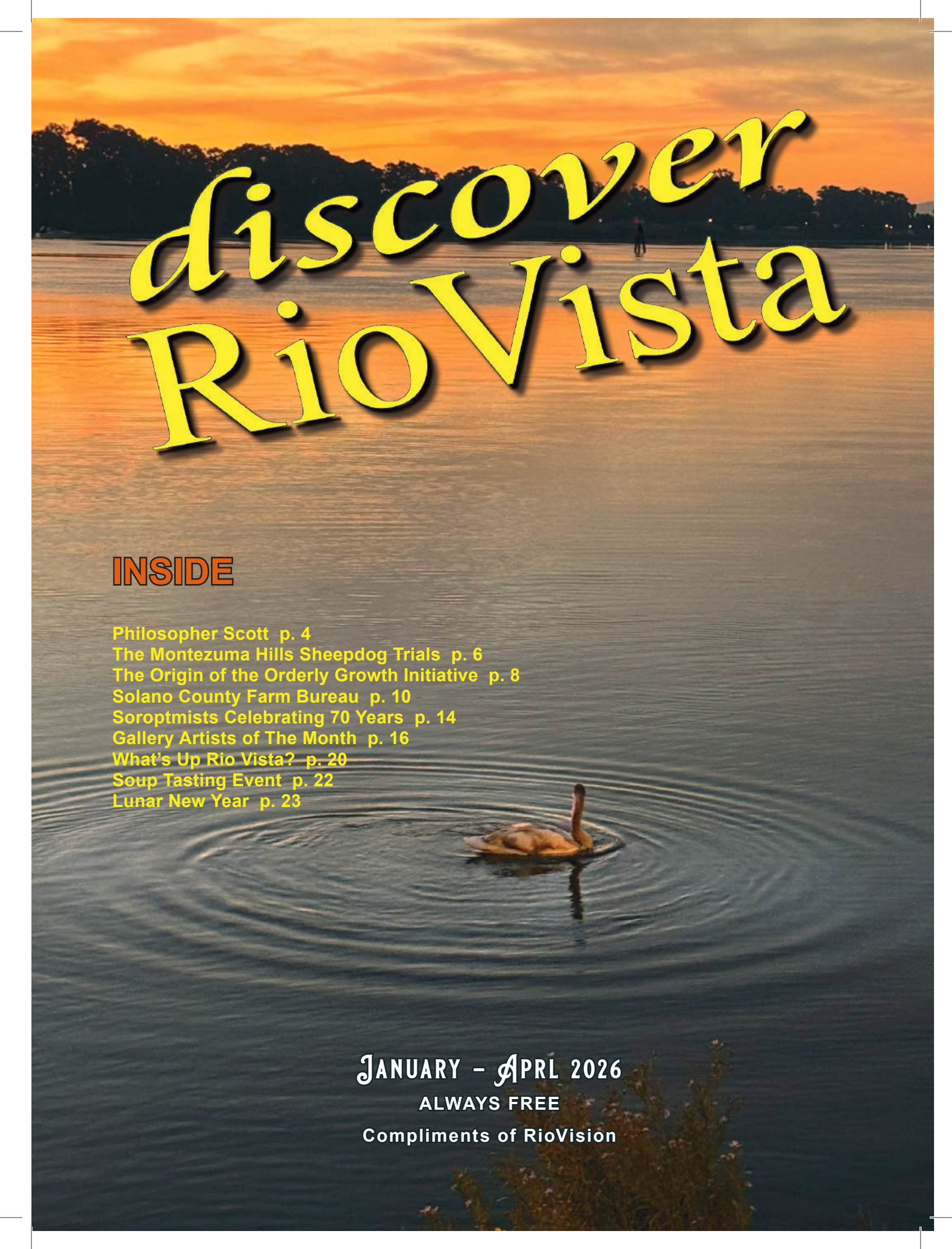


A scenic view of a lake at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. In the foreground, a swan is swimming in the water, creating ripples. The background shows a line of trees and a distant shoreline.

discover RioVista

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Editor's Corner

Dear Reader -- Welcome to this vibrant issue of Discover Rio Vista! As the editor, we are thrilled to present a magazine brimming with stories that capture the pulse and personality of our community. In these pages, you'll find an engaging look at the Solano Farm Bureau and the essential role local agriculture plays in our daily lives. We also celebrate the Lunar New Year, exploring traditions that bring color and joy to Rio Vista's cultural tapestry.

For art lovers, don't miss our feature on the Riverfront Arts Fest, where creativity flows as freely as the nearby Sacramento River. And if you're hungry for more, our coverage of the Soup Extravaganza event will warm both your heart and appetite with highlights from this delicious gathering. These are just a few of the exciting stories we've prepared, along with much more to inspire, inform, and entertain.

Thank you for being a part of the Discover Rio Vista family. We hope this issue leaves you feeling connected, curious, and proud of our unique community. As always, we welcome your feedback and story ideas—your voices help shape each edition.

With Appreciation,

-- Co-Editor, Robie Williams

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Rio Vista



Trilogy - Photo by Wood Real Estate



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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 707-469-3080 to help!

See the *Discover Rio Vista* website at discoverriovista.com. For additional information about RioVision see rioivision.net and facebook.com/riovistavision.
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COVER: The beautiful Sacramento River. Photo by Mark Stokes.



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EVENT CALENDAR 2026

JANUARY

- **January 19:** The Paul Family's Lego® City is on display from Noon to 8pm through January 19 at Richard's Ice Cream Parlor, 210 Main Street, Rio Vista.
- **January 24:** Clothing Exchange St. Joseph Church Hall, corner of California and Fourth Street, 10 am – 2 pm. Bring your child's outgrown clothing to the semi-annual Children's Clothing Exchange sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul, St. Joseph's, and community volunteers to exchange for free, usable garments. Please, children's clothing only! For more info, contact Wendy Ross at (509) 961-3198 or daveandwendyross@gmail.com.

MARCH

- **March 20:** Daub'n for Donations Rio Vista Care. Doors open at 5:30 pm and Bingo starts at 6:30 pm. A fun day of Bingo benefits Rio Vista Care. Win Bingo prizes or a 50/50 raffle! Purchase tickets at the Rio Vista Care building at 628 Montezuma Street, Pets 4 All at 167 Main St. or call Cindy Bradford at (707) 374-5243 for more info, including date and location.



APRIL

- **April 18:** Mad Hatter's Tea Party at Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front Street, 11:30 am. Come on down the rabbit hole for the 4th Annual Mad Hatter's Tea Party at the Rio Vista Museum! Do not miss out on this fun event that includes raffle prizes, photo booth, games, and delicious food. Tickets are limited, so act fast! Contact Renee Tingey at (707) 374-2455 or buy tickets at Rio Vista Muffler.

ONGOING

Self-Guided Walking Tour Rio Vista Museum, 16 N Front Street. 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.



RioVision Community Forum Community Center 45 Main Street, 2nd Monday of each month, 6:00 – 8:00pm. Join RioVision on the 2nd Monday of the month for varied topics of interest for Rio Vista and the Sacramento Delta. Topics and information for each meeting is posted on social media and our website at rioivision.net For more information email info@rioivision.net or call (707)469-3080.





