

November 2024

NEWS



Hidden Meadows Women's Social Group celebrates a Spooktacular October Dinner

By Pat Tanabe / Resident

The Hidden Meadows Women's Social Group gathered for a bewitching October dinner, bringing together members for an evening filled with laughter, camaraderie, and delicious food.

The event, held at Karla Fernandez's, showcased the spirit of Halloween and the warmth of friendship that defines this vibrant group. As the sun set (and the Hunter's moon rose), attendees were welcomed to Karla's home festooned with skulls, spiderwebs, floating Harry Potter candles and even a Halloween tree! The Halloween and autumn decorations set the perfect backdrop for the evening. The dinner featured a delightful menu that celebrated the flavors of fall, including cozy seasonal dishes such as turkey chili, tortilla soup, macaroni and cheese, and a variety of delectable desserts which included pumpkin brownies, chocolate torte and apple tart.

The highlight of the evening was a costume contest. There were prizes for a multitude of categories: the best witch - Melissa Mitchell, most beautiful - Flapper Lisa Saget, best misfit - mummy Lynn Wheeler, and the person who will vote in California for president for the first time in 2024 – a three-way tie but Alejandra Cardena-Perez won as she voted for president last election from the furthest away (Connecticut).

The Hidden Meadows Women's Social Group meets monthly, providing a place for women to connect, share experiences, and engage in various activities. The monthly dinners are a great way to meet new neighbors. There is a plethora of activities from which Hidden Meadows Women can participate including a monthly lunch and a variety of games.

For those interested in joining the Hidden Meadows Women's Social Group please contact: hmwsg92026@gmail.com.



Fall Pumpkin Time

By Ellen & Bill Blakeborough / Residents

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Fall has come, the days are shorter, the air is cooler, Halloween has come, folks are planning for Thanksgiving, and gatherings of family and friends. And young Izzy, great granddaughter of Ellen & Bill Blakeborough, has a look of wonderment as she enjoys an afternoon in the pumpkin patch!

NOVEMBER HIDDEN MEADOWS EVENTS

Sellers' Faire Sunday, November 17th, 10am - 2pm Location: Lower Lot at the Boulder Oaks Golf Club

Turkey Trot

Thursday, November 28th Gather at 8am Location: Back parking lot at the Deli Market here in the Meadow 27980 Oak Ranch Rd, Hidden Meadows



The Impressive and Captivating Agave

By Zandra Lee / Resident

Fifteen years ago, my husband and I moved into Hidden Meadows, and we have enjoyed our time here immensely. A few years back, we planted a small agave plant in front of our house, appreciating its sculptural beauty. Agave plants are common in our area. A few weeks ago, we noticed a very large stem emerging from the center of the agave. Though it is too large to measure accurately, we estimate it stands around twenty feet tall (see attached picture).

Upon investigation, we discovered that this remarkable growth is part of the agave's life cycle, and the plant has several names. The plant is approaching the end of its life, and the towering stalk will soon sprout flowers that resemble cups, brimming with nectar. This will be a feast for birds and insects, who will revel in the bounty offered by our agave. The entire process is swift and spectacular, culminating in the plant's ultimate demise.

Many of you may recognize this phenomenon, often referred to as the Centennial Tree, due to its rare flowering. However, it doesn't bloom once a century; it can occur approximately every ten years, depending on the variety. I think our agave is a type of Agave Americana, one of the many species within the agave family.

Although we did not know the name of the plant at the time, our fascination with this plant dates back to our time on the East Coast near Philadelphia, where we saw the plant frequently at our visit to Longwood Gardens, a famous international garden in Pennsylvania. We were always captivated by that plant, especially when it flowered, which necessitated the opening of a top window in the greenhouse to accommodate its impressive height.

This experience has been a reminder of the wonders of nature and the unexpected beauty that can emerge in our own front yard.



The chairmen of VetFest 2024. From (left) Mike Frank, Stef Holden and Paul McNamara.

Bo Mazzetti to be grand marshal of VetFest parade

By DAVID ROSS

Bo Mazzetti, chairman of the Rincon Band of Indians, will lead the 5th annual VetFest parade on November 11 as grand marshal and also be the keynote speaker after the parade back at the American Legion.

The parade, which will run from 9:30 a.m.- 11 a.m., will start on Woodward Avenue, turn south on Broadway, turn west on Valley Parkway and north on Escondido Boulevard, and conclude by turning again on Woodward Avenue, basically taking a lap around Grape Day Park.

Mazzetti was chosen as this year's grand marshal because of generosity of the Rincon tribe toward both the VetFest and the Grape Day Fest held earlier this year, said Stef Holden, one of three chairmen of this year's Vetfest. "Also, he's a veteran."

