



Manganese Flare-Up  
Spurs Plant Overhaul  
Proposal

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NEED IS URGENT  
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CSD QUESTIONS  
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Greenfield Outage Disrupts  
Service More Than Two Days



While residents continued to use barcode access through the resident gates during the Greenfield Communications outage, gate officers manually processed visitors after internet and phone service were disrupted between July 12 and July 13.

Story and photo by Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A Greenfield Communications outage on the company's fiber-optic network left much of Rancho Murieta without internet, television and phone service for more than two days – from July 12 through July 14 – disrupting homes, businesses and government operations. Although service was restored to most

customers by July 14, some continued experiencing internet location problems that affected streaming services and remote work.

What Happened

Greenfield attributed the outage to a large-scale distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack affecting its network and other providers' networks. A DDoS attack is a cyberattack in which compromised computers or internet-connected

devices flood a server or network with traffic, making it slow or unavailable to legitimate users.

On July 16, the company released a detailed explanation describing the cyberattack, restoration efforts and steps being taken to strengthen its network.

According to Greenfield, the cyberattack disrupted portions of its network infrastructure serving Rancho Murieta and other

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Greenfield  
CEO Answers  
Outage  
Questions



Greenfield Communications CEO Mike Powers speaks at a Rancho Murieta event in 2019. File photo by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times  
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Greenfield Communications President and CEO Mike Powers responded to written questions from the River Valley Times following the more than two-day outage that disrupted internet, television and phone service in Rancho Murieta.

In his responses, Powers explained why the company limited public updates during the cyberattack, why restoration took several days, why some customers experienced lingering internet protocol (IP) issues after service was restored, and what Greenfield is doing to reduce the impact of future attacks.

Powers concluded his response by reassuring customers that no personal information had been compromised and offering a personal reflection on the outage and its impact on Greenfield's employees. Because those remarks help to frame the company's response, they are presented first.

The following questions and answers have been edited for length and clarity.

**RVT:** Is there anything else you would like Rancho Murieta customers to know about this incident?

**Powers:** Only this: No customer data was accessed or compromised at any point during this incident. This was an attack designed to disrupt service, not to steal information, and we want that distinction to be clear for anyone who was worried about their personal information.

The trust the Rancho Murieta community has placed in Greenfield Communications as your internet provider means everything to us, and we don't take it lightly. This past week weighed on our entire team, who worked around the clock, 24/7,

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Security Officers Face Threats on July 4



Recent patrol activities, including alarming Fourth of July incidents, are discussed during the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Security Committee Meeting on July 9.

Story and photo by Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Threats against security personnel, including an armed confrontation during a Fourth of July fireworks call, have prompted discussion about whether future Independence Day celebrations will require additional law enforcement support.

Rancho Murieta Community Services District Security Sgt. Brandon Arino described the incidents during the district's July 9 Security Committee meeting.

Committee members also discussed a possible transfer of security operations to the Rancho Murieta Association, heard about the successful reunification of a special needs child with his mother, and received a report on new aquatic invasive species training.

July 4 Challenges

Following his monthly report, Arino described two troubling incidents during Rancho Murieta's Fourth of July celebration.

He said security personnel encountered significant problems at North Beach while attempting to disperse a gathering involving underage drinking.

"They trashed the North Beach, per usual, bottles of alcohol everywhere," Arino said. "I don't know how many kids tried to say they were going to beat me up, beat Chris up, beat Vitaliy up."

Chris Smith is the RMA Compliance Supervisor, and Vitaliy Perepelka is a CSD patrol officer.

Arino said security's goal was simply to clear the gathering. Officers told juveniles that sheriff's deputies had been called, causing many of the underage youths to scatter while

some adults questioned why they could not remain.

Later that night, a CSD patrol and an RMA compliance officer responded to reports of illegal fireworks near the 14th hole of the golf course at Anillo and Guadalupe Drives.

According to the district's July 5 security incident log, two juveniles fled into the backyard of a nearby residence as officers arrived. While patrol and the compliance officer attempted to investigate, occupants of the residence ordered them off the property. The incident report states that someone inside the residence directed a red laser pointer at both officers. As patrol returned to their vehicles, an adult male confronted them while visibly brandishing a firearm.

Patrol withdrew from the area

Continued on page 4

# Manganese Flare-Up Spurs Plant Overhaul Proposal

Story and photo  
by Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times  
Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The June manganese flare-up in Rancho Murieta’s drinking water has prompted the Rancho Murieta Community Services District to begin discussing what could become the community’s biggest overhaul of its water treatment system in more than a decade.

During the Improvements Committee meeting on July 8, Chief Plant Operator Travis Bohannon didn’t mince words.

“I firmly believe that we need to get rid of Plant 1,” Bohannon said. “We need to demolish it, and we need to replace it with a conventional treatment plant.”

Recognizing the significance of the proposal, he added, “So that’s my bombshell for this morning.”

No decisions were made, and committee members emphasized they are only beginning to evaluate the idea. Instead, they directed Bohannon to return to next month’s Improvements Committee meeting with additional information comparing several alternatives before deciding how to proceed.

The Improvements Committee consists of Director and Chair Bill Gere, Director Randy Jenco, Bohannon, Interim General Manager Amelia Wilder and other district staff. The committee examines infrastructure and utility issues in detail before making recommendations to the board.

(A separate story covers other meeting topics



A potential overhaul of the district’s water treatment facility is discussed at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Improvements Committee meeting on July 8.

including sink holes in the golf courses.)

### Action Plan Needed

The discussion stemmed from the district’s June 19 manganese event, when elevated manganese levels prompted a precautionary bottled water advisory for infants. Bohannon said operators spent more than a day adjusting chemical feeds, monitoring water quality and bringing the system back under control before the advisory was lifted.

Although the incident was resolved, Bohannon said it highlighted the need for a formal action plan whenever manganese levels spike.

“This happens every year,” he said. “Sometimes it’s not as bad; sometimes it’s astronomically bad.”

Bohannon said he wants an engineering study completed not only to

recommend improvements to the district’s treatment process but also to develop an emergency action plan that operators can follow during future manganese events.

“If I’m not available, it’s something that staff can look at and go, ‘All right. This is what we have. This is the direction we need to go,’” he said.