The Montezuma Hills' Rich Tradition of Sheepdog Trials Coming Again in 2026

BY AIDEN MAYHOOD



1952 Advertisement for the Sheepdog Trials.

The first recorded sheepdog trial was held in Solano County in April 1940 at the Hoyt Ranch off of Birds Landing Road, a property distinguished by its expansive olive orchard and large barns. ¹ Jennings Pierce of the NBC Farm and Home radio program was master of ceremonies. More than 20 dogs competed, with Tip, Bruce, and Luke earning the top three spots. ² Later that year, in November 1940, Dick Hoyt helped organize Vacaville's first trial in celebration of Armistice

Day, building on his earlier experience. ³ In April 1941, Hoyt and the California Sheep Dog Society held another trial to benefit the British War Relief Fund before the United States entered World War II. ⁴ Scottish bagpipes played, dancers performed the "Highland fling and sword dance", and singers entertained, and the British Consul from San Francisco attended in support of the relief fund. ⁵ Buses of people left from San Francisco to watch the event, with nearly 1,000 people in attendance. ⁶ After two annual trials, the war interrupted the sheepdog trials until 1947, when the Hamilton family, new owners of the Hoyt Ranch, revived the tradition.

When the Hamilton family revived the sheepdog trials, the funds were raised to support the Rio Vista Farm Bureau. In 1946, the farm center building in Birds Landing was close to collapse. The group had been hosting its meetings at the American Legion Hall in Rio Vista instead. The group decided to revive Dick Hoyt's annual barbeque and sheepdog trial at the Hamilton's Hoyt Ranch, with a renewed drive to bring in people from across the region. ⁷ Later, they instead decided to use the funds to give scholarships to local students.

The first sheepdog trial hosted by the Hamilton's in 1947 was small, with one sheepdog presentation and a performance by the Rio Vista High School band. ⁸ In 1948, the traditional menu of barbecued prime beef and beans prepared by Victor Kroutch and Joe Souza was a hit. The beans were cooked in large iron bathtubs, and they were stirred with a boat's oar. ⁹



1954 Sheepdog Trials at the Hoyt Ranch.



1947 sheepdog trials at the Hoyt Ranch.



The sheepdog trial's famous beans being stirred and cooked.

Beef was provided by Fontana Farms in Collinsville, later owned and operated as one of the largest feedlots in California by Harvey McDougal of Rio Vista, president of the California Cattlemen's Association.

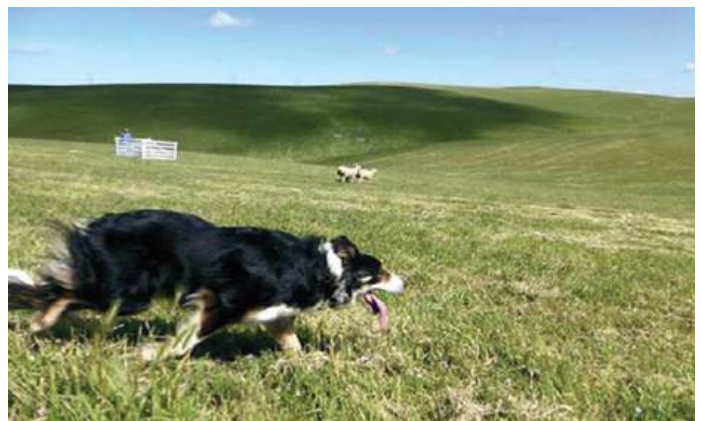
By April 1953, the annual sheepdog trials had begun to hit peak attendance, with roughly 4,500 people watching the show. 1953 was not a sheepdog trial to forget, for a driverless pickup truck rolled down a hill from its parking place and struck Miss Mary Tosecett of Suisun, who luckily only suffered minor bruises. Investigators suspected children playing with the truck released the brake and sent it tumbling down.¹⁰

From there, attendance at the trials was steady but began to dwindle year by year. By 1959, the trials were attended by 1,000, reaching the numbers that Dick Hoyt had originally brought to the event in 1941.¹¹ It wasn't until the 1980s that the trials were occasionally revived at the Hoyt Ranch to support groups such as the Solano Woolgrowers and the Yolo-Solano Bo-Peeps, but the events were never well attended nor annually continued.¹²

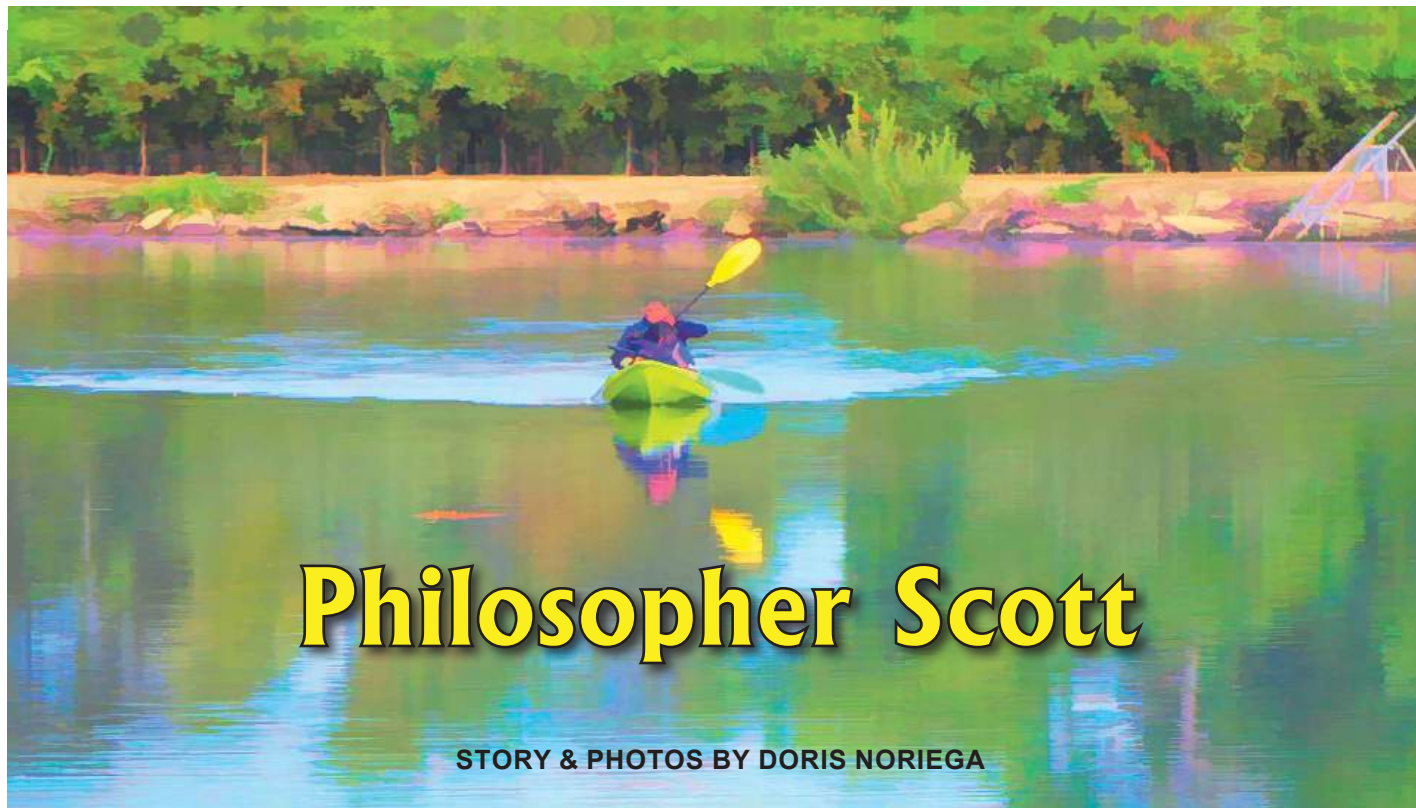
Jeannie McCormack and Al Medvitz, owners and stewards of the Dan McCormack and Perry Anderson ranches in the Montezuma Hills, revived the sheepdog trials in 2013 and have held the event consistently since then. The McCormack Ranch

Sheep Dog Trial will be returning on April 4th and 5th, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Dan McCormack Ranch in the Montezuma Hills. Tickets will be available as soon as January 1st on Eventbrite, Pets 4 All, and the RioVision Gallery.