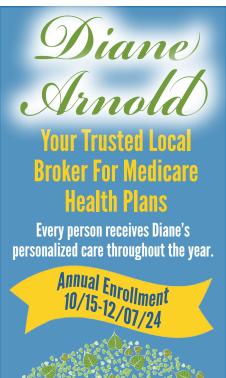
Holden credited Escondido Mayor Dane White with making it possible for VetFest to have a parade this year after Grand Avenue was closed due to work on the street. VetFest was looking at spending an extra \$10,000 for the parade, which would have been an insurmountable financial burden. However, the mayor stepped in and helped smooth the way for the parade to go forward without the extra \$10,000 price tag. About 40 entries are expected.

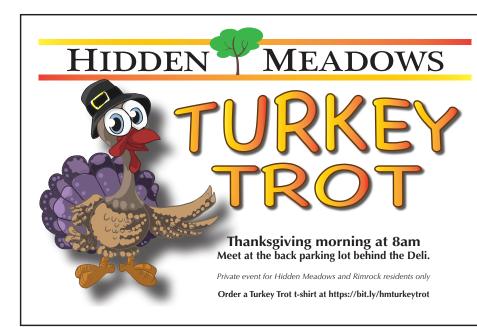
One the parade is over, the focus will shift back to American Legion JB Clark Post 149, 230 E Park Ave. There will be food from three vendors, military displays and live music, including several songs from Caroline Helms, including *"American Anthem."* previous terms as Vice Chairman and Council Member.

Mazzetti serves as President of the San Luis Rey Water Indian Water Authority, a consortium of five tribes that have been engaged in political and legal activities for 40 plus years to secure water resources lost through federal granting of tribal water rights to local cities.

A founder and active member of the Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association (SCTCA), Mazzetti has been working with chairpersons in Northern and Central California to recreate a re-

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VetFest is a joint effort of Legion # 149 and Brothers of 6 Charities.

"Escondido is a veterans' town," said Holden. "This is the only veterans observance on November 11 in North County." He added, "Because we have a bigger parade route than usual we are expecting a bigger attendance."

For more information visit *www.escovetfest.com*. This is a good place to go if you want to be in the parade.

Bo Mazzetti

Rincon Chairman Bo Mazzetti grew up and lives on the Rincon Reservation. Following his father's example, Mazzetti was elected Tribal Chairman in 2007, and is now serving his fifthconsecutive term of office. He served



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Community Foundation Update

By: Hidden Meadows Community Foundation

August marked the end of the Hidden Meadows Community Foundation's annual fundraising drive for 2024. Once again, we had a solid return and received just a little under \$12,000 in contributions from 110 households in Hidden Meadows and Rim Rock. On behalf of the Foundation Board of Directors and the community at large we want to sincerely thank all who contributed. Your donations are essential in allowing us to provide ongoing support for four areas of community life: Beautification, Community Events, Scholarships and Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce the amount of paper consumed by the solicitation process, this year we had reduced our solicitation package for the HM News to a single piece and ran the insert for a single month rather than three, as in prior years. Compared to the prior year's practice of a three-piece insert run for three issues, paper consumption was reduced by about 80%. We are happy to say that with the new process the amount received was comparable to what was raised the past three years although still down from prepandemic donation levels. Thanks for keeping your eyes out for the remit envelope.

At the foundation we feel we have an obligation to ensure the funds you generously contribute are efficiently spent on programs which provide benefit to the community. In calendar year 2023 Foundation expenses totaled \$18,549 with 84% of the spending returned directly to the community. Program expenses for 2023 totaled \$15,563 including \$6,254 for scholarships granted, \$4,550 spent on median maintenance and \$4,759 for events. 2023 events included the Spring Kids Carnival, Volunteer Appreciation, July 4th Celebration, Vintage Car Show, Trunk or Treat, Turkey Trot, Toys for Tots, and various Seller's Faires.

There were no Neighbors Helping Neighbors grants in 2023. ("Neighbors Helping Neighbors" is a HMCF program that provides small dollar grants in support of community members who have experienced a temporary hardship. Potential recipients must be recommended to the Board by a non-related community member. The Board will review all requests and return a timely decision and recommendation on a case-by-case basis. For more information go to our website https://hiddenmeadowsfoundation.org.)

An additional \$2,986 was spent on administration with the majority of that going for insurance (\$1,670 - expensive but necessary), \$726 for the annual fundraising drive, \$396 in dues to the Meadows Homes Association and \$194 for rental of the Foundation P.O. box.

In addition to providing for on-going activities, the Foundation, with support from the community, will from time-to-time, sponsor larger projects with significant impact on the community. In prior years projects of this sort have included design and installation of the mosaic Hidden Meadows sign at the south end of the Mountain Meadow median (\$7,000+), trimming and removal of the Aleppo Pines bordering Mountain Meadow Road (\$9,000+) and the complete re-landscaping of the Mountain Meadow median (\$50,000+). We are always open to ideas for new projects and will consider all suggestions based on impact and feasibility.

