

**\$1.00**

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

**INSIDE**

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**Supervising D.A. speaks at chamber**

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**Isabella Dam construction project lauded by national award**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers received a national award for safety, innovation and resourcefulness for its design and execution of the reconstruction of the Isabella Dam complex, according to a press release from the Army Corps.

**Hospital hires new physician and CFO**

At Kern Valley Healthcare District board meeting, Thursday June 13, during his Chief Executive Officer report Tim McGlew announced that the hospital was hiring its new Chief Financial Officer and a new physician.

**Mortuary owner petitions to remove cemetery district board**

Robert Guidry owner of Lake Isabella Valley Mortuary held a community meeting Friday, June 14 at his place of business to educate the public regarding his movement to remove trustee members from the Kern River Valley Cemetery District board.

**Whitewater Wednesday big splash for chamber**

The Kernville Chamber of Commerce revived its annual Whitewater Wednesday, June 12, at Riverside Park, though the event had gone dark in recent years. The event was a fundraiser for the chamber.

**Youth Bowling League gives kids a fun summer sport**

Many people don't realize bowling is a true sport. They just think of it as something to go out and do for fun when on vacation or to hang out with friends.

**AYSO 10U Soccer squad competes near the beach**

Filling up their day with soccer, Kern Valley's AYSO Region 294 10u Girls Stars played in a tournament in Huntington Beach.

**Kern Valley Sun Updates**

In the last five months the new local ownership group has made several positive changes to your paper. All local news. All local photos. Great sports coverage of area youth teams.

Additionally we have an improved website with breaking news as well as

stories from the weekly edition of the Sun.

Check us out on Instagram and X as well for breaking news and other interesting articles.

Like all businesses and households the Sun has increased costs, especially in printing and distribution of

the newspaper. On our part we have controlled costs but we still find the need for some increases to off-set expenses.

Effective July 1 a paper purchased at one of our several dealers will cost \$1.50. Also effective July 1 the reduced subscription

offer will end and new subscription rates will also be implemented.

There has been no increase in Sun circulation pricing since 2014.

Thank you for understanding and continued support of your local newspaper!



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN

About 15 residents packed the conference room of the Kern River Valley Cemetery District.

**Meeting at a nonfunctional cemetery draws inquiring crowd's ire**

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

About 15 residents packed the audience of the conference room, at the Kern River Valley Cemetery District, where the board of trustees held its meeting Tuesday, Jun 11, to discuss the position the district was in, without the management, administration, or any grave digger whom the district opted to terminate in May, without replacements.

The termination of three of the district's four part-time staff members, left

Laura Kyt, the former employees who friends say would have been happy to stay and train any new incoming staff, though they were let go without the opportunity.

The board trustees mostly blame former employees for the poor shape the district was left in, by the time the Grand Jury report, on its investigation of the district, came out. The report can be read at the link below

[www.kerncounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/14881/638520604973000000](http://www.kerncounty.com/home/showpublisheddocument/14881/638520604973000000)

The majority of people packed into the tiny district headquarters were residents voicing support for Randy and

Laura Kyt, the former employees who friends say would have been happy to stay and train any new incoming staff, though they were let go without the opportunity.

At a former town meeting, Blythe told a group of locals that the district gave Randy and Laura Kyt the choice between resigning and termination. The district previously sent Laura Kyta letter indicating the board was considering her performance, in a closed session, before she was terminated.

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**Family unable to bury relative due to cemetery district terminations**

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

Kay Ferry has a history in Kern Valley, coming from a longtime, well known family. Imagine Ferry's frustration when it came time to bury her mother, Marilyn Hilsabeck June 10, and she and her three brothers Butch, Perry, and Michael Hilsabeck ended up finding out that the Kern River Valley Cemetery District was not

doing burials because the board of trustees fired all the district's employees at once.

After being inconvenienced by the expense of a needless trip to California, Ferry and her husband traveled back to Arizona, not knowing when she and her family could arrange the funeral.

Ferry told the Kern Valley Sun she just wanted to



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN

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**Resident seeks justification for steep water rate increase**

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

When local Sharon Riggan received an announcement letter, June 12 that was actually dated June 4, from Erskine Creek Water Company, about the proposed upcoming rate increase, she was surprised. The biggest reason for her surprise was the fact it gave the public very little time to respond to the public hearing or find out information.

Riggan's frustration was with the fact she just needed information to understand Erskine's validation for their requested increase, so she could file an appropriate and timely response to the Erskine officials and the California Public Utilities Commission. However she could not obtain the information she needed.

She said until we can review the file, per the letter, I cannot speak as to

Erskine's justification for the increase."

Riggan told the Kern Valley Sun last Sunday that Debbie Loseth, who is a manager for the water company, scheduled an appointment with Riggan for Monday June 17. Initially Loseth was attempting to contact the CPUC for advise on how to proceed, because Loseth's office was too small to accommodate groups of people. Loseth told Riggan Sunday that she could now field questions by phone.

"We just got off the phone with Debbie and she was very helpful and informative. We have a tentative appointment scheduled tomorrow (last Monday) to go into her office, a small group of us, to review the document. And she's going to have somebody available by phone to answer our questions. So there's cooperation and we're all good with that."

Loseth stressed that it is very im-

portant for the customers, the people concerned, to show up at the meeting, June 27 at 6pm at Veterans Room 1, located at the Kern River Valley Veterans Center to voice their concerns and be heard and to file any kind of protest letter if they protest the rates, if they have something to say, and the grounds upon which they do.

Protests and requests for evidentiary hearing must be submitted to the required entities within 20 days of the date in the notice, which was June 4, leaving a deadline of June 24, 3 days before the meeting.

Riggan planned to keep the public informed and post a form letter for the public on her Facebook page she named Erskine Creek Water Company District Rate Protest

Riggan said, "We love our water

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**KVHD Kern Valley Healthcare District**

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# COMMUNITY

## Riverside Grill provides jobs and American eats

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

Owners of the new establishment, Riverside Grill were very excited and nervous as they held their ribbon cutting opening Wednesday, June 12, in Kernville.

Owners Jami and Shawn Ward are not new to the restaurant industry, so they knew what to expect going in. "We had a restaurant prior in Kernville," said Jami Ward. "It's a busy location, and it's not COVID. The last business we opened was (during) COVID."

The menu at the grill is varied, featuring burgers, hot dogs, steaks, ribs, salads, sandwiches, fish 'n' chips, shakes, macaroni and cheese and offers take out. "I like to say American Fusion because it gives us a broad area," she said.

The couple plans to keep the doors open from 11am to 9pm, 7 days per week.

"We did something a little bit different than we did last time. We hired a lot of kids from the high school to give them an opportunity to work through the summer. And a lot of them, it's their first time having jobs," she said.

The high school has been getting a lot of work permits for students according to



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN  
(Left) Vice pres. of Kernville Chamber Gary Ananian, daughter of building owner Sbah Intayan (middle) with owners Jami and Shawn Ward and their family business staff members surrounding them, Pres. of the Kernville Chamber Orion Sanders (far right)

Jami Ward. The couple also hired a high school graduate to work at the restaurant.

The couple paid deference to a friend of theirs, according to Shawn Ward. Marvin Shepherd was an inspiration for their restaurant, so they wanted to name at least one menu item after him, the "Marv Dawg."

The couple planned to open the place since February. Because it wasn't their first time opening a business, they were experienced in the process and were able to get things done very quickly, with the help of friends. "This building sat empty for too long," said Jami Ward.



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN  
Kernville Fire Station's Captain Zac Boyd

## Firefighters train at water

Late Wednesday morning, June 12, trainees from one of the Kern County Fire Department's firefighter academies trained down at the Kern River, in Riverside Park.

