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Editor's Corner

The arrival of spring brings growth and change. So too does *Discover Rio Vista* magazine evolve just as Rio Vista and the Delta change. Our writers, reviewers, and photographers capture the essence of our surroundings as they are today, and keep a historical record of this moment in time.

This edition highlights two popular events that are returning to Rio Vista. See Kelli Pearson's article on the Rio Rock Festival now in its second year. And Hog August Bites is back for its ninth annual event; read all about the event in Robie Williams' article "Ribs and Chili are the Name of the Game." The article by Tom Surh highlights the bands that are playing at the event.

For places to go, check out Jan Vick's article about the newly reopened Brannon State Recreation Area. Doris Noriega highlights Big Break Regional Shoreline and the Railroad Museum. These articles are accompanied by beautiful pictures taken by the writers themselves.

Phil Pezzaglia never fails to bring interesting historical articles to the magazine. In this issue he showcases the Rio Vista Museum.

The RioVision Gallery Artists of the Month for May through August are introduced in an article by Robie Williams, and don't forget to check out the "RioVision Roundup" that details much of what RioVision has accomplished.

Finally, the Event Calendar includes both new and returning events to keep your schedule for the spring and summer busy!

The entire team of *Discover Rio Vista* hopes you enjoy this edition and find yourself traveling the Delta roads to see the wonders around us.

—Co-Editor, Robie Williams

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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. This magazine is a volunteer effort. Call RioVision at (707) 360-5244 to help!

See the *Discover Rio Vista* website at discoverriovista.com. For additional information about RioVision see rioivision.net and facebook.com/riovistavision. RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

COVER: Jason Lira of Rio Vista competing in the rib contest at Hog August Bites. Photo by Susan Whitesell.

RIO ROCK[®] MUSIC FESTIVAL



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RIO ROCK MUSIC FESTIVAL RETURNS TO RIO VISTA

STORY BY KELLI PEARSON

Mark your calendars... by popular demand, the sensational Rio Rock Music Festival returns to Rio Vista Saturday, July 15th. As a follow up to rave reviews about last year's inaugural event, this year's festival promises even greater energy, entertainment, and festivities for all. Enjoy an awesome day of merriment, highlighted by three electrifying bands featuring a wide range of musical genres—from Country, to Classic Rock, and Swing. Complimentary attractions include valuable raffle and spinning wheel prizes, a silent auction, and dance contests—all amidst appetizing food/drink from multiple food vendors.

THREE EXCITING NEW BANDS!
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- Vegas McGraw* – Tim McGraw Tribute
- Midnight Flyer* – Eagle Tribute Band
- The Alpha Rhythm Kings* – Swing, Jump Blues, Boogie Woogie



This Lion's Club fundraising event takes place at the Rio Vista High School football field, (bring your own blanket/chair) from Noon to 8 p.m., Saturday July 15th.

- THIS RIO ROCK DAY OF CELEBRATION ALSO FEATURES:**
- Multiple food vendors
 - Beer, wine & water
 - Raffle prizes
 - Prize spinning wheel
 - Silent auction
 - Dance contests – Partnering with the Trilogy Dance Club
 - And more ...

COST:
Adults — \$25 in advance, available at www.eventbrite.com | \$35 at the gate
Seniors & veterans — \$20
Children under 12 — \$5 when accompanied by an adult.



The Rio Rock Music Festival is a non-profit fundraising event, sponsored by the Rio Vista Lion's Club, dedicated to strengthening programs that have a positive charitable impact on the Rio Vista community. All proceeds benefit outreaches within our home area.

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STORY AND PHOTOS BY DORIS NORIEGA

The Western Railroad Museum in Suisun City is a delightful place to visit. Visitors can enjoy a scenic 50-minute, 11-mile ride on one of its restored interurban trains. This train runs on the old Sacramento Railroad electric line that ran between San Francisco, Sacramento, and Chico. The conductor describes the points of interest and weaves in the history of the rail road cars and museum.

At the museum there are 50 historic cars, historic railway exhibits, and vintage street cars on display. In addition, photographs, books, and train memorabilia are on view. Other trains in the museum have run on different Northern Californian lines.

There is a large shaded picnic area and the Depot Cafe. The admission ticket is good all day and covers the weekend train rides and the walking tours inside the car barn. "People-friendly" dogs on a leash are allowed. Please bring your dog's own water bowl and poop bags. They are allowed on the train but be advised that not all dogs like the ride.

There is wheelchair access for the museum, visitor center, restrooms, picnic area, cafe, car houses, and parking lot. However, due to the historic nature of the trains, they are not wheelchair accessible. There are special programs for schools and seniors.

