

discover RioVista

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Delta Windsurfing

May - August 2024

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Editor's Corner

Just as spring brings change, so does life and yet everything continues in new and wonderful ways. There are new events, returning events and event that have changed their dates in this edition of *Discover Rio Vista*.

In recent editions we have seen some of our tried-and-true editors, layout people, writers, and ad coordinators move on to new challenges and life experiences. It has been my honor and pleasure to work with many people on the magazine and now it is time to say goodbye to another team member. Jan Vick started with the magazine writing *Rio Vista: Past, Present and Future* in its first edition published in September 2014. This is her 33rd magazine to have written for, taken pictures, edited and proofread articles and it is her last. She has made the decision to "retire again." Jan has excellent experience at retiring! She's retired from a regular paying job, she's retired from city government having been on the Army Base Committee, Planning Commission, City Council and served as Mayor. Jan is a prolific artist, photographer, and a great friend. Please join me in wishing her the best in her next retirement chapter.

Other new things are happening, too! This magazine edition is going to spread the word about Rio Vista, our events, and businesses to a greater audience. California Visitor Centers in Fairfield and San Francisco will be carrying the magazine as well as over 150 visitor locations in the Sacramento area.

If you would like to be a part of this wonderful magazine, please drop us a line to info@rioivision.net.

Enjoy the photographs, articles and yes even the ads in this, our 33rd edition!

— *Co-Editor, Robie Williams*



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discover
RioVista



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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 discoverrioivista.com. For additional information about RioVision see rioivision.net and facebook.com/riovistavision. RioVision is a non-profit 501(c)(3) group.

COVER: Delta Windsurfing at Sherman Island.
Photo by Doris Noriega

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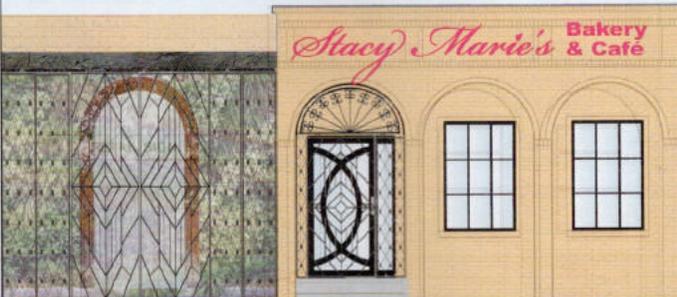
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Event Calendar 2024

MAY

- **May 4:** Trilogy Community Garage Sale, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Trilogy Community at Summerset. 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.
- **May 4:** River Rumble. Downtown Rio Vista, Downtown Association. Local vendors, food trucks, kids' activities with a dunk tank, music and more.
- **May 4-5:** Sheepdog Trial, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. McCormack Ranch, Montezuma Hills. The sheepdog trials return with more than 60 handlers and their dogs. Food is available on site.
- **May 9-12:** Dixon May Fair, 655 South 1 st Street, Dixon, CA. 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,
- **May 16:** Farmers Market, 1st & 3rd Thursday of Every Month (Except July 4 th) 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. May 16 - Opening Market, June 6 - End of School Year Market with more kids' activities, June 20 - Wine and Art Stroll Market, July 18 - Cultural Market, August 1 - Back to School Market with more kids' activities, August 10 - Health & Welfare Market, each market will have kids' activities, acoustic live music, fresh produce, fruits, meats, eggs, honey and more.
- **May 17:** Marta Drone Memorial Golf Tournament, Golf Club at Rio Vista. Rotary Club of Rio Vista hosts the 23rd Annual event. See <https://riovistarotary.org/marta-dron-memorial-23rd-annual-golf-tournament-friday-may-17-2024> for details and more information.
- **May 19:** TAG Art Show, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. Trilogy Vista Clubhouse, 1200 Clubhouse Drive. Come out and enjoy a juried art show featuring works in various genres and mediums by Trilogy artists. Open to the public.
- **May 25 - June 15 - August 17 - September 21:** Saturday Street Faire, Downtown Rio Vista, Main Street, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Enjoy shopping in our unique and picturesque downtown. Monthly themes liven up your shopping experience.



JUNE

- **June 8:** Rio Vista Foundation Annual Tea Party, 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Senior Center – 25 Main St. Annual tea party fundraiser. Tickets available at Pets 4 All, \$35.00 each for more information contact Mark at 925-628-8097.
- **June 10:** Main Street will feature a presentation about the agriculture land in Solano County. July and August there will be a short hiatus and we will return in September with a Round Table discussion with nonprofits. Meetings feature a variety of topics of interest to Rio Vista and the Sacramento Delta. Topics and information for each meeting is posted on social media and our website at riovision.net. For more information email info@riovision.net or call (707) 469-3080.
- **June 15-16:** Crawdad Festival, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. The popular Crawdad Festival returned in 2023 with an amazing attendance! The event features Cajun style music, carnival rides, vendors, a culinary extravaganza including tons of crawdads and much more. Tickets available at theisletoncrawdadjestival.com.
- **June 30:** Rio Vista's 130 th Birthday Celebration, 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. City Park. Join the city for a birthday celebration including swimming at the pool, hot dogs, popcorn and a movie in the park. Fun, Food and Game Fundraiser.



JULY

- **July 13:** Rio Vista Hot Shots & the Professional Firefighter's Association hosts the 3rd Annual Gaming fundraiser. D.H. White School, 500 Elm Way from 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Dinner served at 5:30 pm. Tickets are available at the Rio Vista Fire Station 55 and Pets 4 All. \$40.00 presale, \$50.00 at the door. Tri-tip / Chicken dinner, no host bar, gaming tables, silent/live auction.

AUGUST

- **August 24:** 10th Annual Hog August Bites, 10:00 am to 11:00 pm. Downtown Rio Vista Rib & Chili Cookoff with a car & truck show, craft vendors, kid zone and more. More information can be found in the article.
- **August 31:** Clothing Exchange, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. St. Joseph Church Hall, 220 South 4 th Street. 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 707-374-3426 in Rio Vista or 916-776-9221 in Walnut Grove. Sponsored by St. Joseph's Church and St. Vincent de Paul.



