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# CSD manager talks land purchases at Kiwanis meeting

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) General Manager Mark Martin provided new information about proposed district acquisition of open spaces and golf club property when he spoke to Kiwanis Club of Rancho Murieta at their Nov. 2 meeting.

Martin also talked about his personal and professional background such as growing up in Sacramento, working in the private sector before hiring on with the City of Stockton 14 years ago and the value he places on good customer service. He and his wife Amy live in Lodi and have four boys.

Martin said he'd only been on the job nine hours when he learned two CSD directors, John Merchant and Jerry Pasek, wanted the district to consider buying the open spaces around the back lakes and golf course property. After the two explained their ideas at the Oct. 18 board meeting, directors voted 5-0 to direct staff to consider it further.

Although the proposal is in its infancy right now, CSD does have the power to provide recreational services as a governmental agency.

"At the last Board meeting, we weren't certain if we actually had that authority yet," Martin said. "But we have since verified that we have had recreational powers since 2005."

Martin said that authority was granted by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo).

The mechanism to pay for it would be a community

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Photo by Gail Bullen

Mark Martin, the new general manager of Rancho Murieta Community Services District, speaks to Kiwanis Club Nov. 2.

facilities district (CFD) that would assess parcels within the district.

'CSD itself would be the facilities district for the acquisition of the land and for the construction of amenities," Martin said.

A mechanism to pay for ongoing operations and maintenance also would be needed. Martin said the recreational expenses could be put into a lighting and landscape district that would have a separate parcel fee.

Martin said the CFD would run for 30 years.

"Once the 30 years runs out, all the principal and interest are paid, then that cost goes away," Martin said. "The operations and maintenance are essentially perpetual."

Martin said amenities are also being considered such as a large swimming pool, a fitness center and a community center - either as a standalone building or a modeled clubhouse.

'This is all in flux. These are just some of the ideas that are out there," Martin said. "It really has to be cemented before we get to real dollars as to how much it would cost."

Martin said the CFD would go out as a bond election to all district residents. Passage would require a two-thirds vote of those

"The lighting and landscape might have a lesser (voting) threshold than the CDF," Martin said. "But it would be a moot issue if we aren't purchasing the

Martin said he brought up the topic at the Kiwanis

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# Wilton resident dies in single-vehicle crash

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

A Wilton resident died in a single-car crash on Dillard Road just west of Meiss Road late Saturday morning Nov. 4.

California Highway Patrol Officer Michael Bradley identified the motorist as Brandon Maldonado, 18. He said Maldonado was driving east in a 1997 Toyota Camry when it left the road for an unknown reason and struck a power pole. Bradley said alcohol pear to be a factor in the crash. It was raining at the time.

Eleven Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District firefighters responded, according to Capt. Christopher Vale.

"Lifesaving efforts were attempted on scene, but the patient was declared deceased prior to extrication," Vale said.

According to a Facebook report, several motorists also stopped to help.

# Steve Mobley resigns as CSD interim security chief

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

Steve Mobley has resigned as interim security chief for Rancho Murieta Community Services District after less than four months on the job. He also has withdrawn his application for the permanent position.

"I have too many family obligations, and life got in the way," Mobley explained. Mobley is a retired police veteran who also is a past CSD Board member.

Despite his short time on the job, Mobley has several accomplishments to his credit, although some of his

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Steve Mobley resigns as security chief for Rancho Murieta Community Services District.

# CRLL plans training for 2018 youth umpires

By Gail Bullen River Valley Times Reporter

Teenage boys and girls who have aged out of Little League but would like to stay connected to baseball and be paid in the process will have an unprecedented opportunity with Cosumnes River Little League (CRLL) before spring season opens.

Billy Haze, a collegiate umpire who has officiated a College World Series and who trains adult umpires, will provide top notch training to current and aspiring CRLL youth umpires at three sessions in January.

Rob Winter, CRLL umpirechief and vice president, only knew Haze as the father of one of the 7-year-old players on the baseball team he man-



Photo by Gail Bullen

Rob Winter (left) and Billy Haze plan to recruit more teenagers as youth umpires for the 2018 Cosumnes River Little League season with new, high-level training. Winter is CRLL umpire in chief. Haze is a collegiate umpire who puts on workshops for adult umpires.

aged last year. His casual offer to help with umpiring in the 2018 season didn't grab his attention.