The proposed engineering study, which would be prepared by the engineering consultants KSN Inc. and managed by Domenichelli & Associates, the district’s contract engineer, is estimated to cost about \$120,000. It would evaluate treatment alternatives, recommend operational improvements and develop emergency response procedures.

Committee members, however, said they wanted to obtain a second proposal

before deciding whether to move forward with a study of that cost.

The discussion then broadened beyond the June incident to the long-term future of Water Treatment Plant 1.

### Options Discussed

Bohannon explained that when he joined the district in 2009, both treatment plants used conventional filtration, and manganese was not a concern because conventional treatment provides enough contact time for chemicals to remove manganese before filtration.

Today, Plant 2 still uses conventional treatment and consistently removes manganese to non-detectable levels. Plant 1’s membrane system, however, can’t remove manganese from water.

Bohannon said Plant 1 also has become

increasingly expensive to operate. The district is preparing to spend nearly \$900,000 to replace two trains of membranes because manganese stains the membranes, making repairs ineffective and forcing replacement several years before their expected 10-year lifespan. Two employees spend two days each week repairing membranes, and the cost of replacement membranes and cleaning chemicals continues to rise.

“The safety of the water that we are supplying to the residents is paramount,” Bohannon said. “The membrane plant does provide good water. I’m not saying it doesn’t, but it doesn’t remove the manganese because of the way that the plant was built. We have no pretreatment.”

Wilder asked whether the district could improve the existing membrane plant

by adding pretreatment ahead of the membranes rather than replacing the entire facility.

Bohannon agreed pretreatment could improve the plant’s performance but said the district currently doesn’t have the “real estate” to construct the settling basins and other infrastructure that would be required.

Jeff Pearson, representing Rancho North, said the developer owns undeveloped property adjacent to the treatment plant that could potentially provide room for future expansion.

Director Randy Jenco also revived an idea discussed several years ago: converting Plant 2 into a pretreatment facility before sending water through Plant 1’s membrane system.

Bohannon said that remains a viable option but cautioned it would eliminate the district’s backup conventional treatment plant if Plant 1 experienced a major failure. It also would require increasing the size of Plant 1.

By the end of the discussion, the committee agreed Bohannon should return to next month’s Improvements Committee meeting with additional information comparing three primary alternatives: replacing Plant 1 with a conventional treatment plant, adding pretreatment to the existing membrane facility, or converting Plant 2 into a pretreatment facility feeding Plant 1’s membrane system. Staff also will seek a second proposal for the manganese engineering study and further refine the questions committee members want answered before deciding whether to proceed. ★



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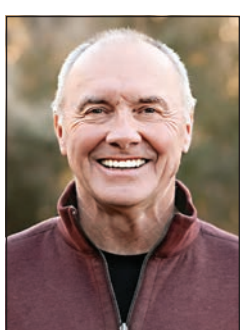
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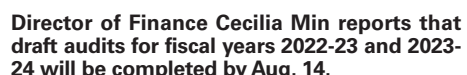
**Story and photos  
by Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter**

Later in the meeting, the board unanimously approved amendments to the 2022-23 and 2023-24 budgets reallocating



The River Valley Times noted that, in a June 30 email, Merchant stated the board

The board also revisited security issues from the Fourth of July celebration after The River Valley Times raised incidents discussed during the district's July 9 Security Committee meeting. (See separate story).



The discussion then turned to whether boating should continue in Calero and Chesbro reservoirs, which serve as drinking water sources. Interim Operations Manager Travis Bohannon questioned whether recreational boating should continue on the reservoirs. Gere suggested referring the issue to the Improvements Committee. Merchant said the topic could become part of broader discussions with RMA because the association owns the reservoir property while the district is responsible for protecting water quality. ★

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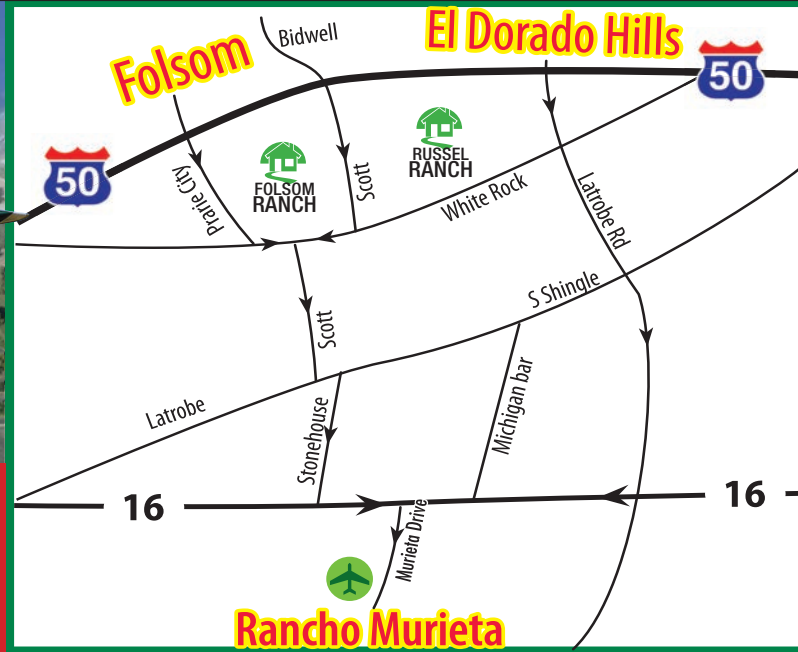
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Eli Lindsay-Sims greets Drippy, Vitalant’s blood drop mascot, during Rancho Murieta’s July 4 celebration. Vitalant is urging residents to donate at the Rancho Murieta Community Blood Drive on July 27. Photo courtesy of Bonnie Kirshman

# Need Is Urgent for Type O Blood

By Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - Rancho Murieta residents can help replenish a critically low blood supply by donating at the Rancho Murieta Community Blood Drive from noon to 6 p.m. Monday, July 27 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 14673 Cantova Way.

The drive, sponsored by the Rancho Murieta Women’s Club and Knights of Columbus, comes as Vitalant reports its supply of type O blood has fallen to its lowest level in two years and urges donors – especially those with type O blood – to schedule appointments as soon as possible.