ONGOING EVENTS

- Rio Vista Youth Services. Kids in 5 th through 12th grade can join in the fun at the Youth & Community Center Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm. June and July will feature short fun lessons to learn quilting, photography, beginning art featuring drawing and watercolor, fishing, RioVision Community Forum.
- RioVision Community Forum 2nd Monday of the month, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm Join RioVision May 13 for a Listening Session with the Napa Solano Area on Agency at 45 Main St. June 10 will feature Rio Vista nonprofits meeting. July and August there will be a short hiatus and we will return in September. Meetings feature a variety of topics of interest to Rio Vista and the Sacramento Delta. Topics and information for each meeting is posted on social media and our website at riovision.net. For more information email info@riovision.net or call (707) 469-3080.
- Self-Guided Walking Tour Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front St. Any time — at your convenience This booklet is available at the Rio Vista Museum. Take a self-guided Street-by-street walking tour of a selection of Rio Vista's historic homes. This booklet contains an easy-to-follow guide showing the locations of the historic homes as well as a brief history of each one.
- Self-Guided Art Walk – There is art to see in Rio Vista! Grab your camera and the Art Walk pamphlet (available at the RioVision Gallery, 116 Main Street) to find art in unexpected places.

Hog August Bites Rib & Chili Cookoff - 10th Anniversary



STORY BY ROBIE WILLIAMS - PHOTOS BY JIM PEZZAGLIA & ROBIE WILLIAMS

For the tenth time, the town of Rio Vista will close Main and Front Streets on August 24th for a street party like no other. “Hog August Bites” is a full day of events from 10:00 am to 11:00 pm with a rib and chili cookoff, live bands, a classic car & truck show and so much more! To ensure no one goes without their favorite snacks, food trucks will also be there.

Hog August Bites is a free family event open to the public, although there is a charge for the People’s Choice tasting of rib and chili entries. A local fund raiser, Hog August Bites originated in 2013 when four friends in Rio Vista decided to highlight downtown Rio Vista with a rib and chili cookoff. The following year they forged ahead



signing sponsors, service clubs and convincing friends to do the cooking. An engaging name, “Hog August Bites” along with excellent publicity resulted in an outstanding event attended by 4,000 people. One

of the original organizers said, “We want this to be a family event where everyone has a great time.” The original organizers kept the event running for three years, then handed it off to RioVision who has kept the event growing since then.

As with the original founders, funds raised from “Hog August Bites” are donated to Rio Vista youth groups including Soroptimist “S” Club, Rio Vista High School sports teams and clubs, Riverview Middle School, Rio Vista Sharks Swim Team, Boy Scouts, Future Farmers of America, and others.

The event has grown exponentially ever since its inception. It has gone from a handful of local rib and chili cooks to thirty-seven rib cooks and ten chili cooks from all over the Delta, Bay Area, and Sacramento. The event is honored to have our local cooks still cooking and regulars who drive from Turlock and Los Banos to participate! Ribs and chili are judged by a panel of professional and celebrity judges led by Tracy Allen a trained Kansas City Barbeque Society CBJ. Just a note that this is not a KCBS event. The people

asked for rib tasting and the 7th Annual Hog August Bites committee found a way. The People’s Choice winners are chosen by attendees from far and wide. All tastings are blind, no favoritism here!

Vendors! What are you looking for? We have it, from sweet treats to handcrafted items made with love, garden decorations, sauces and rubs, jewelry and so much more. If you aren’t looking for something, you’ll find amazing things you didn’t know you needed with over 75 craft, merchandise and informational vendors attending.

Car and truck show participants start rolling in early in the morning, making sure every piece of chrome sparkles and the glossy paint is shining to perfection. Come out and be amazed at classic cars and trucks, foreign and exotic cars, and Corvettes lining Front Street from Main Street to Logan. We even have an award for the best under construction.



The event doesn’t happen overnight. Planning starts in October (the committee takes a break for a month!) with getting the website and forms updated for next year’s event. Word goes out to all the participants early as many schedule in advance and there’s lots of competition with other events in the summer. One hundred volunteers work on the event either in the planning stages or the day of the event. The coordination of each moving piece is planned with Murphy’s Law in mind ... whatever can go wrong will! Yet, even with a few glitches and hiccups, the event comes together, and everyone has fun and enjoys the day!

If you are interested in more information, please visit the website at hogaugustbites.com, send an email to info@hogaugustbites.com or call us at 707-469-3080. The team is looking forward to seeing you there, August 24.

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Windsurfing, Kayaking, Paddleboarding

STORY BY DORIS NORIEGA - PHOTO BY YVONNE CAMPER

The beauty of the Sacramento River Delta never fails to disappoint. It is a thousand square miles of rivers, sloughs, coves, and rolling hills, with an abundance of wildlife. A fantastic way to explore nature and view the scenery close-up is by kayaking and paddle boarding. You can see river otters, beavers, seals, turtles, and birds of all kinds. Paddling down a river on a kayak or paddle boards is such an enjoyable and relaxing experience.

The Delta itself offers several scenic places to enjoy these activities whether you rent or have your own equipment. What is special about the Delta is that there are quite a few resorts and businesses that cater to your specific needs. These businesses and resorts are close by on the Delta Loop and along the rivers.

EQUIPMENT RENTALS

Kokopelli Kayaks

- Also known as Delta Kayak Rentals, is at 950 W. Brannan Island Rd., Isleton. The cost of renting a kayak is \$15/hr. for a single and \$20/hr. for a tandem. All come with paddles and life jackets. Paddle boards rent for \$20/hr. or \$30/2 hrs. A fun place to paddle out to is Turtle Island and see the turtles sunbathing on logs. What is especially unique about their business location is that they built their own building on a floating dock. Look for the brightly colored Tiki Hut and begin your new adventure here!
- Contact: (707) 365-3865
- deltakayakrentals.com

Ko-Ket Resort

- On the Sacramento River at 14174 Isleton Road, rents kayaks at \$20/hr. and there are four hour and all-day rates. The paddle board rate is \$10/hr. Paddle along this beautiful wide stretch of the Sacramento River. The sunsets are especially worth watching.
- (916) 776-1488
- koketresort.com

LAUNCH SITES: For those who have their own equipment

Lighthouse Resort and Marina

- Located at 151 Brannan Island on the Delta Loop, charges \$10 for using the launch and parking. This beautiful riverside oasis has rental cottages, RV sites, and tent camping. Enjoy your drink and pizza at the Lighthouse Sports Bar and Pizza Island overlooking the water.
- Contact: (916) 777-5511
- lighthouseresortandmarina.com

Korth's Pirates Lair Marina

- Located at 1619 West Brannan Island. They are located where the Mokelumne and San Joaquin River meet. They charge \$15 to use their launch. The location of this marina offers an especially unique experience on the two rivers.
- Contact: (916) 777-6464
- korthspirateslair.com

B&W Resort and Marina

- Located on the Delta Loop at 964 Brannan Island charges \$6 for using its launch ramp and parking.
- Contact: (916) 777-6161
- bandwresort.net

In addition, for those who have their own kayaks or paddle boards there are some favorite recommended spots such as the Georgiana Slough, the Three Mile Slough at Brannon Island Park, and Big Break Regional Park kayak launch in Oakley.