Kernville Fire Station's Captain Zac Boyd told the Kern Valley Sun, "This is half of one of our fire academies. So we've got 22 recruits. They're going through their basic swift water-training course that Kern County Firefighters receive, because in the 8,000 or so square miles of the county, we don't just have the Kern River. We've got canals, we have lakes, we have the occasional flooding. So we make sure that our folks are trained to help the public whenever the call comes in."



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN  
Some of Kern County Fire Department's fire academy recruits.

## KERN RIVER VALLEY CRIME/ARREST REPORTS

PATTI ORR

The following is the crime data report for the Kern River Valley area from June 1-15 according to the Kern County Sheriff's Department. The geo-address level is approximately 100%.

**BODFISH, LAKE ISABELLA, MOUNTAIN MESA, SOUTHLAKE AND SQUIRREL VALLEY** – 1st; force or solid deadly weapon not firearm: great bodily injury likely, Jordan Road, missing person 100 block of Kellen Way, battery on person, 1100 block of Bodfish

Canyon Rd. Assault on person 300 block of Parkway, exhibit deadly weapon other than firearm, 2400 block of Harnage St., found property, 3600 block of Golden Spur St., battery on spouse/ex-spouse/date, 2000 block of old canal rd. 2nd; inflict corporal injury on spouse or co-habitant, 6600 block of blue Jay Rd., 3rd; Battery on person, 2800 block of Soavern St., vehicle theft, 2300 block of Reeder drive, 7th; battery on person, 5600 block of lake Isabella Blvd. And assist other department, 2800 block of lupine St., 8th; Battery on person, 2400 block of Clark St., 9th; extortion, 2100 block of rainbow drive and 14th; force or assault with

deadly weapon not firearm: great bodily injury likely, Lake Isabella Blvd.

**KERNVILLE** – 3rd; disorderly conduct alcohol, Burlando Rd.

**ONYX** – 2nd; battery on person, 7900 block of Rocky Hill Rd., 7th; possess manufacture sale metal knuckles, 8000 block of melody lane, 8th; contempt of court: disobey court order etcetera 7900 block of Rocky Hill Rd.

**WELDON** – 1st; drive without license, Bella Vista drive, 5th; theft of utility services, 15100 block of Kelso Ave., 12th; False report of an emergency, 5200 block of Hooper Rd.

PATTI ORR

The following of the list of Kern River Valley area arrests for the time period above according to the Kern County Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

**BODFISH** – 76-year-old Ernest Hathaway was arrested on May 31st on suspicion of exhibit deadly weapon other than firearm and threats of violence

**LAKE ISABELLA** – 31-year-old Albert Muesse was arrested on June 7th on suspicion of vandalism: \$5,000 or More

**ONYX** – 24-year-old Austin Springer was arrested on June 7th on suspicion of Possession of Controlled

Substance, Intoxicated in Public and Manufacture/Import/Sell/Etc. Metal Knuckles, 45-year-old Daemeian Lemon was arrested on June 10th on suspicion of Receiving Stolen Property – Motor Vehicle and Drive w/out License.

**WELDON** – 35-year-old Amanda L. Marmolejoredd was arrested by San Bernardino County Sheriff on June 10th on suspicion of Burglary.

## Supervising D.A. speaks at chamber

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

At a luncheon located at the Kern River Valley Eagles Lodge, the Supervising District Attorney Felicia Nagle was speaker from Kern County District Attorney's Office, Wednesday June 12.

Nagle spoke to the Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce general membership meeting.

She said, "I've been a prosecutor for 28 years. I moved here from L.A. back in 1996. I've wanted to be a prosecutor all my life. I love what I do."

Nagle supervises the areas of Delano, Shafter, Ridgecrest, Mojave, Lamont, and Lake Isabella, which is part of the Ridgecrest office. She oversees the attorneys within her team who are available to residents.

Her contact number is (661) 868-2340. Her email address is fnagle@kernda.org Fax (661) 868-2700

Nagle is from a family of educators though her immediate family is in law enforcement. She was the first to be appointed. And she has prosecuted a number of cases including homicides.

As supervisor of the Ridgecrest office Nagle sees the cases coming out of Lake Isabella are theft cases, and domestic violence, and drug

related offences. Ridgecrest office is limited as to what can be prosecuted as a felony regarding thefts. The law says that the amount shop-lifted or stolen has to be over \$950 value before it can be considered a felony. Thefts for less than \$950 would be considered a misdemeanor, unless the suspect already had a violent charge on their record, which is known as a "strike."

She said the DA's office could ask for a three-year sentence. But depending on how crowded the jails are, the sentence could be weeks instead of years.

Regarding domestic violence cases, there's a trend of the cases coming out of Lake Isabella. The determination between misdemeanor and felony depends a lot on the seriousness of the case.

"There are a lot of meth and fentanyl cases," Nagle said. Simple possession of the drugs would only be considered a misdemeanor unless authorities could prove the person possessed it for sale or was transported, in which case it would be tried as a felony.

In Ridgecrest there are two prosecutors. Nagle said to please feel free to call their offices because they're available to the community.



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN

### KERN VALLEY WEATHER

EIGHT-DAY VALLEY FORECAST

|              |                 |               |                 |               |               |                |                  |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|
|              |                 |               |                 |               |               |                |                  |
| <b>TODAY</b> | <b>THURSDAY</b> | <b>FRIDAY</b> | <b>SATURDAY</b> | <b>SUNDAY</b> | <b>MONDAY</b> | <b>TUESDAY</b> | <b>WEDNESDAY</b> |
| HIGH<br>87°  | LOW<br>59°      | HIGH<br>89°   | LOW<br>63°      | HIGH<br>96°   | LOW<br>69°    | HIGH<br>101°   | LOW<br>71°       |
| SUNRISE 5:37 | SUNRISE 5:37    | SUNRISE 5:37  | SUNRISE 5:38    | SUNRISE 5:38  | SUNRISE 5:38  | SUNRISE 5:39   | SUNRISE 5:39     |
| SUNSET 8:12  | SUNSET 8:13     | SUNSET 8:13   | SUNSET 8:13     | SUNSET 8:13   | SUNSET 8:13   | SUNSET 8:13    | SUNSET 8:14      |

### KERN VALLEY WATER WATCH

Kern River Basin Data as of Sunday, June 16, 2024

| Lake & River Information | This Week | Last Week | Last Year |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Lake Elevation           | 2,590.07  | 2,590.67  | 2,597.14  |
| Lake Storage             | 404,526   | 410,388   | 476,180   |
| Inflow Into Lake         | 1,437     | 971       | 9,402     |
| Outflow From Lake        | 2,288     | 2,157     | 5,579     |

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.  
All data is preliminary. Final figures may change. Elevation feed above sea level. Storage expressed in acre-feet. Inflow and outflow expressed in cubic feet per second. Inflow shown is at Kernville.

# BINGO

*Around the Valley*

## South Fork Woman's Club

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## VALLEY Worship Directory

### Christ Fellowship

Pastor Nick Cassidy

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them. *Matthew 18:20*  
80 Evans Rd.

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM across from Kern River Health Center

## KERN VALLEY SUN

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# Isabella Dam construction project lauded by national award



LOIS HENRY  
CEO-SJV WATER

The United States Army Corps of Engineers received a national award for safety, innovation and resourcefulness for its design and execution of the reconstruction of the Isabella Dam complex, according to a press release from the Army Corps.

The \$650-million project that succeeded in taking Isabella Dam off the Army Corps' list as one of the nation's "highest-risk dams," received the National Academy of Construction's 2024 Recognition of Special Achievement Award.

The award considers plan-

ning, engineering and solving design challenges among inter-national practitioners in the engineering, design and construction industries, according to the release.

Isabella Dam had been considered at significant risk for failure or over-topping prior to the safety modification project, which raised the main and auxiliary dams 16 feet and created a new emergency spillway with an iconic "labyrinth weir." The project, according to the release, greatly lowered flood risk for the more than 400,000 people living downstream of

the dam, which was originally built in 1953.