- 1 "Sheep Dog Trials Sunday." Vallejo Evening News. 11 April 1940. Page 7.
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 "Sheep Dog Trials To Open Armistice Day Celebration." Vacaville Reporter. 20 September 1940. Page 1.
- 4 "Sheep Dog Trials At Hoyt Ranch April 6." The River News-Herald. 20 March 1941. Page 1.
- 5 "Best Sheep Dogs Ready For Trials At Birds Landing." The River News-Herald. 03 April 1941. Page 1.
- 6 "Sheep Dog Trials At Hoyt Ranch On Sunday April 20th." The River News-Herald. 10 April 1941. Page 1.
- 7 "Annual Event Swells Fund For Farm Center Building." The Times-Herald. 29 April 1956. Page 30.
- 8 "Rio Vista Farm Center Barbeque." Vacaville Reporter. 25 April 1947. Page 6.
- 9 "Annual Event Swells Fund For Farm Center Building." The Times-Herald. 29 April 1956. Page 30.
- 10 "Rolling Truck Hurts Woman At Dog Trials." The Solano-Napa News Chronicle. 20 April 1953. Page 7.
- 11 "Rio Vista Dog Wins At Trials." The Times-Herald. 21 April 1959. Page 10.
- 12 "Lamb Barbecue, Sheep Dog Trials Set At Hamilton Ranch." The River News-Herald and Isleton Journal. 06 April 1988. Page 9.



The beautiful views at the Dan McCormack Ranch.



Philosopher Scott

STORY & PHOTOS BY DORIS NORIEGA

Have you met Scott Brizel? He is the writer of “The Philosopher is in! Many Beacon readers have wondered who Philosopher Scott is and how he arrives at his conclusions based on philosophy. What is the thinking process and where do his questions come from? How did he become a philosopher in the first place? Here is your opportunity to get to know him!

The Philosopher Is In!--



Scott was raised, and lived in and around San Francisco. He then lived in Oakland for 10 years before moving to Rio Vista. He never lived in a small town before, and admits to having had urban prejudices about small town life, “I was concerned that it might turn out to be a cross between Mayberry and Peyton Place. I have been pleasantly surprised that neither the naivety of the former, or the creepiness of the latter apply here.”

He went on to state that the many families who have lived here for multiple generations speak to how pleasant and family-friendly the city is. Scott also noted that Rio Vista is filled with many well educated and highly skilled people in a wide variety of occupations. He feels that being a mostly bedroom community with many locally owned businesses is refreshingly traditional, and gives Rio Vista its wholesome character.

Scott has worked as a substitute teacher at both Rio Vista’s middle and high schools. He feels like he’s getting to know the culture and curriculum fairly well. His relationship with

the students is warm and positive, despite once being told by a student that he talks like a librarian.

Scott has now lived in Rio Vista for ten years, and for nine of them has been writing “The Philosopher Is IN!” articles for the Beacon. Scott not only enjoys philosophy, but also thinks it’s important, as, he says, it may be the only auto-diagnostic tool we have for checking for biases.

For politically contentious times such as ours, Scott believes that many people who perceive themselves to be on opposite sides of the aisle usually, in fact, hold the same scheme of values, but simply prioritize them differently. Scott believes that interpreting the underlying harmony in seemingly divergent perspectives is perhaps philosophy’s greatest practical virtue.

According to Scott, some assume that philosophy is the love of wisdom simply due to the term’s etymology, philo- (love) + -sophia (wisdom); or that philosophy is limited to a few basic categories because historically its canon has been directed



Exploring Locke



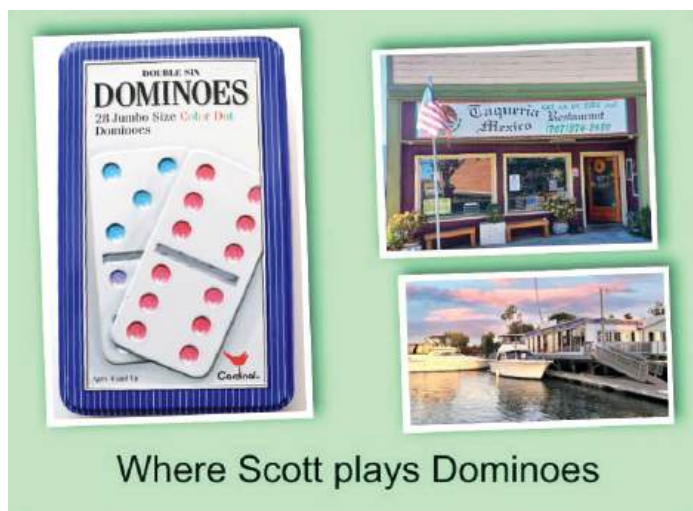
primarily to inquiries into fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, and morality. To Scott, philosophy is a method of investigation that can be directed to any topic, and which anyone can do. Furthermore Scott regards philosophy to be the meta-category of all subjects, and apropos to its function to its sole bias-checking diagnostic, its the only category of thought which may also serve as mega-category to itself, e.g., the philosophy of philosophy.

Scott sees the discipline as consisting of a method for



disentangling questions that relate to our everyday lives, rather than as a collection of works and wise sayings, much less prescriptions by famous philosophers. He believes that philosophy is more like a forensic tool that one applies to gain perspective. Scott insists that the appeal is not to the authority of philosophy's historical body of works, but rather to the method itself. He seeks to apply philosophical methodology directly to the questions raised by readers, and as such, he makes no attempt to dictate what others should believe, and rather opts to demonstrate how to deconstruct ideas for oneself, and then how to put them back together again for the dividend of perspective it renders.

So where does Scott get his topics from? He finds that the things of most concern to people who pose question to him are typically in the areas of ethics/morality, psychology and politics. Most of the questions submitted to him are about issues that are socially relevant, with precious few asking the more ponderous questions, such as about the meaning of life. The questions he receives usually pertain to practical dilemmas and how to best distribute values.



In response to a reader's recent question, "When it comes to other than basic curriculum, do you think it is the responsibility of parents or the state to educate children?," Scott observed that as children will grow up to be citizens of culture(s) larger than their nuclear family, therefore, a larger culture will be affected by how they are raised, so it is too short-sighted to suppose that parents should have sole say in what their children are exposed to. Scott writes that it is clearly in the best interest for the communities likely affected, parents, and students to find common ground.

Two other examples of Scott's articles are "The Matter of Apologizing" in which the reader asks whether there is a right way to say you're sorry, and "The Matter of Moral Authority", which probes whether it is more important to do what is right according to one's internal moral compass, or what society says is right.

For both articles Scott offers in depth parsings using philosophical tools that take the reader through a series of thoughtful steps in reaching a final conclusion.

