

January-April 2017

discover Rio Vista *first*



FREE!

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Photo by Linda Heune-Solomon

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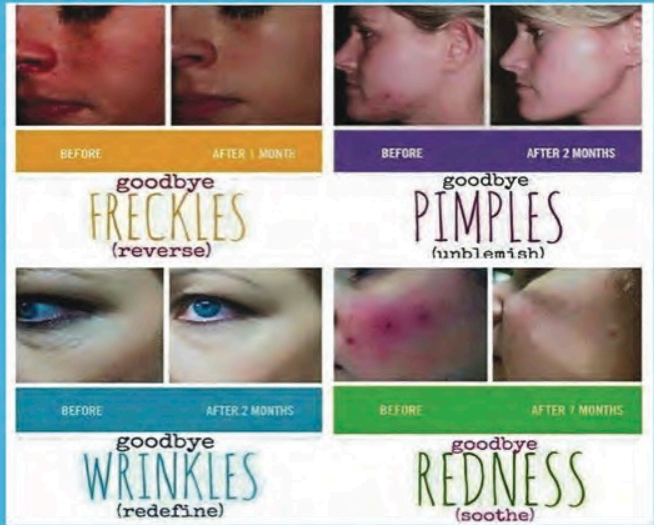


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LUNAFEST®

short films by, for, about Women®

By Constance Boulware and Susan Whitesell — Photos from LUNAFEST web site

Enjoy a glitzy night out at the LUNAFEST® premier, a national film festival and sponsored by Soroptimist International of Rio Vista, showcasing short films by, for and about women, on February 25th at the Veterans Memorial Building in Rio Vista.

Attendance is limited so purchase your tickets early at Books Rio V on Main Street or online at rvlunafest.brownpapertickets.com.

The event kicks off with a 6:00 PM reception featuring a no host bar, appetizers and designer purse raffle, where you can win purses designed by Michael Kors, Kate Spade and Coach, to name a few.

At 7:00 PM the film festival spotlights the work of a diverse array of talented women filmmakers with intelligent, funny and thought-provoking themes. The titles of this year's program include:

“Another Kind of Girl” by Khaldiya Jibawi — A 17-year-old girl ruminates on how her refugee camp has widened her horizons and given her a sense of courage that she lacked in Syria.

“Family Tale” by Dr. Patricia Beckmann-Wells — Through love, loss, and determination, the definition of family is rewritten.

“Free to Laugh” by Lara Everly — A documentary that explores the power of comedy after prison.

“Join the Club” by Eva Vives — A writer's dilemma of whether or not to join a networking club unfolds during one therapy session.

“Niñera” by Diane Weipert — A story that looks at the bitter irony many nannies face: raising the children of strangers for a living while their own children are virtually left to raise themselves.

“Nkosi Coiffure” by Frederike Migom — After a fight with her boyfriend in the street, a woman escapes into a hair salon in Brussels.

“Partners” by Joey Ally — Professional and life partners must confront how intertwined their lives have become.

“The Honeys and the Bears” by Veena Rao — Members of a synchronized swim team for seniors describe the freedom of the water.

“The Third Dad” by Theresa Moerman Ib — Ten years after breaking all ties with her father, a daughter sets out to find his grave - and redemption.

During intermission, Soroptimist also recognizes local recipients of the Violet Richardson, Ruby and Live Your Dream Awards, honoring local activists, community leaders and women furthering their education.

For 16 years, LUNA®, the first nutrition bar for women, has connected female filmmakers, their stories and their causes through film. Soroptimist International of Rio Vista proudly partners with LUNA® to support this festival, which elevates content created by female filmmakers.

Don't miss this night at the movies, recognizing, celebrating and honoring the accomplishments of women! Buy your tickets at Books Rio V or online at rvlunafest.brownpapertickets.com.

For more information about LUNAFEST® visit www.lunafest.org/riovista0225, the Soroptimist web site at <http://siriovista.org>, or Facebook page or contact Constance Boulware at (707) 639-7175 or constance.boulware@yahoo.com.





Discover Rio Vista is a tri-annual magazine published by the RioVision Promotions and Communications team that provides information about events, activities and places of interest in and around Rio Vista.

Jan-April 2017 Edition

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See the *Discover Rio Vista* website at: <http://discoverriovista.com>.

For additional information about RioVision see: <http://riovistavision.com> and www.facebook.com/riovistavision.

RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group. Donations are tax-deductible.

ON THE COVER: It's never easy to capture an action shot, especially when the action involves five sheep and a dog at the McCormack Ranch Sheep Dog Trial. Linda Heune-Solomon wove her artistic magic on her photo, moving the dog a little closer to the sheep so that everything fit nicely within the confines of our magazine cover!



New Visitor Center

Chamber & RioVision Partnership

Story and Photos by Linda Heune-Solomon

A long standing dream of the Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce became reality when RioVision combined their efforts for an office in Rio Vista with the Chamber's dream. Together, they recently opened the new Visitor Center at 33 N. Main St.

The Grand Opening was held as the Bass Derby 2016 was kicked off and was a huge success with "standing room only" attendance. The Center is dedicated to David Falk, one of the founding members of RioVision and a strong supporter of economic development in Rio Vista.

While RioVision and the Chamber are two separate organizations with some different interests, we have many more similarities. Promoting Rio Vista is the top priority of both organizations, while making Rio Vista an attractive place to live, visit and do business. The Rio Vista Chamber of Commerce has been in existence for over 102 years and has always had an office in town. RioVision is a much younger organization and is establishing itself as a group with complementary talents to those of the Chamber.