“Type O blood is always in high demand because it’s the most

versatile and frequently used blood type for transfusions,” Vitalant Area Vice President Michael Martinez said in a statement. “When there’s a shortage, doctors may have to decide who can receive it immediately and who can wait.”

Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs a blood transfusion, according to Vitalant. Type O blood is especially important in emergencies because it can be used before a patient’s blood type is determined. O-positive blood can be transfused to anyone with a positive blood type, while people with O-positive blood can receive only type O blood.

Vitalant said its already-low blood supply declined further during the Independence Day holiday as travel and holiday activities reduced donor turnout, leaving thousands of

appointments still needing to be filled throughout the Sacramento region by the end of July.

Appointments for the Rancho Murieta drive can be made at donors.vitalant.org using blood drive code SMFM053 or by calling 877-258-4825. Walk-ins will be accepted as space permits. Donors will receive a coupon for 10% off a purchase from Yogurt Pop and be entered into drawings for a \$50 Yogurt Pop gift card, donated by Carole Thames with Town and Country Real Estate; a \$50 Murieta Inn & Cupola Spa credit and a Vitalant drawing for a chance to win a vehicle valued at up to \$30,000.

Donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health and bring a photo ID. There is no upper age limit. ★

# Security Officers Face Threats on July 4

Continued from page 1

and notified the Sacramento County Sheriff’s Office. Dispatch advised deputies were committed to a priority call and would respond when available. No deputy responded before patrol cleared the call at 3:30 a.m.

During the committee meeting, Smith said the area’s only on-duty sheriff’s deputy was handling a homicide investigation in Rancho Cordova when the gun incident occurred.

Smith said the Rancho Murieta Association had requested off-duty deputies for the Fourth of July celebration, but none were available.

Instead, RMA hired eight additional private security officers, with Smith and CSD personnel working from 3:30 a.m. until 3:30 a.m. the following day.

Despite the confrontations, Arino praised the joint effort.

“Collectively, between RMA and CSD, I think we did a good job for the Fourth of July,” Arino said. “I just want to give a big shout-out to both our staffs and say thank you to everyone.”

Committee Chairman John Merchant said this year’s celebration appeared larger than any he could remember.

“I’ve never seen that many carts and that many people,” Merchant said.

Merchant said Independence Day falling on a Saturday during a three-day holiday weekend likely contributed to the turnout and questioned whether future Fourth of July celebrations will require additional security and law enforcement resources.

Smith said one of the biggest concerns was the apparent number of non-residents entering Rancho Murieta for the celebration. He said the large number of pedestrians crossing Highway 16 after the fireworks suggested many visitors had walked into the community from outside the gates. Planned fencing near the pedestrian access point is expected to help reduce unauthorized entry during future events.

**Child Reunited with Mother**

Earlier in his monthly report, Arino highlighted a June 15 incident in which security officers reunited a special needs child with his mother after the child wandered from home and was found alone at the Riverview Park bus stop.

Because the child was unable to identify himself, officers worked with community members familiar with local families to

determine his identity and locate his home before contacting the child’s mother. The child was reunited without incident.

Afterward, Arino told the child’s mother about the district’s Bring Me Home Safe program.

“I feel like that program is going to do us some good with incidents like this, so we can get these people home safer and faster,” Arino said.

The voluntary program allows parents and caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities or medical conditions to provide identifying information and photographs that security personnel can use to quickly reunite participants who become lost or are unable to communicate with their families.

**Security Transfer Discussed**

Committee members also continued discussing a possible transfer of security operations from the CSD to the Rancho Murieta Association.

Merchant said the proposal is being explored because the district’s primary responsibility is operating its utility systems, while security operations require significant management time.

He noted security was transferred from

the RMA to the CSD decades ago because the district had greater authority to enforce security assessments.

Merchant said CSD officials and an RMA committee are evaluating security assets, funding, employee obligations and public outreach before any decisions are made.

“We want to take this forward with complete accountability and complete transparency so that everybody knows what we’re doing,” Merchant said.

Arino suggested that if gate operations were transferred to the RMA, the CSD should consider retaining some security staff to protect its reservoirs, waterways and other facilities outside the gates.

Merchant agreed, saying the district has an inherent responsibility to protect its reservoirs, water treatment facilities and water supply.

**Protecting the Reservoirs**

Arino also reported that he, Security Patrol Officer Vitaliy Perepelka and Gate Officer David Labrado completed California Department of Fish and Wildlife training in aquatic invasive species identification, watercraft inspection and decontamination.

The training will help security personnel to educate boaters and protect Rancho Murieta’s lakes from invasive species such as zebra, quagga and golden mussels. ★

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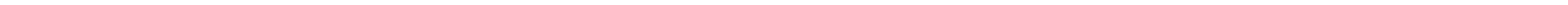
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# CSD Questions Ownership of Golf Course Storm Drains

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

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The Rancho Murieta Community Services District may not be responsible for repairing four failed storm drain culverts at the Rancho Murieta Country Club, based on historical records. The issue dominated the July 8 Improvements Committee meeting after staff uncovered a 1988 drainage master plan map indicating several golf course drainage culverts may never have been accepted by the district. The committee also briefly discussed the Water Vision Subcommittee and related topics, but members delayed forwarding a proposal to the board to develop storm drain design standards for the district.

**Failing Culverts** The investigation began after the country club reported sinkholes and failing culverts on North Course holes 14, 17, 8 and 3, along with South Course hole 1, prompting district staff to determine who owns the aging drainage system. Staff’s review found the culverts do not appear on district maps or as-built plans, leading employees to search historical records for evidence of ownership. Utility Supervisor Corey Carskaddon said he recently discovered a June 1988 Storm Drainage and

Flood Control Master Plan showing the drainage facilities were not identified as district facilities. Interim General Manager Amelia Wilder said the district has found no permits, inspection records or acceptance documents showing it ever assumed ownership of the disputed pipes. Chief Plant Operator Travis Bohannon said staff does not recommend the district assume responsibility for the repairs unless ownership can be established. “There is no documentation stating that we’ve accepted those in any way, shape or form, and the cost of repairing those is going to be expensive,” Bohannon said.

