

**OBITUARIES**

Evelyn M. Woodward  
 James G. Konvalinka  
 Ray Johnnie Williams  
 Norma C. Hollar  
 William Wakefield Gurr

# River News-Herald

## & Isleton Journal



Rio Vista Ram's homecoming

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50¢

## Dolk Tractor adapts to compete

**ARLENE RIVERA**  
 Staff Reporter

Dolk Tractor Company, a Rio Vista family-owned and operated business, has been serving the Sacramento Delta since 1948. Dolk Tractor sells new and gently used "Harvest Return" tractors at competitive prices everyday, but for the month of October they are selling the New Holland TC30 Tractor/Loader for even less at \$13,200, which is about 2 thousand dollars less than the usual cost.

The company was family oriented from the beginning, founded in 1948 by Seth Dolk and his son Stan Dolk. It is now owned by husband and wife Rod and Vicki Dolk. Vicki is the office manager, and their son Rick helps run the business. Rod was born and raised in Rio Vista and lives there today. Rick was born in Rio Vista and attended Rio Vista High School, and now lives in Elk Grove.

Rick attributes the company's staying power to their long-standing Delta customer base and ability to adapt to a quickly changing market. According to Rick, tractor brands have a shelf life- his family has seen many popular brands die out. "You have to be willing to adapt to the changes in the market. Some people are hesitant to change products, but you have to in order to adapt to your customers' needs," Rick explains. Rod knows a lot of farming equipment dealers in the Midwest who see the new trends in equipment before California dealers do. One of these recent trends that has proved to be a positive change is the selling of smaller-sized tractors. "Years ago we never would have thought that these tractors would sell as well as they do, but we now sell more small tractors than we do large," Rick said. People use these smaller types to do their own landscaping activities.

Rick also emphasized that their business does well because of their tractor selling process.

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## Locke celebrates Chinese heritage



Photo by Arlene Rivera

Dancers, art walk and unveiling of new monument pay tribute to rich Chinese heritage in Locke.

**ARLENE RIVERA**  
 Staff Reporter

On October 13, 2007, Locke celebrated its Chinese heritage with an art walk, Locke reunion, tile fund-raising project and the unveiling of the new monument. The new monument, conceptualized and co-created by artist Elyse Marr, was introduced by multiple speakers before it was unveiled. State senator Dr. Leland Yee welcomed the crowd and gave his view of the monument, as well as Sacramento County Supervisors Don Nottoli and Jimmie Yee. Illa Collin, a former Sacramento County Supervisor who was involved in the monument project, also spoke at the ceremony. The Delta Protection

Commission was represented by Linda Fiack, who spoke about the projects relevance to protecting the Delta. Long-time Locke residents and Chinese Americans Ping Lee and Connie King spoke about the changes the monument's importance to the community as well. Monument artist Marr was there to explain her creative process, and Scott Nakaji from California State Parks and Recreation talked about the future of Locke, as the old boarding house there is being fixed up to become a Visitor's Center within the year.

The Locke Foundation established the Community Park Monument Project, of which the unveiling of the monument is phase two. A non-profit organization, the Locke Foundation solicits donations and

grants from the surrounding communities and other public and non-profit agencies. Their goal is to help preserve the cultural and historical significance of Locke.

The monument unveiled at the ceremony is a tribute to the Chinese immigrants who settled and helped create the town of Locke. The town was built in 1915 after a fire destroyed the Chinatown in Walnut Grove. Since the California Alien Act prohibited Chinese from owning land, a man named George Locke let them build on what was first his land. Locke is the only town in the United States built by the Chinese for the Chinese, and was thus added to National Registry of Historic Places in August of 1970. It became a national landmark in 1990.

Delivering a speech before the

See Heritage/ Page A2

## Adams family self-serve pumpkin patch

**BY ARLENE RIVERA**  
 Staff Writer

According to Brian Campbell, next door neighbor to the Adams family, their house gets attention from everyone in the neighborhood on holidays. "Russ is very creative. At Christmas time his house is amazing. Everyone stops and looks at what he does."