Walt Stanish and Jim Wheeler (the leaders of the Chamber and RioVision) held many conversations, meetings and unsuccessful attempts to secure a location on Main Street, finally agreeing that 33 N. Second Street was a comfortable fit for our combined offices and Visitor Center. Selling local art to help promote the talent that is in our city became a RioVision project to showcase our town and share it with visitors to Rio Vista, and seemed a natural addition to the Chamber's existing office.

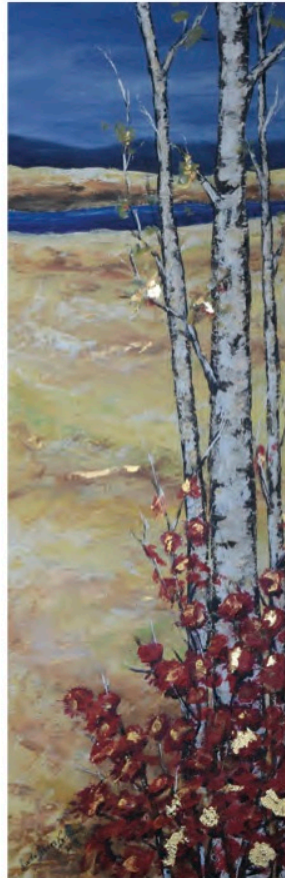


A visitor peruses the gallery. Photo by Linda Heune-Solomon.

The purpose of the Center is to give tourists and locals (new and old) a place to gather information about our lovely town. Rio Vista has a long and varied history so stop in to learn of places to discover, explore the businesses that serve you today and uncover those that were here in Rio Vista's past.

One of the features of the new Center is an Art Gallery designed to promote the amazing artistic talent that is in our city. It quickly became a platform to showcase our

town and share it with the tourists that visit Rio Vista. The Chamber operates the Center daily from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Gallery and RioVision volunteers take over from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. Saturday and Sunday, the Center is open from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM during the winter. Times for spring and summer are extended as the days get longer and the weather improves.



"Aspens," acrylic by Linda Heune-Solomon.

cases for selected crafts available on a first come, first served basis.

The Visitor Center and the Gallery is an all-volunteer program combining the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce and RioVision volunteers to provide accurate and interesting information on the area and local activities. This is the place to get all of your questions answered.

The Chamber and RioVision each have a variety of programs and activities that are solely supported by volunteers that offer flexible scheduling if you would like to join us.

Presently, we have 23 local artists represented with Fine Art, Photography and imaginative Crafts. All items are for sale at very reasonable prices so be sure to stop and shop. We have a Facebook page for the gallery at [facebook.com/riovistaart](https://www.facebook.com/riovistaart). On that page, find links to videos of the art presently in the gallery as well as archived items (displays from previous and past months). Each month, the art and craft displays are changed to provide a monthly new shopping experience, and for new artists to participate and show the outstanding variety of their work. Archived items are also for sale unless listed as sold. Information on those items can be obtained at the Gallery.

Artists who wish to display their work are invited to come to the Center the first of each month during business hours and bring samples of their work. Each artist may display two items of hanging art. There are a few show



"Falcon," pastel print by Sue Williams.

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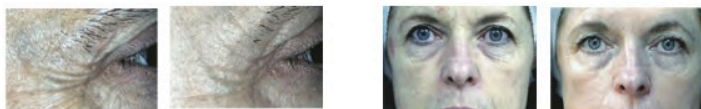
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Foster's Bighorn

Kiss the Moose!

Story by Ellen Weis Photos by Jan Vick & Ellen Weis

"*Emilie kissed the Moose when she turned 21.*" Howard Lamothe doesn't quite know where this rite of passage came from, or when the tradition began. But many, perhaps hundreds, have celebrated their legal age in this way for decades. Here's how it works: you hoist yourself onto the barstool, stand tall on curved end of the beautiful 65 foot hardwood bar, reach up and press your face into the intimidating and possibly unsanitary muzzle of a 100 year old moose, (the 11th largest on record,) and smooch. A round of applause seals the transition. Emilie, in this case, refers to magazine editor, Susan Whitesell's daughter, Emilie Eaton.

Howard Lamothe, a 5th generation Rio Vistan, and current owner of the renowned Foster's Bighorn Restaurant and Bar, relates animated conversations overheard since 2000, when he purchased the business from Dorothy Brown, who with her husband Tony, owned Foster's for 35 years. Howard is only the fourth in line in the succession of owners of this unique California establishment. "That's my grandfather in that photo!" he occasionally hears patrons boast as they stare transfixed at the typed and carefully hand-written captions on the black and white framed photos hanging on the wall. Could be true. Often heard, "Hemingway was here," however, is a myth. And no, there is no polar bear. "I think they mix us up with the bar in Port Costa," Howard says.

To enter the cavernous Foster's building on quaint Main Street, is to immediately encounter more than 250 trophy heads mounted on the high walls – including many record holders, according to The Boone and Crockett Club, the definitive hunter-conservation journal started by Teddy Roosevelt.

The legendary Bill Foster came to Rio Vista in 1933 with apparently six trophy heads. Undisputed rumors had it that Bill brought \$3 million cash with him, too, procured from a life of gambling and Prohibition bootlegging in the East Bay. He ran away from the law – as far

as he needed to go to reestablish himself: Rio Vista. Bill continued to make good quality whiskey well into the 1950's, and pursued what he could, legally, with gambling. Older generations may recall the slot machines that

remained in Foster's through 1960. Bill Foster developed his private collection of big-game specimens from Africa and North America, expertly preserved by his friend John Jonas, of the premier Jonas Brothers Taxidermy Studios. Foster expanded the building twice as his collection grew, to create the existing museum-quality showplace.