It wasn't until Winter saw

Haze officiating a River Cats game that he began to realize what this Rancho Murieta dad was all about. A professional umpire who has traveled the

country and world calling baseball games since 1994, Haze will begin his 12th year of officiating Pac-12 Conference baseball games in February. He officiated the Collegiate World Series in 2016.

Haze spent the first eight years of his career as a baseball minor league umpire and has won numerous honors. He also is president of Black & White Umpire Camps that trains adult umpires who hope to break into collegiate umpiring. Haze is planning four workshops in 2018, continuing to use a cadre of other topnotch umpires as instructors.

In fact, Haze will bring three of his camp instructors with him when he and Winter put on this year's training for

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# $\mathsf{CRLL}$

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CRLL youth umpires. Like Haze, two of them have officiated at Collegiate World Series and the third has umpired a Little League World Series.

Winter, and Haze are planning a classroom orientation session on Jan. 9 and two skill clinics on the field on Jan. 17 and 18. As happened last year, Winter will mentor youth umpires throughout the season. Teens and parents interested in the youth umpire program should contact Winter at 916-505-1326 or at umpire.crll@ gmail.com

Winter already has 13 youth umpires who are returning for the 2018 season. But he hopes the lure of an unprecedented level of training will increase the total to between 25 and 30 youth umpires. The youths are paid \$25 a game to be a base umpire and \$37.50 to be a home plate umpire.

The CRLL website describes youth umpiring as a fun way to stay involved in baseball: "Umpiring also looks good on a college application because it requires many of the qualities colleges look for: leadership, confidence and the ability to make decisions under pressure."

Winter and Haze said junior umpires also learn invaluable



Courtesy photos

A youth umpire makes calls at a CRLL game last year.

life lessons such as perseverance, punctuality, integrity and resilience, all of which will serve them well in every part of their lives.

As for the CRLL youth umpire program overall, the two men see it as a small piece of solving a national epidemic the precipitous decline in high school referees that is endangering sports programs across the country.

"The reason is there is so much poor sportsmanship displayed in a lot of sports," Haze said.

Young people just getting into high school officiating are immediately turned off, so they aren't replacing older umpires who are aging out of the business.

The two men see Rancho Murieta as a healthy environment for youths to learn umpiring skills. Winter said that stems from CRLL culture and values being taught to the team managers and coaches and instilled in the young

Haze also thinks it is Rancho Murieta.

"It is a tight-knit community and people here have a lot more respect for human beings," Haze said. "It allows them to relax and learn on the job without having to be ridiculed by the crowd.

That isn't to say that youth umpires don't get negative feedback when officiating a

"The chirping isn't malicious," Winter said. "It is saying something like 'That was a strike."

Dealing with adversity and staying focused also is part of the learning process.

When mentoring junior umpires last year, Winter said he made sure team managers and coaches respected their decisions.

"We have taught the managers that a judgement call can't be disputed,' Winter said. "They can appeal a ruling but as for balls, strikes, outs and



Dominic Ivezich (left) and Anthony Borg are CRLL youth umpires.

safes, they have to live with that.'

Last season, Winter staffed 124 home games with umpires. Of those, youth umpires officiated 103 games, and the remaining 21 games were staffed by an outside adult umpire association. Youth umpires also officiated some of the Major team games (with the oldest, most competitive players) last year even though managers typically ask for adults.

Last year, Jordan Remington was one of the few youth umpires tapped for Major games. A senior at Folsom High School, Remington came up through CRLL, playing baseball from age 10 to 14. When he was 13, he became interested in umpiring after his father became umpire-in-

"I really love baseball, but I

was never really good at playing it," Remington said. "But I know the game extremely well, fell in love with umpiring and got good at it."

Remington said umpiring a game is very stressful.

"Whenever I make a call, one side is happy, and the other side is always upset," Remington said. "There's noise from the dugout, the players and the stands." Nevertheless, he

Remington said other young people considering umpiring must care about the sport.

"You can't just go out there and do it for the money," Remington said. "You have to have some passion for it."

Prospective umpires must also be confident.

"When someone approaches you with a rule they just made up, you must quiet them down," Remington said. "You can't be shy, and confidence is key."

Remington said umpiring had been a great way to earn money.

"Except I don't feel like I am working. I feel like I am watching a baseball game, except it is up close and personal."

Remington plans to study communications in college and hopes to become a sports announcer specializing in baseball.

CRLL also draws players from Wilton and Sloughhouse and has a robust softball program for girls.



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