Russ and Nancy Adams live in Walnut Grove. Russ has arranged a mountain's worth of pumpkins on their front lawn for a self-serve pumpkin patch that will benefit the local Presbyterian Church's youth group TNT. He arranges the pumpkins in a different design every night to decorate the neighborhood and call attention to his sale every day. They have made pictures so far of an infinity sign, a flower, Delta Football spelled out, and TNT spelled out. The pumpkins are sold on an "honor basis," with an "honesty box" hanging from the trees for payment purposes. People can come by any time and buy a large pumpkin for three dollars,

medium for two, and miniature pumpkins for one dollar each.

Russ, a 24-year member of Walnut Grove wants to make enough

See Pumpkins/ Page A2



Photo by Arlene Rivera

The Adams Family are more generous than spooky when it comes to pumpkins and the holidays.

## Rio Vista's 60th Annual Bass Derby lacks draw without festival

**ARLENE RIVERA**  
 Staff Reporter

This year's 60th Annual Rio Vista Bass Derby was met with sunny skies but not very many participants; the event Web site expected over 40,000 people to show up to fish and watch the derby, but this year's derby had less than 20 participants. Speculation from the crowd suggested that the absence of this year's annual Bass Festival was a factor in the lack of people fishing for and attending the event. Those who did participate brought back some large fish to substantiate their 'fish stories,' with the largest fish bringing in prizes ranging from hats and T-shirts to a grand prize of \$2,000 cash.

The derby began on Friday, October 12, 2007 at 6:00 a.m. and ended on Sunday the 14th at 3:00 p.m. Winners were announced on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. There were three categories of fish entered by adults: Striped Bass, Sturgeon and Salmon; and the kids caught Catfish and Bass for the competition. The Bass and Sturgeon were measured to decide the winner, and the Salmon won by weight. The fish entered into the contest first determined which participant won in case of a tie-which there were many of.

Kyle Johnson, who took second place in both kids' competitions- Bass and Catfish, said that he was on the boat from Saturday at noon until Sunday at 1p.m. for his catches. Johnson thought that maybe Friday's heavy rainfall scared other would-be fishing participants away this year. He won a \$50 savings bond for his second-place Catfish, and four tickets to Ripley's Believe It Or Not in San Francisco for his second-place Bass. Jacob Baxter

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# Heritage

Continued from page A1

monument was unveiled, Yee told the crowd that as fate would have it he was "supposed to be in China leading a delegation of Senators, but the Good Lord decided to put me here today." He explained that many Chinese Americans "do not have a full appreciation or understanding of what has happened to Chinese immigrants." He said that while they may have started their American journey in San Francisco, many of had to leave to face challenges in other parts of California, and "not just Stockton and Sacramento." "Our forefathers and foremothers came to this area and got through many trials and tribulations, through discrimination they found a place and way to settle, and this is a source of pride for me," Yee said. To him, the monument represents a "testament that California embraced diversity, a diversity that will bring us into the future." He then presented the Locke Foundation with a Resolution from the Senate recognizing their efforts "as they help remember history."

40-year Locke resident and Chinese American Connie King told the crowd that she has "been around long enough to see the changes as they happen." She has been fighting to recognize the Chinese immigrants who built the railroads and levees in the area for years. She thanked everyone who supported the project, and said that she was "touched by the monument."

Artist Marr shared her thoughts on why the monument is for everyone, "I wanted to capture something we all feel fundamentally; something we all have in the core of us." She wants the monument to reach people on a "human level we all can experience together."

After the speeches, the monument was blessed by traditional Chinese dancers and a parade down Main Street. The Stockton Tai Chi Exhibition Group performend, St. Mary's Girls Drum Corp marched to "Small World" and Lee-Jet-Don Lion Dancers blessed the statue for good luck before the red cover was pulled and the monument unveiled. The monument depicts Chinese-Americans working on the land in various ways. It sits in the park on Main Street in Locke, surrounded by authentic Chinese plants and flowers and in front of tiles with names honoring those who helped build the community of Locke in different ways. There is still room for more tiles to be added. For more information on the project or any other Locke Foundation related questions, you can reach them at HYPERLINK "http://www.locketown.com" www.locketown.com or (916) 776-1661.

# Pumpkin

Continued from page A1

money to send the elementary-aged kids to Westminster Woods for a field trip. About 20 kids are in the group. "I want to help the kids make a great memory they'll never forget," explains Russ.