Yogi Bear's Jellystone Camp Resort

- For a different type of adventure that offers many amenities is the Yogi Bear's Jellystone Camp Resort at 149 Highway 12, in Lodi which also offers kayaks and paddle board rentals, but they must be used within their resort area. A single kayak or paddle board rental is \$60/4 hrs. A double kayak is \$75/4 hrs.
- Contact: (209) 369-1041
- towerparkresort.com

Delta Kayak Adventures

- On the western side of the Delta region is Delta Kayak Adventures at 5 Marine Plaza in Antioch. They have rentals and provide basic instructional classes. A single kayak rental is \$28/hr., and a tandem is \$52/hr. A stand-up paddle board rent is \$28/hr. Have a wonderful time viewing native plants and wildlife close-up in the Corteva Wetlands. Custom tours and excursions are available.
- Contact: (925) 642-5764
- deltakayakadventures.com

Boathouse Kayak Rentals

- Just on the outer eastern edge of the Delta is Boathouse Kayak rentals at 1101 W. Turner Road at Lodi Lake. Single kayaks rent for \$22/hr. and a tandem for \$44/hr. They also provide 1.5-hour lessons with experienced staff. The focus is on basic elements such as balance, control, turning maneuvers, safety, and paddling strokes. They also offer specialty kayak tours during the Fall and at sunrises and sunsets.

WINDSURFING

Delta Windsurf and Watersports

- To speed along the water and feel the breeze rushing by is the exhilarating water sport of windsurfing. Delta Windsurf and Watersports is located at 3729 W. Sherman Island Road. They sell and rent equipment. Their store is fully stocked with a wide variety of gear. Lessons are offered in "wing foil," windsurfing, and kiting. During the months of April through September there are constant thermal winds and warm sunny weather. Delta Windsurf is internationally known as a premier venue for competitions in windsurfing and kiteboarding.
- Contact: (916) 777-2299
- deltawindsurf.com

So here in the Delta do more than just "dip your toes in the water." Hop right on and enjoy!



The Dogs are Back - McCormack Sheepdog Trials

STORY BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

Don't miss out on the return of the Sheepdog Trials May 4th and 5th, 2024 at the McCormack Ranch in the Montezuma Hills.

Sheepdog 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 Rio Vista Farm Bureau revived the sheepdog trials, with Mrs. Hamilton's blessing, to raise money to build a meeting place for Rio Vista and Birds Landing Farmers in 1947.

Just like today, those trials of yesteryear were put together with volunteers from the community. There was a man who contacted ranchers who had good dogs, helpers that 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 sheepdogs show off their herding skills for an admission of just a few dollars.

Over the years the sheepdog trials were tremendously successful. While most of the sheepdogs were well known Solano County herders, there were often nationally famous dogs featured. In the early years, Solano County was the second largest sheep producing county in California, which as itself the second largest sheep producing state in America. California is still the fourth largest producing state. The sheepdog trials continued into the late 1950's or early 1960's.

Sometime in the 1960's the sheepdog trials became so successful that attendance numbered close to 2,000. However, with large crowds came problems as the crowds got rowdy and incidents of drunkenness became more prevalent. A decision was made to discontinue the trials. Periodically, throughout the 1970's and 1980's a sheepdog trial would be organized. However, it just never had the same attraction that those original trials had. 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 that the original trials had either and the sheepdog 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.

Kelsey Nichols, Ranch Manager and Shepard at the McCormack Ranch is a talented handler and shepherd in her own right. She plays a key role in organizing the course and accepting applications for the dogs who attend the event. The course looks like Scotland, especially this time of year, with huge rolling hills that dogs really get to work. It's very appealing to handlers to put that challenge before the dog and themselves to see if they can accomplish the task. However, it's not just the size, complexity or the terrain that makes this course challenging. It's the sheep! The McCormack Ranch sheep are not used for trialing other than at this trial. These sheep are not forgiving 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 are 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 will be held at Belle Grove in Middletown, Virginia September 30th thru October 6th, 2024.

The McCormack Sheepdog Trials will be held on May 4th and 5th, 2024 at the Dan McCormack Ranch at 7680 Montezuma Hills Road. The hours are from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm daily. Food trucks will be available on both days. Admission is \$35.00 per day for adults and children over 13, children 5 through 12 is \$5 and under 5 years old are free. This is an alcohol-free event. Tickets are available online at Eventbrite and at the RioVision Gallery, 116 Main St., Rio Vista until May 3rd. Limit of 500 attendees per day, if not sold out, tickets may be 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.

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 and RioVision with help from the wider Rio Vista Community.



A Delta Treasure: The Loop

STORY & PHOTOS BY JAN VICK

Less than a mile off Highway 12 and about 5 miles east of Rio Vista lies the Loop, a menagerie of marinas, RV parks, private homes and endless recreation.

to all renters who sign up. A newsletter is published once a month announcing upcoming activities and providing information. There are laundry facilities and several restrooms. Fittingly, Owl Harbor Marina even has its own great horned owl: Hedwig (of course).



Moving southeast on Brannan Island Road is Brothers Island Marina. The island is home to 175 slips and has restrooms and a laundry. Their specialty is gorgeous sunsets. Park Delta Bay on the San Joaquin River, features a large RV park (with a few transient spots) and numerous tiny houses.



Starting at the West end on 7-Mile Slough on Twitchell Island Road lies Owl Harbor. Since new owners took over about 15 years ago, the marina has been rejuvenated into a quiet place filled with boats and offering a myriad of activities and amenities. There are approximately 250 boat slips accommodating 30' to 60' boats. In addition to a large deck with a BBQ and a beautiful clubhouse, there are 5 picnic areas with grass and trees on the interior of the levee, available to all renters. During the summer there is a large community garden. The owners prepare the ground and provide water. Participants generally plant a variety of vegetables or flowers. The marina will provide pump out services on a weekly basis

There are two cabins currently for rent and several more are being redone. There is a very nice clubroom, a laundry and a pool. Huge shade trees cover the property and offer respite from the summer heat. During the summer the Sunday Market offers a variety of vendors, produce, music and a good time. Usually it occurs once a month. There is a huge field in back of the park that attracts snow geese and other wintering birds stopping by.