PAST AND PLANNED EVENTS FOR 2023

March 11th: The First Emerald Railway Fest

Guests boarded an historic vintage locomotive and traveled across the green Solano Country Countryside. The day included live entertainment and activities for the whole family to enjoy. Visitors wore their St. Patrick's Day best and enjoyed the tastings and brews.

(This event took place before the printing of the magazine but it will be repeated in March of 2024.)

April 1st-30th: Annual Scenic Limited Trains Wildflower Special

Visitors will be able to ride on a vintage 1914, first-class electric train and view the native flowers that cover Solano County's hillsides and fields. Docents will point out flowers such as poppies, goldfields, and sheep's sorrel. This year, the Suisun Valley Co-Op and Suisun Creek Winery are providing a wine pairing. This is a major fundraiser and the tickets always sell out fast!

May 27th & 28th: Museum Showcase Weekend

This is an opportunity for visitors to see the operation of less-frequently

run equipment, special presentations, tours in the Library, Archives, and car barn tours.

October: Annual Pumpkin Patch Festival

This annual train ride goes to the Gum Grove Pumpkin Patch where there are pumpkins, food, activities, and a hay fort to play on. It is a fun-packed day for kids and families.



The history of the museum is an integral part of the visitor's experience. It illustrates not just the importance of the railroad's role in the development of towns but of how people came together and made a positive contribution to a community by preserving the past. In 1946, train enthusiasts learned that an old Oakland street car that they had chartered for a day's outing was to be taken out of service and scrapped. They collected among themselves \$250, which was enough to buy the car. The Bay Area Electric Railroad Association grew out of this purchase. It was created to generate

interest in streetcars, interurban trains, and mainline electric railroad operations. Over the years trains and other items were collected and stored. In the 1960s the 22-acre Rio Vista Junction was selected as the museum site. It was an actual stop on the electrically powered Sacramento Northern main line. In 1985 the site was named the Western Railway Museum.



Left: A newly acquired electric train. Right: a historical timeline inside the museum.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Western Railroad Museum

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An Old Favorite Re-opens! Brannan Island State Recreation Area

STORY BY JAN VICK, PHOTOS BY DORIS NORIEGA AND JAN VICK

After years of neglect since the State of California put most of the State Parks and Recreation Areas under contracted managers, Brannan Island State Recreation Area (SRA) is open again under new management! The RV park, boat launch, walk-in campsites, cabin, and group camps have been open for a while, and the two campgrounds have opened on April 1, 2023, by reservation only. In October, one of the campgrounds will return to “first come, first served” status. Reservations for camping can be made through [Reserve California.com](https://www.reservecalifornia.com)

The new managers have been spending a lot of time and effort in cleaning up the weeds and plants (particularly blackberry bushes) that have overrun the campgrounds and hiking trails as well as mowing the extensive open areas. Part of the swimming beach will open during the summer with a lifeguard, but it will take about two years to entirely clean it up. The marina docks are in bad shape, and it will be at least a year before they are repaired and usable.

There is much to enjoy at Brannan Island. The camping spaces are large and many have shade. There are walking trails that overlook meadows and Three Mile Slough with some tables for picnics. There is a fishing pier near the swimming area on Seven Mile Slough, as well as a picnic area with barbecues and drinking water. During the summer life jackets are available on

loan. Dogs are not allowed on the beach, and alcohol is prohibited in all day-use areas. Day-use areas are open from sunrise to sunset. This includes Windy Cove, a large picnic area across Hwy 160 from the State Park. The picnic area is shaded with restrooms. Windy

Cove used to be a major area for wind surfing. However, the banks have eroded to the point where they are dangerous and fenced off.

The launch ramp has a large parking area, a restroom, and ten launch lanes. A camp host is also based there. Visitors can take advantage of launching into Three Mile Slough, which has access to both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, as well as Franks Tract for wonderful fishing for striped bass, catfish, sturgeon, and bluegill, to name a few. The area is home to more than 70 species of birds, and animals such as beaver, muskrat, otter, and mink.

An added convenience this year is the moving of Haps Bait from downtown Rio Vista to Brannan Island. Although the store is not as large, it still offers a very wide variety of fishing gear, lures, and bait. It is located in the old visitor center across from the entry kiosk.

If you want to explore more of the Delta just outside Rio Vista, go south on Hwy 160 to just before Three Mile Slough Bridge to the Brannan Island State Recreation Area!



The overnight cabin



Boating docks and fishing pier

BIG BREAK REGIONAL SHORELINE PARK: Something for Everyone

STORY BY DORIS NORIEGA, PHOTOS BY DORIS NORIEGA

Big Break Regional Shoreline on the San Joaquin River is a lovely place for visitors to quietly enjoy nature, appreciate the view of the river, and feel the cool Delta breezes. There are hiking trails, a 100-foot observation and fishing pier, and a beautiful visitor center. Some of the trails are paved for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. It is also wheel-chair accessible. Dogs are allowed but must be on a leash at all times, and must stay on the trails. To fish from the pier or shoreline a California Fishing License is required.