Thanks again to all who contributed this year and to those who may have missed the solicitation but still desire to help, you can always donate by visiting our website <u>https://hiddenmeadowsfoundation.org</u>.

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vitalized California Tribal Chairman's Association.

Mazzetti is an advocate of exercising economic rights that protect sovereignty and oversaw the victorious and precedent setting lawsuit initiated by Rincon against Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for bad faith compacting and illegal taxation. He has recently been working with a coalition of tribal leaders and the state on returning tobacco and other state taxes that rightfully belong to the tribal governments.

Making a difference in Sacramento, Mazzetti has overseen initiatives such as placing a tribal staff in the Governor's cabinet, and hiring of a tribal person as liaison to the state's water authority. He serves on the Governor's Drought Task Force, and as a chief organizer of Indian Day in Sacramento.

"One of the really meaningful commitments I made this last year was to be Honorary Chairman of the American Indian Alaska Native Veterans Memorial Committee," noted Mazzetti. "It's shameful that there is not one memorial honoring our veterans. So I volunteered to help organization raise funds for an exceptionally beautiful memorial installation in Riverside National Cemetery." Formerly employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Southern California Agency in Riverside, Mazzetti served as the first Indian Community Affairs and Citizen Assistance Officer for San Diego County. A businessperson, he has owned and operated Mazzetti and Company, a reservation-based general building, engineering and well drilling company since 1979. Mazzetti has received numerous awards including the California Indian Chamber of Commerce "Warrior Award," and the "Anna Sandoval Leadership Award" from the California Nations Indian Gaming Association. He attended Laverne College on a football scholarship as a graduate of Orange Glen High School in Escondido and graduated from California Polytechnic University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Behavioral Science. Like his parents, who met while serving in the Navy in World War II, Mazzetti served in the United States Navy, and is a Vietnam Veteran.

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Cooler heads prevail in Graybill, Palomar Health Medical Group disagreement

In previous news, it was announced that Graybill Dr. Peters replied, "Regarding the em-Medical Group (Graybill) was ending its affiliation ployees, if they would like to follow their with Palomar Health Medical Group (PHMG), with doctors, which most of them do, they will Graybill ceasing to provide services to patients in need to apply at Metis Practice Solutions the Murrieta, Temecula, Fallbrook, Vista, Oceanside, which is a subsidiary of SCMG that will San Marcos, El Norte, 2nd Avenue Escondido and be managing our practices and employees. Valley Center offices effective November 11, 2024. However, on the Metis side, they are aware

Recent discussions have led to a new agreement that these are PHMG Graybill division emthat prioritizes a seamless continuity of care. With ployees and they are hired on while mainthis new agreement, Graybill physicians will con- taining their seniority i.e. years of service." tinue to practice at the following locations: Murrieta, She added, "We are working to make it as Temecula, Fallbrook, Vista, Oceanside, San Marcos, smooth as possible for the employees as El Norte, and 2nd Avenue Escondido.

Effective November 11, 2024, PHMG physicians will continue to practice at the Valley Center location, between PHMG and Graybill will end. as this location will remain under PHMG's opera- Graybill will establish a new partnership tion. Dr. Julia Martin, a family practice physician with Sharp Community Medical Group. employed by Graybill, will transition from Valley Center to 2nd Avenue Escondido.

To ensure patients continue to receive care, Graybill will continue to collaborate with Palomar Health by utilizing PHMG and Palomar Medical Centers to ensure continuity of patient care. Graybill patients who have been referred to a PHMG specialist can maintain their appointments with their PHMG provider. This ensures that patients ongoing treatments will proceed seamlessly, without any interruptions.

According to the joint press release: "The ongoing relationship between both organizations and their patients remains a top priority, and this resolution ensures that there will be no disruption in patient care during the transition."

The newspaper asked Dr. Vanessa Peters, a family physician who is Chief Physician Officer for Graybill if individual nurses and staff members will have to reapply for their jobs if their doctors move between the health systems?

Water Rates...Up and Up and Up!!!

By GARY ARANT, General Manager Valley Center Municipal Water District

Death, taxes, and water rates going up – the three things you can count on today, right? Ratepayers must wonder why they face significant water rate increases year in and year out in the range of 10% to over 15%. When will it stop? The answer to that question is that water rate increases may vary and moderate from time to time, but they will never stop altogether.

To understand why, there are a number of factors which need be discussed.

well as the patients."

Despite this agreement, the affiliation

What This Means for Patients:

1. Location Stability: Graybill's office locations will remain the same, except for Valley Center, ensuring minimal disruption to patient services.