Across the street and owned by the same family is the Sacramento Delta Bay Marina, which has both covered and open slips. The marina has a general store, bait and tackle, restrooms and guest docking. The marina also offers telephone hookup as well as high speed wireless internet and a Wi-Fi lounge. Water and electricity is available at each slip as well as a BBQ and bar on the large river deck for boat owners. Pump out service is free to all monthly berthers. There is a fishing dock connected to the levee and offers free fishing days for families. The free fishing is also offered at Brannan Island State Park.

At the intersection of the San Joaquin and Mokelumne Rivers is Korths Pirate Lair Marina, a green oasis along Brannan Island



Road. The property has been owned by the Korth family since 1931 and the family built and rented boats beginning in 1938. They added a snack bar and café in 1940. There are now 210 slips. The cafe, which features an upper deck dining option, is



open roughly from Memorial Day to Halloween. The family continues to be active (the 3rd generation now) and has an appreciation day for all berthers. Amenities include a launch ramp, fuel dock, pumpout station, picnic areas, fishing boat rentals and laundry facilities. There are lots of mature trees and grassy areas looking out over the river, a serene and peaceful place.

At the end of Brannan Island Road where Highway 12 passes over the Mokelumne River lies B & W Resort. This resort was established in 1947, the second oldest on the loop. In 1947 the Deak family purchased the resort which is now run by the younger generation. It features covered berths ranging in size from 26 to 42 feet, a guest harbor for overnight boaters, and an area reserved for cabin customers. There is a large snack bar and groceries available. The launch ramp, one of two on the Loop (the other one is at Korths),



is open 24 hours a day, as is the gas dock. The resort has 24 cabins with full kitchens. There are one and two bedroom cabins that sleep 4 to 6 (all have a sofa bed). The levee cabins are all two bedroom and include a dock across the levee. There are three RV sites behind the upper cabins, with a 1 week maximum stay and a maximum length of 40 feet. Only water and power are provided.

Other marinas on the Loop include:

- Delta Shores Resort: vistaresorts.com
- Rancho Marina RV Park: ranchomarinarvypark.com
- Lighthouse Resort and Marina: lighthouseresortandmaina.com
- Lighthouse Sports Bar and Island Pizza: 916-777-4007
- Spindrift Marina: spindriftmarina.com
- Willow Berm Marina: willowbermmarina.com

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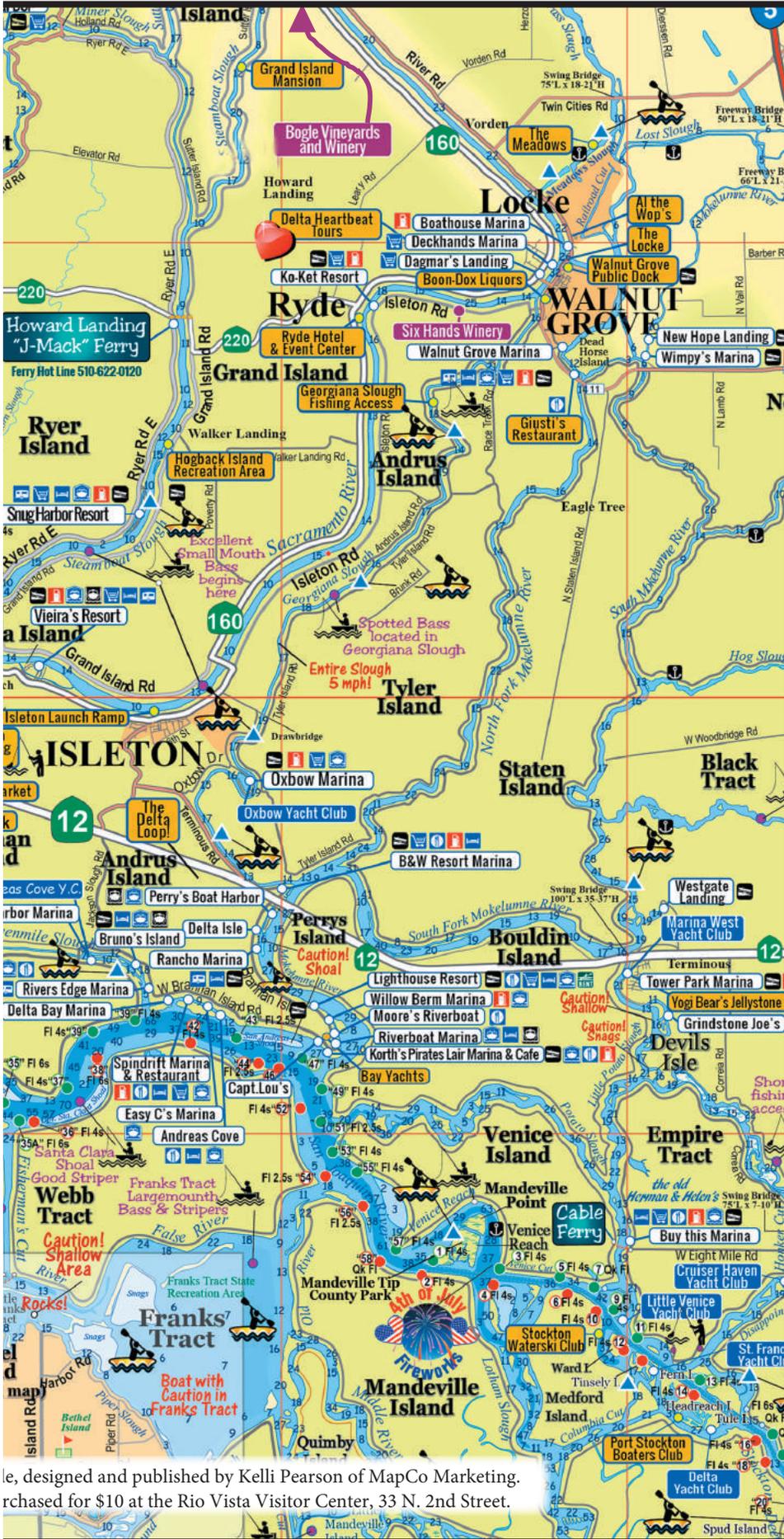
Caution! Shallow Area
 Boaters should stay out of this Break. Fish with caution! Be aware of changing depths.