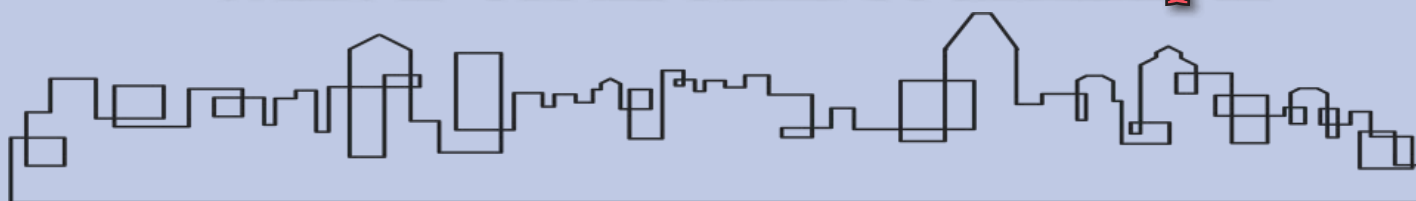
So, after doing all this heavy thinking and intense brain exercises, what does Scott do to relax and enjoy his life in Rio Vista and the Delta? Scott is a musician, and overall, an avid music lover with a broad palate. He loves black-and-white movies from the golden age of cinema, and collects non-fiction books on many subjects. He enjoys kayaking on the American River, tennis and pickle ball, and on occasion, sings at the Flamingo. Driving up Highway 160 for a little sightseeing in towns along the river, such as Isleton and Locke, is another pastime. You can also find him playing dominoes with friends at Taqueria Mexico or at the Lighthouse grill on the Delta Loop. From the stands on Friday nights during football season, he can be found rooting for Rio Vista High School's Rams!

In conclusion, Scott appreciates when readers offer interesting perspectives of their own that makes him think.

If you have questions for Scott to answer or comments to make, you can reach him at ThePhilosopherIsIn@outlook.com. To enjoy following "step by step" logical answers to questions using philosophical tools, read his weekly column.



The Origin of the Orderly Growth Initiative: What is Urban Shall be Municipal



BY AIDEN MAYHOOD

In 1981, urban development in Solano County was picking up speed. Sky Valley was proposed for development outside of Vallejo's city limits, and Rancho Solano was proposed for development outside of Fairfield's. Garbage dumps were proposed on all edges of the county. Largest of all, a new town of Manzanita was being proposed nine miles north of Vacaville, with the Planning Commission deadlocked 4-4 on whether to approve or deny the proposal, and the developers of Manzanita appealed to the Board of Supervisors given the deadlocked vote.¹

By April, the Board of Supervisors approved continued investigation of the proposed new city of Manzanita despite the deadlocked vote from the Planning Commission and disapproval from staff planners on the fiscal impact it would cause the county.² The project proponent and financier, Hiram Woo of Hillsborough, claimed the project would be "innovative and creative and energy efficient and affordable housing."³ County Planning Director Clayne Munk doubted that industry would locate in the new city because it would be "competing with industrial parks (in established cities) that have facilities."⁴ Despite the concerns, the Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to allow study of the project to continue.⁵

At the end of 1982, the EIR for Manzanita was prepared. For nearly 100 years, development in the county had occurred through the seven municipalities in the county. Now, intensive urban uses were proposed far away from the existing cities. County planners, with leadership from former County Administrator David Balmer, had embedded an unstated policy over the years that "what is urban should be municipal."⁶ As a result, Solano County, other than San Francisco County which was and is still fully incorporated, had the lowest unincorporated population of any California county, even without an official policy directing growth to cities.⁷

At the state level, Assemblyman Michael Roos of Los Angeles' proposed AB 893, a bill to bypass local governments and allow a seven-member state commission to site and create five new cities in California wherever they would like. It had passed both the Assembly and the Senate, but Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. vetoed the bill.⁸ The new town of Manzanita was lobbied as a potential location by former Solano County Supervisor Larry Asera of Vallejo, who worked for Hiram Woo as a consultant and lobbyist for Manzanita.⁹

In 1983, six Solano County mayors, with one absent, at the Solano County Mayors Conference voiced "strong opposition to a possible shift in county government policy toward allowing urban-type growth in unincorporated areas."¹⁰ A Solano County grand jury that same year advised the Board of Supervisors to stick with the principle that

"what is urban shall be municipal" and questioned the direction by the county to undermine orderly growth.¹¹ However, in April, the Board of Supervisors in a 4-1 vote adopted a resolution to amend the county's general plan to allow for the creation of Manzanita in the unincorporated county. Opposed was Supervisor Brann of Rio Vista.¹² Planning commissioners opposed to the project protested the decision, but board chair Osby Davis of Vallejo replied, "I know the solution for a representative that criticizes me."¹³

Not long after, the Board of Supervisors approved a proposal for the disposal of San Francisco's garbage at a new dump site on Hay Road near Vacaville, which was opposed by the county planning commission, and a new dump site at Lynch Canyon four miles east of Vallejo.¹⁴ Chairman Osby Davis offered the motion of approval because the country was founded "on helping your neighbor."¹⁵ The Board of Supervisors additionally approved the development of Rancho Solano in the unincorporated county, with Davis claiming, "I thought we buried him [Mr. Urban Municipal] at Manzanita. Maybe we'll bury him at Rancho Solano, maybe not."¹⁶ At the end of the year, the planning commission was abolished and replaced with new members over disagreements with the board of supervisors.¹⁷

Backers of an initiative to rein in what they considered unruly supervisors declared their intention to qualify for the ballot.¹⁸ They dubbed it the "Solano County Orderly Growth Initiative."¹⁹ They had the support of the mayors of Fairfield, Vacaville, and Dixon, the county assessor, and Assemblyman Thomas M. Hannigan, and they sought to restore the county's general plan, reaffirm agricultural and open space designations, and overturn approvals of Manzanita and Rancho Solano in the unincorporated county.²⁰

- 1 "Sky Valley On County Agenda." The V.I.P. 28 April 1981. Page 2.
- 2 "Board OKs probe of new city." The Times-Herald. 29 April 1981. Page 3.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 "More On County." The V.I.P. 29 April 1981. Page 2.

- 6 "City-County Battle Seen On Growth." The V.I.P. 11 February 1983. Page 1.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 "'New Cities' Bill Vetoed." The V.I.P. 01 October 1981. Page 2.
- 9 "City-County Battle Seen On Growth." The V.I.P. 11 February 1983. Page 1.
- 10 "Mayors Oppose Shift in Policy." The V.I.P. 20 February 1983. Page 3.
- 11 "Grand Jury Hits Growth." The V.I.P. 13 April 1983. Page 2.
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- 13 "Planners, Supervisors Drawing 'Battle Lines.'" The River News-Herald and Isleton Journal. 15 June 1983. Page 2.
- 14 "S.F. Garbage Import OK'd To Vacaville." The V.I.P. 03 August 1983. Page 1.
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- 16 "Big Rural Project Accepted By Board." The V.I.P. 05 October 1983. Page 1.
- 17 "County Is Ruled A Disaster Area." The V.I.P. 07 December 1983. Page 1.
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- 19 "Wrangle Erupts On Growth Plan." The V.I.P. 14 December 1983. Page 1.
- 20 Ibid.
- 21 "Growth Papers On File." The V.I.P. 31 January 1984. Page 1.
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- 23 Ibid; "Orderly Growth Group Would Limit Growth to Urban Areas." The River News-Herald and Isleton Journal. 25 April 1984. Page 3.
- 24 "Rancho Plan Scoots Ahead." The V.I.P. 02 May 1984. Page 1.
- 25 "More on Board." The V.I.P. 02 May 1984. Page 2.
- 26 "Measure 'A' Passed by Solano Voters." The River News-Herald and Isleton Journal. 06 June 1984. Page 1.
- 27 "Overwhelming Veto for 'Planned Community.'" The River News-Herald and Isleton Journal. 08 May 1985. Page 1.
- 28 "Manzanita Backer Spent Most." The River News-Herald and Isleton Journal. 31 July 1985. Page 2.