"From conception through completion, the project delivery team displayed the USACE ethos, developing creative and innovative solutions to solve significant challenges with-out sacrificing project schedule, budget, and, most importantly, safety," Chief of Engineers and Army Corps Commanding General Lt. Gen. Scott Spellmon was quoted in the release.

The labyrinth weir alone was a unique solution, increasing the amount of water that could be safely released

from a relatively narrow space using a three-story tall zig-zagging configuration built in a roughly 1,300-foot opening. If straightened out, the weir would be about 3,000 feet long.

To construct the new spillway, contractors had to blast out three million cubic yards of rock that was then crushed on-site for use in the two dams, saving time, money and emissions.

Even with 2.6 million working hours, the project didn't incur any significant accidents or injuries, according to the release.

The project was completed in October 2022, just a few months before California's epic 2023 winter brought hundreds of thousand of acre feet of water rushing out of the mountains filling Lake Isabella to the brim for the first time in years.

*SJV Water is a nonprofit, independent online news publication covering water in the San Joaquin Valley. Lois Henry is the CEO/Editor of SJV Water. She can be reached at lois.henry@sjvwat*

## Hospital hires new physician and CFO

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

At Kern Valley Healthcare District board meeting, Thursday June 13, during his Chief Executive Officer report Tim McGlew announced that the hospital was hiring its new Chief Financial Officer and a new physician.

"I'm pleased to report that we have a CFO. He is formerly at Catalina Hospital. He will be starting with us on Monday June 24th. We've received several rave comments about him from a number of outside references."

The KVHD set up a budget meeting and would be welcoming the new CFO.

The hospital has also found a new physician who plans to start on June 24.

McGlew said, "We submitted the letter of intent to participate in Health Net's 2023 voluntary rate range. Our portion of that tab would be \$4.8 million."

The hospital renewed its telemedicine agreement, which McGlew said continues to be a great tool for the hospital.

Another physician reached out, who is fairly local and is thinking about joining the practice in the fall, but was still undecided.

The hospital is holding its graduation ceremony for the CNA program graduates, Wednesday June 26, from 11 am to 1pm at Kern Calvary Chapel in South Lake.

Board member Ross Elliott questioned the foundation's auxiliary report regarding the Kern Valley Hospital Foundation awarding scholarships to

some high school seniors.

Elliott said, "I understand that this board has no authority over the decisions that the foundation makes. It just seems like there's not a very strong nexus from granting college scholarships to benefiting the Kern Valley Healthcare District."

Elliott said he didn't see how granting scholarships makes the district better or improves patient care. And with the scholarships in Kern Valley reaching over \$200,000 it seemed like the seniors already had a lot of resources. Elliott said, "We could be benefiting our patients, benefiting the experience here, at the hospital. I give my stipend that I get, as a board member, to the foundation, minus the taxes. It makes me want to pause."

Treasurer to the executive board, of the Kern Valley Hospital Foundation, Deb Hess said that the scholarship was directly related to River Rhythms. Anyone is eligible for the scholarship money. The foundation also has money to assist their CNAs. Once the CNAs graduate, and work for the hospital for six months, they are reimbursed for live scan and other things. Hess said that anyone winning the scholarship has to be going into the health care industry, public safety or STEM.

Elliott said he thought those scholarships were not being vetted closely enough and suspected that recipients were not all going into the health care industry.

## Art association releases valley anthology publication

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

The Kern River Valley Art Association (KRVA) held a reception, Saturday June 15, to celebrate and introduce its newly published anthology featuring various poetic works and art creations from Kern Valley poets and artists.

The KRVA held the event at the Station building, in Wofford Heights, where KRVA has opened a new coffee house and bookstore. There the anthology holds shelf space. The KRVA invites the public to purchase the book and visit the Station.

President of the KRVA Christopher Buffalo Folsom read a poem, which he wrote about his good friend who recently passed away, Brent Puniwai, who was vice president of the KRVA and an artist and screenplay writer, to whom the anthology is also

dedicated.

The anthology includes works of Puniwai, from his screenplay *Badwater*, which assistant editor Sandra Hughes formed into poetry.

Among those reading during the evening was the editor of the anthology, longtime poet John Peterson and back cover artist to the anthology Donna Miranda-Begay.

The anthology is titled "It Is The Land That Gets Us..." after a poem Peterson included in the volume. The editors included the works of about 20 poets and about 12 art pieces including the front and back covers. Ages of poets in the work ranged from 8 to 98.

Hughes and Peterson also invited the public to their next four-week poetry workshop series called "Create A Poetry E-Book," beginning July 18.



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN  
President of the KRVA Chris Buffalo Folsom.



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN  
An audience came to read and listen to poets at the Station.

## CEMETERY MEETING

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Friends of Laura and Randy Kyt say that Laura went through a great deal of stress before the review, including loss of family members, an accident, and resulting health issues.

At the district meeting residents had a three-minute statement period to introduce themselves and their purpose for their presence.

The majority of people at the meeting said that Randy Kyt should be hired back at the district, at least for long enough to train a new manager, or possibly hired as a consultant to assist whatever new district manager would be hired.

Mike Brownell from the American Legion Post 711 said, "The actions by the board, the day after Memorial Day, and not accepting any more business until you guys rectify the situation... I did read the Grand Jury report and I think that's more of a reflection on the board than it is on Randy and the other employees."

Local funeral businessman Rob Guidry asked the board of trustees to resign their positions. "You've failed in every way possible," he said.

Jerry Moffatt former school board member said, "I tried calling the cemetery numer-

ous times. And I get nothing. There's not even a spot on there to leave a message. That's disturbing for anyone that is in need. The firing of Randy and Laura has to be bad. You look around here and the memorials and everything that was done, and that's Randy." He also claimed that Randy and Laura Kyt's last paychecks were not signed and couldn't be cashed, as he dramatically dropped the envelopes containing their checks on the conference table before the seated trustees.

John Newman, president of the Kern River Valley Historical Society, said the history of the valley was tied to the cemetery. If locals could solve these problems among locals, it would be better than allowing someone else decide everything for the community.

Residents agreed that the district was understaffed, before the terminations, and was operating on too small a budget.

Blythe stated that Danny Brown, an employee of the South Kern Cemetery District, was willing to train the new employees to streamline things within the office internally. Blythe got the impression that Brown thought the district could function with just a District Manager, Office

Administrator, and Grounds Person. However Brown was not at the meeting.

Kernville Chamber of Commerce president, and business owner, Orion Sanders asked how the public could apply to the positions open at the cemetery.

Board chair Harry Schutetz claimed he's reaching out to other entities to obtain the right people to keep the district flourishing. The board was working with Kat Barnum at America's Job Center to fill the positions.

The board did not know how soon the district could be up and running for internments of the dead.

Guidry asked, "Who's going to pay for the difference in (cost for) holding the person that paid for their service? If I have to hold them at my place with a permit, who is going to pay for the extra cost to keep them? They paid in good faith, to you people, to do the internment. And what I'm seeing is a failure."

Schutetz dismissively said, "I'm sorry sir. At this point I don't have a comment."

Sanders said he thought County Supervisor Phillip Peters ought to make sure internments are done and would contact him personally.

Blythe said the district suffered from a lack of transparency due to falling behind on the public posting of minutes. He claimed he was under utilized for a year during his employ with the district. Bly-

the said, the board couldn't comment on a personnel issue regarding former employees. He hoped they could get things up and running as soon as possible and stated that board members are not on salary, but receive a \$50 stipend per meeting.

The Grand Jury report indicated that the district was behind on audits, with seven years outstanding, to be completed within one year. The district has been working with a CPA to update its records and updating its accounting system. The general ledger is a roadmap to what happens during the year, which was why the CPA had been working to bring them back, so the records could be audited. The years 2016 through 2019 ought to be completed by next month.