Antioch Fishing
Antioch Boat Ramp

Big Break Marina

Delta Boating Map and Visitors Guide

This is a portion of the Delta Boaters Map and Visitors Guide, de
 It is available online at DeltaBoatingMap.com or may be purchas



Map designed and published by Kelli Pearson of MapCo Marketing. Purchased for \$10 at the Rio Vista Visitor Center, 33 N. 2nd Street.



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A Sense of Place: The Locke Foundation

STORY BY TOM SURH - PHOTOS FROM LOCKE FOUNDATION

The average American will move their residence 13 times in their lifetime. Most of us lack any real sense of connection to the land or location where we live, and yet there is a growing appreciation of the benefits of being rooted somewhere in the vast geography and society we call America. The many people and organizations working to seek out, preserve and share the stories, history and artifacts of the people who came before us in a particular locale are helping to counteract the rootlessness and alienation that typifies our lives. So even if we are new to a community, we can grow to learn about and appreciate what makes a place special in the human story.

Perhaps the best example of such historic preservation work in the Delta region is the Locke Foundation, whose mission is to educate the public about the history and culture of Locke, California - a small town in the Delta one mile north of Walnut Grove on Highway 160, settled by Chinese people who were very much present in the Delta in the 19th and early 20th centuries. What is unique about Locke is that it is not a "Chinatown" (i.e. a Chinese section of a larger urban area) but a Chinese town where early on virtually all residents and businesses were Chinese. The fraught and complex history of land and building ownership and governance in Locke as well as the history of the Locke Foundation is set out in a fascinating article by Stuart Walthall, the current Chairman of the Locke Foundation, which can be found by going to www.locke-foundation.org and looking for the Fall 2023 Newsletter.

Locke was listed in the National Registry of Historic Places in 1971, and in 1990 its historic section became a National Historic Landmark. Through years of work and effort by Clarence Chu and family, the County of Sacramento, California State Parks, the Locke Management Corporation and the Locke Foundation, the Main Street of Locke is now a living museum with restored historic structures including the Chinese School Museum, Dai Loy Gambling Museum, Jan Ying Museum and the MUST SEE Boarding House Museum and Gift Shop (owned by State Parks and staffed by Locke Foundation volunteers). The Locke Foundation has a full menu of activities and events including the Chinese New Year Celebration and The Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival; the LF Scholarship Program; docent led historic walking tours; the Locke Oral History Project - capturing the stories of former and current Locke residents; the Locke Artifact Program - collecting, cataloging, preserving and displaying the artifacts from Locke's past; the aforementioned Locke Foundation Quarterly Newsletter; creation of the Locke Memorial Park and Memorial Tile Project; funding of historic signage and plaques; the Locke Centennial Building Survey - creating a complete color catalog of all historic buildings from all angles.

The Delta region, the first National Heritage Area in California, has a strong sense of place with its unique landscape and history. New residents and visitors alike would do well to visit the town of Locke as well as Isleton with the results of historic preservation efforts so visible on their Main Streets.



What's That Buzzing?

STORY BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

Count on the mosquitoes coming out of their winter hibernation after a few days of sunny, warm weather. That can start as early as February in Solano County. Generally, they are active from spring into the fall if the weather is warm. Mosquitoes that come out early are more of the nuisance variety than a harmful health risk according to the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District (SCMAD).



SCMAD is responsible for mosquito abatement over approximately 900 square miles in both incorporated and unincorporated Solano County. They were founded in 1930 to control the *Aedes* mosquitoes that were being produced in Suisun Marsh. Their purpose is to control mosquitoes which can harass

humans and domestic animals or cause disease.

Mosquitoes' life cycle includes four stages: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Their entire life cycle takes approximately 8 to 10 days. After mating one time a female mosquito can lay up to 100 eggs in water every third night. Typically, they lay three groups of eggs before dying. As those eggs hatch, the life cycle starts all over again. That buzzing and biting ... those are the females!

Solano County is home to 23 species of mosquitoes. Of those, 12 are important as they can transmit disease. The tidal marsh area along San Pablo Bay can produce three species of mosquitoes, *Aedes squamiger*, *Aedes dorsalis* and *Culiseta inornate*. These mosquitoes are strong fliers traveling between 5 and 25 miles and are aggressive biters. The species *Aedes sierrensis* hatches from eggs laid in tree holes in the wooded hillside area. Irrigated pasture areas present the *Aedes nigromaculis* that has a short life cycle of only four days due to the high summer heat.



Adult mosquitoes are routinely monitored throughout the area using a New Jersey Light Trap every seven days. From April

through October the samples from 29 traps are identified and the findings are sent to the California Department of Health Services Vector Borne Disease Section. This includes monitoring for arbovirus activity. This testing identifies areas within the county where people can be at a higher risk of contracting an arbovirus such as the West Nile virus. Upon discovery, control technicians evaluate the areas to develop and implement the most effective abatement strategies to decrease the mosquito population. How can you help stop the little buzzers? Take time to look around your yard or property for standing water because

mosquitoes need stagnant water to reproduce. Even the saucer for a potted plant that contains water can be a breeding ground as well as roof gutters. Of course, ponds and pools are a good place, too. SCMAD has mosquitofish available for ponds and waterfalls. Call 707-437-1116 in advance to confirm they have them on hand. There are also natural scents that mosquitoes do not like, including citronella, cloves, cedarwood, lavender, eucalyptus, peppermint, rosemary, and lemongrass.

Do mosquitoes serve any purpose besides annoying people, pets, livestock or spreading disease? Yes, they do, they are an important part of the food chain. As larvae they are a food source for fish, birds, bats, and frogs. Some species are also important pollinators.

There are some insects that are often mistaken for mosquitoes. Crane Flies, often called mosquito-eaters or mosquito



hawks are attracted to artificial lights and seen flying around doors of homes. Regardless of their nicknames, they do not eat

mosquitoes and don't bite. Non-biting midges, (chironomids) are like mosquitoes, but are most often seen in swarms. They are attracted to porch lights and do not bite. Fungus gnats (family *Mycetophilidae*) are often found in overwatered house plants. Biting midges (*Ceratopogonidae*) also known as no-see-ums are similar to mosquitoes except, they are exceedingly small (less than 1/8") and have very large wings. Unlike mosquitoes they have sawing mandibles instead of a proboscis. Don't forget your insect repellent to enjoy a mosquito free summer!