The Adams' bought the pumpkins at a reduced price for the event from local farmer Ernie Dickson, who grew most of them just for this occasion. Dickson grew over 500 pumpkins this year. According to Russ, "it's a very social group out here. People slow down and look at the pumpkins all the time. 90% of the community gets involved." Each year Russ works on his holiday displays. Last Christmas, he used 3,000 lights to decorate his yard. He created a 20-foot display of red and white holiday candies in his front yard for the holiday season. He is already planning how to decorate his trees this year to ensure that the aerial view matches the street view.

Russ and Nancy Adams welcome neighborhood kids into their home to hang out, their kids are over 18 now. Russ says that kids who used to visit who have become teenagers come over to hang out frequently, which he takes as a compliment. On any given night there may be eight to twelve kids at the Adams' home. "The kids have been very good about the honor system with the pumpkins; there have been no shenanigans," he explains. Plenty of pumpkins are left to grab!

# Obituaries

## Evelyn M. Woodward

In Rio Vista, California, October 6, 2007, Evelyn M. Woodward, beloved mother of Steve (Martha) Woodward, Bob (Candace) Woodward, Wayne (Connie) Woodward, adored grandmother of Kimberly McBain, Anna Story, Diana Woodward-Roper, Ryan Woodward, Rosalie Lopez, Joey Roper, Robin James, Rebecca Roper. Also survived by 5 great grandchildren.

A native of S. Royalton, Vermont, aged 94 years. Friends are invited to attend Memorial Services on Thursday, October 25, 2007 at the Union Baptist Church, 125 Sierra Ave. at 6:00 p.m.

## James G. Konvalinka

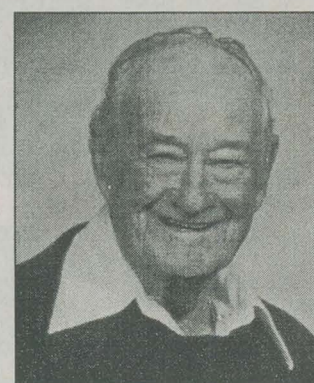
March 26, 1922 – October 8, 2007

In Rio Vista, California, October 8, 2007, James G. Konvalinka, beloved husband of Georgine Konvalinka of Rio Vista, loving father of Luana Fowler of Rio Vista, Keith Konvalinka of Kalamazoo, MI, Tina Beth Spencer of Alameda, adored brother of Gladys Miceli of LaGrange Park, IL, cherished grandfather of E. Mitchell Lesiuk, Christine Fowler, devoted great grandfather of Darrien Srimongkol, Thailer Srimongkol.

A native of Chicago, Illinois, aged 85 years. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 1125 Missouri St., Ste. 109, Fairfield, CA 94533.

## Ray Johnnie Williams

February 11, 1905 – October 14, 2007



Passed away peacefully in Sacramento on October 14, 2007.

Born on February 11, 1905 on the Cherokee Indian Reservation in Welch, Oklahoma. Age 102 Years.

Preceded in death by his beloved wife Floy, sons Wilburn, Glen, W.E. and daughter Bea.

Survived by his sister Opal Birchfield of Clinton, Arkansas,

sons Weldon/Joy of Sacramento, Ca., Gaylon/Anna of Chiloquin, Oregon, Darrell/Millie of Weed California, Larry/Kay of Elk Grove, Ca, and daughter Shirley Roberts of Yakama, Washington and numerous Grand-Children and Great Grandchildren. Ray came to California during the 1940's and settled in Rio Vista where he worked and retired from Dolk Tractor Company.

Upon retirement Ray became a resident of Sacramento where he has lived for the past 30+ years.

A funeral service will be held at C.E. Stewart Mortuary on Friday, October 19, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. in Rio Vista prior to committal services that are scheduled at Rio Vista Cemetery in Rio Vista, California.

## Norma C. Hollar

November 1, 1921 – October 9, 2007

Norma C. Hollar passed away October 9, 2007 in Sacramento at the age of 85. She was born November 1, 1921 in Vorden, CA.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Peter Genova of Hood, and her sister Flora Holland of Rio Vista, and numerous other family members.

She will be greatly missed.

She was Postmaster of the Hood Post Office for 57 years and was Charter Member and past president of the Soroptomists of South Sacramento.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, October 19, 2007 at Nicoletti, Culjis and Herberger Funeral Home, 5401 Folsom Blvd. in Sacramento.