Fortunately, despite three previous owners, everything was left intact over the decades. Howard and his wife, MaryEllen, have documented each historic photo, "a shuffled deck of cards," and pieced together several key story lines of the remarkable history.

"We get many folks from Japan, all over Asia, Germany, France, and lots from England. World travelers who must see Foster's," says Howard, who warmly greets the locals by their first name, and the out-of-towners with a broad smile and Rio Vista welcome.

Recently, Brendan and Cecilia Shivers visited Foster's during their first visit to America from Prestwick, Scotland. "They had to see this," said son-in-law John McGrath. "Having lived in South Africa for 35 years, they've seen plenty of big game, and game hunters. But nothing like this." It did not take long before Brendan's daughter and son-in-law (with the encouragement from three duck hunters sitting at the bar) cajoled him into the ritual: *Brendan kissed the Moose*. In reality, he stood close and blew it a kiss. No doubt Foster's Bighorn will now have a high ranking in Prestwick, Scotland.

Foster's presents the best of a getaway – a true gem with its restored 1950's neon sign, eccentric menagerie, consistently good comfort food, well-stocked bar, excellent beers on tap, and yes, international clientele. You can't possibly "upload" all of Foster's Bighorn in one visit. Bring your traveling friends and family – trust me, it's worth the kiss.



Photo: Jan Vick

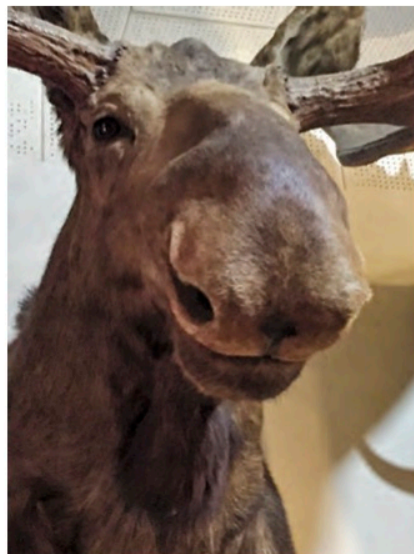


Photo: Ellen Weis



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Spotlight On American Legion Post 178

By Jerry Armanino & Laurie Oleksiewicz Photos from the American Legion

Welcome to "Spotlight On," your chance to learn about some of Rio Vista's unique businesses, and the people who own and staff them.

The American Legion Post 178 Veterans Memorial Building is located at 610 St. Francis Way in Rio Vista, just north of Highway 12. The Veterans Memorial Hall is a



A recent flag retirement ceremony at RVHS.

perfect venue for hosting parties, holiday celebrations, reunions, weddings and business meetings. The hall has very reasonable rates, air conditioning, a PA system, banquet tables and chairs, plus a full kitchen. Additionally, the Post itself hosts many fun fund-raisers throughout

the year at the hall including a Crab Feed, Pasta Feed, St. Patrick's Day dinner and numerous dinner dances.

The national American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 to service the needs of veterans and communities nationwide. Shortly after that, in 1925, American Legion Post 178 "The River Vets" was established in Rio Vista. The post supports many local programs, such as Fisher House, the Adam Kinser, Jr. Scholarship Fund, Riverview Elementary School Eighth Grade Field Trip, Veteran's Service Office within Rio Vista CARE, the Rio Vista Food Pantry, PGA Hope (Helping our Patriots Everywhere),

Youth Programs and The Bass Derby, to name a few. The Post also sponsors local young men who attend Boys State, a week-long American Legion program focusing on the workings of local government.

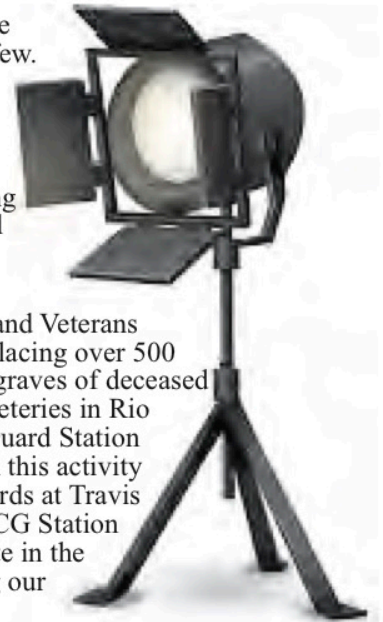
The Post participates in various Memorial Day and Veterans Day events, including placing over 500 American Flags on the graves of deceased veterans in the two cemeteries in Rio Vista. The U.S. Coast Guard Station Rio Vista participates in this activity as well. The Honor Guards at Travis Air Force Base and USCG Station Rio Vista also participate in the various events honoring our veterans.

The Rio Vista Auxiliary, a group of local woman who support the Post programs, is another important part of operations at the Post.

Post 178 recently established a collaborative effort with Habitat for Humanity Napa/Solano to select a suitable site within Rio Vista for the construction of a home to house displaced veterans. The Annual Golf Tournament, Luncheon and Auction, which is held at the Golf Club at Rio Vista, helps support this project.

If you are interested in renting the hall, or joining American Legion Post 178 or the Rio Vista Auxiliary, contact the organization at (707) 374-6554 or send an email to americanlegionpost178@gmail.com.