As with many parks in the area the first Inhabitants were Native American tribes. Besides the animals they hunted and edible plants they collected, they made use of the natural elements, such as the willows, tule, and cattail that are found in the wetlands, meadows, and shore lines. The tules were used to make boats, and the willows for baskets. Many of these same plants provide habitats for the variety of animals in the area. This regional park makes an effort to preserve and protect these native plants and animals. The protected species



Left to right: American kestrel, American pelican, and blue heron

Bring binoculars because there is an abundance of wildlife to observe. To the delight of birdwatchers, there are over 70 species of birds that includes coots, mallards, blue and green herons, great and snowy egrets, American kestrels, hawks, northern harriers, pelicans, and more! Mammals, such as beavers, river otters, and muskrats can be found in the open waters and tidal sloughs. pond turtles can be spotted sunning themselves on rocks and logs along the water edges. The common fish species found in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers are bass, American chad, catfish, steelhead trout, carp and sturgeon. It is because of Big Break's unique location and ecology that there are so many diverse species and habitats. Big Break was once a farm, but in 1928, there was a break in the levee submerging it. What formed was a small bay or estuary, where salt water meets fresh water.

The Visitor Center, which is 5,000 square feet in size, includes a natural history museum and science laboratory, and is staffed by park rangers. Outside is a 1,200-square-foot interactive map of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta that displays how water flows through the region. Also near the center is a picnic and meadow area, a shaded amphitheater, a sand-play area for kids, and a kayak launch site.

Big Break is the first Delta park to offer ongoing interpretive naturalist and school programs. Many of these classes are offered on the weekends, and require no preregistration. Park rangers and staff lead discussions that explore topics related to the Delta, and who guide participants in hands-on science activities. For children on Saturday mornings the offering is “Story Time in the Delta.” Another program, “Delta Discoveries,” involves craft projects based on Big Break's ecology. On Sundays, a session called “Testing the Water” teaches participants how water quality is tested and how it affects the environment. Schedules for these classes and other events can be found online.

that have found a home here are the black rail, northern harrier, Swainson's hawk, and white-tailed kite, as well as the giant garter snake and western pond turtle. In summary Big Break is not only a wonderful recreational asset to the Delta, it also has preserved the past for visitors to enjoy.



Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Big Break Regional Shoreline
69 Big Break Road, Oakley Ca. 94571
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ebparks.org/parks/big-break

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THE RIO VISTA MUSEUM

Rio Vista's Hidden Treasure Chest

STORY BY PHIL PEZZAGLIA, PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM

The Rio Vista Museum, located at 16 North Front Street, contains a unique collection of artifacts depicting the 165-year history of the community of Rio Vista. The museum building once operated as a blacksmith shop and then as an auto parts store. Some of the interior walls have remained as they were, two-by-fours and tin, thus providing a certain ambience that could not have been obtained with a newer structure.

Currently the museum walls are covered with a variety of pictures, maps, banners, flags, and signs from former local businesses. Display cases are filled with everything from small arrow heads and beads from local Indians to larger cabinets featuring articles of clothing. The clothing includes military uniforms from all branches of the service in different eras; wedding dresses; Victorian-era dresses; uniforms of law enforcement and fire fighters; local letterman sweaters, local school uniforms; and Holy Ghost Festival Queens dresses.

Some of the smaller items on display include china dishware; toys; clothing accessories; military accessories, such as swords, gas masks, Kaiser, and Doughboy helmets; regional Indian beads and arrowheads; cameras; and cookware.

Some of the larger items housed in the museum include: a 1923 Ford Model T truck, a McCormick-Deering Farmall tractor, a 1926 Caterpillar 30 tractor, a Studebaker buggy, a Pony Express wagon, the first Marbeet harvester, pianos and reed organs, a Fresno Scraper, and a Montezuma Cultivator.

Because Rio Vista began as a fishing village and evolved into an agricultural community, the artifacts reflect the way of life associated with those professions. The museum's displays pertain not just to local Rio Vista history, but include the surrounding areas of the Montezuma Hills, Birds Landing, Collinsville, and the Sacramento Delta. The museum owns most of the items, with only a few on extended loans from local families and organizations.

What you see did not happen over night. It has taken more than

three decades of collecting, cataloging, and creating displays to get to this point, not to mention the countless hours donated by the volunteers who operate the museum as well as the support of the community.

The seeds for the museum were planted in 1958 when a group of energetic business merchants and local citizens gathered for a special meeting sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce to discuss the feasibility of a celebration commemorating Rio Vista's 100th birthday.