Internment will be at the Franklin Cemetery in Franklin.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name may be made to the Alzheimer Association, 530 Bercutt Drive, Ste. A, Sacramento, CA 95814 or to the SPCA Animal Shelter.

## William Wakefield Gurr (Bill)

April 6, 1932 – October 6, 2007

Born on April 6, 1932 in San Diego, California, William Wakefield Gurr passed away on October 6, 2007 at home with his family. His father Gordon Gurr died two months before Bill was born. He is also preceded in death by his mother Florence, his sister May, and his brother Robert.

Bill leaves behind his wife of 32 years, Marta Gurr, his ex-wife Lenora, and their children; Mary Steinkamp, William W. Gurr Jr. and Frederick C. Gurr. He is also survived by his five step-children, seventeen grandchildren and one great granddaughter. Bill served twenty years in the U.S. Army, joining in 1949 at Ford Ord, and retiring at the Presidio in San Francisco in 1969.

After retiring he tended bar in San Francisco, Rio Vista and Sacramento; working up until just weeks before his death. At his request Bill has been cremated and there will be no services. All he asked is for you to have one drink for him and know that he has gone fishing...

In lieu of flowers please give to your favorite charity. Evergreen Memorial, 3030 Fruitridge Road, Sacramento, California.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Rio Vista-Montezuma Cemetery District is pleased to announce the completion of 200 niches at the Rio Vista Cemetery. The niches will be available through C.E. Stewart Chapel for above ground cremains inurnment. For more information please call Darren Bourdo at (707) 374-2352.

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## Dolk Continued from page A1

Most of the tractors for sale at Dolk Tractor are Harvest Tractors, tractors which have been rented out to local farmers and ranchers for 50 - 150 hours of use and then sold at a discounted price to the public. Rick equates this amount of hours to about 500 miles on a car, "a very low amount of use for the price discount we offer." He also feels that "it is a good deal because these tractors are sold with a 100% warranty and 0% financing."

Employees at Dolk Tractor are also happy with the way the Dolk's run the business. Bill Brann, who has worked there for about 28 years, says that "it is the best place to work." He agrees that innovation is a vital part of keeping the company alive.

## Derby Continued from page A1

won an Ipod for his first-place Catfish and Mason Mendoza took a shiny new bike home for first place with his Bass.

All together, there were two Salmon, 12 Sturgeon and 13 Striped Bass entered for the adult section of the contest. The biggest prize monetarily went to the raffle winner; Mike Gelde from Dixon left the derby with \$3,500. Ronald Eugene came away with \$2,000 for his 34.5 inch Striped Bass, with Mark Wilson coming in second, winning \$1,000 with his Striped Bass which also measured in at 34.5 inches. Kyle Pears was third with another 34.5 inch Striped Bass, earning a prize of \$500. Doug Aret won the \$1,000 grand prize for his 53-inch Sturgeon, with Lou Scalleta hooking a 53-inch Sturgeon as well, earning him \$500. Third place for Sturgeon was John Freitas, who won a fishing trip for two with Fisherhookers. Only two Salmon were entered; Paul Duncan brought in a 13.65 pound fish winning \$1,000 and Leonard Johnson came in second with a 16.95 pound winner worth \$500.

Casey Ament commented on the lack of fish in the Sacramento Delta area this year, claiming that the lack of rain this year may have been a problem. He has noticed the problem for "the last three years," and wondered if "global warming" may be one of the contributing issues. The Nimbus Damn was also mentioned by a few in the crowd, as people commented that the Damn may be eating the small fish, causing the amount of Salmon to decline drastically.

# System seeks to curtail school theft

**BY MYRIAM BELTRAN**  
Editor

Last school year, the Rio Vista Police Department received ten reports of theft at Rio Vista High School. This year, there have been two thefts reported so far, one resulting in the suspension of the student who took his classmate's property.

To deter potential thefts and protect students' belongings, the Rio Vista Police Department has started a program to register electronics in a statewide system designed to verify stolen items and help return them to their owners. New this school year, students are asked to register their electronics with the police department through submitting a form that identifies their camera, cell phone, iPod, etc. as their own through its serial number.

Without this identification, "it's very difficult for us if we do recover the item to get them back to the rightful owner," said Rio Vista Detective Vicki Rister.

Rister notes that the process of registering electronics sends a message to potential thieves that the products can be traced back to their rightful owner.