Post 178 is a 501(c)(19) nonprofit organization, the distinction given by the Internal Revenue Service for organizations that benefit the U.S. Armed Forces.



Honoring deceased veterans with the U.S. Coast Guard.

McCormack Ranch Fourth Annual Event

By Robie Williams with contributions by Jeannie McCormack and Susan Whitesell

Sheep dog trials are held in many countries, including Scotland, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Chile, Canada and the United States. The first trials were held in Wanaka, New Zealand in 1867. The sheep dog trials were quite a sensation and in the early 1880's the United States began to host their own sheep dog trials. Sheep dogs were gathered together to compete by moving sheep through fields and around fences with their handlers. Today's sheep dog trials are held under the auspices of the United States Border Collie Handlers Association and the American Border Collie Association.

Sheep dog trials are not new to Rio Vista and the Montezuma Hills. In fact the first trials were held as early as the 1930's at the Hoyt Ranch in Birds Landing. Then, a young widow, Mrs. Eva Hamilton, purchased the Hoyt Ranch in 1946. The sheep dog trials were revived by the Rio Vista Farm Bureau, with Mrs. Hamilton's blessing, to raise money to build a meeting place for Rio Vista and Birds Landing Farmers in 1947.



Photo: Jan Vick

As it is today, those trials of yesteryear were organized by volunteers from the community. One person contacted ranchers who had good dogs, helpers placed

long tables out to seat the spectators, Harvey McDougal, a famous cattle rancher and feedlot proprietor in Birds Landing, donated hamburger and steaks from Solano Meat in Dixon and Lyle Fraser of Fraser Food in Rio Vista donated the beans, bread and makings of a salad. Advertising was by word of mouth and all the locals came to watch the sheep dogs show off their herding skills for an admission of just a few dollars.

Over the years the sheep dog trials were tremendously successful. While, most of the sheep dogs were well known Solano County herders, there were often nationally famous dogs featured. In the early years, Solano County was



Photo: Teri Malkin

the second largest sheep producing county in California, which was itself the second largest sheep producing state in America. The sheep dog trials continued into the late 1950's or early 1960's. By this time the Rio Vista Farm Bureau far surpassed their goal of raising money to build a meeting place and decided to create a scholarship fund that still exists today.

Sometime in the 1960's the sheep dog trials became so successful that attendance numbered close to 2,000. However, with the large crowds came problems with rowdy behavior and incidents of drunkenness became more prevalent. As a result, a decision was made to discontinue the trials. Periodically, throughout the 1970's and 1980's a sheep dog trial would be organized. However, it never gained the same attraction achieved by the original trials. Then in the 1990's and early 2000's the Solano County Wool Growers held periodic trials at Hoyt Ranch. Still, these attempts didn't live up to the success of the original trials and the sheep dog trials once again went into hiatus.

Fast forward to 2014 when Jeannie McCormack and Al Medvitz revived the tradition started by the Hamilton family at the Dan McCormack Ranch on Montezuma Hills Road. Over the last three years, the trials have been very successful and well-attended.

Sheepdog Trial

Challenges Dogs & Handlers

Photos by Teri Malkin, Kelsey Nicols, Jan Vick & Jim Wheeler

Ellen Skillings, Livestock Manager at the McCormack Ranch, and a talented handler and shepherdess in her own right, plays a major role in organizing the course and accepting applications for the dogs that compete in the trial. Skillings enthuses, "Here is this course that looks like Scotland, especially this time of year, with huge rolling hills that dogs really get to work. It's so appealing to handlers to put that challenge before the dog and themselves to see if they can actually accomplish the task."

However, it's not just the size, complexity or the terrain that makes this course challenging. It's the sheep! According to Ellen, "Our sheep are not used for trialing other than at this trial. Our sheep are not forgiving to a dog that makes a mistake."

For judging purposes, the trial course is broken into phases with a time limit imposed. Each phase has points assigned based on the skills needed for competent stock work. Dog and handler teams begin with all possible points, and during each phase points are deducted for mistakes or forfeited for incomplete phases. Dogs are also judged for their effectiveness and on qualities of good stockmanship. This point system is believed to have been in use since at least 1979. Each dog and handler is putting his (or her) skills to work competing for points to qualify in the National Finals sponsored by the United States Border Collie Handlers Association and the American Border Collie Association. The National Finals are held in Middletown, Virginia in late September, 2017.

The 4th Annual McCormack Sheep Dog Trial kicks-off March 30, 2017 at 5:30 PM with a running of the sheep down Main Street in Rio Vista followed by a round of "Baa Baa" Bingo (Also known as the sheep plop!) in the pole barn on Front Street.

The actual Trial is March 31, April 1, and April 2, 2017 at the Dan McCormack Ranch at 7680 Montezuma Hills Road. Event hours are 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily. Admission is \$15.00 per day for adults and children over 13, children 12 and under are admitted free. Separate tickets for a delicious lamb barbecue on Saturday, April 1 from 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM are \$8.00. Barbecue



Photo: Jim Wheeler

hamburgers, hot dogs, cheeseburgers and cold drinks are available every day from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM. This is an alcohol free event.

Tickets go on sale January 1, 2017 online at www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-annual-mccormack-ranch-sheepdog-trials-tickets-29700611328 and in town at Books Rio V and Pets 4 All until March 30. Tickets are also available at the gate. The event takes place rain or shine so tickets are non-refundable.

Enjoy a hayride from the parking lot to the course. Don't forget to bring a folding chair, blanket and your binoculars.