2. Seamless Care: Patients will continue to see their same doctors and receive the high- quality care they have come to expect.

3. Insurance Coverage: Graybill will maintain its current participation in all major insurance networks, ensuring patients can continue their care without needing to change health plans.

4. Referral Network Continuity: The referral processes between Palomar Medical Center and Graybill Medical Group will remain intact. Graybill patients receiving care from PHMG specialists will not experience any interruptions.

If patients have any questions or require further information, they are encouraged to contact PHMG offices at (858) 675-3292 or Graybill offices at (760) 291-6700.

Hidden Meadows Community Resources and Organizations

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Contact Marc Weissman at 760-525-5170 or marcweissman11@gmail.com.

Community Sponsor Group

Contact Chairman Jim Chagala, at 760 751-2691 for more information.

Hidden Meadows Neighborhood Watch

Please join our facebook group: Hidden Meadows Neighborhood Watch. We'll share neighborhood information, safety tips, and news of future events.

Contact Info: Erik Tyler 442-235-9060 erikdtyler@gmail.com

Deer Springs Fire Safe Council

Contact Steve Kerrin at 760-807-1141.

Emergency Communication System

To register, visit www.deerspringsfiresafecouncil.com.

Organizations

Garden Club

Contact Kim Marin (kimgroggmarin@gmail.com) or Melisa Mitchell (melisamitchell6@hotmail.com)

Hidden Meadows Bridge Group

We play bridge at the MHA Pavilion every Wednesday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

Please call Curt Bruce at 442-222-0821 if you'd like to join us.

Hidden Meadows Community Foundation (HMCF)

Contact Michele Zipse at HMCF2023@gmail.com

www.hiddenmeadowsfoundation.org

Ladies Bible Study

Contact Debbie Hamer at 760-297-1278 or

Southern California Is a Desert - In its natural state, southern California is a desert. To support a booming population and economy, massive water storage and conveyance systems were built to bring water to Southern California. The good news is that these systems are still in place and functioning today to meet a large part of our water needs. The bad news is that these systems range in age from between 60 and 100 years in age and require re-investment by constant modernization, upgrades, maintenance, and replacement. The same goes for the water systems operated by local retail water agencies, such as the Valley Center Municipal Water District (VCMWD). Portions of the VCMWD water system date back to the mid-1950s.

Water and the Law – The US Courts have decided that in-stream water uses, such as for fish and wildlife had to be considered on equal footing with water for people when setting water use rights. What this has meant over time is that more water has been reserved for environmental needs and less water is available for human needs. To make up the difference between a decline in the traditional water sources against the water needs of growing cities, farms, and the state's population, water agencies have been mak-

WATER See Page 12

An information hotline is updated during emergencies or noteworthy events and may be called 24/7 at 949-472-1407. Red flags are placed on the "Fire Danger Signs" during red flag warnings.

Homeowners Associations

The Meadows Homes Association (MHA) 760-749-7278

Rimrock Homeowners Association 760-749-4008

Hidden Meadows Ranch Homeowners 760-407-7575 Association

Silverado Management Services

Oak Meadows Glen Homeowners Association 760-749-4796

Sue Shepard at 760-213-0325.

Tennis Club

Contact Katy Freeze at 760-749-9722 or clarkfreese@gmail.com.

Women's Golf Club

Contact Ellen at 760-749-1190

Women's Social Group

email to hmwsg92026@gmail.com.

Positive Impacts

By MARIE WALDRON, **75th Assembly District**

It's been my honor to serve the people of the 75th Assembly District for the past 12 years. With extensive agricultural areas, deserts and mountains, including all 18 of San Diego County's sovereign Indian tribal nations, we are one of the most diverse regions in California.

My legislation has been a reflection of the district's unique character. For example, much of this region is considered a high or very high fire hazard severity zone. During the Lilac Fire in December, 2017, the Rancho Monserate community in Fallbrook was devastated. Due to archaic state laws that didn't recognize common interest ownership, residents were being denied rebuilding loans and permits. I immediately introduced an urgency bill changing the law so the community could rebuild. It was signed into law by Governor Brown and went into effect immediately.

More recently, I've been able to direct over \$13 million to help fund local fire safety projects. This resulted in recent ground breakings for new fire stations in Fallbrook and Crest. A new station to replace the "temporary" Deer Springs station is on the way, and Valley Center Fire Protection District was able to buy a badly needed brush fire apparatus. Safety gear and fire apparatus, along with other equipment have also been funded for San Marcos Fire, Rincon Fire and elsewhere. And this session, Governor Newsom signed my bill to create Infrastructure Financing



Districts for fire agencies and counties to access funding for capital improvement projects and heavy equipment to mitigate fire danger in high fire risk areas.