When the police department gets a

call from the high school regarding a theft, an on-duty patrol officer responds and interviews possible witnesses and the student whose items were stolen. Using the California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System, the officer can look up the stolen items by serial number, make and model.

Rio Vista High School and Riverview Middle School Vice Principal Pierre Laleau said the school is not responsible for any electronic equipment that is stolen because such devices are banned from school because they are a distraction for students.

Laleau said the best form of theft prevention is to leave electronics at home or to keep them stored in a backpack. In case of a theft, the vice principal said the students involved are interviewed, and the police department is called during what he termed a worst-case scenario. As with any problem, parents are notified immediately, he said, explaining, "we as educators are responsible to the parents."

Rio Vista High School and Riverview Middle School Vice Principal John M. Knous said theft at the school can result in a suspension of one to five days,

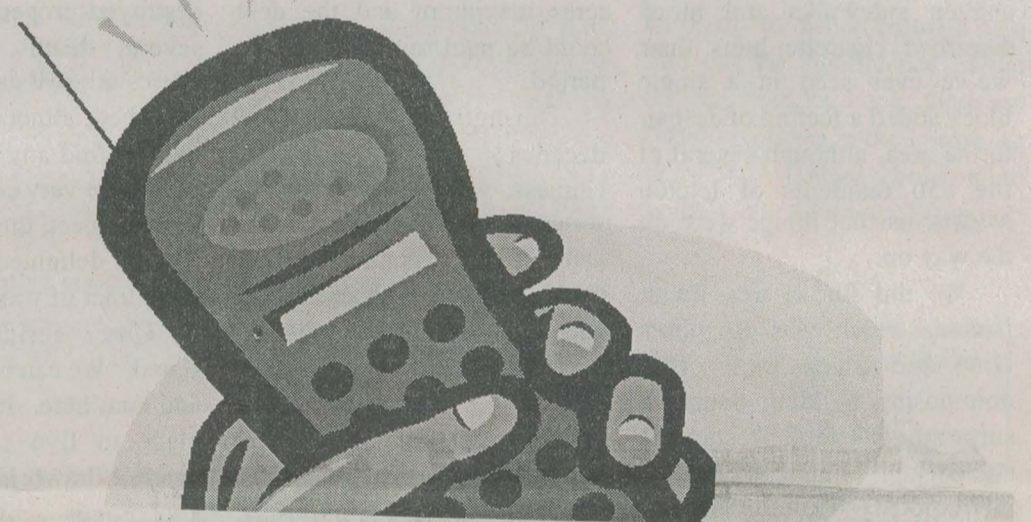
depending on student co-operation, and may escalate to an expulsion. Prior to expulsion or suspension, the police department is notified and a misdemeanor or felony charge may be brought against the alleged thief.

Although deemed legal by the Supreme Court to carry at school, cell phones present a significant problem on school grounds due to their use in the classroom. Parents argue cell phones are needed in case of an emergency. School administrators acknowledge parents' concerns, but point to the school's phones that may be used if need be.

"We're not saying cell phones are illegal, we're saying they need to be kept out of sight and not used," clarified Knous.

Aside from the possibility of being stolen, cell phones have been used by students to play games and send text messages, which sometimes facilitates cheating.

Students caught using a cell phone at school are relieved of the phone until a parent picks it up.



## Students help fire department clean up

**BY MYRIAM BELTRAN**  
Editor

Donning a firefighter's helmet, 14-year-old Fidel Jimenez attentively scrubbed the River Delta Fire District's engine with a soapy broom as he joked and played with fellow classmate 13-year-old Christian Oropeza.

Jimenez and Oropeza were two of a batch of students ready to help scrub the department's engine and sweep the station's garage on Tuesday, October 9.

As part of Rio Vista High School's special education program, students are taught life skills in several settings to make them more independent and able to work in various capacities as they age. Every Tuesday, facilitators take four to six students to a business in Rio Vista or Isleton to teach them how to perform tasks such as cleaning and how to communicate with others. October 9 was the first time the teenagers made the trip to the fire station, but organizers hope the outing will be incorporated into their expanding schedule.

"I think it's awesome, I think it's a great experience for anybody [to visit the fire department]," said firefighter Ed Melikian. "I wish there were other parts of the job they could see."