Tuesday, May 7 is election day.
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STUDY THE FACTS.
THEN DECIDE.

YES on Measure M means:

- 1** Needed employment for our neighbors in Solano County. 1000 construction jobs every year for the next eight years. And there's more — nearly 6,700 new permanent jobs that will help make all of Solano County more prosperous — an even better place to live.
- 2** New homes. New business and industry. A significant contribution to our county like Davis — spreading and sharing the benefits that every Solano resident must now pay. Providing badly needed revenue to our government for streets, police and fire protection, improved services for those in need.
- 3** A YES vote for Measure M changes the county plan so the Manzanita proposal can go to the County Board of Supervisors for thorough investigation. The proposal must still meet Solano County high standards — the rigorous demands of our approval process. Our elected representatives will make sure Manzanita goes to us as it — a real benefit and source of pride to forward-thinking Solano County.
- 4** Many of your neighbors — people who care about our County, our people and the way we live — support Manzanita and Measure M.

Measure M
YES
for US

Tuesday, vote YES for a better future.
Vote YES on Measure M.

[illegible]

Growing Strong: How the Solano County Farm Bureau Supports Agriculture Across Our County



BY MIRANDA JACHENS AND TOM SURH

From the orchards of Dixon to the vineyards of Suisun Valley, from the pastures outside Vacaville to the wind-swept Montezuma Hills near Rio Vista, Solano County's agricultural landscape is one of the most diverse and productive in California. Agriculture covers 67% of Solano County's land, with more than one-third of that devoted to irrigated crop production. Together, these farming regions form the backbone of a local economy rooted in food production, land stewardship, and multi-generational family farming. Supporting all of these producers — large and small, rural and peri-urban, traditional and innovative — is the Solano County Farm Bureau (SCFB).

The Solano County Farm Bureau is a grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and promoting agriculture throughout the county. SCFB works to ensure that farmers and ranchers have a strong voice in decisions that shape their livelihoods in the areas of land-use planning, water policy, and regulatory change. SCFB also connects local producers to statewide resources and advocacy efforts with California Farm Bureau, ensuring Solano's concerns are heard at the State Capitol and in Washington, D.C. This network is essential in a county as geographically and agriculturally varied as Solano.

Our county farmers and ranchers produce an amazing variety of products including tomatoes, alfalfa, wine grapes, olives, wheat, melons, almonds, walnuts, prunes, alfalfa, sunflower and other oil seeds, nursery products, cattle, sheep, and more. The total value of agricultural products produced in Solano County in 2024 was \$438 million. SCFB members benefit from a large network of service and product providers including continuing education, insurance, industrial equipment and supplies, and discounts for many commodities.

SCFB strengthens the future of farming through its Ag Education Foundation that works to help launch careers in agribusiness, plant sciences, farm management, and more building a pipeline of young talent committed to preserving Solano's agricultural legacy. This Foundation awards annual scholarships to Solano County high school and college students studying agriculture and sponsors educational community events such as a recent event where kids learned about wool and lanolin.

Whether you live in the heart of Dixon farm country, in the vineyards of Suisun Valley, in growing towns like Vacaville or Fairfield, or along the scenic Delta outside Rio Vista, agriculture touches your life every day — through the food on your table, the open landscapes you enjoy, and the local economy you support. The Solano County Farm Bureau works tirelessly to ensure that this essential part of our county's identity and economy not only endures but thrives.



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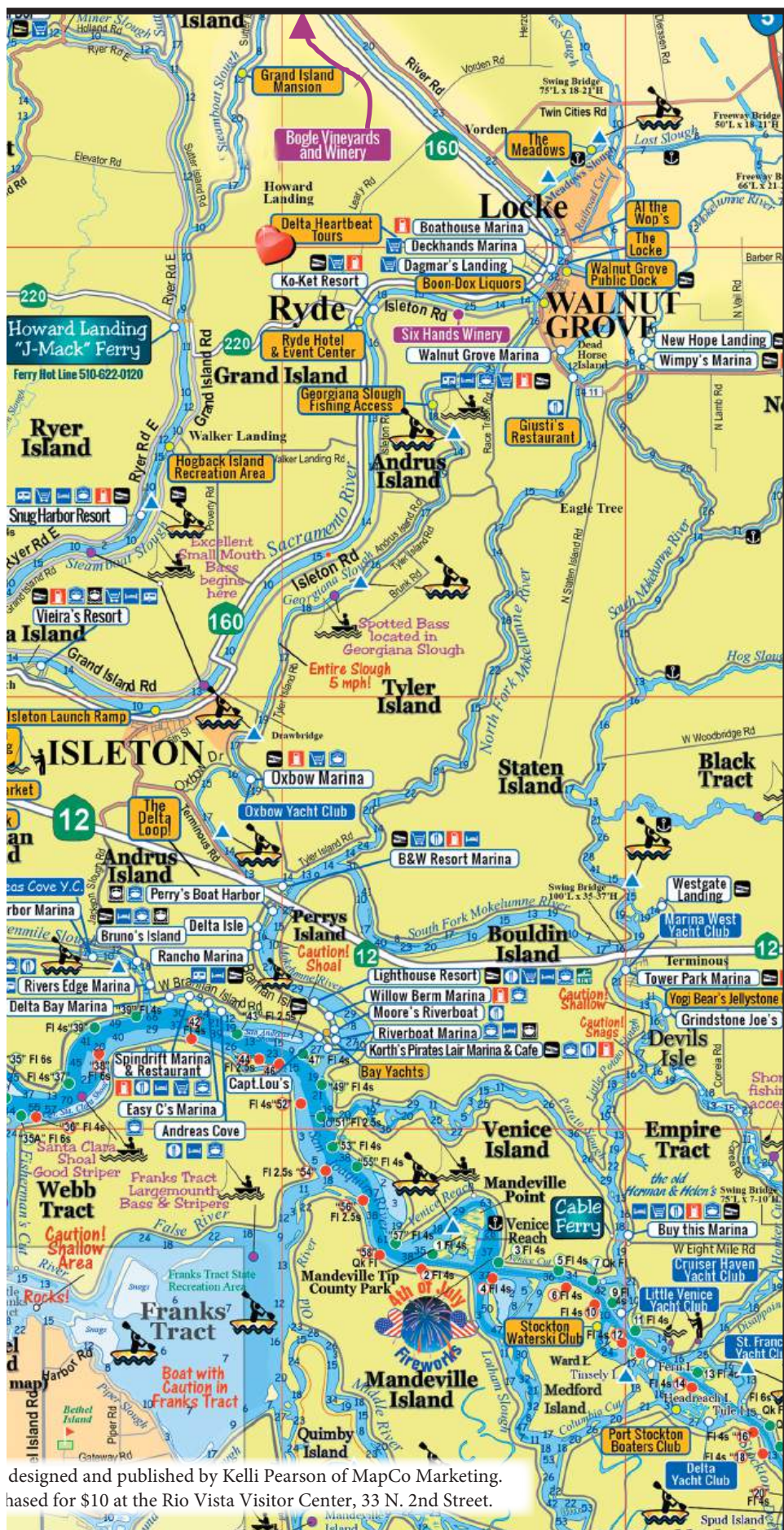
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CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF EMPOWERING WOMEN AND GIRLS

Soroptimist International of Rio Vista Marks a Milestone

BY ELDY NODAL-SUAREZ, CO-CHAIR, FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE



When Soroptimist International of Rio Vista (SIRV) opened its charter in 1956, our small Delta town looked very different. Yet even then, a group of visionary women recognized a universal truth — that when women and girls are given the tools, education, and opportunity to thrive, entire communities flourish. Seventy years later, that belief burns brighter than ever. This coming spring, Soroptimist International of Rio Vista looks forward to celebrating the enduring spirit of service and sisterhood at their 70th Anniversary Gala and Women of Achievement Awards.