Board vice chair Kathy Agapiou and board trustee Esteban Olivares both said they wanted to address the water issue and grounds-keeping issue. Olivares said he wanted the board to consider a combination of zero water grounds keeping and the use of Cal Water to address the water concerns of the district. Agapiou thought the district might be able to get a grant to assist.

The board determined to hold monthly meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 1pm, rather than the alternate monthly meeting schedule they held previously.

## WATER RATES

continued from page A1

company. We haven't had any problems with them. It just hit us quick. And we were really confused."

The two largest increases, according to Riggan, would impact the schools, causing tax payers to be double taxed, because it would be passed on to tax payers. Small businesses in the district would be hit hard. The proposed rate increase is for 37.1%.

Riggan said, "Besides clearly inadequate notice and opportunity to prepare protest letters, my objections to Erskine's request are: While clearly everyone's costs have gone up, the average California water rates are going up by 9%, Erskine is requesting a whopping 37.1%. And in a community with 36.4% of residents living below the poverty line, and stats showing that Lake Isabella residents earning 1/3 of the average Californian's income. With so many seniors and children facing economic hardship and even homelessness, we believe this increase is excessive, 28% above the state average increase for water companies, and could force some families to choose between running water, food and medicine, or even out of their

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Mock MUSIC

Beginning Orchestra

Beginning Band

June 24th-28th, 10-11:30am

- Violin - Viola - Cello
- 1 week workshop
- Beginning Strings
- learn how to pay as an ensemble
- 5th-12th Grade

July 8th-12th, 10-11:30am

- Clarinet - Flute
- 1 week workshop
- Beginning Band
- learn how to pay as an ensemble
- 5th-12th Grade

Call 661-599-5694 for more information.  
5416 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella

# Mortuary owner petitions to remove cemetery district board

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

Robert Guidry owner of Lake Isabella Valley Mortuary held a community meeting Friday, June 14 at his place of business to educate the public regarding his movement to remove trustee members from the Kern River Valley Cemetery District board.

He said that there were violations of codes from the trustees, which were inexcusable, and prevented the cemetery district from providing inurnments to the public. He planned to contact the District Attorney about the code violations.

Randy Kyt and his wife Laura Kyt were removed as district employees in late May, as was their son, who was an on-call gravedigger. The three were terminated without a current replacement, leaving Guidry without any means to conduct a burial on a family's behalf.

Guidry had a burial to do, which was pre-set. He had the deceased person's remains brought in, from Arizona, when it was too late to change anything about the plans for the funeral service. He couldn't get hold of the cemetery.

"Over the years I've seen bad decision making in the board members on business decisions," Guidry said, "We are licensed here in this building. And I have a good track record. And I'm always going to stand for you, the consumer."

Guidry said he pulled up the Kern County Grand Jury report and found that, in his opinion, most everything on the report concerned board issues, not staffing problems. Guidry believes staffing had nothing to do with the board's decisions.

Guidry brought up the deposition report, to the board. He talked to the board chair, who told him the burial would be done on the 10th. Then the family could not bury their relative or hold their funeral on time, but ended up returning to their home in Arizona.

Board members sit on the board of trustees for a term of 4 years, however the County Board of Supervisors has not appointed a fifth trustee to the board to replace John Blythe who is now an employee at the district.

Guidry said cemetery district emergency meetings were supposed to be posted 24 hours in advance however the one on the June 5 was posted merely 18 hours ahead.

A local invited Cody Criswell, district director for County Supervisor Phillip Peters to Guidry's meeting the day before, but the meeting was set when Criswell had prior obligations. Criswell said that if the public wants him to attend any meeting they have to set the meeting around Criswell's schedule, in ad-



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN

vance.

Guidry said he called four times leaving messages with Criswell and never got any response from him or Supervisor Peters.

Guidry said his biggest concern was the district being shut down when people entrusted the district with money for their internments. But no internments were occurring because of the firing of two employees and one on-call gravedigger.

Gerry Moffatt brought up was the fact the board of trustees used the nepotism, alleged in the Grand Jury report, as an excuse to fire the employees, who were related. Yet none of the employees answered to one another as supervisor. They answered to the board of trustees, and therefore he supposed that nepotism was just an excuse to fire Randy and Laura. And they now have no one to manage the district, or conduct burials at the cemetery.

Moffatt read aloud the letter, addressed to the Kyt's, regarding performance evaluation and complaints dated May 14, which stated that the board would be meeting in closed session to evaluate Laura Kyt's performance as district secretary. The board considered complaints about her performance, her alleged failure to maintain acceptable communication with board members, being unresponsive, alleged failures to accomplish certain goals in the timely fashion. Laura Kyt had the right to receive notice on the closed session. And she had the right to be addressed regarding the concerns and complaints in an open session she could have requested. Moffatt said Kyt needed help and more hours but Blythe only had 8 hours to give her help and Laura Kyt had to repair the work.

Others at the meeting said they thought the district was using Randy Kyt as a scapegoat and the district ought to have given them notice so new personnel could be trained to replace them and burials could occur. They were concerned that burials were no longer occurring. Guidry said, "That's in violation of code 7735, which is punishable by six months in jail, and a

\$500 fine. Soon as they quit answering the phones they're in violation."

Local Orion Sanders said previously he heard there would be a professional running the cemetery in the interim. The person would be at the district, in the next couple of days, according to what Supervisor Peters told Sanders.

Guidry said he requested that board of trustees members step down in a letter he presented to the board at their meeting.

Former groundskeeper, Richard Wolfe said, "This whole thing about nepotism now that they (the board) are bringing up is a bunch of B.S. And it's just a way to get them (Randy and Laura Kyt) out of there. As far as I'm concerned the board can just shove it up their butt for bringing it up right now. This is just their way of clearing traffic to do what they want." He also said that the County under-funded the district and had been over working Randy Kyt. "When I worked there, there was a manager, there was a secretary, there was a full time grounds man and two part time grounds men. That's what that cemetery needs to run properly. And poor Randy's been doing the job of three people busting his ass every day making sure that cemetery is running." Wolfe said that when he worked up there alone at one point, he ended up permanently injuring himself, because he was doing the work on his own, without any help, when the district ought to have employed more staff.

Wolfe said the district would need Randy Kyt to train a new grounds keeper because the grounds have tricky pipes and wiring, making it difficult to backhoe.

Others said the community should pressure the current trustees to get employees at the district so they can reopen the district. The county was not providing the budget or tools to get the job done.

Local Everett Evans expressed his outrage saying, "Why is it taking four years to become a member on this board? This is what I'm seeing. They're not vetting anybody. It's a good old boys club, man. I'm not stupid."

# Whitewater Wednesday big splash for chamber



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN

Whitewater voyages staff prepares tourists for the raft tour.

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

The Kernville Chamber of Commerce revived its annual Whitewater Wednesday, June 12, at Riverside Park, though the event had gone dark in recent years. The event was a fundraiser for the chamber.

And while it looked as though this year the event might be canceled, due to lower interest, at the last day the tours booked at least 30 reservations. According to the vice president of the chamber, Gary Ananian, the event had not been going on for so long that he supposed it kind of fell off the radar for a lot of people.

He told the Kern Valley Sun, "In 2022 Whitewater Wednesday was canceled because of the low water year. Then in 2023 it was canceled because it was too big of a water year. So then this year it's like the perfect water year to do it."

How the event works is rafting companies participate to help the Kernville Chamber of Commerce raise money, which in turn brings attention to the rafting industry in Kernville.

Whitewater Voyages and Sierra South were the two outfitters running tours that day to help the chamber. Money raised from the event goes into the chamber's general fund, which according to Ananian is used for expenses of upkeep for the Whiskey Flat Days re-enactment encampment, the rodeo arena, office funds and other operational costs.

The chamber provided a pizza lunch to participants on the rafting tours.

Some tourists said they came over to raft from Tehachapi. One rafting registrant said this was her second voyage. "It's been a lot of years. I did the Lickety Split before. I'm excited. There's a lot of water now. I think it'll be just fine though," said Carol Bopp of Wofford Heights.