Engineer Nick Bittner echoed the sentiment, noting that many members of the public are not aware that the station is fully staffed by 35 to 40 volunteers who work 24-hour shifts.

Students also work by folding boxes at the Pizza Factory in Rio Vista, and may soon help Rio Vista movie renters at the local rental store.

"This is just a lot of fun for them because they don't really get to leave (the school)," said head special education teacher Mike Forman.

Special education aide Connie Grosse has worked in the River Delta School District since 1999 and says she has much experience working with students that have special needs, including taking care of her 27-year-old niece. One of the most important skills to teach any student is to be independent, but this task is especially important for youth with special needs, she said.

"Whatever little we can teach them will benefit them in their life," said special education aide Perry Lane, who also coaches the girls golf team.

Several students transferred to Rio Vista from Isleton when the school in town was turned into a K-5 school, and some graduated into the Rio Vista High School program.

This year, the special education class at the high school includes lessons on recycling and laundry. A washer and dryer are available to students in the classroom for lessons on doing laundry. Funds from the class' recycling program are used to pay for laundry soap and the cost of the washer and dryer.

Lane praised the community for its efforts to supply the special education program with adequate equipment, "what we can use - we

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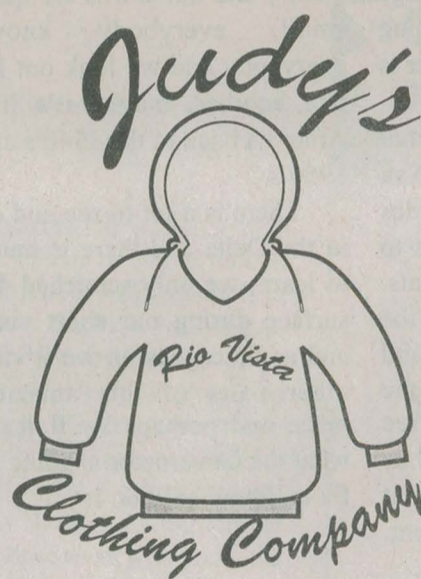
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# Collinsville Land Designation

**ARLENE RIVERA**  
Staff Reporter

On October 15, 2007 the Citizens Advisory Committee for Solano County met to discuss a recently-debated topic among the towns' people. For many years now the town of Collinsville has worked to retain its character by preventing too much traffic via big business on the waterways. The County Supervisors will soon be voting to designate land use and zoning areas. The Citizens Advisory Committee works to help communicate the goals of the people to the Supervisors. The topic of land use designation has sparked a debate among the citizens of Collinsville; a debate the Citizens Advisory Committee is trying to help mitigate. While they have not yet voted on the definitions of the land designation terms, they voted on what action they will recommend for the Supervisors in so far as land use designation in the area.

As part of the public opinion mitigation process, the EDAW, a design firm specializing in helping companies and private parties decide how to create and maintain a "sustainable future" and to "help balance aesthetic, environmental and social goals," facilitated a series of workshops about the issue for the public. The goal of these workshops was to narrow the areas in question to five specific geographic regions of Collinsville, and then determine what the majority and minority opinion of the public is as far as land designation for these areas. The four areas determined were: Birds' Landing, the marsh area West of Collinsville Road, East of Collinsville, the residential bulk of Collinsville and the hills to the far East of Collinsville.

Before the board discussed the issue public comments were allowed. Most of the public comments were made by town members concerned about too much growth and change as a result of land designated "Industrial" or "Commercial." However, father and son Bob and

Robert Hall addressed the board and crowd with what they considered to be environmentally sound and educational ways to alter the existing land while maintaining the town's character. Robert, a firefighter/paramedic, described how a Delta Wildlife Habitat could be created on the land. He also explained how the use of "green energy" could be harnessed there. The Halls expressed that they do not want the land labeled as "Park," as they want control over their land. As it stands, the land use designations do not allow for the Hall family to decide how to use their land. The Halls also expressed the need to cooperate with the wishes of the surrounding community. To this, Chairman Terry Curtola responded that he need only "read last meeting's notes to determine what the people of the town want." Curtola also voiced the importance of keeping Collinsville's business district thriving, and warned against problems that may arise without industry that arose in Stanislaus County, which he described as a "bedroom community." Public comments also pointed out that the history of Collinsville should be written down so that it can be referred to in times of debate such as this.