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STORY BY SUSAN WHITESELL - PHOTOS FROM SMUD

New Wind Turbines

If you've driven along Montezuma Hills Road or Collinsville Road in the last year and you thought the wind turbines appeared even larger than you remembered—your eyes have not deceived you.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is making headway on a major update to their existing wind project in the Montezuma Hills Wind Resource Area. Phase 4 of the project includes replacing 23 turbines, which were installed as part of Phase 1 of this project in the early 2000s, with 19 new, and larger, turbines that will generate 85.5 megawatts and 350 gigawatt hours per year of carbon-free energy for our region. The new wind turbines for this project alone will generate enough clean energy to power 40,000 homes.

Once Phase 4 is complete, the entire Solano Wind Project will consist of 103 wind turbines and generate approximately 880 gigawatt hours per year, an increase of 335 gigawatt hours per year, of clean, renewable energy, which is a 61% increase in the site's annual energy generation. Construction on Phase 4 began in 2023 and commercial operation is expected in May 2024. The project removed 23 Vestas V47 wind turbines producing 0.66 megawatts each, totaling 15 megawatts, and replaced them with 19 Vestas V150 wind turbines producing 4.5 megawatts each, totaling 85.5 megawatts. American Wind Technology (Vestas) is the prime contractor and turbine manufacturer of the Solano 4 Wind Project.

The larger modern turbines have a maximum height of 591 feet. The length of each blade alone is 243 feet, which is nearly as long as a football field. The rotor diameter is 492 feet. Access roads and collection lines were also installed to support the new turbines. According to the SMUD website, "Output from the project is delivered to the electric grid through the existing Russel I Substation in Solano County. The power generated would count toward the State of California's Renewable Portfolio Standard, helping SMUD reach its 2030 Zero Carbon Plan." Replacing the aging fleet of wind turbines with the latest and most efficient technology is expected to produce important renewable resources for another 30 years.

You may have been impacted by the transportation of the behemoth turbine parts to the Solano 4 project site. Initially, the turbine parts were transported from the manufacturer by ship to the Port of Stockton and then offloaded and moved to the site by truck using existing public and new private roads. A temporary long radius gravel turn was created on Highway 12 east of Rio Vista near the roundabout to allow trucks to make the difficult turn. This turn will be removed and restored to natural pastureland after construction.

SMUD is one of several wind turbine operators in the Solano Wind Resource Area in Solano County. The wind turbines from the



various facilities coexist with farming and ranching in the area. The area also coexists with Travis Air Force Base radar flight tracking.

Being a publicly owned, not-for-profit utility, SMUD is sensitive to community concerns. The utility came to an agreement with Solano County and worked with Travis Air Force Base to verify the project will not increase the site's effect on Travis radar operations compared with the effect occurring prior to the project. Both SMUD and federal modeling show the installation of the project's 19 new, larger turbines will not impact radar operations more than the 23 older turbines that were removed. If an increase in impact is identified in the future, the utility must help optimize Travis's radar performance. SMUD also agreed not to install additional turbines as part of a new project for at least five years.



Rio Vista Youth Services

STORY BY VICTORIA MUNOZ

When I moved to Rio Vista, I didn't know what it felt like to live in a small town because I grew up in Los Angeles. Personally, I hadn't seen local businesses supporting youth groups and sponsoring nonprofit organizations the way that our Rio Vista businesses do. That also holds true for the residents of Rio Vista who donate their time and commit to volunteering at the Rio Vista Youth Center at 45 Main Street.

Before it reopened on November 2, 2023, the Youth Center had been closed since 2020. No one wants to keep hearing about Covid, but it did play a part in shutting down the Center. That was news since the word around town was that it was closed because there weren't enough volunteers to keep it open.

Surprisingly, many people do not know much about Rio Vista Youth Services and the Youth Center. Robie Williams is the current President with Hope and Brent Cohn the founders of Rio Vista Youth Services (RVYS) they make up the Board of Directors for the nonprofit organization responsible for running the Center. Hope and her husband Brent started RVYS in October 2011 with the idea that the mission is to positively impact Rio Vista youth. They believed it could be done with recreation, mentorship and community interaction that would inspire them (and create a safe place to spend time with their friends.) Hope did summer programs from 2014 to 2019 but when Covid hit, the Youth Center was closed by the city. She repeatedly tried to get the Center reopened but just as it looked like the city would allow access to the Youth Center, the Covid numbers would rise again, and city facilities remained closed to the public.



The building at 45 Main stayed closed to our kids from March 2020 to March 2023 when Robie Williams was named President of Rio Vista Youth Services. By May, Robie was having meetings with potential volunteers interested in helping get the Center reopened. After many volunteer meetings and countless hours of cleaning, organizing, and making the Youth Center ready, it reopened on November 2nd. At this point, it is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm. RVYS plans to open more hours during the Spring and Summer breaks, with organized activities for the kids. While the plan is coming together, it still needs people who want to share their talents and teach the youth of Rio Vista. You don't need to teach full-time, some activities can be one or two hours a week, while others may be a once or twice experience such as a field trip to Brannan Island State Park or fishing off the local pier. The more people that volunteer to help occasionally, the better it is for the kids and volunteers!

In five months, the number of youths registered, and attending has grown to forty-seven and more are joining every week. In case you haven't seen it recently, the Center offers arts and crafts, board games, puzzles, air hockey, corn hole, darts, foosball, piano, pickle ball, ping

pong, miniature race cars, radio-control cars, and shuffleboard. Last year, a member of the Trilogy Billiards Club donated his pool table to the Center and several of its members volunteer their time to teach and play pool with the kids who really want to learn to play the game.

There is also a large TV monitor with video games, but the parents have mentioned that they'd rather their kids interact with other kids in activities (not sit in front of a TV that they could do at home alone.) For the kids who want to socialize and hang out with their friends, there are also two conversation areas with cozy couches and recliners.



During the planning sessions for the upcoming Spring and Summer breaks, suggestions have been made for: Rio Vista Airport tour, Brannan Island field trip, cooking classes, cake decorating, creating gift baskets, crocheting, learning about drones, fishing at the pier, remote control car racing, sewing, quilting and many more. Currently, we have volunteers to teach the kids how to quilt and they will end up with a quilt when they are done, artists who will be teaching drawing and watercolor, drone classes, and another volunteer to teach phone photography.

All suggestions are great activities that the kids have expressed interest in and have been given previously. However, it does require a sufficient amount of people willing to share their talents to make these classes possible. If you would like to share your knowledge or have another idea and would like to be a part of these activities, please contact Rio Vista Youth Services at info@rvys.net. Hopefully, you agree that it is a wonderful way to involve the community and residents when you volunteer. Of course, as the Youth Center continues to grow and succeed more people will be needed. The kids in Rio Vista need the support!