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN

Carol Bopp of Wofford Heights arrives in time for rafting tour.



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN

Whitewater voyages staff prepares tourists for the raft tour.

## UNABLE TO BURY

continued from page A1

honor her mother's wishes. She said, "Her parents are already up there. My father is already buried there. And her sister is already buried there. My dad and my mom prepaid for everything. And seven years ago she retired in Yuma Arizona where I live. And she passed there. And when she passed she was cremated in Arizona. And my husband and I came from Yuma, Arizona, yesterday. We brought her remains. And we had to leave her with Rob at the Lake Isabella Mortuary. And so then we thought that she was going to be able to be

interned today. And we found out that there wasn't anybody to do that, nobody to dig the grave, nobody to do anything. So we had to leave her."

The couple returned to their home in Yuma the next afternoon. Ferry said, "I have Pastor Ron Barker, where she went to church (and) knows the situation; he is going to be my eyes and ears and keep checking on when she could be buried with my dad. No one has any idea when she could be buried. Rob said, that we were the first ones to need to have someone buried there since all this has been

going on with the board."

Ferry said through tears, "This is causing a hardship. This is not right, that we can't bury her. I feel it's very unsettling, but nothing is finalized."

Ferry said that her mother passed May 14, but the family couldn't get away to bring her remains to the Kern Valley until they received the death certificate and paperwork had to be filed. The family was thinking of having her church family come to hold a service, and there was no one to dig the grave, or have the remains of her mother interned.

"It's unfortunate, all the way around. But when it's personal and you're trying to do the right thing by your mother, and there she sits,"

she said, crying once again.

Norman and Ethel Halver-son were members of Lake Isabella, moving to Kern Valley, from Los Angeles, in 1969. They're also buried at the same cemetery. "My father Harold Hilsabeck and also my mom's sister Wannie Halverson are buried at the

cemetery. They've all lived here since 1969," Ferry said.

She said the family was always active in the community. Everything was already prearranged, pre-paid, the family was trying to honor the wishes of their relative and was stalled. And now they'll have to make a

separate trip out here. "It's unfortunate, I just hope that they get everything straightened out," said Ferry.

The family was hoping another cemetery would come and conduct the internment but it never materialized.

## Free Summer Lunch at the Library

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at the  
**LIBRARY**

**LUNCH SERVED 11:30AM-12:30PM**  
**TUESDAY THRU FRIDAY**  
**JUNE 6 THRU JULY 28**

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**FOR MORE INFO, VISIT THE WEBSITE KERNLIBRARY.ORG**

## Senior Lunch Special

At the Senior Center • 6409 Lake Isabella Blvd. • 760-379-5831

**June 19**  
**Catalina Chicken**

- Spinach Salad\*\*
- Au Gratin Potatoes
- Fruit
- Yogurt
- Juice
- Milk

**June 20**  
**Cheese Omelet w/ Turkey Sausage**

- Broiled Tomato
- Cubed Potatoes
- Fruit Mix
- Biscuit
- Milk
- Juice

**June 21**  
**Meat Spaghetti**

- Broccoli\*\*
- Green Salad
- Tropical Fruit
- Garlic Bread
- Milk

**June 24**  
**Unstuffed Pepper**

- Italian Blend Veggies\*\*
- Diced Pears
- Wheat Roll
- V-8 Juice
- Milk

**June 25**  
**Greek Chicken Pita**

- Green Beans
- Spiced Apricots\*\*
- Cookie
- Juice
- Milk

**June 26**  
**Chef Salad**

- Carrot Sticks\*\*
- Strawberry Applesauce
- Crackers
- Banana Nut Muffin
- Milk

\*\* Items are a rich source of Vitamin A

**Seniors \$3 • Non-Seniors \$6**

# Book of Golden Deeds recipients announced, Fong's rep inducted into local org.

CATHERINE STACHOWIAK

changeClub/ Comstock who was previously working for former assemblyman Vince Fong during his administration will continue working for him during his congressional administration. Her job is to bring concerns from the public to Fong's D.C. team. She represents Fong for ribbon cuttings and presenting honorary certificates as well. The Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce Man of the Year, Gary Zuber, encouraged Comstock to join the Kern Valley Exchange Club. He said, "She's an awesome person. She's going to do amazing things in this club." The club, which focuses on child abuse prevention, also raises money for student scholarships, and helping other causes in the community. Comstock was born and raised in Bakersfield. She said, "I've come up here all my life doing different things



CATHERINE STACHOWIAK/KERN VALLEY SUN Ireland Comstock, Field Rep for Congressman Vince Fong.

and with our fly fishing group and whatnot. I like to be involved in the community." She worked for Fong since last August. She also worked on Kevin McCarthy's campaign and worked for three years, as a staffer, and one year as an intern when she was in high school. The club was planning its popular Rubber Duck fundraiser, which the club would be holding at the end of August, this year, tentatively Saturday, August 24. The club plans to sell approximately 1,000 tickets, around the end of June.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUPS

- Adult and Adolescent Substance Abuse Classes:** (Medi-Cal not accepted). Please call to schedule an appointment or for further information. 760-379-9194. 5121 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella.
- Al-Anon Meeting:** Wednesday, 80 Evans Rd., Wofford Heights, 7:00 p.m. Contact 760-379-7312 or 760-378-0041. These meetings are for friends and family of alcoholics.
- Alcoholics Anonymous:** Faced with a drinking problem? Perhaps Alcoholics Anonymous can help. Weekly meetings, call AA Hotline, 661-322-4025.
- Alzheimer's:** The Alzheimer's Disease Association of Kern County provides up to six hours of respite to caregivers who have a loved one with Alzheimer's or other related dementias. Currently, we hold these adult day services at the Veterans/Senior Center in Lake Isabella on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 9:00 - 1:30 (if weather permits). An application packet should be completed by the caregiver on your first visit. Call Otilia for more information at KDAKC (661) 665-8871.
- Celebrate Recovery at The Ark:** Come celebrate recovery every Friday at the Ark located at 5301 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella, CA 93240. The program starts at 7:00 p.m. Celebration Place - ages 5 to 14. The Landing - ages 14 to 18. Celebrate Recovery ages 18 & up, The Landing 13-18 and Celebration Place 0-13. For more information, call 661-862-9420 or info@knuckleupministries.org.
- Grief Share:** 1st Baptist Church Lake Isabella has resumed GriefShare Sunday school class at 9:15 am in The Fellowship Hall. Non Denominational course dealing with loss. All are welcome. 3701 Suhre St., Lake Isabella. Phone: 760-379-5615
- God's Closet Clothing Ministry:** Free gently used clothing for newborns through adults. Located at First Baptist Church Lake Isabella. Must make appointment by calling 760-379-5615 or e-mailing godscloset@fbclci.org
- God's Storehouse of the KRVA:** Feeding those in need in the Valley. Monetary donations are always welcome and may be mailed to P.O. Box # 2977 Lake Isabella, Ca. 93240. All donations are tax deductible. Call 760-223-0750 for more information. Located at 3810 Golden Spur, Lake Isabella. Hours of operation: 2nd Tuesday of each month 9am - 11pm and 4th Sunday of each month 1pm - 3pm.
- The Bristol Hospice (formerly Optimal Hospice) Grief Support Services:** Child and Teen Support. All child and teen services are uniquely tailored on a case-by-case basis. One-on-one counseling is available. Grief Support Group Information (BAKERSFIELD) In-person & Virtual. Bristol Hospice - 1675 Chester Avenue, Suite 401, Bakersfield, CA 93301. (Park in the parking garage located on Eye St. Enter through the black gate and up to the 4th floor.) Tuesday's 11:30am-1:00pm Thursday's 6:00pm-7:30pm. (TAFT) In-person Only. First Baptist Church - 220 North St., Taft, CA 93268 (Located next to the Church office on North St.) Third Wednesday of Each Month 1:30pm-3:00pm. Please E-mail or call our bereavement coordinator for more information: Jessica Mosley, MSW. Call: (661) 716-4000 E-mail: bereavement-bakersfieldhospice@bristolhospice.com
- NAMI Connection Recovery:** Connection Recovery Support Group, for individuals living with mental health challenges, meet every Monday, from 1-2pm. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call Lisa Wylie @760-417-1932.
- Passionate Hearts Support Group:** A Christ-centered, curriculum-based, 10-month support group for women wounded by childhood sexual abuse that provides a safe place for women to come together and work on the damage incurred through their abuse. Registration is required and space is limited. Call Alex at 760-298-0341.
- Pregnancy Resource Center:** Tuesday and Thursday each week, 1 to 5 p.m., 6040-D Lake Isabella Blvd. Lake Isabella. Free Pregnancy Testing, Peer Counseling, materials assistance, referrals. Mailing: PO Box 3015 Lake Isabella, CA 93240. Call 760-379-8893 for more information.
- The Salvation Army** is looking for donations for winter items of any type like coats, blankets, shoes, boots, and tents and much more. 5109A Lake Isabella Blvd. Lake Isabella Ca. 93240 Call Yolanda for more information at 760-379-0112 Monday and Friday only from 9am to 11am
- TOPS #436:** (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m., at the Senior Center in Lake Isabella. Open to the public. Call 760-379-3366 for more information.
- Women's Domestic Violence Support Group:** A place for education, healing, growth, and empowerment. Female survivors and family members are welcome. Every other Thursday, 5:30-7 pm. Call 760-223-2777 for location and information.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