These seeds laid dormant for more than fifteen years and then began to sprout in 1975, continuing to grow ever since.

During the official Rio Vista Centennial "kick-off" dinner, one of the most informative speeches of the evening came from Dr. Richard Coke Wood, Executive-Secretary of the Conference of California Historical Societies. Dr. Wood, a history professor at the College of the Pacific, Stockton, spoke about California Centennials and the importance of local museums. It was that speech that caused the Centennial



committee to decide to open a temporary museum.

The second weekend of May of that year, committee members started gathering items for the centennial museum, which would be located on Main Street in a building adjacent to Western Auto. Some of the items on display were: two Indian skulls from the original site of Rio Vista; gold scales; Civil War sabers; a 1911 vacuum cleaner; an edition of the Daily San Joaquin Republic dated June 12, 1859; two glass lamps from Rio Vista's coal oil streetlamps; an 1838 dime; and cooking utensils that were brought across the plains via covered wagon in 1861.

When the celebration ended, more than 4,030 individuals had signed the guest register at the Centennial Museum. All the artifacts that were housed in the temporary museum were returned to their owners. The time was just not quite right to create a permanent museum. To find out how the museum developed to what it is today, read the second part of the story in the next edition of *Discover Rio Vista* magazine.



Various displays at the museum depicting daily life and historical contributions of past residents of Rio Vista.

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Ribs & Chili

ARE THE NAME OF THE GAME

STORY BY ROBIE WILLIAMS, PHOTOS BY SUSAN WHITESSELL AND ROBIE WILLIAMS

The rib and chili cook-offs are the showcase of the Ninth Annual Hog August Bites to be held in downtown Rio Vista on August 26th, with the beautiful Sacramento River as the backdrop for the day.

Chili cooks are hard to come by. Of course cooking 5 gallons of chili outdoors isn't the easiest thing to do and can be a little daunting for the beginner. However, everyone has to get their start somewhere and Hog August Bites is the perfect starting point. It's all about the taste and the heat! Chili contestants will have the opportunity to be judged by both the crowd and official judges. Juried judges evaluate the chili based on taste, color, consistency, and aroma. You can purchase your chili-tasting tickets at the Chili & Rib Tasting Ticket table at 45 Main Street. The chili-tasting kits are \$10 each and you get the opportunity to sample each chili offering. Chili tasting begins at noon and lasts until about 2:30 p.m.

Talented rib cooks will smoke and grill ribs on every conceivable type of bar-b-que. Pellet stoves, smokers, and huge trailers will cook away on Main and Front Street. Most of the rib cooks really love to chat with folks walking through. Can't you just smell those awesome aromas intermingling already? We always have new contestants throwing their ribs onto the grill from, not only Rio Vista, but all over the Bay Area, the Delta, and beyond.

Ribs are judged by a panel of Rio Vista VIPs who are led by Kansas City BBQ Society Master Judge Tracy Allen. While Hog August Bites is not a KCBS event, it does abide by all the rules. The ribs are submitted in numbered containers to retain anonymity, and are evaluated on texture, flavor, and appearance.

Most contestants also participate in the popular "People's Choice Rib Tasting." At 3:00 p.m. the people's judging begins at 45 Main and is usually concluded by 5:30 p.m.. Buy your tickets from the Chili & Rib Tasting Booth located at 45 Main St. Purchase a \$15 kit, and you receive 3 ribs; \$30 gets you 10 ribs.



Winner of the 2022 Hog August Bites Cookoff Rookie Team award

While the ribs and chili may be the stars, there are plenty of co-stars in the event. The Ninth Annual Hog August Bites brings the return of motorcycles to the car show. Bring out that shiny Harley and join in the fun with both vintage and custom cars and trucks.

In addition, there will be vendors of all kinds selling their creations. Children's activities include pony rides, a petting zoo, a bounce house, and a waterslide. If you get hungry while waiting on the ribs and chili, stop by one of the food trucks located at

the foot of Main where the bands will have you tapping your toes to the beat! Whether you like to salsa, boot scoot and boogie, or dance to those R&B slow jams, there's a band for you!

It's never too early to sign up as a contestant to cook ribs and/or chili. Yes, some contestants cook both! You can also sign up for the car and motorcycle show, or to be a vendor. Signing up is easy at the website hogaugustbites.com, and you can even pay online securely. Follow Hog August Bites on their Facebook page for the latest in information on the event, including exciting raffle items!