A Celebration Steeped in History

Stylish décor, vintage attire, and elegant dinner service will set the stage for a night that honors the club's past while looking boldly to the future. The event also pays tribute to four exceptional women from our community.

Soroptimist invites guests to enjoy an evening of fellowship, tribute, fine dining, entertainment, and meaningful reflection as the club honors those who helped shape their legacy — from the founding members in the 1950s to the volunteers and supporters who keep the mission thriving today.

Seventy Years of Service and Sisterhood

The Soroptimist movement began in 1921 in Oakland, California, born from the desire of professional women to unite and serve their communities in ways previously closed to them. The Rio Vista club joined this growing network 35 years later, becoming part of a global organization that now spans more than 120 countries and territories.

Over seven decades, SIRV members have quietly — and powerfully — made an impact that reaches far beyond our small town. From scholarships for high school girls to career support for women returning to school or the workforce, SIRV has remained dedicated to the belief that education is the key to empowerment. “Our programs have evolved with the times, but our purpose never has,” shared longtime member Charlene Spinner, who has served as



past SIRV President and on numerous committees through the years. “Whether we’re raising funds through a gala, hosting a wine booth at the Bass Derby, or selling raffle tickets at the Farmers Market, it all comes back to creating opportunities for women and girls to succeed.”

Empowering the Next Generation

One of the club's signature programs, the Soroptimist Live Your Dream Award, provides financial assistance to women who are the primary financial support for their families and are seeking to improve their education or career prospects. SIRV also funds the Violet Richardson Award that honors outstanding young women volunteers and sponsors local scholarships for Rio Vista High School students.

In recent years, SIRV outreach has expanded to include mentoring, community partnerships, and hands-on projects supporting local women and families in need. Club volunteers have donated supplies for women escaping domestic violence, supported classrooms, and led initiatives that give hope where it's needed most. “The heart of Soroptimist is hope,” said current SIRV President Elect Wanda Apel. “We’re not just helping one woman at a time — we’re changing what’s possible for generations.”

The 70th Gala: More Than a Party

Envision the 70th Anniversary Gala as a night of celebration, connection, and purpose — honoring seven decades of service while raising essential funds to sustain SIRV's ongoing programs, including scholarships, mentorships, and community grants.

Plans include an elegant evening filled with lively entertainment — a live band, special performances, and heartfelt tributes to the Soroptimist legacy. Guests can look forward to a silent auction featuring local artisans and businesses, a wheelbarrow of wine and spirits raffle, a money tree, 50/50 game, themed raffle baskets, and more. A photo booth will add a touch of fun, capturing the joy of this



milestone celebration. The night will inspire attendees with stories of women whose lives have been transformed through Soroptimist programs — reminders that this is about more than celebration; it's about continuing a mission of empowerment.

Eldy Nodal-Suarez, Fundraising Committee Co-Chair emphasizes, "Every ticket sold, every sponsorship, every glass of wine poured makes a difference. The funds raised from this event will go right back into our community — helping women pursue their dreams, their education, and their independence."

Honoring Women Who Inspire Change

This year's 70th Anniversary Gala will feature the Women of Achievement Awards, a growing Soroptimist initiative introduced in 2023 to celebrate the remarkable women who make a difference in our community. These awards recognize four exceptional women whose leadership, compassion, and service have created positive change. Each honoree reflects the Soroptimist mission of empowering women and girls through action — whether by leading in business or education, championing social justice, enriching our arts and culture, or enhancing community well-being. Among them are past scholarship recipients who continue to give back, demonstrating how opportunity and mentorship can spark a lasting ripple of empowerment.

Their achievements remind us that progress begins with women who lift others as they rise — a belief that has guided Soroptimist International of Rio Vista for seventy years and continues to shape their work today.

Honoring the Past — and Those Who Built It

A highlight of the evening will be a tribute to the club's founding members and the many women whose leadership shaped SIRV over the decades.

Archival photos and memorabilia will showcase club history — educators, business owners, civic leaders, and everyday women united by purpose and passion.

SIRV also hopes to feature past and present award recipients, sharing their personal stories of how Soroptimist support changed their paths. Current SIRV President Evelyn Nodal said, "It's emotional. You hear how a scholarship or mentoring relationship gave someone confidence and hope — and you realize, that's what 70 years of Soroptimist is really about."

Looking Ahead: The Next Chapter

As SIRV enters its eighth decade, they are looking ahead with optimism and purpose. Their goals include expanding membership, strengthening digital outreach, and evolving programs to meet the changing needs of women and girls. SIRV is developing new mentorship initiatives, community education events, and opportunities to engage with local schools — helping young women visualize brighter futures. The club also hopes to grow their scholarship fund, ensuring

that even more women can access education and training that lead to independence and success. "We're proud of our history, but we're even more excited about what comes next," said SIRV President Evelyn Nodal. "We want every woman in our community to know that she has a place to belong, people who believe in her, and opportunities waiting to be unlocked."

A Community Effort

Events of this scale are possible only through collaboration, creativity, and community spirit. The Gala Committee — a dedicated team of SIRV members and volunteers — has been planning every detail, from décor and dinner menu to music, marketing, and member outreach.

SIRV is beginning to reach out to sponsors and community partners across the Delta region — from local banks and real estate offices to restaurants, wineries, and small businesses. The club is also connecting with women's organizations and Bay Area tech companies that share their mission of empowering women and girls. Early interest and enthusiasm reflect how deeply our region values collaboration, community service, and the women who lead with purpose. "Rio Vista is a town that shows up," said past SIRV President Vera Sunada. "We see it every year — at the Bass Derby, at the Farmers Market, at our fundraisers. People know that when they support Soroptimist, they're investing in the future of our community."

A Legacy Worth Celebrating

From their earliest meetings in living rooms and local cafés to today's dynamic events and digital campaigns, Soroptimist International of Rio Vista has been a cornerstone of compassion, advocacy, and leadership.

SIRV's 70th Anniversary Gala isn't just a reflection of the past — it's a declaration of purpose for the future. It's the club's way of saying thank you to everyone who has supported this mission over the years, and an invitation for a new generation to join them in their future endeavors.