**Committee Seeks More Information** Both committee members praised the staff’s research. “I’d like to say, first of all, thank you to Corey. I think you’re doing a great job of discovery here,” Director Bill Gere said. Director Randy Jenco added, “Great job of digging this out.” The directors agreed that additional research is needed and that the issue could ultimately require legal review before responsibility for the drainage system can be determined. Gere directed staff to invite all interested parties to participate before the issue returns to the Improvements Committee next month.

“We need to find all the documents,” Gere said, adding that interested parties should have an opportunity to present any records supporting their positions before the issue reaches the board. One of those parties is Country Club General Manager Eric Dutton. He attended the meeting after being invited by district staff and said the club would search its own files. “The records over at the Country Club are admittedly atrocious,” Dutton said, explaining that decades of construction records have not been well organized, making it difficult to locate documents that could help determine ownership of the drainage facilities. “Just like you guys are doing, we are making a lot of hard decisions, trying to get the most out of the least amount of money,” Dutton added. “Working together is definitely a good thing.” Dutton said discussions should also include the golf course owners (the Carol Anderson Ward Investment Group) because the club is the tenant leasing the property. During the discussion, it was also noted that Jeff Pearson already represents the golf course owners.

**One Sinkhole Poses Environmental Concerns** The committee also discussed the sinkhole on the South Course’s first fairway in more depth. Unlike the other failing culverts, this location



Interim General Manager Amelia Wilder uses a 1988 drainage map to point out failing culverts on the golf courses during the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Improvements Committee on July 8.

could trigger additional environmental monitoring requirements because it discharges into the Cosumnes River. Carskaddon said Caltrans’ original Jackson Highway plans from the 1950s show the area was designed as an open drainage channel rather than a culvert. At some point, however, a pipe was installed that has since failed, but neither Caltrans nor the district has documentation showing who made the modification. Because the culvert discharges into the Cosumnes River, staff is determining whether it must be added to the district’s municipal stormwater permit as an additional monitored outfall, which could increase annual monitoring costs. The committee directed staff to continue researching ownership of the drainage facilities, work with the country club and other interested parties to gather additional documentation and return with an update at its next meeting.

**Water Vision Ad Hoc Committee** During public comment, Rancho Murieta Properties representative Jeff Pearson, who is also a member of the Water Vision Ad Hoc Committee, questioned why several key water planning issues had disappeared from the committee’s agenda or appeared to have stalled. He noted the committee’s

June meeting ended with plans to condense the Water Vision Working Group matrix and continue the discussion in July, but no update was scheduled. The matrix is a planning chart identifying what needs to be done, who is responsible and when each task should be completed to increase the water supply. Pearson also reminded Gere that he had previously said (in May) he had taken it upon himself to search for a site for a third emergency water storage tank, saying Rancho North remained willing to discuss potential locations but had not been contacted. He also asked for an update on questions submitted to the district’s water attorney. Pearson concluded by asking Gere to bring him up to speed, but received no response. Directors have a standard practice of not responding to issues raised during the public comment agenda item, but they have the option to do so. However, Jenco said he shared Pearson’s concerns, noting the draft agenda had included both a Water Vision Working Group update and a discussion between water consultants Lisa Maddaus and Jim Farrell on the Integrated Water Management Plan before both items were removed from the final agenda. Wilder said the discussion with Maddaus was

removed because there was no update. A confusing dialogue ensued, indicating that Wilder and Gere took the Water Vision group off the agenda because no further work had been completed on the matrix. In the director comments at the end of the meeting, Jenco said Gere had been adamant that anything involved with the Water Vision group must go through Improvements. “It’s got to be an agenda item at every Improvements Committee meeting because it is at the top of things that the community services district should be working on, in my opinion,” he said.

**Storm Drain Standards** The Improvements Committee discussed a \$19,092 proposal from Domenichelli & Associates to develop the district’s first stormwater quality design standards. Engineer Joe Domenichelli said the standards would give developers and district staff clear guidance for complying with state MS4 stormwater regulations while limiting acceptable design options to systems suited to Rancho Murieta and practical for the district to maintain, rather than relying on the much broader Sacramento and Placer County standards. The committee decided to review the proposal again at the next meeting before sending it to the board. ★

# How Rancho Murieta Lost its Telemedicine Pharmacy Kiosk

**By Robert Guerin**

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - For more than a year, I worked with MednRx and Same Day Health Care Pharmacy to bring California’s first telemedicine pharmacy kiosk to Rancho Murieta. I believed we finally had a solution to a problem our community has faced for decades. Instead, after nearly two years of regulatory review, the California State Board of Pharmacy effectively denied not only Rancho Murieta’s kiosk but, in my opinion, the entire business model. It has been decades since Rancho Murieta’s neighborhood pharmacy in the shopping center closed. That space is now occupied by Ace Hardware. Since then, residents have relied on mail-order delivery, Amazon, Kaiser, Costco and other pharmacies for their prescription needs. Some are satisfied with those options, while others still miss the convenience of having pharmacy services just across the street. Telemedicine has also become a standard part of health care. The pharmacy industry itself is facing difficult times. Rite Aid is closing stores nationwide, while Walgreens and CVS continue to reduce the number of pharmacies they operate. New business models are needed: fewer large brick-and-mortar stores, lower overhead and greater use of technology. MednRx was founded by Dr. Steven Gest and Vaibhav Shah to provide telemedicine pharmacy



Robert Guerin stands outside a prototype pharmacy kiosk that is being demonstrated in Elk Grove. Courtesy photos

kiosks in communities known as “pharmacy deserts,” where residents have limited access to pharmacy services. After nearly a year of community support and discussions, the company agreed that Rancho Murieta would be the ideal location for its first California kiosk. The concept was straightforward. A central brick-and-mortar pharmacy would support five automated kiosks located in surrounding communities. Patients could consult with a licensed pharmacist through secure video conferencing while receiving prescriptions from an Automatic Patient Dispensing System (APDS). It was designed as a 21st-century solution that reduced overhead while expanding pharmacy access in medically underserved communities. Same Day Health Care