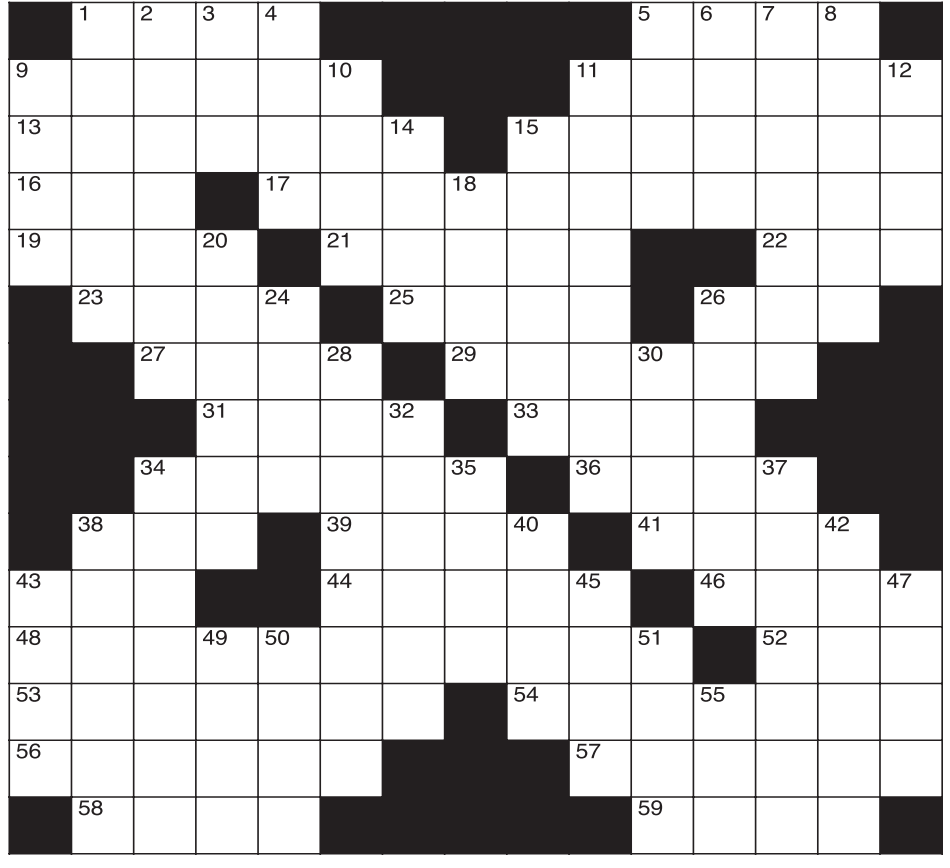
- Wed., June 19**  
Kern Valley Senior Dance  
Live Band, dancing, snacks, 50/50 drawing, No admission charge. Fun  
**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00 PM  
Every Wednesday  
**Where:** Kern Valley Senior Center, 6409 Lake Isabella Blvd, L.I.
- Stained Glass - Class  
RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 10am-1pm  
**Where:** KRVA Art & Community Center 6709 Wofford Blvd Wofford Heights, CA 93285
- Children's Workshop: Play-Doh Painting Art  
(Ages 4-10) RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 3:30-4:30pm  
**Where:** KRVA Art & Community Center 6709 Wofford Blvd Wofford Heights, CA 93285
- Workshop: Handmade Punk Patches  
RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 3:30-5:30pm  
**Where:** KRVA Art & Community Center 6709 Wofford Blvd Wofford Heights, CA 93285

- Blacksmithing - Class  
(Ages 12+) RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 6-8:30pm  
**Where:** Alchemy Industrial Art Center 30 Woodland Dr Wofford Heights, CA 93285
- Friday, June 21**  
Friday Movie Nights!  
Popcorn and Soda, Pricing: Donation  
Movie Announced on FB  
**Time:** Doors at 6pm  
**Where:** KRVA Art & Community Center 6709 Wofford Blvd Wofford Heights, CA 93285
- Saturday, June 22**  
Leatherworking for Beginners - Class  
Lacing, Dying, Painting, Tooling  
RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 11am-1:30pm  
**Where:** KRVA Art & Community Center 6709 Wofford Blvd Wofford Heights, CA 93285
- Monday, June 24**  
The Art of Handwritten Letters - Class  
RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 3-6pm  
**Where:** KRVA Art & Community Center 6709 Wofford Blvd Wofford Heights, CA 93285

- Tuesday, June 25**  
Jewelry Making with Angie - Class  
RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 6-8pm  
**Where:** KRVA Art & Community Center 6709 Wofford Blvd Wofford Heights, CA 93285
- Wednesday, June 26**  
Stained Glass - Class  
RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 10am-1pm  
**Where:** KRVA Art & Community Center 6709 Wofford Blvd Wofford Heights, CA 93285
- Improv Acting  
With Hollywood Casting Director Stanzi Stokes!  
RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 3-4:30pm  
**Where:** KRVA Gallery & Gift Shop 6749 Wofford Blvd Wofford Heights, CA 93285
- Blacksmithing - Class  
(Ages 12+) RSVP at KRVA.org  
**Time:** 6-8:30pm  
**Where:** Alchemy Industrial Art Center 30 Woodland Dr Wofford Heights, CA 93285

**Editor's Note:**  
Please call groups listed above to assure that information is correct prior to attending a meeting.

## PUZZLES & GAMES



- CLUES ACROSS**
- Understand intuitively
  - Two of something
  - Not involving computer tech
  - Acclaimed
  - Undermine
  - The condition of being concealed or hidden
  - Irritate
  - The process of developing a theory
  - Ceramic jar
  - Not fresh
  - Dad's fashion accessory
  - Popular review site
  - New Mexico county
  - '\_\_ death do us part
  - Fees
  - Takes with force
  - One-time Yankees rookie sensation
  - Gordon and Snider are two
  - Body parts
  - Arranges
  - Fiddler crabs
  - Mimics
- CLUES DOWN**
- Mangled
  - Ruffled some feathers
  - Not young
  - Lakers legend
  - Nocturnal S. American rodent
  - Direction (Scottish)
  - Intestinal inflammation
  - Spring back in fear
  - Owl genus
  - Girls
  - Unbeliefs
  - Force unit
  - Witnesses
  - They \_\_\_
  - Lasso
  - Runs down
  - In response to
  - Bird-like dinosaur
  - Metamorphic stages
  - Conditions of incapacity
  - Sodas are sold in these units
  - Break away from
  - Ethereal
  - Boggy
  - Expired trade agreement
  - Went alone
  - Animal noises
  - Woman who graduated from a specific school
  - The very top
  - Organs in males
  - Earnings
  - Z Z Z
  - Reddish browns
  - A salt or ester of acetic acid
  - A place to get off your feet
  - More disreputable
  - Kidney condition
  - Cease moving
  - Quick
  - Extra seed covering
  - "Survivor: Panama" winner
  - Six
  - One who inspects lamps
  - Small parrot
  - Primordial matter of the universe
  - \_\_ fi (slang)