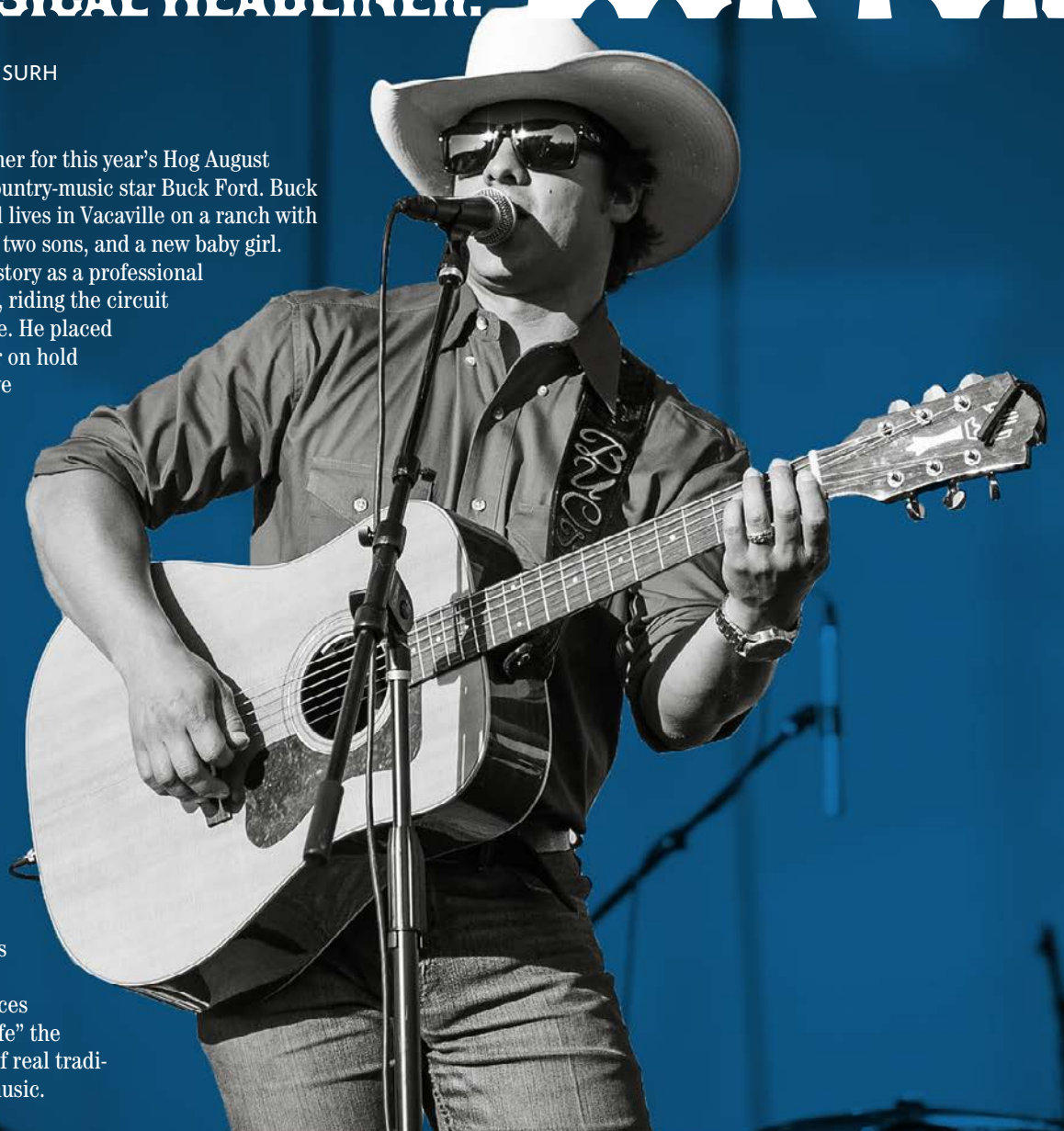
Cool kids and hot dogs at the 2022 Hog August Bites



THE HOG AUGUST BITES MUSICAL HEADLINER: BUCK FORD

STORY BY TOM SURH

The headliner for this year's Hog August Bites is country-music star Buck Ford. Buck grew up and still lives in Vacaville on a ranch with his wife Brooke, two sons, and a new baby girl. Buck began his story as a professional motocross racer, riding the circuit for over a decade. He placed his riding career on hold to pursue his love and passion for country music. Despite his dedication and talent in the professional motocross scene, his heart has always been in country music. Buck and his hometown band, Pure Country Band, have been playing together for 14 years. Buck and his band pride themselves on the fact that their performances "bring back to life" the sound and feel of real traditional country music.



The band members include Gary Roda, who plays steel guitar; Josh Needleman on bass; Arron Smith on drums; and Alex Chaney as the lead guitar. Buck is now headlining his own shows, playing music all over the states as well as internationally. You can find his concert schedule at buckford.com. He is appearing for a concert at Trilogy, in Rio Vista, on June 24.