The only dogs allowed at the dog trials are those dogs entering the contest. No other dogs or pets are permitted to enter the gates except for legitimate service dogs for disabled persons.

Look for additional information about the trial in the local newspapers, on posters, and on the Rio Vista Soroptimist, McCormack Sheep and Grain and the Discover Rio Vista websites.

Event sponsors and volunteer organizations involved with the planning and implementation of the event include the United States Border Collie Handlers Association, McCormack Sheep & Grain, Soroptimist International of Rio Vista, Rio Vista Youth Services, RioVision and other non-profits with help from the wider Rio Vista community.



Photo: Jan Vick

Historic Jesse H.

By Phil Pezzaglia Photos from the Rio Vista Museum

Many of the elegant homes that once lined South Second Street during the turn of the last century are gone now. However, a few remarkable examples still remain. One of them is the stately former residence of Jesse H. Thomas and his family.

One of the finest as well as one of the most recognizable homes in Rio Vista, is the 116-year-old Thomas House (a.k.a. Dirr House) located on picturesque South Second Street.

Although well over a century old, the Thomas home is remarkably well preserved. A testament to both the craftsmanship of local builder Weston Campbell and the love for the home that each one of its owners, since Mr. Thomas, has had for it.

To get a real sense of the style and design of the house, one must learn first about the man who contracted to have it built to fit his family's needs. Jesse Harriman

Thomas was born in the state of Maine in 1844. In 1860 he headed out west to California with his parents, Melzar Eleazer and Sarah (Eaton) Thomas. The Thomas family arrived in Nevada and took residence in the mining community of Birchville in Nevada County. The settlement, initially called Johnson's Diggings, then Birchy, was located two miles north-northeast of French Corral.



Fred Thomas

Six years later in 1866, Jesse at age 22 relocated to Sacramento County. It was that year that he was introduced to Lydia Jane Bump, daughter of Nelson and Sarah Tibbons (Runyon) Bump, of Merritt Island. Lydia was born October 19, 1848 in Momence in Kankakee County, Illinois. The Bump family moved to the Delta in the latter half of the nineteenth century and settled on Merritt Island. The island is in Yolo County across the Sacramento River from Hood.

After a short courtship, Jesse took Lydia as his wife in 1867, and the couple set up in San Joaquin County. Jesse was listed as a registered voter in Tulare, San Joaquin County in 1869. It is unclear what year the couple moved back to the Delta. However it is known that their first daughter, Jessie Etta, was born August 22, 1869 at Corral Hollow in San Joaquin County. She married Ernest Gammon of Richland (Hood). The Thomas couple would eventually have three more children, Carrie A.,

Hallie Edna (1879-1938), and Fred, all of whom would be raised in the Delta. Fred constructed a fine two story home on the corner of Third Street and St. Gertrude Avenue.

Jesse Thomas along with Mr. Leftinger, John Hollenbeck, and Dr. W.M. Ryer were the early property owners of Ryer Island. The Runyon family was one of the early families on the island, when it was still called Schoolcraft Island, before being renamed Ryer Island. The Runyon's eventually moved to other islands, such as Grand and Sutter island.

In 1882 Jesse began farming on Ryer Island. Five years later he became Supervisor of Reclamation District No. 501 Ryer Island, which had been established in 1872. He held the position until his death in 1907.

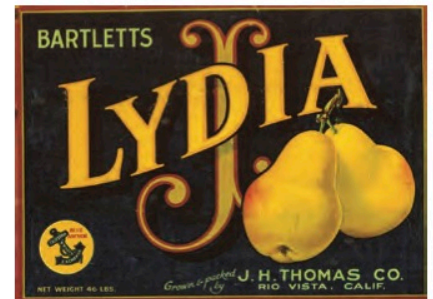
Jesse Thomas became a prominent well known rancher and pear grower in the area. He was well liked and respected throughout the Delta. He was known for his tireless efforts, working night and day, to accomplish his vision of making Ryer Island a more profitable agricultural island.

It was through his tireless work and efforts that Ryer Island could withstand the many floods, which occurred at that time in the Delta. However, the flood of March 1907 was one of the worst to hit the island. Due to the floods and the lack of business on the island, the Thomas couple decided to purchase property and move to Rio Vista. On July 28, 1899, they purchased four parcels of land from Joseph and Gertrude Bruning for \$600 in gold coin. The sale of the property was witnessed by local Notary Public, E.M. Chase.



Carrie Thomas

Jesse hired local contractor, Weston Campbell, to construct their home. Campbell had just two years prior built the Victorian home on the corner of Second Street and Bruning Avenue for Captain Lars P. Larsen. The Thomas home was constructed of the finest Redwood available, which was easy to get since Sullivan and Larsen Lumber Company was on Front Street in Rio Vista. The 3843 sq. ft., three-story, 10-room home included: a large living room with fireplace, kitchen,



Thomas Pear Label

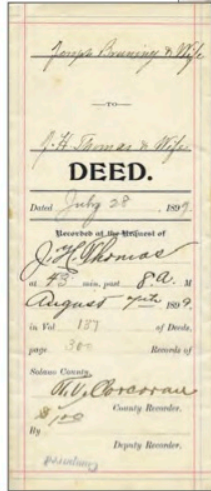
Thomas Home

breakfast nook, formal dining room with three built in hutches, six bedrooms, and one bathroom. Originally the home had an outhouse, carriage house, and several sheds located to the rear of the property.