Pharmacy opened in Rancho Cordova on Nov. 15, 2024, to serve as the hub for the kiosk system. Rancho Murieta was selected to receive the first kiosk in California, and optimism was high. Over the past year, SDHC has become an active part of our community. Representatives briefed the Rancho Murieta Association, Kiwanis and other groups, sponsored the Crab Feed, staffed information tables outside Ace Hardware, offered flu shot clinics and explained how the kiosk would work. Many residents were enthusiastic about finally having pharmacy services return to Rancho Murieta. As time passed, however, it became evident that the California State Board of Pharmacy was moving very slowly on the licensing process. Nearly two years passed before the

board finally considered the application during its April 15, 2026, hearing. In my opinion, what occurred that day effectively rejected not just Rancho Murieta’s kiosk, but the entire business model. Board President Dr. Seung Oh said he believed California law allows Automatic Patient Dispensing Systems only in physicians’ offices or medical facilities. During the discussion, he remarked that patients already had “many other avenues” for obtaining their medications and said the board did not have the authority to approve this type of device. I was especially disappointed that neither Dr. Oh nor any other board member visited the multimillion-dollar demonstration kiosk that had been set up in Elk Grove before making their decision.



Robert Guerin sits inside the kiosk talking to a remote pharmacist about his medications.

The final kiss of death, in my view, came when Dr. Oh said the law would need to be “changed or clarified” before this concept could move forward. That could mean waiting three to five years, or perhaps much longer. The board later advised SDHC and MednRx that their application had been “withdrawn,” even though company officials maintain they never withdrew it. That proved to be the final straw for the company. The ultimate irony is that the pharmacy boards in Oregon and Arizona have already approved the concept. According to MednRx, the approval process in those states took only two months, and the kiosk originally planned for Rancho Murieta is now pending final placement in Oregon. Same Day Health Care Pharmacy has closed; employees have lost their jobs; there will be no telemedicine pharmacy kiosk

in Rancho Murieta or elsewhere in California for the foreseeable future; and millions of dollars already invested in the California project have been lost. I hope this summary helps to explain what happened. The issue is much more complicated than can be covered here, but the outcome speaks for itself. I regret that I was unable to help bring this project to Rancho Murieta. It was a privilege to work with everyone involved, and I remain convinced that telemedicine pharmacy kiosks can improve access to pharmacy services for communities like ours. Robert Guerin is a Rancho Murieta resident and retired chief of medical services for the California Army National Guard. He volunteered to help bring the proposed MednRx pharmacy kiosk to Rancho Murieta but was not employed by MednRx or Same Day Health Care Pharmacy. ★

# Wastewater Backlog Sparks Concern at CSD Meeting

By Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times  
Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - A growing backlog of partially treated wastewater became the biggest issue at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District’s July 14 board meeting after Interim Operations Manager and Chief Plant Operator Travis Bohannon warned the district is racing to eliminate it before the rainy season arrives.

If heavy rains arrive before the backlog is eliminated, partially treated wastewater could spill into the Cosumnes River: a catastrophic scenario for the district.

The district has about 30 million gallons more partially treated wastewater in its storage ponds than it did at the same time last year, Bohannon reported. The water has already undergone primary and secondary treatment, meaning it is no longer raw sewage, but it has not yet received tertiary treatment, the final process that produces reclaimed water suitable for irrigation.

### Delayed Project, Pump Failure Create Backlog

Bohannon said the district is still dealing with the effects of a delayed 2025



The Rancho Murieta Community Services District uses its tertiary treatment plant to transform partially treated wastewater into reclaimed water suitable for irrigation. Courtesy photo

conversion of the tertiary treatment plant from chlorine to bleach. The project took about two months longer than expected, leaving the plant out of service while wastewater continued flowing into the storage ponds but no reclaimed water was produced. As a result, the district entered this year’s irrigation season roughly two months behind. He said a mechanical failure in one of the plant’s major pumps this season has prevented the district from making up that lost ground.

The damaged pump experienced mechanical problems after it was placed back into service this season. Although it had operated normally last year, a component failed, reducing its output from about 700 gallons per

minute to roughly 520 gallons per minute.

“We are at max capacity on pumping out,” Bohannon told the board. “We’re by no means out of danger.”

Because the district depends on the pump throughout the irrigation season, it cannot be removed for repairs until pumping ends this fall. In the meantime, Bohannon said the district’s mechanic has done everything possible to keep it operating.

“He kind of twisted it a little bit, applied some more tape to the Band-Aid,” Bohannon said, describing the temporary repairs that have kept the pump running at about 75% capacity until it can be pulled from service.

The district uses tertiary-treated reclaimed water

to irrigate the Rancho Murieta Country Club, where it is stored in ponds before being used on the golf course. It also disposes of additional reclaimed water through a pipeline to the Van Vleck Ranch across Highway 16 from Rancho Murieta South. At Van Vleck, the water must soak into the ground before additional reclaimed water can be released, limiting how quickly the district can reduce the backlog.

### Race Against Winter

Bohannon warned that the district is also working against the calendar.

The district’s wastewater permit allows tertiary treatment to continue through the end of November unless rainfall arrives first. Once the rainy season begins, the country club

no longer needs reclaimed water for irrigation, eliminating the district’s primary disposal outlet.

Coupled with forecasts for a potentially strong El Niño, an early rainy season could significantly shorten the district’s remaining treatment window.

Director Tim Maybee said the district should begin contingency planning immediately rather than waiting until fall and recommended the issue be placed on the agenda for the next Improvements Committee meeting.

“I’d rather have this discussion at that level, and then if we have to finance something, let’s start that process versus we’re in October,” Maybee said. The board agreed the committee should begin evaluating options.

One option discussed was trucking the partially treated wastewater to the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District.

After the meeting, Bohannon said that effort would likely require about 10 tanker truck trips a day, five days a week, moving approximately 50,000 gallons each day, or 250,000 gallons per week. Even at that pace, he said, the district would have to begin hauling immediately and continue through the end of the pumping season just to eliminate the current

30-million-gallon surplus.

“The question is, how soon do we start?” Bohannon said, noting the district must balance the substantial cost of trucking against the risk of waiting too long if early rains curtail the disposal season.

Board President John Merchant also asked Bohannon to determine the cost and availability of replacing the damaged pump rather than simply repairing it. Bohannon cautioned that pumps of that size are specialized equipment that typically are not stocked and could require a significant lead time to obtain.