Buck has five Nashville albums to his credit and is at work on a new album titled "That Ain't Like Me." His other albums are "For Now" (2010), "Country Never Goes Outta Style" (2012), "Somethin' Bout Those Cowgirls" (2014), "Where I Wanna Be" (2016), and "I'm Getting' There" (2022). Most of his music is carried on various streaming services including Spotify, Pandora, and Apple Music, as well as on his own website. From the very first notes of each song, you know you'll be hearing real American country music.

As you can see, Buck has accomplished a lot in this 32 years and is still going strong. We are very pleased to have this (almost) hometown boy back on our Main Street stage.

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM SHOWCASES WIDE-RANGING MUSIC:

10 a.m. Wildcat Mountain Ramblers

This bluegrass ensemble hails from the San Francisco peninsula and features Suzanne Cornelius, vocalist, songwriter, and winner of the Northern California Bluegrass Society's bass player of the year. Their joyful performances really get the blood pumping.

1 p.m. Buck Ford Pure Country Band

This boot-stompin' band is a super treat for country music lovers.

3:30 p.m. Don Gato Latin Band

Orlando Ramos and his crew make you get out of your seat and keep you on your feet to their compelling beat.

7 p.m. Matt Applin and the Midnight Band (R&B, Motown & Funk)

Another local gem hailing from Fairfield, Matt and his band put on a great show with their expansive, soulful repertoire.

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RioVision Roundup

What we did in 2022!

STORY BY ROBIE WILLIAMS, PHOTOS BY KATHY HILL AND ROBIE WILLIAMS

Since our founding in 2014, RioVision has been an all-volunteer effort joining with others to energize, beautify, and revitalize the Rio Vista community.

In 2022 to energize Rio Vista, we held our most successful annual Hog August Bites, continue to publish and distribute *Discover Rio Vista* magazine now in its ninth year, sponsor the Thanksgiving Turkey Trot, held five Community Forum meetings, and continued managing the downtown RioVision Art Gallery. To beautify Rio Vista, RioVision artists painted utility boxes and we drew from the City Public Art Fund to create and install the Rock the Flock sheep. Our Litter Pickers held monthly events to clean up the city. To revitalize the city, we raised additional funds for an ADA-compliant bleacher and table at Egbert Field, contributed to an additional van for the high school, donated money towards a new timing system at the Simonsen Delta Swim Center, and donated to the Rio Vista High School cross-country and soccer teams. We were also active participants in the update of the Rio Vista General Plan.



RioVision continues in 2023 with the Ninth Annual Hog August Bites, sponsoring the 2023 Turkey Trot, the biennial Holiday Home Tour and more public art. The community forums continue occurring on the 2nd Monday of each month, the Litter Pickers are staying busy keeping Rio Vista clean, and *Discover Rio Vista* magazine, with a new layout design team member, sports a fresh new look. RioVision is also raising funds for a shade cover at Liberty Park.

Do you have an idea or concept you would like RioVision to consider? Drop an email to info@rioivision.net and pass it along!



In previous years, RioVision has brought many improvements to Rio Vista. We revitalized Main Street planters, built the Riverview School Garden, installed bike racks, benches and gutter covers, and refurbished two neon signs. We helped beautify the Promenade Park with shade covers and a wind sculpture, painted murals downtown, made a substantial contribution to the new City Boat Dock, and installed new signage at the western entrance to the city.




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Pawz on the Water



City of Rio Vista & RioVision
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HOG AUGUST BITES



Rib & Chili Cookoff

Save the Date
Aug 26, 2023
11AM - 11 PM
Downtown Rio Vista

We're looking for Rib & Chili Cooks
 Food & Craft Vendors
 Car & Truck Show Participants

Contact us at info@hogaugustbites.com
 Event Hotline - 707-469-3080
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Red-tailed hawk at Big Break Regional Shoreline. Photo by Doris Noriega.



Rio Vision Gallery

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Our Hometown Newspaper

The Beacon

STORY AND PHOTO ABOVE BY JAN VICK. PHOTO BELOW PROVIDED BY CINDY GREEN

Since 1997, the *Beacon* has come weekly to our mailboxes. Harry and Cindy Green had started in the newspaper business in 1991 in Oakley, but decided to start a new paper in Rio Vista. Their goal was to support the community and businesses as they had in Oakley. Harry was the key to the paper's success and did most of the work. Cindy worked for the Valley Yellow Pages to bring in a steady income, but also took the hand-done layouts to the printer and waited until they had finished printing. Family and friends were also involved in the significant amount of work it takes to publish a weekly paper. Under Harry's leadership, the paper transitioned from hand typing and layout to computer generated copy—a far less time-consuming process. The focus of the newspaper has always been support of the community and businesses of Rio Vista.