The home is considered a Victorian with characteristics of the Queen Anne style popular during the era of its construction. Queen Anne style can be categorized by the heavy use of decorative “gingerbread” woodwork along with the original balustrades. Some of the home’s exterior features were a gabled dormer with fixed sash and multi-pane sidelights, fish-scale shingles, bay windows, horizontal siding, a transom light above the first floor window, stained glass sidelights on each side of the front door, eave brackets, lattice work, balustrades, a tower, and ornate decorative woodwork. It was shortly after the Dirr’s residency began, that the square upper tower and bay window were topped with balustrades. Presently, only the railing atop the front porch remains.



Thomas House



Thomas House Deed
(July 28, 1899)

More than a few important family events took place in the Thomas home, including the April 1904 wedding between the Thomas couple’s second daughter, Carrie, and Daniel M. Sullivan, which was attended by family and close friends. And at the time of Jesse’s passing, his funeral services took place in the family home and were given by Rev. W. H. Scudder of the First Congregational Church. The reverend paid a glowing tribute to his memory.

After Mr. Thomas passed on December 12, 1907, his wife Lydia continued to live in the house until 1910 with her daughter Hallie and Hallie’s husband, Henry. In 1910 she moved to her late parents’ home on Merritt Island in Yolo County. Lydia passed away at the age of 75 on



Stern & Company

November 18, 1923.

On January 30, 1920, the house officially changed hands from the J.H. Thomas Company (a corporation) to Hallie Thomas Dirr for the sum of \$10.00. Henry Dirr was a prominent businessman in Rio Vista. He was a partner in J. Stern & Co. and a Vice-President & Director of the Bank of Rio Vista. After Hallie’s death in 1938, Henry remained living in the house until his final years, passing away in 1953.

Over the years several families have called the stately Thomas house their home, including: Thomas (1899 – 1920), Dirr (1920 – 1947?), Farren (1950’s), and Gregorski (1960’s – 2016).

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Winter Striper Fishing

In The Net with Fish'n Dog Drew

By Drew Gidlog Photo by Doris Noriega

This is the first of a series of articles about fishing the vast waterways of the Delta by Drew Gidlog, owner of Fish'n Dog Drew Guide Service.

Halloween and All Saints Day mark the time to wind down your search for Salmon and begin your transition to winter Striper fishing in the 1,000 miles of waterway, better known as the Delta.

In the late fall and winter, Striper migrate to fresh water in the Delta and the other local rivers, Sacramento and San Joaquin. They bed down for the winter to feed while waiting for spring that causes them to move out to their annual spawning grounds. During this time of year a favorite place to fish for Striper is the area known as Frank's Tract. Frank's Tract is located between Bethel and Mandeville Islands; Webb and Holland Tracts, immediately off the San Joaquin River. Launch at the B&W Marina off Highway 12. After a short journey south from the launch enter an amazing area of the Delta.

Take advantage of the Striper's predator instincts when fishing for them. They eat shad, younger Stripers, and other smaller fish, so try to imitate the fish they hunt to survive. An effective technique this time of year is to slowly troll along the weed beds using the electrical motor on your boat. Travel along the weed beds in a parallel pattern. Throw a lead headed jig, also known as a Road Runner by some, with a white rubber worm attached to a single trail hook, just inside the weeds and rip the lure through the weeds to simulate a smaller bait fish. White, yellow, and red jigs are the most successful. Do not be afraid to try other colors on off-days of fishing.

If the weed beds are not as productive as you'd like, or slow down, switch over to fishing a soft segmented swim bait, or hard plastic rebel lure, that resembles a shad bait fish. Do not be afraid to try a crack back rebel as another lure of choice. Sometimes the action a crack back creates is the difference you need to catch the attention of a Striper.

Look for areas of underwater structure or openings in rip rap levee structure where water is quickly running through

it. Search for underwater areas that have ledges or drop offs. Stripers are known to school just below ledges in search of food or bait fish. Once you find an area, use the trolling motor to approach just outside the area. Cast above the ledge and retrieve your lure back. Alternating the speed, or generating momentary stops to imitate a wounded fish, are successful techniques to entice the interest of a Striper.

Since Stripers tend to travel in schools do not hesitate to keep working an area you had success in a few times. You never know how many you will find with each pass.

With these fishing techniques, you are casting a lure many times during the day, so you want to have a rod and reel that you are comfortable with and that does not weigh a

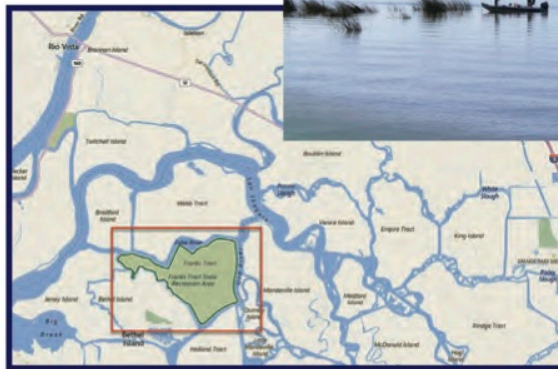
lot. Look for a rod that has a solid stout butt, or lower half, and that is capable of generating the support you need when fighting a fish, while having enough flexibility in the tip to allow you accuracy while casting the lure. Typically, a nice setup is a 6 1/2 to 7 foot rod with 30 pound braid line. This setup rarely fails. As for reels, it comes down to your comfort level for casting. A bait caster, if you can handle

it, is highly recommended. Bait casters often have more retrieving power when reeling in a large catch. Make sure you adjust the reel correctly so you do not create a rat's nest during a cast. Another reel of choice is an open face spinner. Whichever reel you use, you need to adjust the line drag.