After the meeting, Merchant said his concern is rooted in experience. He recalled that in 2006 the district released tertiary-treated reclaimed water into the Cosumnes River, violating its discharge permit.

Although the water had received the highest level of treatment and was suitable for irrigation, the district still incurred about \$250,000 in fines and ultimately was required to make roughly \$1 million in improvements to its wastewater system.

Merchant said that history illustrates why the district is trying to stay ahead of the current problem before winter weather limits its options. ★

## Greenfield CEO Answers Outage Questions

Continued from page 1

until every customer was safely back online. To our residents and businesses: Thank you sincerely for your patience as we worked through this. We took it very seriously, and we remain committed to earning your trust every day.

**RVT:** When did Greenfield determine the outage was caused by a distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack?

**Powers:** Our network monitoring identified the traffic pattern as a DDoS attack within minutes of the outage beginning on Sunday afternoon. While the type of attack was identified quickly, safely mitigating it and rebuilding the affected infrastructure took until Tuesday afternoon, when service was fully restored.

**RVT:** Without revealing security-sensitive information, can you clarify whether Greenfield was the intended target of the attack and what role, if any, upstream providers played?

**Powers:** This is one area we’re not able to discuss in detail. Our network

architecture, the providers we rely on and how traffic moves through our infrastructure are proprietary and security-sensitive. Rather than provide a partial explanation that could mislead or oversimplify a complex technical issue, we’d rather decline to comment further.

**RVT:** Looking back, should customers have received earlier updates, even if technical details couldn’t yet be shared?

**Powers:** Looking back, yes. We believe an earlier acknowledgment that we were aware of the problem and actively working on it could have reduced customer frustration without compromising the guidance we received from the FBI and industry security experts. That’s a change we’re already implementing in our incident communication procedures.

**RVT:** Some residents believed the Rancho Murieta Community Services District regained internet service before most residential customers. Why was that?

**Powers:** The Community Services

District was not restored ahead of residential customers, and no customer type received preferential treatment. Service returned in stages as segments of the network came back online under new network addresses. The order reflected the technical rollout, not whether the customer was residential, business or governmental.

**RVT:** Was assigning new IP addresses part of Greenfield’s normal incident response plan?

**Powers:** Reassigning network addresses is a standard industry tool used to recover from this type of attack quickly and safely. While the approach itself is common, the specific implementation was tailored to the circumstances Greenfield encountered during this incident.

**RVT:** Has Greenfield made changes to reduce the likelihood or impact of a similar outage?

**Powers:** We continually review our exposure to external threats and our response procedures, but we can’t publicly discuss specific technical or architectural changes because of security considerations. ★

## Gold Rush Classic Returns for Seventh Year



Cripple Creek is shown performing at an ETC Concert in 2025. The popular band will perform for the tournament’s Stars & Guitars Concert at the country club, which is open to the public on Aug. 7.

Story and photo by Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - The Gold Rush Classic Celebrity Pro-Am Golf Tournament will return to Rancho Murieta Country Club for its seventh year on Aug. 6-7, featuring a day of golf, celebrity events and a public concert benefiting charities.

The highlight for many local residents will be the “Stars & Guitars” concert featuring The Cripple Creek Band at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 7. The concert is open to the public. Tickets are \$30. For tickets,

contact Beth at 530-370-3416.

The two-day event also includes a \$1 million hole-in-one contest, a celebrity skins challenge and a celebrity draft party before Friday's tournament.

Funds raised benefit Jordan’s Guardian Angels, Make-A-Wish, 1st Tee of Sacramento, Rancho Murieta youth sports and other community programs and children’s charities.

For sponsorship opportunities, team registration and additional information, visit [goldrushclassic.org](http://goldrushclassic.org) or contact John Jacobs at 916-806-0939 or [johnj@goldrushclassic.org](mailto:johnj@goldrushclassic.org). ★



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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](http://rmcsd.com).

## July 2

5:46 p.m., During a patrol of Granlees Dam, Patrol observed two male juveniles fishing on District property. Both subjects were advised that fishing is prohibited on District property and were directed to leave the area. Subjects complied without incident.

7:14 p.m., During a routine patrol of Lake Joaquin, Patrol located a guest vehicle parked on Lago Drive near the lake spillway. Three male adults were fishing nearby without a resident escort, in violation of RMA guest access rules. Patrol contacted the subjects, advised them of the violation, and directed them to leave the area. The subjects complied without incident.

8:46 p.m., Patrol responded to a report of subjects swimming in Chesbro Lake. Upon arrival, Patrol observed one male adult swimming and two additional subjects fishing from the shoreline. Patrol contacted the group and directed the swimmer to exit the water immediately due to RMA rule violations. The subject complied without incident. Citations issued.

## July 3

10:36 p.m., During a routine patrol of Gazebo Park, Patrol observed four juvenile males in the park after posted hours. Patrol contacted the group, advised them the park was closed, and directed them to leave the area. The subjects complied without incident.

## July 4

1:58 a.m., Patrol responded to a noise complaint at De La Cruz Drive. Multiple vehicles were parked at the residence, and faint music was heard coming from the backyard. Patrol contacted the resident, who agreed to turn the music off. Patrol confirmed the music had ceased, remained in the area briefly, and observed no further disturbances.

6:28 p.m., Patrol responded to a report of two heavily intoxicated juvenile females, reportedly unconscious and vomiting at North Beach. Upon arrival, Patrol

was unable to locate the subjects.

6:29 p.m., While near Stonehouse Park, Patrol was flagged down by a resident reporting her cellular phone had been stolen at North Beach. The resident advised she was tracking

the phone using a friend's device. Before further action was required, an unknown individual returned the phone to the resident's home. The reporting party regained possession of the phone.

7:51 p.m., Patrol responded to a report of minors consuming alcohol at Stonehouse Park. The reporting party advised the subjects were associated with a gray Honda sedan and a white Toyota pickup. Upon Patrol's arrival, both vehicles had already left the area.