### GRILL & BBQ WORD SEARCH

H B C T U O R T S V G B M A R I N A D E  
L L E H P P V C N P D V I H N T P L K O  
L U B N A O N P I B R T F S K R A B N Y  
P E R Y I R R F R D H L F I L R M N N T  
B R D B E R C C T E I E T E K S I R B B  
I E T A A N B O V V V C M O S M O K E S  
I D A S S O M E A K T O A A F N G E S G  
F N L T G N U I E L I E Y L L H I T P F  
I E F E Y I T N H R I B S R F F M I P G  
N T K A B U R N H C E H B D R N N R B L  
I K I H E R U T A R E P M E T A B B N E  
B R H N M B F L F K Y C S H R C C L N O  
T O A V I T A K M P C C I M E Y E A O R  
M F K H H L N R V N N K B G N A F A A I  
T C Y C F T P U B P V F I U N R S H B B  
N C B P Y M U O K E L L P T R A C I P R  
D K V K G R I L L C C R R E D G P F Y E  
M L D E G A Y R D S N U T O A S E B D A  
G G G M E I V F F D T L E G V D V R V H  
H E A T O D T O I L V U B D A F U U S B

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

- ### WORDS
- ACIDIC
  - ASADO
  - BARBECUE
  - BARK
  - BASTE
  - BRINE
  - BRISKET
  - BURGERS
  - CARRYOVER
  - CHAR
  - CHARCOAL
  - CHIMNEY
  - DRY-AGED
  - FLAME
  - FLAT
  - FORK-TENDER
  - GRILL
  - HEAT
  - LEAN
  - MARINADE
  - RIBS
  - RUB
  - SMOKE
  - TEMPERATURE

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 |   | 4 |   |   |   | 3 |   |
| 6 |   |   |   |   |   | 7 | 2 |
| 8 |   |   |   |   |   | 6 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 |
|   | 6 |   | 7 |   |   | 9 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 9 | 6 | 8 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 8 |   | 5 |   |
| 3 |   |   |   |   | 9 |   |   |
|   |   |   |   | 5 |   | 2 | 4 |



# VIP in the KRV

Very Important:  
Person - Place - Pet  
Post - Party  
In the Kern River Valley



Community Camaraderie  
with Kelley McCoy

## Team Ochoa

You may have seen or maybe you know Yolanda Ochoa and her daughter Destiny (Team Ochoa). They can be seen around the KRV as undercover volunteer crusaders helping those in need. They have a 24 year association with Community Action Partnership and currently hold a board position, 23 years helping Saint Jude Catholic Church, along with FFA at Kern Valley High School and now Ochoa is the site coordinator at the Salvation Army. They have held this position for about 2 1/2 years. Yolanda relocated to the Kern River Valley with her husband and four children from Los Angeles in 1997. Destiny has been at her side helping others since Yolanda retired and Destiny graduated from high school.

**When is the KRV Salvation Army open for service?:**

Monday and Friday. 9:00am to 11:00am for food distribution and Tuesday for bill assistance.

**How many families do you provide food service for?:**

Destiny and I prepare baskets with food and occasionally some toiletries, for about 50 families per day, 100 families per week. Also electric bill assistance when funds are available.



**Where do the food donations come from?:**

Our local Von's Market and Grocery Outlet. We also receive some extra goodies from individuals in our community.

If someone would like to donate to our local families through the Kern River Valley Salvation Army what are some of the things that are needed?:

SOAP! So many times people have come in to ask for a simple bar of soap. Toiletries such as toothpaste, feminine products, deodorant, toothbrush Etc. Laundry detergent and

socks.

New or gently used toys for the children.

Team Ochoa, do you have any shout outs?:

We appreciate our friends and family helping us so much and we definitely would like to give a "shout out" to Lana Clark who founded the Happy Feet Dance!

Thank you Team Ochoa for helping our community here in the Kern River Valley. We appreciate you!



## SPORTS

**Isabella True Value.**  
6050 Lake Isabella Blvd., Lake Isabella • 760-379-4250

## Volleyball players practicing their skills in the summer

RAY CONNER

A group of valley volleyball players went to Bakersfield each to enhance their talent on the courts.

This is not a win/loss program, but one that will improve their skills so it will translate on the volleyball court in the upcoming season. The summer is a time for players to correct some of the things they might have allowed to become habits during a long and tenuous season.

The games played are more pick up style, as stats are not important or are they kept. The players are learning to be teammates and getting a chance to see where they stand coming into the next season of volleyball when the

new school year starts.

Jamie Duran leads these young ladies and allows them to learn on the go. She wants them to figure things out on the court and get the players to be comfortable on the volleyball court with each other. The summer games consist of two sets to 21 points, with a cap score of 23. So far, they have played six games.

Duran said, "We have done very well. We use this league, not to win, but to try new things. To explore different rotations and positions, and to give multiple players touches on the court."

Currently there are 12 players on the team. There is a mixture of varsity and some jayvee players. Kern Valley players are Ruby Hawkins, Paisley Wilkins, Ava Elliott, Jessie Bunting, Ellie Allen,

Elli Jeans, Doslyn Epps, Riley Wilkins, Samantha Wyly, Ashley Plante, Kenadie Young, and Jade Montes.

Duran commented, "We pulled up some jayvee players for exposure and had a strong focus on communication as well as short term memory. Our swings look good as do our serves. This group is quick and continuing to improve on their court reads and passing."

Molding a team in the summer can only lead to good things happening on the volleyball court when it actually matters. In this these young ladies have a head start in creating what might be a team that will do good things on the court when they face down their opponents in the upcoming season.



SUBMITTED BY JAMIE DURANG

A member of the Kern Valley summer squad volleyball team gets ready to slam down a spike in a recent game played in Bakersfield.

## South Fork hosts open gym for hoops

RAY CONNER

South Fork School will be opening their gym on Tuesdays for basketball players

to get in some work over the summer.

It is open to sixth through 12th grade, and the times are from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Players need to bring their

own footwear, and appropriate clothing. Pick up games and shoot arounds are on the agenda.

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**KERN VALLEY SUN**



# SPORTS

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Youth bowling league.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Youth Bowling League gives kids a fun summer sport

TJ SANDERS

Many people don't realize bowling is a true sport. They just think of it as something to go out and do for fun when on vacation or to hang out with friends.

Mt Mesa Lanes is the bowling alley we have in the valley and they have a youth and adult league available for people to come in and play. When Gabby Mayfield and her father first bought the bowling alley they had a lot of work to do on the place. They had to make many renovations to make the place more appealing for people to come in and bowl.

They instantly started a youth bowling league, which

turned into a youth/adult league, to get kids involved in this sport. Gabby's favorite part is that it gets the parents involved outside of the house.

The hardest part about the youth league is keeping the kids involved due to other sports. The summer season has less kids due to softball and baseball compared to the winter season when there are less popular sports happening. They play three games every Saturday at 6PM.

While asking some of the youth league members what their favorite part about being involved in the league is, these are some of the responses:

Phoenix Ferguson, 14 "It is so much fun and I enjoy going against other players."

