators to follow traffic laws, wear helmets and avoid unsafe practices such as carrying passengers or using devices that impair control. It also restricts scooters from sidewalks, trails and other non-road areas.

The rule includes escalating fines for serious violations, such as reckless operation or modifying scooters to increase speed.

Board members said the rule is intended to address safety concerns as scooter use increases and will be circulated for an



Instead of offering remarks, Director Tom Reimers gives Rod Hart a hug.

extended public comment period due to scheduling requirements.

Asphalt, Bridge Repairs Approved

The board also approved two major maintenance items funded from reserves.

Directors authorized a contract for 2026 asphalt repairs, including a higher-than-usual contingency due to uncertainty in oil prices and the timing of the work.

They also approved the purchase of replacement planks for the community's wooden bridge, part of an ongoing phased maintenance program based on inspections and wear from heavy use.

Both projects were described as necessary to maintain infrastructure and extend the life of existing facilities, with funding already set aside in reserves.

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

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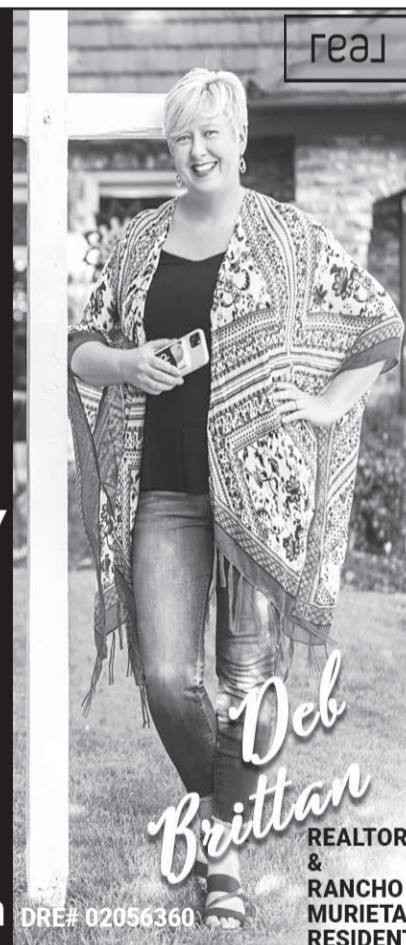
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Kids Fishing Day Reels in Families, Fun at Lake Clementia

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Young anglers lined the shore of Lake Clementia under overcast skies as the Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta hosted its annual Joe Mazzoni Sr. Memorial Kids Fishing Day, a community tradition that continues to draw families and volunteers together.

About 67 children registered for the free event, joined by parents, siblings and grandparents for a morning of fishing, instruction and friendly competition. The cloudy weather proved ideal, helping keep fish active as youngsters cast their lines in hopes of landing a prize-winning trout.

The lake had been stocked with 500 pounds of rainbow trout ahead of the event, giving participants plenty of chances to reel in a catch. Volunteers were on hand throughout the morning to help bait hooks, offer tips and assist at the fish-cleaning station. Kiwanian Bill Kinney organized the annual event.

This year, a \$500 grant from the Rancho Murieta Garden Club was used to purchase fishing poles, expanding access for children who did not have their own gear.

In keeping with the Kiwanis mission, all equipment and participation were provided at no cost to families.

Behind the scenes, Rancho Murieta Association Maintenance crews played a key role



Ronan Boyd shows off her catch at the Joe Mazzoni Sr. Memorial Kids fishing Day held at Lake Clementia on April 27. Photos courtesy of Wyly Haviland

in preparing the site. Staff installed a net in the swimming area to help contain the fish, after Patrick Chand completed repairs to ensure it was ready for use. Maintenance also supplied the barbecue, tables and chairs used for the popular hot dog lunch.

Community support extended beyond Kiwanis. In a social media post, Kiwanian Bronwyn Anthony thanked the Rancho Murieta Garden Club, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other partners for contributing to the event's success.

Throughout the morning, children proudly showed off their catches, with volunteers weighing fish and helping to clean them for families to take home. Prizes were awarded

for the largest fish. Zoey Covington won in Girls Division with a 2.34-pound fish, Lee Clelland in the Boys Division with a 2.8-pound fish.

Photos from the day show smiling participants holding their trout, families gathered along the shoreline and volunteers guiding first-time anglers through the basics: scenes that reflect the event's purpose as much as its outcomes.

Organizers said the goal goes beyond a single morning of fishing.

"It's about getting kids outside and introducing them to something they can enjoy for a lifetime," one organizer noted in materials from the event.

View more photos at TheRiverValleyTimes.com.



Winning prizes for catching the largest fish are Zoey Covington in the Girls Division and Lee Clelland in the Boys Division. Her fish weighed 2.34 pounds, his 2.8 pounds.



Mike Wasserman stays busy cleaning fish for the young anglers.



Lupe Laguna and sons Bob and Cruz look for a place to cast a line.



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