Two of my bills brought California into conformity with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act regarding placement of Indian children during custody disputes, And given the important cultural, economic and public safety contributions of local tribes. I authored a resolution recognizing California Native American Day. Last session, along with Assemblyman Eduardo Garcia, I also introduced a bill allowing tribal governments to access water from nearby water districts.

In 2021 my legislation extended the deadline for the City of Escondido to access Prop 1E funding for the Lake Wohlford Dam Seismic Strengthening project to 2028. The new, seismically safe dam should be completed in 2027.

The Legislature serves all Californians, but I've always considered the people of the 75th Assembly District my first priority.

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Tribal leaders and legislators gather on the Assembly floor to celebrate California Native American Day. Front and center, Rincon's tribal chairman Bo Mazzetti is shown holding one of the proclamations.

Assemblymember Marie Waldron, R- Valley Center, represents the 75th Assembly District in the California Legislature, which includes the cities of Poway, Santee, portions of the City of San Diego, and most of rural eastern and northern San Diego County.

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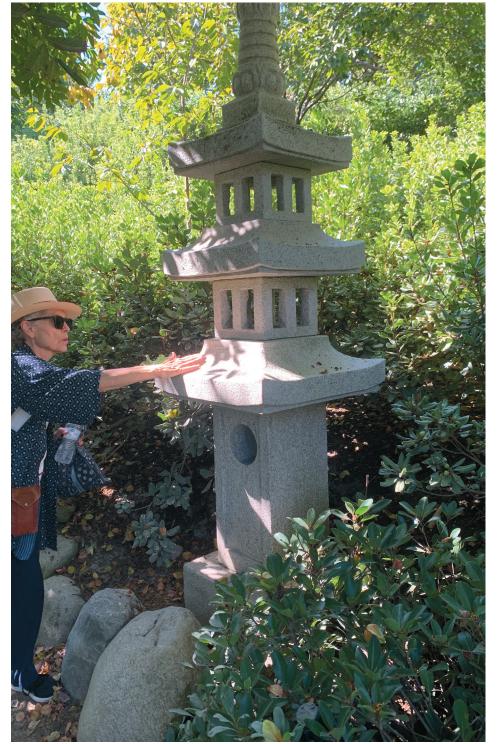


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Docent Carol Lambert with the Japanese Lantern



Japanese Friendship **Garden and Museum**



HMGC group







Frances Munk by the Koi pond

By Idalia Rewar

Ohayo – Good Morning! It was a lovely sunny day to take a docent-guided tour of the Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum at Balboa Park in San Diego attended by 15 members of the Hidden Meadows Garden Club. Upon arrival we were introduced to our docents Mike Davis and Carol Lambert. We were divided into 2 groups.

The docents led us to the entrance of the Gardens where a large stone is encased that was saved from the original Tea House of 1915. The large red gates were donated by the city of Yokahama and dedicated to former San Diego Mayor Charles Dail who established the first sister-city association between San Diego and Yokahama, Japan to serve as an expression of friendship between the cities.

A little history obtained from Google: After WWII, San Diego developed close ties with the city of Yokohama, Japan under the Sister City program with the first phase (upper portion) opening of the Garden in 1990. The gardens are situation on 11 acres of land. From an Exposition held at Balboa Park in 1915, a popular exhibit was a Japanese Teahouse which was surrounded by plants, trees, rocks and winding stream. In 1955, San Diego formulated a plan to restore a Japanese garden by expanding the site. The city of Yokohama presented San Diego with a snow lantern with many other gifts to follow for its garden in the following years.



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GARDEN See Page 11

The gates opened into a world of a green tranquil paradise with winding walkways. Our group docent, Carol, spoke on the differences between a traditional garden and a Japanese garden. Whereas the traditional garden uses straight lines in their garden design, the Japanese gardens use curves in their design giving the viewer time to slow down, relax, and take in all the beauty of the environment. In this garden, there are minimal florals throughout and mostly plants and trees with different shades of green. Carol, the docent, said that there are no signs by the plants throughout the gardens to give you a description of what you are looking at. This is so you can concentrate, contemplate and be aware of the beauty of your surroundings. Asymmetry plays an important part in garden design which they utilize using rocks, trees, and water. As we entered the garden Carol gave us the history of the design and purpose of the 3 rocks we were looking at, and even threw water at one of the rocks so we can decipher the design on the crevices of the rocks. As we walked, we would stop and she would give us a description and history, and purpose of the scenery. We proceeded to a large traditional Japanese room with a sliding glass wall that opens into a green garden where you can meditate and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere in conjunction with enjoying nature. The view from the room showed gravel and sand

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Hidden Oasis in Hidden Meadows' Mountain Meadow Preserve

By Juan Troncoso, Mountain Meadow Preserve Manager for the Escondido Creek Conservancy and Carrie Alidaee, M.A.