On a successful cast, the water explodes and you are in for a wonderful battle. Set the hook and enjoy the skirmish! Pound for pound, Stripers are an amazing fish to catch, creating great memories of a day on the water.

It is not uncommon to have a day when you catch and release 40 plus Stripers. Stripers are known for their strength and ability to survive after being released. Take your time removing the hooks, and to properly revive the fish by placing it back into the water.

In closing, "Remember to keep those fishing lines tight," and "take time to take a child fishing..."



Map: Bing.com



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Radio Rio FM 91.5 *Student Run Station*

By Tom Surh Photos by Susan Whitesell

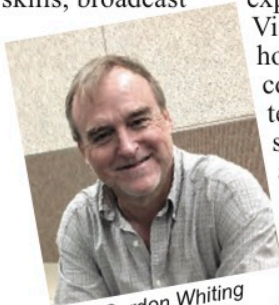
Yes, Rio Vista has its very own radio station – Radio Rio, KRVH FM 91.5, run by students from Rio Vista High School.

With the arrival of Gordon Whiting in September, Radio Rio has undergone a renaissance. It now features a student staff of over thirty and many more hours of live programming each week interspersed with the station's continuing fare of pop music from the 60's onward. Gordon has a background as a radio producer with experience in all aspects of running a station having developed shows at Clear Channel and through his work as a software designer for music and film,



"Lab Rat" team, left to right, Jimmy Giannini, Jesus Rivas and Diana Bernal, who broadcast 10:00 - 11:00 AM, Monday through Friday. (Not shown, Ricky Ratola.)

including 18 years with the Saul Zaentz Company. His wealth of talent and knowledge is now being put to work to bring skills, broadcast



Gordon Whiting

experience, and self-confidence to Rio Vista High students. Students learn how to "run the board" (the broadcast control board), as well as other technical aspects. They learn song selection, how to introduce and announce music selections, and how to interview guests. The most important skill is to develop a "sense of the audience" where one learns to speak as if it were a one-to-one conversation, even though

there may be thousands listening.

With its 30 meter tower, 50 watts of power and first class broadcast equipment and studios, Radio Rio covers most of the Delta. Based at Rio Vista High School, it is among only 11 public high school based broadcasters in California, and among just 50 nationwide. The station has been operating since 1972 and is the emergency broadcast system station for the Delta. As a non-commercial station, the station does not sell advertising, but accepts and needs sponsorships which are acknowledged on the air. With its 24 hour broadcast schedule, Radio Rio is the primary radio station for many businesses and Rio Vista residents.

Check out the new Radio Rio web site at KRVH.org. Email the station at info@krvh.org for general inquiries or calendar@krvh.org to put event info on the air.



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Pick up your lobster Friday, February 10, 2017
3:00-7:00 pm at HWY 12 Dinner

Delta Wine Tasting

Bogle – A Bequiling Gem in Clarksburg

Story by Marilyn Nelson Photos by Jan Vick

Take a pleasant ride along the Sacramento River on Highway 160, continue down a couple of county roads and you end up at the nationally acclaimed Bogle Vineyards on the outskirts of Clarksburg. The trip is beautiful and the reward at the end is well worth the 45 minute drive from Rio Vista. Bring a picnic lunch and do some wine tasting before buying a bottle to share on their picturesque grounds. Bogle is open year round from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (11:00 AM on weekends) seven days a week, closing only on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

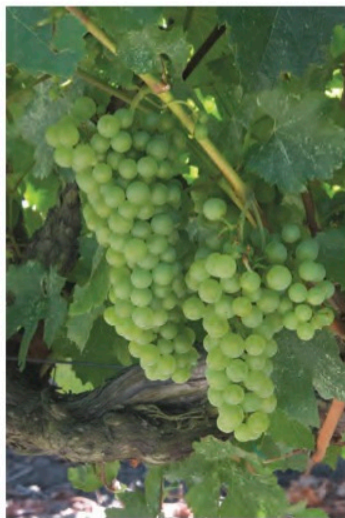


Photo: Jan Vick

Bogle Vineyards is a family owned and operated business. Warren Bogle is the President and 3rd generation winemaker; Ryan Bogle is the Vice-President and CFO and Jody Bogle-Vandepol is Director of Public Relations. Their family began farming in the area six generations ago, although they only began converting from food crops to wine grapes in 1968. They started with just 10 acres of Pinot Noir grapes and 10 acres of Petit Sirah. Now the family owns or leases over 1600 acres of vineyards that are planted with a variety of

wine grapes. The various vineyards are located throughout Northern California in nine different appellations. In addition to Clarksburg they spread from Mendocino to El Dorado to Monterey.

The Bogle family isn't satisfied with just producing great wines, they are committed to being good stewards of their land and the environment. The winery has achieved several sustainable business certificates. They reclaim the water they use at the winery; use solar power energy; have light sensors throughout; use recycled glass and post-consumer waste paper. The family's commitment is to the generations who



Photo: Jan Vick

came before and the generations who come after. They intend to leave the land in the condition they received it, if not better.



Photo: <http://insertmedia.office.microsoft.com>

Originally, Bogle sold their grapes to other wineries. However after ten years, they decided to start bottling their grapes and thus began their own winery in 1978. Today the winery produces over two million bottles of wine per year. The red varietals include Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Essential Red, Old Vine Zinfandel, Merlot, and Pinot Noir. The main white wines are Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc. They also offer other special wines throughout the year.