The majority decision in each geographic region was to maintain the character of the town as it is while allowing for growth in such a way as not to damage or drastically change the existing infrastructure. The committee went through each region, and after much discussion and some amendments allowing for special needs, they reached a vote to support the public's choices from the workshops by keeping the land use designations the same as they are now. The importance of defining the terms came up a couple times, and the committee is planning on voting on those definitions as agendized "Land Use Classification System" on October 22, 2007. The committee defined "buffer zones" as open spaces to solve

any future questions about that. The issue of residential houses that burn 60% down was a hot topic; as it exists now the land owner would have to get a permit from the government in order to rebuild in a marsh or wetland designated area, of which there are some houses located. There was discussion of making a note of this and possibly the issue being important to the Supervisors in zoning votes. There was also suggestion that the land owner be responsible for finding a contractor who knows how to get a permit to rebuild in that area.

The discussion will pick up again at the following meeting. Exact minutes for the meetings are available to the public.

## Rio Vista Bass Derby results

Rio Vista, CA - Over 900 fishermen cast their lines into the Delta in hopes of catching the target length Striped Bass and Sturgeon and the biggest Salmon in the Rio Vista Bass Derby. There were five qualifiers for the Bass at 34.5 inches in length. Ronald Eugene Brenez of Suisun came in first with 34.5 and 16.4 pounds. Kyle Burrow of El Sobrante came in second place with 34.5 inches and 14.05 pounds. Mark Wilson from Sacramento took third with a bass 34.5 inches and 13.95 pounds.

In the Sturgeon competition two people brought in fish at 53 inches, just a half inch short of target. First place Doug Aurit of Livermore with a 53 inch, 38.08 pound fish. Lou Scaletta of Linden had a 53 inch fish weighing in at 28.95 pounds. Third place went to John Freitas of Livermore with his 52 inch, 34 pounds.

In the Salmon Derby there were only two entries for the largest Salmon. Leonard Johnson of Turlock took first place with a 16.96 pound entry. Second place went to Paul Duncan of Dixon for his 13.65 pound salmon.

In the Kids categories Mason Mendoza took the first prize in the Bass competition and Jacob Baxter won first place in the Catfish category.

Mike Gilday of Dixon, took home the \$3,500.00 raffle prize.



**Congratulation Derby WINNERS!**

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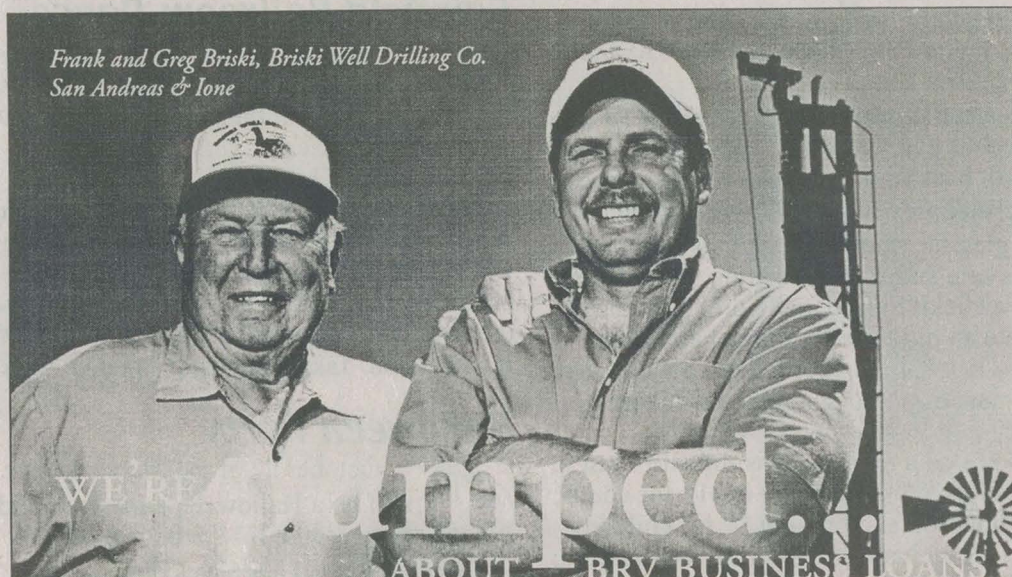
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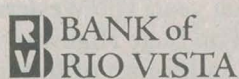


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