Juan Troncoso: San Diego County is characterized by many things beautiful beaches, breweries, and a near-perfect climate — but abundance of natural water sources is not one of them. Humans have dammed rivers, drilled wells, and channelized creeks, disrupting at every level possible the hydrology of the land. All this, in addition to the fragmenting of land and open space, has forced wildlife species to adapt and use any reliable sources of water they can find, such as artificial ponds. Human-made ponds, like the one at Mountain Meadow Preserve, have become very important for wildlife as development and habitat fragmentation increases.

Fourteen years ago, Mountain Meadow Preserve was an active avocado grove and slated for development. As we convert the old grove back to native habitat, we are interested in learning how we can make the most of its infrastructure, including the agricultural pond. With this in mind, Carrie Alidaee conducted her thesis research helping us with the first step in the process. Carrie's reaction is not so different from many others who visit the preserve ... a very pleasant surprise.

Carrie Alidaee, M.A., research review : When I first heard about the pond at the Escondido Creek Conservancy's Mountain Meadow Preserve four years ago, I was beyond excited. I had just met with Juan Troncoso, Land Manager-with the Escondido Creek Conservancy, about a performing a research project for my biology graduate program. They asked if I could perform a study to help the conservancy decide if the agricultural irrigation pond was worth keeping, or if it should be filled in and planted over with native vegetation. In my mind's eye, I envisioned a full, lushly vegetated pond; however, the reality of the pond proved to be quite different! The pond was encircled by a six-foot high chain link fence and had asphalt paved slopes surrounding a body of water. Although being able to be fed with a combination of city water, and rain water, it had been shrunken low by the summer drought. During that first hot, bright morning the pond was desolate - not a bird could be heard, or any animal seen. Anyone who looked at it would think that nothing could possibly live there, right?

For 30 days, the camera traps operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, recording a 10 second video each time the motion sensor was triggered. Once a week, the SD cards in the cameras were reviewed. In total, 5,102 videos were analyzed with 1,254 wildlife sightings. What I discovered was astounding; without human presence, the pond became a hub of activity! Birds had the greatest number of visits, and I observed many species of birds from the tiny Anna's Hummingbird to the majestic Great Horned Owls, as well as other little brown birds (LBBs) that were too small and too fast to identify. I also saw a swimming Gopher snake, Western toads, Western fence lizards, raccoons, California ground squirrels, Cotton tail rabbits, coyotes, and to top it off, a bobcat! I am happy to report that from the findings of my research project, Species Diversity of an Agricultural Irrigation Pond Site in a Degraded Chaparral Landscape, the conservancy decided to keep the pond. And even though the restoration has vet to begin. the pond is an oasis for resident and migrating wildlife in an ever-hotter, drier climate. I now envision the pond as it will look after restoration, surrounded by California native vegetation and full of native wildlife!

Juan Troncoso: The Conservancy is committed to turning this pond into a thriving wetland that will serve as a watering hole for local fauna and a pit stop for migrating birds. In addition, it will create many opportunities for education for local kids and community members. We always try to accommodate student research relevant to our mission. If you are interested in habitat restoration or wildlife monitoring and you have a project in mind, please contact us with your idea and you might be able to conduct a project just like Carrie did! Information@escondidocreek.org The 693-acre Mountain Meadows Preserve, here in Hidden Meadows, is home to The Escondido Creek Conservancy headquarters. The office is the home base for all Conservancy staff, including those who are in the field a lot of the time taking care of nature and providing outdoor education programs for Escondido students. This preserve was acquired in partnership with San Diego County Parks and Recreation and the Navy/Camp Pendleton. It is part of a larger effort



by the conservation partners to preserve natural open spaces in the Escondido Creek watershed and North County. Escondido Creek begins in Bear Valley (east of Lake Wohlford), then travels 26 miles west emptying into the San Elijo Lagoon.

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SUBMIT CONTENT FOR HMN

Deadline for local article submission: 17th of the month for the next issue. Photographs submitted for publication should be hi-resolution, unmodified originals, hi-res/300dpi. We cannot accept photos taken from social media sites such as Facebook. Send drafts and photos to Patricia Fox to LocalEditor@HiddenMeadows.news

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HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

911: Immediate Emergency Assistance

211: Emergency and non-emergency county information hotline

Cutting gas prices, or not

By MARIE WALDRON, 75th Assembly District The legislative special session called to rein in high gas prices has adjourned. A bill that supporters claim will help prevent gasoline price spikes by increasing reserves, AB X2-1, passed on a partyline vote. Unfortunately the bill, along with other measures that could be implemented soon, may have the opposite effect.