Gallery Artists

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.

Garen Patterson is the May artist of the month

Garen Patterson is the featured artist in May. If this looks familiar, it is. Garen's reception and recognition was postponed from April, 2024 to May. Garen's earliest memory of drawing is when he was 6 years old. While attending public school in Menlo Park, his teacher left the room.

Garen proceeded to "teach the class", the penalty was getting kicked out of the school. While his parents made decisions about where he should go to school, Garen drew. The decision was made for Garen to go to Peninsula School where children learn in a nurturing environment that encompasses the whole child, and social justice in a progressive learning atmosphere.



Garen later attended Woodside High School and then was an art student at California College of Art in Oakland graduating with a Bachelors in Fine Arts. Continuing his education, he also received a Master's in Early Childhood Education from Sonoma State.

Sonoma is where Garen landed and started Patterson Painting and Decorating. A business that he built and worked for 50 years. Just recently he sold the business and left Sonoma where he was very active in the community. However, Sonoma got to be too big and too commercial and he yearned for the small-town life. He found it when he moved to Rio Vista with his wife Dianne.



Soon after Garen's mother passed away, just shy of her 100th birthday, Garen went for a walk in Rio Vista. He looked around and grabbed his phone to take pictures. He draws or paints from the photographs and brings them to life, interpreting what he sees in the photos. They are distinctly his style. Garen is well known on Facebook's Delta News page where he shares his drawings. He wasn't sure about sharing on Facebook, he's not a technology type guy. However, his wife showed him how and he started sharing his drawings titled "Where am I?". Garen enjoys getting feedback from the Facebook community as it is almost instantaneous.

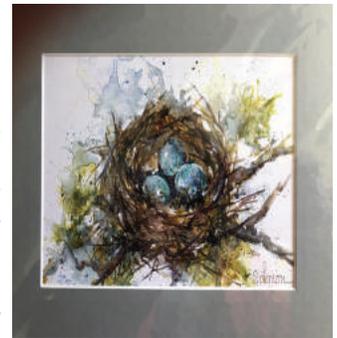
When asked what it is about art that moves him Garen responded that "It is a spiritual connection, I've been wired that way from birth." The reception for Garen will be held on May 16th, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

STORIES BY ROBIE WILLIAMS & PHOTOS BY JAN VICK

Dorie Solomon is the June artist of the month

Our artist for June is Dorie Solomon. She is one of our most talented artists who continues to paint through her trials. In 2014 she moved to Rio Vista because of deteriorating health. Her sister, Diana, was able and willing to assist her in what they hoped would be recovery.

Dorie went from healthy to bed ridden in a very short time with multiple diagnoses. She could hardly walk or feed herself and was in constant pain. Dorie was a very successful artist for 50 years and was suddenly unable to paint. She realized that painting was her life, her whole life.



With many trial and error treatments she improved enough to paint a little in watercolor, but her beloved medium is oil and slowly she worked her way back to painting oils. Some days are better than others and one day she decided to attend a Trilogy Art Guild meeting and met Linda Solomon. They shared a laugh about their common last names and became fast friends. She entered a TAG show, placing first, second and best in show in oils and sold the paintings she entered. When RioVision Gallery opened, she was encouraged to display there and has sold several pieces encouraging her to continue to paint through her pain. Dorie's experiences have not diminished her talent as her art just gets better and better.



Thanks to Diana, her sister, and good friends, Linda, and Amy Schmidt, she says she will not die with the music inside her. Dorie paints everyday even though she uses a walker and is at last content. She felt that not being able to paint was killing her spirit. She advises us all to find something we love and find a way to do it. "Be grateful for what you do have. Be courageous, faithful, and strong."



The reception for Dorie will be held on June 15th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

of the Month

Birdtown Designs Team of Artists is the July artist of the month

Meet the innovative women behind the moniker Birdtown Designs. Cindy Stewart, Joann Hill, Jill Graham, and Lane Sennett.

Cindy Stewart grew up in Birds Landing with her sister Joann Hill. Jill Graham moved to the Delta in 1982 with her late husband Kevin, owned and operated Paul Graham Drilling and moved just three miles down the road from Cindy and her husband Wes Stewart. Jill and Cindy are as close as sisters! Cindy and Wes have been married for 42 years and recently retired from Napa Auto Parts that they owned for nearly as long. Lane Sennett is married to Joann and Cindy's brother. Put them all together and you get a creative consortium.



Birdtown Designs signature creations are crocheted jewelry lariats. Cindy saw something similar and thought that this was something she could do. Cindy shared the basic technique with Joann who went to work organizing Cindy's beads and yarns, rapidly picking up the specialized crochet skills. Jill felt less comfortable with crocheting so designs the necklaces. Soon after, Lane quickly learned the new technique, too.

Each of these imaginative ladies have various talents which lead them to create a collective business. Cindy says, "We have the opportunity with Birdtown Designs to individually sell our goods – whatever we want to sell and take responsibility for." Their individual artistic offerings include earrings, crocheted blankets and scarves, wreaths, and paintings. "We're all independent, but we're all together."

Cindy enthuses "Everyone has so much to offer because these guys are so creative with their color theory. They understand it. I just feel it. They add so much more to what we're doing."

Come meet the ladies of Birdtown Designs at the Artist of the Month reception on July 20, 2024, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.



Rachel Warren is the August artist of the month

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 pop-up 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 August 17th from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.





Pear Fair

STORY BY MARILYN NELSON - PHOTOS BY JAN VICK

The 50th Annual Pear Fair will be held once again this summer in the picturesque town of Courtland on the Sacramento River. This year's celebration of the Bartlett pear harvest will be on Sunday, July 28 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm – always the last Sunday in July. Courtland is only about twenty-five miles from Rio Vista up north on Highway 160 and it's a beautiful drive along the river to get there.

The Pear Fair is a non-profit organization that is run by local volunteers. It provides educational scholarships for local high school students and helps support the Delta community, such as the local Fire Department. It has been a summertime tradition for 50 years.

There is no fare to enter the fair. However, it is \$20 to park your car. There will be no free parking along the levees or in town. "No Parking" signs will be posted. Be sure to use the designated paid parking area to avoid being towed.

There will be lots of free entertainment at the Fair, but payment will be needed on some rides and activities. You will also want to purchase some of the other items.