Tragically, in April, 2010, Harry unexpectedly passed away, leaving Cindy bereft and the fate of the *Beacon* uncertain. Cindy's first thought was to close the paper down; what did she know about the day to day processes of creating and publishing a newspaper? A longtime friend came to Cindy and offered to help. She reminded Cindy that she was familiar with design and layout and they could figure it out. Within 48 hours of Harry's death the next issue of the *Beacon* was mailed on time. Cindy credits friends and the community for helping her succeed in running the newspaper, though for a year she continued working for the Yellow Pages. After taking over the paper full time, Cindy took classes in Photoshop and graphic design. Cindy loves newspaper publishing, though the hours are long with no time off.

Cindy has always had a home-town point of view, and showcases community organizations and activities. Cindy loves what she does, and feels that the support of everyone in the community—from businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, and regular contributors who provide the articles—enable her to continue to publish the paper. She delivers the paper to the post office and distributes it to other local communities every Tuesday. She travels more than 100 miles a week picking up the paper and delivering it, but feels this is just part of the commitment. Many of us look forward to receiving the *Beacon* to learn about what is going on in town, and read showcases about activities in local schools and service clubs. In recent years the paper has been able to publish legal notices, and now receives them from all around the area.

It is the residents of our community who keep Cindy and the *Beacon* alive year after year. Need to hire a local business? Look in the

Beacon. Want to buy or sell a house? Look in the *Beacon*. Need to advertise your business? Contact the *Beacon* and place an ad. Want a copy of *Discover Rio Vista* magazine? Find it in the *Beacon* three times a year: January, May, and September. The newspaper is full of articles about events in and around Rio Vista and the Delta. Our hometown newspaper is a vital resource connecting all of us together.



Gallery Artists

BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

You don't need to travel out of town to see quality art. The RioVision Gallery showcases the powerful and unique works of over twenty talented Delta artists in varied genres ranging from paintings in acrylics, oils and watercolors to photography, jewelry, gourds, felted art and more. Meet the exceptional artists, featured below, at a reception, typically the third Saturday of the month, and view their work while mingling with others who appreciate art.

Lori Azzolino is the May Artist of the Month.



Lori has lived in Trilogy for twenty-three years, which has enabled her to have a studio in her home and devote more time to painting. She began painting in watercolor, but excels in several additional genres including oil, acrylic, pastel and Shibori cloth dying. Lori has studied with many painters and has been most influenced by Tom Lynch and Gary Bergren. She has shown in numerous art shows, including the Trilogy Juried Art

Show, since 2005. She has won several awards: the People's Choice Award at the Trilogy Art Show in both Spring and Fall 2005 and 2013, Second Place in the Discover Art League show in 2013, a First Place at the Antioch Arts and Cultural Foundation show in 2013, and Second Place in a recent Trilogy Art Show. Lori was President of the Trilogy

Art Guild from 2005 to 2009 and was the founder of the Trilogy Art Gallery in the Vista Club in 2011. Lori enjoys traveling and brings many of these experiences to her art. Her studies of egrets and herons are delicate works of beauty and grace.

Meet Lori and explore her work on Saturday, May 20, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.. Refreshments will be served.



The spotlight is on Rachel Warren in June.

A relative newcomer to the Rio Vista art scene, Rachel has lived in Rio Vista since 2016. Rachel has always loved to draw and paint for as long as she can remember. As a child, half of her dresser was clothes and the other half art supplies. Her mother was incredibly supportive of her art. However, her parents wanted her to have a "safe" job, so she went to school and is a dental professional by day and an artist as often as possible.

Rachel started out creating jewelry and doing popup events and fairs. That genre of art quickly became saturated, so she started painting. She looked for new canvases to use and Rachel's thoughts turned to things she used such as glasses, and wine glasses came to mind—functional art, enjoying a glass of wine with artwork. Rachel started painting with acrylic on glasses, wine bottles and then cutting wine bottles for more art creations. Her art is constantly morphing into new concepts, including a mural she was recently commissioned to paint.

Rachel says, "Art is my heart and soul," and emphasizes that her art is rooted in her Latin family heritage. Rachel often uses "sugar skulls"—colorful decorated skulls representing the circle of life, celebrating the lives of family members and friends to keep their memories alive. Rachel is looking forward to retiring from the dental field and creating art full time. You can view her work at magicalalchemydesigns.com or at the Gallery.

Come meet Rachel at the Artist of the Month Reception on June 10th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.. (Please note this is a week earlier than usual.)



of the Month

Kathie Boissiere is the featured artist in July.