The measure is aimed at preventing price spikes when refineries temporarily shut down for maintenance, creating fuel shortages and driving up prices. However, the California Energy Commission studied the issue and determined that creating/ maintaining the reserves could cause shortages and increase costs. Furthermore, regulations that stand in the way of the refinery expansion necessary to create and maintain the reserve are still in place. It can take ten years and cost \$35 million just to build a single storage tank – costs that would be passed on to motorists.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is scheduled to meet in November to discuss imposing lower carbon standards that could easily add a half-dollar per gallon to the cost of gasoline -some say the increase could be up to 65 cents per gallon, with even higher future increases. CARB has refused to estimate the costs, and Steven Cliff, CARB's executive officer, stated "What we are not equipped to do is analyze what effect (the lower carbon standard) would be on retail gasoline prices." CARB Chair Liane Randolph should delay the vote until true costs and benefits of the new standards can be analyzed and made public.

Increasing gas prices by this much will have a devastating impact on California's economy. But there are obvious alternatives. My caucus introduced several bills, including one that would have suspended California's highest-in-the-nation gasoline tax. The Assembly majority blocked any consideration of these bills, and instead, they approved AB X2-1.

Hardworking Californians are hurting. Massive fuel price increases will drive up overall inflation and wreak havoc on those who can least afford it.

Assemblymember Marie Waldron, R- Valley Center, represents the 75th Assembly District in the California Legislature, which includes the cities of Poway, Santee, portions of the City of San Diego, and most of rural eastern and northern San Diego County.



BOOK REVIEW - by Lynn Clark

"Spirit Crossing" - by William Kent Krueger

This book is the 20th novel Krueger has written featuring Cork O'Connor and his life in the small Minnesota town of Aurora. O'Connor is part Native American. The main focus of the novels often feature the life and treatment of Indigenous people. O'Connor's present and past life as a law enforcement official are usually in conflict because he often finds he has one foot on each side of the fence that is his heritage.

As the series has progressed from year to year, Krueger has kept pace with current crime issues that can permeate any town whether large or small. This book touches on human trafficking. Aurora is also up against an oil pipeline that is threatening the environment surrounding the town, and the way of life of its citizens.

As always Kruger's writing expresses his love of Minnesota: the forests and streams that make it so beautiful, and the people that reside there that make it so special.

Super Crossword						
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Animal Services: 619-299-7012

CAL FIRE/Fire Information hotline: 619-590-3160

California Highway Patrol: 858-637-3800

Deer Springs Fire Protection District Station 1 Headquarters: 760-749-8001 Station 2 Deer Springs: 760-741-5512 Station 3 Hidden Meadows: 760-751-0820 Burn Permits: 760-749-8001

Road Conditions/ Closures: Cal Trans 800-427-7623 or www.traffic.com

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GARDEN From Page 7

- representing water; stones - representing islands; and in the foreground, trees - representing perseverance.

We then went to an area that housed miniature bonsai trees, some of which were hundreds of years old. Bonsai means "tray planting" where artistic methods are used for the direction of the growth of the tree branches. According to Dr. Google, "because of the Japanese propensity for beauty found in nature, bonsai trees quickly gained a prominent place in Japanese culture. Samurais were said to grow the plants for meditative purposes, clearing their minds and transcending their consciousness".

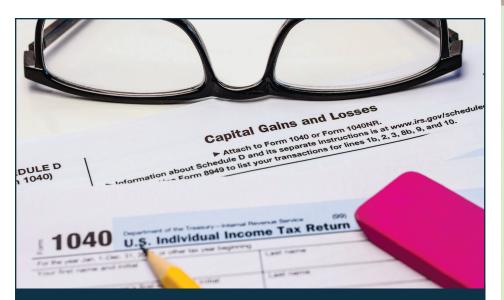
I noticed a large buddha and asked Carol about it, she said that it was donated to the gardens and the gesture of his hands indicate that "negativity is not allowed here." We stopped to admire a large concrete Japanese lantern – which is used for the purpose of showing the way to the temple for meditation. Another short walk and we encountered a "dry" waterfall. It was sloped with rocks and edged by plants. Very pretty, but where's the "water"? The docent commented on the history of the waterfall. It was used as a dump so when they designed it, the rocks represent water and they flow downslope under a bridge on even terrain, where they finally have water streaming down. The water is provided by cistern and turbines hidden underneath the water. Wow, that's unusual!

One of the most interesting sights was a large buddha, donated by an art collector, which is approximately 12 feet tall, and weighs 5,300 lbs.! Very impressive! The buddhas represents peace, tranquility and compassion. Would you believe it was built in Japan in 1700 and in 1930 an American industrialist from Mississippi bought it to the U.S. and Hurricane Katrina toppled it, it was broken into pieces. It was put together, donated to the Gardens and sits upon a lotus plant.