There will be Arts & Crafts, Special Interest & Fine Arts vendors, and Food Vendors showing their wares and eats. Pear pies are always immensely popular, so purchase them early. Be aware that there will be no ATM available, so bring cash. There will also be adult beverages available for a fee. Don't forget to bring your ID no matter how old you are.

Try to arrive in time for the famous Pear Parade at 1:00 pm, which is always lots of fun. It is the

centerpiece of the Pear Fair. See the Pear Fair Blossoms (young children) and Royal Court and pick your favorite float.

Please note that no pets are allowed at the Fair to comply with health department standards. Pets may not be left in cars either due to the usual high heat. So, please be considerate of your pet and leave him/her at home. As of this printing, all of the events for 2024 have not been determined. No doubt they will be similar to last year's, which included a Pancake Breakfast with Pear-Mimosas, Biggest Pear Awards, Duck Calling Contest,



Pear Packing Competition, and Pear Pie Eating Contests with Music groups throughout the day. To find out this year's activities, check <https://pearfair.com> closer to July. You can also learn more about the Pear Fair on Facebook and Instagram. You can enjoy all things pear at the Fair! So, *pare* down your chores, *pair* up with a friend and go to the *Pear Fair!*



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STORY BY LAURIE OLEKSEIWICZ

Besides the many fine retail and eating establishments here in Rio Vista, Rio Vista also has many service-oriented businesses as well. In addition to several real estate businesses in town who take care of the ever-growing tide of new sales and resales of homes, there are dentists, accountants, hair salons, auto repair establishments, and other service-oriented businesses available to take care of the many needs of the community.

Another important service is available to assist those who may need some additional help to stay safe and happy in their home. That provider is known as iN-Your-Home-Care-Services, a woman owned business. The owner, Maggie Posadas, has been a nurse for 30 years. She became a nurse because she loves taking care of others. "I know what quality and loving care means. I hire, select, and train quality caregivers that can provide service that represents my value on what real care giving means."

"Recognizing that everyone has unique needs, iN-Your-Home-Care-Services collaborates closely with clients and their families to develop personalized care plans. The one-on-one care giving model fosters meaningful relationships between caregivers and clients. By having a dedicated caregiver assigned to each individual, they create a sense of trust, familiarity, and continuity in care. Care plans are continuously monitored, and adjustments are made to ensure that the care provided aligns with the changing needs of the clients.



Maggie has an office in Sacramento and the satellite office here in Rio Vista. She likes the small-town vibe, and she could see the need the community has for care-giving since the average age is 65 years. Oftentimes the family does not live nearby or is unable to provide the care needed for those who may require some assistance when they are sick or frail. iN-Your-Home-Care-Services allow those in need to stay in their home where they want to be, providing a sense of security, comfort, and familiarity.

Their Rio Vista office opened in June of 2023 at 6 N. Front Street, with the official ribbon cutting March 27th, 2024. While much administrative work can be done remotely, someone is usually at the Rio Vista office on Mondays and Wednesdays. If the office is closed, they can be reached at the main office at (279) 345-1982 or text/call (916) 710-9690 for an appointment.

Maggie and her team are eager to grow their client base in Rio Vista and bring help to those who could use that added care and attention to their needs. For more information about their client centered care please visit their website, servicewithaheart.com



Delta Queen Lodge, Restaurant & Bar
www.deltaqueenisleton.com

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<p>Restaurant Hours: 8:00 am to 9:00 pm - Tuesday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 10:00 pm - Friday & Saturday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm - Sunday Breakfast ends at 12:00 pm every day</p>	<p>Bar Hours: 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm - Tuesday thru Thursday 1:00 pm to 11:00 pm - Friday 1:00 pm to 11:00 pm - Saturday 9:00 am to 9:00 pm - Sunday</p>
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We are Southern American cuisine with weekly chef specials such as Catfish Friday and Soul Food Saturday. Featuring catfish in the style of Cajun, grilled, fried, or lemon served with hush puppies. Some Saturday dishes include mothered pork chops, collard greens, mac n cheese, yams and mashed potatoes. Carrying only Delta area wines paired with our custom charcuterie boards, you can also enjoy many of our activities such as karaoke. A great place for Delta locals, visiting out of towners or when you're coming off the water to join us for refreshing drink specials and get that homemade meal. We also have fully remodeled rooms (50" tvs, microwave, etc.) available via Airbnb or our website starting at \$120/night. **Come check us out.**







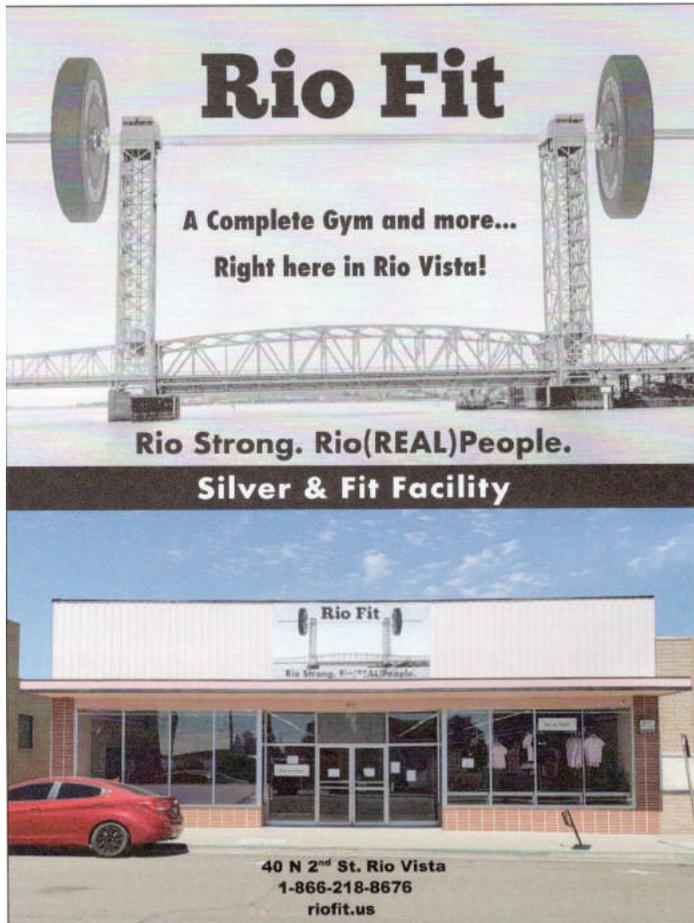

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