Event Details

Event: 70th Anniversary Gala and Women of Achievement Awards
Presented by: Soroptimist International of Rio Vista

Date: March 7, 2026

Location: Trilogy Monarch Grill, Rio Vista, California

Highlights: Elegant dinner, live entertainment, auctions, raffles, photo booth, and special tributes

Proceeds Benefit: Local scholarships and programs empowering women and girls

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Gallery Artists

A Spotlight on Artistic Brilliance. In the heart of Rio Vista, where the Sacramento River bends and the small-town charm lingers in the air, there's a place where color and vision intersect: the RioVision Gallery. It's here, among the sunlit walls and the hum of creative energy, that community members and art lovers alike gather to witness the unveiling of local talent. On the third Saturday of each month an artist is introduced to the community at the Gallery from 3–5pm. The Gallery is excited to showcase “Thunder in the Canyon”; a signed print 671/1000 created by William Phillips. Known for his aviation-themed art, Phillips was selected as the U.S. Navy combat artist. Visit the Gallery for an opportunity to purchase this numbered edition of “Thunder in the Canyon.” Your purchase will support both Sue Clark’s RV 2 The Rescue and RioVision.

STORIES BY ROBIE WILLIAMS

Harvey Steinhaus is the January artist of the month

Harvey Steinhaus has been named the Artist of the Month for January 2026 at the RioVision Gallery, marking a significant moment in his artistic journey. Known for his expressive use of color and captivating visual storytelling, Steinhaus brings a fresh perspective to contemporary art that resonates with both seasoned collectors and new admirers alike.



Originally from Iowa, Harvey pursued his education at St Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, where he minored in art. Throughout his studies, he engaged with a focused curriculum emphasizing drawing, calligraphy, and watercolor painting. Following

graduation, Mr. Steinhaus continued practicing drawing and watercolor in his leisure time until professional and family obligations required greater attention.

With the advent of digital photography, he transitioned to capturing images and producing large format prints. Upon retiring and relocating to Trilogy, Mr. Steinhaus resumed watercolor painting in early 2017, dedicating more time to artistic pursuits and attending local workshops to refine his technique. His work draws inspiration primarily from local scenes, including Rio Vista's alleys, nearby farms and ranches, marinas, and boats, often incorporating vivid accents to enhance architectural and landscape interpretations.

Mr. Steinhaus received recognition for his talent, earning first and second prizes for watercolor at the 2019 Solano County Fair. In the same year, he contributed to the community as designer and lead painter for the mural of an old blacksmith's shop at the Rio Vista Museum, and coordinated the proposal and collaborative execution of the Rio Vista Police Department mural.

Harvey belongs to the Trilogy Art Guild and showcases his artwork at The Point Restaurant, the Rio Vision Art Gallery, as well as at several local weekend events. Come chat with Harvey at the reception on January 17th at the RioVision Gallery and enjoy refreshments with the artists.

Susan Prince is the February artist of the month

On February 21st, the RioVision Gallery proudly features Susan Prince as its Artist of the Month, honoring her remarkable contributions to the local art scene. Known for her evocative use of color and unique perspective, Susan's work has captivated audiences throughout the region and beyond. Her pieces often reflect a deep connection to nature and an exploration of emotional landscapes, making each viewing a vivid and thought-provoking experience.

Susan was born in Long Island, New York, into a family deeply rooted in the arts and photography. Her early exposure to her mother's Bohemian approach to photography and her grandmother's innovative dressmaking for a discerning clientele influenced Susan's artistic development from a young age. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the New York Institute of Technology, furthering her expertise through dedicated self-study, which cultivated her meticulous attention to detail and refined sense of color.

In New York, Susan produced abstract works for major department store catalogs and completed large-scale paintings for prominent private residences. After spending part of her youth in California, she returned there as an adult, where she expanded her interests to include fitness, nutrition, photography, and faux finishing. Her faux finishing projects have been commissioned for private homes and featured in model properties for developers such as Seeno Builders and Shea Homes. Susan's photography has been exhibited at venues including Studio 53 in Isleton, the Sports Gallery in Carmel, Autoaffair in Danville, and the Blackhawk Museum in Danville.



Following her retirement from the fitness industry in 2014, Susan pursued jewelry making, enriching her creative repertoire. She began with silver and gold beads, later incorporating vibrant semi-precious stones, many sourced during travels through Istanbul, Greece, Spain, Italy, and the American Southwest. In 2015, Susan established Jewels by Prince, showcasing her work at exhibitions, shows, and retail locations such as the RioVision Gallery. She specializes in custom designs, which have become a hallmark of her brand, and welcomes commissions from clients. Meet Susan and enjoy her artistic jewelry and photography at the Artist of the Month reception on February 21st from 3 to 5pm.

of the Month

Rachel Warren is the March artist of the month

Rachel has been a part of the Rio Vista art community since 2016. She has demonstrated an enduring passion for drawing and painting from a young age, dedicating much of her personal space to artistic pursuits with strong encouragement from her mother. Although guided by her parents toward a stable career, Rachel pursued education in dentistry and until recently worked as a dental professional while continuing to practice art whenever possible.



Initially, Rachel focused on jewelry design and participated in pop-up events and fairs; however, due to increased competition in that field, she transitioned to painting. Exploring innovative canvases, she began working with functional objects such as glasses and wine bottles, producing acrylic artworks and even modifying wine bottles for further creative projects. Her art continues to evolve, most recently including a commissioned mural.

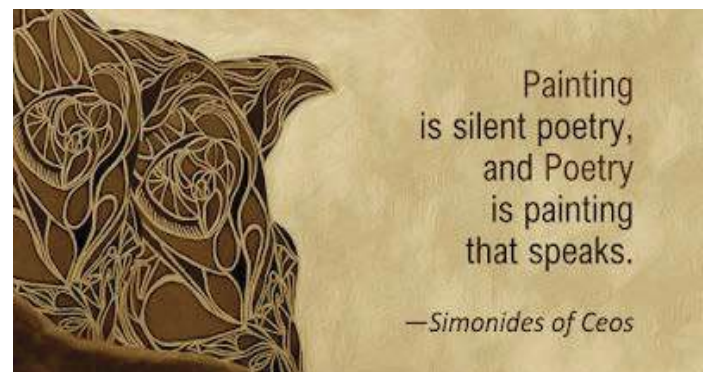
Rachel describes her work as deeply connected to her Latin heritage, frequently incorporating motifs like “sugar skulls,” which celebrate the lives and memories of loved ones. She has moved to more of a full-time artistry lifestyle after her retirement from her dental career. Her creations can be viewed at magicalalchemydesigns.com or at the Gallery.

The public is invited to meet Rachel at the Artist of the Month Reception, scheduled for March 20 th from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

April Highlights the Art of Kali and Ekphrastic Poetry

April introduces a fresh experience to the Gallery with the artwork of Kali, an artographer and writer of ekphrastic poetry. Joan Archibald, moved to Palm Springs from New York and produced her own photographic art experience under the name Kali. Her artwork is shown in galleries nationwide organized by her daughter, Susan Prince.

Ekphrastic poetry is a form of writing in which the poet responds to a work of visual art, using vivid language to interpret, reflect on, or expand the meaning of the artwork. These poems often explore the emotional, historical, or symbolic aspects of the piece, creating a dialogue between the visual and literary arts. By engaging with paintings, sculptures, or photographs, ekphrastic poetry enables readers to experience art through words, offering new perspectives and deeper insights.



Her exhibition invites viewers to engage with both visual and literary dimensions, creating an immersive atmosphere that encourages reflection and dialogue. The Gallery welcomes visitors to discover this innovative blend of imagery and verse, offering an opportunity to explore how words and pictures interact and inspire interpretation in new and meaningful ways.