Kathie began her journey in art early in life. Both her parents and her sister are artistic, and they encouraged Kathie to pursue art as did her collectors later. She started in oils, later as a self-taught watercolorist. Her favorite mediums are watercolor, acrylic, pastel, and collage. Kathie uses the medium to help her tell a story. Seaweed, grass, or shells are sometimes incorporated into her collages to complete the narrative.



Kathie says she paints because it is what she loves and who she is. She is inspired by color, line shape and movement, independent of any subject matter. She says, "It is endlessly fascinating to put down a color or shape on the paper and then let the painting tell me what to do next." She is hopeful that the results of this technique leave room for the viewer to find their own story in the art. Recent work is often an abstraction of these elements. Her work is found in private collections internationally and has received many

awards. Kathie's work is also exhibited by a number of galleries and art reps in California. She frequently participates in multiple group and solo shows in the Bay Area, the Wine Country and at Lake Tahoe. She is also a signature member of the California Watercolor Association. Her work is currently shown at kerwingalleries.com, artliaisons.com and the RioVision Gallery. Kathie also welcomes commissioned pieces.

Visit with Kathie at the reception on July 15th between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m..



Joyce Gilstrap is the August Artist of the Month.

Joyce has been an artist for over 40 years. Joyce says that she has always been artistic, starting out drawing animals and birds as a young girl. Joyce is always looking at the world around her. Wherever she might be, she sees colors and shapes that inspire and excite her to be creative. Joyce paints with oil, acrylic, watercolor and pencil. Her canvasses vary from the traditional artist canvas to walls, rocks and beyond. Any surface is fair game for painting. Joyce says painting is like breathing for her, it comes naturally, and she must do it. Sometimes her paintings take her far away and other times keep her close to home. She has been showing her art for many years and has entered shows where she has won a few awards. Joyce is proud of the awards as it shows that people like what she does. Painting is a part of her and she loves to share it.

Meet Joyce on August 17th between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. and see her work.



The RioVision Gallery is located at 116 Main Street in Rio Vista, and the hours are Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. While you are there checking out the art, pick up some Sees Candies (now with sugar free choices). Appointments are available outside of the normal hours by calling (707) 360-5244 during Gallery hours or (707) 469-3080 after hours.

Event Calendar

Sidewalk Saturday

DOWNTOWN RIO VISTA, MAIN STREET



3rd Saturday of each month 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
April 15th, May 20th, June 10th (special date),
July 15th, August 19th, and September 16th

Enjoy shopping in our unique and picturesque downtown. Monthly themes liven up your shopping experience. New this year, longer hours with live music on the Starlight Stage.

Trilogy Community Garage Sale

TRILOGY COMMUNITY AT SUMMERSET



Saturday, May 6th 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Grab a map at the Trilogy gate to locate homes selling furniture, appliances, yard equipment, clothing, housewares, antiques, tools and more. Open to the public.

Dixon May Fair

655 SOUTH 1ST STREET, DIXON, CA



Thursday May 11th through Sunday May 14th

Experience a small-town fair with lots of animals, a carnival, a car show and more. Don't forget to visit our local 4H and FFA members while you're there!

TAG Art Show

TRILOGY VISTA CLUBHOUSE, 1200 CLUBHOUSE DRIVE



Sunday, May 21st 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Come out and enjoy a juried art show featuring works in various genres and mediums by Trilogy artists. Open to the public.

Crawdad Festival

MAIN STREET, ISLETON



Saturday June 17th & Sunday June 18th 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

In the heart of the Delta is the popular Crawdad Festival featuring Cajun style music, food including tons of crawdads and much more alongside the Sacramento River. Tickets available at thecrawdadfestival.com

Marta Drone Memorial Golf Tournament

GOLF CLUB AT RIO VISTA



Friday, May 19th

Rotary Club of Rio Vista hosts the 22nd Annual event. See riovistarotary.org/marta-dron-memorial-22nd-annual-golf-tournament-friday-may-19-2023 for details and more information.



Rio Rock Music Festival

RIO VISTA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD.

Saturday July 15th

See article on page 3.

Clothing Exchange

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH HALL, 220 SOUTH 4TH STREET



Saturday, August 19th, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

(707) 374-3426 in Rio Vista or (916) 776-9221 in Walnut Grove.

Bring your child's outgrown clothing, clean and in good condition and exchange for free usable garments. Please, only newborn to teen clothing and no adult sizes! For more info, call



Ninth Annual Hog August Bites

DOWNTOWN RIO VISTA

August 26, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.

See article on page 12.

RioVision Community Forum

YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTER, 45 MAIN STREET



2nd Monday of each month, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Join RioVision on the 2nd Monday of the month for a variety of topics of interest to Rio Vista and the Sacramento Delta.

Topics and information for each meeting are posted on social media and our website at riovision.net. For more information email info@riovision.net or call (707) 469-3080.



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