Cali Ferguson, 10 "It is a good way to spend your Saturday nights with your family and friends."

Skylee Aulston, 11 "You get to meet new people, and hang out with friends every week while bowling."

Gauge Deer, 14 "Best thing is getting to compete with other bowlers and try to beat them."

Kaleb Johnson, 16 "Making new friends."

Taylor Salmon, 16 "I have so much fun being in the youth/adult league. You can connect with people and make a bowling family and everyone is so supportive."

Contact Mt Mesa Lanes for more information. (760) 379-3131

## Weighing the future of Kern Valley athletes

RAY CONNER

With the school year over, a group of Broncos and Lady Broncos athletes are hitting the weight room in hopes of building on their success.

Taking a page out of other athletes, there is never an off season. It's only between seasons that keep the momentum going and the skill level rising. This is true for these future athletes at Kern Valley. They are making time to get into the weight room at the high school.

Putting in the work during the down time, makes it possible to be strong when the season starts and then finishes. All sports season are

longer no and most athletes play more than one sport. Weight training keeps their body strong and less susceptible to injury. This is the new thinking when it comes to sports at this level and the higher levels.

Shohei Ohtani one of the dominant players in Major League Baseball uses weight training to improve his skills at the plate. On his website this is what is said about his work out, "Ohtani incorporates compound movements like squats, deadlifts, bench presses, and overhead presses to develop overall strength and explosive power." Of course, this is not saying there is an Ohtani at Kern Valley High School, but you never

know. Any edge to become a better athlete is a step in the right direction for both the athlete and their team.

Currently the Lady Broncos take the morning session from 6:30 a.m. until 7:15 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Kern Valley coach Jamie Duran, leads these girls as they go through a weight and plyometric routine. The varsity and JV football go through a daily practice from 12:30-3 p.m. which include weight room time. The varsity players are gearing up the passing league at BC on Thursday.

What will this mean to the next sports season for these athletes? Possibly a head start on their competition when the actual season starts.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

This group of Lady Broncos are currently hitting the weights as they prepare themselves to improve their strength and conditioning for the sports year at Kern Valley High School.

# AYSO 10U Soccer squad competes near the beach

RAY CONNER

Filling up their day with soccer, Kern Valley's AYSO Region 294 10u Girls Stars played in a tournament in Huntington Beach.

With the cool ocean breeze in the distance, the Girl Stars kicked off the action in the Surf and Turf Tournament. They would get the chance to play three games over the weekend. The local squad was able to compete with the more powerhouse teams as each match on the pitch was not decided until the very end. The heart this team showed was in the pursuit of the game. They never quit and played until the final whistle was blown in each match.

In game one, the Girl Stars faced off with a team from Culver City. While the final score was in their opponents' favor, the 4-2 score does not indicate the level of effort displayed by this team. Despite trailing, late in the game, the Girl Stars were able to close the gap with a pair of goals. Ellowyn Speakman slid one into the net for her first career goal to start the potential comeback. This was followed within a minute by another shot into the net by Skyla Plante. Unfortunately, this is where the rally ended and they suffered the loss in the first match. Girl Stars coach Skylar

Hug commented, "There was no quit in sight, but unfortunately, we ran out of time while they had the op-posing team on their heels"

Game two of the tournament, was later in the day. This squad of young ladies took on a powerhouse in Chino Hills. The Girl Stars were under the gun as they were limited to just one goal in the match. Plante placed the lone goal in the back of the netting to put the Girl Stars on the board.

The goalie for the Girl Stars faced an onslaught of shot attempts by Chino Hills. She was credited with over 20 saves. While the final score was not reported, it did not faze this team in playing to the end. Coach Hug said, "This was a tough match-up for the Girl Stars. Both teams played their hearts out, we just fell short of victory."

In their final match of the tournament the next morning, the Girl Stars went up against the San Pedro Pirates. The was a nail-biter as the two teams were determined to collect a victory. The see-saw contest went back and forth over the pitch. Both teams were focused on getting the ball on the net. The shots on goal for the Girl Stars reached a high number. Sadie Hug and Remi Preston were able to pepper the opposing goalie

with plenty of shots attempts. When the final whistle was blown, the scoreboard showed the Pirates having the edge with the 2-1 win.

Plante recorded the only goal of the match. This made it a hat trick of goals for the weekend. She scored three times in three matches. The defensive leaders of the game for the Girl Stars were Kenzie Whitfield, Grace Fisher, and Avery Powell.

Coach Hug finished off by saying, "Games were played, memories made, and friendships grew stronger through this experience. This would be the last tournament as 10U All-Stars for these girls. A special thank you to Sierra Gate-way for their generous donation of a Yeti cooler. This enabled the girls to raffle off tickets to raise money for their tournament. Thank you to everyone who donated."

Despite coming out on the wrong side of the scores this team of 10U soccer players did well in competition and representing the Kern River Valley.



SUBMITTED BY SKYLAR HUG

L-R: Avery Powell, Kenzi Whitfield, Remi Preston, Skyla Plante, Rose Sowa, Ellowyn Speakman, Sadie Hug, and Grace Fisher. These girls competed as the AYSO 10U Girl Stars in a tournament in Huntington Beach.

### Matter of Opinion

## Stop complaining and put out an effort

RAY CONNER

Stop me if you've heard this statement before. "There's nothing to do around here!"

If you look around the Kern River Valley there is a menagerie of sports related things to do. One definition of a what a sport is: An activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for that matter there are a lot of non-sports related things to do in the Kern River Valley, but that's another story as I'm keeping this, sports related.

One could almost cover the alphabet in sports around the valley. Let's start with the easiest: A as in aquatics. Plen-ty of water around this valley to swim, dive, or splash around in a

pool. You have the lake, the river, (Please be safe if you choose to swim in the lake or the river), the pool at South Fork or an individual pool.

No, I'm not going to list the 26 letters in the alphabet of sports. If I was online I def would have put LOL at the end of that statement. One that I will mention is 'sk8' boarding. The brand-new skate park has had plenty of people trying out the new novelty spot in the hopes of perfecting their gnarly 180's, 360's, airwalks, carves, or sticks. All in hopes of not being sketchy or producing the dreaded wipeout.

Then of course there is baseball, basketball, bicycling, bowling, hiking, trail riding, running, softball, adult soft-ball, soccer, tennis, windsurfing, water skiing, and in the winter snow skiing, snow mobile riding,

cross country skiing. Then of course you have corn-hole, horseshoes and rodeo. Rodeo is a bunch of sports all rolled into one category. One of the newer fads in the KRV is pickle ball. There's a club that competes up here and it's literally sweeping the valley. Players are playing in tournaments just about every weekend or playing on the home courts that are out there. Once the rage, that now has settled down to a sometime thing is the Texas Hold 'Em poker tournaments offered for groups as a fund-raiser. One was just completed and a good time was had by all.

So, as you can see these are just a few of the sports happening around the KRV, I could go on and on like Don McLean's American Pie, but I won't subject you to another long litany of sports. One must make an effort and you could go to



find out more of what's exactly going on in the Kern River Valley.

So, the next time someone says, "There's nothing to do." Bring out this column that I know every one will save for future use and remember, it's usually the one complaining, "there's nothing to do", that is failing in effort of finding things to do. That's a Matter of Opinion.

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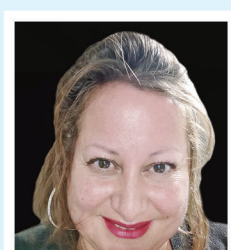
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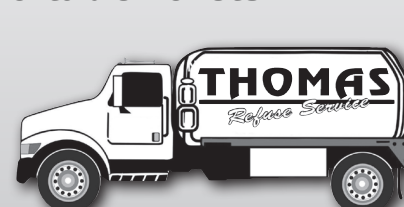
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SALE \$9.99 - \$2 ACE REWARDS EXCLUSIVE\*  
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7114176, 7215197, 7435290  
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