To be the first to try their new and special offerings, join their free wine club called the Bogle Bandwagon. Receive four shipments per year for under \$49 each, plus winemaker tasting notes, recipes and food pairing ideas, 20% discount on wine and merchandise at their tasting room, discounts to winery events, and more.

Bogle Winery receives glowing reviews including: Wine Enthusiast – Bogle continues to outperform nearly everybody else in their price range. Wine Spectator – Top 20 value brands in the world. Market Watch – Hot brand award winner... fifteen years in a row!

At the tasting room in Clarksburg, you can host a private event. The atmospheric Barrel Room has room for up to 60 seated guests. Other locations are the Vineyard Patio or the Vineyard Lawn. For more information

on these and much more, check out their website at www.boglewinery.com.

Event Calendar



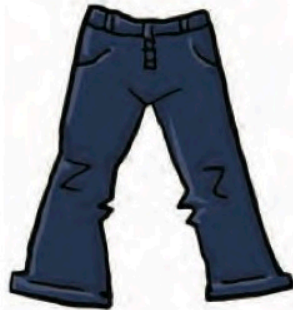
Third Thursdays
Jan-Mar, 2:00 – 7:00 PM
Apr, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

Third Thursday
Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16 & Apr 20, Downtown

Experience art, entertainment, fun activities and the Rio Vista Museum while leisurely shopping our quaint downtown.

Saturday, Jan 28, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Children's Clothing Exchange
D.H. White School Cafetorium, 500 Elm Way

Nab gently used children's clothing for a great price! The event, sponsored by St. Brigid's Episcopal Church, has served Delta children for over 7 years. For more info, contact Karin Zilla, CCE Chairperson, St. Brigid's Episcopal Church at (925) 351-3771.



Wednesday, Feb 3, sale ends

Valentines Day Lobster

Pick up Friday, February 10, 4:00 - 7:00 PM



Celebrate Valentines Day with a romantic lobster dinner! Order a whole lobster, live or cooked, for \$25.00 or an uncooked tail for \$18.00. Pick it up 4:00 - 7:00 PM at the Highway 12 Diner back door at 1000 State Highway 12. To order or for more information contact Laurie O. at MinmayInc@aol.com or (925) 301-7389 or ask a Soroptimist member. Proceeds benefit high school scholarships and other

projects of Soroptimist International of Rio Vista.

Saturday, Feb 11
Princess Ball

Veteran's Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way
If you are her "special man," treat your little princess to an enchanting evening of dress up, dinner and dance. The event is a joint effort of Rio Vista Lions and Soroptimist International of Rio Vista. See a Lion's member for more info.



Saturday, Feb 25, 1:00 - 5:00 PM
Art, Wine & Jazz

Trilogy Diablo Ballroom in the Vista Club

Browse and buy artwork from the many talented Trilogy artisans, taste fabulous local wines or just hang out and enjoy the talented Trilogy Jazz Band musicians. For info call the Vista Clubhouse at (707) 374-4200.



Saturday, Feb 25, 6:00 PM

LUNAFEST®

Veteran's Memorial Bldg, 610 St. Francis Way

Enjoy a glitzy night out at the LUNAFEST® film festival sponsored by Soroptimist International of Rio Vista, showcasing short films by, for and about women and recognizing, celebrating and honoring the accomplishments of local women!

Buy your tickets at Books Rio V or online at rvlunafest.brownpapertickets.com. For more

information about LUNAFEST® visit the Soroptimist web site at www.siriovista.org, Facebook page or contact Constance Boulware at (707) 639-7175 or constance.boulware@yahoo.com.

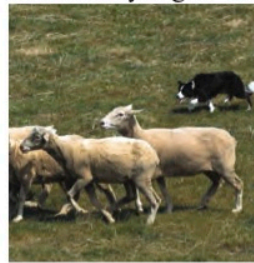


Sheep Run & Baa Baa Bingo, Thursday, Mar 30, 5:30 PM
Trial, Friday, Mar 31 - Sunday, Apr 2, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

McCormack Ranch Sheepdog Trial

Downtown and 7680 Montezuma Hills Road, Rio Vista

A Thursday night "sheep run" down Main St. followed by Baa Baa Bingo kicks off the Sheepdog Trial in town. Friday through Sunday enjoy watching these amazing dogs in a working competition. Adults and children 13 and up are \$15.00. Kids 12 and under are free. Buy tickets online at www.eventbrite.com/e/4th-annual-mccormack-ranch-sheepdog-trials-tickets-29700611328 or in town at



Books Rio V and Pets 4 All until March 30. Tickets are also available at the gate. The event takes place rain or shine so tickets are non-refundable.

Saturday, Mar 25, 5:00 - 7:30 PM
CARE King of the Kitchen

Veteran's Memorial Building, 610 St. Francis Way

Sample signature dishes by local chefs and vote your favorite in this friendly competition benefiting Rio Vista CARE. Tickets are \$25.00, available at the CARE Office at 628 Montezuma St. or Pets 4 All on Main St. Only 100 tickets are available so plan early to attend. Bring a non perishable Food Pantry item to the event and receive \$5.00 in raffle tickets at the door.

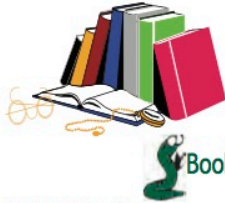
Saturday, Apr 22, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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Delta Marina, 100 Marina Dr.

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