## July 5

12:44 a.m., Patrol responded to a report of a loud party with attendees obstructing traffic in the roadway. Upon arrival, Patrol observed approximately 20 juveniles partially blocking traffic. Patrol contacted the group and directed them to move the gathering onto the property. The group complied without incident.

3:18 a.m., Patrol and a compliance officer responded to reports of illegal fireworks near the 14th Hole at Anillo Drive and Guadalupe Drive. Upon arrival, two juveniles fled toward the backyard of Guadalupe Drive. While Patrol attempted to investigate, occupants of the residence ordered Patrol and the compliance officer to leave the property. A red laser pointer was directed at both officers from the residence.

As Patrol returned to its vehicles, an adult male confronted them while visibly brandishing a firearm. Patrol safely withdrew from the area and notified Sacramento County Sheriff's Dispatch. Dispatch advised deputies were committed to a priority call and would respond when available, and instructed Patrol to clear the area. No deputy response occurred prior to Patrol clearing the call at 3:30 a.m..

6:17 p.m., During a routine patrol of Granlees Dam, Patrol contacted four male juveniles trespassing on District property. The subjects were determined to be non-residents without a resident escort. Patrol directed the group to leave the area immediately. The subjects complied and walked toward the Clementia levee to meet a resident.

6:21 p.m., Patrol responded to a delayed

report of a hit-and-run collision. The resident of Pescado Circle reported a golf cart struck the passenger-side mirror of a parked vehicle, causing minor damage, before leaving the area eastbound on Lago Drive toward Pera Drive. The resident was unable to provide identifying information for the golf cart or operator.

## July 6

10:18 p.m., Patrol responded to a report of subjects fishing at the Lake Joaquin spillway after posted hours. Upon arrival, Patrol observed a golf cart occupied by three subjects fishing near the spillway. The group departed upon seeing Patrol and left the area without further incident.

## July 7

12:45 p.m., Security Supervisor Arino responded to a welfare check at Carmella Circle after the reporting party advised there had been no activity at the residence for several days. Upon arrival, the residence appeared secure, with a disabled vehicle parked in the driveway. Contact was made with the resident, who confirmed she was in good health and did not require assistance. The reporting party was notified of the results.

4:36 p.m., Patrol responded to a gate arm collision at the South Gate involving the inner resident lane. The driver, identified as resident of Callaway Drive, remained on scene and provided a valid driver's license and insurance information.

The driver stated the gate arm was open as he approached and began to close as he proceeded through the lane, striking the hood of his vehicle. A review of gate camera footage determined the driver closely followed another vehicle through the gate without allowing the gate arm to complete its operating cycle. As the gate arm closed behind the lead vehicle, it struck the following vehicle. The vehicle sustained minor scratches to the hood. Patrol provided the driver with the incident report number for insurance purposes.

## July 8

6:32 p.m., Patrol responded to a report of two juvenile males jumping from the Jackson Road Bridge into the Cosumnes River. Upon arrival, patrol contacted two non-resident juveniles on the bridge and advised them of the county ordinance prohibiting bridge jumping. The juveniles complied and exited the bridge without

incident. During the contact, it was determined they were visiting the river for recreational purposes and were unable to provide the required daily river pass. The juveniles were directed to leave the area and complied without further incident.

7:13 p.m., Patrol responded to a report of multiple subjects trespassing on Rancho Murieta property while accessing the Cosumnes River. Patrol located two vehicles associated with the group and contacted individuals fishing within Rancho Murieta property. The subjects were advised they were trespassing and directed to leave the area. Patrol also contacted an additional group of three at the Cosumnes River Park who were unable to provide the required daily river passes. All subjects complied with patrol's instructions and left the area without incident.

## July 9

8:09 p.m., Patrol responded to a report of a golf cart striking the North Gate far resident lane gate arm. Upon arrival, Patrol contacted the driver, who stated she stopped at the gate after realizing her golf cart did not have a barcode. Due to a vehicle stopped behind her, she attempted to motion the following driver to reverse. As the gate cycled, she proceeded forward and slowly contacted the closing gate arm. The driver reported no injuries or damage to the golf cart.

## July 10

1:13 a.m., Patrol responded to a barking dog complaint. Dispatch contacted the resident, who advised they were away from home and would arrange for someone to bring the dog inside. Patrol cleared the call without further incident.

10:58 p.m., RP reported a blue Ford Explorer parked near Granlees Dam with concern the occupant intended to camp in the area. Patrol responded and conducted an area check but was unable to locate the vehicle or any associated subjects.

## July 14

7:13 p.m., Patrol responded to reports of a large group trespassing near the Yellow Bridge and County Bridge. Two SUVs were located parked in a posted No Parking zone. Patrol contacted two separate groups along the river, advised them they were trespassing on Rancho Murieta property, and directed them to leave. Both groups complied without incident. ★



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# COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Corvette Club Plans Memorial Poker Run Fundraiser

The Rancho Murieta Corvette Club will host the Jerry McDonald Memorial Poker Run on Sept. 26 to raise money for its annual Thanksgiving Dinner project, which provides holiday meals to families in the River Valley area of south Sacramento County. Named in honor of longtime club member and past president Jerry McDonald, who died in 2024, the event is open to all makes and models of vehicles, including sports cars, sedans, SUVs and trucks.

Participants will follow a scenic route through the foothills and lower Sierra, stopping at five locations to collect playing cards in hopes of building the best poker hand. The drive concludes with a no-host lunch at Castle Oaks Golf Club, where prizes will be awarded. Written directions will be provided. The \$30 entry fee includes two poker hands: one for the driver and one for the navigator.

Registration is due by Sept. 12. Entry forms are available by emailing [pcargts@yahoo.com](mailto:pcargts@yahoo.com). Completed forms, along with a check payable to Rancho Murieta Corvettes, should be mailed to the address listed on the form.

### Blood Drive Slated July 27

Vitalant will hold its next Rancho Murieta Community Blood Drive from noon to 6 p.m. Monday, July 27 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 14673 Cantova Way. The event is sponsored by the Rancho Murieta Women’s Club and the Knights of Columbus.