The event begins at 3pm and ends at 5pm. Refreshments will be available. Writers are encouraged to come in and write their own ekphrastic poetry to the artwork.

ekphrasis: (Greek), to describe **An ekphrastic poem...**

- focuses on a specific artwork
- may describe how an artwork makes the viewer feel
- may inspire a new interpretation
- may feature rhyme or be unrhymed
- may be metrical or free verse
- may be humorous!



Celebrating Creativity: The 3rd Annual Riverfront Arts Fest Returns to Rio Vista

Artists and Community Gather on May 2nd, 2026, for a Day of Inspiration

BY ROBIE WILLIAMS AND CHRIS ARMBRUST

On May 2nd, 2026, the city of Rio Vista, California, will once again transform its picturesque riverfront into a vibrant showcase of creativity and culture during the 3rd Annual Riverfront Arts Fest. This eagerly anticipated event brings together local and regional artists, performers, and art enthusiasts for a day filled with inspiration, lively entertainment, and the beauty of the Sacramento River as a stunning backdrop.

The festival begins at 10:00 am and will feature a diverse range of art forms, including painting, sculpture, photography, and mixed media. Attendees can stroll through Vendor Village and meet artists and crafters at their booths. Live music and dance performances will fill the air, adding an energetic soundtrack to the festivities, while food vendors offer a taste of culinary delights. Be sure to attend the Art on Wheels exhibition, featuring vehicles painted to highlight their distinctive lines and contours. 45 Main Street will once again present the works of multiple artists as part of a People's Choice competition. Attendees are invited to view the art and select their preferred piece which are also for sale!

Organizers have curated special activities for families, including an interactive children's art station and the Art in Action area where artists create art in various genres. The Riverfront Arts Fest is not only an opportunity to support local talent but also a celebration of Rio Vista's thriving creative spirit and strong sense of community.

Admission is free, and all are encouraged to join in this day of art, music, and connection along the river. Whether you're an avid art collector or simply looking for a delightful way to spend a spring Saturday, the 3rd Annual Riverfront Arts Fest promises an unforgettable experience in the heart of Rio Vista.

Please visit the website at riverfrontartsfest.com for the most up-to-date information regarding the festival.

For any inquiries, you may contact the organizers via email at info@riverfrontartsfest.com or by phone at 707-646-1710.







What's Up Rio Vista?

BY LAURIE OLEKSIWICZ

The title mirrors the name of one of the coolest businesses in Rio Vista, “What’s Up Dog.” Owned and operated by Lori Holtzclaw, this fun-loving spirited lady brings a special flair to the old-time food truck. Yes, food truck. In addition to the brick-and-mortar places to eat, the simple walk up and grab food trucks parked in various locations along highway 12 provide a chance for a quick bite for those passing by, or for those in town looking for an alternative.



just about any party, “It’s fun to bring the truck and play with all the people.” “I literally just become part of the party and I love that.” Lori loves sharing all the fun things she comes up with on social media and having everybody’s input. “It just totally makes my day.”

There are specials every week. So, for that break from the usual, be sure and stop by “What’s Up Dog” for a tasty treat and a happy face. You can also use Door Dash if you don’t feel like leaving home.



Lori’s brightly colored food truck has been in Rio Vista since September 2024. Having a food truck allows Lori to bring her fun food options and her smiling self to special events and private parties. However, the usual parking place you will find Lori and her truck is in front of the Dodge dealership on Highway 12.

Lori was born in Sacramento and grew up in Elk Grove. She loves to paint and draw, which explains the artistic flair of her truck, and she considers drinking coffee as one of her hobbies. Lori takes an eclectic spin on all she does. “I collect some very unusual purses, the weirder the better.”



The inspiration for Lori to get into this business in the first place was her love of cooking. And don’t think of Lori’s hot dogs as ordinary. Her offerings span a huge spectrum of delicious delights. From simple, to exotic. There are spicy selections and gourmet creations. She will even create a special request should you have one. There are Polish dogs, as well as nachos, soups and chili, even caramel apples. Lori thinks it’s her odd sense of humor and her desire to make people happy that helps her come up with her creations.

Lori loves the small town feel of Rio Vista and seeing smiles on people’s faces. She loves to do birthday parties, weddings, and



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RIO VISTA FOUNDATION HOSTS ANNUAL SOUP TASTING EVENT



COMMUNITY GATHERS FOR A FLAVORFUL FUNDRAISER ON FEBRUARY 14, 2026

The Rio Vista Foundation is excited to announce its such-anticipated Soup Tasting event, scheduled for the afternoon of February 14, 2026. This annual gathering brings together local chefs, community members, and volunteers for an afternoon dedicated to delicious soup creations and charitable giving. The event will be held at the Rio Vista Senior Center, 25 Main Street, from noon to 3:00 pm, promising a warm atmosphere and a variety of unique flavors to sample.

Attendees can look forward to tasting a wide assortment of homemade soups, each crafted by talented local cooks eager to showcase their culinary skills. From hearty classics like chicken noodle and creamy tomato bisque, to bold new recipes featuring seasonal ingredients, there will be something to satisfy every palate. The Soup Tasting not only offers a feast for the senses but also serves as a vital fundraiser for the foundation's ongoing community projects.

All proceeds from the event will directly support the Rio Vista Foundation's initiatives, which include youth outreach and educational programs. Tickets are available for \$40 and can be purchased at Pets 4 All.

Organizers encourage everyone in the community to bring friends and family to enjoy great food and make a positive impact together. Mark your calendars for February 14, 2026, and join the Rio Vista Foundation in celebrating good food and good deeds. Future fundraisers include the annual Tea Party, the Salad Extravaganza and a new dessert event. For more information or to volunteer, please visit the Rio Vista Foundation's website.

Photo by Greg Mitchell "RV Bridgeman"



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Lunar New Year Celebration Comes to Rio Vista February 28



Immigrants from across the Pacific Ocean were instrumental in the development of the Delta region, including Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino laborers and farmers. While not all of these groups celebrate Lunar New Year, many do, especially Chinese. To help remember these contributions to our communities and to join in the fun of welcoming in 2026, the year of the Horse, RioVision will host a celebration in Rio Vista on February 28, 2026.

Starting at 11:00 am, the celebration will begin at the Toy Building, 154 North Front Street and at the adjacent Pole Barn. Activities will include Taiko drummers, demonstrations of calligraphy, Mah Jong, a chopstick challenge and more. At mid-day, the Lion Dance troop will perform and then proceed with much cacophony to visit to some of the businesses on Main Street to bring prosperity and to keep evil spirits at bay. The afternoon will feature a showing of the locally produced film VOICES: CHINESE WOMEN OF THE DELTA. Support for this event is being provided by the Locke Foundation, whose Oral History Project produced the film.

Planning is still ongoing as of the date of publication, so watch for more details, including how to obtain a free reservation for the film viewing (donations for the film makers are encouraged), on posters, in local media and at discoverriovista.com.

Other ongoing Lunar New Year events include the big one in Locke. Now in its 8th year, it is sponsored by the Locke Foundation and will feature the lion dance, martial arts and calligraphy, music, lectures and a showing of the film VOICES: CHINESE WOMEN OF THE DELTA. Noon to 4:00 pm on February 14.

Isleton will also continue its celebration of Lunar New Year on March 7.



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