Finally, we ended the tour at the Gift Pavilion with an ornamental koi pond, a red bridge, rocks, cascading water and bright-colored kois swimming around. The koi represents mobility, good luck and longevity – some kois have a lifespan of 50 years or more!

My thanks to Mike for his patience, and effortless driving, to Bonnie Metzger for coordinating the event at the site, and to all members who attended and most of all to the docents who led our expedition and especially our docent Carol Lambert who was extremely cognizant of the gardens, its history, and of the Japanese culture. Sayonara – Goodbye...

If you are interested in joining the Hidden Meadows Garden Club, email Kim Marin at <u>kimgroggmarin@gmail.com</u>



On March 29, 2023, the IRS issued Revenue Ruling 2023-2, which generally states that appreciated property transferred through an irrevocable trust does not receive a step-up in basis when the Grantor dies.





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That means the Grantor's children, or other loved ones, have to pay the capital gains tax on property they receive. There has been a great deal of chatter among tax experts and estate planners about this ruling. My clients and I are not bothered by this sea-change, however, as we use Charitable Remainder Trusts, and other techniques, to get around the Capital Gains Tax.

MY NAME IS MICHAEL BUSTILLOS. I am an attorney with over thirty years of experience in Estate Planning and Asset Protection. I live down the street from you, here in Hidden Meadows.



Luis Michael Bustillos Attorney and Counselor-at-Law Call me at 760-705-6062, or email me at Michael@LMBustillos.com for a complimentary consultation.

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WATER From Page 4

ing more investments in more expensive storage and developing alternative supplies, such as ocean desal, wastewater reclamation, as well direct and indirect potable reuse of wastewater. The projects are also more energy-intensive to generate than the traditional supplies created and delivered by the water storage and delivery systems built in the early and mid-20th Century.

We Can't Go Out of Business -Public water systems have a mandate that overrides all other directives they must stay in business to meet the water, sanitation (i.e., wastewater treatment), and public safety (i.e. fire protection) needs of the communities served. Another inconvenient truth is that most of system operating costs are fixed and really don't vary with how much water is delivered in a given year. So as water demand goes down due to changing usage habits and state water use efficiency mandates, there have fewer units of water sales to spread the spends in excess of \$500,000 annually per unit goes up.

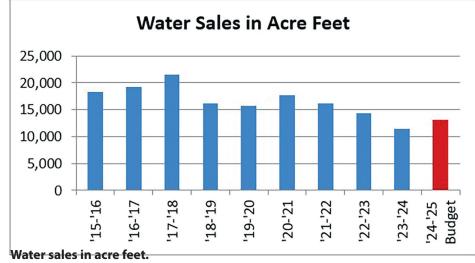
There are a couple of other factors that show up on your monthly water bill...energy costs and regulatory compliance.

Well - Over the last five years, VC-MWD's costs for natural gas and electricity, have gone from \$1.64 million up to \$2.46 million (an increase of 50%) while the amount of power purchased delivered has gone down 24%. Despite owning and operating nine solar arrays, on a per unit basis, VC-MWD's net per acre foot power costs have gone from \$91 in 2021 to \$178in 2025, or an increase of 205%.

Regulatory Compliance - At every level in the water delivery system, water agencies must comply with ever more stringent and expanding regulatory mandates from the state and federal governments. A recent audit of regulatory costs revealed that VCMWD

costs over; it's simple math... the cost in meeting state and federal permit requirements, compliance reporting licensing, water and wastewater testing, data accumulation, and reporting.

Yes, Water Rates Will Continue to Go Up, Up and Up - So, will wa-Power Costs...Up, Up, and Up As ter costs keep going up each year? To varying degrees, yes. Some years will be less than others, but rate increases will always be at play as water agencies operate to cover critical fixed costs, including water system reinvestment, meeting all state and federal regulatory mandates, while safely and reliably operating the water systems delivering water and wastewater services to your homes, businesses and farms.





Hidden Meadows News and

Water Rate Components



Power Costs per Acre Foot Purchased

Power costs per acre foot purchased.

What is happening in HIDDEN MEADOWS

Market Report NOVEMBER | 2024

Address	BD/BA/SF	Listing/ Selling Price
ACTIVE		
Dogwood Glen	4/3/3,020	\$1,135,000
Circle P Lane	3/2.5/3,168	\$1,595,000
Oak Spur Way	4/2.5/2,601	\$995,000
SOLD		
28657 Rolling Rock	3/2/1,185	\$805,000
10247 Spruce Woodland	s Way 4/3/2,601	\$956,000
9737 Kiwi Meadow Lane	3/3//2,540	\$1,150,000



That sounds so easy!

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