Appointments can be made online at [donors.vitalant.org](https://donors.vitalant.org) using blood drive code SMFM053 or by calling Vitalant at 877-258-4825. Walk-ins will be accepted as space permits. Donors will receive a coupon for 10% off a purchase from Yogurt Pop and will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 Yogurt Pop gift card donated by

Carole Thames with Town and Country Real Estate. Donors will also be entered into a drawing for a \$50 credit for the Murieta Inn & Cupola Spa donated by the Murieta Inn.

Eat well and drink plenty of water before donating, and bring a photo ID. For eligibility questions, call 877-258-4825 or visit [vitalant.org](https://vitalant.org). One donation can save more than one life; there’s no substitute for volunteer blood donors.

### CSD Announces Openings for Four Board Seats

Rancho Murieta residents will elect four directors to the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board in November. Residents interested in serving their community are encouraged to run for office. The candidate filing period opens July 13 and closes Aug. 7.

Nomination papers are available from the Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office, 7000 65th St., Suite

A, Sacramento. Additional information is available from the Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office website.

### RMCC Plans Car & Art Show July 25

The Rancho Murieta Country Club will host a Car & Art Show on July 25 featuring collector vehicles, local artists, live music and dining. The event begins with no-host cocktails, a car show and an art walk on the 18th Fairway from 3 to 5 p.m. A barbecue buffet will be served at 6 p.m., followed by a performance by the Engine 4 Band on the Terrace Patio at 7 p.m.

The buffet dinner and concert package is \$30. Concert-only admission is \$5 for club members and \$25 for nonmembers. Vehicle and artist/crafter entries are \$10. For more information, contact club. [office@ranchomurietaacc.com](mailto:office@ranchomurietaacc.com) or call 916-354-3416. Vendors may call 916-354-3421.

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# ETC Founder Honored as Billy Joel-Elton John Tribute Rocks Amphitheater

Story and photos  
by Gail Bullen  
River Valley Times  
Reporter

**RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)** - Before Entertainment, Theater & Culture for Rancho Murieta (ETC) transported concertgoers back to the era of Billy Joel and Elton John on July 11, it honored a resident whose vision helped to make evenings like this possible.

ETC Vice President Jane Rosetta asked founder Erin Reed to stand as she attended what would be her final ETC concert before moving to Arizona. Rosetta credited Reed and fellow founder Michael Jones with creating the organization that has brought summer concerts to the Lake Clementia Amphitheater for nearly a quarter century.

“Let’s give her a round of applause,” Rosetta said. “None of us would be here tonight, Erin. One thousand people are all here because of you having that beautiful vision 25 years ago.”

Rosetta said Reed and Jones founded ETC in 2001, recruited volunteers and sponsors, set up a non-profit and launched the first amphitheater events the following year.

The tribute was followed by another journey into the past as Kenny Metcalf, portraying Elton John, and Adam Shapiro, portraying Billy Joel, re-created the legendary Face to Face concerts of the 1990s.

## Audience Becomes Part of Show

It didn’t take long for the



Billy Joel tribute artist Adam Shapiro, right, and Elton John tribute artist Kenny Metcalf bring the legendary Face to Face concerts to life during Entertainment, Theater & Culture for Rancho Murieta's July 11 concert at Lake Clementia Amphitheater.



Concertgoers embrace Elton John's flamboyant fashion with colorful glasses, glitter and bright costumes as they dance to the music.



Murieta Dance Company competitive dancer Jema Neuman performs a lyrical solo to “What a Wonderful World” before the concert begins.

audience to become part of the performance.

The youngest fans claimed the dance floor first. While many adults remained on blankets and lawn chairs, little children danced with their parents near the stage or happily twirled on their own as the music began. During one song, Shapiro leaned over the edge of the stage to bump fists with a little girl held high in her mother’s arms, drawing smiles from nearby concertgoers.

Soon, the dance floor filled with residents of all

ages, dancing, clapping and singing nearly every word. Audience members continued singing even after the musicians stopped playing.

Several dozen residents embraced Elton John’s flamboyant style, arriving in oversized glasses, glittering jackets, sequined tops and flashy jewelry. About a dozen teenagers – who weren’t even born when Billy Joel and Elton John were filling arenas – sang along and danced with the same enthusiasm as longtime fans.

The band rolled through signature hits including “Bennie and the Jets,” “Rocket Man,” “Tiny Dancer,” “Movin’ Out” and “Piano Man,” with nearly every song becoming a crowd sing-along.

Throughout the evening, Metcalf and Shapiro joked with concertgoers, encouraged them to dance and sing along, and fed off the audience’s enthusiasm.

## Encore Caps Memorable Evening

By the end of the scheduled concert, the audience



ETC founder Erin Reed receives applause after being recognized before what will be her final concert before she moves to Arizona.

wasn’t ready for the night to end.

ETC President JT Turner announced the band had agreed to perform two encore songs. During the finale, backup singer Stephanie Kirscher stepped off the stage and sang among the audience as excitement built toward an over-the-top rendition of “Saturday Night’s Alright for Fighting.”

The dance floor erupted as audience members sang at the top of their lungs, danced shoulder to shoulder and clapped in rhythm while the performers matched the crowd’s energy.

By the final notes, little children dancing with their parents, teenagers discovering the music for the first time, and adults who remembered Billy Joel and Elton John in their heyday were all singing and dancing together.

“The crowd was over the top, totally having a great time,” Metcalf said after the concert. “We loved performing here and hope to come back.”

Shapiro agreed. “It was a huge crowd, loud,” he said. “Most audiences you have to

challenge to get them going. Not here. They had fantastic energy and wanted more.”

After performing for nearly 100 minutes with so much energy radiating from the crowd, Shapiro said he felt like “like I’m melting like a chocolate bar.”

## Pre-Concert Program

Before the concert, Murieta Dance Company competitive dancer Gemma Neuman performed a lyrical solo to “What a Wonderful World.”

Turner also recognized longtime title sponsor Karen Hoberg, who praised ETC’s volunteers.

“What ETC and what they do for the community is priceless,” Hoberg said. “I think all of us should be appreciative of all the hard work that the members and these volunteers do.”

The pre-concert festivities also included sponsor recognition, birthday celebrations, a volunteer gift basket giveaway and Turner launching ETC fleece blankets into the audience with a T-shirt cannon.

See more photos at [therivervalleytimes.com](http://therivervalleytimes.com) ★



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